



Sheephead Fishing

Who, What, Where,
and How

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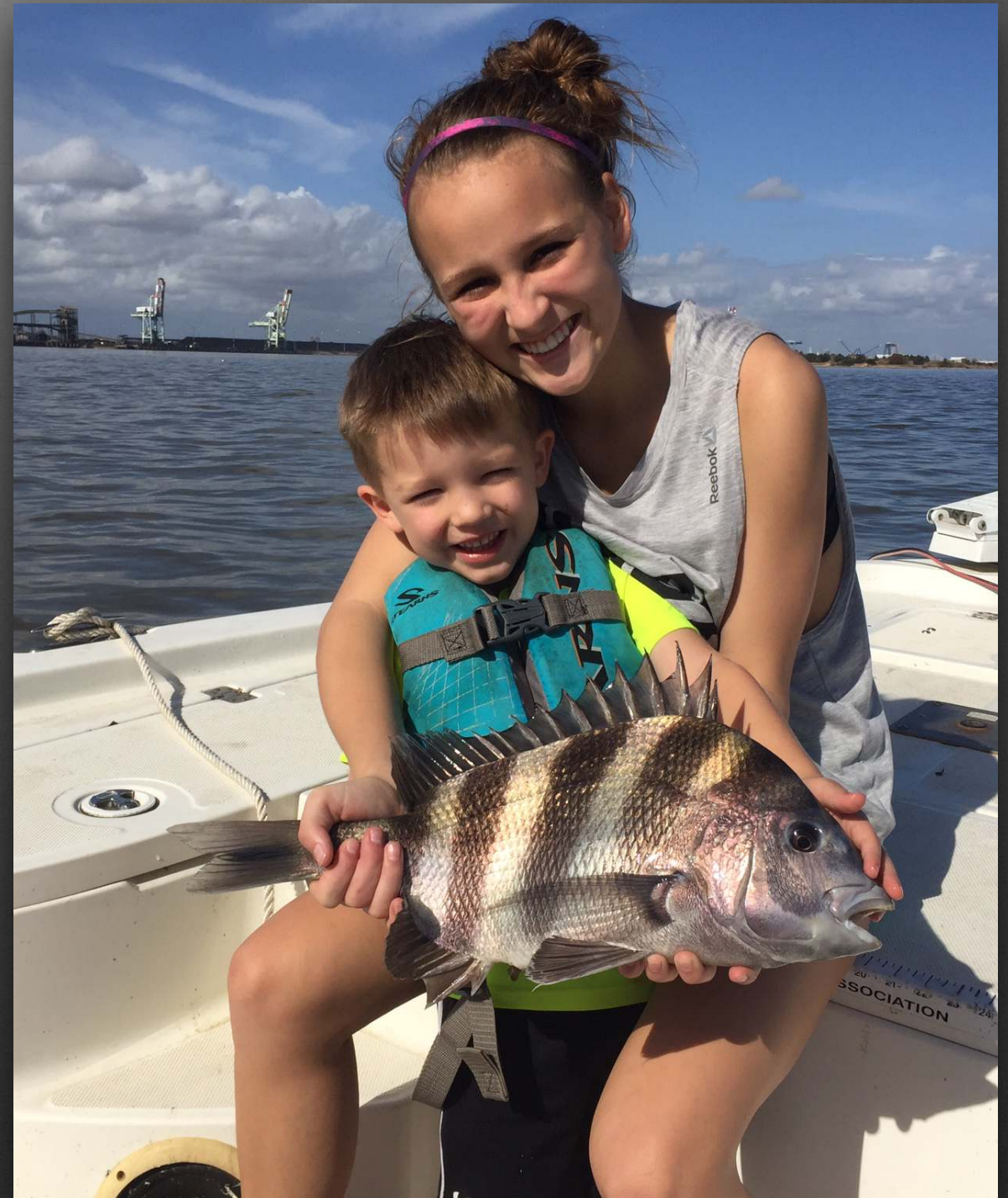


WHO

Sheephead are in the porgy family and are known for their specialized teeth for crushing barnacles and the very distinct striped sides.

What to use to catch them?

- Live shrimp is an easy choice - the smaller the better.
- Dead shrimp - I prefer fresh dead and only pieces of dead shrimp on the hook.
- Fiddler crabs - place crabs in paper bag and place bag in cooler.
- Hermit crabs - dump busted shells over board while fishing.





Where to catch them?

Structure, Structure, Structure, oyster beds, and grass flats.

When to catch them?

- Late January - Early May will often be the best opportunity to catch both large sheephead and numbers
- September - December can be fun too but the fish will typically not be as heavy as the spring spawning fish
- Azaleas in full bloom means time to go sheephead fishing
- Water needs to be moving but can be difficult when water is moving at the peak



How to Catch them?



- I use my regular trout fishing rod and reels
- High speed bait caster on a medium or medium-heavy rod with 20# braided line with a 20# fluorocarbon leader
- I prefer a J hook in size #2-#8 depending on brand and I also prefer it to be a stout hook that won't bend.
- I like a single hook and a medium sized split shot. In medium to light current situations.

Some things you may want to have to target some spring time sheephead.

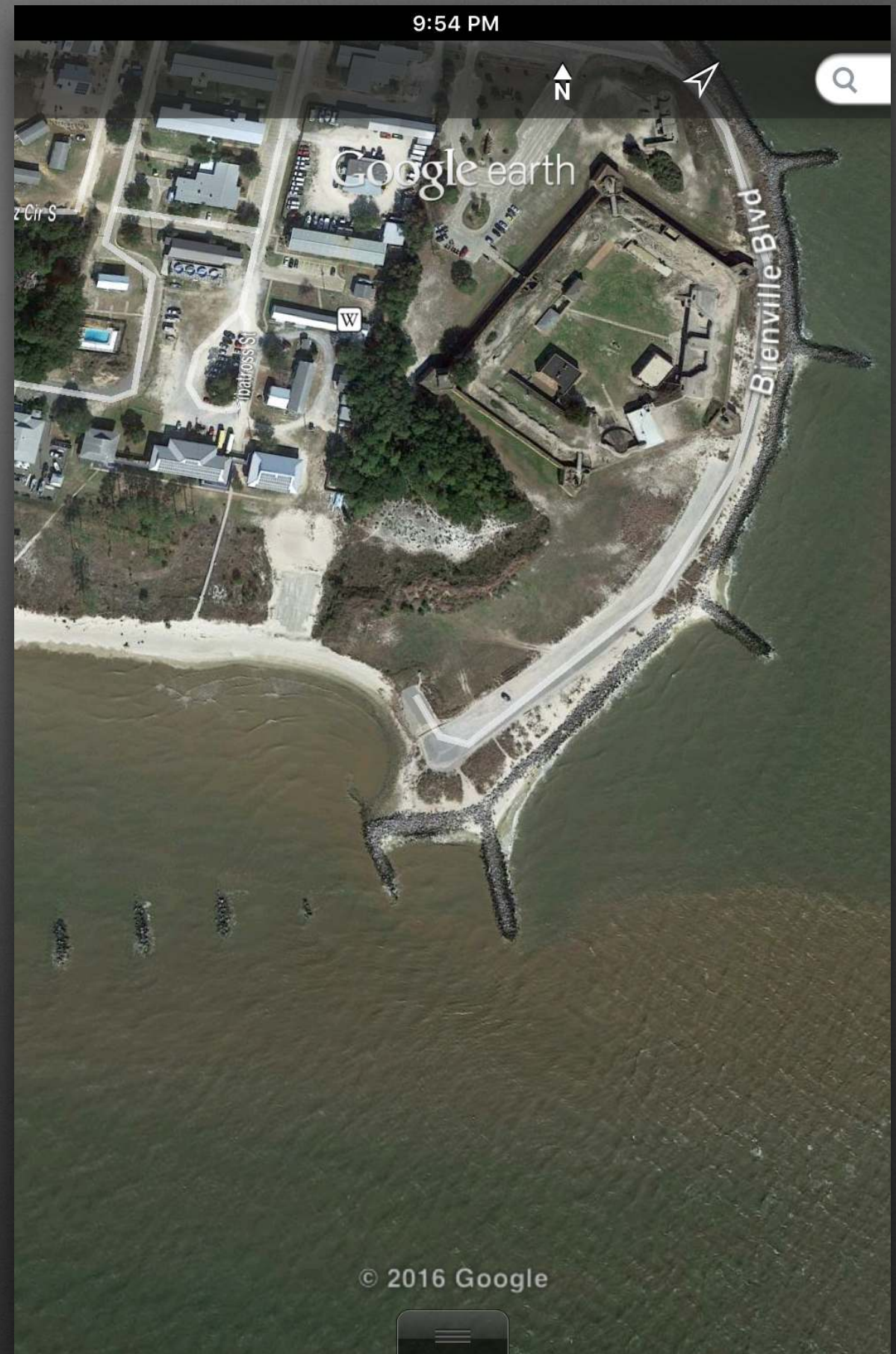
A boat

A rig hook

A shovel or something to scrape barnacles

A hammer to bust the hermit crab shells

Areas to target without a boat include but not limited to:
Jetties, piers, near shore structure.





Questions?

"Give a man a fish and he will eat for a night. Teach a man to fish and he will buy a boat, truck, more tackle than he needs, go in debt to his eyeballs, and love everyday he gets to spend on the water."