

8-19-2000

Francis, a dedicated sportsman and
friend, joined by Captain Charlie,
crewman David and navigator George
adventure regularly into Gulf's heart.
Competitive natures join in mission
to catch the winning fish.
Bessie Belle, a 38' Bertrum,
carries them offshore on quest.

Thunderheads

8-19-2000

Thunderheads boil up over gulf
as mornings turns to afternoon.
Clouds stretch up from horizon
reaching up toward gray sky.
Fortunately, many miles separate us
from this powerful energy, building.
One must always watch for
changes at sea, bringing danger.

First Strike

8-19-2000

Fish streaks for dancing Lure.
Jaws open, razor sharp teeth
slash at irresistible, fluorescent bait.
It's a hookup, reel sings.
Francis leaps across slippery deck
landing in fighting chair, ready.
Penn 130 turns wahoo back
toward transom of Bessie Belle.

Flying Fish

8-19-2000

Flying fish spring to flight
as bow breaks Gulf's surface.
Random formations glide over seas
until finally, gravity's pull brings
fish from flight to water.
Long fins pull swiftly back
lift lost, creatures return to
home beneath the cobalt swells.

Engines Drone

8-19-2000

Drone of twin diesel engines
mark another adventure in Gulf.
Four A.M. departure whets anticipation
as Bessie Belle forges wake,
hull slicing toward salty Gulf.
Aroma of diesel fills nostrils.
Driving, twin props creating wake.
Deep structure draws bill fish.

Guessing Game In Gulf

8-19-2000

Deep sea fishing, guessing game.
Much preparation required before leaving.
Mechanical, electronic, provisioning all concerns,
not to mention equipment, tackle.
Captain, Charlie and crewman, David
have reviewed Bertrum from stem
to stern, no question unanswered.
Day begins early with confidence.

Winged Visitor Finds Sanctuary In Gulf

8-19-2000

Flight of swift marks day.
The Bessie Belle, 38' Bertrum
cruises 58 miles offshore.
Five hundred fathoms straight below,
gentle seas and steady winds
bring lift to swift's wings.
It circles the Bessie Belle
finally landing on Captain's arm.

Little Bird

8-19-2000

Little bird, where is home?
We discover each other 58
miles out in balmy, Gulf.
Your sculpted wings bear you
to cruising oasis at sea.
The Bessie Belle drags lures,
tempting Marlin and other predators.
Today, sanctuary for migrating swift.