

Great Outdoors Association. *Rube Allyn's Authentic Fishing Map, #1A, Lower Tampa Bay*. St. Petersburg, 1960.

Overview

The *Rube Allyn Authentic Fishing Map of Lower Tampa Bay* was published in 1960 and available in a folded, pocket pouch for just 25 cents. Mr. Allyn, an enthusiastic outdoorsman, loved to gather his stories and bits of wisdom from local fishermen, bait shop clerks and other outdoorsmen – and share this acquired knowledge through his newspaper column, books and maps.

Like a pirate's treasure map, this map can help create amazing "fish tales"! Allyn's map has the customary map elements, the **scale**, the decorative **compass rose** with its fishing line pointing north, and the beautiful **cartouche** with the map tile framed by a fisherman, pole and playful fish.

The map's legend helpfully marks a lot of information—fishing camps, bird roosts, beacons, buoys and more. Would you find these on a road map? Would you find something similar? The serious angler would pay close attention to the channel markers, grasses and shallow flats. Notice how Allyn has included ratings for "good, very good and excellent" fishing locations. Larger waterways, such as Egmont Channel and Boca Ciega Bay are listed, as well as important structures like the single-lane Sunshine Skyway Bridge which opened six years before this map was published. On the left side of the map are Pass-a-Grille beach and the famous Don Cesar Hotel.

Allyn's map also helps anglers to know where they might catch certain fish. Take a look at the list of abbreviations next to the map's legend. Twenty-seven different fish, like snook, trout, oysters and their likely homes, are listed. At the top of the map you can see the southern part of Pinellas County. Find Lake Maggiore. What kind of fish could you catch there in 1960?

Who was the Cartographer?

Rube Allyn loved the outdoors and for years wrote a column for the St. Petersburg Times. He had a sarcastic, but passionate tone as he informed his readers about fishing tips and conservation causes, like protecting alligators, proper fishing nets, depletion of salt water fish. After he left his job at the St. Petersburg Times, he began publishing maps and books like *Dictionary of Fishes*.

Jan Allyn, Rube's granddaughter, remembers him as "a gregarious, people-loving, outdoorsman – not really a cartographer, nor a conservationist, but a man who loved people, loved fishing, and loved Florida."

Essential Question

Why might you carry a thematic map in your back pocket?