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April 1st, 2009

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Bill Heibibright, Dick Lafsery, Don Laramie from Mich, with a great catch while fishing out of Marathon aboard the Main Attraction.

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Everglades National Park to Hold Public Meetings . . .

Everglades National Park Superintendent Dan B. Kimball is pleased to announce a series of public meetings to present revised preliminary alternatives for the park's marine areas as part of an update to its General Management Plan (GMP). The alternatives are described in Newsletter #5: Revised Preliminary Alternatives for the Marine Waters available on the park website (www.nps.gov/ever - follow links to GMP). The public comment period runs through May 15, 2009.

Seven public meetings are scheduled throughout south Florida. Each meeting will begin at 5:30 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Informal discussions among the public and park staff start at 5:30 p.m., followed by a 6:00 p.m. presentation by the National Park Service followed by a public comment period. Following the comment period, park staff will be available to meet with the public until 8:30 p.m. A schedule of these public meetings is included below.

"Throughout the GMP process, the involvement by thousands and the thoughtful comments from so many, with constructive feedback and ideas, are proof of the public's deep interest in and concern for Everglades National Park," Kimball said. Based on strong concerns by many in 2007, it was decided that in order for the GMP to be a valuable long-term blueprint for decision making, it was necessary to re-examine the options for the marine areas based on a thorough analysis of public input and gathering important science and visitor use data."

More specifically, two reports, Patterns of Propeller Scarring of Seagrass in Florida Bay: Associations with Visitor Use Factors and Implications for Natural Resource Management and Aerial Survey of Boater Use in Everglades National Park Marine Waters Florida Bay and Ten-thousand Islands, have been completed and can be found at www.nps.gov/ever (following "General Management Plan" and "GMP Documents" links). "These studies show clearly that boat use in the Florida Bay area of the park has grown exponentially and has had negative impacts on the resources we are charged with protecting. These scientific studies on boat use in the park and patterns of propeller scarring on Florida Bay seagrasses will provide a foundation for development of a balanced approach to protecting park resources and providing access to the public," Kimball said recently.

Superintendent Kimball stressed that "Public involvement has been instrumental so far in the GMP effort we certainly hope there will be continued public involvement throughout the planning process. We sincerely value the public's ideas on how to best protect the park's unique resources and provide high-quality experiences for park visitors. This phase of the GMP is a critical one and your insights will play an important role in the next steps of the planning process - analyzing the impacts of the alternatives, developing a preferred alternative and preparing the draft GMP and accompanying environmental impact statement."

Kimball emphasized that "No decisions have been made with respect to selecting a preferred alternative that will occur in the next step of the planning process. As such, we need your feedback and best thinking in regard to the preliminary alternatives described in Newsletter #5."

Public Meeting Dates and Locations:

1. Monday, March 30, 2009, Key Largo Grande Hotel, 97000 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037
2. Tuesday, March 31, 2009, Everglades City School, 415 School Drive, Everglades City, FL 34139
3. Wednesday, April 1, 2009, South Dade Regional Public Library, 10750 SW 211th Street, Miami, FL 33189
4. Monday, April 13*, 2009, Key Largo Holiday Inn, 99701 Overseas Highway, Key Largo, FL 33037
5. Tuesday, April 14, 2009, Campbell Agricultural Center, 18710 SW 288th Street, Homestead, FL 33030
6. Wednesday, April 15, 2009, Edison College, Bldg J, 7007 Lely Cultural Parkway, Naples, Florida 34113
7. Thursday, April 16, 2009, IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame, 300 Gulfstream Way, Dania Beach, FL 33004

*Webcast - The April 13th meeting will be webcast starting at 6 p.m.

To access the webcast, go to the park's website: www.nps.gov/ever and click the "General Management Plan" link.

To request a copy of Newsletter #5: Call Everglades National Park at 305-242-7700. If prompted by voice mail, press "2" at the first prompt, and "5" at the second prompt; leaving mailing information and a request for the newsletter.

Please contact Fred Herling, Park Planner, at 305-242-7704 or: fred_herling@nps.gov for more information. 

Fishing Report

The Islamorada Offshore Fishing Report is brought to you by Capt. Joe Petrucco of Killer Instinct Charters, located at Fiesta Key Campgrounds - MM70. If you are interested in fishing with Capt. Joe, call (305) 304-4580, or visit www.killerinstinctcharters.com.




Capt. Joe Petrucco Islamorada Offshore

the BLUE CHIP TOO from Whale Harbor Marina was able to pound it out several days catching many nice slammer and gaffer mahi-mahi.

I finally made it out on the weekend and caught a whole cooler full of dolphin, tuna, and snapper. The largest dolphin was a 44 pound monster bull. He was hooked up for 5 min and came back to the boat and ate two more baits! Then he jumped and threw two of the three hooks. After a 45 min battle, angler Kenneth Hooper managed to bring him within gaffing range and the rest is history.

This week to come should be a great one; the winds have subsided and the water temps are up. The yellowtail snappers are swarming on the patches and reef edge making for an excellent start to any day. This will only improve as the water temps increase and they start to spawn in April.

Amberjacks are thick and mean on the humps awaiting your live blue runners and strong anglers. If you think you're tough, try wrestling a big 40-70 pound A.J. to the boat and then tell me who the tough guy is! These fish are great at reminding us how frail humans can be. A sturdy and well made fishing rod is a must for this opportunity. Head down to Key Largo Rods at mm 81.5 and have Rick Berry fix you up with the right "stick" to help you land that big trophy. He is making the finest rods in the industry right now - they will withstand the repeated abuse and punishment we dish out.

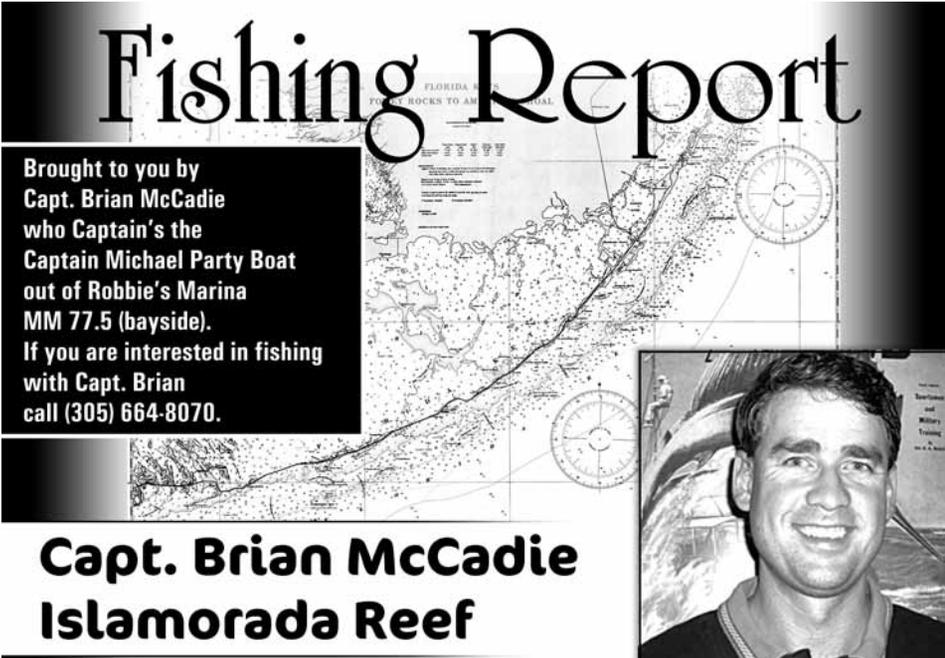
Get out on the water this week and go "catching". 

The offshore fishing is smokin'!

The problem is that the wind has been, too. High winds in the 25-30 knot category forced many of us off the water several days this last week. The mahi-mahi love this weather and, of course, the few boats that made it out hammered them. Capt. Skip Bradeen on his battlewagon

Fishing Report

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Capt. Brian McCadie
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Capt. Brian McCadie
Islamorada Reef

A huge change occurred this week which will probably be great news to most of you reading this. The water temp. has soared up into the high 70's and this has triggered the yellowtails to bite like crazy! In addition to the warmer water we also had very dirty water all week and this made things even better! We caught yellowtails in all different depths of water from 16 feet out to 95 feet. Not all of them were keepers, of course, but we did take home lots of 'tails. In fact, I would say we iced down more yellowtails this week than we did in the entire last month!

In addition to this hot 'tail bite we also found a few nice mutton snappers on the patch reefs. The largest was about 12 pounds caught on a 12 pound test yellowtail rig. Not only did that fish end up on the dinner table that night, but it also ended up hanging on the angler's wall, as he requested to have it mounted.

Fishing Report

This Key West Flats report
is brought to you by
Capt. Sandy Horn.
If you would like to fish with
Capt. Sandy, please call:
(305) 393-6913, or e-mail:
shorn2979@yahoo.com
and make your reservation today!



Capt. Sandy Horn
Key West Flats

It's been a tough week down here fishing with winds in excess of over thirty miles per hour just about all week long. This always happens around this time in March and all of us just have to deal with it. It's not to say there aren't any fish around because there are, but you're getting your butt kicked while you're trying to find them. The best thing to fish for right now is permit but with all the wind the fish haven't been as abundant as you would like. Some days this week, when it was a little cloudy, I would get three shots. When it was sunny I would get around ten shots and I was happy with that. If you are getting ten shots at permit you have a good chance to catch one but when the wind is howling it is hard to get a quality shot at one. I have been telling my clients that even though the fishing is tough you will become a much better fisherman

A few groupers also fell victim to our antics this week as well. I can't say that any one bait was the best, but thinking back on it I would say that a fresh ballyhoo plug was the best bet. We brought home black groupers, red groupers and gags. It was nice to bring in a nice big gag because we don't seem to catch that many of them. It's fun to bring something back to the dock that is a bit out of the ordinary.

I don't have much of a report on the king macks because we didn't target them at all this week. Between the rough weather we experienced and the hot yellowtail bite going king fishing was just not an option. I am sure there are still a few left out there, but I didn't see any come back to the dock from any boats.

It's about time for the ballyhoo to become very abundant out there. Unfortunately they have been very sparse. I love using freshly netted live hoos this time of year on the bottom because it almost always produces a grouper or mutton snapper bite.

I would guess that the 'tails are going to be biting quite well for a long time now, and the mangrove snappers should be right behind them. personally I would rather catch and eat mangroves over any yellowtail.

So the moral of the story this week is that the 'tails are chewin' like crazy and the weather is forecasted to stay nice for a bit. This is a great opportunity to get out there and start the summer fishing season before the reef gets packed with boats in the summer months.

Thanks for reading,

Capt. Brian 

when you fish in winds like we have been having. It makes you concentrate more on the task at hand and when you fish again whether it is here or somewhere else, it will seem easy after the wind you have been dealing with. There have been tons of jacks on the backs of rays and sharks which have really saved my week. Even this is difficult in all the wind but if you get the fly close to the fish they almost always eat it. If you are spin fishing use a popper and the fish will attack that as soon as it hits the water. I have seen a few bone fish around but nothing with any consistency but definitely keep your eyes peeled for them when you are permit fishing. I haven't done any tarpon fishing as of late but have seen the bigger boats in the channels which tells me there are a few around. Once this wind lays down a little bit the tarpon fishing should be good again which will be a welcome sight. The weather can't always be what we want it to be in March but if you put in a hard day's work you will get enough opportunity to get the job done.

Since tarpon season is upon us let me teach you how to tie one of my favorite tarpon flies, the puglisi minnow. First you need two different colors of EP fibers, whichever you prefer and some clear thread. I'll use tan and white as an example but like I said there are a number of colors that work down here. Start your thread near the bend of the hook and tie in about a three inch piece of tan thread. Next, flip the vice over and tie in a white piece the same length. You're going to have to comb the white piece so it goes above the point of the hook. Repeat this process two more times on each side and tie off the thread. Fluff the material up so it makes a big puff and cut at an angle forming a diamond shape when done. You may also need to cut some of the sides so it is not so bulky. Next, mix up some epoxy and glue some doll eyes to make the fly look sexy. You can also tie flash in between the fibers if you wish but I find it unnecessary. Hope everyone has tight lines and fish boat side until next week. 

She's at Sea
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**Elizabeth Jolin
 A Woman's View**



The following exchange is an interview with Leda Dunmire, a young woman who is doing fascinating things in the world of fishery conservation.



What is your job title:

Senior Associate, Ending Overfishing in the Southeast campaign.

Who do you work for and what is the mission of that organization?

I work for the Pew Environment Group, which is the conservation arm of the Pew Charitable Trusts. Our aim is to strengthen environmental policies and practices in ways that produce significant and measurable protection for the natural environment and the rich array of life it supports.

The goal of the campaign I work on-Ending Overfishing in the Southeast-is to work with the South Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico fishery management councils and the National Marine Fisheries Service to establish science-based annual catch limits to end overfishing. The word "overfishing" sometimes trips people up because it sounds like someone's opinion. There are actually rigorous scientific methods for determining whether a fish is undergoing overfishing. Part of my job is explaining what that means - that the population is being fished faster than it can replenish itself and limits

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need to be put in place for a while so it can recover.

What do YOU do for this group? Can you give me the fancy answer and the layman's answer?

I'm responsible for developing and implementing outreach strategies that support the campaign's goal to end overfishing. That ranges from giving public presentations, like the one I'm doing at the Green Living Expo this weekend in Marathon, to meeting with decision-makers, such as fishery management council members, to collaborating with the fishing community on projects like Sustainable Seafood Sunday, which Scott Zimmerman, from the FL Keys Commercial Fishing Association, and I organized in January. [My job is to get the public-including you, dear readers, more involved in the conversation about sustainable fisheries management.]

What is the biggest challenge for you in your work?

Conveying the importance of healthy fish populations to the general public is probably the biggest challenge. I love fish, I love looking at them, learning about them, eating them, discovering a new one I haven't seen before out on the reef. But - surprise - not everyone feels the same way! I try to channel that passion towards helping others see how fish and oceans in general fit into their lives and why taking care of them is important and really not that hard.

Who seems to be most receptive to your message?

Fishermen and people who care about the ocean environment tend to be most receptive. We all want the same thing: more fish out there for more people to enjoy. Some in the fishing community may not agree with how we get there, but we can agree that we need to get there.

Why does Pew have an outreach person in the Keys?

Happenstance. I came on board with this campaign when it was just starting up last summer (2008). Pew knew they needed staff throughout the region (coastal southeastern US, from Texas to North Carolina) and they knew me from previous employment so it just worked out that they ended up with an outreach person in the Keys. The rest of the campaign team is spread out, mostly in Florida: 2 in Tallahassee, one in Orlando and another in Wilmington, NC. From an outreach perspective, the Keys are a great place to "think globally, act locally." People here see the direct impacts of, say, effective bag limits. If we can help make the connection that science-based regulations really can improve fishing, hopefully they'll be on board with more sustainable management around the region and the country. Keep in mind, the better we manage our fish, the better off we'll be economically, ecologically and health-wise. Does anyone really want to depend on foreign fishing practices and standards for our seafood? I don't think so. Healthy fisheries are about national security, or at least seafood security. I guess this is far from the outreach question but it's important to think about.

Are you optimistic about your mission?

Definitely! Our campaign is relatively short - we're tied to a new fisheries law timeline that runs through mid-2011. But the fishery management councils and the Fisheries Service seem to be on track to meet the deadlines if they can muster the courage to make the tough calls and not kick the can down the road, which would only make things worse.

How does your personal life and belief system intersect with your job?

Everything that I get paid to do is an extension of what I believe in my heart of hearts: that taking care of the environment makes us better human beings. Whether your love is spotted owls or clean watersheds or those cute little red-lipped blennies out on Molasses reef, if you care enough to preserve our collective backyard, you're being a good neighbor and steward. I want to live in a world that values this kind of care for others and hope my work contributes to that.

Fishing Report

Capt. Lain Goodwin fishes the inshore waters of the Upper Keys Everglades National Park and Biscayne Bay. Capt. Lain is on the Pro Staff for Hook Up Lures, Berkley, Abu Garcia and Fenwick Rods. To book a trip with Capt. Lain, call (305) 304-2212, or visit www.dirtywaterscharters.com



Capt. Lain Goodwin Key Largo Backcountry



Batten down the hatches because Mother Nature has been sending some strong winds down to the Keys. I keep taping my computer monitor because 15-20 knots seems to be burning into the screen. This is not a good month for the ultra light poling skiff owners. But the trend in the backcountry seems to be larger flats boats and the latest breed of skinny water bay boats. Although many of the larger flats and bay boats do offer poling platforms, this is really not a viable option unless the conditions are perfect. But this time of year the fish aren't hanging in the ultra skinny water allowing the use of a trolling motor along deeper shorelines and channels. The additional room and comfort of a bay boat makes it a great choice for those anglers who aren't interested in poling. And, this time of year it can be tough task poling with the strong winds. But, that doesn't mean you can't sight-fish, a properly handled trolling motor will get you within casting range of most species. When using the trolling motor in shallow water you first need to adjust the height of the motor. You will need at least 15 inches of water to keep the prop from making contact with the bottom but not blowing out above the surface. I will let everyone assume their fishing positions before fine

tuning the height adjustment. Once you start moving keep the speed adjustment SLOW and STEADY as you work the flat. Bay boats are not for everyone since they do have larger engines which can do substantial damage to the sea bottom if you are not familiar with the backcountry. There are plenty of good bay boats on the market made by reputable companies but 2 of my favorites are Shearwater and Ranger. If you're interested in checking one out head over to Performance Marine in Key Largo or Islamorada Boat Center.

The warmer water temperatures have really fired-up the snook in the backcountry. This week's snook bite brought back memories of last spring and summer when the snook were plentiful and willing to eat. We had several days this week where we caught 20-30 snook pitching pilchards along the mangroves. As always, the key to finding those snook feeding stations is by finding a good supply of finger mullet moving along the shoreline or through the creeks. Most of the snook have been in the 18-24 inch range with a few keepers mixed-in. Thanks to stricter regulations and more people practicing catch and release, the snook population is booming in Florida Bay. The trout bite has not been that great with the heavy winds, but as soon as it lays down I expect the big females to start biting more consistently. The islands are full of sharks meandering around in search of their next meal. We've been having plenty of fun sight fishing for bonnethead and lemon sharks on light tackle. All you need is about 8 inches of wire with a HookUp Lure jighead and some live shrimp. Sharks do not have very good eyesight so cast your baits past the shark and work it right across their nose. Sharks are a blast on light tackle and can run as hard as any other shallow water species.

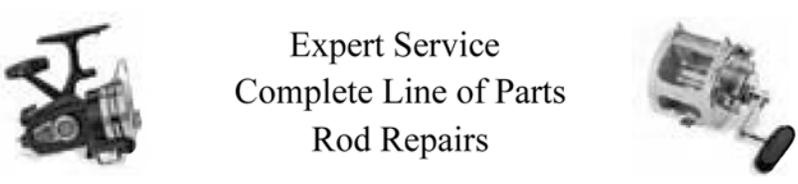
If you haven't already done so, make sure to view the General Management Plan alternatives from Everglades National Park. You can find the 4 alternatives as well as meeting dates at their website, www.nps.gov/ever. If you cannot make one of the public meetings, there's an online comment form on the website. The GMP will outline the management of the Everglades for the next 25-30 years so make sure to voice your opinion before it's too late!!!

Until next week, tight lines and light winds! 

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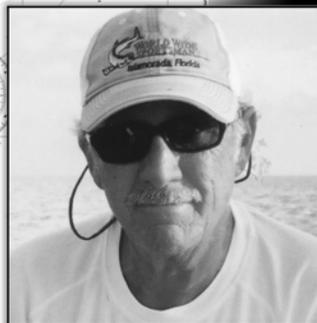

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Fishing Report

This report is brought to you courtesy of Capt. Ron Wagner aboard his boat, the Producer. If you would like to fish with Capt. Ron, please call: (304) 664-2028, or visit: www.captainronwagner.com fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com

Capt. Ron Wagner From the Skiff



I thought I was dreaming as I found myself surrounded by women the other day at the marina. And everyone of them were wild women. But it was true. The girls belong to a group here called The Wild Women On The Water and they were here to get some knot tying and casting lessons from me. The event was held at the Seabird Marina On Long Key on Wednesday from 12-4 p.m. I had my work cut out, but teaching these girls was a snap as all of them went away with a lot of helpful instructions that will make them better fisherwomen. We tied many of the popular knots, Palomar, improved clinch, uni, spider hitch and some braids. We then proceeded to the proper holding and grip on the rods, and other good lessons. They learned very easily and I believe they can show their husbands a few pointers. This captain was very happy

to get to teach a group of great gals and look forward to doing it again. Information on the club and its events can be found online.

Those` March winds that can be so persistent will soon give way to April that should see a dramatic pickup in fishing opportunities. My Snook fishing has been spotty but we were able to catch a few nice ones along the keys bridges. Channel 5 and Long key are great areas for some big Snook. The proper procedure is to anchor up current from the bridge and feed your baits back to them. Pinfish, Pilchards, big shrimp and Sand perch . I'll use 12-20 lb. outfits with leaders between 30-50 lb. pink Ande. I do not waste money on Fluro-carbon lines as these fish are not going to be leader shy with a lively bait drifting down to their snouts. A 2/0 to 5/0 ,9174 short shank brown hooks are best for Capt. Ron. When you have caught thousands on them, why change. Easy to sharpen, and super strong. Please don't ever discontinue them. Remember that Tarpon, big Mangroves and groupers are mixed in too. This is a great way to fish and with patience you can become very proficient doing this. Which set of pilings to fish I can't tell you because I would have to kill you. I'm sure you will see me out there. Please give me some room.

I'm very happy to help other anglers, but will not tolerate inconsiderate people out there. Seems the aggravation they cause other guides and anglers has grown rampant. There is so much space on the water. The bozos have to go. Maybe they can take up golf or skydiving.

BE NICE, FISHERMEN . . .

Bonefish and tarpon will be in high gear this coming month and until the end of July . And the Permit fishing will become awesome. I rarely use that word. The older I get, the less big words I say. So get yourself ready to experience the best of the Florida keys starting in April and going right in to summer. And now, Capt. Ron's closing----You cannot step twice into the same stream. For as you are stepping in, other and yet other waters flow on. 

Fishing Report

If you would like to book a charter with Capt Luke Kelly in the Lower Florida Keys for fly or light tackle inshore fishing, please call: (305) 304-3152, or e-mail: KeyFlat@me.com. Visit www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com for more information.

Capt. Luke Kelly Lower Keys



Blowing in the wind is about all I can say about this past week's flats fishing. There is just no two ways about it, sustained wind over 20 mph for a week straight is horrible for the fishing down here. I have spent most of these windy days at home catching up with things our previous great weather didn't let me do. This time of year if the weather is good then so is the fishing, which then leads me into being consumed by it, leaving little time for much else. Future wind predictions and graphs show for a decrease in wind during the first week of April, let's all hope it is a precursor for more of the same to follow. I have never minded being consumed by the fishing our next few months are about to offer.

The fishing in the Lower Keys flats and backcountry prior to all this wind was great, which only means the same will return once it blows through. I have always felt that game-fish can still be caught in the

backcountry during windy days, but there is a difference between a windy day and a day with wind gusting over 25 mph. I feel that those days should just be left at the dock; we should all respect our environment's fury and just let it do what it has to do during those periods. But as I said, the fishing right now is good and it will continue to be for the next seven months, wind or no wind. The amount of wind a day holds is just one of the major variables involved in what creates a successful day on the flats; the fish are always there.

A word or two on our long awaited tarpon migration, the amount of high southern wind has kept me off the ocean side flats of the Lower Keys. Therefore, I have yet to see any westward movement from any migratory tarpon. The water temps are just about perfect and I have been seeing and catching quite a few large tarpon during the later half of this March. Although I do believe the majority of those tarpon were still our resident greenback Gulf tarpon. I have yet to see any dead give away of the migration, but that doesn't mean it hasn't already started, this wind has just kept me from looking for it. I would say it is just a matter of days before we are knee deep in the silver kings.

I would also like to give mention to the passing of a good friend of many, as well as mine. Joel Neurath of Big Pine Key spent the majority of his life in the Lower Keys and was a great fisherman, and an even better poker player. If anyone knew where those Big Pine redfish lived it was Joel, we will all miss him, thanks for all the good times Joel. 

Fishing Report

Brought to you courtesy of
Capt. Andrew Tipler.
 To fish with Capt. Andrew,
 call (305) 744-9796 or visit
www.lastcastcharters.com
scarpa1@bellsouth.net



Capt. Andrew Tipler Lower Keys

This was another extremely windy week here in the lower Keys. I did manage to get out and found some good fishing. When the winds are up that high it limits your options but there is still some good fishing to be found. I spent 4 days out on the water with most of my time on the flats or in the gulf.

By the end of the week the flats were on fire. Great numbers of permit were tailing, looking for one more meal before heading out to spawn. They did not mind the wind one bit plus the wind allows you to get much closer to the fish without spooking them. A well placed crab will get the job done but for a real challenge pick up a fly rod and try your luck. Bonefish were feeding on the flats over the weekend. The numbers were there and I heard of a few boats that got into waves of big schools.

If the temps stay up as they say they will the flats fishing should stay fantastic. Tarpon will be making a stronger showing over the week.

The water out in the gulf was not as dirty as I expected it to be. There were good numbers of big kingfish cruising the gulf edge. We found a few big ones but most were in the 10-20lb class. Most of the fish came on dead ballyhoo floated out behind the boat. I rig with a trace of wire, a small j hook in the nose and a treble hook 2/3 of the way back. We also set up with a blue runner under a kite and got to witness a few explosive strikes. We had a few cobia make a showing but most were not legal. We had one keeper in two days of fishing. I would expect to find more fish further out than we made it.

I spent a good bit of time fishing sharks in the backcountry. Butterflied kingfish make great shark chum. Try and find a flat near deep water with good current. Put a big chunk of kingfish under a balloon and float it back in the slick. If the wind and tide are headed in the same direction try putting a live bait under a kite. The strike of a bait under a kite will leave you wanting more. All the ladyfish that were on the flats north of Big Pine key made another good option for procuring shark chum. Chunks of ladyfish will make a good snack for big sharks.

I talked to Capt. Mike on Strike Zone, the only boat I know of that spent a day out front. While out in the gulf I was able to reach him on the radio and heard a good report. He mentioned both blackfin and dolphin. The good thing is that if the offshore bite is slow then the reef will be fishing well. Good luck and good fishing. 🐟

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Fishing Report

Capt. Dave Schugar of Sweet Enuf Charters is located at Castaway's Restaurant/Marina in Marathon. If you would like to fish with Capt. Schugar, call (305) 610-4778, or visit: www.sweetenufcharters.com sweetenufcharter@aol.com



Capt. Dave Schugar Marathon

Well it looks as if the wind is going to give us a break for a bit. I did talk to a bunch of captains this week and they either cancelled their trips or went to the bridge or close wrecks on the bayside. When the wind blows like this in the spring, you can either suck it up, or go fishing another day. There are always fish to be caught down here, even when the wind blows. When the wind blows out of the southeast, which it has been for quite some time now, you can fish along the riprap along the bridges and holes near the islands close to shore. There are tarpon, snappers and plenty of other fish to pass the time with. You can also fish along the mangroves in Sisters Creek. You can catch snook, tarpon, snappers, groupers, and even redfish there. It's not the best fishing, but it is fishing, and sometimes you can catch a lot.

I did get out a few times this week. Right before the wind really started honking, I went to the Hump and slaughtered the tunas. We jigged them and got many small ones and about a dozen from 10-15 pounds. The

shark problem has subsided a bit and I haven't lost more than a jig or too due to sharks. The amberjacks are thick and the best bait is a split-tailed or live little tuna. I usually take as much weight as I need to get down 300 feet. Drift over the peak of the hump and use big baits. When I drop down, I also may put the boat in gear to keep the line strait up and down. When you do get a bite have your angler start reeling and put the boat in gear and get that hook set good. The amberjacks are big here so use nothing less than 60-pound test, but I recommend 80-pound gear when doing this because even though the sharks are scarce now, some are still around. If you have never done this at the hump just make a long leader rig with 15 feet of 100-150 pound leader and a drop sinker of one to five pounds depending on conditions. You can use a three-way swivel or a swivel-bead-swivel method. If you use a large live bait I would recommend the three-way swivel so the bait doesn't swim your lead up your line. If you plan on keeping the amberjacks that's great, but if you do release them you can vent them by squeezing their stomach with your fingers. I take the fish and wedge it along the gunwale and I place one hand just behind the throat and the other hand six inches down and grasp two inches of its belly between your fingers. I squeeze firmly but gently and push towards the spine. You will hear the gas escaping and when it subsides take the fish by the tail and slosh water through its gills with a reciprocating motion. When the fish starts to kick a bit you can release him with your down motion, which helps him get back down where he will shake off this experience.

The yellowtail bite kind of slowed down a bit. The inshore current subsided, as did the bite. The bait stealers such as filefish and Bermuda chubs were thick, making it very difficult to get to the yellowtails. When you lose the current, the yellowtails don't line up and compete for food, which makes the great bite. When fishing, you will always find that when the fish are competing for food they are more eager to bite. When the current slows, the fish become sluggish most times. We did get a nice

Cont. on pg. 17



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March 13 - Nov. 30: Key West Fishing Tournament. Key West. This popular 8.5-month-long competition targets more than 40 species of fish. Contact Doris Harris at (305) 295-6601 or (800) 970-9056, e-mail director@keywestfishingtournament.com or visit www.keywestfishingtournament.com.

April 14-18: World Sailfish Championship. Key West. With a guaranteed top prize of \$100,000, the championship benefits the Don Shula Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, Camp Boggy Creek for youngsters with chronic and life-threatening illnesses, and other national and local charities. Contact (305) 395-3474 or (727) 631-0072, e-mail lemmole@worldsailfish.com, visit www.worldsailfish.com.

April 23-25: Big Boys Off-Shore Charity Fishing Tournament. Key Largo. Anglers pursue dolphin fish, one of the most beautiful and plentiful fish of the offshore waters of the Keys. Contact Kevin Clark at (305) 852-9337, e-mail clark@crittercontrol.com, or visit: www.bigboysoffshore.com.

April 24-25: Inaugural 7 Mile Marina Marathon Sharkathon. Marathon. This all release tournament boasts \$25,000 in cash awards, and will benefit Grace Jones Day Care Center and the Marathon Affiliate of the Disabled American Veterans. This is a team tournament with points awarded based on the type of sharks caught and released. The winning team with the most points will receive a grand prize of \$15,000 cash.

April 24-26: Redbone at Large Hawks Cay Sunrise/Sunset Tarpon Celebrity Tournament. Marathon. The event is one of approximately 30 Redbone Celebrity tournaments that are held each year, with all proceeds benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Contact Gary Ellis at (305) 664-2002, e-mail redboneinc@aol.com, visit www.redbone.org.

April 26-29: 22nd Annual Faro Blanco Invitational Tarpon Tournament. Marathon. Anglers tangle with silver kings in an event named for a famous Marathon resort. The tournament is a fundraiser for Ronald McDonald House charities' Summer Camp Program. Contact Robert Traa at (609) 645-1840, ext. 115, or e-mail: Bobtraa@mindspring.com.

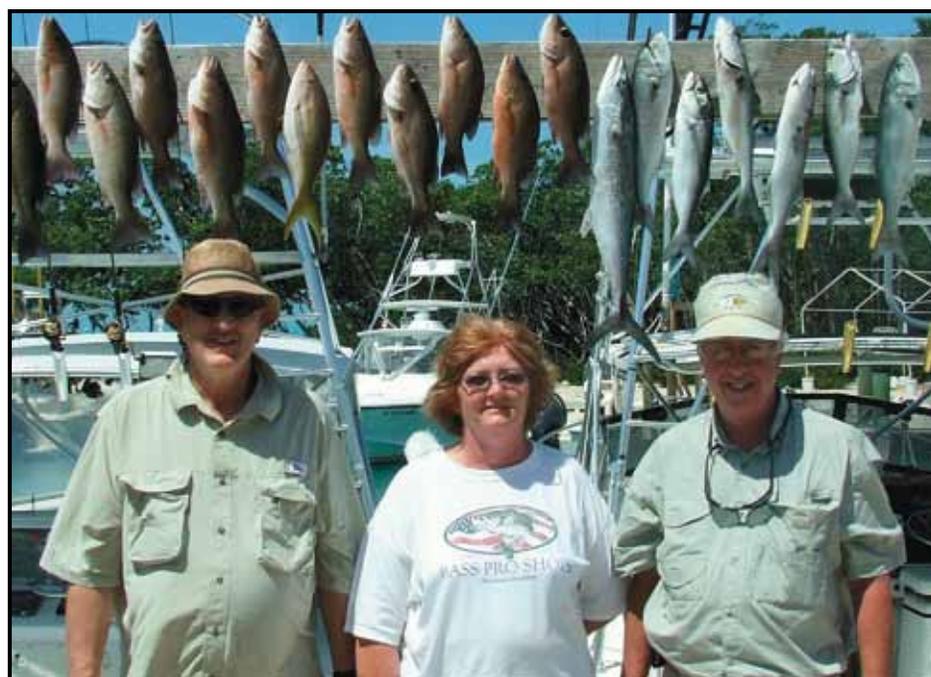
April 30-May 2: 43rd Annual Marathon International Tarpon Tournament. Marathon. This all-release event is one of the longest-running tournaments targeting the mighty silver king. Contact Dave Navarro at (305) 743-6139, e-mail worldclassan@comcast.net.

May 3-7: Tarponian Tournament. Marathon. Anglers target tarpon and vie for prizes in this high-energy event. Contact David Breznicky at (215) 542-1492, e-mail dbreznicky@breznickyassociates.com.

May 16: 13th Annual St. Lucie Co. Chamber of Commerce FISHING FRENZY. Port St. Lucie. (Fort Pierce Marina). \$225 Boat Entry for this Dolphin-only competition held in Fort Pierce. Cash Prizes are \$10,000 for 1st place, \$3,000 for 2nd, \$2,000 for 3rd and \$1,000 for 4th. Captain's Party with Free Dinner is May 15th at the Community Center, just North of the Marina from 5 to 6pm. Bring the whole family for the 3pm weigh-in on Saturday for raffles, refreshments, awards and a DJ. For more info contact: info@StLucieChamber.org, or visit www.StLucieChamber.org.



Bill Picha, Bernie Perona and Danielle Loeffler, Marathon locals, enjoyed a day of fishing recently with Capt. Chris Johnson. They show some nice cobia – just some of the day's catch.



Another happy bunch fishing on the Best Bet.

Quick Note on Photography . . .

Please submit your photos in RGB format, with the largest pixel dimension (count) set to at least 1600 (1600x1200, for example).

Photos from camera phones generally are not big enough. We do our best to include all photos, but unfortunately, some aren't high enough quality. Please do not adjust (Photoshop) files when sending photos.

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Thanks!



Plenty of snapper caught while fishing on the Best Bet.



▲ The Grove's in the Bahamas fishing with Over Under Adventures.

Rachel King shows off her gorgeous Permit caught while fishing off of Marathon with Capt. Luke Kelly.



Big 44 lb slammer bull caught on the Killer Instinct from Fiesta Key Marina at MM70.



Eli Gould from Simsbury,Ct.with a nice snook.

Fishing Report

Brought to you courtesy of Capt. Dave Navarro. He is a life-long resident of Marathon, owns the world-class Angler Bait & Tackle store in Marathon (MM 50.5), plus the charter boat "Dave's Dream". To fish with Capt. Dave, call: (305) 743-6139.

Capt. Dave Navarro Marathon



Well, the past week or so has been what you could call not quite chamber of commerce weather. Most days of 20+ knot winds really limited most anglers to near shore areas or, not going out at all. I know the channels and creeks were full of smaller boats that had to do something or go stir crazy. Let me tell you that from bait sales, that most did not go. We were naming the bait shrimp as pets for the most part.

We will be seeing another period of this type of winds in April if history holds true. We usually have a good set up of a Bermuda High or two in April that cause strong easterly winds for 3+ days. For smaller boats, this is the kiss of death but for larger boats and those that know how to work it, it is a great time for the spring sailfish run that usually accompanies it. Sailfish thrive on these conditions and are usually along the edge, 80 to 200 feet of water 'tailing' down the waves. It is awesome sight fishing conditions for the sails.

For the past week, most have been working in the bay for calmer waters and a majority of the reports have been fairly good. Working out to an area near the backcountry islands or using a flat or shoal to lessen the waves has been good for many as these areas harbor quite a few fish this time of year not to mention making the fishing conditions much more comfortable. Some nice snapper along with a few grouper, trout and an occasional cobia were taken. Of course, mackerel were still prevalent which gave anglers all of the action they could ask for.

Other action reported was along the bridge channels as well as in the Hawk Channel. Quite a few good eating fish were taken throughout these areas. The reef remains very good for those that were able to get out there this past week. Some good numbers of snapper in a wide variety were taken in several areas.

With the bait moving around with the wind changes, you should see a big push of movement of the predator species you may be targeting. A good example has been the yellowtail. They have been much more active in relatively shallow waters, say 35 to 40 feet than in their usual haunts of say 70 to 90 feet of water. I'm not just talking about regular small to medium sized yellowtail but some large ones that have been in excess of 4 pounds caught this last week alone.

Once you have caught them, keeping your catch properly chilled is a very important factor. If your catch is allowed to expire warm and not cooled correctly, it will dramatically decrease the amount of time you will have to store the fish before it turns bad. The same is true for cleaning your catch. So many will lay the days prizes out for all to see. This is great for photos but too long in Keys weather and your fish will be losing quality rapidly.

Different species require different techniques used to clean them and get the most meat in your frying pan and not to the pelicans. The use

of the electric knife is very advantageous for many species but not all as you can miss quite a bit from some. Plus the age-old question is prevalent with many kinds of fish, "What parts do I keep and what parts do I throw away?" Filleting is a skill that is learned over time and with much practice. Obtaining a high skill level while still possessing all of your fingers is always a bonus. Speed is not always the sign of a good fish cleaner, particularly if one is partaking in a celebratory brew or two.

To obtain the very best flavor of fresh Keys fish, proper cooking is essential. You don't just slap it in a frying pan and cook it until it turns dark brown. This quite often is over cooking and will make the meat taste dry and in some cases, fishy tasting. Most light meat fish will cook quite quickly and should be extremely moist and flaky. Tuna and cobia are prime examples of darker or heavier textured meat that can be actually marginal in flavor with over cooking yet when done right, is awesome.

At this week's free fishing seminar in our outdoor amphitheatre at our Marine Educational Center, we will be covering all aspects of what I have been talking about. Everything from how to get your fish into the boat, how to chill it, clean it, cook it and pack it for storage. We will educate you on what to do with your catch so you can get the most out of it. That's Sunday evening at 6 and it's all free. 



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FWC Arrests 4, Seizes 4,000 lbs. of Fish in Felony Bust . . .

Officers with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) “netted” a big one. The FWC arrested four men for gill-netting in state waters and seized approximately 48,000 square feet in monofilament entangling nets and 4,000 pounds of fish.

The case was made as officers worked a net detail early Friday morning, March 20, in Caxambas Pass, in the waters off Collier County. Officers observed two boats (running without navigation lights) working together, pulling illegal nets full of fish. Officers stopped the two boats and found approximately 2 tons of ladyfish, bluefish, Spanish mackerel, pompano, spotted seatrout, bonnethead shark and blacktip shark. Some of the fish were still alive in the gill nets.

Carey S. Arthur, DOB 01/25/71, of Naples; Daryl G. Ankney, DOB 08/30/82, of Bonita Springs; Kirkwood J. Smith, DOB 06/21/67, of Naples; and Scott J. Mobley, DOB 01/8/75, of Ruskin are facing felony charges. The men were booked into the Collier County jail. “These nets don’t discriminate; they can entangle any species, and are very damaging to our resource,” FWC Capt. Alfredo Escanio said. “We hope this sends a message to the fishing community that we are out there, protecting the state’s marine life.”

The FWC sold the seized fish to a fish house. The proceeds are being kept in escrow, pending the outcome of the case. 

Gulf Gag Grouper Sport Season Re-opens April 1 . . .

The recreational harvest of gag grouper in all Gulf of Mexico waters off Florida reopens on April 1 after a two-month closure. This closure helps reduce the harvest and rebuild the population of gag grouper in the Gulf.

During the open season, recreational anglers may keep 2 gag grouper within the 5-grouper aggregate daily limit in all Gulf waters off Florida (except Monroe County) state waters. There is a 2-fish limit on gag and black grouper, either individually or in combination, within the 5-grouper aggregate daily limit in all Atlantic Ocean waters off Florida and in Monroe County state waters.

The minimum size limit for gag grouper in all Gulf waters off Florida (except Monroe County) state waters is 22 inches total length. The minimum size limit for gag grouper in all Atlantic Ocean waters off Florida and in Monroe County state waters is 24 inches total length.

More information on grouper management is available online at: MyFWC.com/RULESANDREGS/Saltwater_Regulations_Grouper.htm.

Spiny Lobster Harvest Season Closes April 1

The recreational and commercial harvest season for spiny lobster in Florida waters closes April 1. The regular season will re-open Aug. 6.

The special 2-day sport season for recreational harvesters of spiny lobster will occur on July 29 and 30 this year. 



Fishing Report

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Capt. Joe Trainor The Bahamas

a good catch every day but when we seem to find live speedos and ballyhoo our nice mutttons and groupers love it.

While we are fishing back here we continue to watch the depth finder looking for some new spots. Anchoring up on some of the ledges we have found here is the key. We have found some ledges that drop from 12 to 28 feet. Trying to anchor on the deep side about 100 feet from the ledge is key. Once you put your chum bag in the water its game on. If finding live bait is difficult getting some fresh conch slop as well as cut ballyhoo and squid , all seem to work.

We did get some reports this week from Cat Island as they had a good hoo bite once again. JR called to tell me she caught one that was 65 lbs . In Cat getting the hoos before the sharks get them is still tough as they got 1 wahoo head that would have been in the 130 lb range.

We are finally looking for the wind to drop out at the beginning of the week and expect to get some offshore action in. We are looking for the hoo bite to still remain strong as we progress towards our main dolphin migration in April and May. Getting a shot at some billfish on a daily basis is just around the corner. 



When will the Wind Stop . . .

What a week of weather we had this week. We were plagued by over thirty knots of wind pretty much all week with only sneaking one day in offshore this week. When we got out offshore it wasn’t red hot but we did manage to put together a good catch. In about 4 hours we did get a bunch of blackfins while picking up a double header of wahoo. Since it was so rough we did a lot of fishing in the Sea of Abaco with excellent results.

Fishing in the backwater here remains nothing short of spectacular. Every day we seem to catch a couple mutton snapper, some closing in on the 15lb mark. Along with the mutttons we are getting a lot of yellowtails to 4 lbs as well as some nice Nassau grouper and yellowfin grouper. The key to fishing has been finding live bait. We can manage to put together

Fishing Report

Captain Nick Borraccino
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Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon

As of Sunday, March 29 we had experienced at least one solid week of unrelenting wind. Granted, the wind was not associated with cold fronts and came primarily from the east and southeast, but it none the less made trips on the oceanside practically undoable. It goes without saying then that I, as well as most others in the Keys, did not spend much time (none in fact) fishing the Atlantic this week. As a result I regret to say that I have very little info to offer about what's going on out there!

I do know that the Gulf Stream is in very tight to the reef... maybe just a mile or so beyond. This coupled with the warm southerly winds and the fact that the calendar is turning to April hints to me that it might be a good time to find dolphin close to shore. A few nice dolphin were caught just beyond the reef this week by boats braving the rough seas. The start of this week promises much more fishable conditions and I am

anticipating some dolphin coming back to the docks. As usual, look for birds and weed lines, and troll ballyhoo and lures to draw a strike.

I would also expect the yellowtail bite to be hot this week, so long as the current on the reef isn't pulling too hard to the east. The water is warm, and the fish should be hungry after not being fed in a few days. Bring lots of chum to keep them behind the boat and should be able to bring a bunch home.

We have a lot to look forward to in the next few weeks as snapper, permit, dolphin, and tarpon should all start to move, migrate, and feed more with warming water. In the mean time, charter boats and local anglers alike found refuge from the wind this week in the Gulf. The mangrove snapper bite has been red hot inshore, and we're thankful for it. One of the best things about the Keys, and Marathon in particular is that you can always find something to do. Even when it blew near thirty knots one day this week, the inshore Gulf was still fishable... and very productive at that. We managed a limit of snapper every day we fished the Bay this week, with dozens of real nice size fish in the 3-5 pound range. And to mix it up, you can always go shark fishing by the bridge and banks. Many people do not initially care to try shark fishing, but after seeing a large blacktip or bull shark attack a live bait presented from a kite...many change their opinion.

To make the most of your snapper trip in the bay keep the chum flowing, and use live shrimp or fresh cut ballyhoo with a 1-3/0 hook. Remember, the limit for mangroves is five per person, and as of April 1, we can start taking groupers again in the Gulf.

Good luck this week and enjoy some great weather coming up! 



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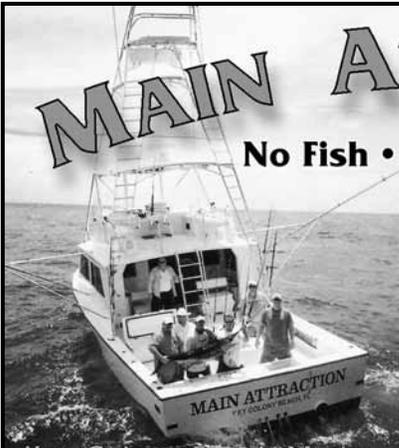
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03/11

2005 Angler 2600

Twin 200hp 4-stroke Johnsons; clean boat; dry racked its entire life (exc during use). Dive ladder & tuna door; less than 250 hrs on engines; Garmin 3210 GPS; linked Garmin GSD Sounder; Uniden VHF; head; lg. live well; add. outriggers; anchor w/line. Asking \$38,000, OBO.

Call (305) 240-3916, or e-mail: hydroslider@hotmail.com



04/01

2003 Grady-White 265 Express

Twin 225 4-stroke Yamahas with trailer. All options. Hoist kept, 95% fresh water use. Raymarine GPS, radar, auto pilot, and (2) VHF radios. One owner boat, looks and runs like new. Located in Islamorada. \$68,000. Call Randy (586) 945-7568 or email:

a_schmitt@comcast.net



03/18

Jaguar 35' Catamaran

Smooth Ride! Easy on the gas, planes@15mph, cruises@45mph, tops@65mph. Evinrude E-Tech Twin 250hp Outboards warranty 'til Jan 2010. Health forces sale; Best Equipped Center Console 35' on the market. Includes custom 6 wheel, 3 axle Trailer. Call Frank

Piku (305) 509-1547 or e-mail: fpiku@comcast.com

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PRINT & WEBVIEW LISTINGS ONLINE AT WWW.KEYSBOATEXCHANGE.COM**(305) 766-BOAT (2628)****1990 ChrisCraft
372 Sundeck Cruiser**

Xlnt condition modern cruiser or comfort live-a-board. 2 staterooms w/heads. Total pro refit all systems; refit twin 454's; 7.5 Westerbeke genset. Fully insured. Ready to fish and cruise! Live-a-board slip avail. in best

04/01

sunset marina. \$80k value, SELL \$59,900. (561) 797-4197, or (954) 600-7731. Poss. owner financing, poss. long-term lease.

**1988 28' Spencer
Center Console**

270 hp turbo diesel inboard. Asking \$10,000 obo. Call: (305) 879-9123.

04/01

**1989 37' Topaz
Express Fisherman**

Twin 3208 Cats at 375 hp; less than 2,000 original hours. 8kw gen set kobota, 2 staterooms, tower, swim platform, new bottom paint. Ready to fish or cruise. Valued at \$120,000 Sacrifice for \$85,000. Located in KCB. Call: (912) 577-6006.

04/01

**1996 Key West 19' D.C.**

115 Yamaha & Alum. Trailer. Runs A+, extra-clean, low hours. 2nd owner, fresh water use, Many Extras including: Bimini, Full Cover, C.G.E., Live Well, Cooler, Fish Box, etc. Great, all-around fun little boat - Ready for the Water Now! \$7,800 (neg.) Call (305) 942-3571 for more

04/01

info & pix, or e-mail: bucknrosie@aol.com.

**2001 Hydra Sports
21' Walk Around**

w/ 200 HP Ocean Pro Johnson. Must see. Like new condition! Less than 50 hrs. 8'-8" beam, electronics, cover. Live-well, fish box, foldout rear bimini & More. Asking \$17,500.

Call owner (305) 852-6255
In Tavernier

04/08

**2003 21' Boston Whaler
Outrage**

Mercury 225hp four-stroke. Can't go wrong with a Whaler. \$19,000 obo. Call Xavier at (305) 393-1779.

04/08

**No Print Photo
Available**

visit

www.keysboatexchange.com
for more details!

04/08

**2006/07 Grady White 222
Fisherman**

225 Yamaha 4-stroke - 115 hrs & extended warranty 'til 2012. Color Chart/Sounder; VHF; Stereo; Full cushions, covers & curtains. '07 Galvanized trailer. Good as new - \$54,950. Call (443) 668-6268

**2004 Pro Line 23' Sport**

Twin 150 Merc Salt Water Series. 2004 dual axle trailer; new rotors & pads; 5 new tires. S/S props; fresh H2O shower/wash down; Lowrance GPS; Porta Potty in console; live well & fish boxes; console canvas encl; trim tabs. \$32,000 OBO. (305) 853-5888, or (973) 441-1117, or e-mail:

04/08

marinaguy@aol.com. Boat in Tavernier.

**2002 19.5 Lifetimer**

Welded aluminum hull, lifetime warranty. 115 hp Yamaha 4-stroke low hrs. Twin Odyssey batteries, VHF, 2002 EZ Load Trailer w/new LED lights/tires. Asking \$19,500 obo. Located in Keys till April 1st. Call (231) 409-9477

04/15

**2001 Grady White 28'
Sailfish Walk Around**

Twin 200 hp Yamaha 2-strokes. Half Tower, outriggers, downrigger; EZ anchor puller, full canvas cover. New Garmin 12" GPS, Raytheon Auto Pilot, head, microwave, frig. Low use, great condition, ready to fish. Asking \$59,000. Call Al at:

04/15

(616) 836-3440 or e-mail melgersma@wmol.com

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VIEW LISTINGS ONLINE AT WWW.KEYSBOATEXCHANGE.COM

(305) 766-BOAT (2628)



1989 Wellcraft 23' Center Console

New t-top w/rod holders; leaning post; live well; wash down; bow cushions; fish finder; GPS. No Engine. \$1,900
Call: (305) 517-9536

04/22



2002 STRIKE 29 CENTER CONSOLE

Twin 330 Cummins Diamond Diesels (apx 500 hrs), cutty cabin, console enclosure, Furuno electronics, fresh water system, seat and console covers, live and bait wells, \$98,500. Trades considered. Boat is in Marathon, FL. Call: (315) 649-2861

04/29

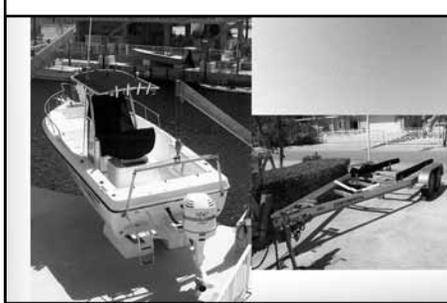


1986 29' Aquasport Tourney 290 Sportfish

Must be seen to be appreciated! '02 Twin Mercruiser V-8's w/450 hrs, freshwater cooled. '02 B/W velvet-drive transmissions. '09 elect.; head; full tower w/dual cont; windlass; trim tabs; sleeps 4; fighting chair; outriggers; Tri-axle trailer. Call: (305) 745-2992, or (860) 529-2084;

05/13

e-mail: mwalexander@cox.net \$28,500. Located in Cudjoe.



2002 23' Hydra Sport

With a 225 hp Johnson. T-Top, stereo, GPS, depth, VHF, and live well. New aluminum trailer. this boat & motors are like new with under 300hrs. A must see in Key Largo. Call: (305) 451-0916 or (305) 619-0569 (cell)

04/29



1994 18' Action Craft

130 Yamaha, trailer, push pole, VHF, stereo, and new cushions. This boat is in excellent condition, with very little use. Asking \$7,700 obo. Located in Key Largo. Call: (305) 451-0916 or (305) 619-0569

04/29

Advertise your boats, engines, etc. here in the Keys Boat Exchange
— www.keysboatexchange.com —
Your ad will reach up & down the Keys!
Call (305) 766-BOAT (2628)
E-mail: info@weeklyfisherman.com

Capt. Schugar cont. from pg. 9

catch of 1 ½ pound to 2 pound yellowtails even though the conditions were not favorable.

I can't stress enough that you should never use cracked corn for yellowtail. Use oats and chum mix to make your yellowtail school healthy and fat. I haven't noticed any mature eggs yet in the yellowtail, but by the end of April you will see that the egg sacks will be full and the tails will be thick. At the spot I have been fishing, the school of fish is about fifty yards long, and as I keep fishing there the school will grow in size. When fishing for yellowtail it is always good to have other fisherman working there, too. This will attract more fish to hold up and feed before they spawn. I know this goes against everything you know about fishing, but trust me, don't be angry that someone has crept up on you. If you do anchor near someone, use the common courtesy of anchoring alongside the other boat. Do not anchor up or down current of another boat. If you anchor down current you will probably not catch anything and if you anchor up current from another boat you will mess up fishing for that other boat and both boats will have a hard time

catching, because the fish will be going from one slick to the other and then they will go down and get lockjaw. I have seen it when I used to commercial fish. I have seen it when I had 150 pounds of chum in the water and another boat up slick us and stole our fish right from under our boat, even with all the chum we had in the water.

Good luck and be safe and courteous to your fellow boaters. 



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**Florida Keys Fishing
Guides Association Inc.**

KEY LARGO (Ocean Reef)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Apr 1	Wed	01:29 AM/2.43 ft	07:33 AM/0.42 ft	01:36 PM/2.27 ft	08:03 PM/-0.19 ft	
Apr 2	Thu	02:32 AM/2.35 ft	08:41 AM/0.50 ft	02:44 PM/2.22 ft	09:13 PM/-0.06 ft	
Apr 3	Fri	03:39 AM/2.31 ft	09:53 AM/0.45 ft	03:58 PM/2.24 ft	10:24 PM/-0.02 ft	
Apr 4	Sat	04:45 AM/2.35 ft	11:01 AM/0.28 ft	05:09 PM/2.34 ft	11:30 PM/-0.05 ft	
Apr 5	Sun	05:47 AM/2.43 ft	12:02 PM/0.02 ft	06:14 PM/2.49 ft		
Apr 6	Mon		12:29 AM/-0.12 ft	06:42 AM/2.53 ft	12:55 PM/-0.24 ft	07:11 PM/2.65 ft
Apr 7	Tue		01:22 AM/-0.18 ft	07:31 AM/2.61 ft	01:44 PM/-0.46 ft	08:02 PM/2.77 ft
Apr 8	Wed		02:11 AM/-0.21 ft	08:16 AM/2.66 ft	02:29 PM/-0.60 ft	08:48 PM/2.83 ft

BIG PINE (West Side - Pine Channel)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Apr 1	Wed	03:58 AM/0.40 ft	09:24 AM/0.18 ft	02:44 PM/0.92 ft	11:47 PM/-0.10 ft	
Apr 2	Thu	05:22 AM/0.38 ft	10:30 AM/0.21 ft	04:01 PM/0.87 ft		
Apr 3	Fri		01:05 AM/-0.06 ft	06:42 AM/0.42 ft	12:00 PM/0.22 ft	05:35 PM/0.84 ft
Apr 4	Sat		02:14 AM/-0.03 ft	07:40 AM/0.50 ft	01:35 PM/0.19 ft	07:05 PM/0.84 ft
Apr 5	Sun		03:09 AM/-0.01 ft	08:24 AM/0.60 ft	02:55 PM/0.12 ft	08:18 PM/0.84 ft
Apr 6	Mon		03:53 AM/0.02 ft	09:01 AM/0.71 ft	04:00 PM/0.04 ft	09:19 PM/0.83 ft
Apr 7	Tue		04:31 AM/0.05 ft	09:35 AM/0.81 ft	04:55 PM/-0.05 ft	10:11 PM/0.81 ft
Apr 8	Wed		05:05 AM/0.07 ft	10:06 AM/0.90 ft	05:45 PM/-0.11 ft	10:58 PM/0.76 ft

ISLAMORADA (Whale Harbor)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Apr 1	Wed	01:55 AM/1.39 ft	08:19 AM/0.20 ft	02:02 PM/1.30 ft	08:49 PM/-0.09 ft	
Apr 2	Thu	02:58 AM/1.34 ft	09:27 AM/0.24 ft	03:10 PM/1.27 ft	09:59 PM/-0.03 ft	
Apr 3	Fri	04:05 AM/1.32 ft	10:39 AM/0.21 ft	04:24 PM/1.28 ft	11:10 PM/-0.01 ft	
Apr 4	Sat	05:11 AM/1.34 ft	11:47 AM/0.13 ft	05:35 PM/1.34 ft		
Apr 5	Sun		12:16 AM/-0.02 ft	06:13 AM/1.39 ft	12:48 PM/0.01 ft	06:40 PM/1.43 ft
Apr 6	Mon		01:15 AM/-0.06 ft	07:08 AM/1.45 ft	01:41 PM/-0.12 ft	07:37 PM/1.52 ft
Apr 7	Tue		02:08 AM/-0.09 ft	07:57 AM/1.50 ft	02:30 PM/-0.22 ft	08:28 PM/1.59 ft
Apr 8	Wed		02:57 AM/-0.10 ft	08:42 AM/1.52 ft	03:15 PM/-0.28 ft	09:14 PM/1.62 ft

CUDJOE KEY (Pirates Cove)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Apr 1	Wed	07:27 AM/0.59 ft	10:26 AM/0.33 ft	06:13 PM/1.36 ft		
Apr 2	Thu		12:49 AM/-0.19 ft	08:51 AM/0.56 ft	11:32 AM/0.39 ft	07:30 PM/1.29 ft
Apr 3	Fri		02:07 AM/-0.11 ft	10:11 AM/0.62 ft	01:02 PM/0.41 ft	09:04 PM/1.25 ft
Apr 4	Sat		03:16 AM/-0.06 ft	11:09 AM/0.74 ft	02:37 PM/0.35 ft	10:34 PM/1.24 ft
Apr 5	Sun		04:11 AM/-0.01 ft	11:53 AM/0.89 ft	03:57 PM/0.22 ft	11:47 PM/1.25 ft
Apr 6	Mon		04:55 AM/0.04 ft	12:30 PM/1.05 ft	05:02 PM/0.07 ft	
Apr 7	Tue	12:48 AM/1.24 ft	05:33 AM/0.09 ft	01:04 PM/1.21 ft	05:57 PM/-0.09 ft	
Apr 8	Wed	01:40 AM/1.19 ft	06:07 AM/0.13 ft	01:35 PM/1.33 ft	06:47 PM/-0.21 ft	

MARATHON (Boot Key Harbor)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Apr 1	Wed	02:22 AM/0.86 ft	06:25 AM/0.54 ft	01:25 PM/2.06 ft	09:18 PM/-0.23 ft	
Apr 2	Thu	03:48 AM/0.79 ft	07:33 AM/0.62 ft	02:33 PM/1.93 ft	10:34 PM/-0.16 ft	
Apr 3	Fri	05:31 AM/0.85 ft	09:26 AM/0.64 ft	03:58 PM/1.81 ft	11:39 PM/-0.12 ft	
Apr 4	Sat	06:34 AM/1.01 ft	11:08 AM/0.51 ft	05:33 PM/1.73 ft		
Apr 5	Sun		12:32 AM/-0.09 ft	07:14 AM/1.22 ft	12:25 PM/0.29 ft	06:57 PM/1.70 ft
Apr 6	Mon		01:16 AM/-0.04 ft	07:48 AM/1.45 ft	01:27 PM/0.03 ft	08:02 PM/1.67 ft
Apr 7	Tue		01:54 AM/0.02 ft	08:18 AM/1.67 ft	02:21 PM/-0.20 ft	08:56 PM/1.62 ft
Apr 8	Wed		02:30 AM/0.10 ft	08:47 AM/1.86 ft	03:09 PM/-0.38 ft	09:43 PM/1.54 ft

KEY WEST (South Side Hawk Channel)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Apr 1	Wed	02:45 AM/0.82 ft	07:02 AM/0.39 ft	01:31 PM/1.89 ft	09:25 PM/-0.22 ft	
Apr 2	Thu	04:09 AM/0.78 ft	08:08 AM/0.45 ft	02:48 PM/1.80 ft	10:43 PM/-0.13 ft	
Apr 3	Fri	05:29 AM/0.86 ft	09:38 AM/0.48 ft	04:22 PM/1.73 ft	11:52 PM/-0.07 ft	
Apr 4	Sat	06:27 AM/1.03 ft	11:13 AM/0.41 ft	05:52 PM/1.73 ft		
Apr 5	Sun		12:47 AM/-0.01 ft	07:11 AM/1.24 ft	12:33 PM/0.26 ft	07:05 PM/1.73 ft
Apr 6	Mon		01:31 AM/0.05 ft	07:48 AM/1.46 ft	01:38 PM/0.08 ft	08:06 PM/1.72 ft
Apr 7	Tue		02:09 AM/0.10 ft	08:22 AM/1.68 ft	02:33 PM/-0.10 ft	08:58 PM/1.66 ft
Apr 8	Wed		02:43 AM/0.15 ft	08:53 AM/1.85 ft	03:23 PM/-0.24 ft	09:45 PM/1.56 ft

Moon Phases

First Quarter: 04/02/09 • Full: 04/09/09
Last Quarter: 04/17/09 • New: 04/24/09

All Tide predictions may not be accurate. The Weekly Fisherman accepts no liabilities associated with any referenced use of the above-listed tidal information.



KEYS CAPTAIN & GUIDE DIRECTORY



This Directory is a comprehensive list of the best shallow water flats guides & offshore charter skippers from Key Largo to Key West. Flats species of fish include: Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon, Redfish, Snook & Trout. Offshore species of fish include: Dolphin, Sailfish, Wahoo, Kingfish, Tuna, Snapper & Grouper. Gulf species of fish include: Kingfish, Grouper, Snapper, Cobia & Tarpon.



**BC-Back Country • LT-Light Tackle • FL-Flats • OFF-Offshore • GF-Gulf Fishing
WR-Wreck • OVN-Overnight • MD-Multi-Day • TP-Tarpon • FLY-Fly Fishing**

**Listings in this Directory are available for only
\$5.50/week, = \$286/year print and web.**

Middle Keys	Long Key to Marathon	
Captain / Charter	Contact Info	
Capt. Nick Borraccino Best Bet Sportfishing	OFF/REEF/WR	(508) 769-4189 www.bestbetsportfishing.com
Capt. Pip's Sportfishing	OFF/REEF/TP	(305) 743-4403 www.captainpips.com
Capt. Steve "Coach" Demuth Catch A Tarpon Fishing Charters	Tarpon Only	(941) 716-4043 tarponcoach@comcast.net
Capt. Butch Hewlett	Live Bait Tarpon Only	(305) 743-4594 bnbfishing@bellsouth.net
Capt. David Schugar	OFF/REEF	(305) 610-4778 www.sweetenufcharters.com
Capt. Paul Suarez	Licensed Captain Any Boat	(305) 731-7464
Main Attraction	OFF/REEF	(305) 289-0071 www.mainattraction.org
Capt. Ron Teke	OFF/REEF/WR/Bay	(305)289-8790 www.KeysMagic.com
Capt. John Kohler Osprey Backcountry Charters	BC/FT/LT/FLY	(305) 852-0369 jdkohler@bellsouth.net

Lower Keys	Big Pine Key to Key West	
Captain / Charter	Contact Info	
Capt. Chris Lembo	OFF/REEF	(305) 292-0067 incognitocharters@comcast.net

Lower Keys (cont.)	Big Pine Key to Key West	
Captain / Charter	Contact Info	
Capt. Kevin Wilson	OFF/REEF	(305) 745-5634 www.fishmekeywest.com
Capt. Brad Nowicki	BC/FL/OFF/REEF/GF	(305) 481-7908 www.captainbradnowicki.com
Sightfish Charters	FL	(305) 304-6132 www.sightfishfloridakeys.com
Capt. Sandy Horn	BC/FL	(305) 393-6913 shorn2979@yahoo.com
Capt. Steve Lamp	FL/OFF/WR/GF/FLY/TP	(888) 362-3474 www.fishingkeywest.com
Capt. Frank Piku Daytime/Nighttime Swordfishing Trips	OFF/GULF/REEF	(305) 509-1547 www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com
Andy Griffiths Charters Night Swordfishing	OVN/MD/OFF/REEF	(305) 296-2639 www.fishandy.com
Capt. Bo Sellers	BC/FL	(305) 304-8442 www.sightfishingkeywest.com
Capt. Andrew Tipler Last Cast Charters	BC/FL/OFF/REEF	(305) 744-9796 www.lastcastcharters.net
Capt. Tony Taverna Morning Star Sportfishing	OFF/REEF/INSHORE	(631) 355-9344 www.morningstarsportfishingcharters.net
Capt. Luke Kelly keyflat@mac.com	FL/FLY/LT/BC/TP	(305) 304-3152 www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com
Capt. Barry / Capt. James Eva Marie Sportfishing	OFF/REEF/WR	(305) 407-4381 bgandrews18@aol.com

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WR-Wreck • OVN-Overnight • MD-Multi-Day • TP-Tarpon • FLY-Fly Fishing**

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Upper Keys Captain / Charter	Key Largo to Islamorada Contact Info	Upper Keys (cont.) Captain / Charter	Key Largo to Islamorada Contact Info
Capt. Greg Eklund Cloud Nine Charters	OFF/REEF/WR/FL (305) 360-7476 www.islamoradafishingtrips.com	Capt. Juan Garcia Beats Land Charters	BC/GF/REEF/OFF (305) 297-0438 www.beatslandcharters.com
Key Largo Fishing Adventures	OFF/BC/REEF (305) 923-9293 www.keyssportfishing.com	Capt. Skip Bradeen	OFF (305) 481-5151 www.bluechiptoo.com
Capt. Scott Keller	OFF/BC (305) 664-6678 captscott@badhabitfishingcharters.com	Capt. Steve Friedman	FL/BC/FLY (305) 393-3474 www.afishingguide.com
Capt. Ron Moore Miller Time Charters	OFF/REEF/MD (305) 304-9473 www.millertimesportfishing.com	Capt. Larry Wren A Pirates Choice Charters	OFF (305) 360-4900 www.apirateschoice.com
Capt. Matt Bellinger	BC/GULF/REEF/WR (305) 393-0909 www.bamboocharters.com	Capt. Dave Purdo	FL/BC (305) 852-5989
Capt. Joe Petrucco	OFF/GF/WR/REEF/BC (305) 304-4580 www.killerinstinctcharters.com	Capt. J.R. captainjr@bellsouth.net	OFF 800-473-4106 or 305-481-0649 www.captainj-rcharters.com
Capt. George Clark, Jr.	OFF/REEF/BC (305) 522-2638 www.rodeochararters.com	Capt Mitch Mitchell	BC/FL 305-587-1150 www.reelchaoscharters.com
Capt. Jef Pfister	BC/FL (877) 362-5743 www.docksidecharters.com	Capt. Kerry Wingo	BC/LT/FL/FLY Klcaptkw@aol.com www.tailsupfishing.com
Capt. Mike Makowski Black Foot Charter	BC/FL/FLY/LT (305) 481-0111 www.blackfootfishing.com	Capt. Augie Wampler's captwamp@yahoo.com	OFF (305) 393-2765 www.BlueWaterPredator.com
Capt. Wells Gable	BC/FL (305) 522-2373 www.captwellsable@msn.com	Capt. Ron Brack www.hatatudecharters.com	OFF (305) 484-8410 (305) 393-0452
Killer White Charters	OFF/REEF/TP (305) 522-0374 www.killerwhite.com	Capt. Jeff Frasier Genesis Charters	OFF (305) 393-3981 www.genesischarters.com
Capt. John Kohler Osprey Backcountry Charters	BC/FL/LT/FLY (305) 852-0369 jdkohler@bellsouth.net	Capt. Donny Lange whereisd@yaho.com	BC/FL (305) 522-1929 www.captdonny.com
Capt. Ann Holahan	BC/FL/TP/FLY (305) 664-5891 www.boneranger.com	Capt. Ron Wagner	TP/LT/FLY/BC/FL/GF/REEF (304) 664-2028 fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com
Capt. Lain Goodwin	BC/FL (305) 304-2212 captain@dirtywatercharters.com	Capt. Paul Hunt captpaul@finhuntercharters.com	BC/FL/LT/FLY (305) 393-2495 www.finhuntercharters.com
Capt. Tad Burke	BC/FL/GF/OFF (305) 852-0739 (305) 451-7354	Capt. Bruce Andersen Capt. Easy Charters	OFF/WR (305) 360-2120 www.captaineasycharters.com
Capt. Kevin Brown Golden Reserve Charters	(305) 394-0792 www.goldreservecharters.com	Capt. Skip Nielsen	BC/FL/LT (305) 664-9314 skipcye@bellsouth.net
Capt. John Taskowitz	OFF (305) 664-9202 www.suzannefishingcharters.com	Capt. Robert Mathias, Jr capt@floridakeysfishing.com	"RESTLESS TOO" (305) 304-4422 www.floridakeysfishing.com
Capt. Ted Benbow	FL/BC (305) 393-0363 www.skinsandfinscharters.com	Capt. Bruce Pollock Edge Charters	FL/BC/LT (305) 393-5269 www.florida-keys-fishing-guides.com CaptainBruce@florida-keys-fishing-guides.com
Capt. Bill Wert Whisper Charters	FL/BC/LT/GF/FLY (305) 393-1910 mrbill54@bellsouth.net	Capt. Jack Falcucci	OFF/REEF (305) 393-0795 50' Custom Ocean Sportfish
Capt. Stephen Murray	BC/FL/LT (305) 393-1641 stevemurray126@comcast.net		
Capt. Ron Allen Fish Tales Charters	(305) 664-0050 www.fishtalessportfishing.com		
Capt. Butch Green Sassy Lady Charters	(305) 394-4717 sassyladycharters@comcast.net		
Capt. Jeff Van Derflue	BC (305) 393-6940 flatitudecharters@hotmail.com		
Capt. Don Clark	OFF (305) 393-2788 www.seahorsecharters.com		
Capt. Richard Burson R-U Fishing Yet Charters	BC/FLY/LT/GF/REEF (305) 360-3262		

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