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Vol. XI • Issue 45

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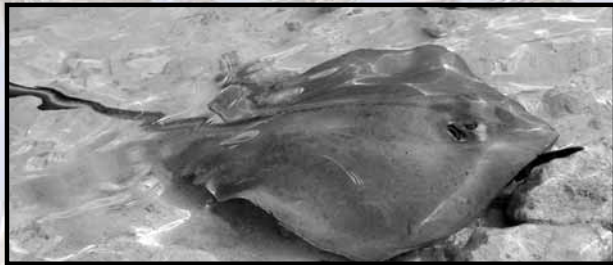
Volume XI, Issue 45

May 13th, 2009

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Contact Elizabeth at (305) 766-BOAT (2628) or, by e-mail: info@weeklyfisherman.com for ad sales and other information.

Treasure Cay Billfish Tournament Offers Guaranteed Money . . .

Held in Abaco, Bahamas, the 26th Annual Treasure Cay Billfish CBT, June 7-12, 2009, announces its first-ever guaranteed cash payout, ranging from \$10,000 for a minimum of ten boats and up to \$50,000 for participation of 50 boats. There is also a 10% dockage discount during the tournament. The TCBT is a modified release tournament offering four days of fishing, social parties, dinners and fun competitions.

Registration, including boat entry, four dinners and four cocktail parties for up to six team members, team goody bag with t-shirts & hats and room discounts is \$2,950 per team.



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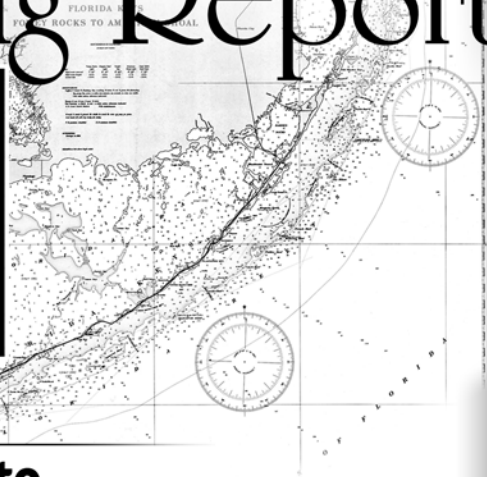
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Weekly Fisherman's Captain & Guide Directory reaches 1000's of locals & tourists each week via our distribution sites from Florida City to Key West, plus, of course, www.weeklyfisherman.com. Your info is available worldwide, as folks plan their Keys vacation! Call (305) 766-BOAT (2628) to start your listing today! Each Listing: \$5.50 / week (\$286 annually) Send your pix to photos@weeklyfisherman.com • NOTE: .com


Fishing Report

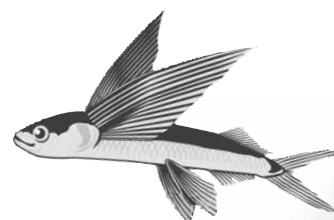
Brought to you by
Captain Tom Aiuto . . .
You can reach him at:
hawkscayfishing@aol.com
or by the following phones:
(631) 981-5865 (home)
(631) 252-8858 (cell)



Capt. Tom Aiuto Duck Key

Capt Tom at HAWKS CAY RESORT & MARINA reports the waters are almost 80 degrees, with winds a pleasant 5 to 15 knots. Once again its all about Tarpon, Tarpon and Tarpon. Tarpon has invaded the water around Duck Key this week. There have been impressive catches of exceptionally large Tarpon pushing the 200 lb. mark. Capt. Dave Perry on the Eagle Eye is still fishing (2) trips a day, seven days a week. He reports that his morning Tarpon bite has been red hot. The AM tide change is producing catches of 10 to 12 Tarpon a day to 200 lbs. while the PM tide change is only producing 2 to 3 Tarpon to 175 lbs. Most of the Tarpon are being taken under the bridges and in deep channels, using Tarpon candy, (live mullet and crabs). Capt. Scott Meyer from TV's Saltwater Experience said that he is almost exclusively targeting Tarpon

this week. Large numbers of hungry Tarpon to 200 lbs. are eagerly feeding on crabs and mullet. Most of his Tarpon are being taken in the cuts and channels in close proximity to the flats. The Bonefish hunting is really really strong this week. Catches of 8 to 10 bones a day to 10 lbs are common. Brown bonefish jigs dressed with shrimp seem to be doing the trick. The Snook are around but are not cooperating. On Thursday Capt. Scott went to one of his favorite Snook spots and found over 100 Snook stacked up. He started pitching live (pilchards) on their noses with no luck. The only thing they would look at was the C.A.L. (night glow) by D.O.A. The Shark bite is still pretty good with Lemons to 150 lbs, Blacktips to 95 lbs. and bulls to 275 lbs. accounting for most of the action. Sailfish are still bending rods offshore where 5 to 8 sails a day are common. Blackfin Tuna are being trolled up on the Marathon hump. Anglers on a good day are hooking up to 10 fish a day to 25 lbs. Dolphin (Mahi Mahi) has been decent. Most of the fish are schoolies to 15 lbs. with a few gaffers to 25 lbs. and a couple slammers to 40 lbs. The reef fishing has been supplying steady action with 2 to 5 lbs. Yellowtail, Mutton to 14 lbs. Mangrove Snappers to 18 lbs. and plenty of Lane Snappers, Porgies and Grunts. Just to shake things up an occasional 4 ft. barracuda would join the fun. 



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Characteristics of Ethanol-Blended Fuel

Your boat is equipped with a gasoline fuel system. Please take time to read and understand all the fuel related information and warnings regarding gasoline and your boat in the engine owner's manual.

Care should be taken to select fuels having the octane rating recommended for the engine, as indicated in the owner's manual, for proper operation.

NOTICE

GASOLINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Minimum octane rating of 87 (R+M)/2

The use of improper gasoline or additives can damage your fuel system and is considered misuse of the system. Damaged caused by improper gasoline or additives WILL NOT be covered under warranty.

Ethanol-Blended Fuels

Ethanol is an oxygenated hydrocarbon compound that has a high octane rating and therefore is useful in increasing the octane level of unleaded gasoline.

The fuel-system components of your Mercury engine(s) have been tested to perform with the maximum level of ethanol-blended gasoline (10% ethanol) currently allowed by the EPA in the United States.

Special precautions should be considered with the use of fuel containing ethanol in your system. Fuels with ethanol can attack some fuel-system components, such as tanks and lines, if they are not made from acceptable ethanol-compatible materials. This can lead to operational problems or safety issues such as clogged filters, leaks or engine damage.

Your boat was manufactured, and shipped from the factory, with ethanol-compatible materials. Before introducing gasoline with ethanol into your fuel tank, ask your dealer if any components have been added or replaced that are not recommended by Boston Whaler, Mercury or may not be ethanol-compatible.

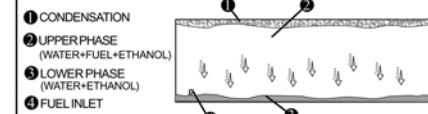
Filling The Tank

It is best to maintain a full tank of fuel when the engine is not in use. This will reduce air flow in and out of the tank due to changes in temperature as well as limiting exposure of the ethanol in the fuel to humidity and condensation.

Phase Separation

Humidity and condensation create water in your fuel tank which can adversely affect the ethanol blended fuel. A condition called phase separation can occur if water is drawn into the fuel beyond the saturation point. The presence of water in the fuel beyond the saturation level will cause most of the ethanol in the fuel to separate from the bulk fuel and drop to the bottom of the tank, significantly reducing the level of ethanol in the fuel mixture in the upper level (phase). If the lower level (phase), consisting of water and ethanol, is deep

Example of Phase Separation



enough to reach the fuel inlet it could be pumped directly to the engine(s) and cause significant problems. Engine problems can also result from the reduced ethanol/fuel mixture left in the upper phase of the tank.

Additives

There is no practical additive known that can prevent or correct phase separation. The only solution is to keep water from accumulating in the tank.

If phase separation does occur, your only remedy is to drain the fuel, clean and dry the tank completely and refill with a fresh, dry load of fuel.

Fuel Filters

Mercury already provides the appropriate level of filtration to protect the engine from debris. The addition of another in-line filter to the system will create a possible flow restriction that can starve the engine(s) of fuel.

As a precaution, it is advisable to carry extra on-engine filters in case filter plugging from debris in the fuel tank becomes a problem during boating.

Maintenance

Periodically inspect for the presence of water in the fuel tank. If any is found, all water must be removed and the tank completely dried before refilling the tank with any fuel containing ethanol.

Storage

Long periods of storage and/or non-use, common to boats, create unique problems. When preparing to store a boat for extended periods, of two months or more, it is best to completely remove all fuel from the tank. If it is not possible to remove the fuel, maintaining a full tank of fuel with a fuel stabilizer added to provide fuel stability and corrosion protection is recommended.

CAUTION

The use of fuels containing ethanol higher than 10 percent (E-10) can damage your engine and/or fuel system and will void the warranty.
E-85 FUELS COULD SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR ENGINES AND MUST NEVER BE USED.

REFER TO THE ENGINE MANUFACTURER'S MANUAL IN YOUR OWNER'S MANUAL PACKET FOR COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS AND WARRANTY.


MRP# 1849538

Big Pine Key Man Dies In Boating Accident . . .

A resident of Big Pine Key, David Bruce Hunter, 28, was killed Saturday when his boat went airborne and flipped bow-over-stern on Canal 37 in Lake Hatchineha, Polk County.

According to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officials, Hunter was operating an 18-foot speedboat and traveling in excess of 80 mph, despite FWC patrols in the area. Hunter lost control of his boat and was ejected into the water when the boat capsized.

Recovery operations continued throughout the weekend. Hunter's body was located late Sunday evening. The Polk County Sheriff's Office dive team and the Osceola County Sheriff's Office water patrol assisted in the recovery operation.


The FWC is continuing the investigation into the accident. 

Gulf Red Snapper Season On Hold Until June 1 . . .

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reminds anglers that the recreational harvest season for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico waters has changed. The open season now takes place from June 1 through Sept. 30.

Previously, the recreational red snapper harvest season opened on April 15 in Gulf state waters, and the season in Gulf federal waters opened on April 21. Now, the recreational harvest season for red snapper in all Gulf waters off Florida does not open until June 1.

Researchers consider Gulf red snapper to be overfished (in the past) and undergoing more overfishing now. A shorter fishing season will reduce the harvest of Gulf red snapper and help rebuild the fishery's population.

More information regarding the management of Gulf red snapper is available at www.MyFWC.com/RULESANDREGS/Saltwater_Regulations_RedSnapperIndex.htm. 

Cudjoe Gardens Dolphin Tournament


June 19 – 21, 2009 on Cudjoe Key

Sponsored by the Pirate Wellness Center

Proceeds will benefit the Cancer Foundation of the Florida Keys, the Domestic Abuse Shelter, Reef Relief, and the SeaBee Foundation.

The annual Cudjoe Garden's Dolphin Tournament will be held on June 20-21, with the Anglers Registration on June 19th at 5:00 PM at the Cudjoe Gardens Marina at 377 Drost Ave., on Cudjoe Key. Buon Appetito Ristorante, located next to the Marina, will provide appetizers and cocktails during the registration. Pirate Wellness Center located at MM21.4 on Cudjoe Key will be the lead sponsor and will host the Award Dinner at its facility on June 21st at 6:00 PM, with food provided by Mad Dawg Barbecue Joint.

Lines in will be at 8:00 AM and lines out will be 3:00 PM both days. Weigh-in is at the Cudjoe Gardens Marina from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM daily. Registration can be done on-line or forms can be downloaded at www.piratewellnesscenter.com.

For additional information call Walt Drabinski, (305) 394-0784 (cell), or e-mail: Waltd@piratewellnesscenter.com. Information can also be picked up at the Pirate Wellness Center, 21460 Overseas Hwy., or you can call them at (305) 744-3348. 



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43rd Annual Marathon International Tarpon Tournament
— Final Standings —

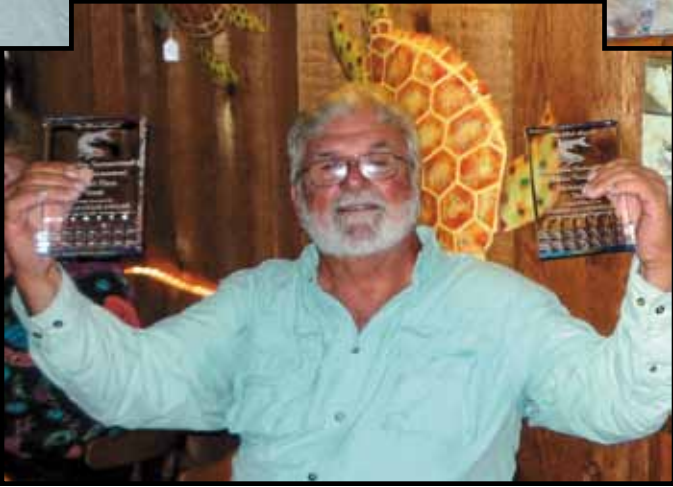
Place	Angler	Points	Team	Points	Captains Standings:	
1st	Rick Stern	900	Jean Madson/Rick Stern	1575	1st	Billy Rabito 1350pts.
2nd	Dave Slickven	750	Dave Slickven/Billy Piersiak	1350	2nd	Kevin Goodwin 900pts.
3rd	Jean Madson	675	Col. Pete Knaup/Jon Kis	900	3rd	Jack Callion 900pts.
4th	Jon Kis	600	Susie Moore/Alan Costello	750	4th	John Callion 675pts.
5th	Billy Piersiak	600	Nick Meade/Steve Melia	525	5th	B.J. Meyer 525pts.
6th	Nick Meade	525			6th	Donna Vankirk 450pts.
7th	Alan Costello	450			7th	Mike Taute 450pts.
8th	Judy McKimie	450				
9th	Paul Demuth	450				
10th	Susie Moore	300				
11th	Col. Pete Knaup	300				
12th	Jimmy Neate	225				

Total Fish Caught 35

NOTE: All captains are from Marathon, FL
Awards were presented at the banquet which was held at Annette's Steak & Lobster House



Marathon
International Tarpon
Tournament
Results and Photos



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



It was a busy week of fishing here in the Lower Keys. The winds were light and lots of people got out on the water for the first time in a while. As the week progressed the full moon slowed the bite in some areas while improving others.

Gulf fishing is in full swing. There are cobia moving from wreck to wreck with a few big schools. There is not much that I like more than seeing a massive school of cobia cruising the surface. Toss a live pinfish out and watch it get slammed. I like to keep a buck tail jig on hand for making a longer toss. When one fish is hooked there will likely be a few followers, so be ready. It is a good idea to head out with a well full of live crabs. The jumbo permit have moved out into the gulf for the annual spawn. Put a live crab out in front of the school and hang on. I like to set up my anchor with a float and a quick release so that we can

pull off and follow the fish. This reduces the fight time and helps keep sharks off the fish.

Offshore fishing started off very good this past week. There were plenty of big dolphin roaming around marked by frigate birds. Trolling ballyhoo with a few pitch bait rods is standard this time of year. By the end of the week the full moon slowed the dolphin bite a good bit leaving a hand full of chicken dolphin in the 500-600 ft depths. As we get away from the moon the dolphin bite should pick back up with more big fish pushing through.

Reef fishing was fair with plenty of yellowtails popping up in the chum slick. The fish were happily eating but so were the sharks. Sharks have been everywhere and in huge numbers and the reef has been no exception. Anywhere that the yellowtail have been showing up has had big numbers of sharks. When you hook a fish, reel as fast as you can in hopes of beating the toothy critters.

Flats fishing is taking off as the water temperatures climb. Big schools of tarpon have been cruising ocean side flats. Give other boats plenty of room when tarpon fishing. If everyone practices a little flats etiquette, then we can all have a good day on the water. When a group of fish passes you do not give chase, rarely will a chased fish eat and all you do is mess things up for the next boat in the line.

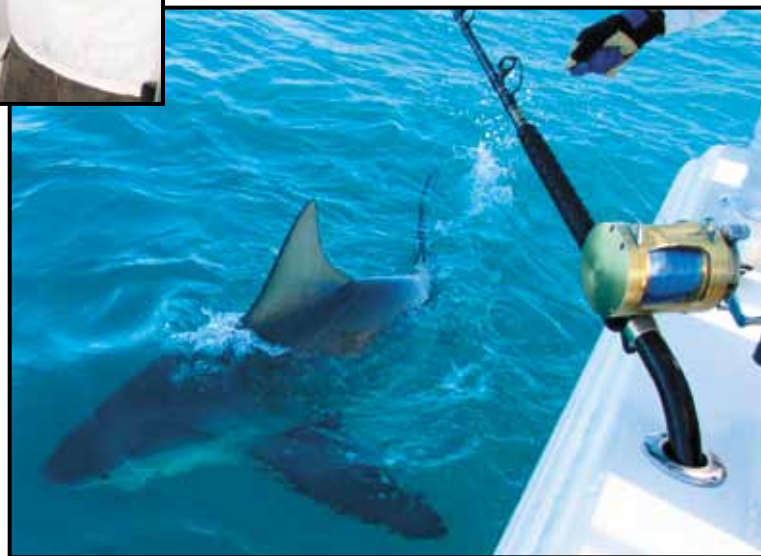
Good luck and good fishing. 🐟



Angela battling a jumbo bull shark from Bahia Honda . . .



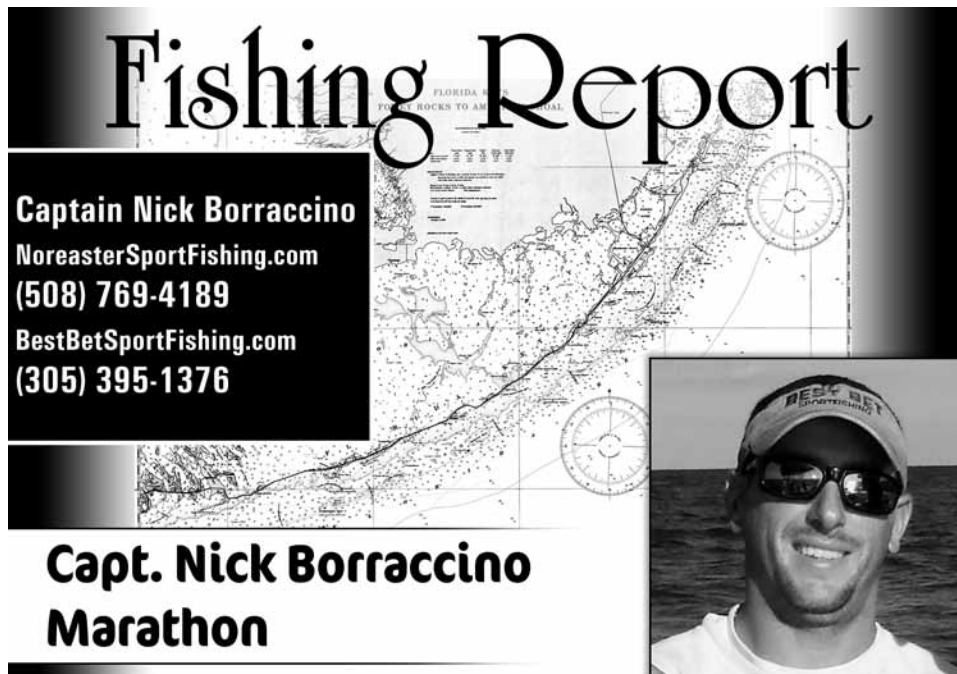
Scott with a gulf caught permit.



. . . and the shark.

Fishing Report

Captain Nick Borraccino
 NoreasterSportFishing.com
 (508) 769-4189
 BestBetSportFishing.com
 (305) 395-1376



Capt. Nick Borraccino
Marathon

be great, and it looks like the weather will hold for us for at least a few more days.

The snapper bite continues to be excellent, so long as you find some decent current. The usual yellowtail spots in 40-90 foot have been very active with big tails as well as grouper and mutton snapper. Many a fish box have come back this week full of yellow, making for some very happy customers.

The Tarpon has picked up at all three main tarpon fishing locations around Marathon (Long Key Bridge, 7 mile Bridge, and Bahia Honda). Live mullet, crabs, and pinfish are your mainstay baits, but tarpon are also being taken on artificials and even flies. The annual ladies tarpon tournament is wraps up on Sunday the 10th as I write this so you'll have to wait till next issue for the results. But I do know there are plenty of fish being hooked and caught.

Wreck fishing is good now too, with permit, African pompano, amberjack, grouper and snapper all on the target list. Whatever you choose to pursue right now is a good choice, so get it while the gettin is good! 🐟

Happy Mothers Day to all who qualify!

Were I a mother, all I would want for Mother's Day is great fishing opportunities, and had I been a mother in the Keys this week, I would have gotten my wish. Well, that's what I truly wish for every week, and I really did see just that come to pass.

This weeks report will differ very little from last week's, and those keeping track know that's good news! The fishing is great all over, and so is the weather. It's been sunny and calm all week, leaving no excuse not to go. Dolphin of all sizes are being caught out there in some pretty impressive numbers.

This Saturday was the Habitat for Humanity Mothers Day Dolphin Tournament. Congratulations to Caroline Anthony and the crew of the Main Attraction out of KCB for bringing in the first place fish of 42 pounds. Rounding out the top five were fish all in the mid to upper 30's. Despite the bite right now being typically a bit slower due to the full moon, it's still pretty good. Plenty of nice fish were taken this week in the 300-500 foot depth range, and of course also out in the always productive area between 600 and 700 feet. This week upcoming should



Borraccino and the Bull Dolphin tamer . . .



Best Bet half-day rack - very nice group!



Another excellent Dolphin . . .



TOURNAMENTS

We want to hear about your tournament!
Have it listed here for FREE by calling
Elizabeth at (305) 766-BOAT (2628), or via
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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.

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.

May 23: Dolphin Masters Invitational. Key West. \$750 Boat Entry Fee for this Dolphin-only tournament. Prizes include \$12,500 cash to the winner, plus a three night stay for two at the Treasure Cay Resort in Abaco, Bahamas. Call (305) 304-7674, or e-mail wave.whacker@hotmail.com for more info.

June 7-12: Treasure Cay Billfish CBT. Abaco, Bahamas. Announcing its first-ever guaranteed cash payout, ranging from \$10,000 for a minimum of ten boats and up to \$50,000 for participation of 50 boats. There is also a 10% dockage discount during the tournament. The TCBT is a modified release tournament offering four days of fishing, social parties, dinners and fun competitions.

Open to the public, the tournament format consists of multiple awards for billfish, plus awards for tuna, dolphin and wahoo. Release point standings are verified by the participant's own digital and/or video camera with an image that verifies time and date.

June 19-21: Annual Cudjoe Garden's Dolphin Tournament. Cudjoe Key. Pirate Wellness Center is the lead sponsor, with Cudjoe Gardens Marina, Buon Appetito Ristorante and Mad Dawg Barbecue Joint providing support.

Proceeds will benefit the Cancer Foundation of the Florida Keys, the Domestic Abuse Shelter, Reef Relief, and the SeaBee Foundation.



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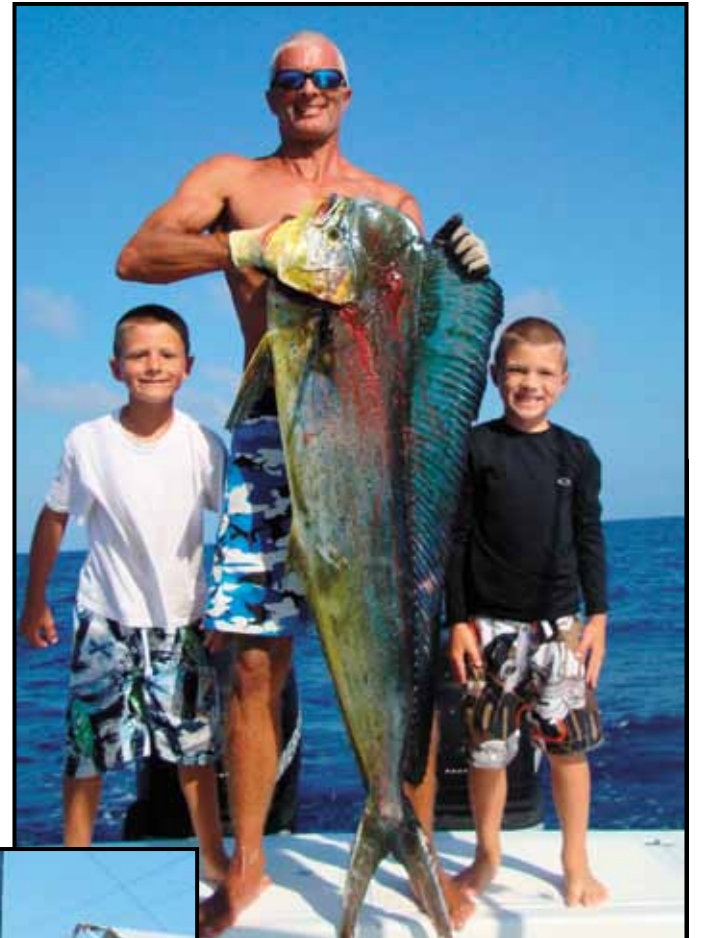
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Thanks!



Buddies Alex Rifice (left) and Landon Brooks, onboard Landon's 16' BackCountry Flats boat, found this 32" beauty recently. Due to high winds, Landon and friends have bagged nice snook the past few weeks by staying close to home.



▲ Wade Graft fishing with sons - Scout and Stryder. 635' on the ups-and-downs . . . A naked ballyhoo . . . A late bite 4:40pm . . . 38lb Slammer Bull Dolphin! It just doesn't get any better than this!

Tracy and John Mixon (left), from Alabama, mixed it up with the fish, catching six dolphin, two wahoo, one cobia, one tripletail and half of a mutton snapper. They were fishing the Marathon area with Captain Pip's.




Taking a break from their normal Key's fishing, Captain's Greg, Dan and Tim ventured to Jefferies Ledge off the coast of New Hampshire and were rewarded with a very nice catch of cod fish. It was cold and windy, but the fishing was red hot!!!

Judge Allows Ethanol Suit To Move Forward . . .

A District Court judge in southern Florida recently denied a request to dismiss a lawsuit regarding the damage that gasoline blended with ethanol does to boat engines and fuel tanks.

The suit was filed last August by The Kopelowitz Ostrow law firm on behalf of clients Erick Kelesceny, John Egizi and Todd Jessup, all Florida residents. Defendants in the case are Exxon, Chevron, Conoco Phillips, BP and Shell. The suit alleges that the oil companies failed to warn boat owners that ethanol-blended gasoline may destroy fiberglass tanks and tends to absorb water and phase separate, which could cause damage to any boat, regardless of its fuel tank material.

The next step following this week's ruling is pursuing certification to become a class-action lawsuit. If successful, the oil companies will be forced to place a warning label on pumps at all Florida gas stations. The plaintiffs also seek compensation for Florida boat owners whose boats have been damaged by the fuel.

"Denial of the motion is a significant step toward redressing the wrong perpetrated on Florida's boating population," said TKO managing partner Jeffrey Ostrow, in a statement. "Florida is the boating capital of the world, and it is reprehensible for oil companies to enjoy significant profits while knowingly paralyzing Florida's boaters." 




Florida Reports Fewer Boating Deaths . . .

The Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission reports a 30 percent reduction in boating fatalities between 2007 and 2008, with 54 deaths reported in 2008.

"Although boating fatalities were down in 2008, so far in 2009, 21 people have lost their lives on the state's waters," said Lt. Ed Cates of the FWC's boating and waterways section. "Boaters can be safer by following a few simple boating safety tips."

Drowning is the leading cause of boating fatalities, even though most of the victims reportedly knew how to swim.

"The greatest way to ensure that you and your passengers make it home at the end of the day is to get into the habit of wearing a life jacket," Cates said. 


Spearfishing . . .

by Neil Hammerschlag

Make no mistake: Spearfishing can be an act of shark provocation. A speared fish sends out all the right signals—a bloody smell and stress vibrations – that sharks recognize as an "easy meal."

If you are spearing fish, expect shark encounters. What you do next is up to you, but I offer these tips to reduce unwanted interactions and protect the safety of both spearfisher and shark:

1. Avoid being in the water alone. Several individuals may be better able to spot and deter an approaching shark.
2. Avoid wearing bright or contrasting colors. Sharks have good vision and bright and/or contrasting colors can be stimulating to these curious creatures.
3. Be conscious of your surroundings. Unusually high marine life activity (fish, marine mammals, birds) may indicate a concentrated food source like a bait ball that can draw in hunting and stimulated sharks. Conversely, if all the fish in an area immediately disappear, a hunting shark may have just arrived. Check your surroundings and cautiously exit the water.
4. Sharks may frequent particular feeding areas, so avoid areas where and when shark encounters have occurred in the past or where sharks have been seen recently.
5. Avoid spearfishing in murky water as it may be difficult for you to spot a shark and easier for a shark to mistake you for a potential prey item. Many sharks hunt during dawn and dusk so don't spearfish during these periods.
6. If you spot a shark, always maintain direct visual contact with the animal. Do not turn your back and swim away. Sharks generally rely on ambush attack and are aware when they have been spotted. They also may be wary.
7. If you spear a fish, immediately remove it from the water. Keeping your catch may stimulate a shark approach or attack. Avoid areas where people have just been spearfishing.
8. If a shark approaches, consider forfeiting your fish before the animal gets within 10 to 15 feet. A discarded catch will likely be consumed by a shark and will not elicit a feeding frenzy; however, failing to let it go could result in a closer than desired encounter brought on by you! Usually sharks will lose interest in you if you are no longer carrying a food source of theirs; however, exit the water immediately, minimizing time at the surface.
9. Each shark can have a different personality toward you so, after dropping your fish, if a shark still comes in closer than you are comfortable with then prod them with your speargun. Try to avoid contact with the shark's gills or eyes as this may cause long-term harm. Do not use your speargun as an offensive weapon. Doing so will likely be ineffective and may elicit retaliation. Always maintain direct visual contact with the animal and do not swim away.
10. Do not aggravate a shark by trying to harm it or make unnecessary contact. Avoid intruding on a shark's personal space by cornering it between you and a barrier like a beach, a boat or coral. Doing so may cause a shark to become defensive.
11. Listen to your inner voice. If you feel uncomfortable in the water, you should exit and return another day.

The ocean is the planet's true last remaining wild place. Despite the tips above, once you enter the ocean you are in the sharks' world and if you spear a fish, you will be provoking them. In the case of an encounter, I urge you to act responsibly and treat these magnificent animals with appreciation and respect. 

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



It's 'Prime Time' here in the Keys. All of our summer species are in place and hungry. From the flats with tons of bonefish, permit and big tarpon, to fishing around the bridges for tarpon & grouper to reef fishing for yellowtail, especially night reef fishing and the most popular of it all right now, dolphin! Everything is in now and if you haven't been able to take advantage of it, I feel for you. (Really!)

This is the time of year when it is flat calm like it has been and your boat is broken down, you tend to stand right next to your mechanic and constantly ask him if there is anything that you can hand him to help speed him up. (As most of us have learned, this just tends to slow them down.) If the boat is in good working order and your fuel funds are not what you would like, you tend to take out a loan just to go. Let me tell you, if that is your case, do it! The fishing right now is worth it!


Let's start in the shallows and work out deeper. The flats fishing is just about as good as it gets with cool enough water temperatures to hold fish up on the flats all day long and calm enough to spot them like the pros. (Far enough away to actually plan your cast to them.) The trick is to have the right gear in your hand for what is coming next. The permit, tarpon and bonefish have been so well mixed that it has been tough to have three different rigs ready. Problems like these are things that are fun to complain about. I talked with one wading fly-fisherman on Ohio Key that saw so many tarpon coming at him at one time, he ran from them! He thought that they were going to run right over him.

The bridge tarpon fishing has picked up dramatically in the past week. The late bite has been the best with more fish seeming to be feeding

after dark. This is not a good time for getting pictures but a great time for action. Earlier in the day, try putting your bait near the bottom for the finicky ones. If nothing else, at least they will have to swim around the bait to get by. Live shrimp has been getting quite a bit of action near the slacking tide as well.

The reef has been alive with yellowtail action, especially at night. The daytime fishing on the reef has been fair with some good grouper action and scattered 'tails but the heat with the light winds has been tough on anglers. The evenings with the dark of the moon have been best in a wide variety of water depths. From 45 to 110 feet, reports have been very good with some real nice sized flags being brought in. I'm not saying that just anywhere is going to be good; you still have to look for the schools on your fish finder. When you find them, they have been aggressive. Cut fresh mullet has been a very good bait tipped on a yellow 'Cy Fly' flat-lined back in the chum. If the current is strong, add a split shot.

Now to talk about the big one, the one arena that over 80% of the anglers that are going out are going for; Dolphin. For those of you that have been here for most of the month, you remember that the first couple of weeks, we could not even get to 300 feet without having several internal organs switching places. Since it has calmed down, so many people have been fishing offshore that the oil companies have had a several office parties. Yes, the fuel docks tell the story. The fish have been very accommodating as well. Some of the largest fish that I have heard of in years are coming through.

Now I do understand fishermen. I know that what a fish is estimated at when it is brought aboard and what it actually weighs when put on a scale are two very different figures. These fish are out there right now and the only thing keeping you from having a shot at them is the fact that you are sitting reading this instead of being out there. (The publisher is going to hate that line.) It is so hot now that it doesn't seem to matter what you drag. I still prefer the artificial baits because I seem to pull the larger fish out of the school and I can cover so much more ground. What I can tell you is to go and you will be rewarded with fresh fish for dinner as well as a great time on the water. 

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1985 46' Ocean Super Sport Boat

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Keys' Vandenberg Reef Project Nears Completion . . .

The highly anticipated sinking of the world's second-largest ex-military ship to be deployed as an artificial diving and fishing reef is almost here. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) continues to work with its project partners on final preparations for the ex-U.S.S. Hoyt Vandenberg to be safely sunk in late May at a site about 6 miles south-southeast of Key West in 140 feet of water.

The Vandenberg is 523 feet long and will provide recreational diving, ecotourism and fishing enhancements to the Florida Keys. The colorful vessel was commissioned in 1943 as a World War II troop transport ship, and later it became a missile range instrument ship in the 1960s, defending against missile attacks and tracking rocket and early space shuttle launches.

The ship is being placed in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary near Key West to help divert fishing pressure and diving pressure away from natural reefs near the ship. The FWC estimates that the vessel's life span of at least 100 years will contribute stable, long-term habitat for scores of marine fish species and provide exceptional diving and fishing opportunities for Florida residents and visitors from around the world.

According to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration projections, the Vandenberg artificial reef will result in an annual increase of about \$7.5 million in expenditures in the Monroe County economy, and will create about 195 full- and part-time jobs.

"The FWC has played a major role in providing funding and technical assistance for the Vandenberg project since early 2001, including helping the City of Key West secure the necessary permits for the ship and performing numerous inspections of the vessel while it was being readied for its safe deployment," said FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto.

The FWC has been the project liaison among the City of Key West (which owns the ship), Reefmakers, Inc. (the prime contractor for the project), the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The FWC has managed nearly \$2.5 million in funding for the Vandenberg's preparation, cleanup and monitoring out of total project costs of about \$8.5 million. FWC funding partners include the Governor's Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development; MARAD; City of Key West; Monroe County; and Keys Tourist Development Council.

In addition, the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement is taking the lead in working with the Navy, Coast Guard, Key West police and Monroe County Sheriff's office as well as local fire and rescue officers on offshore security operations regarding the sinking event, which is expected to occur sometime between May 21 and June 1, depending on weather conditions.



Photo by Andy Newman/Florida Keys News Bureau



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Bimini Top. Mercury 150 HP 2-stroke with 153 hours. Trim tabs, radio, fish finder, bait well, stainless prop and spare aluminum prop. In excellent condition. Includes boat and motor covers. Sugarloaf Key. Priced to sell at \$10,250.

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03 / 11

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03 / 04

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trailer. Only \$7,000. Call Chuck at (305) 517-9542.



03 / 11

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2003 Yamaha 225 4-stroke; mod. V-hull; swim plat; kicker bracket; full-enclosure curtains; bimini; Garmin GPS; depth finder; marine radio; AM / FM / CD; live box; fresh & salt water washdowns. Cust. stg. cvr. Low hrs. Alum. trailer incl. \$44,500.

Jim (305) 872-5496 or e-mail jimjanewatarmolen@msn



03 / 04

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03 / 18

1985 46' Ocean S/S

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03 / 11

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04 / 01

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03 / 18

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04 / 08

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04 / 08

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04 / 15

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04 / 01

**1988 28' Spencer
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04 / 01

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**2003 21' Boston Whaler
Outrage**

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04 / 08

2004 Pro Line 23' Sport

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04 / 15

**2001 Grady White 28'
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04 / 22

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04 / 29

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05 / 13

1986 29' Aquasport Tourney 290 Sportfish

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'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;

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

04 / 29

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04 / 29

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06 / 03

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KEY LARGO (Ocean Reef)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
May 13	Wed		05:56 AM / 0.64 ft	11:48 AM / 2.17 ft	06:08 PM / 0.24 ft	
May 14	Thu	12:26 AM / 2.28 ft	06:39 AM / 0.74 ft	12:32 PM / 2.08 ft	06:52 PM / 0.41 ft	
May 15	Fri	01:09 AM / 2.20 ft	07:27 AM / 0.80 ft	01:20 PM / 2.02 ft	07:40 PM / 0.57 ft	
May 16	Sat	01:54 AM / 2.13 ft	08:19 AM / 0.80 ft	02:13 PM / 1.98 ft	08:34 PM / 0.68 ft	
May 17	Sun	02:43 AM / 2.09 ft	09:13 AM / 0.72 ft	03:11 PM / 2.00 ft	09:33 PM / 0.73 ft	
May 18	Mon	03:34 AM / 2.09 ft	10:07 AM / 0.56 ft	04:11 PM / 2.07 ft	10:31 PM / 0.71 ft	
May 19	Tue	04:27 AM / 2.11 ft	10:58 AM / 0.34 ft	05:11 PM / 2.20 ft	11:26 PM / 0.62 ft	
May 20	Wed	05:21 AM / 2.17 ft	11:47 AM / 0.08 ft	06:07 PM / 2.36 ft		

BIG PINE (West Side - Pine Channel)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
May 13	Wed	02:06 AM / 0.48 ft	07:56 AM / 0.21 ft	01:04 PM / 0.90 ft	09:52 PM / -0.04 ft	
May 14	Thu	02:53 AM / 0.48 ft	08:38 AM / 0.24 ft	01:50 PM / 0.85 ft	10:41 PM / 0.01 ft	
May 15	Fri	03:44 AM / 0.49 ft	09:31 AM / 0.27 ft	02:42 PM / 0.80 ft	11:32 PM / 0.05 ft	
May 16	Sat	04:37 AM / 0.52 ft	10:45 AM / 0.29 ft	03:42 PM / 0.74 ft		
May 17	Sun		12:20 AM / 0.09 ft	05:27 AM / 0.58 ft	12:13 PM / 0.27 ft	04:53 PM / 0.69 ft
May 18	Mon		01:05 AM / 0.13 ft	06:10 AM / 0.64 ft	01:32 PM / 0.21 ft	06:12 PM / 0.65 ft
May 19	Tue		01:45 AM / 0.16 ft	06:49 AM / 0.72 ft	02:35 PM / 0.12 ft	07:28 PM / 0.62 ft
May 20	Wed		02:23 AM / 0.18 ft	07:25 AM / 0.80 ft	03:28 PM / 0.02 ft	08:35 PM / 0.61 ft

ISLAMORADA (Whale Harbor)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
May 13	Wed	12:11 AM / 1.36 ft	06:42 AM / 0.30 ft	12:14 PM / 1.24 ft	06:54 PM / 0.11 ft	
May 14	Thu	12:52 AM / 1.31 ft	07:25 AM / 0.35 ft	12:58 PM / 1.19 ft	07:38 PM / 0.20 ft	
May 15	Fri	01:35 AM / 1.26 ft	08:13 AM / 0.38 ft	01:46 PM / 1.16 ft	08:26 PM / 0.27 ft	
May 16	Sat	02:20 AM / 1.22 ft	09:05 AM / 0.38 ft	02:39 PM / 1.14 ft	09:20 PM / 0.32 ft	
May 17	Sun	03:09 AM / 1.20 ft	09:59 AM / 0.34 ft	03:37 PM / 1.14 ft	10:19 PM / 0.35 ft	
May 18	Mon	04:00 AM / 1.19 ft	10:53 AM / 0.27 ft	04:37 PM / 1.19 ft	11:17 PM / 0.34 ft	
May 19	Tue	04:53 AM / 1.21 ft	11:44 AM / 0.16 ft	05:37 PM / 1.26 ft		
May 20	Wed		12:12 AM / 0.29 ft	05:47 AM / 1.24 ft	12:33 PM / 0.04 ft	06:33 PM / 1.35 ft

CUDJOE KEY (Pirates Cove)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
May 13	Wed	05:35 AM / 0.71 ft	08:58 AM / 0.40 ft	04:33 PM / 1.33 ft	10:54 PM / -0.08 ft	
May 14	Thu	06:22 AM / 0.71 ft	09:40 AM / 0.45 ft	05:19 PM / 1.26 ft	11:43 PM / 0.01 ft	
May 15	Fri	07:13 AM / 0.73 ft	10:33 AM / 0.51 ft	06:11 PM / 1.18 ft		
May 16	Sat		12:34 AM / 0.10 ft	08:06 AM / 0.78 ft	11:47 AM / 0.54 ft	07:11 PM / 1.10 ft
May 17	Sun		01:22 AM / 0.18 ft	08:56 AM / 0.86 ft	01:15 PM / 0.51 ft	08:22 PM / 1.02 ft
May 18	Mon		02:07 AM / 0.24 ft	09:39 AM / 0.95 ft	02:34 PM / 0.40 ft	09:41 PM / 0.96 ft
May 19	Tue		02:47 AM / 0.30 ft	10:18 AM / 1.07 ft	03:37 PM / 0.23 ft	10:57 PM / 0.92 ft
May 20	Wed		03:25 AM / 0.33 ft	10:54 AM / 1.19 ft	04:30 PM / 0.04 ft	

MARATHON (Boot Key Harbor)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
May 13	Wed	12:30 AM / 1.07 ft	05:08 AM / 0.64 ft	11:44 AM / 2.03 ft	07:21 PM / -0.02 ft	
May 14	Thu	01:12 AM / 1.04 ft	05:42 AM / 0.70 ft	12:29 PM / 1.91 ft	08:12 PM / 0.08 ft	
May 15	Fri	01:59 AM / 1.05 ft	06:32 AM / 0.76 ft	01:19 PM / 1.77 ft	09:05 PM / 0.18 ft	
May 16	Sat	02:52 AM / 1.09 ft	08:05 AM / 0.80 ft	02:15 PM / 1.62 ft	09:54 PM / 0.26 ft	
May 17	Sun	03:46 AM / 1.19 ft	09:51 AM / 0.74 ft	03:19 PM / 1.47 ft	10:39 PM / 0.33 ft	
May 18	Mon	04:35 AM / 1.34 ft	11:09 AM / 0.57 ft	04:34 PM / 1.36 ft	11:18 PM / 0.40 ft	
May 19	Tue	05:20 AM / 1.52 ft	12:09 PM / 0.34 ft	05:54 PM / 1.29 ft	11:55 PM / 0.47 ft	
May 20	Wed	06:00 AM / 1.72 ft	01:00 PM / 0.08 ft	07:08 PM / 1.28 ft		

KEY WEST (South Side Hawk Channel)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
May 13	Wed	12:53 AM / 0.99 ft	05:34 AM / 0.46 ft	11:51 AM / 1.84 ft	07:30 PM / -0.09 ft	
May 14	Thu	01:40 AM / 0.98 ft	06:16 AM / 0.53 ft	12:37 PM / 1.75 ft	08:19 PM / 0.02 ft	
May 15	Fri	02:31 AM / 1.01 ft	07:09 AM / 0.59 ft	01:29 PM / 1.64 ft	09:10 PM / 0.12 ft	
May 16	Sat	03:24 AM / 1.08 ft	08:23 AM / 0.63 ft	02:29 PM / 1.53 ft	09:58 PM / 0.20 ft	
May 17	Sun	04:14 AM / 1.19 ft	09:51 AM / 0.59 ft	03:40 PM / 1.41 ft	10:43 PM / 0.28 ft	
May 18	Mon	04:57 AM / 1.33 ft	11:10 AM / 0.47 ft	04:59 PM / 1.33 ft	11:23 PM / 0.34 ft	
May 19	Tue	05:36 AM / 1.48 ft	12:13 PM / 0.27 ft	06:15 PM / 1.28 ft		
May 20	Wed		12:01 AM / 0.39 ft	06:12 AM / 1.65 ft	01:06 PM / 0.04 ft	07:22 PM / 1.26 ft

Moon Phases

Last Quarter: 05/17/09 • New: 05/24/09
First Quarter: 05/30/09 • Full: 06/07/09

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.**

Upper Keys Captain / Charter

Key Largo to Islamorada Contact Info

Capt. Greg Eklund Cloud Nine Charters	OFF / REEF / WR / FL	(305) 360-7476 www.islamoradafishingtrips.com
Key Largo Fishing Adventures	OFF / BC / REEF	(305) 923-9293 www.keyssportfishing.com
Capt. Scott Keller	OFF / BC	(305) 664-6678 captscott@badhabitfishingcharters.com
Capt. Ron Moore Miller Time Charters	OFF / REEF / MD	(305) 304-9473 www.millertimesportfishing.com
Capt. Matt Bellinger	BC / GULF / REEF / WR	(305) 393-0909 www.bamboocharters.com
Capt. Joe Petrucco	OFF / GF / WR / REEF / BC	(305) 304-4580 www.killerinstinctcharters.com
Capt. George Clark, Jr.	OFF / REEF / BC	(305) 522-2638 www.rodeochararters.com
Capt. Jef Pfister	BC / FL	(877) 362-5743 www.docksidecharters.com
Capt. Mike Makowski Black Foot Charter	BC / FL / FLY / LT	(305) 481-0111 www.blackfootfishing.com
Capt. Wells Gable	BC / FL	(305) 522-2373 www.captwellsable@msn.com
Killer White Charters	OFF / REEF / TP	(305) 522-0374 www.killerwhite.com
Capt. John Kohler Osprey Backcountry Charters	BC / FL / LT / FLY	(305) 852-0369 jdkohler@bellsouth.net
Capt. Ann Holahan	BC / FL / TP / FLY	(305) 664-5891 www.boneranger.com
Capt. Lain Goodwin	BC / FL	(305) 304-2212 captain@dirtywatercharters.com
Capt. Tad Burke	BC / FL / GF / OFF	(305) 852-0739 (305) 451-7354
Capt. Kevin Brown	Golden Reserve Charters	(305) 394-0792 www.goldreservecharters.com
Capt. John Taskowitz	OFF	(305) 664-9202 www.suzannefishingcharters.com
Capt. Ted Benbow	FL / BC	(305) 393-0363 www.skinsandfinscharters.com
Capt. Bill Wert Whisper Charters	FL / BC / LT / GF / FLY	(305) 393-1910 mrbill54@bellsouth.net
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

Upper Keys (cont.) Captain / Charter

Key Largo to Islamorada Contact Info

Capt. Juan Garcia Beats Land Charters	BC / GF / REEF / OFF	(305) 297-0438 www.beatslandcharters.com
Capt. Skip Bradeen	OFF	(305) 481-5151 www.bluechiptoo.com
Capt. Steve Friedman	FL / BC / FLY	(305) 393-3474 www.afishingguide.com
Capt. Larry Wren A Pirates Choice Charters	OFF	(305) 360-4900 www.apirateschoice.com
Capt. Dave Purdo	FL / BC	(305) 852-5989
Capt. J.R. captainjr@bellsouth.net	OFF	800-473-4106 or 305-481-0649 www.captainj-rcharters.com
Capt Mitch Mitchell	BC / FL	305-587-1150 www.reelchaoscharters.com
Capt. Kerry Wingo	BC / LT / FL / FLY	Klcaptkw@aol.com www.tailsupfishing.com
Capt. Augie Wampler's captwamp@yahoo.com	OFF	(305) 393-2765 www.BlueWaterPredator.com
Capt. Ron Brack www.hatatudecharters.com	OFF	(305) 484-8410 (305) 393-0452
Capt. Jeff Frasier Genesis Charters	OFF	(305) 393-3981 www.genesischarters.com
Capt. Donny Lange whereisdl@yahoo.com	BC / FL	(305) 522-1929 www.captdonny.com
Capt. Ron Wagner	TP / LT / FLY / BC / FL / GF / REEF	(304) 664-2028 fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com
Capt. Paul Hunt captpaul@finhuntercharters.com	BC / FL / LT / FLY	(305) 393-2495 www.finhuntercharters.com
Capt. Bruce Andersen Capt. Easy Charters	OFF / WR	(305) 360-2120 www.captaineasycharters.com
Capt. Skip Nielsen	BC / FL / LT	(305) 664-9314 skipcyd@bellsouth.net
Capt. Robert Mathias, Jr capt@floridakeysfishing.com	"RESTLESS TOO"	(305) 304-4422 www.floridakeysfishing.com
Capt. Bruce Pollock Edge Charters	FL / BC / LT	(305) 393-5269 www.florida-keys-fishing-guides.com
Capt. Jack Falcucci	OFF / REEF	(305) 393-0795
50' Custom Ocean Sportfish		

www.keysboatexchange.com
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KEYS CAPTAIN & GUIDE DIRECTORY



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**BC-Back Country • LT-Light Tackle • FL-Flats • OFF-Offshore • GF-Gulf Fishing
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**Listings in this Directory are available for only
\$5.50 / week, = \$286 / year print and web.**

Middle Keys

Captain / Charter

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
Capt. Joe Saldino	FL / LT / BC / MD / TP / FLY	(305) 731-0039 oakjo@bellsouth.net

Lower Keys

Captain / Charter

Capt. Chris Lembo	OFF / REEF	(305) 292-0067 incognitocharters@comcast.net
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Long Key to Marathon

Contact Info

Lower Keys (cont.)

Captain / Charter

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
		(305) 304-6283

Big Pine Key to Key West

Contact Info

