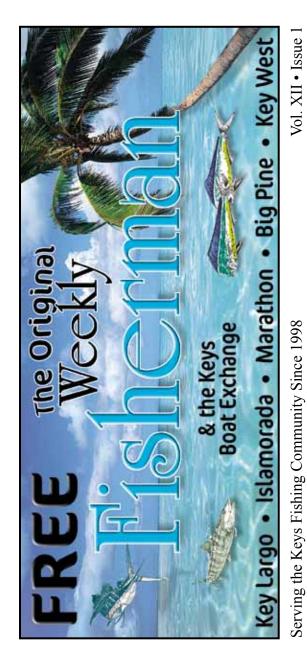
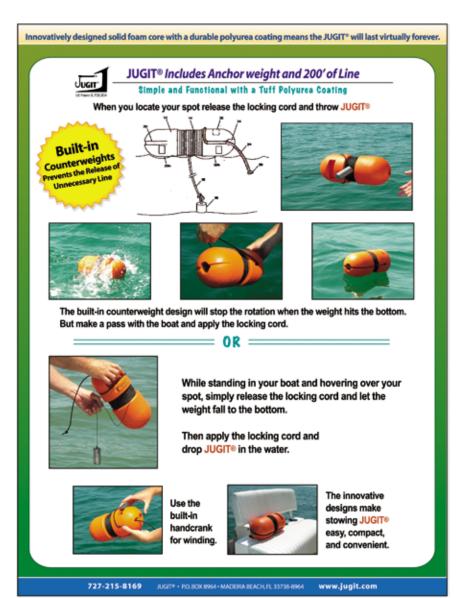
gave these fisherman something to remember!

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# **Sport Fishing for Greater Amberjack Set** to Close in Gulf Federal Waters...

The recreational harvest and possession of greater amberjack in or from federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico will be prohibited from Oct. 24 through Dec. 31. Federal waters extend beyond nine nautical miles from shore in the Gulf off Florida. The National Marine Fisheries Service announced this closure because an established annual recreational harvest quota for greater amberjack in the Gulf has been met.

In addition, a person aboard a vessel for which a federal charter vessel/head boat permit for Gulf reef fish has been issued must also abide by this closure provision in Florida state waters. This action is required by regulations implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Reef Fish Resources of the Gulf of Mexico.

However, all other recreational anglers may still harvest 1 greater amberjack of at least 30 inches fork length daily per person in Gulf state waters off Florida (within nine nautical miles from shore) under Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rules.

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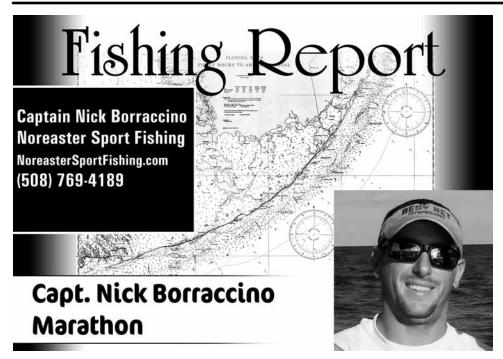


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It's the most wonderful time of the year...in my humble opinion. And no better time to have the Weekly Fisherman back on the shelf! Visitors and locals alike up and down the Keys are happy to once again have at their fingertips a free publication full of accurate and honest fishing reports, tips, suggestions, and guide directory throughout the year. And with regards to fishing in the keys right now, what's not to like? The weather is perfect, the fish are both plentiful and diverse, and the water is a far cry from crowded. Without hesitation, when I am asked about the best time of year to come to the Keys to fish, November/December is a toss up with May/June for my number one choice. So without further ado, here's what's happening around Marathon:

Weak cold fronts have begun to develop and move across Florida, bringing with them a welcomed reprieve from what were the dog days of September. All week we've had weather and water conditions that left little to complain about. Daytime temperatures in the mid seventies, a pleasantly dry and light North-Northeast wind pattern, and bright blue skies practically begged you drop what you were doing and head out on the water. Those who did had little to regret.

Dropping water temperatures have started the sailfish season. While I haven't heard of any double digit days yet, there are certainly enough fish around to give anyone putting fourth a serious effort multiple shots in a day. Slow trolling live pilchards or ballyhoo just beyond the reef has been effective, as has sight fishing in the shallows. There are some sails working schools of ballyhoo on the reef in 20-40 feet that can be spotted by diving frigate birds. Naturally, a live ballyhoo is the best bait to throw in this scenario.

If sailfishing isn't your thing, take comfort in the fact the fishing on the shallow reefs has been downright incredible. Larger than average mangrove snapper are being caught by the dozen. Anchor up chum on a lively piece of bottom and enjoy the action. Dropping live or cut bait to the bottom should get you a nice catch of mangrove snapper as well as red and black grouper. Chances are a school of ballyhoo will show up, which are great both live and cut. Also have a wire rig ready as some real nice size cero mackerel are sure to terrorize your snapper baits. Don't think twice about throwing them in the cooler, as the fillets are excellent on the grill, or any way for that matter. If you're more interested in yellowtail, move out to the deeper reefs and usual yellowtail spots. I managed to get into some jumbos this week, and although they can be tricky to catch, it's worth the extra effort. Besides, adding a few flags to the box never hurt anyone's feelings.

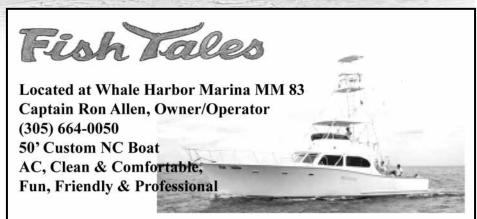
There have also been plenty of snapper on the gulf side wrecks and banks. Take the same approach as you would on the reef, only here be ready with heavier rod for those resident goliaths-remember, they have to stay in the water (for now). If you're in the mood to run a little further, I have reports of some great cobia fishing on gulf wrecks 20 miles and beyond.

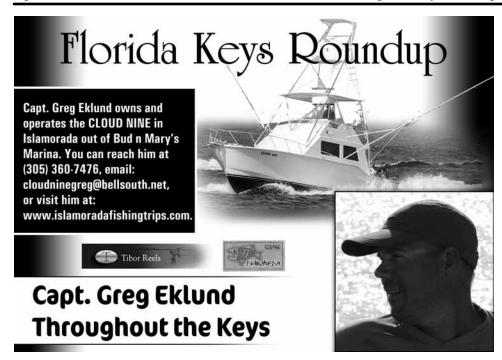
We're far enough along now that dolphin fever has subsided, but that by no means suggests there is no reason to go offshore... quite the contrary! Blackfin tuna at the hump are biting as good as ever, however my sources tell me the sharks are quite menacing and very likely to take any big tuna you hook. We might have to wait this one out. And although it's not dolphin season per say, you never know when you might run across a few. While swordfishing on Friday of this week Captains Ariel Modero (Top Knotch Sportfishing) and Mike Biffel (Big Dawg Sportfishing) happened to find a few birds looking at a pair of slammers which evidently had no problem eating their live baits. The 40+ pound bull and 25 pound cow proved a nice bonus for their efforts, on top of their 100 pound swordfish.

Daytime swordfishing seems to be the talk of the town, as the bite appears to be on. Thursday of this week I ventured offshore aboard the private boat Lazy Daze out of Key Colony Beach with swordfish in mind. With the help of Capt. Ty Price, boat owner Larry Blessinger, his son Larry Jr, and two friends experienced one memorable fishing trip. We boated a 143 pounder in the morning, and were hooked up again soon after that. After a relatively short battle, we were all amazed to see what rose the surface behind the boat. The 504 pound swordfish was finally wrestled through the door by four of us, and we naturally headed straight for the dock. The rumor is this is the largest one ever caught in the Keys, or at least in recent memory. I'm still waiting on confirmation of that, but regardless, it's a fish of a lifetime.

So yeah, I'd say the fishing is pretty good. Call me to get hooked up with your own memorable fishing trip in the Keys.







Fishing Offshore of the Florida Keys this last week has been great for a number of species. The Sailfish action has been reliable and productive for the last few weeks. This is prime season for catching these acrobatic billfish. They have been really focused on the ballyhoo bait schools along the edge of the reef line. Focusing your fishing efforts around their food supply right now has been really effective. There has also been an increase in the last few days of the population of cigar minnows and sardines along the reef Keys wide. I expect the quality Sailfish action to continue this week for the holiday crowd. The Islamorada Sailfish Tournament kicks off December 3rd and officially opens the Sailfish Tournament season here in the Keys. For more information

about this tournament or getting involved in any of the other Sailfish Tournaments this year please email or call me and I will be happy to help you get to the right people.

The King Mackerel bite has been good off Key Largo and Key West for those with the right bait and patience. The Kings have ranged in size from 5 to 40 pounds and they should only increase in number as we get closer to December and the next full moon. There were a few Wahoos caught this past week off Islamorada and Key Largo. Most of them were taken on the troll in 180 to 240 feet of water. This time of year can be hit and miss for the Dolphin. That said there have been some Dolphin along the edge of the reef when there is current and a few boats found some along current edges in 250 to 400 feet last week

The Bottom fishing along the edge of the reef has been excellent of late. Large Yellowtail and Mangrove Snappers have been a daily part of several boats catches. There has also been a big push of Mutton Snappers along the reef line and on several of the deeper patch reef areas. Some Cero Mackerels and a few Red and Black Groupers have also been biting as well. I also expect to see some Cobias any day now. They make for some epic fish battles and this is the time of year they start to show u pon the ocean side of the Keys.

This is a really exciting time of year to fish here in the Florida Keys. Live bait fishing for all of the species above is great fun for families, new anglers, and experience old salts. Take advantage of your good timing and get out and do some fishing while they are biting. If I can help you make arrangements to get out on the water for a days fishing please give me a call at the number above or send me an email. Have a Great Thanksgiving and I'll see you on the water...

All the Best, Capt. Greg





Captain Kelly brought this fisherman face to face with a 'cuda. Nice job!



▲ This is Mario De Felice from Prosperity, SC aboard the Fish Tales out of Whale Harbor Marina.

Wahoo are bitin' in the Bahamas! Over Under Adventures has it covered.

Tom Chambers II, Dan Chambers, Tom Chambers and Andy Payne holding Cobias, and a Sail was caught by Dan.







Sun is shining and the weather is easy. The current flats and nearshore shallow water fishing in the lower Florida Keys couldn't be much better for the month of November. Juvenile tarpon and snook are bunching together. Redfish can be found in their more overlooked locations. Large bonefish are making a strong appearance on a few select flats. And the permit, oh the permit, I sometimes think there is just more and more of them around each year. Aside from the more prized sport and gamefish, good numbers of sea-trout, pompano, jacks, and large barracuda can also be found in the lower Keys backcountry right now. With large snapper filets to go home with, it is currently a great time to fish the flats and backcountry of the lower Florida Keys and Key West.

Weather is a factor for this time of year and it does dictate what is within a possible fishing realm. Warmth and light winds open up the

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

Capt. Dave Schugar

Marathon

It sure is good to be writing for the Weekly Fisherman again. This paper has been loved by all; it is back, thank you Elizabeth and Jessica.

The sailfish bite is hot now. We just went 5 for 8 on Wednesday, and caught a few each day earlier in the week. There has been some bait showers along the edge of the reef and up inside of 40 feet of water. I found packs of sails in 130-165 feet of water. Slow trolling ballyhoo since there aren't too many birds giving up the sailfish's locations. I prefer to troll with four baits - sometimes with one down for muttons and kings. Using enough weight to keep close to the bottom. If the current is too strong, I will keep the down rod about 60 feet down for some king action. Using large blue runners or speedo's, you can get some really big ones. You can also get lucky and catch a nice wahoo.

entire spectrum, while cool air frontal conditions will somewhat limit you to the more aggressive predatory species. Good news is, future weather conditions appear to be quite mild, and it looks like we have at least another month or so of stable water temps and conditions, which means great gamefish potential. The cool and crisp air that upcoming months will produce make for very desirable conditions for both angler and fish.

For those who enjoy the sport in artificial lure fishing, the next few months offer great potential here as well. Sebile lures and their ultra realistic designs fool Florida Keys fish like no other. With a wide variety in design and color, Sebile has certainly found a niche in saltwater lure fishing. The action I see from these lures makes it hard to use any other while on the water. Lure fishing the many backwater areas of the lower Keys offers a very unique and exciting opportunity where action is plentiful. The next few months offer the best potential for this.

Fly-fisherman can expect good action from a variety of species during our upcoming months as well. As stated before, if the air temps are mild and the wind speed is low, I have seen this time of year out perform our Spring months in respect to variety. If high winds do prevail throughout a day, plenty of sight fly fishing potential for large barracuda, juvenile sharks, and redfish exists on any windy day near mangrove shorelines hidden from the wind. I often prefer the days I am forced to explore the seemingly endless amount of sheltered shallow water areas of the lower Keys, you will never see more scenic fishing ground.

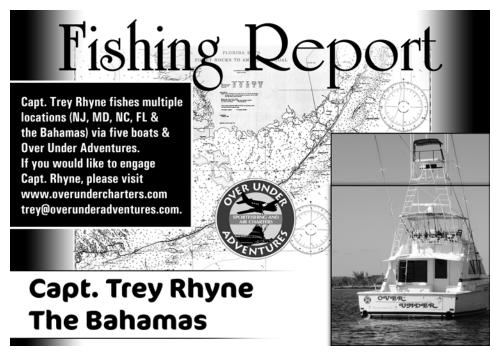
I have plenty of availability for the next few months and I always enjoy showing people our productive fishing potential during a more overlooked time of year. Slots are running low for next year's sport and gamefish season, and for all of those onboard I'm looking forward to it. Check out http://keywestflatsfishing.cc for more info . . .

Thanks for reading!

The reef has been red hot with plenty of yellowtail to be had. The really big yellowtails have been chewing, but the sharks have been just down right scary. I watched two sharks bite each other as they were fighting over a yellowtail. While your fishing on the reef the cero mackerel are showing up good as well. I have been doing a lot of diving lately and I have been seeing plenty of black grouper. I see as many as 10 small ones from 20 inches or so. It's really tough to get an exact size on them while your down but I never shoot them unless they look really big. This free diving is a hoot, I just started and I am addicted. On the patches I have been shooting some hogfish and mangroves, and an occasional large grouper. So if your looking to have some fun on rough days, the patches have been loaded with fish. With the temps dropping the fish are on the move, and they have been moving to the reef and inside as well.

The sword fishing from what I hear has been good, there was a 500+ pounder caught on the Key Colony dock by one of the private boats. Don't quote me; it's just what I heard. The guys up the road who have been doing a lot of swording tell me there have been lots of action, but most of the fish are from 100-150 pounds. The deep dropping has been a little slow, but the barrel fish are always biting it seems. The queen snapper never showed up this year. I only heard of a few caught - my buddy John Foster destroyed them over in the Bahamas once.

For you guys who fish the bay, the cobia have been biting and showing up in small schools. We limited out the other day and also got our share of some nice mangroves, too. The mackerel have showed up, but they are not really thick yet. If you work hard you can limit out with them too. Just remember to only take fish, which you can use, let's not waste our resources. Have a great week and I will see you out there.



Well, it's that time of year again. Time to start dusting off all that Wahoo tackle that is all pretty dedicated and specialized to only one type of fishing, BAHAMAS WAHOO FISHING! In just a few short days we'll be loading up and heading over to the Bahamas, fishing for the next 9 months. Wahoo Fishing will be the primary focus as things get going this Winter. Word is that the fish showed up on the western side of the Bahamas about 3 weeks ago, just about the time the first cold front rolled through S. Florida. Smaller school Hoo's, twenty to thirty pounders, are the norm, being taken around Bimini, Cat Cay, Cay Sal, and West End. We are starting to get a few reports from both Cat Island and San Salvador. Seems there is a real nice bite of bigger hoos going on right now, with fish up to 80 pounds being taken at Cat, with some 100 pound lunkers being rumored to have been caught in San Salvador.

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 past week has provided us with some of the year's best weather. Light winds and perfect weather has made being out on the water a joy. Add in some good fishing and you see why people flock to the Keys starting this time of year. Keep in mind that variety is the name of the game and you can stay in the action all day long.

I look to shallow water to give my clients great activity. Keep in mind that tons of bait push through the area followed by game fish. These schools of bait migrate down the edge of the reef. This means that you can save some gas and catch a boat load of fish.

There were a few sails to be found over the past week. Most were found chasing ballyhoo in 20-80 ft of water. We saw one on Saturday in less than 20 ft of water. Keep a float on your anchor in case you need to give chase.

As we get a few more cold fronts and the water temperatures continue to drop, the bite should bust wide open. At least that's what we are betting on anyway! We'll have a fresh, first hand report from the Abacos next weekend, and if all goes well, we'll be wetting a line in the Pocket, and down around Chub, then again at hole-in-the-wall, before ending up at Treasure Cay. Stay tuned, we're just getting rolling! For those that are curious or like to do a bit of Wahoo Fishing on their own boats, here's a preview of what our Wahoo Tackle Box looks like!

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custom-built 6-wheel 3-axle trailer. More room than most 40 monohulls cruises at 45mph, tops out at 65mph. **Frank Piku (305) 509-1547** 

The patch reefs have been fishing very well. Most of the fish are not huge but you can make up for that with the numbers. Fish small pinfish and cut bait on the bottom. Flat lining cut bait near the surface will get you instant yellowtail bites but most will be on the small side.

Reef fishing was good with lots of mackerel, snapper and grouper all joining the mix. Fish the entire water column to maximize your opportunities. The yellowtail were not red hot by weeks end but there were enough around to make it worth fishing them. Put a legal sized yellowtail on the bottom for a big grouper. Grouper are about to come to a close so get one while you can.

Flats fishing has been good with permit and bonefish hanging around. The water temps have stayed fairly warm keeping them happy. Big cudas have been moving on the flats to join the bones so keep a cuda tube handy. When we get another cold front we can expect the bonefish and permit fishing to slow down. Good luck and good fishing.

# KEYS CAPTAIN & QUIDE 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.

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Capt. Donny Lange

whereisdl@yahoo.com

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Key Largo Fishing Adventures	OFF / BC / REEF	(305) 923-9293 www.keyssportfishing.com
Capt. Matt Bellinger	BC / GULF / REEF / WR	(305) 393-0909 www.bamboocharters.com
Capt. George Clark, Jr.	OFF / REEF / BC	(305) 522-2638 www.rodeocharters.com
Capt. Wells Gable	BC / FL	(305) 522-2373 www.captwellsgable@msn.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
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Capt.Bruce Pollock	FL / BC / LT www.florida-keys-fishing-guides.com	(305) 393-5269 CaptainBruce@florida-keys-fishing-guides.com

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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 Charte	OFF rs	(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
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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
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Gulf species of fish include: Kingfish, Grouper, Snapper, Cobia & Tarpon.

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Capt. Steve "Coach" De Catch A Tarpon Fishing		(941) 716-4043 tarponcoach@comcast.net
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Capt. Ron Teke	OFF / REEF / WR / BAY	(305)289-8790 www.KeysMagic.com
Capt. Joe Saldino FL	L/LT/BC/MD/TP/FLY	(305) 731-0039 oakjo@bellsouth.net



**Dec. 3-6: Islamorada Sailfish Tournament.** Islamorada. This competition is the first leg of the triple-crown Florida Keys Gold Cup Championship Series. The tournament is one of the oldest in the Florida Keys. Contact Dianne Harbaugh at (305) 852-2102, e-mail ditournaments@aol.com, visit www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com

**Dec. 4-7: Islamorada Fishing Club Captain's Cup Sailfish Tournament.** Islamorada. Anglers compete for a winner-take-all \$25,000 jackpot for catching and releasing sailfish. Contact (305) 664-4735, visit www.theislamoradafishingclub.com

**Dec. 11-13: 10th Annual Captain Don Gurgiolo Sailfish Classic.** Islamorada. This all-release tournament offers anglers a chance to pursue sailfish in honor of Captain Don's memory. Contact Tammie Gurgiolo at (305) 852-9337, e-mail fishnbully@msn.com.

**Dec. 18-20: Islamorada Junior Sailfish Tournament.** Islamorada. Now in its 45th year, the event allows anglers through age 16 to target sailfish. All anglers are to receive trophies. Contact Tammie Gurgiolo at (305) 852-9337, e-mail fishnbully@msn.com

March 18-21: 45th Annual Ft. Lauderdale Billfish Tournament. Ft. Lauderdale. Contact: Nicole Metzger (954) 523-1004 or e-mail Nicole@billfishtournament.com, or visit www.lauderdalebillfish.com

Lower Keys	Big Pine K	<b>Big Pine Key to Key West</b>	
Captain / Char	ter	<b>Contact Info</b>	
Capt. Chris Lembo	OFF / REEF	(305) 292-0067 incognitocharters@comcast.net	
Capt. Sandy Horn	BC / FL	(305) 393-6913 shorn2979@yahoo.com	
Capt. Steve Lamp	FL / OFF / WR / GF / FLY / T	P (888) 362-3474 www.fishingkeywest.com	
Capt. Frank Piku Daytime / Nightime	OFF / GULF / REEF Swordfishing Trips	(305) 509-1547 www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com	
Capt. Andrew Tipler Last Cast Charters	BC / FL / OFF / REEF	(305) 744-9796 www.lastcastcharters.net	
Capt. Tony Taverna Morning Star Sportf	OFF / REEF / INSHORE ishing	(631) 355-9344 www.morningstarsportfishingcharters.net	
Capt. Luke Kelly keyflat@mac.com	FL / FLY / LT / BC / TP	(305) 304-3152 www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com	
	ames OFF / REEF / WR ing bgandrews18@aol.com	(305) 407-4381 (305) 304-6283	



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