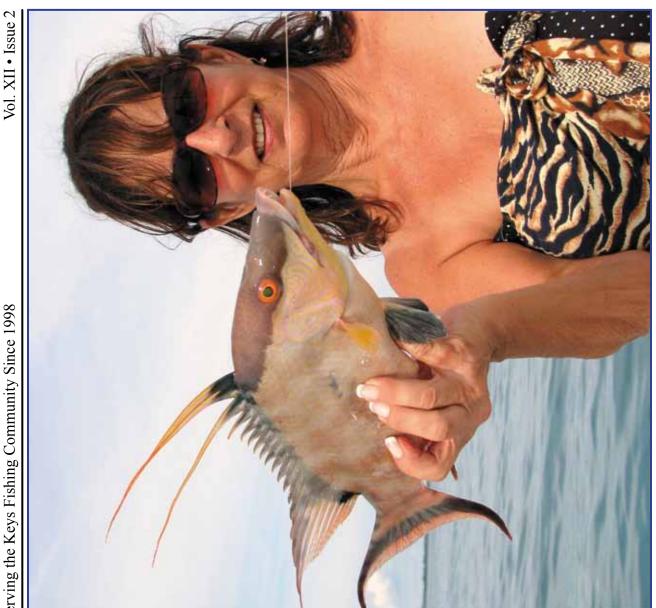
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Nice Hogfish caught near Crocker reef by Myra Russo fishing with Capt. Bill Russo, who runs the Orient Star II out of New York.





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# FWC Reminds Floridians - Balloon Releases Take a Toll on Wildlife . . .

With holiday celebrations and bowl games coming up, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is reminding event organizers and other Floridians that a little-known-law prohibits releasing more than nine lighter-than-air balloons within 24 hours. Wildlife, especially sea turtles, mistake balloons for food, and strings attached to balloons can entangle birds and other animals. The release into the atmosphere of large numbers of balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases poses a danger and nuisance to the environment, particularly to wildlife and marine animals, according to Florida Statute 379.233. The law provides for a \$250 fine for violations.

The only exceptions are for scientific or meteorological balloons released by a governmental agency or under a governmental contract, hot air balloons that are recovered after launching, and balloons released indoors. The law also allows for the release of balloons that are biodegradable or photodegradable under FWC rules, but no balloon material qualifies under FWC rules so far.

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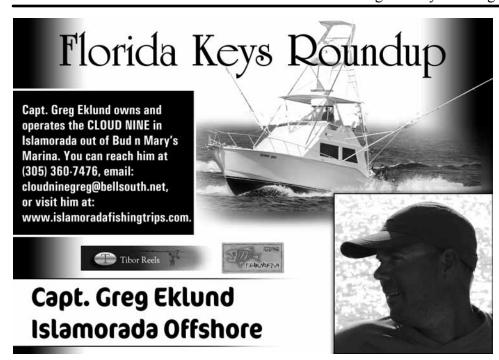
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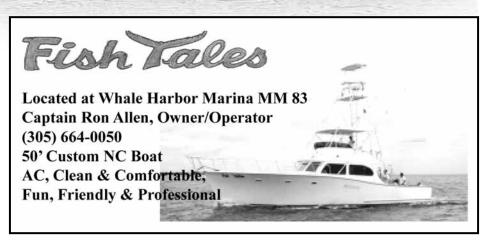
Finally it's the first week of December and the official start to the 2009-2010 Islamorada Sailfish Tournament season. This year's opening event is the Islamorada Sailfish Tournament which kicks off at Whale Harbor on Thursday night at 6:00. The event should draw more than thirty teams for the three day, all release, Sailfish tournament. This event also begins the Sailfish Gold Cup series which includes the Cheeca Lodge and Islamorada Fishing Club Tourneys in January. This year's Sailfish season is off to a great start along the edge of the reef. The cold fronts have been slowing the migration of Ballyhoo baitfish from the backcountry and Gulf of Mexico to the Oceanside of the Keys. These Ballyhoo are a big part of the Sailfish fishery here in the Keys and they are in place and accumulating along the reef from North Key Largo southward toward Islamorada. The migrating Sailfish have been using this as their primary source of food lately. This has created some great

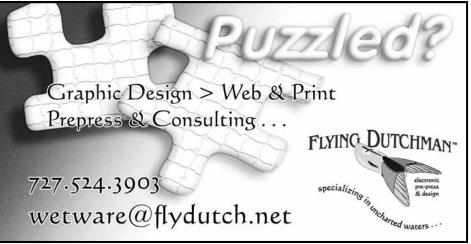
sight fishing opportunities as they chase these baits around between 25 and 100 feet of water. The cold fronts have also been cycling new packs of Sailfish into our area to replace the stocks that we have been chasing around for the last few weeks. A few boats have posted ten fish days in the last few weeks, but the top crews have been mainly catching three to six fish a day. With our next major front due in here on Thursday a resetting of the game board is in order for the beginning of fishing on Friday. I am excited about this year's Sailfish season based on what I've seen the past few weeks and this weekend should be a great event for all!

In addition to the Sailfish we have been catching a variety of other fish along the edge of the reef. The King Mackerel fishing has been on when we have had current along the edge of the reef out to 200 feet. A few nice Wahoos have also been mixed in with these Kings on the deeper ledges. With the full Moon coming up soon we should see an influx in the number of Wahoo around. Historically the deeper ledges off of Molasses and Conch are better this time of year and can produce fish over 50 pounds on occasion. The Yellowtail and Mutton Snapper fishing has been great when the wind clocks around. The patches have been holding a variety of grouper species and some late moving schools of Mangrove Snapper. The good news for you Cobia fans out there it that our good friend Bo has arrived in Town to fish the winter season. Historically he arrives this time of year and works the winter season offshore aboard the KALEX. As if he is the gate-keeper, it never fails that the Cobia show up like clockwork the week after he gets here. So, "welcome back, Bo" and be on the lookout for these great fighting fish in the shallows during the next few weeks. This is a great time of year to fish Offshore here in Islamorada and those of us who Charter fish here in Islamorada look forward to showing you an enjoyable time fishing offshore during your visit. Please give me a call or send an email to the address above if I can help you make fishing arrangements during your stay here in the Sport Fishing Capitol of the World.

Have a great week! 🋫





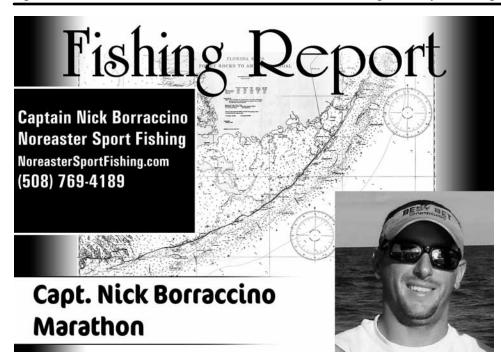


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One thing I have come to accept after years on the water is that every day, in some way, is different than every other day. Things change week to week, day to day, and even hour to hour. This week in fishing was a bit different than last week around Marathon, with of course some things remaining quite the same.

The snapper bite on the reef is not quite as hot as it was last week, perhaps due to very little current and very clear water. A few good catches are still being put together though, so my advice is to find an area with good current, and lighten up on your leaders in that clear water. Also seemingly all of a sudden hard to come by are ballyhoo. A week or two ago they were everywhere, while this week some charter boats had to spend more time trying to catch live ballyhoo than they would have liked. If you are able to get a well full of them, however,

Brought to you courtesy of Capt. Chris Lembo of Incognito Charters, Key West. To fish with Capt. Chris, call (305) 292-0067, or visit www.incognitolighttackle.com incognitocharters@comcast.net

Capt. Chris Lembo Key West Offshore

We have finally come into some nice weather for fishing and things are starting to take off. The cold front that just passed through brought the water temperature down a couple of degrees and brought out the foul weather gear and hats. A crisp NE wind should keep things heated up on the water for the next week.

Offshore look for Sailfish to move in to feed on the bait that is hanging around the reef. I have found fish in depths ranging from 30 feet to 200 feet. I have not been much past the 200 foot depth since fish were hitting in closer. Plain ballyhoo trolled on the outriggers picked up a few as did a blue and white Islander/Bally combination on the flat lines. With the nice steady breeze and the abundance of bait using a kite is about the best way to target Sailfish, Tuna, Kingfish and Dolphin. I have had

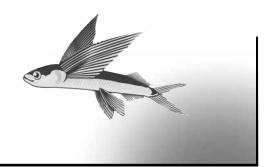
your chances at a sailfish and/or nice dolphin are good. The sails have been both out beyond the reef, and up on top of it chasing ballyhoo. Another area to check is offshore about 10 miles. There was nice current edge out there the last few days with lots of grass and bait. Spend some trolling or cruising down the edge and you're bound to come across a sail or dolphin.

Out in the Gulf the cobia are still thick on wrecks out 20 miles and beyond, and I've also so heard of some nice gags being taken out there as well. The nice thing about cobia is that once you find them, they'll eat just about anything. For the groupers, a jig head with a live pinfish is tough to beat.

Offshore, there is little between the reef and the swordfish or tuna grounds. I spent a few days sword fishing this week-thirty miles each way twice, and never saw a dolphin. The good news is the swords are biting good! Everyday we've many bites, a lot of action and landed at least one fish. If you're heading to the hump for tuna, have a backup plan. When the current is running good out there, the fishing has been great, but if you get there on a day there is no current, the place can seem lifeless.

Hopefully the good weather will continue for us, as we wait to see what next week holds in store for the fishing world.

Good luck this week!

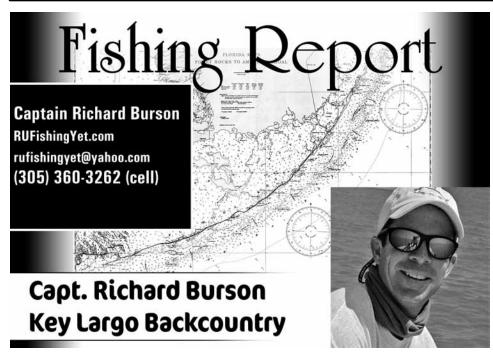


Speedos, nice small Bluerunners and small bar Jacks in the chum slick and took the oopportunity to load up the baitwell while bottom fishing. Thread herring can be found on the inshore buoys and pilings and are the best sailfish baits. Some Dolphin are around and I found some fish working along a small weedline that was drifting around in the 180 foot depth. Nothing big and nothing to count on in the future. Blackfin Tunas are around and most of the fish are large. They will hit the trolled Ballyhoo and Threadfin on a kite but live chumming with Pilchards is the best way to target Blackfin. There is bait in good supply but it is pretty shallow and hard to reach if the tide is low.

On the reef the bottom fishing has been very good. Grouper are settling in to the shallower outside edge of the reef and will eat anything you get in front of them. Dead Squid, Thread Herring, ballyhoo and chunks of Bonito don't last long on the bottom. Mutton Snapper like a nice strip of Bonito on a 10-12 foot 30 pound fluorocarbon leader and the Yellowtail bit continues to be strong. Keep the chum flowing and move around a little until you find where they are biting consistently.

Gulfside the fishing is starting to take off. There are some big schools of Mackerel out there and a quick stop while you are running to your spot can lead to some fun surface action. Tossing small flashy spoons or surface poppers will invite some awesome strikes form schools mixed with Cero, Spanish, Kings and Bonito. Wrecks and rockpiles are shaping up for a good bite of Cobia, Kingfish, Mackerel, Grouper, Mangrove Snapper, Mutton Snapper and Yellowtail.

We are winding down to the start of the closed season for Grouper on the Atlantic side so take advantage of the remainder of the year. Gulfside Grouper is closed in February and March and there is some more pending reg changes that could possibly hit us early next year on Snapper and deep dropping.

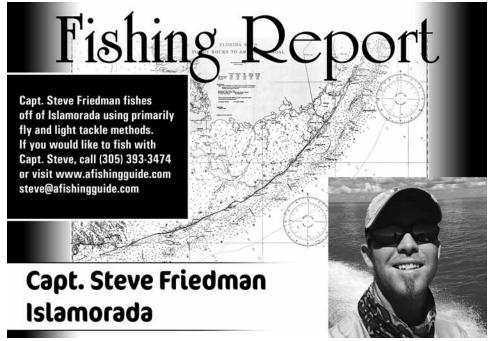


Now that Thanksgiving has come and gone and my heart and belly are full of the good stuff its time to focus once again on the waters surrounding the Florida Keys. As temperatures drop up north, the average temperature in Key Largo will be around 76 degrees during the day and around 65 degrees at night. The winter weather here is heavily influenced by major frontal systems, bringing both brisk winds and cooler air to the area. Backcountry guides will be keeping a close eye on the radar as these cold fronts move their way over the islands. Winds are a major concern as they can make or break your day. High west winds are the most challenging for backcountry guides, so they will pay close attention to these cold fronts and the direction of the wind. If the winds happen to be blowing in from the west skilled guides will hide behind many productive islands so their clients do not feel the choppy bay waters.

This past week the water temperature in the gulf was approximately 70 to 72 degrees. The clarity of the water was murky, the way most guides like it when targeting mackerel, cobia, jacks, bluefish, trout, mangrove snapper and many species of sharks. The action has been steady however, it will be better after this next cold front moves across the keys. The water temperature will drop allowing many of these species to move closer to the islands. I have been productive with the use of Berkley Power Pro fishing line with a Yellow Chartreuse Hank Brown Hook-up Jig and a box of chum. I drop my chum in the water and after approximately 15 minutes there will be a variety of species arriving for the feast. Strong currents means more fish. Presentation of your lure will not be a factor with these target fish. All you need is the right current and a good box of chum.

The month of December will bring plenty of target fish for your pleasure. Redfish and sea trout will be the more prominent species biting during this month. A few lingering bonefish packs will hold out on the flats but as the water temperature drops so does your chances for success. If you still want to pursue the elusive bonefish I suggest waiting until after mid day when the waters are warmer. You will have your best shot during the outgoing tides. As the water sits up on the flats during high tide it has a chance to warm. The bonefish will be waiting on the edges of the flat for the tide to begin to recede off the flats. When the tide begins to move you should begin to poll up onto the flats as the bonefish will begin to search for their favorite food; shrimp, quarter sized crabs, and other small crustaceans. Make sure to bring your patients and your Flying Fisherman polarized sunglasses.

Until next time, ask yourself this one question . . . R-U Fishing Yet?



When cold fronts creep down from the north, bringing bright blue skies and cooler temperatures, it looks like a bonefish stalking day to me. Bonefish are so fun to hunt that they're worth even just trying to catch. With spooky and skeptical temperaments, catching one in a day can make for a life-long memory.

A sluggish current makes the bones hard to feed, but a tail in the air is a good sign - it means they're feeding. Spot them from a distance in order to get the right angle and approach. If you want a shot, pole toward the fish as silently as possible. Once you're in casting range, assume you have one shot. Whether you're throwing bait or fly, make the very best effort on the first cast. How fast is the fish moving and in which direction? Cast up current from the fish, preferably, and watch for a reaction or take. No need to set the hook, the fish will do that when

it picks up and runs like a freight train in the opposite direction. If the fish comes at you, reel like crazy or strip your fly line in until you come tight. If you get to the glory shot, be gentle when handling these fish at boat-side. I'm participating in a tagging program through Bonefish Tarpon Trust and tagged and released two fish the other day that went 8 pounds and 11.5 pounds. Sure hope someone catches these fish again and reports it in.

If a trip out to the gulf is more your style, you won't have to go far to get some action. The murky waters between 6- and 10-feet deep often hold hungry snappers, sharks, ladyfish, jack crevalle, speckled sea trout, cobia and the speedy spanish mackerel. All great rod-bending action and a great place to start for the novice fly fisherman.

Expect the redfish and snook in the Everglades National Park to start moving to deeper channels and holes, looking for anything edible that floats in their path. They'll readily take a shrimp, pinfish, finger mullet and all kinds of artificial lures.

Though temperatures are dropping, action in the Gulf of Mexico is heating up - no shortage of varieties. I've been looking for murky or off-colored water about 2 miles west of Sprigger bank. If my bottom finder shows some structure, even better. Again, current helps. With chum bag out and jigs tipped with shrimp, I've found anything from mackerel to giant trout and stout cobia hanging back in the slick. It may take 20-30 minutes for a consistent bite to warm up, but as more cold fronts blow through, I expect the fish to show up behind the boat a lot faster. Patience paid off when I fished some of the boys who were racing with Nascar. When the bite turned on, we had rod-bending action of mackerel, trout, sharks, bluefish, snappers and ladyfish. The real reward came when the cobias started to attack. By the time it shook down, we caught and released three cobias from 16 pounds to 30 pounds.



Capt. Borraccino's bunch with a 504 pounder!

Capt. Greg Eklund launches a kite for the Sailfish off Islamorada with some help from Huckleberry from Wellington, FL.



Carol and Capt. Greg Eklund celebrate her first Sailfish.

It was caught aboard the <u>Cloud Nine</u>

while fishing off of Islamorada.



Marty from the RedBull Nascar team with a 34" cobia.

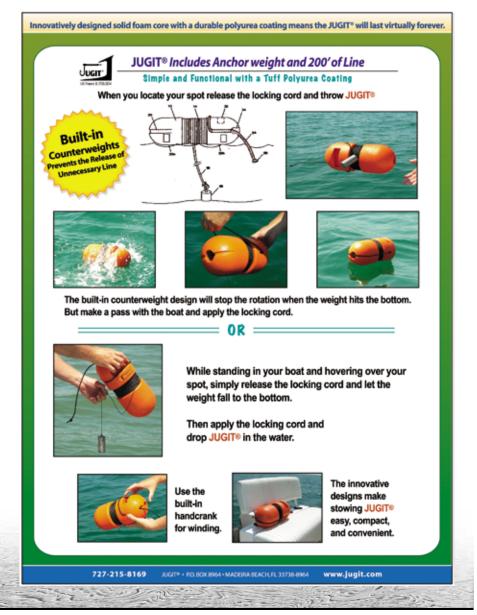
# Quick Note on Photography . . .

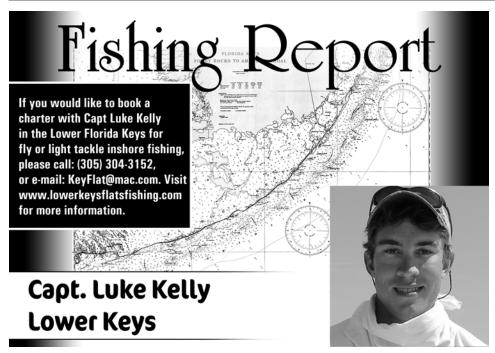
Please submit your photos in RGB format, with the largest pixel dimension (count) set to at least 1600 (1600x1200, for example).

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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Well then, what a difference a few degrees in temperature can make on the flats here in the Lower Keys. We went from perfect conditions (for what felt like weeks), to a torrential downpour of rain on Nov. 25th, followed by cold northern air that has now lasted until Nov 29th. Cold fronts - you just got to love 'em, right?

Thanksgiving day began with an absolutely beautiful morning, for those lucky enough to enjoy it. Winds were way down, so it was everything you would expect from a pre-frontal condition. I just wish I was one of those people lucky enough to take advantage of it. But, I guess that's what happens when you actually plan to take a day off of the water.

I, on the other hand, was booked for charters on the days that would follow Thanksgiving, and I am here to report on the more windy side of lower Keys flats and backcountry fishing.

As with any northern cold-air front that sweeps across the Florida Keys, they typically start off strong and slowly subside in the way of wind and cold temperatures. What few people know is that, while a



Jeremy Price from Raleigh, NC who caught, tagged and released his first ever bonefish on his birthday with Capt. Steve Friedman.

cold front is taking place, the fishing is best during the initial brunt of the front. Not during the following calm days and warming temps. Our surrounding waters take longer to catch up to the air temps, so you're better off with water temps warmer than the air, and not the other way around. Unfortunately, the water temp in the lower Keys always seems to cool down quick during a front, but then take its time warming up afterwards. Whether or not the water temp climbs over 71 degrees before another cold front swings around is ultimately what determines what you can fish for during this time of year.

When on the flats, say goodbye to any real permit, bonefish, or tarpon potential during water temps less than 70 degrees. Instead, pull out your favorite fly or light-tackle rod and go after large barracuda, blacktip sharks and red-fish or snook, if you know where to find them. Just remember, the colder the water temp, the more these fish are concerned

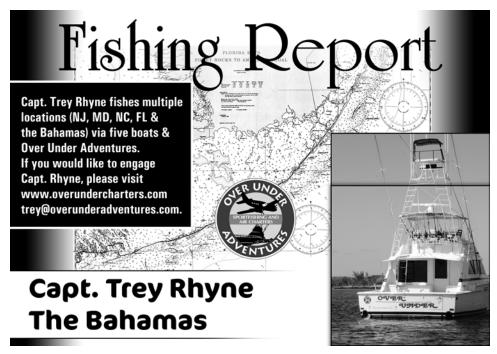


A pre-frontal permit caught by Mossimo of Italy with Capt. Luke Kelly

with staying warm, rather than eating. Don't forget about the large grey snapper that actually thrive in the mangroves during cooler water temps. This is one of my favorite times of year to yank five-pound grey snapper out of a mangrove bush you never thought would hold such a fish.

This past week, I saw it all. From schools of permit and baby tarpon before the front, to casting fly at black-tips and barracuda trying desperately to stay warm afterwards. Plenty of fish were caught, including a huge snapper, and with the redfish currently in the backcountry, it is always a good time to fish the lower Keys, cold or warm. You just have to learn to pick your battles wisely, and duck behind a leeward shore, if you have to. Keep the rods bent or spend time trying. Until next time.





So we have some good news and some bad news. First the bad news. This is a second hand report, and the OVER UNDER is not yet getting in on the action. Now the good news. This should be one of the last second hand reports you will have to hear from us, as OU is likely to leave late next week for the Bahamas, where it will spend the next nine months. Now the really good news. This is a quote from a long time Bahamas fisherman and friend of ours, Jeff Scannelli, who owns and operates a top notch sportfish out of Treasure Cay. The following post appeared on www.Sportfishermen.com.

"EPIC BAHAMAS WAHOO BITE: just so you all know the wahoo bite here in treasure cay is epic right now!! going out on the tide and catching 10 to 15 fish to 80 pounds. it is as good as i have seen here in over 20 years, they are eating everything from plugs to ballyhoo!

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.sweetenufcharter@aol.com

Capt. Dave Schugar
Marathon

Brrrrrrrr, it's starting to get cold, but the fishing is hot. The only type of fishing, which is slow, has been the dolphin. The sail fishing has been great, with lots of opportunities to get those beautiful acrobats of the winter. Heading out we witnessed many showers of ballyhoo being chased by mackerel and sailfish. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of baits exiting the water in a mystical ballet of life and death. Frigate birds dropping out of the sky usually is a sure sign of activity. Since there are not too many dolphin around, most likely all the frigates that I have seen are following sailfish. Any method of fishing has been productive this week. My buddy John Foster and he got sails and wahoo trolling dead baits along and outside the reef's edge. But, to get the numbers, live baiting has been the key. Most bait will work but the bigger pilchards, threadfin, and ballyhoo seem to be getting the best action. Yeah, nothing

skyrocketing out of the water like billfish! now is the time to get in on this as the weather is great and the fish are snapping!"

Jeff Scannelli, APRIL FOOL.

Then just a couple days later, I received a phone call from Brian MacKay, along with a couple emails and photos to back it up. Brian is another quite experienced Bahamas Fisherman, that now lives in Rum Cay. It just so happens, that Brian is fishing my own personal 32' Mirage which I bought back in 1998. Brian took it off my hands a few years ago and put it back into prime time condition and has been wearing the bottom paint off her quite a bit. It's great to see that boat doing such good things again. I think it was two summers ago, Brian emailed me with a similar Blue Marlin report, catching like 4-6 a day during July. Anyway... back to Wahoo. Brian said the bigger wahoo are definitely on the prowl. You'll see a couple pictures of 50-80 pound wahoo that they got to the boat, and one that they got most of! Like happens so often out there, "The Big One Got Away" yet again. Stories of almost being dumped, long battles, straightened hooks, and I'm sure you are getting the picture. How long will it be till the world record Wahoo comes from this area of Rum, Cat, & San Salvador? If it wasn't for the all too healthy local population of white tip sharks, I would venture a guess that the record would currently be in the books for the South East Bahamas. As it is, you often can only wonder, "just how big that fish might have been".

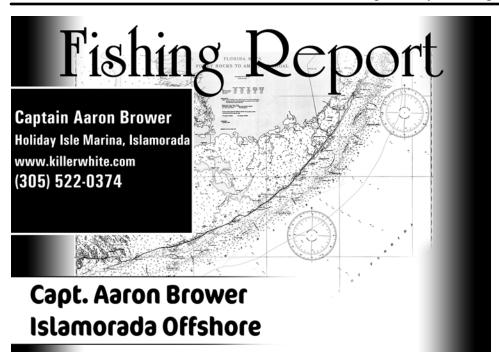
The fishing is great, the weather still quite good, so if you want to go Wahoo Fishing this winter, please don't wait. Most people think you need to wait until January and February. Honestly, the only thing that happens in January and February is that the cold fronts become more frequent and the weather more difficult. The fishing is going off right now and the weather has been drop dead gorgeous. Tough to beat!

Tight Lines, Trey

really has changed about the baits we use down here, but sometimes we do better on some days with certain baits. When fishing the sprays it is better to use baits. They will move frantically after being tossed toward a spray. Cigar minnows, pilchards, and threadfins are perfect for this tactic. If you are new at this or you don't feel like running all over the place, I recommend using ballyhoo and slow trolling from 130-160 feet. This seems to be the best area still. I did get a few fish in 100 feet, but most of the fish I caught trolling were in the deeper depths.

The snapper fishing is still awesome, and you don't even need to go further than patches. This time of the year you will find that your deeper spots will not do as well as they did during the long summer months. If you come into a situation where your fish have moved off of your deeper spots, try finding your fish just up on top of the reef. These fish are moving in closer this time of the year and you may not think of reef fish are migratory, but they are. They will move a considerable distance because of food and temperature. I did very well this week with big mangroves and yellowtails on the patches. It seems with the clients that I had, it was the best thing going for six people on a boat who want lots of action. I can still remember long ago when my father used to take me fishing on charters. I think that teaching kids to fish ensures our future by showing kids what a beautiful place the ocean is.

If cobia is your game, we got a really nice one inside the reef. It also seems that they are starting to show up on the rays in the 20-40 foot sandy patches from Tennessee Reef up to Caloosa Cove. If you are going the other direction, look for the rays from the west end of the 7-Mile Bridge to Bahia Honda Bridge. Look for patches with plenty of sand around them. The gulf and bay are slap full of cobia, if you don't mind the run. I found some cobia only12 miles out from shore and the schools are getting bigger.



Well like we all say it's that time of the year again. The number one sportfish has begun to show himself. Whether you're anchored up yellowtailing or just drifting live baits along the edge of the reef, you can't help but notice the hundreds of ballyhoos being pushed out of the water. Showering the surface, the ballyhoos are running for their lives from the fastest fish in the ocean, the Sailfish. Whether it's one or six you will never know, but those of us fishing on boats with our large tuna towers, can tell you, it is an awesome sight to watch these predators hard at work earning their meals. Chasing showers or working the sand, as most of us say, is probably the most fun and exciting way to target and catch sailfish. You cruise the inside edge of the reef line, where you see the showers happening, watching in front of you and behind you. Literally putting your heads on a 360 degree swivel! All of a sudden the boat speeds up, the captain yells down stairs be ready and within 30

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seconds he is on the shower spotting the fish. Telling the mate or angler where to cast, "long left rigger" he yells, the bait hits the water and you see this massive black shadow appears as he eats your bait. You hook up and bam the fight is on, now that's excitement! We definitely see more fish than we catch but that's just the way it goes when sailfishing. Of course there is more than one way to skin a cat but that's definitely one of my favorite ways to fish for sailfish.

That is not all there is to fish for this time of the year. Another great fighting fish is the King fish and they are roaming the reef edges and starting to show up in numbers on the off-shore wrecks. Having a well full of cigar minnows or pilchards is always helpful in getting a good bite of king fish going. These fish have very sharp teeth so you want to use wire rigs with them I wouldn't suggest using more than #5 wire. Generally #3 wire is used and seems to produce a good bite.

The yellowtail snappers are still attainable, maybe not in the numbers that we catch them in the summer, but definitely enough for a few dinners. It always seems that you have an opportunity to catch one or two groupers while yellow tail fishing which is always a great surprise. Might as well catch them while you can because the powers that be have, in an effort to save the declining numbers of gag groupers, decided to close all shallow water groupers from January through April. Which include, Red, Gag, Black, Scamp, Snowy, Red hind, Rock hind, Coney, Grasby, Yellowfin, Yellowmouth and Tiger. This is disappointing to most professional fisherman, not because of the closure but because the timing of this closure is during a very productive time of the year for our business. However it is done and we have to deal with it and move on.

Moving forward, we are also starting to see an increase in some of our offshore wrecks. On a recent trip we were able to find 5 Nice mutton snappers and 3 big amberjacks. Providing lots of fun, great eating and good rod bending action.

Here's to keeping the rods bent . . . Capt. Aaron







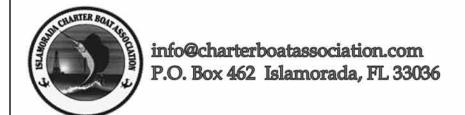
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# Tide Tables Brought To You Courtesy Of...







# **KEY LARGO** (Ocean Reef - 25.3100° N, 80.2800° W)

|       |     | High            | Low              | High            | Low             | High            |
|-------|-----|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date  | Day | Time / Height   | Time / Height    | Time / Height   | Time / Height   | Time / Height   |
| Dec 2 | Wed |                 | 01:41 / -0.34 ft | 08:11 / 3.02 ft | 14:12 / 0.46 ft | 20:14 / 2.78 ft |
| Dec 3 | Thu |                 | 02:29 / -0.43 ft | 09:00 / 3.05 ft | 15:01 / 0.37 ft | 21:05 / 2.81 ft |
| Dec 4 | Fri |                 | 03:19 / -0.43 ft | 09:49 / 3.04 ft | 15:52 / 0.32 ft | 21:58 / 2.81 ft |
| Dec 5 | Sat |                 | 04:12 / -0.33 ft | 10:39 / 2.99 ft | 16:46 / 0.29 ft | 22:54 / 2.77 ft |
|       |     |                 |                  |                 |                 |                 |
| Dec 6 | Sun |                 | 05:08 / -0.14 ft | 11:31 / 2.90 ft | 17:44 / 0.27 ft | 23:52 / 2.71 ft |
| Dec 7 | Mon |                 | 06:07 / 0.08 ft  | 12:25 / 2.80 ft | 18:45 / 0.24 ft |                 |
| Dec 8 | Tue | 00:54 / 2.65 ft | 07:11 / 0.31 ft  | 13:21 / 2.69 ft | 19:48 / 0.18 ft |                 |
| Dec 9 | Wed | 01:58 / 2.61 ft | 08:16 / 0.48 ft  | 14:18 / 2.60 ft | 20:49 / 0.10 ft |                 |

### **ISLAMORADA** (Whale Harbor - 24.9400° N, 80.6083° W)

|       |     | High            | Low              | High            | Low             | High            |
|-------|-----|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date  | Day | Time / Height   | Time / Height    | Time / Height   | Time / Height   | Time / Height   |
| Dec 2 | Wed |                 | 02:15 / -0.08 ft | 08:26 / 1.92 ft | 14:46 / 0.11 ft | 20:29 / 1.77 ft |
| Dec 3 | Thu |                 | 03:03 / -0.10 ft | 09:15 / 1.95 ft | 15:35 / 0.09 ft | 21:20 / 1.79 ft |
| Dec 4 | Fri |                 | 03:53 / -0.10 ft | 10:04 / 1.94 ft | 16:26 / 0.08 ft | 22:13 / 1.79 ft |
| Dec 5 | Sat |                 | 04:46 / -0.08 ft | 10:54 / 1.90 ft | 17:20 / 0.07 ft | 23:09 / 1.76 ft |
|       |     |                 |                  |                 |                 |                 |
| Dec 6 | Sun |                 | 05:42 / -0.03 ft | 11:46 / 1.85 ft | 18:18 / 0.06 ft |                 |
| Dec 7 | Mon | 00:07 / 1.73 ft | 06:41 / 0.02 ft  | 12:40 / 1.78 ft | 19:19 / 0.06 ft |                 |
| Dec 8 | Tue | 01:09 / 1.69 ft | 07:45 / 0.07 ft  | 13:36 / 1.71 ft | 20:22 / 0.04 ft |                 |
| Dec 9 | Wed | 02:13 / 1.66 ft | 08:50 / 0.12 ft  | 14:33 / 1.65 ft | 21:23 / 0.03 ft |                 |

# **MARATHON** (Boot Key Harbor - 24.7067° N, 81.0967° W)

|       |     | High            | Low              | High            | Low             | High            |
|-------|-----|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date  | Day | Time / Height   | Time / Height    | Time / Height   | Time / Height   | Time / Height   |
| Dec 2 | Wed |                 | 02:44 / -0.33 ft | 09:17 / 1.47 ft | 13:44 / 0.75 ft | 20:16 / 2.73 ft |
| Dec 3 | Thu |                 | 03:31 / -0.36 ft | 10:01 / 1.43 ft | 14:27 / 0.70 ft | 21:05 / 2.76 ft |
| Dec 4 | Fri |                 | 04:19 / -0.33 ft | 10:45 / 1.39 ft | 15:15 / 0.66 ft | 21:56 / 2.69 ft |
| Dec 5 | Sat |                 | 05:09 / -0.23 ft | 11:31 / 1.39 ft | 16:10 / 0.64 ft | 22:49 / 2.53 ft |
|       |     |                 |                  |                 |                 |                 |
| Dec 6 | Sun |                 | 05:59 / -0.09 ft | 12:18 / 1.43 ft | 17:17 / 0.64 ft | 23:46 / 2.28 ft |
| Dec 7 | Mon |                 | 06:51 / 0.09 ft  | 13:08 / 1.52 ft | 18:37 / 0.63 ft |                 |
| Dec 8 | Tue | 00:50 / 1.98 ft | 07:42 / 0.27 ft  | 13:59 / 1.65 ft | 20:07 / 0.54 ft |                 |
| Dec 9 | Wed | 02:06 / 1.68 ft | 08:33 / 0.44 ft  | 14:52 / 1.80 ft | 21:32 / 0.38 ft |                 |

# **Moon Phases**

Full: 12/02/09 • Last Quarter: 12/08/09 New: 12/16/09 • First Quarter: 12/24/09 • Full: 12/31/09

# **BIG PINE** (Pine Channel - 24.6900° N, 81.3833° W)

|       | <u> </u> | High            | Low              | High            | Low             | High            |
|-------|----------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|       | <u> </u> |                 |                  | Ŭ               |                 |                 |
| Date  | Day      | Time / Height   | Time / Height    | Time / Height   | Time / Height   | Time / Height   |
| Dec 2 | Wed      |                 | 05:17 / -0.15 ft | 10:39 / 0.66 ft | 16:22 / 0.24 ft | 21:34 / 1.22 ft |
| Dec 3 | Thu      |                 | 06:05 / -0.17 ft | 11:24 / 0.64 ft | 17:07 / 0.23 ft | 22:23 / 1.24 ft |
| Dec 4 | Fri      |                 | 06:54 / -0.15 ft | 12:10 / 0.62 ft | 17:55 / 0.22 ft | 23:15 / 1.22 ft |
| Dec 5 | Sat      |                 | 07:44 / -0.10 ft | 12:58 / 0.63 ft | 18:50 / 0.22 ft |                 |
|       |          |                 |                  |                 |                 |                 |
| Dec 6 | Sun      | 00:11 / 1.16 ft | 08:35 / -0.04 ft | 13:47 / 0.66 ft | 19:54 / 0.23 ft |                 |
| Dec 7 | Mon      | 01:13 / 1.06 ft | 09:27 / 0.04 ft  | 14:38 / 0.71 ft | 21:10 / 0.23 ft |                 |
| Dec 8 | Tue      | 02:21 / 0.94 ft | 10:17 / 0.11 ft  | 15:30 / 0.78 ft | 22:37 / 0.21 ft |                 |
| Dec 9 | Wed      | 03:41 / 0.81 ft | 11:07 / 0.18 ft  | 16:23 / 0.86 ft |                 |                 |

### **CUDJOE KEY** (Pirates Cove - 24.6600° N, 81.4917° W)

|       |     | High            | Low              | High            | Low             | High            |
|-------|-----|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date  | Day | Time / Height   | Time / Height    | Time / Height   | Time / Height   | Time / Height   |
| Dec 2 | Wed |                 | 02:57 / -0.27 ft | 09:25 / 1.44 ft | 14:02 / 0.59 ft | 20:22 / 2.61 ft |
| Dec 3 | Thu |                 | 03:43 / -0.30 ft | 10:10 / 1.40 ft | 14:46 / 0.55 ft | 21:10 / 2.63 ft |
| Dec 4 | Fri |                 | 04:31 / -0.27 ft | 10:55 / 1.36 ft | 15:34 / 0.51 ft | 22:01 / 2.57 ft |
| Dec 5 | Sat |                 | 05:20 / -0.19 ft | 11:41 / 1.36 ft | 16:29 / 0.50 ft | 22:55 / 2.41 ft |
|       |     |                 |                  |                 |                 |                 |
| Dec 6 | Sun |                 | 06:10 / -0.07 ft | 12:29 / 1.40 ft | 17:32 / 0.50 ft | 23:55 / 2.18 ft |
| Dec 7 | Mon |                 | 07:00 / 0.07 ft  | 13:20 / 1.48 ft | 18:47 / 0.50 ft |                 |
| Dec 8 | Tue | 01:02 / 1.90 ft | 07:51 / 0.22 ft  | 14:12 / 1.61 ft | 20:14 / 0.45 ft |                 |
| Dec 9 | Wed | 02:21 / 1.62 ft | 08:41 / 0.36 ft  | 15:06 / 1.76 ft | 21:41 / 0.33 ft |                 |

# **KEY WEST** (Hawk Channel - 24.5450° N, 81.7833° W)

|       |     | High            | Low              | High            | Low             | High            |
|-------|-----|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date  | Day | Time / Height   | Time / Height    | Time / Height   | Time / Height   | Time / Height   |
| Dec 2 | Wed |                 | 04:06 / -0.26 ft | 09:40 / 1.10 ft | 15:11 / 0.41 ft | 20:35 / 2.05 ft |
| Dec 3 | Thu |                 | 04:54 / -0.28 ft | 10:25 / 1.07 ft | 15:56 / 0.38 ft | 21:24 / 2.08 ft |
| Dec 4 | Fri |                 | 05:43 / -0.25 ft | 11:11 / 1.04 ft | 16:44 / 0.37 ft | 22:16 / 2.04 ft |
| Dec 5 | Sat |                 | 06:33 / -0.17 ft | 11:59 / 1.05 ft | 17:39 / 0.37 ft | 23:12 / 1.94 ft |
|       |     |                 |                  |                 |                 |                 |
| Dec 6 | Sun |                 | 07:24 / -0.06 ft | 12:48 / 1.10 ft | 18:43 / 0.38 ft |                 |
| Dec 7 | Mon | 00:14 / 1.78 ft | 08:16 / 0.06 ft  | 13:39 / 1.19 ft | 19:59 / 0.38 ft |                 |
| Dec 8 | Tue | 01:22 / 1.57 ft | 09:06 / 0.19 ft  | 14:31 / 1.31 ft | 21:26 / 0.35 ft |                 |
| Dec 9 | Wed | 02:42 / 1.36 ft | 09:56 / 0.30 ft  | 15:24 / 1.44 ft | 22:53 / 0.26 ft |                 |

Tide predictions may not be accurate. The Weekly Fisherman accepts no liabilities associated with any referenced use of the above-listed tidal information. Remember that weather conditions affect tidal ranges and current speeds, sometimes very strongly.

# 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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Listings in this Directory are available for only \$299 / year (print and web).

| <b>Upper Keys</b>                            | Key Largo   | to Islamorada   |
|--|---|---|
| Captain / Charte                             | er  | Contact Info  |
| Capt. Greg Eklund<br>Cloud Nine Charters     | OFF / REEF / WR / FL                                | (305) 360-7476<br>www.islamoradafishingtrips.com            |
| Key Largo Fishing<br>Adventures              | OFF / BC / REEF                                     | (305) 923-9293<br>www.keyssportfishing.com                  |
| Capt. Matt Bellinger                         | BC / GULF / REEF / WR                               | (305) 393-0909<br>www.bamboocharters.com                    |
| Capt. George Clark, Jr                       | C. OFF / REEF / BC                                  | (305) 522-2638<br>www.rodeocharters.com                     |
| Capt. Wells Gable                            | BC / FL   | (305) 522-2373<br>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<br>(305) 451-7354                            |
| Capt. Kevin Brown                            | Golden Reserve Charters                             | (305) 394-0792<br>www.goldreservecharters.com               |
| Capt. John Taskowitz                         | OFF   | (305) 664-9202<br>www.suzannefishingcharters.com            |
| Capt. Ted Benbow                             | FL / BC   | (305) 393-0363<br>www.skinsandfinscharters.com              |
| Capt. Bill Wert<br>Whisper Charters          | FL/BC/LT/GF/FLY                                     | (305) 393-1910<br>mrbill54@bellsouth.net                    |
| Capt. Stephen Murray                         | BC / FL / LT  | (305) 393-1641<br>stevemurray126@comcast.net                |
| Capt. Ron Allen                              | Fish Tales Charters                                 | (305) 664-0050<br>www.fishtalessportfishing.com             |
| Capt. Butch Green                            | Sassy Lady Charters                                 | (305) 394-4717<br>sassyladycharters@comcast.net             |
| Capt. Jeff Van Derflue                       | BC  | (305) 393-6940<br>flatitudecharters@hotmail.com             |
| Capt. Don Clark                              | OFF   | (305) 664-5020<br>www.seahorsecharters.com                  |
| Capt. Richard Burson<br>R-U Fishing Yet Char | BC / FLY / LT / GF / REEF                           | (305) 360-3262  |
| Capt. Jack Falcucci                          | OFF / REEF<br>50' Custom Ocean Sportfish            | (305) 393-0795  |
| Capt. Frank Drudi<br>Chelsea Charters        | OFF/REEF/WR<br>www.thefloridakeyscharterfishing.com | (866) 431-2277<br>floridakeyscharterfishing@yahoo.com       |
|  | / LT / FLY / BC / FL / GF / RE                      |   |
| Capt.Paul Hunt captpaul@finhunterchar        | BC / FL / LT / FLY<br>ters.com                      | (305) 393-2495<br>www.finhuntercharters.com                 |
| Capt. Bruce Andersen<br>Capt. Easy Charters  | OFF / WR  | (305) 360-2120<br>www.captaineasycharters.com               |
| Capt. Skip Nielsen                           | BC / FL / LT  | (305) 664-9314<br>skipcyd@bellsouth.net                     |
| Capt. Robert Mathias,                        | Jr "RESTLESS TOO"<br>www.floridakeysfishing.com     | (305) 304-4422 capt@floridakeysfishing.com                  |
| Capt.Bruce Pollock<br>Edge Charters          | FL / BC / LT<br>www.florida-keys-fishing-guides.com | (305) 393-5269 CaptainBruce@florida-keys-fishing-guides.com |
| Capt. Aaron Brower                           | OFF/REEF/WR<br>www.killerwhite.com                  | (305) 522-0374  |

| <b>Upper Keys</b> (                      | cont.) Key Largo     | to Islamorada                               |
|--|----------------------|---|
| Captain / Charte                         | er                   | <b>Contact Info</b>                         |
| Capt. Ann Holahan                        | BC/FL/TP/LT/FLY/REEF | (305) 664-5891<br>www.boneranger.com        |
| Capt. Juan Garcia<br>Beats Land Charters | BC / GF / REEF / OFF | (305) 297-0438<br>www.beatslandcharters.com |
| Capt. Skip Bradeen                       | OFF                  | (305) 481-5151<br>www.bluechiptoo.com       |
| Capt. Steve Friedman                     | FL / BC / FLY        | (305) 393-3474<br>www.afishingguide.com     |
| Capt. Larry Wren                         | OFF                  | (305) 360-4900                              |

| 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          | OFF                    | (305) 360-4900               |
| A Pirates Choice Charters | www.apirateschoice.com |                              |
| Capt. Dave Purdo          | FL/BC                  | (305) 852-5989               |
| Capt. J.R.                | OFF                    | 800-473-4106 or 305-481-0649 |
| captainjr@bellsouth.net   |                        | 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      | OFF                    | (305) 393-2765               |
| captwamp@yahoo.com        |                        | www.BlueWaterPredator.com    |
| Capt. Ron Brack           | OFF                    | (305) 484-8410               |
| www.hatatudecharters.co   | m                      | (305) 393-0452               |
| Capt. Jeff Frasier        | OFF                    | (305) 393-3981               |
| Genesis Charters          |                        | www.genesischarters.com      |
| Capt. Donny Lange         | BC / FL                | (305) 522-1929               |
| whereisdl@yahoo.com       |                        | www.captdonny.com            |
| Captain Richard Burson    | BC/LT/FL/GF/TP/FLY     | (305) 360-3262               |
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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 \$299 / year (print and web).

| <b>Middle Keys</b>                             | Long Ke                      | y to Marathon                                   |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Captain / Charte                               | er                           | Contact Info                                    |
| Capt. Nick Borraccino                          | OFF / REEF / WR              | (508) 769-4189<br>www.noreastersportfishing.com |
| Capt. Steve "Coach" I<br>Catch A Tarpon Fishin |                              | (941) 716-4043<br>tarponcoach@comcast.net       |
| Capt. David Schugar                            | OFF / REEF                   | (305) 610-4778<br>www.sweetenufcharters.com     |
| Capt. Paul Suarez                              | Licensed Captain<br>Any Boat | (305) 731-7464                                  |
| Main Attraction                                | OFF / REEF                   | (305) 289-0071<br>www.mainattraction.org        |
| Capt. Ron Teke                                 | OFF / REEF / WR / BAY        | (305)289-8790<br>www.KeysMagic.com              |
| Capt. Joe Saldino I                            | FL / LT / BC / MD / TP / FLY | (305) 731-0039<br>oakjo@bellsouth.net           |

| T | OURNAMENTS  |
|---|---|
|   | We want to hear about your tournament!<br>Have it listed here for FREE by calling<br>Jess at (305) 852-FISH (3474), or via<br>e-mail: editor@weeklyfisherman.com. |

**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. 9-10: 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

| <b>Lower Keys</b>                           | Big Pine K                                    | ey to Key West  |
|---|---|---|
| Captain / Chart                             | er  | <b>Contact Info</b>                                       |
| Capt. Chris Lembo                           | OFF / REEF                                    | (305) 292-0067 incognitocharters@comcast.net              |
| Capt. Sandy Horn                            | BC / FL                                       | (305) 393-6913<br>shorn2979@yahoo.com                     |
| Capt. Steve Lamp 1                          | FL / OFF / WR / GF / FLY / T                  | P (888) 362-3474<br>www.fishingkeywest.com                |
| Capt. Frank Piku Daytime / Nightime S       | OFF / GULF / REEF<br>Swordfishing Trips       | (305) 509-1547<br>www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com    |
| Capt. Andrew Tipler<br>Last Cast Charters   | BC / FL / OFF / REEF                          | (305) 744-9796<br>www.lastcastcharters.net                |
| Capt. Tony Taverna<br>Morning Star Sportfis | OFF / REEF / INSHORE hing                     | (631) 355-9344<br>www.morningstarsportfishingcharters.net |
| Capt. Luke Kelly keyflat@mac.com            | FL / FLY / LT / BC / TP                       | (305) 304-3152<br>www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com           |
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