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Volume XII, Issue 2

December 2nd, 2009

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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Florida Keys Roundup

Capt. Greg Eklund owns and operates the CLOUD NINE in Islamorada out of Bud n Mary's Marina. You can reach him at (305) 360-7476, email: cloudninegreg@bellsouth.net, or visit him at: www.islamoradafishingtrips.com.



Capt. Greg Eklund Islamorada Offshore



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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Fishing Report

Captain Nick Borraccino
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Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon



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,

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! 🐟



Fishing Report

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Capt. Chris Lembo
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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

Speedos, nice small Bluerunners and small bar Jacks in the chum slick and took the opportunity 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 from 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. 🐟

Fishing Report

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Capt. Richard Burson Key Largo Backcountry



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.

Fishing Report

Capt. Steve Friedman fishes off of Islamorada using primarily fly and light tackle methods. If you would like to fish with Capt. Steve, call (305) 393-3474 or visit www.afishingguide.com steve@afishingguide.com

Capt. Steve Friedman Islamorada




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

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? 

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!



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).

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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 Cloud Nine while fishing off of Islamorada.

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Fishing Report

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

Capt. Luke Kelly Lower Keys



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


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, black-tip 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. 



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





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Fishing Report

Capt. Trey Rhyne fishes multiple locations (NJ, MD, NC, FL & the Bahamas) via five boats & Over Under Adventures. If you would like to engage Capt. Rhyne, please visit www.overundercharters.com trey@overunderadventures.com.

Capt. Trey Rhyne The Bahamas

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!

Fishing Report

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




Capt. Dave Schugar Marathon

Brrrrrrrrrr, 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 only 12 miles out from shore and the schools are getting bigger. 

Fishing Report

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 (305) 522-0374

Capt. Aaron Brower Islamorada Offshore

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

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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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	

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

		High	Low	High	Low	High
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		

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	

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	

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	

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	

Moon Phases

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

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 & 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.



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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. Matt Bellinger	BC / GULF / REEF / WR	(305) 393-0909 www.bamboocharters.com
Capt. George Clark, Jr.	OFF / REEF / BC	(305) 522-2638 www.rodeochararters.com
Capt. Wells Gable	BC / FL	(305) 522-2373 www.captwellsable@msn.com
Capt. Lain Goodwin	BC / FL	(305) 304-2212 captain@dirtywatercharters.com
Capt. Tad Burke	BC / FI / 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.skisandfinscharters.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) 664-5020 www.seahorsecharters.com
Capt. Richard Burson R-U Fishing Yet Charters	BC / FLY / LT / GF / REEF	(305) 360-3262
Capt. Jack Falcucci	OFF / REEF 50' Custom Ocean Sportfish	(305) 393-0795
Capt. Frank Drudi Chelsea Charters	OFF/REEF/WR www.thefloridakeyscharterfishing.com	(866) 431-2277 floridakeyscharterfishing@yahoo.com
Capt. Ron Wagner	TP / LT / FLY / BC / FL / GF / REEF	(304) 664-2028 fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com
Capt. Paul Hunt	BC / FL / LT / FLY captpaul@finhuntercharters.com	(305) 393-2495 www.finhuntercharters.com
Capt. Bruce Andersen Capt. Easy Charters	OFF / WR www.captaineasycharters.com	(305) 360-2120
Capt. Skip Nielsen	BC / FL / LT	(305) 664-9314 skipcyd@bellsouth.net
Capt. Robert Mathias, Jr	"RESTLESS TOO" www.floridakeysfishing.com	(305) 304-4422 capt@floridakeysfishing.com
Capt. Bruce Pollock Edge Charters	FL / BC / LT www.florida-keys-fishing-guides.com	(305) 393-5269 CaptainBruce@florida-keys-fishing-guides.com
Capt. Aaron Brower	OFF/REEF/WR www.killerwhite.com	(305) 522-0374

Upper Keys (cont.) Captain / Charter

Key Largo to Islamorada Contact Info

Capt. Ann Holahan	BC/FL/TP/LT/FLY/REEF	(305) 664-5891 www.boneranger.com
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
Captain Richard Burson www.rufishingyet.com	BC/LT/FL/GF/TP/FLY	(305) 360-3262 rufishingyet@yahoo.com

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Middle Keys			Long Key to Marathon			Lower Keys			Big Pine Key to Key West		
Captain / Charter			Contact Info			Captain / Charter			Contact Info		
Capt. Nick Borraccino	OFF / REEF / WR		(508) 769-4189		www.noreastersportfishing.com	Capt. Chris Lembo	OFF / REEF		(305) 292-0067		incognitocharters@comcast.net
Capt. Steve "Coach" Demuth	Tarpon Only		(941) 716-4043		tarponcoach@comcast.net	Capt. Sandy Horn	BC / FL		(305) 393-6913		shorn2979@yahoo.com
Catch A Tarpon Fishing Charters						Capt. Steve Lamp	FL / OFF / WR / GF / FLY / TP		(888) 362-3474		www.fishingkeywest.com
Capt. David Schugar	OFF / REEF		(305) 610-4778		www.sweetenufcharters.com	Capt. Frank Piku	OFF / GULF / REEF		(305) 509-1547		www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com
Capt. Paul Suarez	Licensed Captain	Any Boat	(305) 731-7464			Daytime / Nighttime Swordfishing Trips					
Main Attraction	OFF / REEF		(305) 289-0071		www.mainattraction.org	Capt. Andrew Tipler	BC / FL / OFF / REEF		(305) 744-9796		www.lastcastcharters.net
Capt. Ron Teke	OFF / REEF / WR / BAY		(305) 289-8790		www.KeysMagic.com	Last Cast Charters					
Capt. Joe Saldino	FL / LT / BC / MD / TP / FLY		(305) 731-0039		oakjo@bellsouth.net	Capt. Tony Taverna	OFF / REEF / INSHORE		(631) 355-9344		www.morningstarsportfishingcharters.net
						Morning Star Sportfishing					
						Capt. Luke Kelly	FL / FLY / LT / BC / TP		(305) 304-3152		www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com
						keyflat@mac.com					
						Capt. Barry / Capt. James	OFF / REEF / WR		(305) 407-4381		
						Eva Marie Sportfishing	bgandrews18@aol.com		(305) 304-6283		



TOURNAMENTS

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Jess at (305) 852-FISH (3474), or via
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 Gurgiole Sailfish Classic. Islamorada. This all-release tournament offers anglers a chance to pursue sailfish in honor of Captain Don's memory. Contact Tammie Gurgiole 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 Gurgiole 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.fortlauderdalebillfish.com

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