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Bob Taormina caught this five pound yellowtail, which ate a whole live ballyhoo.
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December 9th, 2009

Volume XII, Issue 3

“Secrets of Deep-Dropping”

IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Dania Beach

December 15, 2009 – 7 p.m. > 10 p.m.

IGFA School of Sportfishing . . .

Deepwater grouper and snapper fishing is consistently available to anglers in South Florida any time of the year. With every drop, you never know what you'll bring up. In this extreme bottom fishing class, Capt. Bouncer Smith shares the techniques to get you started and the insider information to improve your success. Pre-registration is required. The cost is \$100 per class for IGFA members and \$150 per class for non-members. The fee covers the cost of the training class, course materials and fishing equipment relevant to each topic.

For more details go to the IGFA web site at www.igfa.org/schoolofsportfishing.asp or contact Jeff Mackin at 954-924-4340. You may also sign up online at www.igfa.org/sosform.asp.

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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



Fishing offshore of Islamorada has been excellent during the last week. The Sailfish tournament season got off to a great start over the weekend as 30 boats released more than 300 Sailfish during the three day Islamorada Sailfish Tournament. The Sailfish tournament circuit continues this week with the Islamorada Fishing Club's Captains Cup on Thursday, and the Don Guirgiolo Sailfish Classic after that.

The Sailfish bite has been spread out between Conch and Alligator reefs. Several different methods such as kite fishing and live bait chumming have been producing big days for several of the local charter boats. With the large amount of bait along the ledges of the reef, Sail fishing should continue to be excellent for the next few weeks.

The King Mackerel have been improving at several spots along the reef. The fish have averaged 10 pounds or so, but there have been some nice fish up to 40 pounds, too.

The Wahoo action this past week has been heating up. Several boats have reported that there are also lots of Wahoo to the north and south of us right now, so I look for the Wahoo fishing to be good this next week.

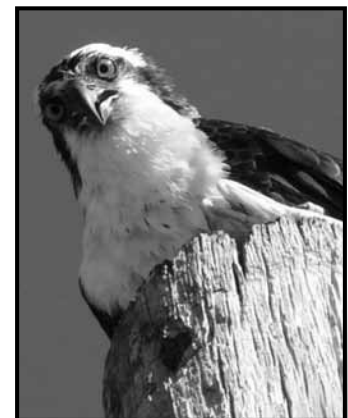
Further inshore the Grouper and Snapper fishing along the patch reef has been great. Off color water and the latest series of fronts have got the fish moving around inshore of the reef edge. This is creating a wide variety of fishing opportunities in these areas and providing some great tasting fish for dinner.

The Cobias are still a little thin on the Ocean side of Islamorada but they are stacked up in the Bay out back and to the north of us on the Ocean side. Be on the lookout for these hard fighting fish on the docks in the afternoon.

December is a great month to fish the reef for Sailfish, and a variety of other great light tackle prey. Whether you live here or are just in town for a visit, a day exploring the rich fishing grounds off of Islamorada is really a lot of fun. If I can help you with questions, or setting up a day of fishing, please give me a call.

Have a great week and enjoy this great fishing!

Capt. Greg



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Red Snapper Prohibition Announced . . .

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service announced an interim rule that will prohibit commercial and recreational fishing for red snapper in federal waters off North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and the Atlantic coast of Florida. The move drew sharp criticism from the Recreational Fishing Alliance, which says it will seek an emergency injunction to prevent the ban from going into effect.

"We have ... filed a lawsuit in federal court in Jacksonville, Fla. and we feel confident that once a federal judge reviews the arbitrary and capricious methods used by the National Marine Fisheries Service, the closure will be overturned," RFA attorney Dave Heil said in a statement. The six-month rule becomes effective Jan. 4 and can be extended an additional six months if necessary. The most recent scientific assessment shows too many red snapper are being removed from the population, which indicates a need for protection under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, NOAA said in a statement. Most of the remaining population consists of smaller, younger fish, which produce fewer eggs than older fish.

"The Magnuson-Stevens Act requires us to manage fish populations so they grow to a size that can sustain the largest average catch possible for the long term," said Roy Crabtree, southeast regional administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service, in a statement.

"Unfortunately, the red snapper population has not been able to reach that size; therefore, closing the fishery is the first step toward protecting this species, rebuilding the stock and ensuring fishing for generations to come." Heil and the RFA say the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service are using improper data to drive their decision.

"NOAA continues to put nails into the coffin of the beleaguered recreational marine industry, while the preservationists over at Pew Environment Group are already dancing on our graves," RFA executive director Jim Donofrio said in a statement.

"Oceans Five" Gala Set for Dec. 10th in Naples . . .

Looking for a break this holiday season? Then join the IGFA on Thursday, Dec. 10th in Naples, Florida, for the first of an annual "Oceans Five – Let's Keep Them Alive" gala, an event supporting the IGFA's Conservation and Education programs.

This new IGFA event will be hosted by International Committee Representative Roy Cronacher, along with his wife Jackie, and Kermit and Jenny Sutton. It will be held at the Port Royal Club in Naples with the cocktail hour beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Respected marine scientist, author and former IGFA Trustee Dr. Ellen Prager will be the special guest speaker presenting "Our Oceans – Our Future." In addition, there will be dinner, dancing and a lively auction.

For more on the evening please visit www.igfa.org for a listing of nearby hotels and local IGFA Captains if your plans include plans world-class fishing.

Tickets start at \$250 per person and sponsorships are available. Cocktail attire please. For more information or to RSVP (by November 30th), contact Lesley Arico at 954-924-4222, or email larico@igfa.org.

A Tribute to Guy Harvey and the Art That Started It All . . .

The highly acclaimed early marine artworks of Dr. Guy Harvey are now being shown at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum presented in the IGFA's Changing Gallery.

In over three decades of professional painting and marine photography Guy Harvey has made a name for himself as not only an internationally renowned marine and sports fishing artist but also as a marine biologist, conservationist, explorer, diver, scientist, videographer, author, philanthropist, TV host, merchandiser, restaurateur and angler.

As a young boy, Guy Harvey was entranced by Ernest Hemingway's story *The Old Man and the Sea*. In the early 1970's, with no formal art training but with a scientist's eye for detail, Guy began sketching his favorite parts. These sketches comprised Guy's first art show in 1985. This rarely-viewed complete series of 59 pen-and-ink drawings, from the private collection of Cheryl and Dave Copham, is on display through March, 2010. Also featured are sculptures by Kent Ullberg and the photos of Bill Boyce.

Guy has long been a vocal proponent of catch-and-release and generously donates artwork, time and funds for numerous institutions and conservation groups, including the Guy Harvey Research Institute established at Nova Southeastern University in 1999.

He shares his knowledge and art in books, TV shows, and DVDs. Harvey became an IGFA Representative in 1986 and has been a member of the IGFA Board of Trustees since 1993. In 2008 Dr. Harvey created the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation.

Harvey was inducted into the 11th class of the IGFA's Fishing Hall of Fame October 27. He and his family live in Grand Cayman in the Cayman Islands.



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Fishing Report

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Capt. Andrew Tipler Lower Keys



Weather has been very typical of this time of year; One front follows right on the heels of another – and in-between we have great weather and great fishing. Remember, even if the winds are high there are plenty of places to fish.

Cooling water brings good fishing close to shore. Patch reefs can be a great place to hide from brisk north winds. Cero mackerel, grouper, snapper, and a few cobias can all be in the slick. Live bait or whole squid will not last long on a good near-shore spot. Have a good supply of bare jigs of various weights.

Reef fishing was good on the days we got out. The yellowtail bite was fair but there was plenty of other action. Some nice grouper and muttons were willing to hit a bait on the bottom. The ballyhoo have been all over

the reef getting chased by cero mackerel and sailfish so be ready to cut loose from the anchor and follow the action.

There was no need to venture very far offshore this past week. Huge ballyhoo showers could be seen up and down the keys. Stay on the move and have a live bait ready to throw. I do keep a few troll baits at the ready when working along in search of the next fish. Blackfin tuna, mackerel, sailfish or dolphin could be your targets. Look for groups of birds to mark likely areas.

The flats fishing remained good despite some unfavorable weather. We found good numbers of bonefish off Key West and quite a few permit. Look for the permit fishing to remain good if temps are warm. If the water temperatures drop then it is time to break out the cuda tubs.



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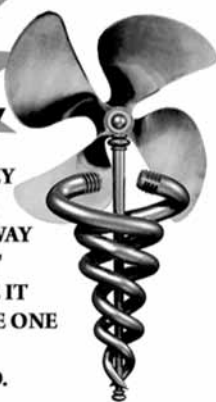
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Fishing Report

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Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon



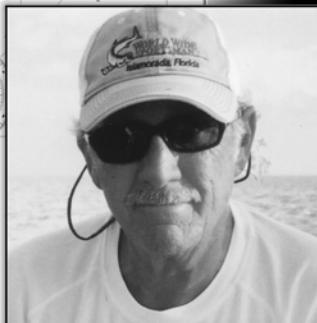
Despite some cold fronts moving rapidly across the Keys this week, plenty of anglers found their way to the fishing grounds largely unaffected by severe weather. Unfortunately, I was not one of them. My week was spent turning wrenches and crimping wires, as is the fate of any boat owner sooner or later. The good news is that I got some great reports of what's going on out there.

Capt Jason Long and crew of Best Bet Sport fishing had a great day at the Marathon hump this week. Trolling, live baiting, and vertical jigging were all producing nice Blackfin Tuna from 4-15 pounds. There were also some fish in the 20 plus pound range being hooked, but the prolonged battles with the larger fish resulted in losing them to sharks. A few big Dolphin also showed up as a bonus.

Fishing Report

This report is brought to you
 courtesy of Capt. Ron Wagner
 aboard his boat, the Producer.
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Capt. Ron Wagner From the Skiff



A number of years ago, around this time, I was fishing our church minister and the Bishop. We headed out into the gulf, dropped over the chum bag and began to fish. Bang! The Bishop had a fish on. He soon had it to the boat where I lifted it up and said, "That's a nice mackerel!" To which he replied, "Is that a HOLY MACKEREL?" I laughed and told him I'm not sure if this one's holy but they taste fantastic.

Spanish Mackerel are excellent eating and many have been missing out on them. Besides the great action they provide through the winter months, I find eating them can be something special. The Mackerel in Florida Bay and the gulf side are the best because they spend so much time eating shrimp. Ice the fish quickly, taking just enough for a couple of dinners, and let the rest go.

Capt Mike Biffel, of Big Dawg Sport fishing, reports excellent cobia fishing in the Gulf out 15-25 miles. On each of three trips this week his customers caught 10 or more cobia, with some over 30 pounds. Contact a local guide like Mike to get your trip to the cobia honey holes planned. Also keeping you busy on those Gulf trips are big King fish, Goliath grouper, Gag grouper, Spanish and Cero mackerel, and more.

More and more sailfish are showing up too. Capt Mike Taute of Jeni Lynn Sport fishing reports seeing double digits at least one day this week fishing east of Duck Key. The fish were spraying schools of ballyhoo, but seemed reluctant to take a bait. Capt Taute is confident this less aggressive behavior will pass with the big moon, and the sails will be biting good again in no time. Either way, just knowing there are good numbers of fish around is great news.

Reef fishing continues to be reliable in 20-40 feet. Yellowtail, Mangrove Snapper, Mackerel and Grouper are all on the menu in this depth range. So, if variety is what you're after, give the reef a few hours and see what comes into the chum.

We have a great forecast for this week, and I'm as excited as you are to spend the Holiday season on the water!

Till next week- good luck! 🌿



Try this recipe my wife Carol prepares for me. Fillet the fish as soon as you hit the dock, remove the skin, rinse well and keep on ice until you're ready to cook them. Take a large piece of tin foil, smear on some quality olive oil, and put the fillets on that. Baste them with a little mayonnaise, sprinkle on some fennel seed, wrap it up and put it on a medium temperature grill for 15 minutes. Add to that your favorite yellow rice, steamed veggies, and sliced avocado.

When the fish are done, I place the yellow rice in the center of each plate I'm serving, spread some veggies evenly around the rice, and sliced avocado around the perimeter. Place a fillet of the fish right on top. Garnish with some lime wedges and enjoy.

This is as good as it gets. Sure, you can use Snapper, Grouper, Cobia etc., but in my opinion it is best with Spanish Mackerel.

The fishing out back just gets better each day and the variety is what makes the Keys so special. If you're looking for fast action, lots of pulls and some good eating fish, the next few months will be just phenomenal. Let's go catching, anyone can go fishing! See you out back.

Oh yeah, Carol, is dinner ready? I'M HUNGRY! 🌿



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




We've had another beautiful week here in the lower Keys. I certainly can't complain about our island chain and the benefits of being a fisherman here... it's fishing and spectacular views from my "office". Regardless of bad news our mainstream media creates, or whatever up and down, happy go sad impact the financial market roller-coaster has on our lives. The views & experiences surrounding the Florida Keys' inshore waters are unparalleled. Turn off the television and go fishing, or whatever it is you enjoy outdoors. But more important, be part of bringing the outdoors and its rewards to the younger generation. They'll get a precious and incomparable educational experience. I believe this wholeheartedly - so much so that I'm offering, for the next 2 months, a 25% discount to anyone who charters me and brings their kid(s) fishing

with me. Please just mention this report - and I promise a fabulous fishing experience.

As for the past week's fishing, it was good; but when is it ever "not good" when the winds are down and the temperatures are mild? The front that didn't quite hit, blessed us with low winds and little rain. The weather reports painted a different picture beforehand, but once again proved that though they may have an idea, we never truly know what the weather will do. Winds clicked around in a full 360 degrees, and the southern portion of that swing was greatly enjoyed by many. One thing is for sure during this time of year. If you wake up in the lower Keys during December, and can smell the Gulf Stream air being being pushed in by southern winds, you better get yourself on the water. I don't know of any aspect of Florida Keys fishing that doesn't benefit from this in one way or another. Dec 2nd and 3rd were given the best parts of the southern wind and the fishing responded accordingly. Permit were up shallow and a few select backcountry channels and patch reefs absolutely loaded up with snapper and grouper of large size.

It seems as though we are in that winter rhythm of cold air followed by warm air followed by cold again for the next few weeks. This does have impacts on the flats and backcountry fishing; though it never shuts fishing down unless the winds creep over 25 mph. Cold air brought on by northern winds spark activity from predatory and schooling species of fish. While warmer air brought on by southern wind tends to spark activity from our more sought after gamefish. My point being that while we may experience inconsistencies in weather patterns which do effect the species that will be biting, it doesn't matter -- we still are able to get on the water and go fishing.

It's a great time to live here or to be visiting. Either way I highly suggest that you get out and enjoy your backyard as we round the corner into winter, it's revving up to be a cold one. 

Fishing Report

Captain Richard Burson
RUFishingYet.com
rufishingyet@yahoo.com
(305) 360-3262 (cell)

Capt. Richard Burson Key Largo Backcountry



December has just begun and our normal winter cold fronts are blowing their way through. As more and more fishing enthusiasts make their way to the Keys for the holiday season, Captains are busy keeping an eye on the weather forecasts. Most captains will try to get their clients on the water just before the cold front hits because they know the fishing will usually be red-hot during that time. Choosing when to go out will make or break your trip.


Some species begin feeding feverishly before the cold fronts arrive, cobia and bonefish are just two of the many species taking advantage of the calm before the storm. Cobia are a powerful sport fish and are sure to give you a great fight! They are showing up in the Florida Keys for our warmer waters and they will remain here until spring. They feed best when the water temperatures are in the upper 60's, lower 70's. Cobia

are not picky so it does not matter where they eat. They will feed on the surface as well as on the bottom. They prefer blue crabs, pinfish, shrimp and pilchards. On average, line size should be in the 15-20 pound class with your leader doubling your line size. Of course, you can use lighter tackle for a longer, more invigorating fight! If you have limited live bait, cobia will also hit a red and white bucktail. Fly fishermen should opt for 8½ - 9½ 10 weight rod with floating line. Make certain to use a fly that imitates their natural foods.

Another species that has been biting really well (before a cold front) are bonefish. This past week the bite was best on a falling tide. I had packs of 2 to 7 fish mudding on the edges of the flats almost every 15 to 20 minutes. Due to the winds being about 10-15 knots, the bonefish were not spooked easily. They have a harder time hearing and seeing boats poling up in the chop. However, you still have to be careful to remain quiet on the boat. The sounds you make travel through the water pretty fast and that is not what you want when fishing the elusive silver-ghost.

As you get ready for this week, keep your eyes to the sky so as to get on the water before the fronts hit. And know what you want to target. There is so much to choose from before a front hits -- so talk with your captain or guide the night before your trip to see what is biting and what species are available to target. To prepare, captains will either site fish the day before your arrival in search of the fish you have requested or they will call other captains who were on the water in search of the same species. Most Florida Keys Guides and Captains work together by sharing information so that they can be sure the fishing client has a great time in our gorgeous native waters. So don't be surprised if you see another guide motor over to see what's happening. We are all like family and willing to help when we can.

So until next time, ask yourself this one question . . .

R-U Fishing Yet? 



Ethan Harbinson hugging the 48” Amberjack his dad, Tom, caught off of Cudjoe Key.



Cobia caught by Captain Richard Burson on December 2nd . . .

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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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

Snowbirds may be streaming down the stretch, but winter weather hasn't yet made any drastic changes on the water. I'm still waiting for the truly cold days to move through and shake things up. In the mean time, the big moon tides have made for consistent bonefish sightings on the flats. Expect to see permit make an appearance during the higher tide stages. To find the snook and reds, dredge the deeper channels on incoming current with a shrimp-tipped jig.

But there's a lot of water out there and sometimes you don't find what you set out for. Especially as the weather transitions from fall to winter. When that happens, look for predatory activity and "match the hatch." If I'm poling down a shoreline and see schools of baitfish like mullet or glass minnows flying through the air trying to escape their fate, I focus on what's fleeing instead of what I want to catch. Tie on something that mimics the prey's behavior and see what bites. Just be ready to change your plan. A large spoon isn't the ideal lure of choice when small fry or pilchards may be eluding a hidden snook. Use something that's closer in size to the fish in flight. Bucktail jigs enhance the hunt because you can match the bait in color and size. They jig well in a variety of depths, too. Add live bait to seal the deal. In muddy water or in early morning light, bounce a topwater plug across the surface. The noise and commotion might attract a strike. Fly fishermen watching glass minnows could tie a closure on the line. I like how muddler-type flies have some bulk to

move the water, but also "breathe in" the water when being retrieved. Keep a handful of these flies around, with various weights, to be ready for any depth water.

As the seasons shift, the conditions for a cut-and-dried day of fishing will be hard to come by. If you get to your fishing area and don't see much activity, give yourself some time to work the zone before you move to another. Put in a little extra time in some places where you think the fish will have a reason to show up, and you may be pleasantly surprised.

On a conservation note, on Dec. 10th, 2009 in Clewiston, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission is having a meeting to discuss proposed regulation changes regarding permit and bonefish. Please plan to attend to have your voice heard on possible new regulations that will impact fisheries for many generations of anglers.

For more information please visit:

http://myfwc.com/docs/CommissionMeetings2009/2009_Dec_PermitFishery_presentation.pdf

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust's press release on the subject: www.tarbone.org/news-a-events/142-permit-and-bonefish-alert.html



A hungry Spanish mackerel is successfully hooked by two anglers at the same time while fishing with Capt. Steve Friedman in the Gulf of Mexico.



Here is another great catch aboard the Fish Tales out of Whale Harbor Marina MM 83 with Capt. Ron Allen and Mate Jeremy Pfaffendorf. This is Peter Hubbell from Lloyd Harbor, NY



Bob Taormina from Cliffside, NJ (on right) fishing on Restless Too, out of Whale Harbor Marina with Capt. Robert Mathias and mate Capt. Eric Scoble.

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



Rain, rain, go away, come back some other day. Our middle-keys lawns have been taken care of this week. It has made it very soggy out on the water. Even with all the rain, there's been no ill effect on the fishing.

Sailfish have been pouring down the reef with some pretty good dolphin action, too. We got a pair of slammers earlier in the week. We found the dolphin right on the color change where there happened to be a really nice rip. You could hear the difference as the Gulf Stream went rushing by. The change was anything but subtle. The color change plus the weed line and the rip all were telling me there were fish there. The inside edge was the cleaner of the two and that's where we found the dolphin – in 150 ft of water. There were also some schoolies. Plenty of sailfish action most of the days, too. Slow trolling was pretty productive. Flying kite baits might have been tough with all the rain, but I am sure

someone was, somewhere. Most of the fish were located from 130 ft to 165 ft. The boats with towers did well, sight-fishing in 20 to 40 ft of water. The cobias are picking up on the ocean side as well. If you have a tower, I would start looking for the rays around noon, while sun is high. The overcast conditions make it a little challenging. Find a ray and look for cobia following him – then pitch your bait.

The yellow tailing is really good right now with most of the fish from 1-2 lbs. I haven't hit some of my deeper spots, which have bigger fish because the bite has been so good in the 65-40 ft area. As the water gets colder, the concentrations of fish will be in the shallower water. I was told by many different captains that the bite had turned off in the patches. They're biting somewhere; you just have to look around. They're probably feeding at night on the full moon. The light generated by a full moon is just dumbfounding. It really lights it up – you don't even have to turn on the overhead florescent. Using shrimp on the patches can greatly increase your hogfish catch. I like drifting in the shallows where there isn't as much rock but mixed with grass patches. I generally use a small jig which can be dragged on the bottom. I like to drag it a bit then I let it stay on the bottom by letting out a little line as we drift slowly. This can only be done when the wind isn't honking.

When the wind was down, many boats went out for swords. A few 200+ lbs and a bunch of 100-150 lbs were caught this week during the small window we had. I am itching to get a swordfish charter; I just can't wait to get out there. When I venture out that far it's deep-drop time – need some snowys and tiles on my plate, too.

I hope they don't shut our entire deep-dropping down. There's talk about stopping all bottom fishing from 270 ft. Say goodbye to all of those tasty critters out there. I don't know if the Government really understands the severity of our problems when they completely shut down a type of fishing. 🐟

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



While the weather has not been as conducive to Wahoo fishing this week, the bite continues to be solid. Wahoo were reported down in Rum Cay all week, until this weekend when an approaching front shut things down. The sharks were worse than normal claiming more than their fair share of hoos, however. As the front passes over the next couple days, the bite should be back on again. When the wind begins to clock as a cold front approaches, the fishing will often shut down in all the normal "hot spots" as the wind pushes the fish and bait off the edge. When this happens, it is often a good idea to try some different locations, or a western facing edge in the islands. Places like Alligator Point off Cat Island can bust wide open with a good west wind. Alligator Point is on the west side of the island and when the wind is westerly, it pushes everything from the deep water of Exuma Sound right up on the western

edge of Cat Island. As the front passes and a strong north-east blow develops, the bite usually turns right back on. When the wind comes back NE, it pushes everything up tight to the edge in many locations, like the Abacos and prominent south-east facing points, like Columbus Point and the South East Point at Rum Cay. If history holds, the fishing should turn back on strong down in Rum Cay about Monday or Tuesday as we get back into a NE wind pattern.

Tight Lines, Capt. Trey 🐟



Fishing Report

Captain Aaron Brower
 Holiday Isle Marina, Islamorada
www.killerwhite.com
 (305) 522-0374

Capt. Aaron Brower Islamorada Offshore

This time of year kicks off our sailfish tournament season, and this past weekend December 4-6th, was the Islamorada Sailfish Tournament. It is also the first leg of the Florida Keys Gold Cup series, a three tournament event, including the Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament and the Islamorada Fishing Clubs' Sailfish Tournament. This year there were 30 boats, with a total of 93 anglers, entered in the IST, and 18 of those boats entered in the Gold Cup. On the first day of the tournament there were 111 releases, on the second day there were 92 releases and on the third and final day there were 54 releases. The *Wound Up*, a very popular tournament boat out of Miami, took a commanding lead on the second day with a two-day total of 19, catching 13 of those fish on Saturday. They fished Conch Reef both days, where they had nice clean blue water and a strong current to the north-east. On the final day the *Wound Up* held its' lead, catching 6 more, for a grand total of 25 fish.


Congratulations to the *Wound Up* team and Captain John Dudas! Finishing in second place was the *Weez In The Keys*, captained by David Morris with 16 fish, and the *XXX* captained by JC Cleare finished third with 14 fish. All three boats are entered in the Gold Cup as well, so those are the Gold Cup standings to date.

Tournaments take a lot of work, so Dianne Harbaugh and her team deserve a big THANK YOU! for all their hard work and efforts in making the Islamorada Sailfish Tournament a very successful and fun event!

Even though this time of the year, the focus seems to be on sailfish, you would be surprised at how many different species of fish are also being caught. Wahoo is one of them, and they can be found this time of the year, all the way through January. Some people will tell you that the only way to catch Wahoo is to troll for them, which does work. However, if the conditions are good (meaning good current and clean blue water), a bait well full of Speedos can give you just as good an opportunity to catch some. Rigging the Speedos on 5 wire with a stinger rig usually produces a very cool bite. Wahoo are one of the fastest fish in the ocean and one of the tastiest. You probably don't want to fish them with too tight of a drag. Leave yourself a little room in the drag for short spurts of energy, allowing them to take line when they need to so you don't break them off. Fish your Speedos at different depths, watching your bottom machine – look for marks of fish, and the depth in which they might be swimming that day.

Catching one or two Black Fin Tuna or a couple of Dolphin and some Mackerel are not uncommon for anglers this time of the year, too.

We are also starting to see some really nice Mutton Snappers on offshore wrecks. There was a nice 22lb mutton caught aboard the Capt. Easy this week. Congrats to those guys... that is a great fish. The King fish numbers are definitely increasing as well right now. It is a great time to fish the Blue Water side and catch a variety of species!

Here's to keeping the rods bent! 



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1st Place (l-r) Scott Cummings, Rob Ramirez, John Dudas, Alex Castellanos, Bill Danko – on board the Wound Up!



2nd Place (l-r) Ken Hinsley, Donny Lange, Hunter Lawson, Scott Robins, David Morris, Dianne Harbaugh, Charlie Scoble



**Junior 1st Place Ryan Southard
& Tournament Director Dianne Harbaugh**



3rd Place (l-r) Max Tower, Doug Mientkiewics, Fulton Ivy, Dianne Harbaugh, Reggie Rodriguez



Rob Stitzer from Raleigh, NC – this was his first sailfish plus, he's dating Capt. Ron's niece Christie Tinsley!

IGFA launches new website features . . .

The IGFA has a new look to its website www.igfa.org. It now sports a clean, updated appearance and much-improved navigation interface plus an interactive search feature. We hope you find our latest website both informational and easy to use . . .

Enhancements on the new IGFA website include:

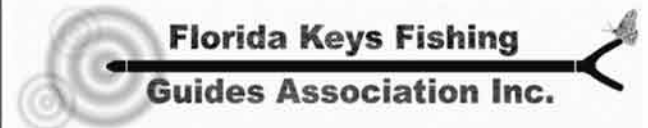
- All-tackle records are now available for viewing by all visitors to the website
- A new photo gallery showcases the IGFA's outstanding collection of fishing photographs
- A new online video gallery
- A new fish species database with information and links to additional photo and video content
- An expanded online store with easier product navigation, a wish list, plus order support and more
- An improved world record search system with more search and filtering options
- A dynamic news section with RSS feeds to get the latest on IGFA related news and updates
- A new calendar section that keeps track of up and coming training sessions, events and important dates
- An expanded membership database with member profiles, photos, records, etc.

As a membership-based organization, the IGFA relies on your feedback to constantly improve its services. Please take time to visit the website. How can we better live up to our reputation as the world's leading authority on game fish and angling related matters?

Tide Tables Brought To You Courtesy Of . . .



info@charterboatassociation.com
P.O. Box 462 Islamorada, FL 33036



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 9	Wed	01:58 / 2.61 ft	08:16 / 0.48 ft	14:18 / 2.60 ft	20:49 / 0.10 ft	
Dec 10	Thu	03:04 / 2.60 ft	09:20 / 0.59 ft	15:17 / 2.53 ft	21:48 / 0.01 ft	
Dec 11	Fri	04:07 / 2.61 ft	10:20 / 0.62 ft	16:15 / 2.48 ft	22:43 / -0.07 ft	
Dec 12	Sat	05:06 / 2.64 ft	11:15 / 0.61 ft	17:11 / 2.47 ft	23:35 / -0.14 ft	
Dec 13	Sun	05:59 / 2.67 ft	12:06 / 0.58 ft	18:02 / 2.47 ft		
Dec 14	Mon		00:23 / -0.19 ft	06:48 / 2.69 ft	12:53 / 0.54 ft	18:49 / 2.46 ft
Dec 15	Tue		01:08 / -0.21 ft	07:32 / 2.68 ft	13:37 / 0.51 ft	19:33 / 2.45 ft
Dec 16	Wed		01:51 / -0.19 ft	08:13 / 2.65 ft	14:19 / 0.50 ft	20:14 / 2.43 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 9	Wed	03:41 / 0.81 ft	11:07 / 0.18 ft	16:23 / 0.86 ft		
Dec 10	Thu		00:04 / 0.15 ft	05:10 / 0.71 ft	11:56 / 0.22 ft	17:15 / 0.93 ft
Dec 11	Fri		01:21 / 0.08 ft	06:35 / 0.64 ft	12:44 / 0.25 ft	18:06 / 0.99 ft
Dec 12	Sat		02:26 / 0.01 ft	07:45 / 0.61 ft	13:32 / 0.26 ft	18:54 / 1.03 ft
Dec 13	Sun		03:21 / -0.05 ft	08:41 / 0.58 ft	14:18 / 0.25 ft	19:39 / 1.05 ft
Dec 14	Mon		04:08 / -0.09 ft	09:28 / 0.57 ft	15:03 / 0.23 ft	20:22 / 1.05 ft
Dec 15	Tue		04:51 / -0.10 ft	10:07 / 0.55 ft	15:46 / 0.21 ft	21:02 / 1.05 ft
Dec 16	Wed		05:31 / -0.10 ft	10:42 / 0.55 ft	16:27 / 0.20 ft	21:41 / 1.04 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 9	Wed	02:13 / 1.66 ft	08:50 / 0.12 ft	14:33 / 1.65 ft	21:23 / 0.03 ft	
Dec 10	Thu	03:19 / 1.65 ft	09:54 / 0.14 ft	15:32 / 1.61 ft	22:22 / 0.00 ft	
Dec 11	Fri	04:22 / 1.67 ft	10:54 / 0.15 ft	16:30 / 1.58 ft	23:17 / -0.02 ft	
Dec 12	Sat	05:21 / 1.69 ft	11:49 / 0.15 ft	17:26 / 1.57 ft		
Dec 13	Sun		00:09 / -0.03 ft	06:14 / 1.70 ft	12:40 / 0.14 ft	18:17 / 1.57 ft
Dec 14	Mon		00:57 / -0.05 ft	07:03 / 1.71 ft	13:27 / 0.13 ft	19:04 / 1.57 ft
Dec 15	Tue		01:42 / -0.05 ft	07:47 / 1.71 ft	14:11 / 0.12 ft	19:48 / 1.56 ft
Dec 16	Wed		02:25 / -0.05 ft	08:28 / 1.69 ft	14:53 / 0.12 ft	20:29 / 1.55 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 9	Wed	02:42 / 1.36 ft	09:56 / 0.30 ft	15:24 / 1.44 ft	22:53 / 0.26 ft	
Dec 10	Thu	04:11 / 1.18 ft	10:45 / 0.38 ft	16:16 / 1.56 ft		
Dec 11	Fri		00:10 / 0.13 ft	05:36 / 1.08 ft	11:33 / 0.42 ft	17:07 / 1.65 ft
Dec 12	Sat		01:15 / 0.01 ft	06:46 / 1.01 ft	12:21 / 0.44 ft	17:55 / 1.72 ft
Dec 13	Sun		02:10 / -0.08 ft	07:42 / 0.98 ft	13:07 / 0.42 ft	18:40 / 1.75 ft
Dec 14	Mon		02:57 / -0.14 ft	08:29 / 0.95 ft	13:52 / 0.39 ft	19:23 / 1.76 ft
Dec 15	Tue		03:40 / -0.17 ft	09:08 / 0.93 ft	14:35 / 0.36 ft	20:03 / 1.76 ft
Dec 16	Wed		04:20 / -0.17 ft	09:43 / 0.92 ft	15:16 / 0.34 ft	20:42 / 1.75 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 9	Wed	02:06 / 1.68 ft	08:33 / 0.44 ft	14:52 / 1.80 ft	21:32 / 0.38 ft	
Dec 10	Thu	03:41 / 1.44 ft	09:24 / 0.58 ft	15:46 / 1.95 ft	22:45 / 0.18 ft	
Dec 11	Fri	05:24 / 1.32 ft	10:15 / 0.68 ft	16:37 / 2.09 ft	23:46 / -0.01 ft	
Dec 12	Sat	06:44 / 1.29 ft	11:04 / 0.74 ft	17:26 / 2.19 ft		
Dec 13	Sun		00:40 / -0.14 ft	07:42 / 1.29 ft	11:51 / 0.75 ft	18:13 / 2.27 ft
Dec 14	Mon		01:28 / -0.23 ft	08:26 / 1.28 ft	12:35 / 0.73 ft	18:56 / 2.31 ft
Dec 15	Tue		02:11 / -0.26 ft	09:02 / 1.26 ft	13:18 / 0.69 ft	19:37 / 2.33 ft
Dec 16	Wed		02:53 / -0.24 ft	09:31 / 1.24 ft	13:58 / 0.64 ft	20:17 / 2.32 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 9	Wed	02:21 / 1.62 ft	08:41 / 0.36 ft	15:06 / 1.76 ft	21:41 / 0.33 ft	
Dec 10	Thu	03:53 / 1.42 ft	09:32 / 0.48 ft	15:58 / 1.90 ft	22:58 / 0.17 ft	
Dec 11	Fri	05:22 / 1.32 ft	10:22 / 0.56 ft	16:50 / 2.03 ft		
Dec 12	Sat		00:03 / 0.02 ft	06:34 / 1.28 ft	11:11 / 0.61 ft	17:38 / 2.14 ft
Dec 13	Sun		00:57 / -0.09 ft	07:31 / 1.27 ft	11:59 / 0.61 ft	18:24 / 2.20 ft
Dec 14	Mon		01:45 / -0.16 ft	08:17 / 1.27 ft	12:44 / 0.59 ft	19:07 / 2.24 ft
Dec 15	Tue		02:28 / -0.19 ft	08:56 / 1.25 ft	13:27 / 0.56 ft	19:48 / 2.25 ft
Dec 16	Wed		03:08 / -0.18 ft	09:30 / 1.24 ft	14:08 / 0.52 ft	20:27 / 2.24 ft

Moon Phases

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



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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.skinsandfinscharters.com
Capt. Bill Wert Whisper Charters	FL / BC / LT / GF / FLY	(305) 393-1910 mrbill54@bellsouth.net
Capt. Stephen Murray	BC / FL / LT	(305) 393-1641 stevemurray126@comcast.net
Capt. Ron Allen	Fish Tales Charters	(305) 664-0050 www.fishtalessportfishing.com
Capt. Butch Green	Sassy Lady Charters	(305) 394-4717 sassyladycharters@comcast.net
Capt. Jeff Van Derflue	BC	(305) 393-6940 flatitudecharters@hotmail.com
Capt. Don Clark	OFF	(305) 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 whereisdll@yahoo.com	BC / FL	(305) 522-1929 www.captdonny.com
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This Directory is a comprehensive list of the best shallow water flats guides & offshore charter skippers from Key Largo to Key West. Flats species of fish include: Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon, Redfish, Snook & Trout. Offshore species of fish include: Dolphin, Sailfish, Wahoo, Kingfish, Tuna, Snapper & Grouper. Gulf species of fish include: Kingfish, Grouper, Snapper, Cobia & Tarpon.



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

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

Middle Keys Captain / Charter

Capt. Nick Borraccino	OFF / REEF / WR	(508) 769-4189 www.noreastersportfishing.com
Capt. Steve "Coach" Demuth Catch A Tarpon Fishing Charters	Tarpon Only	(941) 716-4043 tarponcoach@comcast.net
Capt. David Schugar	OFF / REEF	(305) 610-4778 www.sweetenufcharters.com
Capt. Paul Suarez	Licensed Captain Any Boat	(305) 731-7464
Main Attraction	OFF / REEF	(305) 289-0071 www.mainattraction.org
Capt. Ron Teke	OFF / REEF / WR / BAY	(305) 289-8790 www.KeysMagic.com
Capt. Joe Saldino	FL / LT / BC / MD / TP / FLY	(305) 731-0039 okajo@bellsouth.net
Capt. Jeff Pfister Dockside Charters	BC / LT / FL / GF / WR / OVN / MD / TP / FLY	(305) 451-5903 captainjeff@DocksideCharters.com www.DocksideCharters.com

Long Key to Marathon Contact Info

Lower Keys Captain / Charter

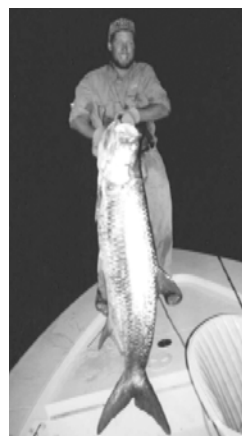
Capt. Chris Lembo	OFF / REEF	(305) 292-0067 incognitocharters@comcast.net
Capt. Sandy Horn	BC / FL	(305) 393-6913 shorn2979@yahoo.com
Capt. Steve Lamp	FL / OFF / WR / GF / FLY / TP	(888) 362-3474 www.fishingkeywest.com
Capt. Frank Piku Daytime / Nighttime Swordfishing Trips	OFF / GULF / REEF	(305) 509-1547 www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com
Capt. Andrew Tipler Last Cast Charters	BC / FL / OFF / REEF	(305) 744-9796 www.lastcastcharters.com
Capt. Tony Taverna Morning Star Sportfishing	OFF / REEF / INSHORE	(631) 355-9344 www.morningstarsportfishingcharters.net
Capt. Luke Kelly keyflat@mac.com	FL / FLY / LT / BC / TP	(305) 304-3152 www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com
Capt. Barry / Capt. James Eva Marie Sportfishing	OFF / REEF / WR	(305) 407-4381 bgandrews18@aol.com (305) 304-6283
Captain Scott Keller Bad Habit Charters	OFF / BC / WR / GF	(305) 664-6678 captscott@badhabitfishingcharters.com

Big Pine Key to Key West Contact Info



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TOURNAMENTS

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Have it listed here for FREE by calling
Jess at (305) 852-FISH (3474), or via
e-mail: editor@weeklyfisherman.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, or 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, or 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.

Jan. 7-9: Sailfish Open at Hawks Cay. Marathon. Eighteen teams of professional anglers and amateur enthusiasts will compete in the catch-and-release tournament in the waters around Marathon. Contact Laura Emmole at (305) 395-3474 or (727) 631-0072, e-mail lemmole@worldsailfish.com or visit thesailfishopen.com.

Jan. 7-10: Sailbone Offshore & Backcountry. Islamorada. Three days of fishing in the backcountry and offshore have anglers competing for both sailfish and bonefish. Contact Sharon Mahoney Ellenwood at (305) 664-2012 or (305) 393-6174, or e-mail sharellen@netzero.net.

Jan 10-11: Bartender's Sailfish Open. Islamorada. An all-release sailfish tournament, this challenge offers awards to winning bars and bartenders. Contact Dianne Harbaugh at (305) 852-2102, e-mail ditournaments@aol.com, visit islamoradasailfishtournament.com or write to P.O. Box 462, Islamorada FL 33036.

Jan 12-14: Islamorada SailFly Championship. Islamorada. In this all-release boat team tournament with no more than two anglers per boat allowed, captains, mates or anglers can tease, but only the registered anglers can cast, hook and play the fish. Tournament rules will be IGFA format. Contact Denise Scoble or Sandy Moret at (305) 664-5423, e-mail sandy@floridakeysoutfitters.com or write to P.O. Box 603, Islamorada FL 33036.

Jan. 15-17: Key Largo Sailfish Challenge. Key Largo. Anglers battle sailfish during the peak of the season. The tournament also features raffles, drawings and cash prizes. Contact Tammie Gurgiolo at (305) 852-9337 or e-mail fishnbully@msn.com.

Jan. 21-23: Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament. Islamorada. In this all-release tournament, anglers fish for the mighty sailfish in waters surrounding the region known as the Sportfishing Capital of the World. The tournament is an official event of the World Billfish Series, Southeast Division. Contact Liz Hill at (305) 451-5094, e-mail presidentialsailfishtournament@cheeca.com, visit cheeca.com or write to Cheeca Lodge, P.O. Box 527, Islamorada FL 33036.

Jan. 22-24: Key West Harbour King Mackerel Tournament. Key West. Anglers use fast boats to target the voracious king mackerel, also known as kingfish, for cash prizes. Contact Lee Murray at (305) 296-0364, e-mail lee@murraymarine.com or write to Murray Marine, 5710 U.S. 1, Mile Marker 5, Key West FL 33040.



Jason Ayers told me it was a lifelong dream to catch a sailfish. He caught 3 and his dad, Mike caught 2. Capt. Robert Mathias on the Restless Too from Whale Harbor with mate Capt. Eric Scoble.



We had the greatest day fishing with Captain Z. We caught 2 sails, 25 lb. snapper, 2 amberjacks (40+lbs.) and some Bluefin Tuna. Thank you! Bruce & Josh Peckman, Craig & Lee Kamenitz Long Island New York.



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