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Vol. XII • Issue 4

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A fly-caught bonefish was tagged and released for research compliments of John Timura who was guided by Capt. Steve Friedman.

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COOPERTIRES

December 16th, 2009

Volume XII, Issue 4

## 26th Annual IGFA Auction & Banquet . . .

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It's the IGFA's biggest fundraising event of the year with more than 200 silent and live auction items up for bid. Donations are already arriving, including the special bronze sculpture from this year's featured artist, world-renowned Australian sculptor, Bodo Muche.

There are also trips to Los Suenos, Tropic Star Lodge, the Bahamas, cruises, artwork and more. The auction will be featured on the IGFA website [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org) beginning the first week of November.

Tickets are \$200 per person and included the silent auction, Conservation Awards, dinner and live auction and free valet parking. Corporate tables for 10 are also available for \$5000 which includes VIP placement, table favors, an ad in the auction program and more.

To make a donation to the auction or for reservations and additional information please contact Ms. Lesley Arico at (954) 924-4222 or [LArico@igfa.org](mailto:LArico@igfa.org).

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## NFL Greats Jimmy Johnson and Mike Ditka To Host the Gridiron Greats Billfish Bowl in Key Largo . . .

Super Bowl-winning coach Jimmy Johnson knows football. He also knows fishing in the Florida Keys, and he's combining these two passions into one huge sport-fishing event, the Gridiron Greats Billfish Bowl slated for February 4-6, 2010. Jimmy Johnson teamed up with another NFL great, hall-of-famer Mike Ditka to create this unique tournament. The two legendary coaches and current NFL analysts hope to bring Florida's toughest sailfish competitors together with a bunch of their football buddies already in town for the Super Bowl to enjoy some fantastic billfish action, good times in the Florida Keys and raise money for a worthwhile cause.

The event will take place at Jimmy Johnson's Fisherman's Cove, a unique residence opportunity in Key Largo and home of the Big Chill, a bar, restaurant and cabana club known as the best place to cool off in the Keys. The Big Chill features outdoor dining with excellent sunset views, a resort pool complete with private cabanas, two lively tiki bars, a full-service restaurant and a sports bar loaded with televisions. The Billfish Bowl will kickoff with a fashion show featuring actual players from the Lingerie Football League. From there on out it's hardcore fishing, along with nightly parties, fantastic food, live music, and raffles. Among the many prizes up for grabs will be exotic trips and top-quality fishing gear, and all proceeds will benefit Gridiron Greats, a charitable organization headed by Ditka that assists retired football players with medical conditions. Most importantly, anglers will have the chance to rub elbows with some of football's most

notable players, coaches and owners, who will be making the most of their time in South Florida for the Pro Bowl and the Super Bowl, scheduled to take place in Miami.

At the close of the final day of fishing, the winners will take home some of fishing's most unique trophies, as well as big bucks — the event will undoubtedly be one of the richest billfish tournaments in the Keys with big-money jackpots up for grabs. But for the overall winners, the most priceless award will be seeing their name engraved on the perpetual trophy which will be on display in the Big Chill, right next to Jimmy's Lombardi trophies and Super Bowl rings.

For anyone who loves football, fishing and the Florida Keys, the Gridiron Greats Billfish Bowl is an event that simply can't be missed. For information on fishing the event or becoming a sponsor visit [www.billfishbowl.com](http://www.billfishbowl.com) or call 866-203-2720. 



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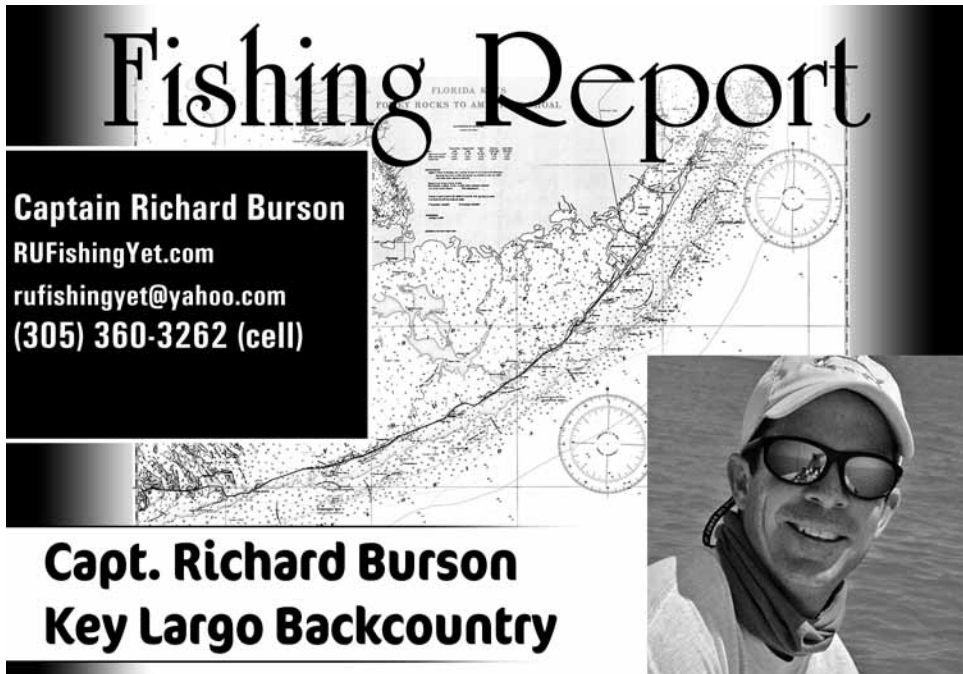
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# Fishing Report

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



## Capt. Richard Burson

### Key Largo Backcountry

One of the most important aspects of being a successful fisherman takes place before you ever get on the water. This aspect is overlooked by many anglers, but to the captains that make a living fishing it is one of the most important elements of a productive fishing day. Captains know all too well through experience that dead bait usually means a spoiled fishing trip. It is for this reason that every angler should pay close attention to keeping bait alive and healthy for as long as possible. There is nothing worse than spending hours catching bait to find most of them belly up by the time you arrive at your honey hole.

There are many misconceived notions regarding aeration. Three most common misconceptions are: 1) large live wells are required to sustain a large quantity of fish; 2) large pumps are needed to move large quantities of water to keep the bait alive; 3) the surrounding water temperature and salinity levels effect on the bait. These factors if not understood properly can lead to unnecessary bait death.

The most important aspect to a live well is the direction of the water. Livewells come in many shapes and sizes. The shape and size of the


livewell will not matter as much as the direction of the intake water. The water must be pumped in to create a circular motion. This reduces the stress on the fish. Delicate bait such as pilchards will not survive a day of fishing unless the water flow creates a gentle current. Turbulent water will damage the bait and force them to work against the strong flow causing additional problems such as fatigue and stress and ultimately death.


The second aspect I would like to discuss is the quality of the air bubbles. The air bubbles should be small because the smaller the air bubble the more slowly it will rise, giving it more time to dissolve in the water. This is a very important aspect to your live well and to the health of your bait fish. Make certain your bubbles entering are small to ensure there is enough oxygen for all the bait in your well. We saltwater anglers have an advantage over the fresh water anglers! Salt water is denser then fresh so the air bubbles are usually smaller allowing your bait to have access to increased oxygen.

The last factor to consider is the different temperature and salinity levels as you move from one environment to another. As your live well works it pulls in water from the surrounding environment which can be stressful for bait. When you are on a flat, the water might be warmer than if you decide to try your luck in the deeper waters. The warmer the water, the less oxygen it will hold. These factors will certainly have an effect on your bait making them more sluggish while they try to adapt quickly to the change.

Having lively bait will attract more fish to your line. Make sure to talk with a professional in regards to your bait well. It is one of the most important things you can do to catch your dream fish.

Until next time, ask yourself this one question . . .

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## FWC Declares Bonefish a Saltwater Game Fish . . .

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) voted on Thursday to elevate public awareness of the importance of Florida bonefish by declaring it a saltwater game fish.

"Bonefish are one of the major reasons Florida is 'The Fishing Capital of the World,'" said FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto. "We took this action today to emphasize how important the bonefish fishery is to Florida anglers, visitors and South Florida's recreational fishing industry."

It is illegal to commercially harvest and sell bonefish in Florida, and sport anglers are allowed to keep only one bonefish 18 inches in fork length per day.

To further protect bonefish populations in Florida, the Commission also directed staff to develop a draft rule for consideration in February that would add all species of bonefish found in Florida waters to FWC rules, extend FWC bonefish regulations into federal waters, and require that bonefish be landed in whole condition.

"Bonefish are one of the premier sport fisheries in Florida and are known as 'grey ghosts of the flats' because they are stealthy, fast-swimming fighters that are challenging to catch," said Barreto. "That's why we recognize that conserving Florida's bonefish resources will ensure that anglers worldwide can continue to enjoy fishing for this special species."



# 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](http://www.afishingguide.com) or [steve@afishingguide.com](mailto:steve@afishingguide.com)

## Capt. Steve Friedman Islamorada



A beautiful week on the water has passed and another one is following right behind. The backcountry around Flamingo has been very productive on the falling tide. Reports have come in saying the Redfish and Snook are eating jigs, of a variety of colors, that are tipped either with live shrimp or Berkley Gulp artificial shrimp. A slow bounce on the bottom has been the most effective. Live pinfish on a circle hook and a float have worked well for larger snook and baby tarpon around the mangroves. The water temperature has been steady this week, allowing fish to get comfortable on the flats. Early morning rising tides have been best for tailing redfish which are supreme targets for the fly fisherman. Snook have been mingling with them but hanging on the edges of flats and in some of the holes where they can easily escape to deeper water or ambush an easy meal.

As good as Flamingo has been fishing, the Gulf of Mexico has been leading the charge in rod bending action. I usually like the Gulf after or around cold fronts, but the off-colored water, current and temperature have been the right combinations for catching Cobia, Spanish Mackerel, Bluefish and many others. The old standby, a block of chum over the side and some varied jigging techniques, and a little patience, has produced for nearly everyone I've talked with this week.

The moon phase has left the current moving on the slower side, but the tides have been high. Permit usually seek out a little more current along with those high tides, and that was evident this week. Most of the Permit I found have been on a falling tide, usually in clear water with some good flow. The rising tide has been pretty weak, and I think the permit have not been showing as well when that happens. Live crabs are the staple bait, and a good cast placed just up current from the face of a permit will usually get a strike.

It's the bonefish that have kept my attention this week, and probably will throughout the rest of the month. As long as water temperatures remain temperate, visibility stays good, and weather fronts are minor, I expect the Bone fishing to be solid. For the bait fisherman, live shrimp have been working best. These fish have been pretty spooky, so when sighted, watch the direction the fish is moving and which way the current is flowing in relation to the feeding fish. A cast too close will spook it, and one too far might get passed by. I steer my angler to cast about 5-10 ft. beyond and in front of the fish. If the fish continues to move away, the cast is still good. If the fish moves the other way, a few cranks on the reel puts you in the zone. Leave the bait where it is if it's in a good spot because the line, or movement of the bait, can alert the fish that something isn't right. You might just twitch the bait slightly to cause some attention then let it fall back down. Read the fish to see if it locks in on your bait.

I fished with John Timura from Islamorada, who wanted to work on his fly casting. He's an accomplished spin fisherman and it's always good to broaden your angling abilities. Catching a big bonefish on fly is a goal for almost any fly angler. Congratulations John, on landing and releasing a nice 8-pound bonefish! We tagged it for bonefish research and hopefully someone will catch it again.

Capt. Friedman's Tip of the Week: Invest in a decent pair of polarized sunglasses. They are an essential tool in the angling pursuit, allowing you to see your target -- and protecting the eye from misdirected hooks. Even a local drugstore has something that fits every budget. Going offshore? Buy blue/grey lenses. Choose brown or amber for backcountry trips.



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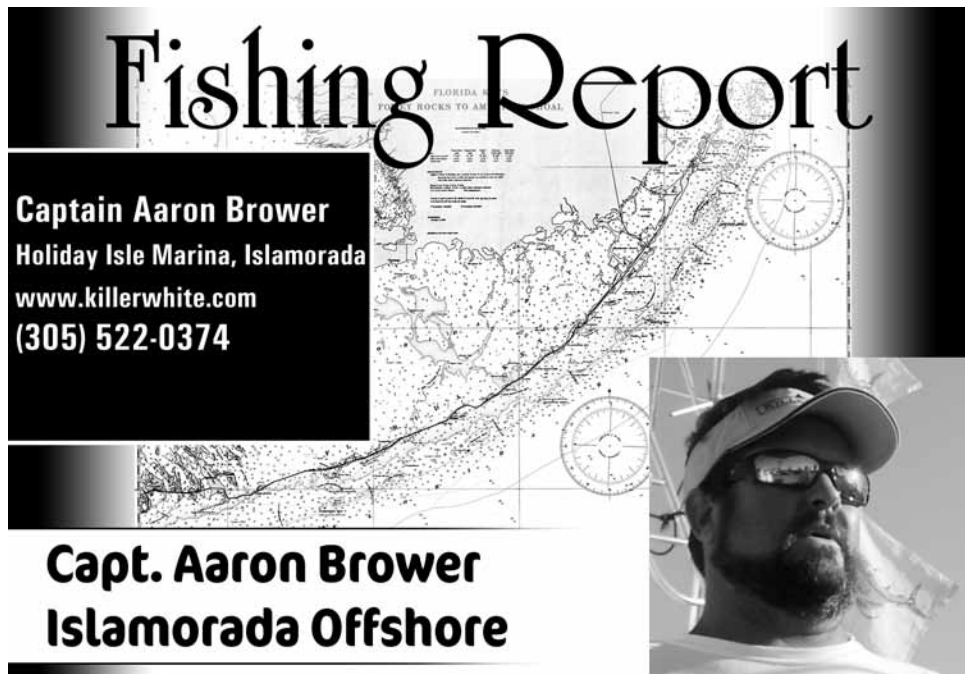
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# Fishing Report

**Captain Aaron Brower**  
 Holiday Isle Marina, Islamorada  
[www.killerwhite.com](http://www.killerwhite.com)  
 (305) 522-0374

## Capt. Aaron Brower Islamorada Offshore

Another week has gone by and two more sailfish tournaments are under our belts. First this week we had the Islamorada Fishing Club Captains Cup. A one day, winner take all event. The top three teams were: The Kalex with five releases captained by Alex Adler, The Wet Dream with five releases captained by Glen Miller and The Main Attraction captained by Marty Lewis.


On the weekend was the Don Gurgilio sailfish classic. A two day tournament, started ten years ago by Tammy Gurgilio, in remembrance of her father, one of the fishing legends of the Florida Keys. This tournament is a redbone event and the proceeds go to Cystic Fibrosis research. Winning this event was the Close Call with thirteen releases Captained by Scott Stokey, second place was the Killer White with ten releases and in third was the Esperanza with 8 releases captained by

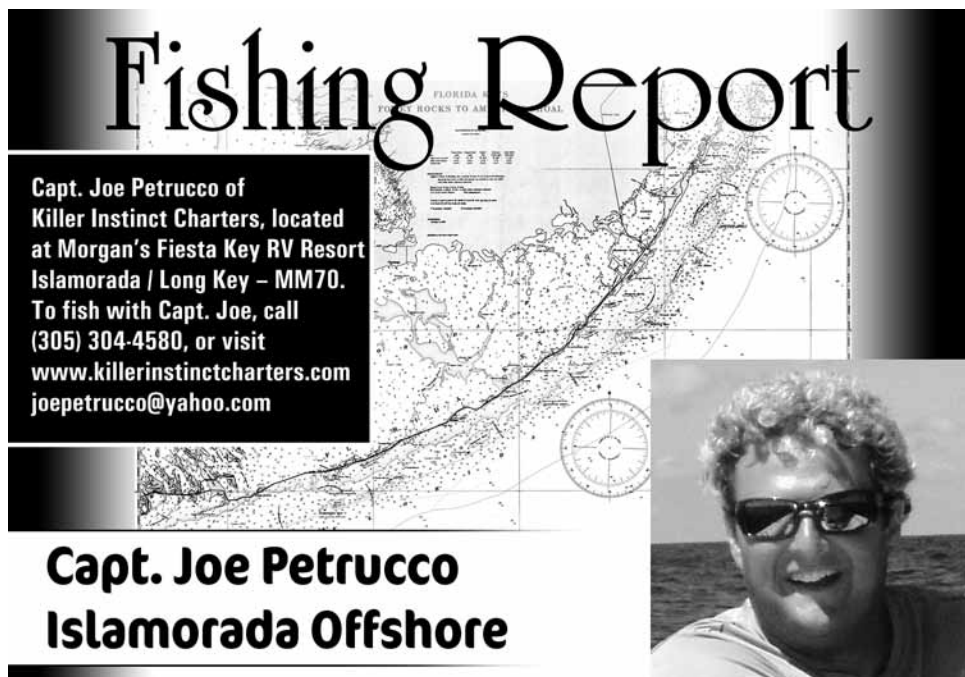
Rusty Albury. A big thank you goes out to all tournament coordinators, their staff and the sponsors for running successful, fun events.

This time of the year fishing the patch reefs can be very productive. Especially after cold fronts move through and we get some heavy winds and rougher sea conditions, making the water really dirty and stirred up. These patches can be anywhere from 20 feet of water to 35 feet of water on the inside edge of the reef. You want to anchor your boat in the sand with the transom facing the leading edge of the patch, drop the chum bag in the water and let the fun begin. You can catch nice Cero Mackerels on the surface with either live ballyhoos or even a fast retrieved lure. Fishing a knocker rig on the bottom can produce some really nice Mutton Snappers as well as a couple of Red Groupers and the occasional Black Grouper. Keep a close eye out in the chum slick because the Yellow tail Snappers will show up and with the water being dirty you can usually put together a great catch.

On the offshore side I have heard reports of Wahoo; decent 20lb range Black Fin Tunas and some really nice King Fish.

Out in the gulf side of things, speaking with Matt Bellinger, it seems that the Cobias are starting to show up in good numbers and size. As well as the Spanish Mackerel bite. Want to have some real fun while out – try flying a kite and put one of those Spanish Mackerels out there as live bait and let the fun begin! Soon you will either see a big shark chasing him around or a nice 40lb Kingfish will sky rocket out of the water landing right on your mackerel. It is an awesome sight to see! Soon, in the back country, you will also start to see some really great eating, triple tails. Pitch them a live shrimp and let the fun begin.

Here's to keeping the rods bent . . . 



# Fishing Report

**Capt. Joe Petrucco of**  
 Killer Instinct Charters, located  
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## Capt. Joe Petrucco Islamorada Offshore

This time of year, the mighty Sailfish gets all of the press and for good reason; no other fish in our waters can give the light tackle angler so many opportunities along with a spectacular battle. Sailfish start pouring through our waters around Thanksgiving every year and will continue to be present through April and into May. One key to catching these guys is to have fresh live bait.


There are many types of live bait to choose from here in the Keys. The most commonly used are blue runners, ballyhoo, cigar minnows, threadfin herring, and goggle eyes. All of these can be successfully deployed from a kite. If you don't employ a kite, then the ballyhoo would certainly have to be my first choice. One problem with ballyhoo though, is that they can be very fragile. Great care must be taken to ensure quality bait is presented to that waiting spindle beak if you are to be successful.

Many things can damage ballyhoo, and the cast net is probably the leading offender. Equally harmful can be square bait wells. Excessive pounding and sloshing will also quickly kill your hard earned-baits.

There are many precautions that can be taken to maximize your chances of showing the right bait to a hungry Sailfish and getting the response you want – hooked-up! If you are willing to spend more time during the bait catching process, a hair hook can be employed and ballyhoo can then be caught individually on a rod and reel. This will eliminate the harmful cast net procedure from your system and help with overall bait quality. A small bit of squid or shrimp will do the trick for bait. If you stop by just about any bait shop, they should be able to show you what a hair hook is and how to rig it up.

The next thing to do is only use a round or oval bait well in your boat. I know this is a hard thing to change if you are not set up properly. Look into what it will take with your boat dealer and get the proper bait well. It will make a huge difference. A round bait well is essential if you plan on using ballyhoo for bait.

The next trick is easy to do. Take it easy on your baits while driving from point A to point B. Excessive trauma in the live well will also quickly kill those precious baits inside. Limiting the number of baits to a few dozen will also help. Most bait well systems are only designed to hold a few dozen ballyhoo comfortably at a time. "Blacking out" the well is not the answer. Like everything else, moderation is the key.

Try these simple tips on your next outing and enjoy the results! 

# Fishing Report

**Capt. Dave Schugar**  
of Sweet Enuf Charters  
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## Capt. Dave Schugar Marathon




Hogfish, it's what's for dinner. Hogfish has to be one of the best eating fish we have down here in the Keys, and they are all over the place right now. I have been taking my friends out to the patches and we have been shooting our dinner. Hogfish have to be the easiest fish to shoot because they turn sideways when confronted, which makes shooting them that much easier. Not very smart on the part of the fish, but it sure is nice of them. You can find hogfish on reefs, and grass beds. I usually will find them on the outskirts of the patches. These fish can change colors in an instant to blend into the bottom, and it's an amazing sight to see. Most of the hogfish you will find in shallow water, but if you dive in the deeper reefs they can be abundant out there too. I will usually find bigger ones, five pounds or more out in the deeper water.

There was some great Wahoo fishing this week. High speed trolling has

been working well from 150-250 feet of water. Most people were using plastics, but I talked to one of my friends up the road a bit and they were having some great luck with live speedos. They caught lots of Kingfish and five Wahoo from 20-40 pounds. One of my friends caught a few Wahoo this week using ballyhoo with cone lures in front.

The sailfish action was slow but a couple of days they turned on pretty good in the shallows. Following the bait sprays was the key this week. Finding the frigates diving was also a good indication of some action too. Live bait has been pretty easy to come by right now. There are lots of cigars here in Marathon, which is unusual, and plenty of pilchards on the flats from 79th street up to Valhalla. The ballyhoo can be found just about everywhere, but if you want the green backs they are back in the bay and they are all over the place as well.

The reef is still on fire with Yellowtail, Jacks, Kings, Muttons and Grouper. Anchoring up can be so much fun this time of year. You can do all sorts of fishing while you're anchored up on your Yellowtail spot. I like to Yellowtail fish first, and while we are catching yellowtails I put down a couple of bottom rods with one large bait for Grouper and one small bait for Mutton. After we have enough Yellowtails, I will switch over and King fish either from a kite or just flat lining from the back of the boat. Big Kings will circle your Yellowtails, and putting the kite up off the side of the boat will usually catch some of those larger ones. Some people don't like to eat Kingfish, but I will tell you from personal experience, they make great smoked fish dip. Besides, they really are a great sport fish, which is usually overlooked because of their poor food quality. I have caught many Kingfish over 50 pounds and they are like fighting a large Wahoo. They will make blistering runs and my favorite is when they strike the bait on the surface, either exploding on the bait or coming fifteen feet out of the water with the bait in their mouth.

Good luck, and I look forward to the next front, hopefully it will spark up the sailfish bite. 

# Fishing Report

**Captain Nick Borraccino**  
Noreaster Sport Fishing  
[NoreasterSportFishing.com](http://NoreasterSportFishing.com)  
(508) 769-4189

## Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon



What can I say except, it's all good. I wish it were always this easy to write a fishing report. If you were fishing around the middle keys this week it was tough to miss. No matter what you decided to focus on, you would have had a chance for success.

First and foremost, the sailfish season has started off with a bang, and everyone's getting in on the action. Most of that action has been up on the reef, west of Sombrero Light. Diving frigate birds point out the action, which often times has been packs of sails in pursuit of ballyhoo. For the best results, you want a live ballyhoo to match the hatch. This, in some cases is easier said than done, so my advice is to get an early start on catching those hoos so you're ready for when the action starts. Double digit catch and releases of Sails has been the norm this week,

so you're looking for fast paced action with lots of sight casting and acrobatics, this is the time and the place to get it.

As I said, everything seems to be good right now, and that includes reef fishing. Mangrove Snappers are biting well on the shallow reefs and Yellowtails are there for the taking on the deeper reefs. In both cases, look for plenty of opportunities for Cero and King Mackerel, as well as Mutton Snapper, and Grouper. Live pilchards and small pinfish will help you for the mangroves, and small cut bait drifted in the chum is your ticket to yellowtail.

Offshore, the tuna bite has been great. Also good news is the Shark threat has seemed to lighten up some, so you have a shot at landing those 20 plus pound Blackfin. Live bait, vertical jigs, and trolling feathers will all produce. Don't count on seeing dolphin, but also don't be caught unprepared, as there is always a chance to run into them. You can also spend your day in search of Swordfish, as the bite continues to be consistent. You can expect multiple chances in a dedicated day.

Enjoy the great fishing this week! 





Linda Schmitt aboard the Bloody Gaff caught this 36 pound wahoo near Molasses Reef with Captain Randy Schmitt. It took a weighted naked ballyhoo on the shotgun.



Glen Grapentine from Paramus, New Jersey, caught this sail while fishing with Capt Chris Barron.



Tim Niccum, from Minnesota, landed this Wahoo off of Key Largo, with Capt Brad Stannard.



Jan Olsen, (on left) former NBA player, and his fishing buddy Paul Dachoff caught these nice dolphin and one sailfish while fishing near the Eagle Wreck off Islamorada aboard the Restless Too.



Paul Suarez and friend giving thanks for a fun day on the water.



# Fishing Report

This report is brought to you courtesy of Capt. Ron Wagner aboard his boat, the Producer. If you would like to fish with Capt. Ron, please call: (304) 664-2028, or visit: [www.captainronwagner.com](http://www.captainronwagner.com) [fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com](mailto:fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com)

## Capt. Ron Wagner From the Skiff

There was a lot of excellent fishing during the week with Cobia, Mackerel, Snappers and big Goliath Grouper out there for the catching. And if that wasn't enough, the giant Bull Sharks ate the rest. I know sharks have to eat too; but tell that to my angler who watched his nice size Cobia snatched from him in one big gulp. He managed to catch several more that day without the help of Mr. Shark, thank you.


Gilbert Ruiz of Miami Lakes, who owns several great restaurants up there, spends a lot of time on my boat. I would say he books me at least 75 days a year -- bringing family and friends and a lot of great memories along. Mr. Ruiz started fishing me about 20 years ago where I first met him at a fish fry in Islamorada. I was fishing a nephew of his, and during that evening he asked for a business card saying he would like to fish

with me in the future. Handing him my card, I never realized he would become my number one customer all these years later.

Where have we fished during that time? Just about everywhere there's water, and have caught Tarpon, Snook, Permit, Cobia, Bonefish, Redfish, Trout and most other species. Believe me, Gilbert has caught them all. His biggest Tarpon was around 185 lbs. He also has logged over 500 Snook by my count and his family has 100 or more permit to their credit. On one memorable day, they caught eleven during a single trip, the biggest one weighing in around 35 pounds. He's always asking me the night before, "Captain: Are you going to be a hero or a zero tomorrow?"

Of course, a few of our trips have ended with zero fish, and I've learned to be ready for the jokes. Gilbert will say, "Captain, perhaps you should be reading more magazines and learn something!" I'm always busting out laughing when he says this to me. We really have a wonderful time out fishing together, and do I appreciate all that he has done for me and my family.

I take pride in being a good friend to my anglers. It is not just fishing out there. It's the friendship, the fun and those brief moments of sheer excitement. Here's hoping for a great ending to this year.

See you on the water, friend . . . 

Gilbert Ruiz



## Islamorada Fishing Clubs' 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Captains Cup Sailfish Tournament



1st Place (l-r):  
Matt Guthrie, Beau Bagley,  
Josh Ardis, Jimmy Verner,  
Alex Adler, Anthony Delduca  
and Mimi Young from TIB.



2nd Place (l-r) Justin Miller, Jill Clark, Glen Miller, Sam Worden,  
Hunter Barron and Kevin Clark, back row - Bob Lodge.



3rd Place (l-r) Jamie Platt, Dianne Harbaugh, Ariel Modero, Digger,  
Mac Stone, Marty Lewis and Troy Phillipps.

# 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](http://www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com) for more information.

## Capt. Luke Kelly Lower Keys



Another good week of fishing in the lower Keys --- it sure is hard getting away from saying that sometimes. I am writing this report while on short leave from the Keys – a few miles up the road in Delray Beach. Even when away from my waters, I still check tides, temps, etc, and stay in touch with what's going on in the back country.


Friends of mine have told me that the spear-fishing on the reef has been incredible this past week, certainly is that time of year again.

I did have a chance to get on the water right before I left and had a good time with the sea-trout in a few of our deeper basins in the backcountry. I am sure that the mild conditions have pushed those permit and baby tarpon up shallow. Although it looks like another front should be hitting the Keys right around the time this article hits the stands, and

the permit and poons will then be taking their vacation. Good thing for those sea-trout, I enjoy throwing soft-plastic lures into those huge mud clouds found in the backcountry basins this time of year; you never know what your gonna get sometimes.

This type of “mud-cloud” fishing is something that will last into next spring, and it is always a great thing to do on those cooler windy days when those beloved shallow water game fish take a hike. I prefer to use the smaller, dark-color plastic baits for these muds, while attaching a small, weighted jig head to the lure if needed. Floating over or near these clouds, simply cast into and jig, or pop that bait through the muddy water in an upward fashion. The plastic bait should appear to hop off the sea-floor much like a shrimp might, for example. Direction of cast and drift should be taken into consideration, while small diameter fishing lines and ultra-light fishing rods will deliver the far cast that's needed. I have seen single muds produce over seven species of fish, all of which are an absolute blast on 6 lb test.

Get out there and go fishing, try something new, invent that next fishery. This time of year brings enough variety of fish to the shallows of the Keys to reward any amount of persistence.

I'll be back on the water by next week, hopefully on the reef chasing dinner, but until then . . . 



## FWC Approves Atlantic Grouper and Reef Fish Protections . . .

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) on Thursday approved rules consistent with federal regulations to address overfishing of grouper in the Atlantic Ocean and to encourage anglers to help protect Atlantic reef fish when releasing them to the water.

Stock assessments indicate Atlantic gag, red and black grouper are undergoing overfishing, which means fishing pressure is too high to be sustainable. Measures have been implemented already in Atlantic federal waters (beyond 3 miles from shore) to reduce the harvest of these species. Nine other kinds of shallow-water groupers also were included in this action to reduce the incidental catch and discard mortality of gag, red and black grouper.

The new FWC rules for Atlantic grouper in state waters are consistent with the federal rules. They establish a three-fish-per-person aggregate daily recreational bag limit for all grouper in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters, prohibit the captain and crew of for-hire vessels from retaining any species in the aggregate grouper bag limit, and allow anglers to keep no more than one gag or black grouper combined in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters.


In addition, the rules prohibit all harvest of shallow-water groupers (including gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, grasby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper and tiger grouper) from Jan. 1 - April 30 in Atlantic and Monroe County

state waters. This spawning season closure applies to all recreational shallow-water grouper harvest and lengthens the previous two-month closure to commercial grouper fishing in the Atlantic.

“These rules are intended to help speed the recovery and rebuilding process for Atlantic grouper and reduce the likelihood of harvest overruns and possible additional fishing restrictions in federal waters,” said Rodney Barreto, FWC Chairman.

The Commission also approved a federal consistency rule that requires dehooking tools to be aboard commercial and recreational vessels for anglers to use as needed to remove hooks from Atlantic reef fish.

“Dehooking tools are a proven way to limit the handling of fish and help increase the odds that fish will survive when they are released,” Barreto said.

These rules take effect in mid-January. The presentations on grouper and dehooking tools used at the Commission meeting are available online. 



# Fishing Report

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](http://www.incognitolighttackle.com)  
[incognitocharters@comcast.net](mailto:incognitocharters@comcast.net)

## Capt. Chris Lembo Key West Offshore




We have had some great weather here in the Keys compared to the rest of the country. Even a few miles to the north has been cold and rainy when we are having hot, humid weather. A little wind has made the boating rough but the fishing has been excellent. Look for the weather trend to continue for a while.

Offshore has seen some great Wahoo action this past full moon. Look for another great wave of Wahoo during the January full moon. Dolphin, Sailfish, Wahoo and Kingfish have all been biting strong right along the edge of the reef out to 200 feet. Blackfin Tuna have been hitting live bait around the deeper wrecks and drop-offs. The Sailfish bite should be in full swing and will continue until summer. Spotty waves of Dolphin will be working bait along any color change or rip and Bonito will fill in the bite.

On the reef the Mutton Snapper, Yellowtail Snapper and Grouper bite has been good. Small live Pinfish, Ballyhoo plugs and chunks of Bonito will bring on the bite. Keep the leader long for the best Mutton results and keep the chum flowing strong for the best Yellowtail bite. REMEMBER: Only 2 weeks left until the Grouper closure goes into effect.

Deeper wrecks are holding good numbers of big Amberjacks, African Pompano and some nice Grouper along with Mutton Snapper. Sometimes they become shark infested so move on as soon when they show up to take a bite out of your catch. Live speedos and big Pinfish are great baits for deep wrecks as they are hearty and will last a few drops into deeper water.

Gulf wrecks and rock piles are holding Kingfish, Grouper, Mangrove, Yellowtail and Mutton Snapper -- Cobia are beginning their move in fairly thickly. A live Pinfish around the edge of a wreck or rock pile will draw the Cobia. Keep another rod handy incase a companion fish follows your hooked fish to the surface. That is also a good time to throw a fly in front of the second fish.

Good luck on the water, till next week . . . 

## 7th Annual Captains Cup Sailfish Tournament . . .

The Islamorada Fishing Clubs' 7th Annual Captains Cup Sailfish Tournament was a fun and successful event this year. Under calm seas, there were 36 hook ups all tolled. "We were happy with the attendance this year. We were able to sign up 12 boats, holding 24 anglers. There were 36 sailfish hook-ups with 25 releases" said tournament chairman Dianne Harbaugh. The awards, hand painted original cups and paintings, were created by Pasta Pantaleo.

The Grand Champion winners of the Captain's Cup sponsored by Caribee Boat Sales, Contender Boats and Yamaha Outboards were anglers Anthony DelDuca from Naples FL and Jimmy Verner of Orlando FL, aboard the Kalex. They also won an invitation to the IGFA offshore World Championship in the Cabo San Lucas in 2010. The Champion Captain, sponsored by Mercedes Benz Cutler Bay and winner of the coveted Captain's Cup trophy went to Captain Alex Adler with 5 releases. The Champion Mates on the same boat, sponsored by TIB Bank, were Matt Guthrie and Beau Bagley.

Second Place, sponsored by Ivory International and ESPN Outdoors were local anglers Kevin and Jill Clark on Wet Dream with Captain Glen Miller and mates Justin Miller, Sam Worden and Hunter Barron. The Wet Dream released 5 Sailfish as well but they were beaten on time by 22 minutes.

Third Place, sponsored by Regan Insurance, went to anglers Mac Stone and Jamie Platt out of Marathon, FL. The boat was The Main Attraction with Captain Marty Lewis and Mates Ariel Modero and Troy Phillipps.

"This is a world class event with loyal and determined anglers. These folks are competitive and want the honor and recognition involved with this tournament not to mention the check for \$20,000.00." said tournament director Dianne Harbaugh. "We are fortunatnate to see this tournament hold it's own."

The Islamorada Fishing Clubs January Sailfish Tournament is scheduled for January 27th kick off with fishing on the 28th. The winners are guaranteed a pay out of \$25,000.00. Space is limited and the tournament is expected to have a waiting list. For more information and how you can get involved contact the Islamorada Fishing Club by phone at (305) 664-4735, by mail to P O Box 22, Islamorada, FL 33036, or by email [fishclub@bellsouth.net](mailto:fishclub@bellsouth.net).

## Whale Harbor Restaurant & Marina

### 3rd Annual

## Lighting of the Fleet

&

## CHRISTMAS BEAST FEAST

Wed., Dec. 16th

5:00pm-????

For more info  
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Dock Office

(305) 664-4511



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12/02

45mph, tops out 65mph. **Frank Piku (305) 509-1547**

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Center Console - Smoothest running cat on the ocean, doesn't pound, or rock & roll. Low fuel consumption! Twin Evinrude E-tech 250hp outboards (under warr). Call to discuss price & get equipment list. Incl cstm-built 6-whl 3-axle trailer. More room than most 40' monohulls cruises



12/16

## 2005 Grady-White

"283 Release" 28' Center Console. Twin Yamaha 225 HP 4 strokes (only 75 hrs). ALL factory options plus SIMRAD 10" color nav-net GPS, F/F, radar, VHF. Everything like new. \$74,900, trailer avail. Boat in Key Largo. (239) 263-6970



## 1985 46' Ocean Super Sport Boat

2-671 Detroit's JT 450 HP diesels w/1825 orig. hrs; 8 KW Gen Set-Galley maid 200 gpd R/O Plant; all new GPS electronics; radar-fathometer; (Furuno)-2 VHF radios; one single side-band radio; KVH-6 Sat track TV system-2 color

TV's w/built-in DVD players; 1 Salon/1 Main Stateroom; central Vac system; 2 Staterooms/2 Bathrooms; Galley down/Salon up; Fresh water flush system; 2 cent. A/C's; Washer/Dryer - lot of extras! All refurb. interiors - must see all the teak & wood work! 12 ft. fiberglass Boston Whaler on bow w/15 hp Johnson-Electric hoist crane. Well maintained; Ready to Fish and Travel! Was \$199,500. **Price reduced to \$159,500.** Call: Jack Sweeting: Home: (305) 872-3036; Cell: (305) 395-8738.



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12/16

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## Enjoy Elegance & Luxury

Ocean Views & Dockage at Beacon Reef Condo perfectly located at MM 83.2 in Islamorada. This 2 bed/2 bath has updated Kitchen & Baths. Located just 1 unit from Ocean - Views are Spectacular! Clubhouse, Pool, Hot Tub, Large Undercover parking for boat & car. This condo has it all & shows beautifully!

\$749,000 - MLS 550110. Nancy



12/16

Allen, Realtor Realty World Freewheeler 305-522-4185

## Above Flood - Concrete

Home has been remodeled: large spectacular kitchen, 3 bed/2 updated baths, tile floors, nice storage. All located in an X flood zone! Great homeowner's park nearby with boat ramp & temp. dockage offering easy ocean/bay access through Tavernier Creek. This is not a drive-by! Must see!

\$349,000 - MLS 547908. Nancy



12/16

Allen, Realtor Realty World Freewheeler 305-522-4185

## Rare Find! Tri-level

3 bed/2 bath townhome offers Endless Oceanviews, shallow dockage, pool & sandy beach area for sunbathing. Gated and Secluded property located on Windley Key MM 84. Enjoy that Keys feeling on the open porches overlooking the ocean! Furnished and ready to enjoy! This is a must see!

\$625,000 - MLS 548135. Nancy



12/16

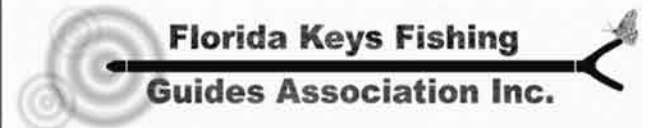
## Picture-Perfect Canal Home

in desirable Indian Waterways MM 89. Meticulously maintained, 3 bed/2 baths. Like new condition; screened patio overlooks the canal and another off the master bedroom; dock, hot tub, workshop down, plenty of storage. Large lot with room to park all the toys! Easy Bay & Ocean access via Tavernier Creek. Shows Beautifully! Seller is Motivated!! **\$559,000 - MLS 546777**

# 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 16	Wed		01:51 / -0.19 ft	08:13 / 2.65 ft	14:19 / 0.50 ft	20:14 / 2.43 ft
Dec 17	Thu		02:32 / -0.14 ft	08:52 / 2.61 ft	15:00 / 0.50 ft	20:54 / 2.39 ft
Dec 18	Fri		03:11 / -0.05 ft	09:30 / 2.56 ft	15:40 / 0.52 ft	21:33 / 2.34 ft
Dec 19	Sat		03:50 / 0.06 ft	10:07 / 2.49 ft	16:19 / 0.54 ft	22:13 / 2.27 ft
Dec 20	Sun		04:29 / 0.21 ft	10:44 / 2.41 ft	16:58 / 0.56 ft	22:55 / 2.20 ft
Dec 21	Mon		05:08 / 0.37 ft	11:21 / 2.32 ft	17:38 / 0.58 ft	23:38 / 2.14 ft
Dec 22	Tue		05:48 / 0.53 ft	12:00 / 2.24 ft	18:21 / 0.57 ft	
Dec 23	Wed	00:25 / 2.08 ft	06:34 / 0.68 ft	12:41 / 2.15 ft	19:07 / 0.53 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 16	Wed		05:31 / -0.10 ft	10:42 / 0.55 ft	16:27 / 0.20 ft	21:41 / 1.04 ft
Dec 17	Thu		06:10 / -0.09 ft	11:16 / 0.55 ft	17:07 / 0.20 ft	22:19 / 1.03 ft
Dec 18	Fri		06:48 / -0.07 ft	11:49 / 0.56 ft	17:47 / 0.20 ft	22:56 / 1.01 ft
Dec 19	Sat		07:25 / -0.04 ft	12:23 / 0.57 ft	18:28 / 0.21 ft	23:35 / 0.97 ft
Dec 20	Sun		08:02 / -0.00 ft	12:58 / 0.59 ft	19:13 / 0.23 ft	
Dec 21	Mon	00:16 / 0.91 ft	08:38 / 0.04 ft	13:34 / 0.62 ft	20:04 / 0.24 ft	
Dec 22	Tue	01:01 / 0.83 ft	09:13 / 0.09 ft	14:12 / 0.65 ft	21:05 / 0.24 ft	
Dec 23	Wed	01:51 / 0.74 ft	09:47 / 0.13 ft	14:51 / 0.69 ft	22:15 / 0.22 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 16	Wed		02:25 / -0.05 ft	08:28 / 1.69 ft	14:53 / 0.12 ft	20:29 / 1.55 ft
Dec 17	Thu		03:06 / -0.03 ft	09:07 / 1.66 ft	15:34 / 0.12 ft	21:09 / 1.52 ft
Dec 18	Fri		03:45 / -0.01 ft	09:45 / 1.63 ft	16:14 / 0.12 ft	21:48 / 1.49 ft
Dec 19	Sat		04:24 / 0.02 ft	10:22 / 1.59 ft	16:53 / 0.13 ft	22:28 / 1.45 ft
Dec 20	Sun		05:03 / 0.05 ft	10:59 / 1.54 ft	17:32 / 0.14 ft	23:10 / 1.40 ft
Dec 21	Mon		05:42 / 0.09 ft	11:36 / 1.48 ft	18:12 / 0.14 ft	23:53 / 1.36 ft
Dec 22	Tue		06:22 / 0.13 ft	12:15 / 1.42 ft	18:55 / 0.14 ft	
Dec 23	Wed	00:40 / 1.33 ft	07:08 / 0.16 ft	12:56 / 1.37 ft	19:41 / 0.13 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 16	Wed		04:20 / -0.17 ft	09:43 / 0.92 ft	15:16 / 0.34 ft	20:42 / 1.75 ft
Dec 17	Thu		04:59 / -0.16 ft	10:17 / 0.92 ft	15:56 / 0.33 ft	21:20 / 1.72 ft
Dec 18	Fri		05:37 / -0.12 ft	10:50 / 0.93 ft	16:36 / 0.34 ft	21:57 / 1.68 ft
Dec 19	Sat		06:14 / -0.07 ft	11:24 / 0.96 ft	17:17 / 0.36 ft	22:36 / 1.62 ft
Dec 20	Sun		06:51 / -0.01 ft	11:59 / 0.99 ft	18:02 / 0.39 ft	23:17 / 1.52 ft
Dec 21	Mon		07:27 / 0.07 ft	12:35 / 1.04 ft	18:53 / 0.41 ft	
Dec 22	Tue	00:02 / 1.40 ft	08:02 / 0.14 ft	13:13 / 1.10 ft	19:54 / 0.40 ft	
Dec 23	Wed	00:52 / 1.25 ft	08:36 / 0.22 ft	13:52 / 1.15 ft	21:04 / 0.37 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 16	Wed		02:53 / -0.24 ft	09:31 / 1.24 ft	13:58 / 0.64 ft	20:17 / 2.32 ft
Dec 17	Thu		03:34 / -0.21 ft	09:56 / 1.23 ft	14:37 / 0.61 ft	20:56 / 2.29 ft
Dec 18	Fri		04:13 / -0.15 ft	10:22 / 1.23 ft	15:15 / 0.60 ft	21:35 / 2.22 ft
Dec 19	Sat		04:52 / -0.07 ft	10:51 / 1.25 ft	15:54 / 0.61 ft	22:14 / 2.12 ft
Dec 20	Sun		05:29 / 0.02 ft	11:24 / 1.29 ft	16:37 / 0.62 ft	22:55 / 1.97 ft
Dec 21	Mon		06:05 / 0.13 ft	11:59 / 1.34 ft	17:27 / 0.64 ft	23:39 / 1.80 ft
Dec 22	Tue		06:40 / 0.25 ft	12:37 / 1.40 ft	18:30 / 0.64 ft	
Dec 23	Wed	00:27 / 1.60 ft	07:13 / 0.38 ft	13:18 / 1.48 ft	19:47 / 0.59 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 16	Wed		03:08 / -0.18 ft	09:30 / 1.24 ft	14:08 / 0.52 ft	20:27 / 2.24 ft
Dec 17	Thu		03:47 / -0.15 ft	10:01 / 1.22 ft	14:47 / 0.49 ft	21:06 / 2.20 ft
Dec 18	Fri		04:25 / -0.11 ft	10:32 / 1.22 ft	15:26 / 0.47 ft	21:43 / 2.12 ft
Dec 19	Sat		05:02 / -0.05 ft	11:04 / 1.22 ft	16:07 / 0.47 ft	22:22 / 2.02 ft
Dec 20	Sun		05:38 / 0.02 ft	11:38 / 1.25 ft	16:50 / 0.49 ft	23:02 / 1.88 ft
Dec 21	Mon		06:12 / 0.10 ft	12:13 / 1.28 ft	17:40 / 0.50 ft	23:45 / 1.70 ft
Dec 22	Tue		06:45 / 0.19 ft	12:51 / 1.34 ft	18:39 / 0.50 ft	
Dec 23	Wed	00:34 / 1.51 ft	07:20 / 0.29 ft	13:30 / 1.41 ft	19:48 / 0.46 ft	

## Moon Phases

New: 12/16/09 • First Quarter: 12/24/09  
Full: 12/31/09 • Last Quarter: 01/07/10

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.



**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).**

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. George Clark, Jr.	OFF / REEF / BC	(305) 522-2638 www.rodeocharters.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 / FL / GF / OFF	(305) 852-0739 (305) 451-7354
Capt. Kevin Brown	Gold 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. Joe Petrucco Killer Instinct 6	OFF / GULF / REEF / TP	(305) 304-4580 joepetrucco@yahoo.com
Capt. Jack Falcucci	OFF / REEF 50' Custom Ocean Sportfish	(305) 393-0795
Capt. Frank Drudi Chelsea Charters	OFF/REEF/WR	(866) 431-2277 www.thefloridakeyscharterfishing.com floridakeyscharterfishing@yahoo.com
Capt. Ron Wagner	TP / LT / FLY / BC / FL / GF / REEF	(304) 664-2028 fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com
Capt. Paul Hunt captpaul@finhuntercharters.com	BC / FL / LT / FLY	(305) 393-2495 www.finhuntercharters.com
Capt. Bruce Andersen Capt. Easy Charters	OFF / WR	(305) 360-2120 www.captaineasycharters.com
Capt. Skip Nielsen	BC / FL / LT	(305) 664-9314 skipcyd@bellsouth.net
Capt. Robert Mathias, Jr www.floridakeysfishing.com	“RESTLESS TOO”	(305) 304-4422 capt@floridakeysfishing.com
Capt. Bruce Pollock Edge Charters	FL / BC / LT	(305) 393-5269 www.florida-keys-fishing-guides.com CaptainBruce@florida-keys-fishing-guides.com
Capt. Aaron Brower	OFF/REEF/WR	(305) 522-0374 www.killerwhite.com
Capt. Matt Bellinger	BC / GULF / REEF / WR	(305) 393-0909 www.bamboocharters.com

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.captndonny.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 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

## Big Pine Key to Key West Contact Info



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Sailfish caught during the IFC Tournament - Angler Linda Butler, with mate Danny Brack, aboard the Killer White with Capt. Aaron Brower, out of Holiday Isle Marina.

Eric Madinger from St. George Island, FL caught this mutton snapper near the High There wreck off Islamorada. He was fishing on the Restless Too with Capt. Robert Mathias out of Whale Harbor Marina.



# TOURNAMENTS

**We want to hear about your tournament!**  
**Have it listed here for FREE by calling**  
**Jess at (305) 852-FISH (3474), or via**  
**e-mail: [editor@weeklyfisherman.com](mailto:editor@weeklyfisherman.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](mailto: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](mailto:lemmole@worldsailfish.com) or visit [thesailfishopen.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:ditournaments@aol.com), visit [islamoradasailfishtournament.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:presidentialsailfishtournament@cheeca.com), visit [cheeca.com](http://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](mailto:lee@murraymarine.com) or write to Murray Marine, 5710 U.S. 1, Mile Marker 5, Key West FL 33040.

**Jan. 25-26: Captain Al Flutie Over the Hill Sailfish Tournament.** Islamorada. Anglers ages 50 and over are challenged to catch and release the most sailfish. Contact Bill Kelly at (305) 394-5333 or write to 130 Tequesta St., Tavernier, FL 33070; or contact Gary Ellis at (305) 664-2002, e-mail [redboneinc@aol.com](mailto:redboneinc@aol.com), visit [redbone.org](http://redbone.org) or write to P.O. Box 273, Islamorada FL 33036.

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