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Dr. Rocco Cassone's and his beautiful wife, Carole, hold his very first sailfish. Rocco caught and released the fish from an anchored boat while yellowtail fishing with Capt. Mathias.

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Volume XII, Issue 5

December 23rd, 2009

World Fishing Network (WFN) Partners with IGFA . . .



WFN: World Fishing Network, North America's only 24-hour fishing lifestyle network, and the IGFA have announced an extensive three-year marketing partnership. Through the agreement, the IGFA will leverage WFN's multi-media platform and regional production bureaus to promote its conservation and fundraising efforts and in turn, promote WFN, its programs and promotions to members.

"It is an honor to join forces with a respected and powerful organization such as the IGFA to bring more attention to the issues affecting America's 60 million passionate anglers," says Mark Rubinstein, President of WFN. "Not only will our partnership help each of us grow, but together we can expose and educate anglers on important conservation issues to benefit our world."

Through the partnership, the Denver-based WFN will promote IGFA's conservation efforts in a variety of ways including: an extensive on-air and online advertising campaign; sweepstakes and promotions; the production of monthly regional video features for the IGFA website of important conservation stories; monthly regional features on WFN's Reel Road Trip with Mark Melnyk, and more.

In This Issue . . .

Features

Fishing Reports	3-7, 11
Boat Exchange & Realty Corner	8
Tide Tables	9
Captain & Guide Directory	10, 11
Tournament Listings	12

Advertisers

Barefoot Baits	2
Capt. Ron Wagner	2
Chelsea Charters	BC
DJ's Reel Repair	4
Fish Tales Charter Boat - Islamorada	3
Flying Dutchman Productions	3
Hooked Up Charters	12
Hunter Charters	3
Island Grill	BC
Key West Bait & Tackle	4
Keys Custom Rods	4
Keys Magic Charters	3
Keys Plastics Shop	2
Over Under Adventures	2
Prop Doctors of Key West	4
Shiloh Tire & Lube	BC
Tiki Huts	12

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Fishing Report

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

Capt. Aaron Brower Islamorada Offshore



Happy holidays to everyone I sure hope lots of families are coming to the keys this year. Take advantage of all the keys has to offer, especially the fishing of course, whether it be backcountry, offshore or even from the shoreline.

Offshore this past week the sail fishing has remained very productive. Congrats go out to the Capt. Easy on ten sailfish caught and released on Monday great job guys. They found pilchards on their way out of the whale harbor channel and were able to throw the net and gather up a couple hundred. Pilchards even though a smaller bait can be very helpful in raising sailfish up behind your boat and giving you a great opportunity at catching multiple fish or even on those slow days making that one bite happen when it seems almost hopeless. Keep your eyes peeled in those channels on the way out in the morning you never know what you

might be running over could be the pot of gold your looking for, as far as bait are concerned. We are also seeing balls of sardines moving down the edge of the reef, the tell tail signs for those guys are birds diving in the water and hanging in one tight area slowly moving to the south west. Don't disturb the school just run up along side and throw a number 4 sabiki in there and catch all you want. If you run your boat thru the middle of the school you won't have a chance at catching any you will just drive them down out of sight and reach.

If you are into catching a good dinner those yellow tail snappers are still on the edge of the reef in good numbers and size, there were a few reports of yellowtails being caught in the 2 to 3 lb range which is very nice for this time of the year. Catching your limit of yellow tail and mutton snappers is not unusual this time of the year lots of action on the reef edge especially with those bait balls moving through. Always keep a treble hook on wire ready. Soon as you get a couple of cutoffs, while yellow tailing, fling a live bait back there on the wire and expect a quick bite probably a king fish for the grill or smoker or a great eating cero mackerel. There are only a few more days left that you can catch grouper so try to take advantage of it while you can. They should be fattening up for their spawn, giving you a good opportunity to put a couple in the fish box for dinner.

On the Gulf side of things - talked with Capt. Matt Bellinger. The Spanish mackerel are still there in good numbers, as well as some lane snappers and pompano. All great light-tackle fish, great fun for everyone. Cobia are starting to show up more often and I am going to guess, after another good cold front. With more bait pushing through the gulf you will start to see more. For those looking for the big game fish the black tip and bull sharks are definitely attainable and wow what a fight you're in for.

Keep those rods bent . . . 

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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 or steve@afishingguide.com

Capt. Steve Friedman Islamorada

This past week has been a prime example of how the weather can change the bite on fishing. Cooler temperatures, windier conditions, rain and a mixture of clouds and sun helped steer an influx of bait offshore and in the backcountry. Bonefish are starting to school on the oceanside flats with some lunker bones, in search of crabs to eat, tailing on the downtown flats. Spanish mackerel are still eating heartily on the reef and in the Gulf of Mexico. A mixed bag of fish are being caught around Flamingo. Snook redfish, ladyfish and even some flounder are eating gulp shrimp on jigs and live shrimp.

Now that a few fronts have pushed through and lowered water temperatures into the low- to mid-seventies, it's time to troll the reef in search of sailfish. I fished in the first annual Bay Boat Billfish Tournament Series that kicked off at Ma's Fish Camp restaurant in Islamorada. It's the first of a series of three sailfish tournaments, in

which participants can have up to 3 anglers and 4 rods fishing out of a boat of 24 feet or under.

Nine boats met at Smugglers Cove Marina near the Snake Creek Bridge for the shotgun start out to the reef. I took my 22-foot Pathfinder out to a nearby patch reef to get the essential bait we would need for the day. In this case, it was ballyhoo and cigar minnows. These baits are fragile and it's important to keep them as frisky as possible for a picky sailfish. To catch the ballyhoo, we dropped a block of chum in a bag over the side and used small hair hooks tipped with tiny bits of shrimp. We were careful to handle the baits minimally by using a de-hooker. Sunblock in the baitwell is no good either, so we kept our hands out of there and used a dip net to retrieve the bait for rigging.

Once we got to the reef, the bite was already on. Within minutes of putting our baits out using 7/0 in-line circle hooks, we saw other boats were hooking up with sailfish, barracuda and tuna. Not long after, we were hooked up with our first bent rod, but were disappointed to see that it was a kingfish instead of a point-scoring sailfish. We stuck with our strategy of working one area in close to the reef, then moving slightly further out as the tide fell, but the sailfish bite tapered by mid-morning. At one point we had several sails come into our spread but no eaters despite all of our best efforts. Our efforts were rewarded later in the day when we finally hooked up with a nice sailfish. After a short battle using only twelve-pound test, we had the fish along boat-side for the required photograph of the leader touch and release.

A total of sixteen sails were caught and released with eight of the nine teams catching at least one sailfish and four boats releasing three sailfish. Congratulations to Capt. George Clark Jr. and his crew on winning this great new event.

If you are interested in fishing the next Bay Boat Billfish Tournament on January 20, or for more information please contact Capt. Jim Dalrymple at (305) 304-9386. 

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Fishing Report

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

Capt. Luke Kelly Lower Keys



The official opening days of winter are finally upon us with this week's issue. Past weather conditions have shown this winter season to be off with a healthy start. One can only hope that this means it will be saying goodbye in time for this upcoming year's tarpon season.

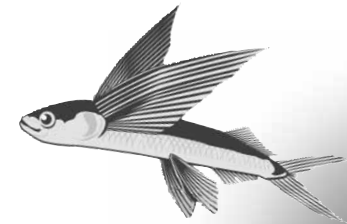
Last year we didn't receive any substantial cold front until mid-January, which then resulted with cold blustery air lingering until late March. Needless to say, that cold air did have an impact on last year's tarpon fishing in the lower Keys, something I had not seen in past years. So, this year I'm telling Mother Nature to bring the strong cold fronts on. Hit us hard, but finish up in time to give us a long-lasting spring, rather a long-lasting winter. If weather conditions continue the way they have been this year, I'd say we might just see that endless spring.

The past week's fishing has been what you would expect from this year's weather. Sea-trout, pompano, ladyfish, and a few rat-redfish have been showing up in good numbers in our many backcountry basins and neighboring shallow banks. I would say we are going to have a great year for that type of fishing. Larger redfish are certainly up shallow, but when I say shallow, I mean shallow! The bottom of my flats boat always takes a beating this time of year when chasing those schools of reds through their thin-water domain. This stuff is absolutely great for the fly fisherman during this time of year.

Snapper fishing has been excellent, the cooler water temps have pushed the majority of them way inside the mangroves to find warmth. If you can locate the pilchards and manage to net yourself a few dozen for the live well. Bring them into a backcountry mangrove channel or deep water mote and bounce them off the mangrove limbs and into the water one at a time. Not only will you drive a feeding frenzy from the grey snapper, you might just nab yourself a snook, redfish, or baby tarpon by doing this as well. The mangrove channel or mote fishing for these species is always best during the warming trends well after a cold front hits. If you can't find the pilchards, live shrimp will work for this as well, and you can find the largest live shrimp in the lower Keys at the Sugarloaf Marina, guaranteed.

Have fun fishing people, that's what it is all about. We have the best backyard for it here in the Florida Keys, sure beats lake fishing.

Until next time . . . 



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 incognitocharter@comcast.net

Capt. Chris Lembo Key West Offshore




Well here we are in the last week of the year. The weather has been a little tough to deal with this past week but should improve dramatically for the busy week between Christmas and New Years. We should settle in with a nice ENE 15 mph wind that is ideal for fishing.

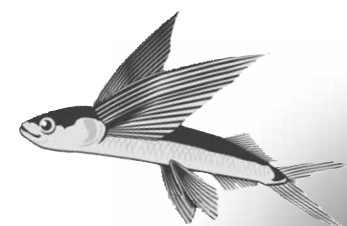
On the reef the fishing has been good due to the rough weather. Hopefully it will remain good with the lighter wind conditions. Mutton Snapper, Grouper, Kingfish, Porgies, Mangrove Snapper and Cobias have all been cruising the outer edge of the reef and along the bar. Look for fish in depths from 60 to 125 feet along any good structure. With a good chum slick you should be able to attract some Tunas and Bonito for some surface action. Live chumming with Pilchards works best but dead baits can work as well. The Wahoo bite will pick up and be in full swing

as the Full Moon approaches. Live Pilchards will turn the Wahoo on as will live Speedos, Ballyhoo and Thread Herring.

Sailfish should be turned on as long as we have some wind around. Kite fishing with live Thread Herring, Speedos or Pilchards will attract the Sails as well as Blackfin Tuna, Bonito, Kingfish and maybe even a Dolphin. Work the area from right up on the reef out to 150 feet. If a color change or a rip sets up work both sides as bait will be corralled in those areas.

Gulf fishing has been very good since the water temps cooled down a little. Cobia are my main target when I fish the Gulf this time of year but Mutton Snapper, Mangrove Snapper, Kingfish and Grouper will be in the same areas. Work any rock-piles or wrecks that you have numbers for and move around if you run into hoards of Sharpnosed Sharks. A live pinfish is the best bait for a Cobia and keep a plug or fly ready in case there is a second or third fish following your hooked one.

The grouper ban is about to go into effect on Jan 1, so there is only a short time before the Atlantic is closed. The Gulf will be open for Grouper for January but will be closed as well for February and March. April will be back open in the Gulf but still closed in the Atlantic. May 1 will be open for both. Other regulation changes are pending. Deep dropping will be impacted as will Red Snapper and a host of other snapper species that will be lumped in with the Red Snapper changes. Look for the new Regs to be approved in the coming weeks. 



Fishing Report

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

Capt. Richard Burson Key Largo Backcountry

'Tis the season of Giving! Many guides set aside some time, even with all the craziness of the holidays, to give back to the community. The Key Largo Guides Association did their giving by completing their annual clean-up of the Boggies. This area is known to receive heavy traffic by our weekend anglers and it seems to receive much of the trash. We filled our bags with plastic bottles, plastic bags, aluminum cans, foam food containers and of course a large quantity of fishing line. Besides the harm these items can cause to our precious wildlife, the breakdown some of these items is more than 500 years. Please if you read this article be aware of the garbage you are leaving behind for the next generation! A big thank you goes out to Captain Chris Handson, Captain Tony Delossantos, Captain Kerry Wingo, Captain Ted Benbow, and Captain Terry Hilker. Thank you for making this cleanup a success. Your dedication to our environment is much appreciated!

Well, the weather has changed and its feeling a lot like Christmas! Finally one of the cold fronts made it all the way to the Keys! This has changed the fishing strategies for anglers. Captains will now be in search of the deeper channels. For example in Flamingo, Snake Bite would be a good choice to try your luck or at Cape Sable the deep channels that line the land will be hot during these cooler days. The bait choice will be mainly shrimp. The reason for this is because of the change of salinity due to the rain fall we receive each time a cold front enters our environment. Heavy rainfall with the accompanying drop in water salinity, have been known to cause shrimp to move into deeper waters. Shrimp will be one of the main foods for game fish during cold fronts so do not throw something into the water that looks out of place.

The fishing has been steady all around Flamingo and the Cape. Snook, Redfish and juvenile Tarpon. Bonefish have been biting pretty steady with our warm waters this week. Reports have come in of 10 pound bonefish being caught on the oceanside flats! Now that's a prize fish! The main reason for the great fishing is the ease of catching bait. Bait has been visible all week making our jobs simpler. All captains will agree there is nothing better than live bait.

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

Are you fishing yet? 



Key Largo Guides Assoc.
 Annual Clean-up.
 Captain Chris Hanson and
 Captain Rich Burson were
 eager participants.



Capt. Freidman and a leader touch release allowing
 this Sail to fight another day!



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 fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com

Capt. Ron Wagner From the Skiff



As the year comes to a close, It has been an excellent year for fishing here in paradise. Although the economy is still suffering and I do believe we are on our way to recovery, Fishing becomes even more important to families as a wonderful way to involve everyone on fishing trips. I'm not a fan of Disney World and I would hate to get in a debate on why, but taking your children, your wife or your friends on a fishing outing is far more rewarding and will bring lifelong memories. As a youngster growing up in south Florida, my Dad only had to say, "Want to go fishing?", and I would be in the car or boat like lightning. It would not make any difference as to what fish we targeted, I was going fishing with my father. As the years went by, I would be taking my wife and daughter on trips and they were more than ready. So it boils down to why we fish, the immense pleasure we get, the joy of being together as a family and

lastly the wonderful places we get to go and find fish. As we do close 2009, I really hope you get your family out in nature. Whether you're in a boat, fishing off a pier or bridge, or shore, just get out and do it. The years go by quickly and I know you will be doing the best for your family as a result.

Next - Christmas is just around the corner and I want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season. I'm a sentimental old Captain, the older I become the more I realize I have much to be thankful. There's nothing like receiving beautiful cards from anglers who remember all the grand times they had in Islamorada. Stories of years gone by, those young faces that battled the many choices of great game fish we get to go after. And there are many who are no longer with us, but live brightly in spirit. They chose to spend their life here in the Keys doing what brought us here also. I once wrote the opening story for the Redbone's first fishing contest. It was called GRANDEUR, and was about the many notables who came to fish here and today, years later, sons and daughters now return to step into and fish the same place their parents did. That's Big. That's the Keys, and there will never be anyplace that can compare.

A very merry Christmas to you and your family . . .

Sincerely - Capt. Ron & Carol Wagner 

Capt. Ron with an 11 lb. Bonefish caught and released last week. ►



Fishing Report

Captain Nick Borraccino
Noreaster Sport Fishing
NoreasterSportFishing.com
(508) 769-4189

Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon



Those of you wondering when winter would hit have your answer. Although we can't complain too much, given the conditions in some other parts of the country, we none the less are getting our first true taste of the season. It's been a typical winter week; northerly winds blowing 20 or better and temperatures hovering in the 60's. Rest assured though, the fish are still out there, even if you're not.

Most looking to fish this week did cancel because of the wind, which means there's not a whole lot to report on. One up side to cold windy weather though is that the sailfish seem to really like it! If you can stand to be out there on such days, chances are you'll find the sails up top, and feeding. The few boats that fished this week reported good success with sails. First patrol the reef on the west end of town looking for bait sprays

and frigate birds. If that doesn't seem to be active, try live baiting in 80-120 feet.

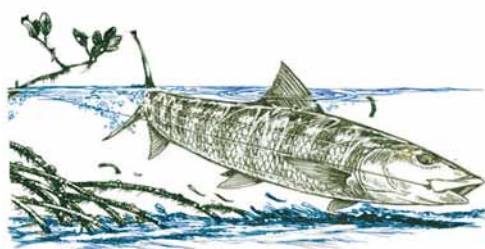
Cooling water will often times make yellowtailing slow, so if you're looking to reef fish, stick with the shallower stuff (25-40) feet, or check out some channel humps, and focus on mangroves and grouper. Also moving in to Hawk Channel any time now should be some big Kings, so try floating a live blue runner out on a balloon or kite for some exciting surface action.

I'm sure the cobia are still out in the out in the Gulf, but strong north winds are not exactly ideal for running out in the Gulf! When the wind switches and starts coming out of the east this week, look to inshore bay structures to be a good bet for getting out of the rough seas while still catching some nice snapper, grouper, and mackerel.

As you might expect, there's not much to say about offshore right now, no one I know has been out there in a while, but if I had to guess, I'd say the blackfin tuna on the humps will be biting good on the next nice day.

Hopefully Santa will bring us fisherman a few nice days before 2010, and if so, I know there will be plenty of us looking to take advantage!

Happy Holidays everyone . . . 



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Rare Find! Tri-level

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\$625,000 - MLS 548135. Nancy



12 / 16

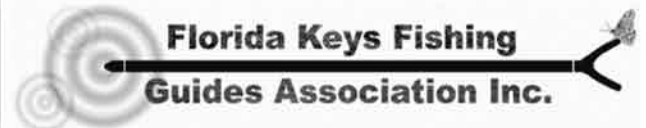
Picture-Perfect Canal Home

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 23	Wed	00:25 / 2.08 ft	06:34 / 0.68 ft	12:41 / 2.15 ft	19:07 / 0.53 ft	
Dec 24	Thu	01:15 / 2.05 ft	07:25 / 0.80 ft	13:25 / 2.09 ft	19:58 / 0.45 ft	
Dec 25	Fri	02:11 / 2.06 ft	08:23 / 0.85 ft	14:15 / 2.05 ft	20:52 / 0.32 ft	
Dec 26	Sat	03:11 / 2.10 ft	09:23 / 0.84 ft	15:11 / 2.05 ft	21:49 / 0.13 ft	
Dec 27	Sun	04:13 / 2.20 ft	10:22 / 0.75 ft	16:11 / 2.10 ft	22:44 / -0.11 ft	
Dec 28	Mon	05:13 / 2.33 ft	11:18 / 0.59 ft	17:11 / 2.20 ft	23:39 / -0.37 ft	
Dec 29	Tue	06:10 / 2.48 ft	12:12 / 0.38 ft	18:09 / 2.33 ft		
Dec 30	Wed		00:31 / -0.62 ft	07:03 / 2.63 ft	13:04 / 0.16 ft	19:05 / 2.47 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 23	Wed	01:51 / 0.74 ft	09:47 / 0.13 ft	14:51 / 0.69 ft	22:15 / 0.22 ft	
Dec 24	Thu	02:52 / 0.65 ft	10:24 / 0.17 ft	15:31 / 0.73 ft	23:30 / 0.17 ft	
Dec 25	Fri	04:07 / 0.57 ft	11:05 / 0.21 ft	16:14 / 0.77 ft		
Dec 26	Sat		00:40 / 0.09 ft	05:34 / 0.51 ft	11:51 / 0.23 ft	17:02 / 0.82 ft
Dec 27	Sun		01:43 / 0.01 ft	06:57 / 0.49 ft	12:41 / 0.23 ft	17:53 / 0.88 ft
Dec 28	Mon		02:39 / -0.08 ft	08:03 / 0.48 ft	13:32 / 0.22 ft	18:47 / 0.95 ft
Dec 29	Tue		03:30 / -0.16 ft	08:56 / 0.48 ft	14:23 / 0.20 ft	19:41 / 1.03 ft
Dec 30	Wed		04:20 / -0.22 ft	09:43 / 0.49 ft	15:14 / 0.16 ft	20:35 / 1.10 ft

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

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height
Dec 23	Wed	00:40 / 1.33 ft	07:08 / 0.16 ft	12:56 / 1.37 ft	19:41 / 0.13 ft	
Dec 24	Thu	01:30 / 1.31 ft	07:59 / 0.19 ft	13:40 / 1.33 ft	20:32 / 0.11 ft	
Dec 25	Fri	02:26 / 1.31 ft	08:57 / 0.21 ft	14:30 / 1.31 ft	21:26 / 0.08 ft	
Dec 26	Sat	03:26 / 1.34 ft	09:57 / 0.20 ft	15:26 / 1.31 ft	22:23 / 0.03 ft	
Dec 27	Sun	04:28 / 1.40 ft	10:56 / 0.18 ft	16:26 / 1.34 ft	23:18 / -0.03 ft	
Dec 28	Mon	05:28 / 1.48 ft	11:52 / 0.14 ft	17:26 / 1.40 ft		
Dec 29	Tue		00:13 / -0.09 ft	06:25 / 1.58 ft	12:46 / 0.09 ft	18:24 / 1.48 ft
Dec 30	Wed		01:05 / -0.15 ft	07:18 / 1.68 ft	13:38 / 0.04 ft	19:20 / 1.57 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 23	Wed	00:52 / 1.25 ft	08:36 / 0.22 ft	13:52 / 1.15 ft	21:04 / 0.37 ft	
Dec 24	Thu	01:53 / 1.09 ft	09:13 / 0.29 ft	14:32 / 1.22 ft	22:19 / 0.28 ft	
Dec 25	Fri	03:08 / 0.95 ft	09:54 / 0.35 ft	15:15 / 1.29 ft	23:29 / 0.16 ft	
Dec 26	Sat	04:35 / 0.85 ft	10:40 / 0.39 ft	16:03 / 1.37 ft		
Dec 27	Sun		00:32 / 0.01 ft	05:58 / 0.81 ft	11:30 / 0.39 ft	16:54 / 1.48 ft
Dec 28	Mon		01:28 / -0.14 ft	07:04 / 0.81 ft	12:21 / 0.38 ft	17:48 / 1.60 ft
Dec 29	Tue		02:19 / -0.27 ft	07:57 / 0.81 ft	13:12 / 0.33 ft	18:42 / 1.73 ft
Dec 30	Wed		03:09 / -0.37 ft	08:44 / 0.82 ft	14:03 / 0.27 ft	19:36 / 1.84 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 23	Wed	00:27 / 1.60 ft	07:13 / 0.38 ft	13:18 / 1.48 ft	19:47 / 0.59 ft	
Dec 24	Thu	01:23 / 1.39 ft	07:47 / 0.50 ft	14:00 / 1.57 ft	21:06 / 0.47 ft	
Dec 25	Fri	02:30 / 1.21 ft	08:26 / 0.61 ft	14:46 / 1.69 ft	22:15 / 0.28 ft	
Dec 26	Sat	03:52 / 1.09 ft	09:12 / 0.69 ft	15:35 / 1.82 ft	23:15 / 0.07 ft	
Dec 27	Sun	05:26 / 1.04 ft	10:03 / 0.73 ft	16:29 / 1.98 ft		
Dec 28	Mon		00:09 / -0.15 ft	06:44 / 1.05 ft	10:56 / 0.71 ft	17:24 / 2.15 ft
Dec 29	Tue		01:00 / -0.34 ft	07:40 / 1.07 ft	11:47 / 0.65 ft	18:20 / 2.31 ft
Dec 30	Wed		01:48 / -0.49 ft	08:25 / 1.10 ft	12:38 / 0.54 ft	19:15 / 2.45 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 23	Wed	00:34 / 1.51 ft	07:20 / 0.29 ft	13:30 / 1.41 ft	19:48 / 0.46 ft	
Dec 24	Thu	01:33 / 1.32 ft	07:56 / 0.39 ft	14:11 / 1.50 ft	21:05 / 0.38 ft	
Dec 25	Fri	02:47 / 1.16 ft	08:37 / 0.48 ft	14:56 / 1.60 ft	22:18 / 0.24 ft	
Dec 26	Sat	04:17 / 1.05 ft	09:24 / 0.54 ft	15:45 / 1.73 ft	23:22 / 0.07 ft	
Dec 27	Sun	05:45 / 1.03 ft	10:16 / 0.57 ft	16:38 / 1.88 ft		
Dec 28	Mon		00:19 / -0.11 ft	06:52 / 1.04 ft	11:09 / 0.56 ft	17:33 / 2.05 ft
Dec 29	Tue		01:11 / -0.27 ft	07:45 / 1.07 ft	12:01 / 0.51 ft	18:29 / 2.21 ft
Dec 30	Wed		02:00 / -0.40 ft	08:30 / 1.09 ft	12:53 / 0.42 ft	19:23 / 2.35 ft

Moon Phases

First Quarter: 12/24/09 • Full: 12/31/09
Last Quarter: 01/07/10 • New: 01/15/10

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.

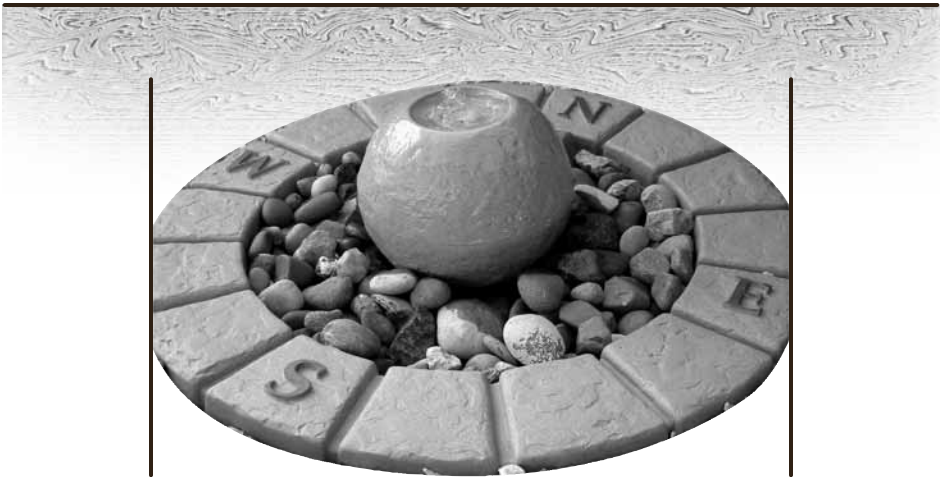


BC-Back Country • LT-Light Tackle • FL-Flats • OFF-Offshore • GF-Gulf Fishing
WR-Wreck • OVN-Overnight • MD-Multi-Day • TP-Tarpon • FLY-Fly Fishing

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 / FI / 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 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 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.captdonny.com
Captain Richard Burson www.rufishingyet.com	BC/LT/FL/GF/TP/FLY	(305) 360-3262 rufishingyet@yahoo.com
Captain Scott Keller Bad Habit Charters	OFF / BC / WR / GF	(305) 664-6678 captscott@badhabitfishingcharters.com
Capt. Z Hooked Up Charters	OFF / REEF / WR	(305) 393-6931 hookedupgladius@aol.com



Weekly Fisherman's Captain & Guide Directory reaches
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KEYS CAPTAIN & GUIDE DIRECTORY



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

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

Middle Keys

Captain / Charter

Capt. Nick Borraccino	OFF / REEF / WR	(508) 769-4189 www.noreastersportfishing.com
Capt. Steve "Coach" Demuth	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	BC / LT / FL / GF / WR / OVN / MD / TP / FLY	(305) 451-5903 captainjeff@DocksideCharters.com
Dockside Charters		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	OFF / GULF / REEF	(305) 509-1547 www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com
Daytime / Nighttime Swordfishing Trips		
Capt. Andrew Tipler	BC / FL / OFF / REEF	(305) 744-9796 www.lastcastcharters.com
Last Cast Charters		
Capt. Tony Taverna	OFF / REEF / INSHORE	(631) 355-9344 www.morningstarsportfishingcharters.net
Morning Star Sportfishing		
Capt. Luke Kelly	FL / FLY / LT / BC / TP	(305) 304-3152 www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com
keyflat@mac.com		
Capt. Barry / Capt. James	OFF / REEF / WR	(305) 407-4381
Eva Marie Sportfishing	bgandrews18@aol.com	(305) 304-6283

Big Pine Key to Key West

Contact Info

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




Happy holidays everyone. It is usually pretty quiet down here the week before Christmas and it seems that this year is following normal trends. With a fresh blanket of snow in the northeast, we are pretty cozy down here in paradise.

The sailfish action has been steady with 2-4 fish as a daily average. Most of the fish were found tucking up along the edge of the reef. Putting the time in with slow trolling live baits has produced some nice action with kings and dolphin, while waiting to be attacked by wolfpacks of sails. During midday, the bite has slowed and I would recommend dropping down on wrecks and the edge of the reef for some mutton and grouper action until later in the day, when the sails pick back up again. There have been some sprays from bait showers inside the reef from 20-40 feet of

water. Using your tower you will see if the showers are from mackerels or sails. There has been a great push of mackerels in the shallows.

The mackerel fishing has picked up considerably since last week. Hoards of Spanish and cero mackerel have been feasting on the abundant bait from inside of Hawks Channel out to the patches. Trolling spoons or medium size crank baits works really well to help locate a big school. Once you have located a big school you anchor up and chum. While you're chumming you can use shrimp, which seems to be the best bait for them, small pilchards, chunks and strips to have fun with these guys on light tackle. You can even use your fly rod, which is pretty cool as the mackerel scream line off of your flimsy noodle of a rod. The current allotment is 15 per person, but you can't freeze this fish, so keep only as many as you can eat fresh or put in the smoker. They do make some of the best smoked fish when done right, like what my buddy Chris Kilmas makes. I have been smoking fish for a long time and his blows past me. I gave him some this past weekend – I can't wait till it gets done.

This time of the year we get heavy north winds which tends to keep people from fishing. This isn't always necessary if you knew about the great fishing we have in Hawks Channel and on the patches. You might have to move around a bit until you find a good spot when you do, man-o-man it can be some exciting fishing, never knowing what will swim by next. Big sharks, cobia, grouper, kingfish, mackerel, all kinds of snappers, use Hawks Channel as a super-highway. The fish find rock piles scattered through the channel and use them as feeding stations, kinda like our rest stops on the turnpike. You never want to fish on top of the rock pile but instead anchor alongside. If you don't produce anything after half an hour, move to another one until you find the fish. Sometimes the fish will come to you, if you chum long enough. 



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.

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.

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, visit redbone.org or write to P.O. Box 273, Islamorada FL 33036.

Jan. 27-28: Islamorada Fishing Club Sailfish Tournament. Islamorada. The historic fishing club offers a \$30,000 winner-take-all cash prize in this sailfish challenge. The tournament is limited to 30 boats. Contact Dianne Harbaugh at (305) 852-2102 or (305) 664-4725, e-mail fishing@theislamoradafishingclub.com or visit theislamoradafishingclub.com.



Congratulations *Kay K* for winning the decorating contest during Whale Harbor's Lighting of the Fleet celebration.

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Quick Note on Photography . . .

Please submit your photos in RGB format, with the largest pixel dimension (width X height) set to at least 1600, or the highest "quality" setting. Photos from camera phones generally are not big enough, or steady enough (too blurry). Please do not adjust (Photoshop) files.

We strive to publish the best photo of your beautiful catch . . .
 Send your e-mail to: editor@weeklyfisherman.com – Thanks!