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Vol. XII • Issue 6

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Chuck, and his son Dr. Dan, Mielcurski caught a nice mutton snapper while sailfishing with Capt. Mathias on the *Restless Too* out of Whale Harbor Marina. They caught and released seven sailfish!

December 30th, 2009

Volume XII, Issue 6

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## Sport Fishing for Greater Amberjack Set to Re-open in Gulf Federal Waters . . .

The recreational harvest of greater amberjack from federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico will reopen on Jan. 1. Federal waters extend beyond 9 nautical miles from shore in the Gulf off Florida.

The National Marine Fisheries Service closed the recreational harvest of greater amberjack in these waters on Oct. 24 because an established annual recreational harvest quota for greater amberjack in the Gulf had been met. Gulf state waters (within 9 nautical miles from shore) were not closed and remain open to the recreational harvest of greater amberjack.

Recreational anglers may keep one greater amberjack of at least 30 inches fork length daily per person in Gulf waters off Florida, and the fish must be landed in a whole condition.

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Send your photos to: [editor@weeklyfisherman.com](mailto:editor@weeklyfisherman.com)

Thanks!

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# 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](http://www.sweetenufcharters.com) [sweetenufcharter@aol.com](mailto:sweetenufcharter@aol.com)

## Capt. Dave Schugar Marathon




Flags flying from both sets of riggers is always a good sign. That's right lots and lots of sailfish this week. I talked with a few buddies from up the road who had multiple days of double digits. I was able to get out there and get 2-11 one day and 8-11 another day. I had a lot of mishaps the first day, but we got it together on the second day. Sometimes clients who have never fished for sails before can be a little frustrating, but hey, if they have fun, that's the goal. You have to let the fish eat and sometimes letting the line fly off of the reel is the last thing inexperienced anglers will let happen. We lost a few fish this way and the others we had just came unglued after a while. All in all we had a great time and these people will never forget the constant sailfish action.

I had better luck late in the afternoon with the sailfish. It just might have been the fact that we ended up ten miles down the road where we

had all of our sailfish bites. The bite was absolutely off the chain from 12:00 to 4:00 out in front of Bahia Honda. 90 feet of water was the zone, no bites past 100 feet, and if you got inside of 90 feet you got ate up by the mackerel. I had a great drift because I never put the engines in gear, I just pointed the boat down sea and turned on the autopilot and away we went for an eight-hour trip. I could have turned the engines off, but I like to have at least one running to keep up the juice to my batteries for the bait-well. We caught a few kings while we were trolling, nothing huge but decent fish from 10-18 pounds.

The reef took a nosedive later this week but no worries - it will return soon. Early in the week, the yellowtails were hot, along with a few grouper and plenty of cero mackerel, if you wanted to catch them. Some muttons were caught on the bottom and flat-lining, while anchored up. If you're not getting any bites while you're yellow tailing, try and drop down in leader to produce some muttons and shy bottom fish.

Looking to get out and catch a broadbill, then get out there while the bite is still hot. Many reports are coming in about how great the fishing has been for them. Picking the right weather is essential for daytime sword fishing success. Many people are a little intimidated with this style of fishing, but it really isn't that hard. Just get out there and do it. Big Time Bait and Tackle and Cudjoe Sales are very knowledgeable and are glad to get you set up with all the equipment and terminal tack required for these tasty fish. While you're out there, the tunas have been biting at the humps, but watch out for the sharks, they have been bad on some days. Jigging and live baiting have been the only way to get the bigger fish, but if you troll there are some smaller ones ready to engulf one of your feathers (or all of them).

Good luck and Happy New Year. For those of you that want to learn or just want to catch fish, please call soon, my calendar has been filling up fast for the next two months. 

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# Fishing Report

Brought to you courtesy of  
Capt. Andrew Tipler.  
To fish with Capt. Andrew,  
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## Capt. Andrew Tipler Lower Keys



First, I hope everyone out there had a wonderful holiday. This past week dropped water temps down quite a bit. This is just what we needed to pick up the offshore fishing, but bad news for the big 3 of the flats. Weather patterns like this are typical this time of year and are followed by bluebird days, perfect weather to be out on the water.

Sailfishing remained fair through the week with most of the fish in very shallow water. It is common to see sailfish chasing schools of ballyhoo right on top of the reef. Having a well full of live ballyhoo means you're in for a good day. Look for bait showers in 10-50 ft of water along the reef edge. Diving birds are a dead giveaway to the action. If you have never sight-fished sails in 20 ft of clear water, now is your chance.

Just about everything that swims along the reef has a taste for ballyhoo. Muttons and grouper will even come to the surface to feed on a live bait. Send one to the bottom on a long length of leader to get attention from the muttons. Big grouper will also eat live ballyhoo and the season comes to an end January 1st, so get one while you still can.

The patch reef fishing continues to be very good. Nothing of major size here, but they make up for that by sheer numbers. Scale down your tackle to make it sporting. There is a chance a cobia or two could come by, so have a spinner with a live pinfish handy. Use a small pinfish to avoid tiny bait thieves.

Gulf fishing has been getting better and better as water temps drop. Schools of cobia have been swarming on most nearshore wrecks and rock piles. Live pinfish are hard to beat, but for ultimate excitement break out a fly rod.

Flats fishing for tarpon, bonefish and permit takes a nose dive after a strong front passes. The bonefishing had been red-hot right until the weather arrived. Once water temps come back up, the permit will move back onto the flats first. With the cooler temps, target sharks, big barracudas and trout. Look for the 'cudas to be laid up in sandy potholes on just about every flat. Toss a 'cuda tube or plastic jerk baits like the Sebile Magic Swimmer. Work it fast, and when one follows, speed up. Don't hesitate to throw at a school of jacks, if they happen past. Chum in the big sharks with your fresh-caught barracuda. Look for deeper flats with large muds to find the trout. Live shrimp on jigs, or soft plastics, get the nod of approval here.

Good luck and good fishing. 🐟

# Unknown Critic

Who says the glass is always half full? Our Unknown Critic certainly doesn't agree! If you are one of those positive people, hopefully you will get a giggle out of him, and if you are a crabby critic yourself, please drop him a line. You can reach the Unknown Critic at [critic@weeklyfisherman.com](mailto:critic@weeklyfisherman.com), with complaints, comments and all those things that tick you off!



## From "somewhere" in the Keys . . .

Christmas . . .

I know, its family obligations and it's supposed to be all about the kids, right? But what about ME?????

Thank god it's over! YES! Now I can finally go fishing. If only the weather cooperates.

I just want to get back on the water and try out some of that new tackle I had to buy myself for Christmas. That's right; I bought stuff for MYSELF for Christmas. The wife and kids haven't got a clue what I want or need. No, sir. From them I got things like a little clip-on-a-book light for reading, coffee cup, and a couple DVD's. What kind of a useless SH\*T is that? Actually, I do like the coffee cup. It has a non-slip bottom for the boat.

My wife. She must have wanted this stuff for herself, so she uses me for an excuse to buy them. That's fine with me. Two can play that game. And I am a Master at it!

I knew she would love the Penn Liveline Rod and Reel combo I bought her for a present this year! I actually liked the idea so much (and love her so much) I thought, why the hell not, and made it a pair of them. Hope she finds them handy when she's gardening (her favorite pastime when she should be cleaning the house). Oh well, maybe not. As storage space is a problem at our house (and the garden shed is full) we'll just have to keep them handy here on my boat! Hey, come to think of it, maybe she needs a kite setup for her birthday? And I am pretty sure that my kids each want a downrigger for their next birthday, too!! WOW, I think I have finally caught the Christmas Spirit! Now I can't wait till next year! Hope you all had as good of a Christmas as I did.

Stay safe and go Fish! 🐟



This is Victor Braegger from Bayamon, Puerto Rico aboard the *Fish Tales* out of Whale Harbor Marina with Capt. Ron Allen and Mate Jeremy Pfaffendorf.



# 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



The new year has arrived and with it will come some excellent opportunities for a lot of great angling choices. The gulf waters should start to get red hot as Cobia, Mackerel, Tripletail and Snapper become some of your best choices. Bring plenty of chum as there are no tackle shops out here and if your not chumming, you will soon lose the fish you were seeking. Why run short when if you have any left over, just refreeze it for another time. Stop along your journey for catching plenty of Pinfish or pilchards. Then hit your favorite areas for rod bending action.

I will generally hit about 6 spots while out there and some days find several that hold the most fish. Along those spots I'm always on the lookout for tripletail that will be on the numerous buoys marking the stone crab traps. They not only are fun to catch but for table fare, they

are unmatched. Most spots will be holding those goliath grouper which seem to be everywhere you go. Stout tackle is needed for a quick battle and release. I like to use 30-40 lb. outfits, big circle hooks and whatever live bait I might catch there from Blue Runners, Jack Crevalles or Lane snappers. Many of my anglers like a variety of fish while chartering my boat, so to please them with a great catch makes the return to the dock a happy one.

Flamingo will also become a favorite place to be now for Snook, Redfish, Trout Etc. Cooler water temps will have fish congregating in the numerous channels and run offs and finding the right one will be a bonanza. Throwing Bucktail jigs or drifting live bait will bring a lot of action. Theres no telling what will be hitting but I assure you the fun is out there. You could catch a good number of Snook at any time, Hit a good school of Redfish or Black Drum Possibly any place you are. O,h sure some of the favorite areas can be best but not always. To find a new honey hole is rewarding and your personal secret untill others might spot you. If I was to fish my best places for any length of time, they would become mediocre fairly quickly. I,m always on the prowl out back. Do I know exactly where I will be heading in the morning. NO. Things change rapidly from barometric pressure, winds and tides and I do not dwell on that the night before. I'd rather get a good nights sleep, But the minute that motor is leaving the dock the next morning, I just look around and get a good feel of just where I should be heading. Want to go, just see me at the dock.

Tight Lines Anglers . . . 



## Florida Keys Roundup

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



## Capt. Greg Eklund Islamorada Offshore

Happy New Year! Fishing for Sailfish off of Islamorada has been very good during the last week. This couldn't come at a better time as the entire fleet is busy entertaining the holiday crowds. The Sails have been feeding along the edge of the reef from 30 to 150 feet on Ballyhoo, Cigar minnows and Sardines. Many of the local crews have been using kites to present baits to the Sails as they migrate by Islamorada on their way south to Mexico where they will spend the coldest days of winter. Kite fishing is a great way to present baits to the Sailfish as it removes the bulk of the tackle from the water and adds an element of stealth to your presentation.

Sailfish are not the only fish in town right now with a taste for our bait schools. Several people have been seeing a fair number of Wahoo this past week. These speedy members of the Mackerel family are some of December 30th, 2009

the fastest fish in the ocean and double as some great eats, too. They have been ranging in size from 25 to 50 pounds but this time of year there can be a few larger fish upwards of 75 pounds.

In addition to the Wahoos, there have been large numbers of King Mackerel and Blackfin Tuna. These fish add some great variety to the fleets catches this time of year and are really entertaining on light tackle. The Bottom fishing has been picking up lately. I saw three Black Groupers on the dock today between 12 and 30 pounds, with only a few days of legal grouper fishing left in 2009 you better hurry to your favorite grouper spots and get a few while you still can. Some of this great Grouper action is happening on the area wrecks and "secret spots" as well as along areas of patch reef inside the primary reef line. These patch areas have also been producing some great Yellowtail Snapper action as well as a few Mangrove, Mutton, and Lane Snapper. All of these make for great action and are excellent table fair at the end of the day.

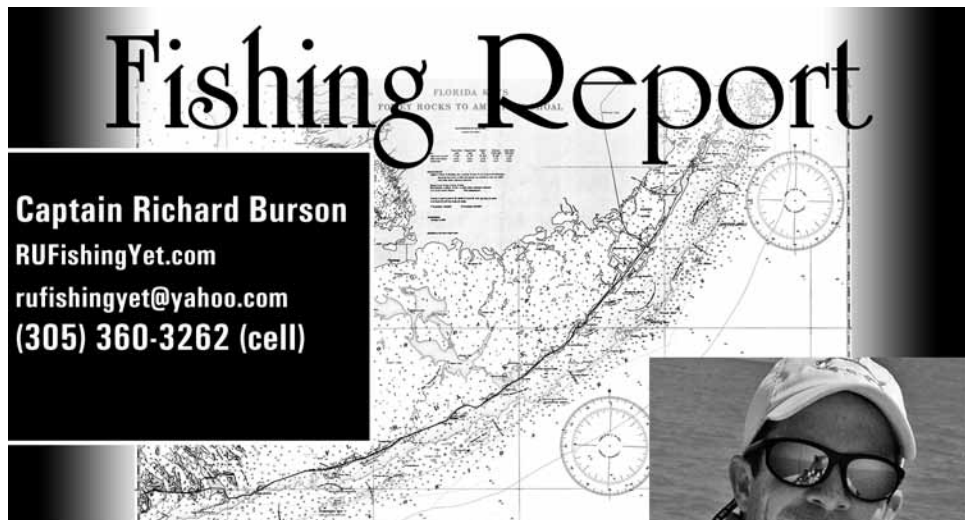
December and January are great months to fish the reef for Sailfish and a variety of these other great light tackle quarries here in Islamorada. Whether you live here or are just in town for a visit, a day exploring the rich fishing grounds off of Islamorada is really a lot of fun. If I can help you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

Have a great week and enjoy this great fishing! 



# Fishing Report

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



## Capt. Richard Burson Key Largo Backcountry

Christmas has come and gone, however Florida Key's fishing is here to stay! Some people ask me what makes the Florida Keys such a special fishing spot. Maybe it's because the Florida Keys are located in the most biologically diverse area of the Atlantic Ocean. The Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean surround the islands, while the warm waters of the Gulf Stream pass close by. The ocean surrounding the Keys contains more species of fish than anywhere else in the Atlantic! A fishing trip here in the Florida Keys is sure to be successful. This past week was no exception. The bite has been spectacular for Snook, Redfish, Speckled Sea Trout, Goliath Grouper, Mackerel, Jack Crevell, Cobia and the occasional Blue Fish.

Jack and Ida from Louisiana (who stayed at the beautiful and unique Kona Kai Resort here in Key Largo) had their luck with the Snook! We caught approximately ten great-sized Snook. I have to say that Ida caught the most Snook. It frequently happens that the novice fisherman catches more fish than the more experienced one because they do not have the instinct to set the hook. I cannot tell you how many times that a prize fish was lost by the angler ripping the bait right out of the fish's mouth. We used 10 lb Power Pro braided line with a 40 lb floral carbon leader to ensure the catch. Large shrimp were used as bait – hook the shrimp through the bottom of the mouth and up through the head. The fish were

caught under the mangroves in the deep channels that surround the islands, while the water temperatures were still hovering in the low 60's.

Later in the week we caught numerous Redfish by using a 1/8 oz Chartreuse Hook-Up Lure. Shrimp were thrown up-current and worked back to the boat slowly, as the fish are still a bit lethargic (due to low water temperatures). If you are unlucky with the shrimp, try using a Berkley Gulp Shrimp. The Speckled Sea Trout were happening this week, too! When targeting trout, don't forget a special weapon - they are attracted by the popping sound that either a popping cork or a Cajun Thunder makes while being dragged through the water. We caught most Speckled Sea Trout on the grassy flats around the Flamingo area. We used 3ft of 30lb leader below the cork, and a 1/4 oz weight located just above a 2.0 circle hook.

Finally, the Mackerel, Bluefish and Cobia were caught about 1 to 3 miles past Springer Bank. When catching Mackerel it is important not to forget your wire leader because of their sharp teeth. We caught them using about 8-10 inches of 40 lb wire leader on the end of the line. All of these fish make being on the water a joy for me everyday!

Regardless of your interest in fishing, the scenery alone is worth a day on the water. It is expected that your fishing guide knows a great deal about the ecosystem here in the Florida Keys. He or she could not do their job successfully if they did not understand the combined physical and biological components plus the complexity of the way they interact. A trip on the water will open your eyes to a new way of seeing the world. You will see many beautiful islands peppering the landscape, with beautiful rare birds, playful dolphin, sluggish manatee, filtering sponges, elegant Sting Ray, and hopefully your most prized catch! Getting on the water is the best thing you can do to relieve all of that holiday stress!

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

Are You Fishing Yet? 



Adrien on her Honeymoon and Capt. Burson.



Jack from Louisiana and Capt. Burson.

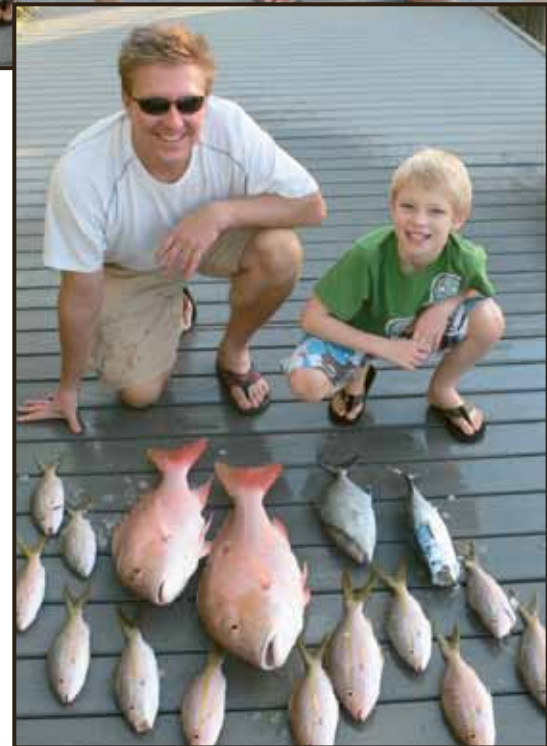




Chad Wangen (left) helps Brian Dybas (Brighton, MI) hold his first-ever sailfish caught while fishing with Capt. Bill Hardy (out of Port Antigua). Brian was back throwing snowballs in Michigan later that day!



Fishing off Jeff Dupre's *Contender*, Ezra Jimenez holds a nice sailfish caught in just 20 ft of water at Crocker Reef in Islamorada.



Alex Blackburn and son Logan Blackburn had a great time catching Yellow Tail and Mutton Snapper with Capt. Paul Suarez on the *Affinity*.



James Taylor with Rainbow Parrot caught on *Affinity* owned by Logan Blackburn.



Joe Gregoria (with his son Dave) showing a black grouper caught on a live pin fish in 60 ft. of water between American Shoal and the Bush wreck off of Summerland.



# Fishing Report

**Capt. Joe Petrucco of Killer Instinct Charters, located at Morgan's Fiesta Key RV Resort Islamorada / Long Key – MM70. To fish with Capt. Joe, call (305) 304-4580, or visit [www.killerinstinctcharters.com](http://www.killerinstinctcharters.com) [joepetrucco@yahoo.com](mailto:joepetrucco@yahoo.com)**

## Capt. Joe Petrucco Islamorada Offshore



Merry Christmas everyone! I hope that everyone had a blessed and merry Christmas this year. We had a fantastic Holiday with our families here in the Keys. Everyone is excited to get out on the water “catching” for the big vacation. All of us fishermen are fired up to get out too!

The weather looks great for the week and there should be plenty of sailfish migrating down the reef. Last week was a good one as many sailfish are still pouring through our waters. Anyone can catch one if you are willing to put in your time and to be patient. The key is to have good live baits in the right location. The location is not such a hard thing as long as one is patient. Just get your live baits and slowly work the edge of the reef from 40 feet out to 200 feet. The fish are migrating down so if you wait them out one will come to you.

So many factors will help increase the odds but you have to start somewhere and time and experience will teach you the rest. Of course you can book a charter with any one of many fine captains and learn firsthand how it is done. A kite system can also be deployed to increase the drawing power to your spread. A sailfish is a real sucker for the kite. The kite can be tricky. The secret is to buy the finest gear you can afford and use circle hooks. Nothing will irritate you more than a kite that will not fly. I have had good luck with the Lewis kites but you have to match the wind speeds exactly. If you can only afford one kite, than I would recommend the SFE kite. You can get one at Caribee in either red or green. In the long run it will be much less expensive. Ask one of the sales guys (or in Caribee's case, girls) to show you how to set it up and get out and have some fun. The kite can be complicated but it is really fun and interactive. I can't take my eyes off of it when it is out. If you watch diligently, you will be rewarded with visions of bills attacking goggle eyes dancing in your heads! Don't forget to use a circle hook as this will increase your odds at a solid hook-up. I like the VMC 8/0 circle. You can find them at World Wide Sportsman.

Have a fantastic week everyone! I'll see you out on the water. 🐟



Jessica and Capt. Joe Petrucco with Jess' first sail onboard the new 40' Seahunter.



# 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) [steve@afishingguide.com](mailto:steve@afishingguide.com)**

## Capt. Steve Friedman Islamorada



The high winds that came through this week made for some challenging backcountry fishing. Colder water temperatures made the fish sluggish first thing in the morning, but once the sun got to its apex the bite turned on. This was evident in the Flamingo area where the fish were biting in the first part of the falling tide and into the rise. The best tactic was very slowly bouncing a live shrimp and 1/4 ounce jig off the bottom. Berkley Gulp also proved effective using this maneuver. Redfish, Jacks, Ladyfish, Speckled Sea Trout, Black Drum and Snook all fell victim to this technique when the tide was right.

Goliath Groupers didn't seem to mind the cooler temperatures or high winds a bit. They were found close to deep drop-offs along mangrove shorelines that held lots of debris. When pilchards, live shrimp and live

pinfish were cast up-current and allowed to float by the gaping mouth of a big grouper, they were swallowed up. We caught them up to 30 pounds, with the smallest around 5 pounds – lively fun on light tackle. This is where braided line really makes the difference. This environment holds a variety of obstacles that easily shreds and breaks monofilament. But 10-pound test braid was all it took to successfully land multiple grouper before their boat side release.

Once the wind dropped to a more tolerable level, I was able to get back out to the reef and patches. The bait was still plentiful and Ballyhoo, Pilchards and Cigar Minnows seemed to be the taste du jour. When the wind pours out of the north churning up the reef waters, it's a great time to fish on patches close to shore. The coral heads can hold a variety of Snapper and Grouper, which tend to be less wary and much more aggressive with the bite in the murky water. On one patch we started to use cut Ballyhoo and caught Mangrove Snapper up to 3 pounds, and some undersized Mutton Snapper right from the get go. I switched to a 3/8 ounce jig, added a live pilchard and the grouper bite was on fire. In about a half-hour we caught Black, Red, and Gag Grouper up to about 28". It was another great opportunity to break out the light tackle.

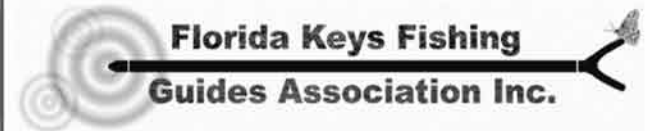
With the stronger moon tides and water temperatures reaching for the low seventies, I expect the Bonefish and Permit to appear again on the flats around Islamorada. When the water cools they tend to stay in deeper channels. This makes sight fishing very difficult but dead baiting can be very effective. Especially with some murky water and good tides, Bonefish and Permit will pick up on the scent of the shrimp or crabs that are soaking on the bottom and eat with reckless abandon. Be ready for a wandering Bonnet-head Shark or Stingray. In any case, a bent rod is a good time. 🐟



# 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 30	Wed		00:31 / -0.62 ft	07:03 / 2.63 ft	13:04 / 0.16 ft	19:05 / 2.47 ft
Dec 31	Thu		01:24 / -0.82 ft	07:54 / 2.75 ft	13:56 / -0.07 ft	20:00 / 2.63 ft
Jan 1	Fri		02:15 / -0.98 ft	08:42 / 2.87 ft	14:46 / -0.34 ft	20:53 / 2.71 ft
Jan 2	Sat		03:06 / -0.98 ft	09:30 / 2.90 ft	15:37 / -0.48 ft	21:46 / 2.74 ft
Jan 3	Sun		03:58 / -0.88 ft	10:18 / 2.87 ft	16:29 / -0.56 ft	22:40 / 2.71 ft
Jan 4	Mon		04:51 / -0.67 ft	11:07 / 2.78 ft	17:24 / -0.58 ft	23:35 / 2.63 ft
Jan 5	Tue		05:47 / -0.41 ft	11:57 / 2.64 ft	18:20 / -0.53 ft	
Jan 6	Wed	00:31 / 2.52 ft	06:45 / -0.12 ft	12:49 / 2.48 ft	19:18 / -0.44 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 30	Wed		04:20 / -0.22 ft	09:43 / 0.49 ft	15:14 / 0.16 ft	20:35 / 1.10 ft
Dec 31	Thu		05:08 / -0.25 ft	10:26 / 0.50 ft	16:05 / 0.12 ft	21:30 / 1.15 ft
Jan 1	Fri		05:53 / -0.25 ft	11:04 / 0.56 ft	17:01 / 0.08 ft	22:23 / 1.15 ft
Jan 2	Sat		06:37 / -0.22 ft	11:45 / 0.60 ft	17:57 / 0.05 ft	23:15 / 1.11 ft
Jan 3	Sun		07:21 / -0.17 ft	12:25 / 0.65 ft	18:55 / 0.04 ft	
Jan 4	Mon	00:10 / 1.01 ft	08:03 / -0.10 ft	13:07 / 0.71 ft	19:59 / 0.03 ft	
Jan 5	Tue	01:06 / 0.88 ft	08:44 / -0.03 ft	13:50 / 0.76 ft	21:09 / 0.03 ft	
Jan 6	Wed	02:08 / 0.73 ft	09:27 / 0.05 ft	14:37 / 0.81 ft	22:25 / 0.02 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 30	Wed		01:05 / -0.15 ft	07:18 / 1.68 ft	13:38 / 0.04 ft	19:20 / 1.57 ft
Dec 31	Thu		01:58 / -0.20 ft	08:09 / 1.76 ft	14:30 / -0.02 ft	20:15 / 1.67 ft
Jan 1	Fri		02:49 / -0.23 ft	08:57 / 1.83 ft	15:20 / -0.08 ft	21:08 / 1.73 ft
Jan 2	Sat		03:40 / -0.24 ft	09:45 / 1.85 ft	16:11 / -0.12 ft	22:01 / 1.75 ft
Jan 3	Sun		04:32 / -0.21 ft	10:33 / 1.83 ft	17:03 / -0.14 ft	22:55 / 1.73 ft
Jan 4	Mon		05:25 / -0.16 ft	11:22 / 1.77 ft	17:58 / -0.14 ft	23:50 / 1.68 ft
Jan 5	Tue		06:21 / -0.10 ft	12:12 / 1.68 ft	18:54 / -0.13 ft	
Jan 6	Wed	00:46 / 1.60 ft	07:19 / -0.03 ft	13:04 / 1.58 ft	19:52 / -0.11 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 30	Wed		03:09 / -0.37 ft	08:44 / 0.82 ft	14:03 / 0.27 ft	19:36 / 1.84 ft
Dec 31	Thu		03:57 / -0.42 ft	09:27 / 0.84 ft	14:54 / 0.20 ft	20:31 / 1.92 ft
Jan 1	Fri		04:42 / -0.42 ft	10:05 / 0.93 ft	15:50 / 0.14 ft	21:24 / 1.93 ft
Jan 2	Sat		05:26 / -0.37 ft	10:46 / 1.00 ft	16:46 / 0.09 ft	22:16 / 1.85 ft
Jan 3	Sun		06:10 / -0.29 ft	11:26 / 1.09 ft	17:44 / 0.07 ft	23:11 / 1.69 ft
Jan 4	Mon		06:52 / -0.17 ft	12:08 / 1.19 ft	18:48 / 0.06 ft	
Jan 5	Tue	00:07 / 1.47 ft	07:33 / -0.04 ft	12:51 / 1.28 ft	19:58 / 0.05 ft	
Jan 6	Wed	01:09 / 1.21 ft	08:16 / 0.08 ft	13:38 / 1.35 ft	21:14 / 0.04 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 30	Wed		01:48 / -0.49 ft	08:25 / 1.10 ft	12:38 / 0.54 ft	19:15 / 2.45 ft
Dec 31	Thu		02:35 / -0.59 ft	09:06 / 1.13 ft	13:29 / 0.42 ft	20:10 / 2.52 ft
Jan 1	Fri		03:18 / -0.62 ft	09:44 / 1.23 ft	14:26 / 0.29 ft	21:02 / 2.50 ft
Jan 2	Sat		04:01 / -0.57 ft	10:22 / 1.32 ft	15:21 / 0.20 ft	21:54 / 2.38 ft
Jan 3	Sun		04:43 / -0.46 ft	11:02 / 1.42 ft	16:20 / 0.14 ft	22:46 / 2.15 ft
Jan 4	Mon		05:26 / -0.29 ft	11:42 / 1.54 ft	17:25 / 0.11 ft	23:40 / 1.86 ft
Jan 5	Tue		06:08 / -0.09 ft	12:24 / 1.65 ft	18:37 / 0.08 ft	
Jan 6	Wed	00:38 / 1.52 ft	06:51 / 0.11 ft	13:08 / 1.74 ft	19:54 / 0.05 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 30	Wed		02:00 / -0.40 ft	08:30 / 1.09 ft	12:53 / 0.42 ft	19:23 / 2.35 ft
Dec 31	Thu		02:47 / -0.47 ft	09:12 / 1.12 ft	13:45 / 0.32 ft	20:17 / 2.42 ft
Jan 1	Fri		03:30 / -0.51 ft	09:50 / 1.22 ft	14:41 / 0.21 ft	21:08 / 2.40 ft
Jan 2	Sat		04:14 / -0.47 ft	10:30 / 1.29 ft	15:36 / 0.14 ft	22:00 / 2.28 ft
Jan 3	Sun		04:56 / -0.38 ft	11:10 / 1.39 ft	16:34 / 0.09 ft	22:53 / 2.06 ft
Jan 4	Mon		05:37 / -0.25 ft	11:51 / 1.49 ft	17:37 / 0.07 ft	23:49 / 1.78 ft
Jan 5	Tue		06:19 / -0.09 ft	12:34 / 1.60 ft	18:46 / 0.06 ft	
Jan 6	Wed	00:50 / 1.47 ft	07:01 / 0.08 ft	13:20 / 1.68 ft	20:02 / 0.05 ft	

## Moon Phases

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

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.



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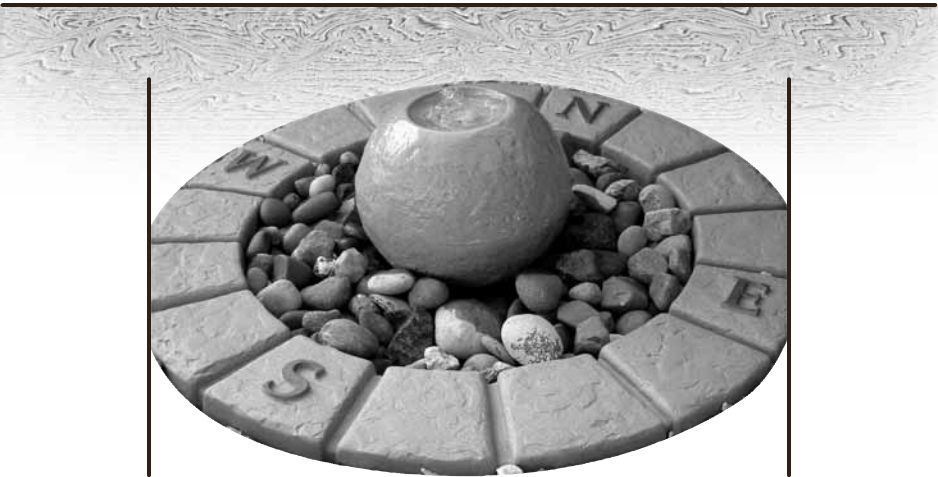


BC-Back Country • LT-Light Tackle • FL-Flats • OFF-Offshore • GF-Gulf Fishing  
WR-Wreck • OVN-Overnight • MD-Multi-Day • TP-Tarpon • FLY-Fly Fishing

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

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 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 whereisdli@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
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



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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
Dockside Charters		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	OFF / GULF / REEF	(305) 509-1547
Daytime / Nighttime Swordfishing Trips		www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com
Capt. Andrew Tipler	BC / FL / OFF / REEF	(305) 744-9796
Last Cast Charters		www.lastcastcharters.com
Capt. Tony Taverna	OFF / REEF / INSHORE	(631) 355-9344
Morning Star Sportfishing		www.morningstarsportfishingcharters.net
Capt. Luke Kelly	FL / FLY / LT / BC / TP	(305) 304-3152
keyflat@mac.com		www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.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

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



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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.





# 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).**

**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.

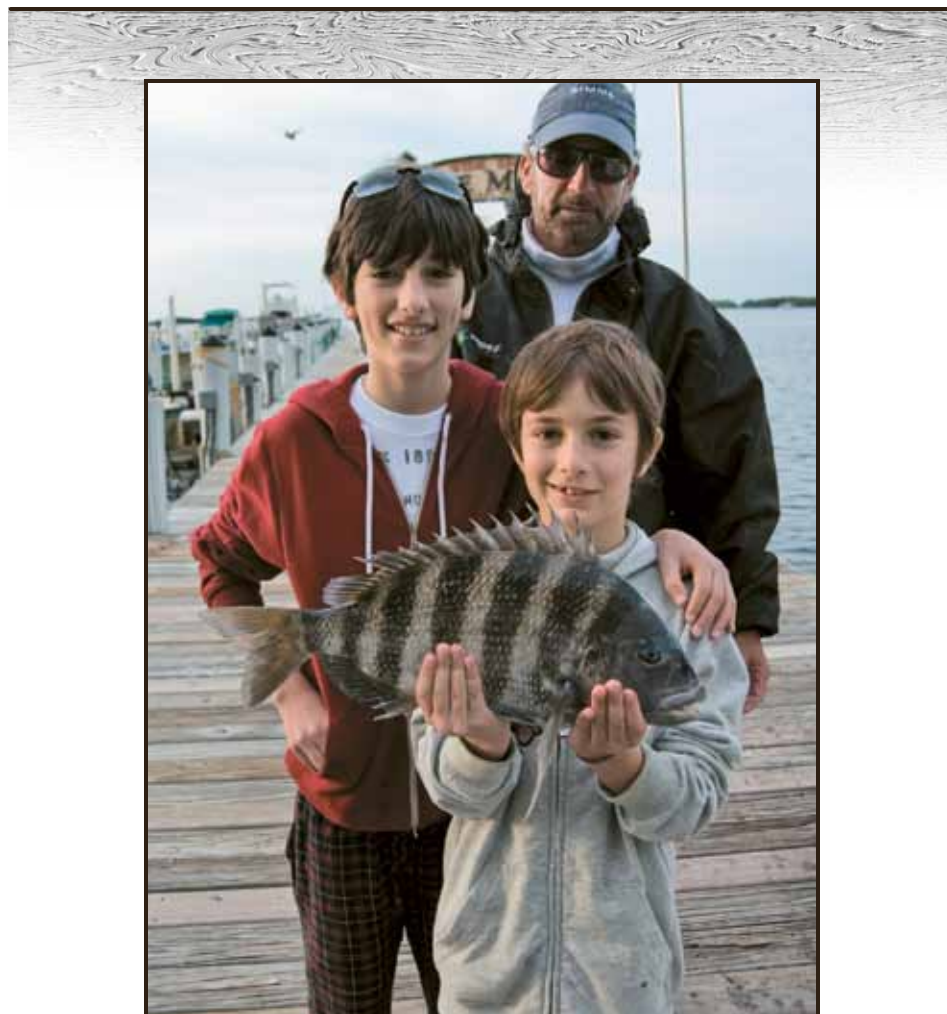
**Jan. 15-17: Key Largo Sailfish Challenge.** Key Largo. Anglers battle sailfish during the peak of the season. The tournament also features raffles, drawings and cash prizes. Contact Tammie Gurgiolo at (305) 852-9337 or e-mail [fishnbully@msn.com](mailto:fishnbully@msn.com).

**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.

**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](mailto:fishing@theislamoradafishingclub.com) or visit [theislamoradafishingclub.com](http://theislamoradafishingclub.com).



Jake and Luke Mandelbaum of Islamorada caught this Sheepshead with Capt. John Guastavino out of World Wide Sportsman.



Zachary Bishop, Lola, Nikki, Simone and Adriana Delatorre, plus Noah Bishop after fishing with Capt. Z.



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