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Greg Friedman and Tony Herner both from Chicago enjoy a day of pre-fishing in the Everglades for the 20th Annual Swamp Guides Ball Tournament with Capt. Steve Friedman.

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1st Place – *Get Lit*▲ 3rd Place – *Close Call*◀ 2nd Place – *My Sea Cin*

20th Annual Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament . . .

. . . held January 22-23, 2010, was a great success!

108 anglers on a total of 29 boats entered the tournament this year and cumulatively hooked up 208 Sails, releasing 161 of those and tagging a total of 23 fish!

At the end of the two-day tournament, Kitt Toomey walked away the Grand Champion, with a total of 20 fish on the *Get Lit* with Captain Quinton Dieterle, and fellow anglers Peter Miller, Jon Cooper and Cap Hinkley.

In second place with 10 Sails were Stephan Orton, Ken Stevens and Randy Towe aboard the *My Sea Cin*, with the help of Captain Raymond Biaz and Mate Rich Gulla.

Third place went to the *Close Call*, Captain Albanz and anglers Scott Stokey, Randy Hamilton, Spencer Cannon and George Clark, Jr.; Fourth place, with 8 was the *Contagious*.

4th Place – *Contagious*

A visiting film crew had some Key Largo fun while Sailfishing with mate Alex Ross.

41lb. African Pompano caught at the Eagle with a cigar minnow aboard Capt. Glen Miller's *GonFishin V* out of Bud n' Mary's Marina. Pictured is Grant Smith (left) from Albany, NY with mate Sam Worden.

Fishing Report

Capt. Dave Schugar
of Sweet Enuf Charters
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If you would like to fish
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Capt. Dave Schugar Marathon

Well, I had to converse with my friends and other charter captains to get this week's report because I was up in Islamorada this week for two tournaments. We had a few days to catch our bait and get ready for the tournaments. The first tournament was the Al Flutie Over The Hill Rip Off tournament, which is a tournament that supports the Cystic Fibrosis charity. It is a great tournament that usually has at least 25-40 boats in it any given year.

We fished up by Molasses in the morning, which was a complete and total waste of time. We checked the Roth's chart, which predicts and fills you in where the current edges are going to be. It can be useful most of the time, but this time it really messed us up. After missing the morning bite we headed to Conch Reef, which is one of my favorite places to Sailfish in Islamorada. Like I have told you guys in the past, we like to

fish for Sails around out-cropped pieces of reef. Conch Reef is the nicest out-cropping piece of reef in Islamorada and is a favorite Sailfishing spot for all of Islamorada fisherman.

As soon as we set up the kites we were hooked up to a double, which we landed fairly quickly. After setting back up again the bite slowed down all over, with very few fish being called in to the committee boat. After a couple of hours we hooked another double, but losing one and getting the release of the other in less then thirty seconds. The bite was really slow until all of a sudden, boats started to call in fish left and right. Once this happened, most of the boats left Conch. I knew that it was only going to be a matter of time before Conch turned on again. With only an hour left in the tournament I was thinking, maybe I made a mistake by staying. You just never know where the fish are going to pop up.

With five minutes left to go in the tournament, I figured it was hopeless for us. The two minute warning came over the radio when I saw a Sail come up – I screamed, "Sailfish, left short, Sailfish, left short!" My anglers we getting ready to get hooked up when the Sail finally caught the gog and pulled the line out of the kite as he took to the air with some really impressive acrobatics. I called in the fish into the committee boat, then noticed a Sail on the left long so I yelled down, "Sail on the left long! Wind, Wind, Wind, Wind!" Hooked up to a double with two minutes left! I called the double into the committee boat, thinking if we get both of these fish we could be in contention for placing in the tournament. We released the first Sail in thirty seconds, and as I called that fish in to the committee boat, I was thinking we really need to get the next one to stay in contention. Exactly as they called lines out of the water I called in our release of the second fish.

Two releases in two minutes, one of my best times ever. If you get cooperative fish this can be done, but if you get some bulldogs you

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Snook Harvest is Still Prohibited . . .

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reminds anglers that it closed the harvest season for snook in Atlantic waters, which usually begins on Feb. 1. The FWC issued an executive order on Jan. 15 that temporarily extends closed harvest seasons for snook statewide until Sept. 1 to protect snook populations that have been affected by the recent prolonged cold weather in Florida.

The order, which took effect at 12:01 a.m. on Jan. 16, provides that no person may harvest or possess snook in state and federal waters off Florida until September. Anglers may still catch and release snook during the closure, and the FWC encourages everyone to handle and release these fish carefully to help ensure their survival upon release.

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Fishing Report

Brought to you by
Captain Tom Aiuto . . .
You can reach him at:
hawkscayfishing@aol.com
For charter info,
call Hawks Cay Marina
(305) 743-9000, option 2.

Capt. Tom Aiuto What's Hot – What's Not

The cool weather is slowly fading. The winds are averaging 5 to 10 knots. Water temps are in the high 70's, on the reef and the bay has warmed up into the 70's. Despite the cool waters and occasional high winds, fishing offshore is fantastic, and the bay is recovering quickly from the cold waters of last week. Fishing has been, for the most part, pretty good.

Capt. Joel Tomlinson from the ESPN's Saltwater Experience crew reports that schools of Spanish Mackerel are back with many anglers scoring up to 20+ Mackerel a day to 7 lbs. There are also plenty of Bluefish mixed in with the Mackerel to 6 lbs. Pompano has made an appearance with fish to 3 lbs. and Mangrove Snappers are bending rods in the bay to 6 lbs. The mangroves are holding decent numbers of Black

and Goliath Grouper to 20 lbs. There are a few Bonefish around between 5 to 7 lbs. Permit are showing their faces, but no hookups.

Capt. Josh Ardis on the *Tailwalker* reports that the Sail fishing is red hot. They are inhaling live bait such as Goggle-eyes and Ballyhoo. Most of the Sailfish are being taken by hanging live baits from kites or running and gunning. As many as 12 Sailfish a day is not uncommon. He also found excellent numbers of nice-sized King Mackerel that are eagerly ripping up live bait, cut bait and even taking tins to 40 lbs. Dolphin (Mahi-Mahi) were taken on live baits in good numbers to 20 lbs. The Reef has been holding its own with Yellowtail Snappers to 5 lbs., Mutton Snapper averaging 4 to 8 fish a trip to 20 lbs., Black Grouper to 40 lbs. and Red Grouper between 15 to 20 lbs.

Tight Lines To All . . . 



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, with complaints, comments and all those things that tick you off!

From "somewhere" in the Keys . . .

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day . . . OK, I'll buy that. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime. Bulls%#!


Upon further review, I guess that depends on if the man can really learn how to successfully fish in these waters. I have spent years, and untold thousands of dollars trying to learn how to master this, without a whole lot of success. I have hired the "supposed" experts on their beat up charter boats for a grand a pop, and gotten skunked. I have also spent plenty of time and fuel on my own boats getting nothing more than an empty gas tank. Oh, don't get me wrong! I do catch some fish, just not the quantity and size I would expect. I have hired captains on their boat and mine, have tried all the advice the local bait shops recommend and still haven't had the success I am looking for.

OK . . . I will come clean and admit that the Holy Grail of my quest is my first Sailfish caught on my boat with my normal crew of me and my loving wife / first mate. (Don't take "first" mate too literally though. I have had plenty of others before her). I will say though that she is the best so far and she loves to fish.

I digress, as usual . . .

So, as my quest continues into another season and, as I keep hearing how the Sailfish bite is red hot, once more I am considering taking a new approach to the sport. I am simply not going to try too hard, or care if the results match my expectations.

Do you believe that? No????????? Me, either. I am going to continue to be frustrated and continue to spend as many hours and as much money as necessary to fulfill my quest.

If I can't figure it out, maybe I will do what some of the charter guys that I've met do and just go for an amberjack or a barracuda to make myself feel like I know how to fish. 



Fishing Report

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



Capt. Nick Borraccino
Marathon

The shallow water stubbornly refuses to return to normal temperature just yet, so you're flats and back country trips will most likely still be slower than usual. This also goes for your Gulf trips. I was informed by long time Marathon angler Bill Biffell that his recent trip into the gulf was just that- slower than usual. The bites came slow, and the Snappers were on the small side. There was a bright spot though; A larger-than-average Redfish just happened to be on the wreck that day, making for an unusually great catch. This just goes to show that when it comes to fishing in the Keys, you just never know what to expect.

Conversely, the fishing on the ocean is still absolutely red-hot. All the fish escaping the cool gulf water parked it on the reef. Patch reefs in 20-30 feet have been positively loaded with nice Mangrove Snapper, and

Grouper of all flavors. Also in the patch reef grab bag you'll find Cero Mackerel, King Mackerel, Jacks, Cudas, Yellowtail, and more. Chum steady, and drop live or fresh cut bait to the bottom for a cooler full of large Mangrove Snapper.

Just past the reef, Sailfish patrol in packs. The bite was steady this week, as most boats targeting Sails caught at least a few, with a double digit day here and there. Live pilchards and ballyhoo in 80-140 feet has been the ticket.


Beyond that, it's hit or miss this time of year. I made a trip to the Marathon hump one day to find it all but lifeless, even though I know there was a great bite there just two days before. It's certainly hit or miss, and without Dolphin to hunt in between, it makes for a gamble of a run. Without a doubt, your best bet right now is Sailfish, reef fish, or some combination of the two. Anyone who wouldn't be happy catching Snapper and Grouper in the morning and Sailfish in the afternoon, is one tough customer.

We have a great forecast for this week, so call and book a fishing trip!



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: (305) 664-2028, or visit: www.captainronwagner.com fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com



Capt. Ron Wagner
From the Skiff

Things were hopping at the Marina the past week, and the patches were the best place to be. Most of my trips were to out front and the catches were very good with the best bite in the afternoons. Chumming (and lots of it), kept my anglers' arm weary, as once they zeroed in on our offerings, the bite went all the way to sundown. Fishing is not an 8 to 4 business, and I am available at whatever time suits the fish and you.

Tides are so important followed by the moon's position, and I have been studying these occurrences for a lot of years. Many fish love the full moon period where they might start an after-sundown bite, while other fish are fed best by the strong currents that sweep baitfish right to them. The area bridges are the funneling places that bring the bait fish and that is why Tarpon, Permit, Snook and Snapper are caught there with such frequency.

If you're down here for the first time and you know very little of Keys fishing and techniques, start at the bridge and you won't do wrong. Fish the up-tide side where the current is coming at you. Place your offering under the bridge pilings with just enough weight to hold bottom. You see people throw on the other side as far as they can but never really do well because the bridge is like a haven for game fish that sit right by it and feed. Out away from it is a lot of barren bottom where fish are seen only as they make their way to the bridge pilings.

I was born on a bridge it seems and between my father and I, we managed some of the most amazing feats up above the water. First, you could look down and see the various schools of fish congregating under certain arches. With the proper rigs and bait, we caught them all, as traffic whizzed right by never knowing what we were doing. Remember, tides are very important if you choose to try the local bridges. You want the tide moving regardless of direction and you need to be down on the bottom where they are feeding. If you're throwing lures or buck tails, make sure you're on the right side (the up-tide side), throwing out into the current and manipulating your offering back towards you, keeping it just off the bottom to avoid hanging up on it. With practice, it's easy. You can add a little strip of baitfish or shrimp to sweeten up your artificial which will enhance your hookup ratio.

When fishing from a boat you're going to anchor up-current from the pilings so your offerings are just out front or beneath the bridge. I have mastered this way, but its due to the fact that I had lots of knowledge from first being up on the bridge, looking down.

Stop in at the Fiesta Key Resort and Campground, they open at 6am and have all the gear you will need. Give me a call if you would like a guided trip to learn about why I think the Florida Keys are like nowhere else. Just get out there and go fishing.

Tight lines and bending rods . . . 

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

Since the cold spell, reports from the Gulf are still sounding more like grumbles and gripes. It's been tough to come by even the usual quarry of Spanish Mackerel, Cobia, Grouper, Snappers, and so on. The fish that have re-populated the flats are very hesitant to take a fly and are torturing some anglers with aggressive follows and few "takes." The most reliable Bay bite by far is the Black Drum, a close relative to the Redfish, which are eating live shrimp bumped slowly along the bottom in some channels and runoffs in dirty or off-colored water. Redfish are also being caught with some consistency, along with a mix of Trout, Ladyfish and some Jacks. We're even catching a Flounder every once in a while.

The reef is still where it's all happening. The offshore guys are crushing the Sailfish, Kingfish and a few Tunas. The patches inside the reef are simply red hot. Many of the fish that looked for refuge in deeper water made their way out to the reef and seem to still be there, eating as much as possible for the travel back into the bay. Groupers, Snappers, Sharks, Mackerel, and others are all fighting over the bait that falls over the side of the boat. If it's non-stop action you're after, look no farther than the patch reefs close to home. Bring lots of shrimp and jigs and a

few small hooks to catch a few ballyhoo behind the boat, and then drop down for larger fish hanging on the bottom. It won't take long for a bite and you never know what might be down there until you bring it up to the surface.

The 20th Annual Swamp Guides Ball had another successful tournament again this year despite the slow conditions. We enjoyed an unusually pleasant day considering past years of this event, and sought to catch Snook, Redfish and Bonefish. For this year only, a slight rules change was introduced to comply with the new executive orders from the FWC and to promote the conservation and well-being of our fishery. Snook and Bonefish were limited to one released on the honor system. Anglers still needed to catch one or more Redfish of at least 20".

We plotted to catch our Snook and Bonefish first, and then find our Redfish to complete the slam and claim our prize. The plan started out great when we released our Snook by 8:45 am. But the Bonefish eluded us all day, and we therefore never even looked for a Redfish. Capt. Steve Thomas and his anglers had a similar plan but were able to produce. At lines out, Capt. Steve and his crew had caught their Bonefish and Snook and released 3 Redfish to claim this year's title of Grand Champions. Congratulations to you and all the participants who love this tournament for its prestige, history, challenge and most of all to support a great charity in the Don Hawley Foundation.

Big thanks go out to Capt. Rusty and Terry Albury and the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association for putting on this special event and for all the hard work. 🦅



Kevin Rober (center) and his friend JoAnne (Washington, MI) took an afternoon trip on the *Restless Too* from Whale Harbor Marina with Capt. Robert catching two, while a third fish managed to jump and throw the hook.



Big Wahoo caught in Treasure Cay, Abacos!

Fishing Report

This report is brought to you by
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James Simcic III Spearfishing



After a few weeks of loathing being stuck in the office, the last few days have really turned my grim face to one of excitement! With the past cold front behind us and some better looking weather ahead, I planned a freediving trip with some friends. It was our intention to set out in search of Wahoo.

Wahoo are stealthy predators that can be found anywhere from the reef line out into the open ocean with deeper wrecks seeming to be the most like spot to run into them. Saturday morning after catching a livewell full of pilchards, Jeremy Foell and the "Bell boys" (Jason and Alex) joined me in search of this elusive game fish. After setting up over a wreck in 200 ft, we live-chummed with the pilchards and chunked bonito and ballyhoo for an hour or so. Even though we had the perfect recipe, we only spotted a few fish and they were out of range. Seeing the



day start to fade without any significant sightings, we decided it was best to run into a shallower spot that offered a little more variety of fish, so we shot down to the west and anchored on the bridge rubble.

If you're not familiar, the bridge rubble is part of the old seven mile bridge that was put in 110ft of water as an artificial reef. It is home to

Cont. on pg. 14



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Kelly Gorczyza with a Sailfish hooked up aboard the *BnM Charters* out of Bud n' Mary's Marina, Islamorada.



Nick Williams (Charlottesville, VA) visited Dove Creek Lodge and caught this beautiful 98" sailfish while fishing with Capt. James Chappell and First Mate/Capt. Andrew Bertrand out of Bud n' Mary's Marina on the *Catchalottafish!*



Dan Chambers, Andy Payne, and mate Mike Cangemi with one of the Sails caught in the IFC Tournament in Islamorada, aboard *Sweet E'nuf Charters*, Captained by Dave Schugar.



Sarah Delaney with a Snook she caught in the Florida Bay.



Young Anglers Jacob (14) & Dakota (13) were quite proud, as they posed for a photo with this enormous Mutton Snapper and the *Fin Razer's* First Mate, Alex Ross.



Beverly Williams (Key Largo & South Carolina) hauled in this beautiful 53lb. Wahoo while fishing onboard *Purrfection* in Key Largo. Nice job Beverly! (who says girls can't fish!)

Bahamas Report

Capt. Trey Ryne

Planning Your Next Bahamas Wahoo Trip? Here's some places to consider . . .

If you've got a little time to do some exploring, there are some absolutely awesome places to go searching for World Class Wahoo in the Bahamas. The nice thing about wahoo fishing, is that you can pick up the speed, covering a lot of ground, fishing all the while you are underway! It seems as you move from North-West to South-East down the Island chain, you find less numbers, but bigger fish. Plenty of big fish get caught in the near Bahamas, while there are plenty of days in the south-east that produce great numbers. Bimini, West-End, and Cay Sal can all produce big numbers of fish. As you begin to move East and South, the number will likely drop off, but the size will likely grow.

Here are some spots to consider as you are moving through the Islands:

Chub Cay: The "Pocket" can produce some great action on Wahoo. A good East/South-East wind can really get things going and don't overlook the south side over by the Joulters.

Abacos: The eastern edge of the Abacos is always a good bet for some larger 'hoos, with the best of the bite often happening off Hopetown.

The Bridge: One of our favorite spots to fish, in between Eleuthera and Cat Island. Both sides can produce and don't be afraid to work around to the north-east side of Cat Island, where this is some awesome structure.

Columbus Point, Cat Island: Home to many a 100 pound 'hoo, we are all sure. Your only problem here is the weather and sharks. One of the roughest places we have fished in the Islands, and the Oceanic White Tips are thick!



Diana Bank:

Much has been written of this "off the beaten track" underwater atoll. This may be the one place that breaks the rules and allows for big numbers AND big fish! Concentrate on the SE and SW points, trolling between them.

Crooked Island: On the right conditions, the NW point of Crooked Island can produce like no place else. With the wrong conditions, it can be slow. Worth checking out if you are in the area, for sure.

Tight Lines, and Happy Hunting! 🦞

North Hump, San Salvador: A world-class wahoo destination for sure. Be sure to work the North Ridge, as well as the hump. More BIG fish seem to be taken on the ridge than on the hump itself.

Rum Cay: Both the South East and North East Points can be epic. Sharks are a bit of an issue, as they are in San Salvador, but this is world class – no doubt.



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Fishing Report

Captain Richard Burson
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Capt. Richard Burson Key Largo Backcountry



Our normal winter weather is back! Days of warming sun with a few passing showers fill our days with bliss. Because of our proximity to the Gulf Stream and the Gulf of Mexico, the Florida Keys have a mild tropical climate where the average summer and winter temperatures rarely differ much more than ten degrees. Average yearly temperatures are the warmest anywhere in the United States. We are blessed with few exceptions to this rule. So, all of you who live in the frigid northern states take a break from the plummeting mercury and warm your bones in the Florida Keys.

As the waters continue to warm after our unusual cold spell, the fishing has continued to heat up. The Mackerel, Snapper, Bluefish and other varieties of sport fish are back around the Springer Bank area. The bone

fishing in Key Largo has still been a bit slow, but expected to get better as they become more comfortable with their warmer waters. They are known to be wary and this past cold front really put them on edge. The upside is that we are coming up on a full moon, so it is expected that they will be feeding more aggressively soon.

This week I decided to take a three day fishing trip to Whitewater Bay in order to further investigate the action, as limited reports are coming in from that area. The weather forecast was spectacular for sight fishing, with the winds around 10 to 15 knots and not a cloud in the sky.

I camped two nights at the Flamingo Campground which is approximately forty five minutes from the gate at Everglades National Park. In my opinion, this campground is the most convenient place as it is less than a half mile from the boat launch. Another reason to choose this campground is due to the specific campsites that are set up for parking your boat and trailer. The park is well kept and very quiet, making it ideal for a fisherman looking to get up early and venture out on the water.

The first morning we got up around 7am to begin our day on the water. As we launched the boat, life could be seen from all angles. Crocs were sunning themselves while tourist looked on, ospreys were eating their morning meals, and manatees were bobbing for a breath of fresh air. Our first stop was the Hell's Bay area, but surprisingly, after a few dozen casts, there were no takers. After approximately a half hour of scanning the waters, we decided our luck was not panning out in Hells' Bay, so we opted to move towards a few other favorite spots of mine – Lane Bay, Oyster Bay and the mouth of the Shark River. To make our travels enjoyable, a few dolphin came up to the boat to check us out and play in the wake as we made our way to new fishing ground.

Moving through our day, we finally found some action at the mouth of Shark River. Redfish, Black Drum, Trout and a few Sheepshead were

Cont. on pg. 14

Fishing Report

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

Capt. Aaron Brower Islamorada Offshore



Hello fisherman! It was another week in the Sailfish tournament books. We had two tournaments this week. First, the Al Flutie Over The Hill tournament for anglers over 50. *My Reel Job* won with 7 releases. Nice, job old men. The second tournament this week was the Islamorada Fishing Club one day shoot-out for \$30,000. What a great day for fishing it turned out to be. There were over 240 hook-ups called in that day. The first place team, *Relentless* had 18 releases. Second went to *Reel McCoy* with 16 releases, and in third was the *Wound Up* with 15 releases.

Congratulations to the winners and a big thank you to Dianne Harbaugh and her team for yet another great tournament. This tournament also concluded the Gold Cup, a tournament that combines your totals from three tournaments, The Islamorada, Cheeca and the IFC. Winning the whole thing was the *Wound Up* with 47 releases.

February 3rd, 2010

(305) 852-FISH (3474) • editor@weeklyfisherman.com

There is more going on out there in the blue water than Sailfish. While Sailfishing, there have been good catches of Dolphin, too. This usually happens after the wind turns and blows out of the east for a day or two. Kingfish and a couple of Wahoo were caught this week, as well as some really nice Blackfin Tunas. Fishing the outer edge of the reef is fun and you never know what you might catch. If you have the opportunity to fish and chum with live pilchards, there will be a live show behind your boat. Every scoop of pilchards that hit the water try to jump back out of the way because something big is coming, whether it is sky rocketing Kingfish, Tunas boiling on the surface, or the hair of a Sailfish coming out of the water. It's really a great time.

Bottom and reef fishing has been good this week, especially with the dirty water. Lots of Yellowtails, Mangrove and Mutton Snappers caught this week. One thing to keep in mind when you are going to fish for Yellowtail Snappers, once you have set your anchor and are happy with the position of the boat, do not just throw lines in the water. You should feed them for five to ten minutes first and let them get happy and comfortable. Then, start fishing one line at a time. Once you hook a fish, start the second drift. These fish can get line savvy after a while and turn off. If that happens, just sit down and eat a sandwich and drink a beer or two. Let them get comfortable again before you get back at it.

Here's to keeping the rod bent . . . 



Fishing Reports (cont.)

Schugar cont. from pg. 3

could be on a fish for hours. When the day was over I found out the first and second place caught 6 fish, and four boats with 5 fish. Since Capt Brian on the Contagious caught his five fish before us he took third place and we took fourth. I had fun and my clients enjoyed themselves too. The IFC tournament we lost most of our fish, and landed two, which didn't even come close to the leader with 18 fish. The boat Relentless was relentless in this tournament with multiple triples and doubles all day long. It was impressive to hear them on the radio and later in the day I got to see them in action. They are a professional crew who works phenomenal together, bar none, and it was a pleasure to watch them work.

On to the Marathon report. Of course, there were Sailfish to be had, with most of them down to the west, from Bahia Honda to Big Pine. The fish were being reported up in the shallows and from 140-130 feet of water. Plenty of Kings and Cero Mackerel along the reef's edge, too. There were plenty of showers of bait in this area which were mostly Mackerel, but a few Sails were causing the bait to get up out of the water. The bottom fishing has been great and the Wahoo bite turned on for a few people fishing some deep wrecks. The Yellowtail bite was great from what I heard, as were the Muttons biting on the patches, as well.

Heading way out, there were some Swords caught, but I didn't hear of any jumbos. The hump has many AJ's and small Tunas. The deep dropping has been great with Snowy Grouper, Tiles, Queen Snapper, Barrel fish and Rosefish being caught. I can't wait to get out there and do some deep dropping. Be prepared for what the weather has to offer this week, get out there and have fun catching some fish. 🌴



Capt Blaine Lemm, from Minnesota, holding a 50+ lb. Misty Grouper he caught while fishing with Capt. Dave Schugar, *Sweet E'nuf Charters*, out of Marathon.

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12 / 16

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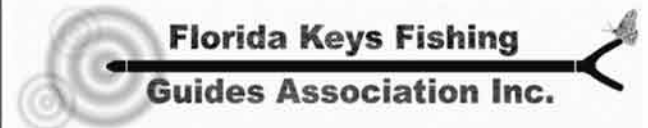
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KEY LARGO (Ocean Reef - 25.3100° N, 80.2800° W)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height
Feb 3	Wed		05:25 / -0.58 ft	11:29 / 2.53 ft	17:52 / -0.88 ft	
Feb 4	Thu	00:06 / 2.46 ft	06:19 / -0.25 ft	12:19 / 2.34 ft	18:48 / -0.67 ft	
Feb 5	Fri	01:02 / 2.27 ft	07:17 / 0.06 ft	13:11 / 2.14 ft	19:47 / -0.44 ft	
Feb 6	Sat	02:03 / 2.09 ft	08:18 / 0.31 ft	14:09 / 1.97 ft	20:49 / -0.25 ft	
Feb 7	Sun	03:07 / 1.97 ft	09:23 / 0.47 ft	15:13 / 1.86 ft	21:51 / -0.14 ft	
Feb 8	Mon	04:14 / 1.92 ft	10:25 / 0.51 ft	16:18 / 1.83 ft	22:50 / -0.11 ft	
Feb 9	Tue	05:14 / 1.94 ft	11:22 / 0.46 ft	17:18 / 1.86 ft	23:44 / -0.15 ft	
Feb 10	Wed	06:06 / 2.01 ft	12:13 / 0.35 ft	18:09 / 1.94 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
Feb 3	Wed	00:56 / 0.73 ft	08:04 / -0.03 ft	13:05 / 0.83 ft	20:55 / -0.11 ft	
Feb 4	Thu	01:53 / 0.57 ft	08:42 / 0.03 ft	13:49 / 0.84 ft	22:03 / -0.09 ft	
Feb 5	Fri	02:58 / 0.43 ft	09:23 / 0.08 ft	14:39 / 0.81 ft	23:19 / -0.07 ft	
Feb 6	Sat	04:22 / 0.33 ft	10:11 / 0.12 ft	15:40 / 0.78 ft		
Feb 7	Sun		00:40 / -0.06 ft	06:04 / 0.29 ft	11:12 / 0.15 ft	16:53 / 0.75 ft
Feb 8	Mon		01:56 / -0.07 ft	07:25 / 0.30 ft	12:24 / 0.15 ft	18:10 / 0.75 ft
Feb 9	Tue		02:59 / -0.08 ft	08:17 / 0.33 ft	13:34 / 0.14 ft	19:14 / 0.77 ft
Feb 10	Wed		03:46 / -0.09 ft	08:55 / 0.38 ft	14:33 / 0.12 ft	20:04 / 0.80 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
Feb 3	Wed		05:59 / -0.14 ft	11:44 / 1.61 ft	18:26 / -0.21 ft	
Feb 4	Thu	00:21 / 1.57 ft	06:53 / -0.06 ft	12:34 / 1.49 ft	19:22 / -0.16 ft	
Feb 5	Fri	01:17 / 1.45 ft	07:51 / 0.01 ft	13:26 / 1.36 ft	20:21 / -0.10 ft	
Feb 6	Sat	02:18 / 1.33 ft	08:52 / 0.08 ft	14:24 / 1.26 ft	21:23 / -0.06 ft	
Feb 7	Sun	03:22 / 1.26 ft	09:57 / 0.11 ft	15:28 / 1.19 ft	22:25 / -0.03 ft	
Feb 8	Mon	04:29 / 1.22 ft	10:59 / 0.12 ft	16:33 / 1.17 ft	23:24 / -0.03 ft	
Feb 9	Tue	05:29 / 1.24 ft	11:56 / 0.11 ft	17:33 / 1.19 ft		
Feb 10	Wed		00:18 / -0.04 ft	06:21 / 1.28 ft	12:47 / 0.08 ft	18:24 / 1.23 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
Feb 3	Wed		06:53 / -0.04 ft	12:06 / 1.39 ft	19:44 / -0.19 ft	
Feb 4	Thu	00:54 / 0.96 ft	07:31 / 0.05 ft	12:50 / 1.40 ft	20:52 / -0.16 ft	
Feb 5	Fri	01:59 / 0.73 ft	08:12 / 0.14 ft	13:40 / 1.36 ft	22:08 / -0.12 ft	
Feb 6	Sat	03:23 / 0.56 ft	09:00 / 0.20 ft	14:41 / 1.31 ft	23:29 / -0.11 ft	
Feb 7	Sun	05:05 / 0.49 ft	10:01 / 0.25 ft	15:54 / 1.26 ft		
Feb 8	Mon		00:45 / -0.12 ft	06:26 / 0.50 ft	11:13 / 0.26 ft	17:11 / 1.26 ft
Feb 9	Tue		01:48 / -0.14 ft	07:18 / 0.56 ft	12:23 / 0.24 ft	18:15 / 1.29 ft
Feb 10	Wed		02:35 / -0.15 ft	07:56 / 0.63 ft	13:22 / 0.20 ft	19:05 / 1.34 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
Feb 3	Wed		05:27 / -0.09 ft	11:41 / 1.80 ft	18:22 / -0.31 ft	
Feb 4	Thu	00:24 / 1.20 ft	06:05 / 0.09 ft	12:23 / 1.82 ft	19:31 / -0.26 ft	
Feb 5	Fri	01:24 / 0.92 ft	06:47 / 0.27 ft	13:09 / 1.79 ft	20:45 / -0.20 ft	
Feb 6	Sat	02:46 / 0.71 ft	07:39 / 0.41 ft	14:03 / 1.72 ft	22:00 / -0.17 ft	
Feb 7	Sun	05:20 / 0.64 ft	08:47 / 0.49 ft	15:10 / 1.66 ft	23:10 / -0.18 ft	
Feb 8	Mon	06:47 / 0.70 ft	10:02 / 0.51 ft	16:30 / 1.63 ft		
Feb 9	Tue		00:10 / -0.20 ft	07:31 / 0.76 ft	11:10 / 0.46 ft	17:45 / 1.66 ft
Feb 10	Wed		00:59 / -0.24 ft	08:00 / 0.83 ft	12:07 / 0.36 ft	18:41 / 1.70 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
Feb 3	Wed		05:39 / -0.09 ft	11:50 / 1.73 ft	18:33 / -0.26 ft	
Feb 4	Thu	00:36 / 1.17 ft	06:17 / 0.06 ft	12:33 / 1.75 ft	19:40 / -0.20 ft	
Feb 5	Fri	01:41 / 0.91 ft	06:58 / 0.19 ft	13:21 / 1.72 ft	20:55 / -0.14 ft	
Feb 6	Sat	03:05 / 0.72 ft	07:46 / 0.31 ft	14:19 / 1.65 ft	22:14 / -0.11 ft	
Feb 7	Sun	04:52 / 0.65 ft	08:47 / 0.39 ft	15:31 / 1.60 ft	23:30 / -0.11 ft	
Feb 8	Mon	06:16 / 0.69 ft	10:02 / 0.41 ft	16:49 / 1.59 ft		
Feb 9	Tue		00:33 / -0.14 ft	07:07 / 0.75 ft	11:13 / 0.38 ft	17:57 / 1.63 ft
Feb 10	Wed		01:22 / -0.17 ft	07:43 / 0.82 ft	12:13 / 0.31 ft	18:49 / 1.68 ft

Moon Phases

Last Quarter: 02/05/10 • New: 02/13/10
First Quarter: 02/21/10 • Full: 02/28/10

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

Key Largo to Islamorada

Captain / Charter

Contact Info

Capt. Greg Eklund Cloud Nine Charters	OFF / REEF / WR / FL	(305) 360-7476 www.islamoradafishingtrips.com
Fin Razer Sportfishing Key Largo Fishing Adventures	OFF / BC / REEF	(305) 923-9293 captgreg@keyssportfishing.com
Capt. Ron Allen Fish Tales Charters		(305) 664-0050 www.fishtalessportfishing.com
Capt. Jack Falcucci 50' Custom Ocean Sportfish	OFF / REEF	(305) 393-0795
Capt. Ron Wagner	TP/LT/FLY/BC/FL/GF/REEF	(305) 664-2028 fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com
Capt. Aaron Brower	OFF/REEF/WR	(305) 522-0374 www.killerwhite.com
Capt. Steve Friedman	FL / BC / FLY	(305) 393-3474 www.afishingguide.com
Capt. Richard Burson www.rufishingyet.com	BC/LT/FL/GF/TP/FLY	(305) 360-3262 rufishingyet@yahoo.com
Capt. 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
Capt. Joe Petrucco Killer Instinct 6	OFF / GULF / REEF / TP	(305) 304-4580 joepetrucco@yahoo.com
Capt. Frank Drudi Chelsea Charters	OFF/REEF/WR	(866) 431-2277 floridakeyscharterfishing@yahoo.com
Capt. Chris Barth The Hunter Charters	OFF/REEF	(305) 797-6442 www.thehuntercharters.com

Middle Keys

Long Key to Marathon

Captain / Charter

Contact Info

Capt. Nick Borraccino	OFF / REEF / WR	(508) 769-4189 www.noreastersportfishing.com
Capt. David Schugar Sweet e' Nuf Charters	OFF / REEF	(305) 610-4778 www.sweetenufcharters.com

Lower Keys

Big Pine Key to Key West

Captain / Charter

Contact Info

Capt. Chris Lembo	OFF / REEF	(305) 292-0067 incognitocharters@comcast.net
Capt. Andrew Tipler Last Cast Charters	BC / FL / OFF / REEF	(305) 744-9796 www.lastcastcharters.com
Capt. Luke Kelly keyflat@mac.com	FL / FLY / LT / BC / TP	(305) 304-3152 www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com

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Fishing Reports (cont.)

Simcic. cont. from pg. 8

many pelagic fish as well as big Snapper and Grouper. A few minutes after being in the water, we noticed a big school of Yellow Jacks nearing the middle of the water column at a very accessible depth. On my first dive I neared the school at about 60 feet and unloaded on the 2nd biggest in the school. Letting the gun go and holding on to my float line as I surfaced, I noticed the man in the gray suit. A bull shark in the 6ft range closed in my fish. As I hurriedly pulled him from the depths more and more sharks appeared. Eight in total encircled the fish all taking inquisitive sniffs of their newly acquired lunch menu. I, on the other hand, pulled faster and faster until the fish was within 20ft of me. I towed him to the boat and threw him on the deck. A couple pounds off of the world spearfishing record! If only I had shot the biggest one! After an exciting afternoon we added a couple more Yellow Jacks to our bag and lost a couple nice Kingfish to the Sharks. Wow! What an adrenaline rush! It's days like this that make me rely on Mother Ocean for my kicks.

With the visibility still needing a little improvement on the reef, I would expect you to find more luck in the blue water. If this isn't your cup of tea then stick to your Patch Reefs and Roll Offs on the outer reef line to find some big Mangroves and Hogfish. If you are interested in searching for world records you can go to <http://www.freedive.net/ibsrc/> for Bluewater species or go to <http://iusarecords.com/records.php> for all the other species. Have a good week and . . .

Go Shoot Dinner!!! 

Burson cont. from pg. 11

the catch of the day and we were happy to see it! I was using artificial bait such as the gulp shrimp and jerk bait made by Berkley. Working some of the deeper points I used the shrimp with a ¼ oz jig with a slow retrieve. In the shallows is where I stuck to the jerk bait. The fish were reluctant to bite, however, using the right presentation, we were successful. Our patience paid off as we were able to bring some great sized fish to the boat!

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

Are you fishing yet? 

Fishing Report

This report is brought to you by Captain Susan Sanders. She is available for charters through: Key Largo Fishing Adventures Holiday Inn MM 99.7 (305) 587-4300 www.keyssportfishing.com

Capt. Susan Sanders Key Largo Offshore



When it comes to Key Largo you are not just talking about a quaint little fishing village. It would be a complete injustice to overlook the stunning and plentiful attributes this spectacular island has to offer! I myself was once one of those vacationers backing up traffic while I took photographs from the driver's side window of my rental car. Not something I am proud of! Looking back I can effortlessly recall what drew me to the Key Largo area. Through many years of traveling to various states and countries I was seeking that perfect offshore fishing adventure I had yet to find!

Then one day I stumbled upon Key Largo, Florida. Life for me changed and fortunately, has never been the same. I ceased all travels to my frequented favorite fishing locations. Instead, I spent about 10 years returning to fish the gorgeous offshore waters of the Florida Keys. Still not being adequate enough, I moved full time to the area. Today, I continue to enjoy the opportunity of encountering all that Key Largo has to offer in the realm of sportfishing.

The offshore fishing here could not get any better. Last week, while tagging along for the ride, I was blessed with a chance to photograph copious showers all around us in the early hours, while getting our day's fresh bait. Just off the bait patch inside Molasses Reef, we caught and released two sizeable Sailfish.

While Sailfishing, there were numerous muttons caught off the bottom by monitoring the dept finder and looking for rocky hiding spots. The majority of these catches were in the 5-15 lb range. Using a split back ballyhoo suspended approximately 10-15 ft off the bottom works well. Presentation is very important to this temperamental snapper, which is why a 20 -30ft fluorocarbon leader is preferred.

The Kingfish bite is absolutely bountiful! You'll find these abundant fish scattered along the reef where you can distinguish any type of bottom structure. Bait of choice would be Cigar Minnows, or a split back ballyhoo, suspended 30-60 ft from the bottom. If you like the fight

of the Kingfish, you can most certainly wear yourself out obtaining your limit in a very short period of time.

I have heard of several nice Wahoo catches over the week and I have high hopes for some fabulous Wahoo fishing on the back side of the moon. The Wahoo is one fish I could never tire of catching or eating! I am already wishing I was fishing! 🐟



Mate Alex Ross and one eager female angler from Arizona, landed this striking Barracuda while sailfishing at Conch Reef.

FWC Extends Order to Aid Dead Saltwater Fish Cleanup Efforts . . .

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has extended its executive order that temporarily suspends certain saltwater fishing regulations to allow people and local communities to legally dispose of dead fish found in the water and on the shore. This order initially was issued on Jan. 15 in response to numerous reports of dead saltwater fish killed by the recent extended cold-weather period in Florida.

The order was set to expire on Feb. 1. However, the FWC decided to extend this order through Feb. 28, because the agency continues to receive reports of dead saltwater fish in many areas around the state.

The order removes specific harvest regulations for all dead saltwater fish of any species that have died as a result of prolonged exposure to cold weather in Florida waters. The order also allows people to collect dead saltwater fish from Florida's shoreline and from the water by hand, cast net, dip net or seine.

People who take dead saltwater fish under the provisions of this order may not sell, trade or consume such fish, and the dead fish must immediately be disposed of in compliance with local safety, health and sanitation requirements for such disposal.

In addition, people who take dead saltwater fish under the provisions of this order are not required to possess a saltwater fishing license, and all fish taken under the provisions of this order shall be those that have died as a result of exposure to cold weather.

FWC scientists are actively monitoring and collecting information on the fish-kill reports it has received from the field in order to analyze the impacts to fish populations caused by the cold weather.

Celebration of Life in Memory of Veteran Captain

Terry Cobb

**Friday, Feb 5th at 4:00 PM
Head Pin Marker #1**

**Entrance to Whale Harbor & Holiday Isle
Gather at Whale Harbor after Tribute @ 5:00**



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.

Feb. 4-6: Billfish Bowl. Key Largo. An all-release sailfish tournament hosted by NFL legends Jimmy Johnson and Mike Ditka to raise money for the nonprofit group Gridiron Greats. The event will take place at the Big Chill Bar and Restaurant in Key Largo. Contact Tammie Gurgiolo at (866) 203-2720 or visit billfishbowl.com.

Feb. 12-14: Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament. Islamorada. This light-tackle challenge has female anglers facing off against the famous tail-dancers for trophies and prizes. Contact Tammie Gurgiolo at (305) 852-9337, e-mail fishnbully@msn.com or write to 124 Tavern Drive, Tavernier FL 33070.

Feb. 16-17: Poor Girls Sailfish Tournament. Key Largo and Islamorada. This popular Keys tournament typically draws more than 200 anglers. Contact Sharon Mahoney Ellenwood at (305) 664-2012 or e-mail sharellen@netzero.net.

Feb. 26-27: Backcountry Fly Championship. Islamorada. This new fly-fishing competition will target snook and redfish in that region of the Keys famous for them. Contact Charlotte Ambrogio at (305) 664-2444, e-mail csasun@aol.com or write P.O. Box 1063, Islamorada, FL 33036.

March 5-6: Backbone Lures "Fish 'Til You Lose It." Islamorada. Anglers compete to catch the finned denizens of the flats and backcountry, fishing with one lure or one fly until they lose it. Contact Paul Tejera by e-mailing captbackbone@gmail.com or visit backbonelures.com.

March 5-7: Captain Leon Shell Memorial Billfish Tournament. Key Colony Beach. Anglers pursue sailfish in honor of the late lure maker who made the Middle Florida Keys his home. The tournament benefits Hospice of the Florida Keys. Contact Terry Fisher at (305) 289-1310, e-mail kcbmarina@bellsouth.net, visit leonshelltournament.com or write to P.O. Box 510910, Key Colony Beach FL 33051-0910.

March 11-14: Florida Keys Survivor. Islamorada. In this backcountry elimination draw tournament, the winner is the sole survivor. Contact Sharon Mahoney Ellenwood at (305) 664-2012 or (305) 393-6174, or e-mail sharellen@netzero.net.

March 12-14: Key West Fishing Tournament Kick-Off. Targeting multiple species, this annual challenge starts a season-long tournament that awards certificates for outstanding catches and prizes in a host of categories. Contact Doris Harris at (305) 295-6601, e-mail director@keywestfishingtournament.com, visit keywestfishingtournament.com or write to P.O. Box 2154, Key West, FL 33045.

March 13 - Nov. 30: Key West Fishing Tournament, Inc. Key West & Lower Keys. This popular 8.5-month-long competition targets more than 40 species of fish. Contact Doris Harris at (305) 295-6601 or (800) 970-9056, e-mail director@keywestfishingtournament.com, visit keywestfishingtournament.com or write to P.O. Box 2154, Key West, FL 33045.

March 18-21: 45th Annual Ft. Lauderdale Billfish Tournament. Ft. Lauderdale. Contact: Nicole Metzger (954) 523-1004 or e-mail Nicole@billfishtournament.com, or visit www.fortlauderdalebillfish.com.



Craig Gorecya (NJ) pulled in this Wahoo with the help of mate Rick Stanczyk, aboard the *BnM Charters* out of Bud n' Mary's Marina, Islamorada.

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