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Vol. XII • Issue 15



Capt David Zier and his son Capt Dan Zier teamed up on some monster Muttons and Snapper last week aboard the *Second Nature*.

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After their second plentiful catch with Capt Ben Ekblom (out of Hawk's Cay), Ivon and Maria from Ft. Lauderdale say they are going to be regulars aboard the *Tailwalker*!

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Snook Harvest Is Still Prohibited . . .

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reminds anglers that the harvest season for snook in Gulf of Mexico, Everglades National Park and Monroe County waters, which usually begins on March 1, will not be open this year. 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 affected by recent prolonged cold weather in Florida.

The order, which took effect on Jan. 16, provides that no person may harvest or possess snook in all 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.

More information regarding the FWC’s executive order for snook is available online at MyFWC.com/Rules, click on “Fishing – Saltwater.”

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Fishing Report

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

Capt. Richard Burson Key Largo Backcountry



Weather was not much of an issue this week. Light winds and beautiful blue skies filled our days with bliss. The water temperatures are hovering around the low 60's making certain fish such as Bonefish harder to target however, many other fish were more than willing to bite! We should begin to see the weather pattern warming and stabilize as we enter the spring.

As we enter the month of March my dreams are filled with Tarpon, Tarpon, and more Tarpon! My excitement is uncontainable as I have been witnessing juvenile Tarpon, around approximately 35 pounds beginning to show up around the bridges. They will become more prominent as the waters warm up. The hottest time to target Tarpon is mid March until mid June. Keep your eye on the water temperature as this will be one of the deciding factors for when the bigger Tarpon

make their debut. Please note that FWC has issued new regulations as of 1/15/10 in response to the recent prolonged cold weather in Florida. As of today you may not harvest any Tarpon or remove the Tarpon from the water solely for a picture. Anglers may still catch and release Tarpon during this temporary closure however, FWC encourages everyone to handle and release these fish carefully to help ensure their survival.

Limited long term research has been completed on Atlantic Tarpon and one program that all Captains and anglers can get involved in is the Tarpon Genetic Recapture Study being lead by the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute (FWRI). The research is to help biologists understand the Atlantic Tarpon's migration patterns and the success of Tarpon stocks. This kit is easy to use and puts very little stress on the fish. You can order the kit from FWRI by calling 1-800-367-4461 or e-mailing TarponGenetics@MyFWC.com. You can also request a kit from some of your local bait shops. I have been using the kit for years and happy to help any research needed to sustain my favorite pastime, fishing!

This week the fishing was hot especially out west near Springer Bank. My clients Scott and Caroline from Texas were astonished and exhausted with the many fish we were bringing to the boat. We caught an array of fish including Cero Mackerel, Pompano, Blue Fish, Black Tip Sharks, Ladyfish, and Jack Caravels.

Besides going out west to Springer Bank I fished some of the local bridges and some of the patch reefs which showed some great results. We were able to catch some Mangrove Snappers, nice variety of Groupers, Lane Snappers, Big Jack Caravels and some juvenile Tarpon. Bait has not been an issue this week which is the key to success!

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

Are you fishing yet? 

Fishing Report

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

Capt. Aaron Brower Islamorada Offshore



Hello fisherman here we are at the end of February, still getting cold front after cold front. It's typically windy this time of year, but not usually this cold. Even though the conditions aren't great, there still have been a couple of decent days to get out there and catch some fish.

On the reef edge, the Kingfish bit well this week with plenty of fish being caught and most of them good size too, in the range of 12lb to 30lb. I'm still hearing about all the action on the patch reefs. There have been plenty of Snappers, Ceros and Groupers being caught. We should start to see some Mutton Snappers move in towards the reef edge and also fill in the offshore wrecks.

There have been good reports of Cobias over the past couple of weeks, and I am sure it will only get better. With these fronts come strong winds

out of the west and northwest. Those winds, coupled with strong out going tides, really seem to help push Cobias from the Gulf out to the Oceanside of things.

The one thing the weather has definitely affected in our area is the bait. Some charter boats have spent up to 3 hours trying to find the bait they want. This can really be tough, especially when trying to target certain species. This is why you will see a lot of charter boats with bait pens tied up next to their boats. There is a comforting feeling leaving the dock with some bait in the morning, knowing if you're able to catch more, that's just icing on the cake.

Here's to keeping the rod bent . . . 

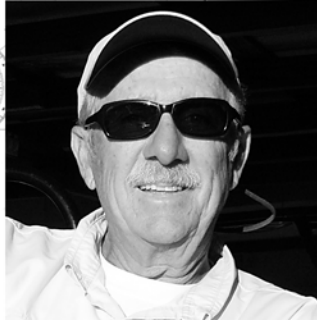


Dede and Fred Shafar (Louisville, KY) with twin 13 lb. Muttons, caught with Capt. Tom Dudderar of Dooda Charters out of Long Key.

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



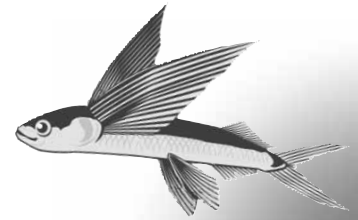
Welcome to March and along with it will be the arrival of Tarpon on the scene. I for one am ready to experience what should be a great Tarpon season. I already have a lot of bookings from my regular anglers but still have some time open for those first timers who would like to get their arms ripped up fighting the Silver King. Many of the early fish to show will be a lot of heavyweights that are coming in to taste the delectable morsels the Keys waters provide. The mullet are already starting their migration south along with pilchards and the always present crab that make up the majority of the Tarpon's diet.

Those anglers targeting Tarpon start off at the many bridge channels like Tea Table, Indian Key, Channels 2&5 and perhaps the best one for me, Long Key. Working out of Fiesta Key Marina, I can see Channel 5 to my north and it's just a few miles south to Long Key. When I leave

the basin here, I find myself wondering which direction to take. Once the fish set up feeding patterns I will then have a better way to point the bow of my skiff. I will start to adjust my time on the water to get the best tidal flow, which gives my anglers the best opportunities for the maximum number of hookups. Gone are the days of fishing from 8-4, what I call bankers hours. I might be leaving the dock a half hour before sunrise, stop at noon and hit the water again around 5 p.m. Sunset Tarpon trips leave at 5 p.m. and fish until 9 p.m. There is nothing like battling a jumping fish at the sunset hour, which is always a magical time to experience on the water. Tackle ranges from 12-20 lb. spinning outfits to conventional reels loaded with 30-50 lb. line.

A monster Tarpon can take you on quite a journey and at the bridges, quite an obstacle course. In order to subdue him properly, you need stout tackle. Later, as the season heats up, we will look for them on the numerous banks out back and along the Oceanside and get to use our fly rods. Fly-fishing for these brutes are part of what has made the Florida Keys famous and some anglers have been so dedicated, they have not missed a season in 25-30 straight years visiting our Islands. If I have wetted your appetite to try Tarpon fishing, then what are you waiting for? Book yourself the trip of a lifetime. You will not be disappointed.

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Fishing Report

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

The winds are blowing erratically from 2 to 25 knots sometimes even in the same day. Waters Temps in the bay are averaging 65 degrees and the offshore water temps are hanging around 70 degrees. The offshore bite has slowed up a little, but there is still cooperating Sailfish, King Mackerel, Snowy Grouper, Sharks and the occasional Dolphin (Mahi – Mahi) to make the trip worthwhile.

The Reef has been holding its own with Yellowtail Snappers between 2 to 3 lbs. Mutton Snapper to 20 lbs., decent numbers of Mangrove Snapper to 4 lbs. and a few Gag and Black Grouper to 20 lbs. The inshore action on both ocean and bay is pretty good. Capt. Joel Tomlinson from the ESPN's Saltwater Experience crew reports that there is decent Cobia fishing on both the ocean and bay side. Cobia

will eat almost anything, like live shrimp and pinfish but live grunts are doing the trick with larger Cobia to 50 lbs. King Mackerel are bending rods to 15 lbs. Snook on live pilchards to 5 lbs.

There is some Bonefish being picked up on the flats ocean side to 8 lbs. Spanish Mackerel to 7 lbs. are still in the bay, but finding them can be tough. Bluefish action is doing well with fish to 6 lbs. Pompano have made an appearance inhaling live shrimp to 3 lbs. Tarpon have not been cooperating.

Tight Lines To All . . . 



FWC Suspension Of Certain Fishing Regulations Expires March 1 . . .

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) advises the public that its temporary suspension of certain saltwater fishing and licensing regulations to allow for the cleanup of dead fish will expire on March 1.

The order - initially for Jan. 16-31, then extended for one month - was issued in response to numerous reports of saltwater fish killed by an extended cold-weather period in Florida.

The FWC is no longer receiving widespread reports of dead saltwater fish around the state, and people must observe all normal fishing and licensing regulations that apply to the harvest and possession of saltwater fish. These rules are available online at MyFWC.com/Fishing or MyFWC.com/Rules.

More information regarding the 2010 cold-weather saltwater fish kills is available online MyFWC.com/Fishing.



Baseball legend Ted Williams with a big tarpon off Islamorada in the early sixties. When not playing baseball for the Boston Red Sox, he could be found in the Keys pursuing Tarpon, Bonefish and Permit.

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Jane Corbman (Philadelphia) hoisting her first toothy critter of approx 18 lbs caught with Capt Chuck Brodzki on the patches off of Islamorada Oceanside.



Capt. Brett Hagood with *True Island Adventures* out of Robbie's Marina, and his angler Lisa caught this Mackerel in the Gulf off of Islamorada.



Capt Dan Zier caught this 20lb African Pompano on a live pin fish in 200ft of water off of Key West. Capt Dan is the owner/operator of the *Second Nature* out of Garrison Bite Marina.



This beautiful Wahoo was caught in 140' of water in North Key Largo while trolling a large Yo-Zuri Bonita lure by local angler Bill Wrublewski



Greg Wierzba (Green Bay, WI) and Gale Extence (Ontario, Canada) hold a 44" King Mackerel caught just inside the reef near Big Pine Key.



Joe Edmund of Wisconsin, with one of many nice Black Fin Tuna caught aboard the *Phoebe* with Capt Frank Drudi of *Chelsea Charters* out of Smugglers Cove Marina.

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Adam Price hugging this prized mount, a 175 lb Hammerhead Shark caught by Capt. Steve McGee & 1st Mate Alex Ross aboard the Ramerezi in Key West.



This is Braxton Green from Winter Garden, FL with another great catch aboard the *Fish Tales* out of Whale Harbor Marina MM 83 with Capt. Ron Allen and Mate Jeremy Pfaffendorf.

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



Most folks visiting from snowy parts up north find this “winter” weather very pleasant. But the fish in these supposedly tropical waters around the Florida Keys are feeling like someone turned off the heat and can’t find the on switch. We did enjoy some absolutely beautiful days last week with calm winds, cool air and bluebird skies. We also had our share of gusting winds, down pouring rain and erratic temperatures.

I traveled as much as 100 miles some days in search of actively feeding fish to keep everyone entertained. Trips out to the Gulf of Mexico near the edge of Everglades National Park boundary markers were extremely productive when the weather allowed a visit. Some of the best fishing happened just a few miles west of an area called Sprigger Bank. Brisk current and murky water told me it was a good place to start. A block of

quality chum over the side, and the Mackerel hit our shrimp-tipped jigs with reckless abandon. A boat nearby was having a blast catching these speedy toothy critters using fly rods and loving it.

When the anglers tired of catching Mackerel, Ladyfish, Bluefish, Trout and Snappers, we headed further into the Gulf following strings of trap-line buoys in search of Tripletail. In less than 10 minutes we spotted our first Tripletail. A live shrimp on a weighted jig or just a plain hook is all we needed; that and some good casting. Tripletails like to float near the buoys and it takes an accurate cast to avoid tangling with the trap line instead of the fish.

Bonefish have been making regular appearances around the flats of Islamorada. The cold weather has them following the edges of flats in slightly deeper waters: 3 to 5 feet. On clear days look for muds, which happen when the fish feed on the bottom sending puffs of mud up like light smoke clouds that quickly dissipate as the current carries them away. Find the freshest looking mud and cast a shrimp a good 10 yards ahead of it; closer if you’re casting a fly.

Thirty of the best guides and anglers the Keys have to offer competed last week in the annual Backcountry Fly Tournament, rewarding the largest Redfish and Snook. A huge victory was won by Capt. Mark Gilman who guided his angler, Mark Cockerham, to a Snook that measured over 38” and combined that with a Redfish of over 25”. An amazing accomplishment considering the field they were up against and that the conditions were less than desirable.

Congratulations Team Mark! 

2ND ANNUAL 7 MILE MARINA MARATHON SHARKATHON SHARK TOURNAMENT OFFERS EXCITING FISHING AND \$25,000 PURSE

The 2nd Annual 7 Mile Marina Marathon Sharkathon, to benefit Forgotten Soldiers Outreach and Grace Jones Community Center, is set for Friday and Saturday, April 9 and 10, in Marathon, FL. This one-day, all release tournament boasts \$25,000 in cash awards.

This is a team tournament with points awarded based on the type of sharks caught and released. Qualifying species include mako, tiger, hammerhead, bull, black tip/spinner and lemon. The winning team with the most points will receive a grand prize of \$15,000 cash*. Cash prizes will be awarded for the second and third place teams as well.

The tournament will get underway with a mandatory Captains meeting and kick-off party on Friday, April 9 at 6:30 pm at Fat Buoyz Pub & Grill at the 7 Mile Marina (MM 47.5 Gulf side) in Marathon. The awards ceremony/banquet will feature live music plus raffle prizes and will take place at Fat Buoyz beginning at 6:30 pm on Saturday.

Fishing will run from 8 am until 3 pm Saturday. The use of non-offset circle hooks is mandatory. The killing of a shark, whether intentional or not, will result in automatic disqualification of the entire team.

The inaugural tournament in April 2009 saw more than 100 sharks caught and released. The \$5,000 top prize went to Team No Slack consisting of Capt. James “Bucko” Platt, Capt. BJ Meyer and Jamie Koval. They focused on bull sharks and their catch of 12 paid off for them. Team Carnada, with Capt. Chris Morrison and Henry Waszcuk, took second place with two bulls and ten black tips. The team was rewarded with a check for \$3,000. Third place and \$2,000 went to Team Bionic with Capt. Jack Callion, Buck Bielik, John Ryan and Pat

Lynch. They caught 12 black tips and 1 lemon.

Event organizers anticipate much greater participation this year. With more boats there is more competition, more sharks caught, more fun and more purse money! Registration begins immediately.

Entry fee is \$600 per boat, which covers the Captain and first two anglers. Each additional angler is \$100. There is an early entry fee of \$550 if received by April 1. The tournament organizers have waived a late fee this year, and registration can be performed until the evening of the Captain’s meeting. The fee includes entry, three tickets for both the Captain’s meeting kick-off party and the awards banquet and a tournament shirt for each captain and angler. Additional tickets can be purchased at each event.

The 7 Mile Marina Marathon Sharkathon, together with its sponsors, aims to provide an exhilarating fishing experience while benefiting charities that enhance the quality of life for Marathon’s children and national charities showing support of US soldiers serving overseas, covering all world theaters. For more information and registration, contact Capt. Dan Rudacille at (305) 395-0546 or visit their website www.7MileMarina.net where a registration form can be downloaded.

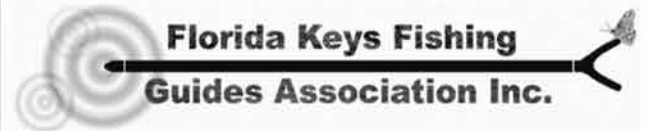
To find out about area accommodations, call the Greater Marathon Chamber of Commerce at (305) 743-5417 or (800) 262-7284, email visitus@floridaykeysmarathon.com, visit the Florida Keys and Key West website at www.fla-keys.com, or FloridaKeysVacationMagazine.com.

**Tournament reserves the right to adjust purse based on participation without notice.*

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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
Mar 3	Wed		04:12 / -0.69 ft	10:16 / 2.68 ft	16:34 / -1.05 ft	22:50 / 2.70 ft
Mar 4	Thu		05:01 / -0.41 ft	11:01 / 2.52 ft	17:24 / -0.81 ft	23:40 / 2.51 ft
Mar 5	Fri		05:51 / -0.09 ft	11:49 / 2.33 ft	18:17 / -0.51 ft	
Mar 6	Sat	00:32 / 2.29 ft	06:46 / 0.23 ft	12:39 / 2.13 ft	19:14 / -0.21 ft	
Mar 7	Sun	01:28 / 2.09 ft	07:46 / 0.50 ft	13:35 / 1.96 ft	20:15 / 0.04 ft	
Mar 8	Mon	02:30 / 1.95 ft	08:50 / 0.66 ft	14:38 / 1.85 ft	21:20 / 0.19 ft	
Mar 9	Tue	03:36 / 1.88 ft	09:55 / 0.70 ft	15:45 / 1.82 ft	22:21 / 0.23 ft	
Mar 10	Wed	04:37 / 1.90 ft	10:53 / 0.62 ft	16:48 / 1.88 ft	23:17 / 0.20 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
Mar 3	Wed		06:48 / -0.01 ft	11:45 / 0.92 ft	19:40 / -0.20 ft	
Mar 4	Thu	00:45 / 0.63 ft	07:24 / 0.03 ft	12:24 / 0.92 ft	20:36 / -0.17 ft	
Mar 5	Fri	01:36 / 0.51 ft	08:01 / 0.07 ft	13:07 / 0.88 ft	21:37 / -0.12 ft	
Mar 6	Sat	02:35 / 0.40 ft	08:41 / 0.11 ft	13:56 / 0.83 ft	22:47 / -0.07 ft	
Mar 7	Sun	03:51 / 0.32 ft	09:30 / 0.15 ft	14:56 / 0.76 ft		
Mar 8	Mon		00:06 / -0.03 ft	05:33 / 0.30 ft	10:37 / 0.18 ft	16:14 / 0.72 ft
Mar 9	Tue		01:24 / -0.01 ft	06:56 / 0.34 ft	12:03 / 0.19 ft	17:41 / 0.71 ft
Mar 10	Wed		02:26 / -0.01 ft	07:45 / 0.39 ft	13:22 / 0.18 ft	18:51 / 0.74 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
Mar 3	Wed		04:46 / -0.17 ft	10:31 / 1.71 ft	17:08 / -0.25 ft	23:05 / 1.72 ft
Mar 4	Thu		05:35 / -0.10 ft	11:16 / 1.61 ft	17:58 / -0.20 ft	23:55 / 1.60 ft
Mar 5	Fri		06:25 / -0.02 ft	12:04 / 1.48 ft	18:51 / -0.12 ft	
Mar 6	Sat	00:47 / 1.46 ft	07:20 / 0.06 ft	12:54 / 1.36 ft	19:48 / -0.05 ft	
Mar 7	Sun	01:43 / 1.33 ft	08:20 / 0.12 ft	13:50 / 1.25 ft	20:49 / 0.01 ft	
Mar 8	Mon	02:45 / 1.24 ft	09:24 / 0.16 ft	14:53 / 1.18 ft	21:54 / 0.05 ft	
Mar 9	Tue	03:51 / 1.20 ft	10:29 / 0.17 ft	16:00 / 1.16 ft	22:55 / 0.06 ft	
Mar 10	Wed	04:52 / 1.21 ft	11:27 / 0.15 ft	17:03 / 1.20 ft	23:51 / 0.05 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
Mar 3	Wed		05:37 / -0.02 ft	10:46 / 1.54 ft	18:29 / -0.35 ft	23:46 / 1.05 ft
Mar 4	Thu		06:13 / 0.05 ft	11:25 / 1.54 ft	19:25 / -0.29 ft	
Mar 5	Fri	00:37 / 0.85 ft	06:50 / 0.12 ft	12:08 / 1.48 ft	20:26 / -0.20 ft	
Mar 6	Sat	01:36 / 0.67 ft	07:30 / 0.19 ft	12:57 / 1.38 ft	21:36 / -0.11 ft	
Mar 7	Sun	02:52 / 0.54 ft	08:19 / 0.25 ft	13:57 / 1.28 ft	22:55 / -0.04 ft	
Mar 8	Mon	04:34 / 0.51 ft	09:26 / 0.30 ft	15:15 / 1.20 ft		
Mar 9	Tue		00:13 / -0.02 ft	05:57 / 0.56 ft	10:52 / 0.32 ft	16:42 / 1.19 ft
Mar 10	Wed		01:15 / -0.01 ft	06:46 / 0.65 ft	12:11 / 0.30 ft	17:52 / 1.23 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
Mar 3	Wed		04:11 / -0.08 ft	10:24 / 1.99 ft	17:05 / -0.57 ft	23:20 / 1.31 ft
Mar 4	Thu		04:47 / 0.08 ft	11:02 / 2.01 ft	18:02 / -0.47 ft	
Mar 5	Fri	00:08 / 1.07 ft	05:24 / 0.23 ft	11:42 / 1.95 ft	19:04 / -0.32 ft	
Mar 6	Sat	01:01 / 0.86 ft	06:04 / 0.37 ft	12:28 / 1.84 ft	20:14 / -0.18 ft	
Mar 7	Sun	02:08 / 0.70 ft	06:55 / 0.48 ft	13:22 / 1.70 ft	21:28 / -0.07 ft	
Mar 8	Mon	05:00 / 0.65 ft	08:14 / 0.56 ft	14:29 / 1.58 ft	22:40 / -0.03 ft	
Mar 9	Tue	06:25 / 0.73 ft	09:43 / 0.56 ft	15:56 / 1.52 ft	23:40 / -0.04 ft	
Mar 10	Wed	07:00 / 0.82 ft	10:57 / 0.48 ft	17:21 / 1.53 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
Mar 3	Wed		04:24 / -0.08 ft	10:31 / 1.91 ft	17:18 / -0.47 ft	23:29 / 1.28 ft
Mar 4	Thu		05:00 / 0.04 ft	11:09 / 1.92 ft	18:13 / -0.38 ft	
Mar 5	Fri	00:21 / 1.05 ft	05:37 / 0.16 ft	11:51 / 1.86 ft	19:14 / -0.26 ft	
Mar 6	Sat	01:18 / 0.85 ft	06:16 / 0.27 ft	12:37 / 1.75 ft	20:23 / -0.13 ft	
Mar 7	Sun	02:34 / 0.71 ft	07:04 / 0.37 ft	13:35 / 1.62 ft	21:41 / -0.03 ft	
Mar 8	Mon	04:19 / 0.66 ft	08:11 / 0.44 ft	14:51 / 1.52 ft	22:59 / 0.00 ft	
Mar 9	Tue	05:46 / 0.72 ft	09:39 / 0.46 ft	16:20 / 1.48 ft		
Mar 10	Wed		00:02 / 0.00 ft	06:33 / 0.81 ft	11:00 / 0.41 ft	17:35 / 1.51 ft

Moon Phases

Last Quarter: 03/07/10 • New: 03/15/10
First Quarter: 03/23/10 • Full: 03/30/10

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	OFF / BC / REEF (305) 923-9293 captgreg@keyssportfishing.com
Key Largo Fishing Adventures	www.keyssportfishing.com
Capt. Timmy Arce Challenger Charters	BC / OFF / PACKAGES (305) 395-1691 www.challengercharters.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 www.thefloridakeyscharterfishing.com 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
Capt. Tom Dudderar Dooda Charters	OFF/REEF (305) 664-4601 tdooda@aol.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



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.

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.

April 7-9: Islamorada All-Tackle Spring Bonefish Tournament. Islamorada. Anglers compete to catch the gray ghost of the flats in the legendary shallows surrounding Islamorada. This all-release tournament features trophies and prizes. Contact Charlotte Ambrogio at 305-942-0428, E-mail or write to P.O. Box 1063, Islamorada FL 33036.



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



It is starting to look like spring, as this week's tides have been extremely low. The temperature has been a little cooler than normal, which hasn't been good for our tourist population. This week's full moon made the fishing a little interesting.

The Yellowtails on the reef are still sluggish, but the Mangroves that have been on the patches have been day savers. Speaking of day savers the Kingfish, which are most often overlooked, can give your light tackle a good run for it's money. Drag screaming off of a reel gets every fisherman's blood flowing. These toothy critters love this weather and as the water cleared up the bite was really on. Kingfish rely on their great eyesight to eat. They have very large eyes for their size. Kingfish have a torpedo shaped body, which allows them to have incredible acceleration to surprise its prey. One of the many reasons I love to fish for Kings is their ability to launch themselves out of the water and land directly on your bait. Sometimes Kingfish can jump twenty feet in the air when they attack bait on the surface. These supersonic jet-like predators can eat very large baits, as they will cut larger baits down to size as they shred a piece off on every pass. You can target these fish on deeper wrecks from 125-180 feet of water. If there are Barracudas around the wreck, the Kings will stay further off the wreck so not to be eaten themselves. You can troll for them with live or dead bait along the edge of the reef, or anchor up and chunk for them as well. When you're anchored up try the kite with a large bait and some flatlines with live baits for the best results. They will readily eat a spoon or jig retrieved very fast. These fish are triggered to attack by fast moving action.

Sailfishing has been a little on the boring side. The current still hasn't been all that great and this eddy of no current was shortly interrupted for a few days as we did experience some current this week. The bite for Sails has been slow all the way up to Miami. When we get some current we will see the action pick back up.

There were a few Dolphin caught along the reef this week, nothing of any size or numbers, but a few is better than none. I heard from one of my friends that a large school of schoolies came by their boat, but they were too small to keep. If I had to go offshore this upcoming week I would venture out to the humps where the action has been with Tuna and Amberjacks. The super large Jacks have held up residence on the hump, and so has many large Sharks, too. The Jacks out there have been averaging 65-80 pounds with some 100 pounders being caught too.

For the up coming week, it looks like we are going to experience cooler waters only in front of Marathon and as far out as 30 miles, but later in the week it will be pushed out by the warm water eddy and the warm water looks like it will push almost to the reef. When we lose the cooler water in Marathon, the Upper Keys will get it for a few days until it pushes around the corner to Miami. Look for warm water east or west till Thursday, and then we should have some current and warm water for a few days until a new eddy of cold water will plague us once again. All of this cooler water is being pushed by the warm water out of the Gulf of Mexico and creating a ying and yang mixture of cold and warm water along the Keys. This warm water is swirling the cold water up the coast and this is why we will be experiencing these changes of water temperatures.

I am counting the days till the Dolphin run, but I am predicting that it won't be until the end of April or the beginning of May before we see any major runs. I hope I am wrong. This was the trend last year, and the only way that we will see the Dolphin return early is if we experience some global warming, hahahaha, just kidding. Seriously though, we need the warm water for the Dolphin to show up early. Everyone hated El Nino, but I think that's why we had loads of Dolphin from March to October last year. I had amazing Octobers in the past when the water stayed warm late in the season. Keep your eyes peeled for birds working anywhere near the warm water for Dolphin.

Good luck out there. 



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CAPTAIN Z

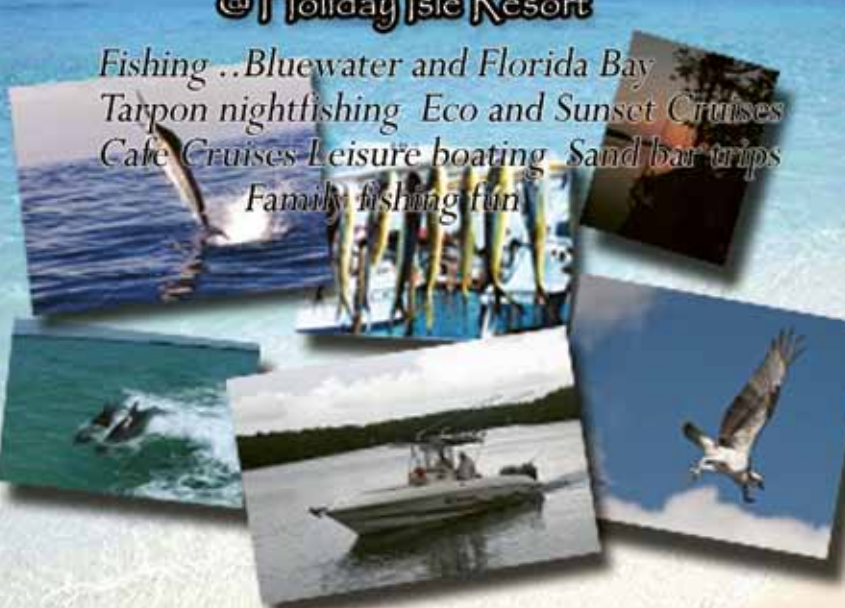
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Graeme and Michelle from the United Kingdom, had a great day on the water with Capt. Timmy Arce and the *Challenger*, catching these Tuna and a Sail!



This African Pompano was caught by Capt Joe Cambell aboard *Ageless*, run by Capt Tom Maher.


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