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Vol. XII • Issue 16



Congratulations to Bridget Barry, only 7 years old, with her pending Small Fry IGFA world record Cero Mackerel that weighed in just under 5 lbs! She was fishing with Capt. Chris Morrison of Marathon.

Contact Us: (305) 852-FISH (3474) • www.weeklyfisherman.com • 03/10/10



Steve and Billy (Long Island, NY) after a great day fishing with Capt. Ben Ekblom and mate Mike Taute aboard *Tailwalker*, out of Hawk’s Cay.

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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.”

In This Issue . . .

Features

Fishing Reports	3-5, 7, 11
Boat Exchange	8
Tide Tables	9
Captain & Guide Directory	10
Tournament Listings	10

Advertisers

Barefoot Baits.	2
Capt. Ron Wagner	2
Challenger Charters	12
DJ’s Reel Repair.	5
Fish Tales Charter Boat	4
Flying Dutchman Productions	4
Hooked Up Charters.	12
Hunter Charters	12
Keys Magic Charters	4
Keys Plastics Shop	2
Killer White Charters	4
Over Under Adventures - Islamorada	2
Prop Doctor	11
Quickfish Affordable Charters	12
Sandpiper Marine	BC
Shiloh Tire & Lube.	BC
Tiki Huts.	11

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Fishing Report

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

Capt. Richard Burson Key Largo Backcountry



There is exciting action to report this week in the backcountry. Since January's unusually cold weather most fishermen were wondering if the bite would ever return. Well I am here to report that I have had great luck this week. The beginning of the week brought good sized Snook, Redfish, Black Drum, and Sea Trout. The latter part of the week I fished with Captain Lain Goodwin, Dirty Water Charters and had luck with lots of Black Drum, Redfish and Trout. The backcountry fishing is returning slowly. As we begin to move into the warmer months I predict the fishing will be red hot for many of the species listed above excluding the Snook.

The Snook took quite a hit from the January cold spell. In response, FWC took action by temporary closing the Snook, as well as the Tarpon and Bonefish fisheries. This means you may only catch and release these species until further notice. This is a precautionary measure while they

compile data being from fishermen and research staff that are actively monitoring and collecting information. You can access the most up to date data at <http://research.myfwc.com/fishkill/>. This website will give you an actual count of the number of members of each species killed during January's cold spell. It is interesting to see the enormity of the impact on our beloved fishery! As more research is completed we should have a better understanding of the full impact January's chill will have on our future fisheries.

Although Florida residents were rightfully concerned about the prolonged cold we experienced, the FWC reports that January's cold was not all bad. A few positive impacts were that native freshwater fish species were largely unaffected by the cold temperatures however, non-native species that were introduced to Florida's waters were seriously impacted. Another positive attribute to the deep freeze is the cold temperatures also killed Burmese pythons, iguanas and other invasive species that have been invading Florida. Although the cold has not eliminated all of them, it has sharply reduced their numbers.

For now, things are literally heating up and the waters are more productive than they have been for the last few weeks. As you are planning your fishing trip to the beautiful Florida Keys make certain to be well versed in what is biting. The last thing you want to do is try to target a species that is not active. Talk with your selected guide to get the scoop on what is biting and be flexible with your dates. As they say, "Some days are better than others!"

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 and welcome all you spring breakers to the Keys! Hopefully you all will leave the cold air up north where it belongs and allow us Floridians to thaw out.

Out on the water this week, we took advantage of the calm conditions and did a lot of deep water fishing. We found the Jacks have moved in to spawn, because every wreck we dropped at had either Greater Amberjacks or the better eating Almaco Jacks on it. One thing you can count on with Jacks is that they will put up a great fight from the moment they are hooked up till they hit the deck of the boat. This is what has earned them the nickname of 'donkeys', because that's exactly what it feels like you are hauling up from the bottom every time you hook one of these big guys.

We were using live baits, either pilchards or cigar minnows; however butterfly jigs seemed to be working as well. If you were able to keep your bait away from the Jacks for a moment, there were definitely a couple of Mutton Snappers to be had. There was also some good action on the chicken rigs; we were catching some really nice Yelloweye Snappers out in 300 to 500 feet of water. What's a chicken rig you ask? It is a way of fishing multiple hooks on one line without getting tangled up. We use them mainly in shallow water, but in the deep it gives you a better opportunity to catch a couple of fish at a time with less work.

Out at the Islamorada Hump they were catching some nice Tuna's in the 8-25 lb range. There were also some big Amber Jacks caught, when you could get them up through the sharks that is. We had a cool opportunity last week to get up close and personal with a very large Hammerhead. He ate our Amberjack in half and then followed the head up to the transom of the boat where my deck technician, Daniel, reached down to pet him. It was a pretty cool sight.

On the reef there was a pick of Yellowtail and Mangrove Snappers. If you put your time in you could put together a good catch. Lots of Grouper were caught as well, and even though they have to be released, they are still fun to catch.

Here's to keeping the rods bent . . . 



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



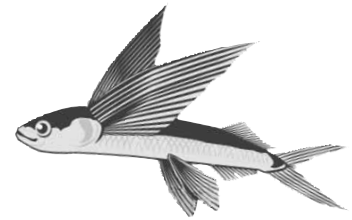
One of my anglers recently suggested that I put some of my retirement funds in gold. I told him most of my money went into lead, and most of that lead is somewhere on the bottom of the ocean between Maine and Florida. I have never really tallied up how much 'terminal tackle' has cost me over the years guiding anglers, and I really do not want to know. Part of what is always needed on fishing trips are all those items we must have to make a charter successful; Hooks, sinkers, leader material, swivels, snap swivels, lures, plugs, flies, corks, and anything else there could be on Tackle Shop walls. In my opinion, the more the better. Even if you don't have room on the boat, you can pack it in the truck, under your bed or somewhere that makes it easy to find.

You will also need plastic boxes, lots of them, to put all the crap in you just bought. I am a sucker for plastic boxes in any shape or form. I

have more plastic containers on my shelves than in any one Wal-Mart store. I give some away to lots of friends and keep buying more. Go ahead and call me nuts, the wife does, but I'm in love with all the stuff that lines the aisles of tackle shops, and firmly believe it should be going home with me when I leave the place. Credit cards are great for buying as much as you want as long as the other half never sees the monthly statements. If they do, you're in deep doo-doo as I can attest to from years of verbal attacks from my wife. Marriage can be wonderful as long as you really show them how much you care by bringing them home some nice gifts from time to time.

The other day was Carol's birthday, so I went across the street to the tackle shop and bought her a great rain suit for her to wear when were fishing together. It cost quite a bit, and they even wrapped it up. When she opened it, she was pleasantly surprised, until she tried it on and could not see her hands or feet. She informed me (again) that she wears a medium not an extra large. I told her I was sorry for the mistake but instead of taking it back, I would keep it on the boat as the weathermen were predicting some rain soon. That should show you the amount of sincerity I have to try and get her something nice. So it did not fit her, it was the thought that counted, right? I did take her to dinner that day in an attempt to make amends.

So, here's my advice. When you feel you have spent way too much on fishing tackle for yourself, buy your gal something she could really use, such as, a new rod and reel, chest waders, fillet knife or a fancy GPS. You'll have her eating out of your hand. Or possibly you won't be eating indoors anymore.



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Fishing Report

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

The winds have been blowing 10 to 20 knots for most of the week and water temps are still cooler than normal for this time of year. Bay temps have cooled down into the 50's, Offshore water temps at the Stream are hanging around 74 degrees and the reef is about 62 degrees. Despite the winds and cloudy waters there are plenty of great fishing opportunities. Bay fishing has slowed up a little and fishing is tough, but there is still some Spanish Mackerel to 7lbs. Bluefish to 5 lbs. Pompano to 3 lbs. with the occasional Cobia to be had. Offshore, the Blackfin Tuna and monster Amberjack bite is keeping anglers busy for those willing to make the run.

Reef fishing is excellent. Resort guests are having a ball with the super Cero Mackerel and Mangrove Snapper fishing. Capt. Josh Ardis on the Fighting Lady out of Duck Key reports that the reef fishing has opened

up to fantastic fishing in 40 feet of water. There are good catches of Kingfish to 30 lbs. Yellowtail Snappers to 3 lbs. a few Mutton Snapper to 20 lbs. and a couple of Gag and Black Grouper to 20 lbs., but the Cero Mackerel and the Mangrove Snappers are red hot. Recently, extremely large live shrimp have become available to anglers. Before the large shrimp can make it to the bottom there's a Cero Mackerel on the line. If by some chance the shrimp make it to the bottom, it's almost always a Mangrove Snapper that will take the bait. Catches of 55 lbs. of 2 to 5 pound Mangrove Snappers a day and 150 lbs. of 5 to 18 pound Cero Mackerel a day is not uncommon.

Offshore, the Blackfin Tuna fishing on the West Hump in 480 ft. of water has been consistent. Most of the Tuna up to 25 lbs. are being taken using butterfly jigs or cedar plugs. Large Amberjack are bending rods also on the Humps. Using 3 to 5 lb. live Blue Runners as bait is doing the trick producing Amberjacks to 100 lbs. There is decent Red Snapper catches in 240 ft. of water, running between 10 to 20 lbs. Snowy Grouper have made an appearance in 800 ft. of water to 40 lbs. Tarpon and Bonefish have not been cooperating.

Tight Lines To All ... 

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.

For more information and registration, contact Capt. Dan Rudacille at (305) 395-0546 or visit their website at www.7MileMarina.net where a registration form can be downloaded.

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



Capt Ben Ekblom with *Tailwalker* had a great day fishing with Chris Baker, who plays football for the Patriots.

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Big African Pompano, caught by Mike Young (Long Island, NY) while fishing aboard the *Miss Islamorada* out of Bud N Mary's.



Captain Steve McGee, Mate Alex Ross and their Charter Matt (Vancouver) sporting their abundant catch of Tuna, Mackerel & Bonita caught on the *Ramerezi* docked in Key West's historic Charter Boat Row.



Mike Zanicchi (NY) caught this nice mutton snapper off Little Conch Reef while fishing with Capt. Robert Mathias on the *Restless Too* out of Whale Harbor Marina.



◀ Terry Schwirtz (Waupaca, WI) had a nice Yellow Edge Grouper while fishing with Capt Greg on the *Miss Molly*, out of Sister Creek in Marathon. The fish was caught in 650' using fresh squid and a multi-color light.



Pat, Nancy, Ron and Josh after a successful days catch of Cobia, while aboard the *Phoebe* of Chelsea Charters out of Smuggler's Cove Marina.



▶ Alex Bell, Jeremy Foell, and Steel Rocket from Marathon after a great day underwater.

Fishing Report

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

Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon



With any luck, we've seen the last of the cold for the year. It's been a tough winter, weather wise, but despite the wind associated with the battery of cold fronts we've been dealt, fishermen are still finding small windows of opportunity to run offshore. This time of year, with Dolphin largely absent from offshore waters, anglers venturing far from shore could be in search of three things; Blackfin Tuna (primarily on the humps), deep water bottom dwelling species such as Snowy Grouper, Queen Snapper, Rosefish, or Swordfish. More often than not for me and the rest aboard the *Lazy Daze*, out of Key Colony Beach, it's the latter. As is the case with any fishery, some days or even stretches of weeks can be better than others. Recently, however, we've found the fish very active and willing to bite. The last trip on Feb. 16 was no exception. We

hooked a fish on every drop, caught two, pulled the hook on three others, and caught a very interesting looking fish called a Pomphret. This type of fishing has proven very addictive to me, and I'm sure it will have the same effect on others who give it a try. Any day the wind falls to 10 knots or below, chances are I'll be heading offshore.

As for the majority of the boats saying closer to shore, there's good news there, too. The Snapper bite on the reef, while maybe not quite as hot as the past two weeks, is still great. Private and charter boats are having success anchored up in anywhere from 20 to 50 feet of water, dropping fresh cut bait and live bait to the bottom. I have found that Snappers can be reluctant to move off of structure, so don't count on having them come to you. If you're not catching, move. You'll know right away whether you've parked on them or not. Keeping a close eye on your bottom machine will help you locate live bottom and fish.

Although it seemed like there were hardly any Sailfish around up to this point, the boats fishing the Leon Shell Memorial Tournament out of Key Colony Beach put that idea to rest. Oddly enough, it seems a lot of the action was out in 500 feet of water or better, where the water turns from green to blue. So for all of you trollers out there, don't be afraid to run a little farther offshore than you anticipated for this time of year. Congratulations to KCB's own *Main Attraction* for taking first place in the tournament with eight fish over the two days, and team *CFI* and the *Natural* for second and third respectively, each with seven fish.

As a follow up, congratulations to 7 year old Bridget Barry on her pending Small Fry IGFA world record Cero Mackerel, just less than five pounds, caught fishing with Capt. Chris Morrison of Marathon. Great job guys!

The weather man is telling us we might actually have temperatures in the 70's for most of the week, so get out there and enjoy it! 🦞



Eric, Eric, Bill, Brad and Ray hailing from Ohio and Texas had a great trip with Capt Dave and Rode Runner Charter out of The Tackle Box in Marathon last week. The largest catch was a 7' shark weighing about 200 lbs, followed by a 23 lbs Cobia, and 8 King Macs, the largest being 22 lbs. It was nonstop action with a dozen Snappers and at least as many Grouper that were all successfully released. These guys were a lot of fun (they only brought 3 cases of beer) and took home a ton of fish for dinner!



Larry Blessinger with a Pomphret, caught aboard his boat *Lazy Daze* out of Key Colony Beach.

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12 / 02

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03 / 03

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02 / 17

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(L-R) Capt. Kevin Goodwin, boat owner Larry Blessinger, Aidee Perez, Capt. Nick Borraccino with their Swords, caught way offshore near Marathon.

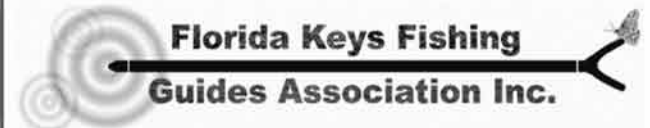


Bill Lamb warming up in the Florida Keys caught a Redfish with Captain Richard Burson.

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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 10	Wed	04:37 / 1.90 ft	10:53 / 0.62 ft	16:48 / 1.88 ft	23:17 / 0.20 ft	
Mar 11	Thu	05:30 / 1.98 ft	11:44 / 0.47 ft	17:41 / 1.98 ft		
Mar 12	Fri		00:04 / 0.12 ft	06:14 / 2.08 ft	12:28 / 0.29 ft	18:27 / 2.10 ft
Mar 13	Sat		00:47 / 0.04 ft	06:53 / 2.18 ft	13:08 / 0.10 ft	19:09 / 2.22 ft
Mar 14	Sun		01:26 / -0.04 ft	08:29 / 2.27 ft	14:44 / -0.07 ft	20:48 / 2.33 ft
Mar 15	Mon		03:02 / -0.08 ft	09:05 / 2.32 ft	15:17 / -0.20 ft	21:26 / 2.40 ft
Mar 16	Tue		03:36 / -0.08 ft	09:40 / 2.35 ft	15:50 / -0.29 ft	22:03 / 2.44 ft
Mar 17	Wed		04:10 / -0.05 ft	10:14 / 2.33 ft	16:23 / -0.34 ft	22:41 / 2.44 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
Mar 10	Wed		02:26 / -0.01 ft	07:45 / 0.39 ft	13:22 / 0.18 ft	18:51 / 0.74 ft
Mar 11	Thu		03:12 / -0.01 ft	08:17 / 0.45 ft	14:25 / 0.14 ft	19:45 / 0.77 ft
Mar 12	Fri		03:48 / -0.00 ft	08:43 / 0.52 ft	15:16 / 0.10 ft	20:28 / 0.79 ft
Mar 13	Sat		04:17 / 0.00 ft	09:07 / 0.60 ft	16:00 / 0.05 ft	21:07 / 0.80 ft
Mar 14	Sun		05:43 / 0.01 ft	10:30 / 0.67 ft	17:39 / 0.01 ft	22:44 / 0.79 ft
Mar 15	Mon		06:07 / 0.03 ft	10:54 / 0.73 ft	18:16 / -0.04 ft	23:20 / 0.77 ft
Mar 16	Tue		06:30 / 0.04 ft	11:19 / 0.78 ft	18:52 / -0.08 ft	23:58 / 0.73 ft
Mar 17	Wed		06:54 / 0.06 ft	11:45 / 0.81 ft	19:29 / -0.11 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 10	Wed	04:52 / 1.21 ft	11:27 / 0.15 ft	17:03 / 1.20 ft	23:51 / 0.05 ft	
Mar 11	Thu	05:45 / 1.26 ft	12:18 / 0.11 ft	17:56 / 1.26 ft		
Mar 12	Fri		00:38 / 0.03 ft	06:29 / 1.33 ft	13:02 / 0.07 ft	18:42 / 1.34 ft
Mar 13	Sat		01:21 / 0.01 ft	07:08 / 1.39 ft	13:42 / 0.02 ft	19:24 / 1.42 ft
Mar 14	Sun		03:00 / -0.01 ft	08:44 / 1.45 ft	15:18 / -0.02 ft	21:03 / 1.48 ft
Mar 15	Mon		03:36 / -0.02 ft	09:20 / 1.48 ft	15:51 / -0.05 ft	21:41 / 1.53 ft
Mar 16	Tue		04:10 / -0.02 ft	09:55 / 1.50 ft	16:24 / -0.07 ft	22:18 / 1.56 ft
Mar 17	Wed		04:44 / -0.01 ft	10:29 / 1.49 ft	16:57 / -0.08 ft	22:56 / 1.56 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 10	Wed		01:15 / -0.01 ft	06:46 / 0.65 ft	12:11 / 0.30 ft	17:52 / 1.23 ft
Mar 11	Thu		02:01 / -0.01 ft	07:18 / 0.76 ft	13:14 / 0.24 ft	18:46 / 1.28 ft
Mar 12	Fri		02:37 / -0.01 ft	07:44 / 0.88 ft	14:05 / 0.17 ft	19:29 / 1.32 ft
Mar 13	Sat		03:06 / 0.00 ft	08:08 / 1.00 ft	14:49 / 0.09 ft	20:08 / 1.34 ft
Mar 14	Sun		04:32 / 0.02 ft	09:31 / 1.12 ft	16:28 / 0.01 ft	21:45 / 1.32 ft
Mar 15	Mon		04:56 / 0.04 ft	09:55 / 1.22 ft	17:05 / -0.07 ft	22:21 / 1.29 ft
Mar 16	Tue		05:19 / 0.07 ft	10:20 / 1.30 ft	17:41 / -0.14 ft	22:59 / 1.22 ft
Mar 17	Wed		05:43 / 0.10 ft	10:46 / 1.36 ft	18:18 / -0.19 ft	23:37 / 1.13 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 10	Wed	07:00 / 0.82 ft	10:57 / 0.48 ft	17:21 / 1.53 ft		
Mar 11	Thu		00:28 / -0.06 ft	07:20 / 0.93 ft	11:56 / 0.36 ft	18:22 / 1.57 ft
Mar 12	Fri		01:06 / -0.07 ft	07:35 / 1.05 ft	12:45 / 0.22 ft	19:06 / 1.60 ft
Mar 13	Sat		01:39 / -0.07 ft	07:49 / 1.20 ft	13:29 / 0.08 ft	19:45 / 1.62 ft
Mar 14	Sun		03:08 / -0.06 ft	09:08 / 1.35 ft	15:08 / -0.04 ft	21:21 / 1.61 ft
Mar 15	Mon		03:34 / -0.01 ft	09:31 / 1.51 ft	15:45 / -0.15 ft	21:57 / 1.58 ft
Mar 16	Tue		03:58 / 0.05 ft	09:57 / 1.64 ft	16:21 / -0.24 ft	22:34 / 1.52 ft
Mar 17	Wed		04:20 / 0.13 ft	10:25 / 1.74 ft	16:56 / -0.29 ft	23:13 / 1.42 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 10	Wed		00:02 / 0.00 ft	06:33 / 0.81 ft	11:00 / 0.41 ft	17:35 / 1.51 ft
Mar 11	Thu		00:49 / -0.02 ft	07:05 / 0.93 ft	12:04 / 0.31 ft	18:30 / 1.55 ft
Mar 12	Fri		01:24 / -0.03 ft	07:30 / 1.05 ft	12:55 / 0.19 ft	19:14 / 1.58 ft
Mar 13	Sat		01:54 / -0.04 ft	07:53 / 1.19 ft	13:39 / 0.08 ft	19:53 / 1.59 ft
Mar 14	Sun		03:20 / -0.03 ft	09:16 / 1.33 ft	15:18 / -0.03 ft	21:30 / 1.58 ft
Mar 15	Mon		03:45 / -0.00 ft	09:41 / 1.46 ft	15:55 / -0.13 ft	22:06 / 1.54 ft
Mar 16	Tue		04:08 / 0.04 ft	10:06 / 1.58 ft	16:31 / -0.21 ft	22:44 / 1.47 ft
Mar 17	Wed		04:32 / 0.09 ft	10:32 / 1.66 ft	17:08 / -0.26 ft	23:22 / 1.37 ft

Moon Phases

New: 03/15/10 • First Quarter: 03/23/10
Full: 03/30/10 • Last Quarter: 04/07/10

Tide predictions may not be accurate. The Weekly Fisherman accepts no liabilities associated with any referenced use of the above-listed tidal information. Remember that weather conditions affect tidal ranges and current speeds, sometimes very strongly.

KEYS CAPTAIN & GUIDE DIRECTORY



This Directory is a comprehensive list of the best shallow water flats guides & offshore charter skippers from Key Largo to Key West. Flats species of fish include: Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon, Redfish, Snook & Trout. Offshore species of fish include: Dolphin, Sailfish, Wahoo, Kingfish, Tuna, Snapper & Grouper. Gulf species of fish include: Kingfish, Grouper, Snapper, Cobia & Tarpon.



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

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

Upper Keys		Key Largo to Islamorada
Captain / Charter		Contact Info
Capt. Greg Eklund	OFF / REEF / WR / FL	(305) 360-7476
Cloud Nine Charters		www.islamoradafishingtrips.com
Fin Razer Sportfishing	OFF / BC / REEF	(305) 923-9293
Key Largo Fishing Adventures	www.keyssportfishing.com	captgreg@keyssportfishing.com
Capt. Timmy Arce	BC / OFF / PACKAGES	(305) 395-1691
Challenger Charters		www.challengercharters.com
Capt. Ron Allen	Fish Tales Charters	(305) 664-0050
		www.fishtalessportfishing.com
Capt. Jack Falcucci	OFF / REEF	(305) 393-0795
	50' Custom Ocean Sportfish	
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	BC/LT/FL/GF/TP/FLY	(305) 360-3262
www.rufishingyet.com		rufishingyet@yahoo.com
Capt. Scott Keller	OFF / BC / WR / GF	(305) 664-6678
Bad Habit Charters		captscott@badhabitfishingcharters.com
Capt. Z	OFF / REEF / WR	(305) 393-6931
Hooked Up Charters		hookedupgladius@aol.com
Capt. Frank Drudi	OFF/REEF/WR	(866) 431-2277
Chelsea Charters	www.thefloridakeyscharterfishing.com	floridakeyscharterfishing@yahoo.com
Capt. Chris Barth	OFF/REEF	(305) 797-6442
The Hunter Charters		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	OFF / REEF	(305) 610-4778
Sweet e' Nuf Charters		www.sweetenufcharters.com
Capt. Tom Dudderar	OFF/REEF	(305) 664-4601
Dooda Charters		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	BC / FL / OFF / REEF	(305) 744-9796
Last Cast Charters		www.lastcastcharters.com
Capt. Luke Kelly	FL / FLY / LT / BC / TP	(305) 304-3152
keyflat@mac.com		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 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.

April 11: 7 Mile Marina Marathon Sharkathon. Marathon. Take a bite out of Marathon as anglers match skills in catching multiple shark species during this one-day, man-versus-shark release tournament. Contact Dan Rudacille 305-395-0546.

April 13-17: World Sailfish Championship. Key West. With a guaranteed top prize of \$100,000, the prestigious sailfish challenge draws top teams and benefits the Don Shula Foundation for Breast Cancer Research, Camp Boggy Creek for youngsters with chronic and life-threatening illnesses, and other national and local charities. Contact Mike Weinhofer 305-395-3474 or 727-631-0072, E-mail, visit worldsailfish.com or write 2120 Range Road, Clearwater, FL 33765.



Fishing Report

This report is brought to you by
James M. Simcic III
If you would like to learn more
please contact him by phone:
(305) 393-5600, or e-mail him at:
Keysdiver0106@yahoo.com
Captain Hooks Marina
(305) 743-2444
www.captainhooksmarina.com

James Simcic III Spearfishing

The winter in the Keys brings great fishing and a laid back mentality to go along with it. Unfortunately, this winter has brought many a pair of chapped lips and hardened hands as well. This past weekend seemed to do just that. Temps in the mid to upper 50's to start and end the day aren't something I usually look forward to fishing in, but diving? Forget it! Just ridiculous!! This past Saturday a select few divers roughed the weather with a bigger goal than shooting fish in mind.

Recently, our friendly Keys community lost one of our own to a fatal car accident on the 7 Mile Bridge. Very close to our hearts, especially as a well known spearfisherman and scuba diver, Jeff Simonds left us on February 18, 2010. With a big void in his place, a Memorial Spearfishing Tournament was set up to celebrate him as a person, a husband, and

diver! The tournament goal was to support and raise funds for his beloved, Jessica Snook.

Although 23 divers entered with high ambitions, the wind and temperatures knocked the field down to just a few. Dirty water and cold temps kept some out of the water. The raffle turn-out on the other hand was amazing!

Like many other sports, spearfishing really brings the community together. In this case the raffle gave away gift certificates, prizes, and trips from local businesses all up and down the Keys. It makes me very proud to say that this tournament was a huge success! If any of you know Jeremy Foell, a Marathon High School senior, congratulate him on a wonderful tournament. Jeremy was helped by Mike O'Connor of Keys Scuba Shack and Tyler Nulisch along with many other great supporters.

When you guys get out on your next trip, please, keep Jeff in your thoughts. Shoot with purpose, shoot with respect, shoot wisely and be careful! 🐟



Key West Wrap-Up

Let's begin the round up of Key West fishing action this past week with the *Ramerezi* out of Charter Boat Row. On a half-day charter, Captain Steve McGee and mate Alex Ross found a nice edge in 260 feet of water that produced 36 Dolphin, most of which were in the 5-10 lbs range and the largest being around 20 lbs. They also report a decent Black Fin Tuna bite in the early morning and afternoon, along with a large amount of Bonita.

This past weekend, Captain Jimmy Bailey, a native Key West captain, brought in a 40 lb Cobia and had two Sailfish flags flying from his 31' Cape Horn, *The Hooked Up*.

The *Gulfstream IV* party boat has produced some mentionable catches. Captain Cory free-gaffed another 40 lb Cobia. The crews have been sporting some nice Muttons on the dock, as well. Several were well over the 20 lb range, including one recently caught by local Fred Smith. Just yesterday there were 40-50 Lane Snappers and a few Yellowtails.

With our unusually cold weather and strong winds, the water color has been green and dark; prime makings for some totally awesome Shark fishing. Again, the guys on the *Ramerezi* mounted a 175 lbs Hammerhead. The docks have been lined with anglers more than excited to indulge themselves in the fight these species bring with them. We have mainly seen Hammerheads and Black Tips, although there is one light tackle boat captain that reported hooking up a 500+ lb Mako.

Due to the cold temperatures and milky green waters, live bait has been extremely hard to come by. These bait conditions have created quite a challenge when it comes to catching a finicky Sailfish. They have been really difficult to catch on dead bait, but with the warming trend multiple boats have begun to see the Sailfish start tailing. The upcoming week should produce a multitude of Sailfish flags flying from the riggers of the local charter boats here in Key West. 🐟



Captain Chris Barth




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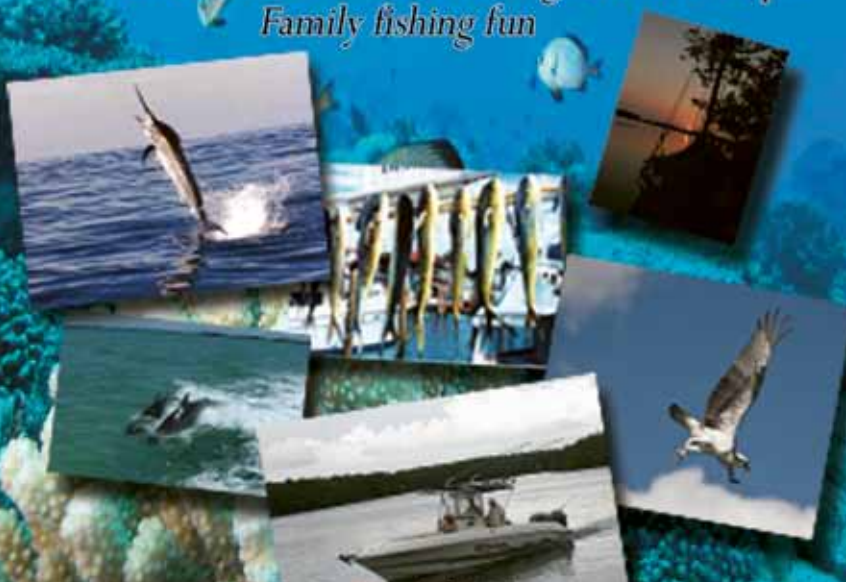


CAPTAIN Z

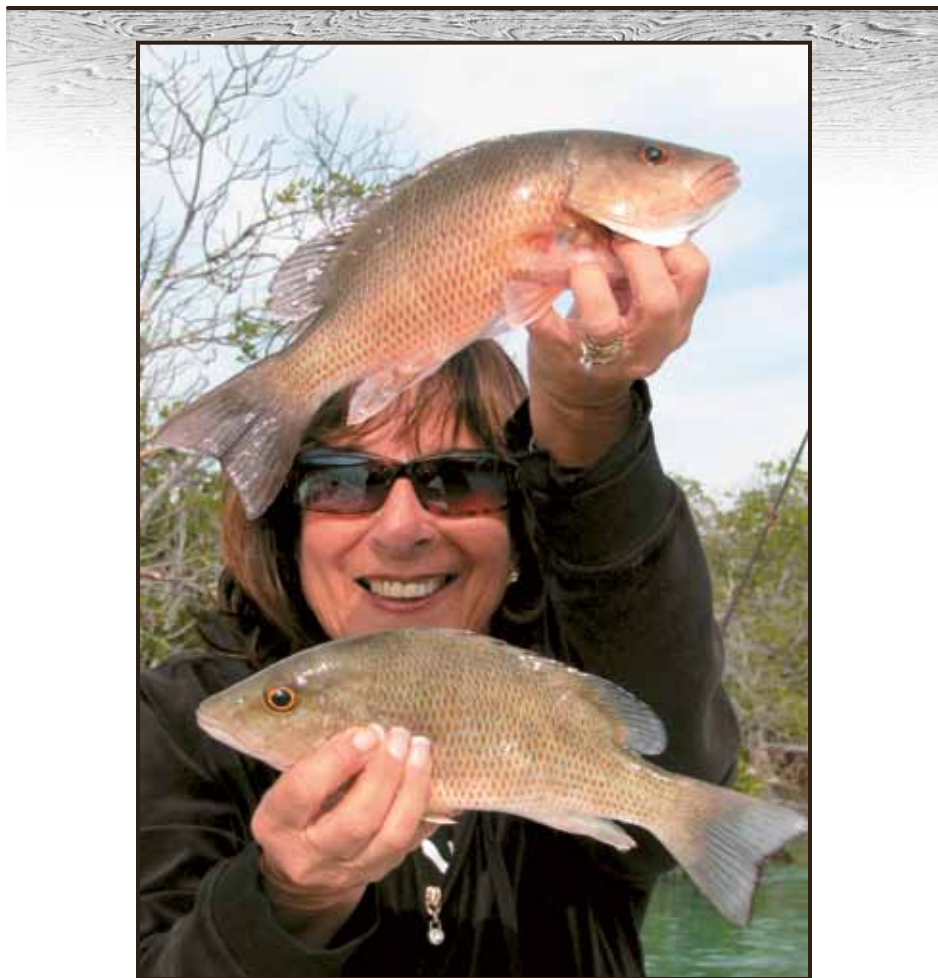
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Capt Bill Russo of Key Largo is trying to keep his fishing partner and wife of 43 years, Myra, busy during this crazy weather by catching a few Mangrove Snapper in Tavernier Creek.



Dave Huggett from Maple Plain, MN, out fishing last week with friends. They got this one off of Molasses Reef trolling naked ballyhoo.

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