

FREE

The Original Weekly

Fisherman

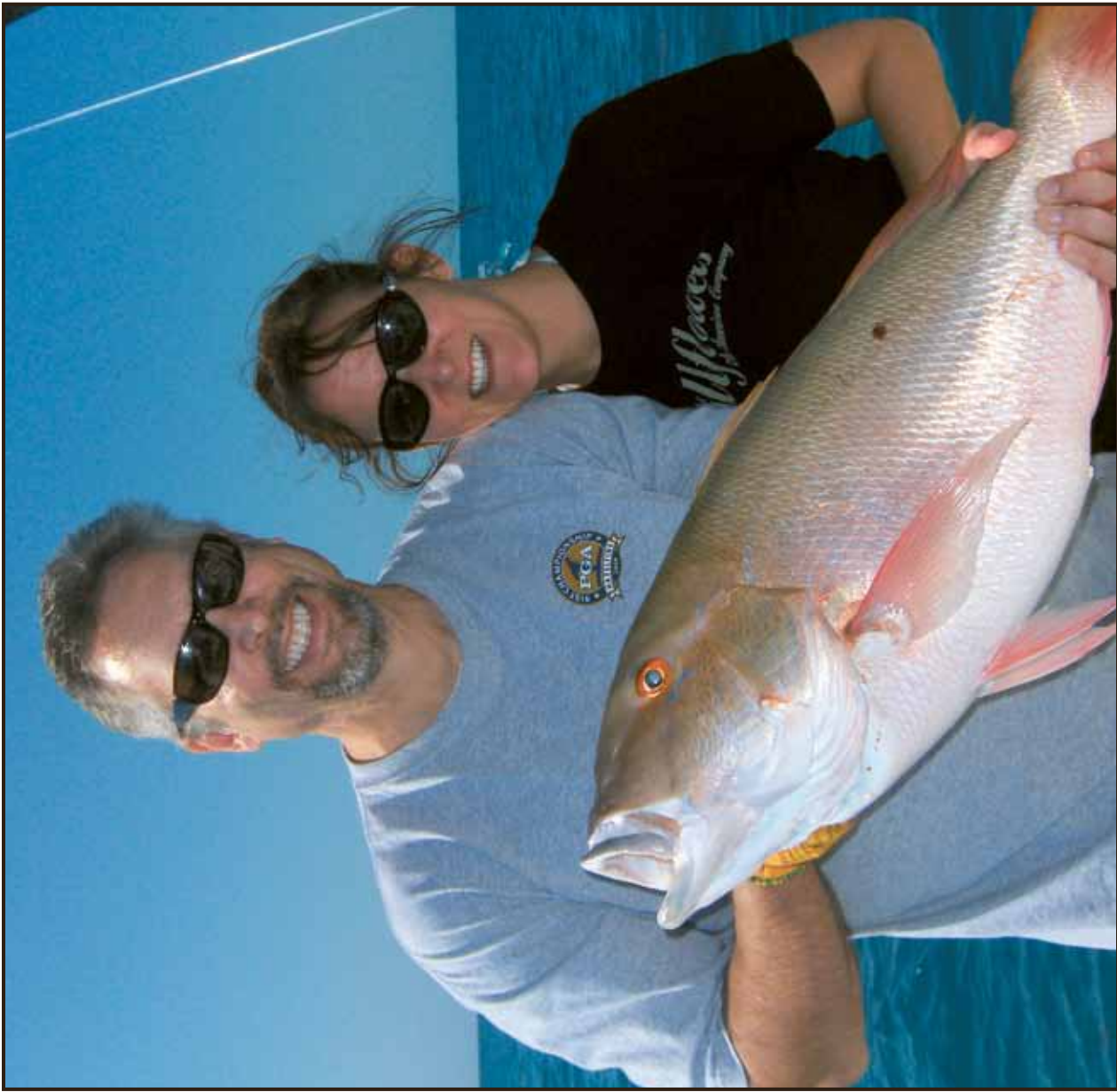
& the Keys

Boat Exchange

Key Largo • Islamorada • Marathon • Big Pine • Key West

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Vol. XII • Issue 17



Rick and Jan from Atlanta with a 19lb mutton caught with Capt. Tom Dudderar of Dooda Charters.

Contact Us: (305) 852-FISH (3474) • www.weeklyfisherman.com • 03/18/10



This Longfin Mako put up a great fight for about 1½ hours while deep-dropping for daytime swordfish in 1800 ft of water off the Florida Keys. Capt. Billy Turnbull (Key Colony Beach) estimated it at about 8 ft to the fork and estimated the weight at about 250 lbs. It’s the first Longfin Capt. Billy has seen, and he says it looks completely different from a Shortfin Mako. This special catch was released unharmed after a few photos were taken.

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COOPERTIRES



Stu Apte, renowned angler . . .

and local Keys resident, will speak to Coral Shores High School students on Wednesday, March 24th from 8:35-9:25 am in the Performing Arts Building. Stu will present a brief DVD of some of his fishing experiences and then take questions from the students.

Stu Apte was a Naval Aviator who flew jet fighter planes during the Korean conflict and then went on to fly for Pan Am for many years. He began fly fishing in the 1940's. By the mid 1950's he started guiding fisherman in the Keys. He has held more than 44 saltwater light tackle and fly rod World Records, including the two longest standing saltwater fly rod records: a 58 pound dolphin caught in 1964 and a 136 pound Pacific Sailfish caught in 1965.

The Stu Apte Tarpon Fly is standard fly fishing tackle and was featured on a US postage stamp in 1991. He has written many articles for Outdoor Life, Field & Stream, and Sports Afield as well as his books Stu Apte's Fishing in the Florida Keys and Of Wind and Tides, copies of which he recently donated to the CSHS media center.

In addition to writing, Stu has appeared in numerous TV shows including ABC's Wide World of Sports, ESPN's On The Fly, plus Walker Cay Chronicles and Southwest Florida Outdoors on the Fox Sports Network.

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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 no competing with a day on the water here in the beautiful Florida Keys! All of you spring breakers will regret it if you skip a chance to experience the Florida Keys' true beauty: the turquoise waters and the wildlife hiding within it. Taking a private charter allows you to make the decisions. This cannot happen while chartering a larger "cattle boat". The larger boats are unable to scream across the shallows of the bay while clients witness stingray being chased by Hammerhead Sharks. You will not stop to watch a pod of dolphin trap their dinner because, unfortunately, they have an agenda to fulfill. For this reason, taking a private charter is well worth the money and you are sure to come home with wonderful memories, as well as beautiful photographs. This week was definitely one to remember for all of my clients, as the temperature and the winds were ideal for spotting many fish and other creatures of the sea!

The waters are warming and this brings in many different species of fish. On Monday, I took my client Tom and his wife out west and we had luck with Mackerel, Mangrove Snapper, Bluefish, Ladyfish, different varieties of Sharks and one surprise Bonefish. I have to say the highlight of my day was that surprise Bonefish! The most amazing thing was we were not in search of Bonefish, we were Mackerel fishing! I could not believe my eyes when Tom reeled in the 2.5 lb Bonefish. Yes, a small one but a Bonefish none the less! As we continued to fish the Bonefish were steadily teasing Tom with nibbles but no more takers. This is a great sign that the Bonefish are moving back to the warmer spring waters! So make sure you practice your casting in order to have the most success catching these usually elusive fish.

The rest of the week I spent my time scoping out the backcountry. We had luck with Speckled Sea Trout, Ladyfish, Black Drum, and a few Redfish. As we move into spring and the waters warm, the Tarpon are becoming more prominent. I am noticing many juvenile Tarpon scoping the waters for their next meal. As the warming trend continues the larger more desired Tarpon will make their debut. If your dream is to catch a trophy Tarpon make sure to book early as the experienced captains are already receiving bookings for the most desired months; March, April, May, and June.

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 to the Keys, spring breakers!  
 There are lots of families in town and keeping us busy – which is very nice to see again.

This week the fishing had its ups and downs. On the upside of things, the water on the edge of the reef is starting to warm up, which has helped with the Yellowtail Snapper bite. We had a couple of days where we caught some nice 2-3 lb Yellowtail. There were also some nice Mutton Snappers caught on the reef edge, as well as the shallower patch reefs. I had the pleasure of taking my 71 year young father and my 5 year old son fishing this week and we were able to have a lot of fun in 20 feet of water, with lots of Snapper and little Cero Mackerels, using fresh or live shrimp.

Even though we had a couple of days where the conditions seemed to be good for Sailfish this week, they just weren't popping up to eat that much, which really isn't that unusual for March. We were still catching a few Kingfish and Tunas outside the reef on live bait. *Contagious* was able to hook up with a White Marlin this week while trying to find Sailfish outside the reef edge. I think I would take that in place of a Sail - nice job Brian and Shannon.

The action out at the humps this week was pretty good although the Tunas have slowed down the Greater Amberjacks and Almacos have been very active. We've had luck with either live bait, like blue runners or speedos, or jigging, which is becoming more popular and proving to be very successful. While out at the hump, if you keep an eye out, you might see a couple of Dolphin swimming by looking for something to eat. Chuck on the *Dee Cee* found a decent school of fish one day this week, catching nine Dolphin as a bonus to their catch. It is still a little early for the Dolphin to be here but you can find a couple here and there.




Here's to keeping the rods bent . . . 

The Middle Keys Marine Association (MKMA) will be hosting it's general meeting on March 25, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. at The Marathon Yacht Club. The open meeting will present the United States Coast Guard's new program America's Waterway Watch. The public is invited to attend. Contact David Foley at (305) 743-3368 with any questions.



# Fishing Report

Capt. Trey Rhyme fishes multiple locations (NJ, MD, NC, FL & the Bahamas) via five boats & Over Under Adventures. If you would like to engage Capt. Rhyme, please visit [www.overundercharters.com](http://www.overundercharters.com) [trey@overunderadventures.com](mailto:trey@overunderadventures.com).

## Capt. Trey Rhyme The Bahamas

I had the opportunity to spend the last couple weeks on the *Over Under*, our 54' Bertram, moving about the Abacos with Capt. Thomas, friends, family, and some customers from Avalon, NJ. We continue to be hampered by less than optimal weather in the Bahamas and south Florida, which has been somewhat limiting our normal course of activities. The average temperatures in Marsh Harbour for the last couple weeks have been mid 60's and the water temperatures in the Sea of Abaco are hovering right around 70 degrees. On the Atlantic side, the water is a cool 72. Definitely wet suit weather for most, but some folks have toughed it out and enjoyed some good snorkeling and lobstering.

Over the course of about 12 days, our path took us to Marsh Harbour, Elbow Cay, Guana Cay, and Treasure Cay.

We spent a good bit of time in Guana at the new Bakers Bay Club and Marina. It had been about 18 months since I had gotten a good tour of their progress. All I can say is *WOW!* Definitely the nicest marina facility in the Bahamas and probably in the US, for that matter. The marina village is well on its way to completion, with several town homes built and now available for rent. The private, members only, golf course is mostly playable at this point and should be fully open by this summer. This is definitely a must-see for anyone over in the Abacos this Spring and Summer. Of course from Bakers Bay, Nippers is only a short golf cart of a boat ride and we had the opportunity to catch the "Barefoot Man" concert one afternoon, followed by an evening at Grabbers.

In Marsh Harbour we ducked into Boat Harbour and the Abaco Beach Resort for a few days to hide from some pretty strong westerly winds. It was probably the best spot in the Abacos to hide from 40 knot westerly winds and we were able to enjoy their great pool and pool bar. Over across at Sea Spray Marina on Elbow Cay, everyone had a chance to explore Hopetown, visit with some friends that live there now, and hit some great restaurants for dinner. From Sea Spray, fishing the point off Elbow Cay is right around the corner and was our most productive area of the trip.

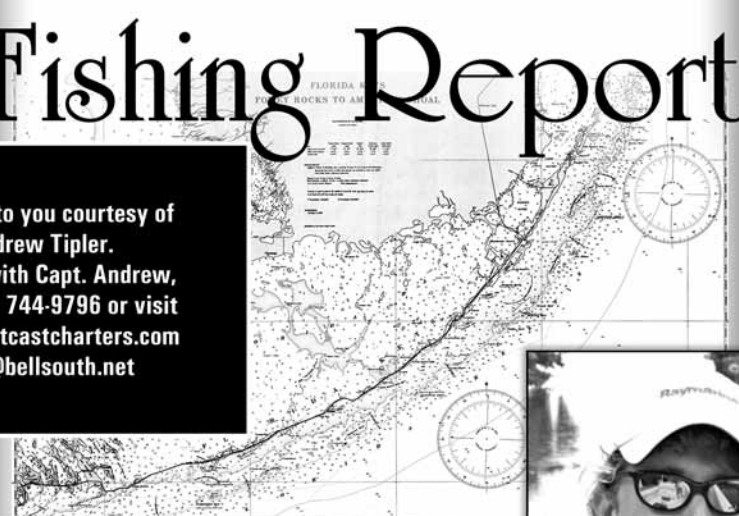

We had a nice Wahoo and some Blackfin on our first 3 hour trip there, then the second time out we had more Blackfin and pulled off a nice fish (probably another good Wahoo) that came and whacked a teaser before hitting the sort rigger and screaming off half a spool on us before pulling the hook. We also did some deep-dropping and found the Yellow Eyes on pretty much every drop. Fishing the last couple days really slowed down, with an entire morning going without a bite on one occasion. The last day we fished, the wind had picked up and was blowing about 25 and we had a couple Blackfin bites right out of the gate, and all seemed right for a good morning of fishing. About an hour later we had a good bite on the right long and came tight to a nice Wahoo. John Jr. made quick work of the fish and Thomas sank the gaff in the 55 inch 'Hoo. This proved to be our lone good bite of the morning and we headed in around noon to catch a flight out of Treasure Cay later that afternoon. We didn't see any Dolphin, which is a bit strange for this time of year. I guess you can chalk that up to the 72 degree water temperatures, below normal air temperatures, and the abundance of NW wind we've had this winter. I was pleased to see it blowing hard out of the South on the last day – this is really what we need to get things going. A solid week of strong SE to S winds to bring some warmer water and the masses of Dolphin that will show up with it. We did see our first few Yellowfin Tuna come to the boat....a bit on the small side, but nice to see never the less.

While the fishing and the weather certainly haven't been the best of late, we found plenty of other ways to enjoy ourselves. I'm certainly not complaining, nor is anyone else. There really is something for just about everyone here in the Abacos, whether it's cool restaurants and beach bars, snorkeling, scuba diving, fishing, or just chilling at the pool or beach. It was great to be back in the Bahamas and enjoying all that the Islands have to offer.

Tight Lines . . . 

# Fishing Report

Brought to you courtesy of Capt. Andrew Tipler. To fish with Capt. Andrew, call (305) 744-9796 or visit [www.lastcastcharters.com](http://www.lastcastcharters.com) [scarpa1@bellsouth.net](mailto:scarpa1@bellsouth.net)


## Capt. Andrew Tipler Lower Keys

The weather has finally been shaping up here in the Keys. We seem to have worked our way out from under that terribly cold winter. Fishing has been on the rebound and the flats are finally coming into full swing.

Permit fishing has dramatically improved this past week with good numbers of fish to be found in warmed-up spots. Live crabs are the go to bait for those not wanting to endure the torture of a fly rod. Tarpon have also started their move into our waters. Look for the numbers of fish to continue to increase.

Patch reef fishing dropped off a little this week. It seems like many of the big Mangrove Snapper have been working their way back into the backcountry. The Cero and Spanish Mackerel action has remained strong. Some decent size Muttons have also been wandering around the patches.

Reef action was good with all kinds of species. Muttons, Yellowtails, Kings and of course Grouper were all found willing to feed. Look for this to continue to be a good bet through the week.

Sailfishing was slow perhaps due to the winds. The conditions have been setting up to be red hot. If we get some east wind, the Sails will start tailing. Look for Sailfishing to take off any day now. There have also been some Dolphin moving through. This will be a good bet for days when the Sailfish are slow. Keep an eye out for big Cobia moving down the color change. 



# Fishing Report

Capt. Dave Schugar  
of Sweet Enuf Charters  
is located at Castaway's  
Restaurant/Marina in Marathon.  
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[www.sweetenufcharters.com](http://www.sweetenufcharters.com)  
[sweetenufcharter@aol.com](mailto:sweetenufcharter@aol.com)

## Capt. Dave Schugar Marathon



Well it looks as if the wind is going to give us a break for a bit. I did talk to a bunch of captains this week and they either cancelled their trips, went to the bridge or to the close wrecks on the bayside. When the wind blows like this in the spring, you can either suck it up, or go fishing another day. There are always fish to be caught down here, even when the wind blows. When the wind blows out of the southeast, which it has been for quite some time now, you can fish along the riprap along the bridges and holes near the islands close to shore. There are Tarpon, Snappers and plenty of other fish to pass the time with. You can also fish along the mangroves in Sisters Creek where you can catch Snook, Tarpon, Snappers, Groupers, and even Redfish. It's not the best fishing, but it is fishing, and sometimes you can catch a lot.

I did get out a few times this week. Right before the wind really started honking; I went to the Hump and slaughtered the Tunas. We jigged them and got many small ones and about a dozen from 10-15lbs. The shark problem has subsided a bit and I haven't lost more than a jig or two due to Sharks. The Amberjacks are thick, and the best bait is a split-tailed or live little Tuna. I usually take as much weight as I need to get down 300 feet, and then drift over the peak of the hump and use big baits. When I drop down, I may also put the boat in gear to keep the line strait up and down. When you do get a bite have your angler start reeling and put the boat in gear and get that hook set good. The Amberjacks are big here, so use nothing less than 60-pound test. I recommend 80lb gear when doing this because even though the Sharks are scarce now, some are still around. If you have never done this at the Hump, just make a long leader rig with 15 feet of 100-150lb leader and a drop sinker of 1-5lbs depending on conditions. You can use a three-way swivel or a swivel-bead-swivel method. If you use a large live bait, I would recommend the three-way swivel so the bait doesn't swim your lead up your line.

If you plan on keeping the Amberjacks that's great, but if you do release them you can vent them by squeezing their stomach with your fingers. I take the fish and wedge it along the gunwale and I place one hand just behind the throat and the other hand six inches down, grasping two inches of its belly between your fingers. I squeeze firmly but gently and push towards the spine. You will hear the gas escaping. When it subsides, take the fish by the tail and slosh water through its gills with a reciprocating motion. When the fish starts to kick a bit you can release him with your down motion, which helps him get back down where he will shake off this experience.

The Yellowtail bite kind of slowed down a bit. The inshore current subsided, as did the bite. The bait stealers such as Filefish and Bermuda Chubs were thick, making it very difficult to get to the Yellowtails.

*Cont. on pg. 12*

# Fishing Report

Captain Nick Borraccino  
Noreaster Sport Fishing  
[NoreasterSportFishing.com](http://NoreasterSportFishing.com)  
(508) 769-4189

## Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon



I think it's safe to say we're out of the woods with regards the real strong cold fronts. We've pushed the clocks ahead and are enjoying the sunny, relatively warm weather we're more accustomed to. Yes it seemed that spring was the air the past few days, and if you ask me it's more than welcome. The fishing scene is much as it has been for the past few weeks, but things can change quickly so keep an eye out for signs of spring. We all know the Cobia are coming through, and I've already seen a few bunches of mullet. Hopefully the water won't take its time warming up and clearing up.

As for now, stick with the reefs in 25 to 50 feet for what continues to be a solid Mangrove Snapper bite. The King and Cero Mackerel are still thick, too, so you might have to work at getting a bait to the bottom. If the live baits aren't making it, try filleting one of those Macks and dropping  
March 18th, 2010

cut up pieces down on a jig head for the Snapper. The water is still a little chilly for the Yellowtails to be active, so I wouldn't count on them.

The water is dirty and green all the way out, which has made the wreck fishing a bit slow, but that can change with the wind. The good news is that the green water makes spotting tailing fish easy, as Capt. Josh Gilmartin of the Best Bet II found this week when he encountered some 30 and 50 lb cobia swimming on the surface in Hawks Channel.

If you just HAVE to find blue water, plan on heading out to about 650 feet, or about 10-15 miles from the shore. Capt. Ty Price on the Permit reports a hard edge of blue water marking the Gulf Stream right there, and finding some life on it. After only a few minutes of hitting the water, the slow trolled live baits attracted a pair of Sails, and a handful of Dolphin, some of the "gaffer" variety. Yes, I said Dolphin. I'm excited about it too, but am not going say anything silly regarding "Dolphin Season," just yet. That discussion will be in another month or so.

'Til then, good luck! 



George, Mark & Ian Domrose (Pewaukee, WI) aboard the *Fish Tales* (Whale Harbor Marina) with Capt. Ron Allen and Mate Jeremy Pfaffendorf.





Jersey Joe and his buddy with some big jacks and yellow eye snappers on the *Killer White* out of Holiday Isle.



Local fisherman Fred Smith and Capt Jamie J. with a 20lb Mutton caught near western dry rocks aboard the *Gulfstream IV* party boat.



Capt. Tom Burson with a speckled sea trout caught in the backcountry.



◀ This 6lb Yellowtail was caught on the *Heidi Baby* with Capt. Dirrk Reicht by Chris Abel (San Francisco, CA) with his wife Patte and daughter Sierra.



Addison and her sister Mackenzie Zane (Dallas, TX) holding a nice hogfish Addison caught while fishing with Capt. Randy Schmitt of the *Bloody Gaff*. It was their first time and they learned to cast and set the hook themselves. Future fisherman for sure!



▶ Capt. Ben Ekblom (not pictured) with the *Tailwalker* out of Hawk's Cay, caught this 48lb Cobia in 30 ft of water using a live grunt.



# Fishing Report

Capt. Steve Friedman fishes off of Islamorada using primarily fly and light tackle methods. If you would like to fish with Capt. Steve, call (305) 393-3474 or visit [www.afishingguide.com](http://www.afishingguide.com) [steve@afishingguide.com](mailto:steve@afishingguide.com)

## Capt. Steve Friedman Islamorada

Cold fronts move through. Wind direction shifts to the northwest warming the air and water slightly before the cool settles in again for a few days. Then Mother Nature delivers some balmy days with light winds out of the east, but likely showers lurking in the skies.

What does this mean for the fishing? For one thing, I've been staying much closer to home. Last week I covered maybe a hundred miles of water in a single day searching for the right conditions and best opportunities. But with the wind and weather changing, I've been hanging at the reef on windy days, and up on the flats when the water is warm and the currents strong.

This week I fished with two couples from Massachusetts who wanted to bend a rod. The wind was calm, but the water was quite cold so we chose to stay "out front" and fish the edge of the reef. I stuck to about 35 feet of water with deeper water close by. I used a frozen block of chum, some shrimp and some chunks of fresh-frozen ballyhoo. Almost immediately we were into Grouper, Mackerel, Snappers and a few odd-ball catches like Parrot fish and Puffer fish.

I also enjoyed a day on the reef with Chloe and Jillian Potter and their grandfather, Bill. The girls were elated to have a steady bite of Snappers and Grouper, but the highlight for them was catching huge Barracuda using cut ballyhoo and tube lures.



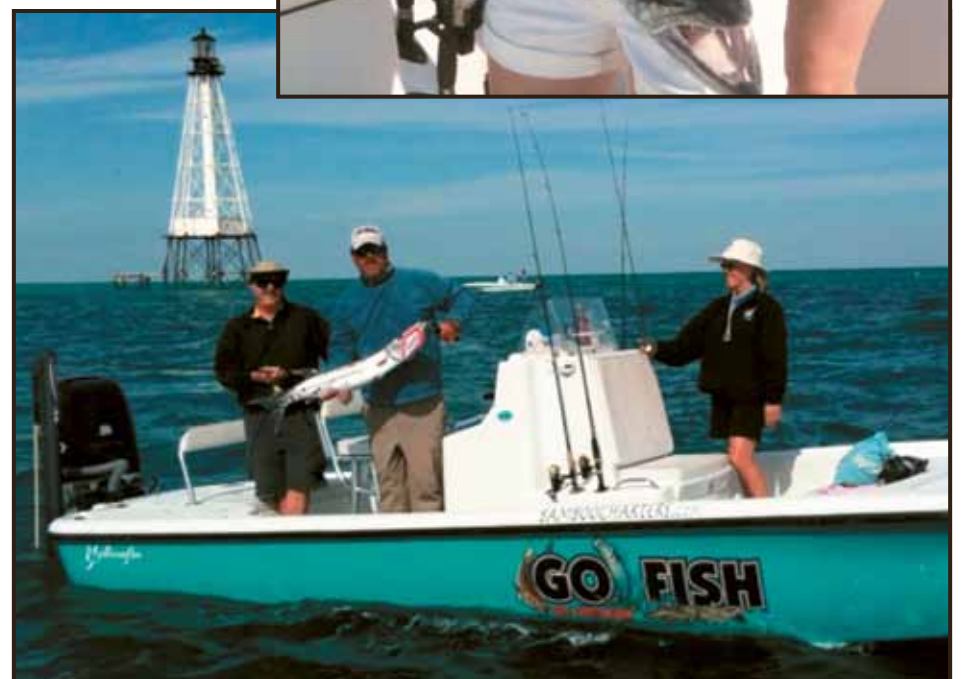
Capt John Jackson with *Reel Easy Charter* had a great day off of Key West catching eight large Tarpon using live bait.

I did get the chance to get back into the polling skiff when I met with Bob Belisle, who brought his fly rods to try to catch some feeding fish on the flats. Although the wind was blowing hard out of the north, we had some blue bird skies and great visibility. Although we didn't catch the Bonefish we spotted schooling up in 2-3 feet of water, Bob had some great fun catching some of the Sharks we came across as we hunted for Bonefish and Permit.

Finally, after some soaking rain and the wind once again blowing hard to the northwest, I was back in my 22' Pathfinder fishing the reef patches with Terry Marquardt from Wisconsin. He wanted to take some fish back home to share with his family. We stayed close to shore since there was a small craft advisory and he was happy to catch some keeper size Mangrove Snapper (10" minimum) and Spanish Mackerel (12" min. to fork) for the smoker back home.

As the winds decrease and the temperatures rise, we can expect Permit to leave the reef and wrecks in deep warm water and move into the shallows. Bonefishing should improve too, and we should see the Tarpon start to show up with some consistency. In the mean time, if you're at home practicing your cast, do some drills with the winds at various angles to ensure you get the most out of the opportunities that arise. 🐟

Here are Chloe and Jillian Potter (CT) who caught and released several large Barracuda while fishing with Capt. Steve Friedman.



Capt. Steve Friedman snapped these photos of Capt. Matt Belinger and his anglers as he releases a nice barracuda caught near Alligator Light.



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03 / 03

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02 / 17

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55' Wahoo that John Jr. made quick work of, so Thomas could gaff it in the Bahamas.

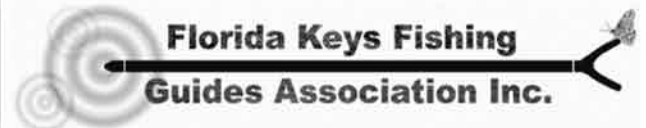
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## KEY LARGO (Ocean Reef - 25.3100° N, 80.2800° W)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height
Mar 18	Thu		04:44 / 0.03 ft	10:49 / 2.30 ft	16:57 / -0.35 ft	23:20 / 2.41 ft
Mar 19	Fri		05:20 / 0.13 ft	11:24 / 2.24 ft	17:35 / -0.33 ft	
Mar 20	Sat	00:02 / 2.35 ft	06:00 / 0.26 ft	12:03 / 2.18 ft	18:18 / -0.27 ft	
Mar 21	Sun	00:48 / 2.27 ft	06:46 / 0.40 ft	12:47 / 2.12 ft	19:09 / -0.17 ft	
Mar 22	Mon	01:40 / 2.20 ft	07:41 / 0.53 ft	13:41 / 2.07 ft	20:10 / -0.08 ft	
Mar 23	Tue	02:41 / 2.15 ft	08:48 / 0.57 ft	14:48 / 2.05 ft	21:20 / -0.03 ft	
Mar 24	Wed	03:48 / 2.16 ft	10:00 / 0.49 ft	16:03 / 2.11 ft	22:32 / -0.07 ft	
Mar 25	Thu	04:56 / 2.25 ft	11:08 / 0.26 ft	17:16 / 2.26 ft	23:38 / -0.19 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 18	Thu	00:36 / 0.67 ft	07:20 / 0.08 ft	12:12 / 0.83 ft	20:09 / -0.13 ft	
Mar 19	Fri	01:18 / 0.60 ft	07:48 / 0.10 ft	12:42 / 0.85 ft	20:52 / -0.14 ft	
Mar 20	Sat	02:03 / 0.53 ft	08:19 / 0.12 ft	13:16 / 0.85 ft	21:43 / -0.12 ft	
Mar 21	Sun	02:57 / 0.45 ft	08:54 / 0.15 ft	13:59 / 0.85 ft	22:45 / -0.10 ft	
Mar 22	Mon	04:05 / 0.39 ft	09:38 / 0.18 ft	14:54 / 0.84 ft	23:58 / -0.07 ft	
Mar 23	Tue	05:32 / 0.36 ft	10:41 / 0.21 ft	16:07 / 0.82 ft		
Mar 24	Wed		01:16 / -0.06 ft	06:55 / 0.40 ft	12:09 / 0.21 ft	17:39 / 0.83 ft
Mar 25	Thu		02:24 / -0.05 ft	07:52 / 0.47 ft	13:40 / 0.18 ft	19:08 / 0.85 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 18	Thu		05:18 / 0.01 ft	11:04 / 1.46 ft	17:31 / -0.08 ft	23:35 / 1.54 ft
Mar 19	Fri		05:54 / 0.03 ft	11:39 / 1.43 ft	18:09 / -0.08 ft	
Mar 20	Sat	00:17 / 1.50 ft	06:34 / 0.06 ft	12:18 / 1.39 ft	18:52 / -0.06 ft	
Mar 21	Sun	01:03 / 1.45 ft	07:20 / 0.10 ft	13:02 / 1.35 ft	19:43 / -0.04 ft	
Mar 22	Mon	01:55 / 1.40 ft	08:15 / 0.13 ft	13:56 / 1.32 ft	20:44 / -0.02 ft	
Mar 23	Tue	02:56 / 1.37 ft	09:22 / 0.14 ft	15:03 / 1.31 ft	21:54 / -0.01 ft	
Mar 24	Wed	04:03 / 1.38 ft	10:34 / 0.12 ft	16:18 / 1.35 ft	23:06 / -0.02 ft	
Mar 25	Thu	05:11 / 1.43 ft	11:42 / 0.06 ft	17:31 / 1.44 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 18	Thu		06:09 / 0.13 ft	11:13 / 1.40 ft	18:58 / -0.23 ft	
Mar 19	Fri	00:19 / 1.01 ft	06:37 / 0.17 ft	11:43 / 1.41 ft	19:41 / -0.23 ft	
Mar 20	Sat	01:04 / 0.88 ft	07:08 / 0.21 ft	12:17 / 1.42 ft	20:32 / -0.21 ft	
Mar 21	Sun	01:58 / 0.75 ft	07:43 / 0.25 ft	13:00 / 1.42 ft	21:34 / -0.16 ft	
Mar 22	Mon	03:06 / 0.65 ft	08:27 / 0.30 ft	13:55 / 1.40 ft	22:47 / -0.12 ft	
Mar 23	Tue	04:33 / 0.61 ft	09:30 / 0.35 ft	15:08 / 1.38 ft		
Mar 24	Wed		00:05 / -0.10 ft	05:56 / 0.66 ft	10:58 / 0.36 ft	16:40 / 1.38 ft
Mar 25	Thu		01:13 / -0.09 ft	06:53 / 0.78 ft	12:29 / 0.30 ft	18:09 / 1.43 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 18	Thu		04:41 / 0.22 ft	10:55 / 1.82 ft	17:35 / -0.32 ft	23:53 / 1.30 ft
Mar 19	Fri		05:03 / 0.31 ft	11:27 / 1.88 ft	18:18 / -0.30 ft	
Mar 20	Sat	00:37 / 1.14 ft	05:27 / 0.38 ft	12:04 / 1.91 ft	19:10 / -0.25 ft	
Mar 21	Sun	01:26 / 0.98 ft	05:54 / 0.45 ft	12:47 / 1.91 ft	20:15 / -0.18 ft	
Mar 22	Mon	02:25 / 0.83 ft	06:28 / 0.52 ft	13:40 / 1.89 ft	21:34 / -0.14 ft	
Mar 23	Tue	03:46 / 0.75 ft	07:25 / 0.59 ft	14:46 / 1.84 ft	22:51 / -0.14 ft	
Mar 24	Wed	05:28 / 0.78 ft	09:23 / 0.62 ft	16:07 / 1.79 ft	23:54 / -0.16 ft	
Mar 25	Thu	06:35 / 0.93 ft	11:10 / 0.49 ft	17:35 / 1.78 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 18	Thu		04:57 / 0.15 ft	11:00 / 1.73 ft	17:47 / -0.29 ft	
Mar 19	Fri	00:03 / 1.24 ft	05:24 / 0.22 ft	11:29 / 1.78 ft	18:31 / -0.28 ft	
Mar 20	Sat	00:48 / 1.09 ft	05:53 / 0.29 ft	12:03 / 1.81 ft	19:21 / -0.23 ft	
Mar 21	Sun	01:40 / 0.93 ft	06:26 / 0.35 ft	12:44 / 1.81 ft	20:23 / -0.17 ft	
Mar 22	Mon	02:47 / 0.80 ft	07:07 / 0.41 ft	13:37 / 1.78 ft	21:37 / -0.12 ft	
Mar 23	Tue	04:16 / 0.74 ft	08:08 / 0.47 ft	14:49 / 1.74 ft	22:56 / -0.11 ft	
Mar 24	Wed	05:43 / 0.79 ft	09:41 / 0.48 ft	16:19 / 1.70 ft		
Mar 25	Thu		00:03 / -0.12 ft	06:40 / 0.93 ft	11:17 / 0.39 ft	17:50 / 1.72 ft

## Moon Phases

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

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



# KEYS CAPTAIN & GUIDE DIRECTORY



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



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

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

Upper Keys		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
www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com		keyflat@mac.com
Reel Easy Charters	GF/WR/FLY/LT/TP/BC/FLATS	(305) 923-3721
www.fishreeleasy.com		captjohnjackson@hotmail.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 13 - Nov. 30: Key West Fishing Tournament, Inc.** Key West & Lower Keys. This very 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 the website 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.

**April 16-18: Redbone @ Large Hawks Cay Sunrise/Sunset Tarpon Celebrity Tournament.** Marathon. The event is one of approximately 30 Redbone celebrity tournaments that are held each year, with all proceeds benefiting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Contact Gary Ellis at (305) 664-2002, E-mail or visit redbone.org or write to P.O. Box 273, Islamorada, FL 33036.

**April 30 - May 1: 3rd Annual Nick Sheahan Dolphin Rodeo.** Tavernier Creek Marina. More info and forms, etc. can be found at www.nicksheahan.com or contact Marcia Panse at (305) 393-3733.





# 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 winds have been a steady 5 to 15 knots for most of the week and water temps are still cool, but starting to warm up. Bay water temps are up into the low 70's. Offshore temps are around 74 degrees and the reef hanging in the low 60's. Because of the warm up the Bay fishing has picked up greatly from last week. Offshore, the Blackfin Tuna and large Amberjack are still bending rods, keeping anglers busy for those willing

to make the run. Reef fishing is still supplying good action keeping anglers busy with super Cero Mackerel and Mangrove Snapper fishing.

Capt. Josh Ardis on the *Fighting Lady* out of Duck Key reports that the reef fishing is excellent. There are cooperating Kingfish to 30 lbs. Yellowtail Snappers between 3 and 5 lbs. decent Mutton Snapper to 18 lbs. and Black Grouper to 20 lbs., but the Cero Mackerel and the Mangrove Snappers fishing is exceptional. Most days anglers are limiting out, with 2 to 5 lbs. Mangrove Snappers and 5 to 18 lb. Cero Mackerel. Large live shrimp is doing the trick.

Offshore, the Blackfin Tuna fishing on the West Hump is still producing consistent catches of hungry Tuna. Most of the Tuna are being taken using butterfly jigs or cedar plugs to 25 lbs. Large Amberjack are also bending rods on the Humps, using 3 to 5 lb. live Blue Runners as bait or 9 oz. jigs is doing the trick producing Amberjacks between 80 and 100 lbs. Capt. Joel Tomlinson from the *Saltwater Experience* crew reports the bay fishing has picked up greatly with decent catches of Spanish Mackerel to 8 lbs., Bluefish to 5 lbs., Pompano to 3 lbs., and occasional Kingfish. Tarpon have showed up in and around the Duck Key bridges. The Tarpon are feeding well, coming out of the water inhaling live ballyhoo.

Bonefish have not been cooperating.

Tight Lines To All . . . 

## Key West Wrap-Up

Spring Break is in full swing and a hodgepodge of people have selected Key West as their vacation destination with expectations of sunshine and endless fun on the Florida Keys' waters. However, the charter boat crews of Key West have not necessarily experienced a spring break. This was a tough week for both fishing and catching. Kudos to the boats that did venture offshore to tackle the trying conditions with both the water quality and changing winds. Many of the captains and mates reported dirty waters, an excess of scattered weeds and masses of Man-O'-War jellyfish, making it nearly impossible to keep the jellies and weeds off their baits.

There has been a steady pick of Dolphin on the edge that stayed around 180-250 ft of water. Captain Steve Magee and his mate Alex Ross from the *Ramerezi* had a nice catch on Saturday of approximately 15 Dolphin, one being over 20lbs, along with some nice Tunas caught on bare ballyhoos down deep on their downrigger.


Local angler, Cody Lee reported a decent catch of Dolphin caught on *Da Tiki Man* with Johnny Z. and Johnny P. this past weekend. They snagged their Mahi Mahi while trolling with bonita strips and feather jigs.

In spite of the evident obstacles that the lack of blue waters brought this week,

*Hooked Up's* Captain Jimmy Bailey arrived at the dock with another hefty Cobia, some Yellowtail Snappers and a tasty Mutton. The Sailfish were few and far between however, Captain Jimmy spotted a few tailers. There were several other reports of Sailfish bites while trolling.

The *Gulfstream IV* of Key West City Marina was busy this week. In addition to lots of smiling customers they arrived at the dock with an array of Mackerels and some plump Mutton Snapper. With Captain Cory at the helm this past Sunday, they caught an extremely nice Mutton weighing at least 20lbs.


With the current water conditions, there have been plenty of Sharks present in the waters off of Key West. While trolling on the edge at 180 ft. the *Ramerezi's* mate pitched a freshly caught Bonita to a 200lb Hammerhead. Their day charter, Brandon, from Massachusetts, caught and mounted his more than 8 foot shark. The latter part of the week there was sightings of smaller Hammerheads and some really nice Black Tips on the reef.

As we head into the next week, the charter boat captains and crews of Key West have high hopes for improved conditions and better fishing in the days to come. 

*Schugar . . . . . cont. from pg. 5*

When you lose the current, the Yellowtails don't line up and compete for food, which is what makes for a great bite. We did get a nice catch of 1-2lb Yellowtails, even though the conditions were not favorable. I can't stress enough to never use cracked corn for Yellowtail. Use oats and chum mix to make your Yellowtail school healthy and fat. I haven't noticed any mature eggs yet in the Yellowtail, but by the end of April you will see that the egg sacks will be full and the tails will be thick. At the spot I have been hitting lately, the school of fish is about fifty yards long, and as I keep fishing there the school will grow in size.

When fishing for Yellowtail, it is always good to have other fisherman fishing there, too. This will attract more fish to hold up and feed before they spawn. I know this goes against everything you know about fishing, but trust me don't be angry that someone has crept up on you. If you do anchor near someone, use the common courtesy of anchoring along side of the other boat. Do not anchor up or down current of another boat. If you anchor down current you will probably not catch anything and if you anchor up current from another boat you will mess up fishing for the other boat. Both boats will have a hard time catching because the fish will be going from one slick to the other and then they will go down and get lockjaw. I have seen it when I used to commercial fish and I had 150lbs of chum in the water at once and another boat up slick from us stole our fish right from under our boat even with all the chum we had in the water.

Good luck and be safe and courteous to all of your fellow boaters. 



*Captain Chris Barth*



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Brian Cone, Shirley Sundberg and Shannon Attales on the *Contagious* out of Robbies Marina in Islamorada caught this White Marlin.

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