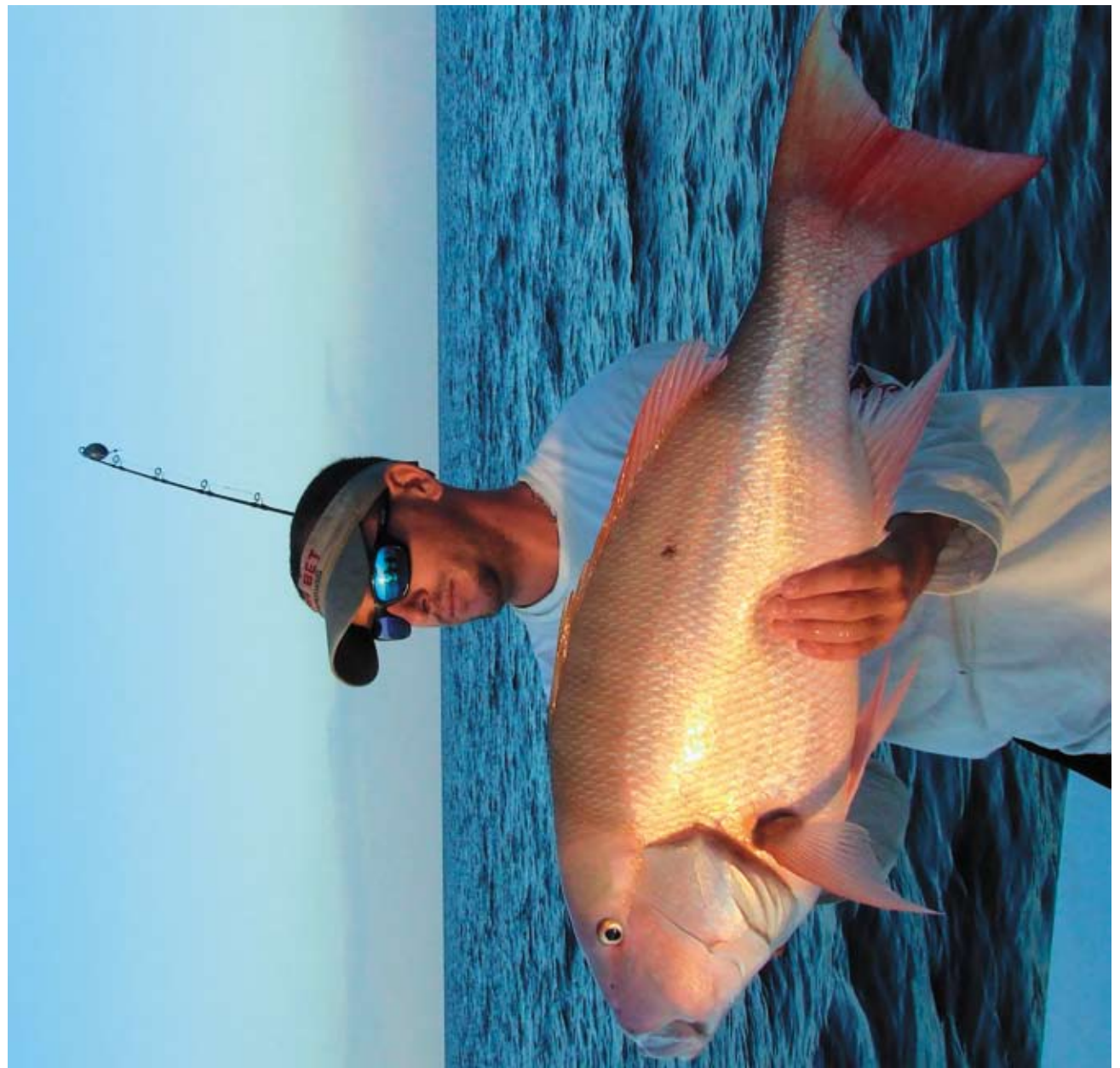


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Captain Nick Borraccino hoisting a rather large Mutton Snapper caught last week. Another beautiful sunset in Marathon . . .

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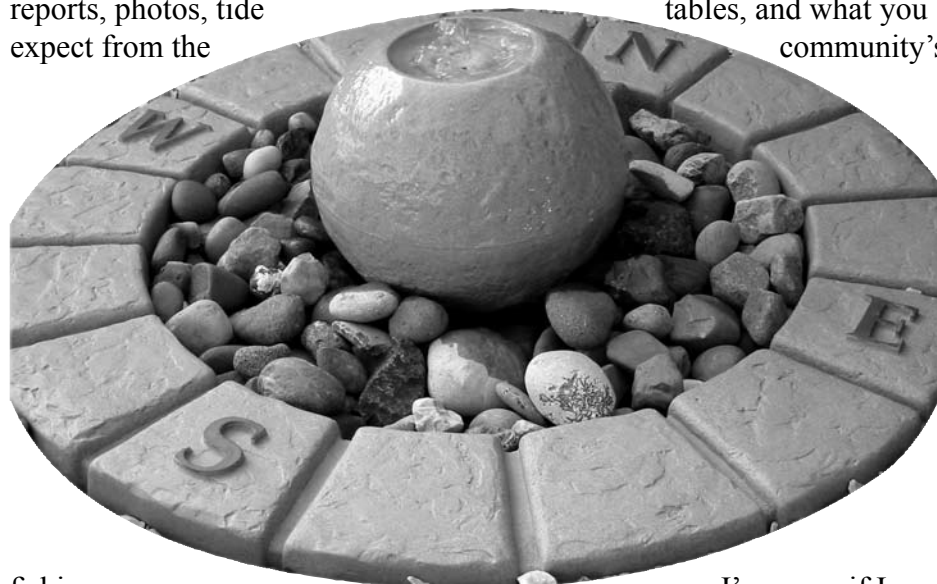
## At the Helm . . .

### Elizabeth Kalaf, Publisher

It's been a long 4 days, but we made it. In short time, with loads of help, The Original Weekly Fisherman is in your hands. To all those captains and guides, you know who you are, who cheered me on and gave me their "catch of the day," my eternal thanks. To those of you who've written emails and told the story, my fingers thank you. To those who endlessly fought along with me, there aren't enough words to thank you.

You'll find here, in these 16 pages, the heart of the Florida Keys Fishing Community. Those of us, who live here, work hard and love what we do and where we live. It may seem to our tourists that it's always 5 o'clock somewhere – and we truly hope you find your dream vacation while visiting our paradise island chain. Please come back to visit us again...after all, when you hear some of our stories, you'll find that we too came for vacation and never left...

Next week you'll find more pages, more details, and more fishing reports, photos, tide tables, and what you expect from the community's



fishing paper.

I'm sorry if I missed anyone....but as I said; it's been a long 4 days. That's 4 days from legal to the stand; meaning tight deadlines and a small window of time to rally. We tried our best not to leave any one out....sorry if we did, we will catch you next time.

I welcome any phone calls, emails, etc. that you want to send. If you want to just chat, have a fish tale, a question (or so), or comments – you'll find the phone number and emails on these pages.

Till next week, enjoy time with the family this holiday week and let me know how the fishing is out there!

I'm happy to be back at the Helm,  
Elizabeth

Linda Hunt was guided to this huge permit while fishing with her husband, guide Capt. Paul Hunt of World Wide Sportsman in Islamorada.



Capt. Steve Friedman, fishing out of Islamorada, shows off a fly-caught and tagged bonefish. These guys are happier than ever, why it's almost a dream within a dream.

Contact Us: editor@weeklyfisherman.com or 305-766-BOAT (2628).

# Florida Keys Roundup

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



## Capt. Greg Eklund Throughout the Keys

Welcome to the Fabulous Florida Keys, the home of the Sportfishing Capital of the World and the original Weekly Fisherman newspaper. Each week we work hard to get you the scoop on what is happening on the water up and down the Florida Keys. Packed into this issue you will find everything you need to know about what's happening in the fishing world here in the Florida Keys. Below you will find a quick overview of what has been biting Keys wide, what to expect in the upcoming week, and who stood out in the fleet this week past. Make sure to check out the fishing reports from each of the contributing Captains for area-detailed fishing information.

The Sailfish bite Keys wide has been off the charts and tops the headlines this week. A large number of Sailfish are held up from South Key Largo throughout Islamorada and down to Marathon and have been aggressively feeding on huge schools of ballyhoo stacked up along the shallow ledges of the reef. Last week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday the bite from Islamorada to Key West was off the hook. Capt. George McElveen on the Reel McCoy

baitfish along the edge of the reef is impressive for this time of year and the favorable North-northeast weather pattern is forecast to hold through the weekend. All these factors point to a great bite of Sails this Thanksgiving week so make sure you get out on the water and enjoy these prime conditions.

The Sailfish are not the only game in town right now. The Dolphin bite has begun to taper off a bit but there have still been a few gaffer size fish on the inshore current and color changes of the Gulfstream. There was a color change brewing to the southeast of Key West over the weekend and if the Dolphin are going to continue this week you can bet areas like this will be the best. There are some Blackfin Tunas hanging around the area humps and wrecks. These fish have been in the 10 to 25 pound range but the sharks have been hungry and getting a whole one to the boat has been more than difficult at several of the spots. The King Mack bite has continued to be on the slow side. With the water temps still on the warm side we might still be a few weeks away from a


out of Bud N Mary's Marina in Islamorada released 16 Sails in a single day. A few other Islamorada boats topped ten releases and Capt. Brad Simmons in Key West reported similar success. The current North to Northeast weather pattern and water temps in the high 70's have set the stage for a great start to the Sailfish season just in time for the Holiday crowds.

The large number of baitfish along the edge of the reef is impressive for this time of year and the favorable North-northeast weather pattern is forecast to hold through the weekend. All these factors point to a great bite of Sails this Thanksgiving week so make sure you get out on the water and enjoy these prime conditions.

big push of these toothy critters. Bottom fishing has been good inshore along the patches from Key Largo to Key West. A few Mutton Snapper and a steady bite of Yellowtail and Mangrove snappers have been reported area-wide. The upper Keys will be first to sound off that the groupers are here and should start to gather up a few of these fish during the next couple of weeks. Be on the look out for the arrival of the Cobias as well. Several of the wrecks off of the Cape are holding good numbers of these great fighting fish and with all of the North-based wind we are having, their arrival on the ocean side of the Keys in number is due.

Inshore, the windy weather has made the Bonefish scarce. Further back toward Everglades National Park, the Snook bite was good for those that toughed out the windy conditions. Prior to the arrival of the wind, the Spanish Mackerel bite was excellent out into the Gulf. These fish are great light tackle and fly targets and should continue to provide some excellent action for the inshore anglers as we push into December.

The Sailfish Tournament season here in the Keys kicks off December 4th with the Islamorada Sailfish Tourney. For more information you can visit the tournament's website at www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com or contact Dianne Harbaugh directly at (305) 852-2102. It is followed up by the Islamorada Fishing Club's \$25,000 Captain's Cup December 10th and 11th. Again, contact Dianne at the above number for more information. Enjoy your Thanksgiving week and make sure you get out on the water to take advantage of this awesome Sailfish bite. If I can help you get hooked up with a crew in your area or you have some information you want to get in next week's column, please contact me at the above information.

Good Fishing! Capt. Greg 



Felice Simons with her prize sailfish caught aboard the Fish Tales with Capt. Ron Allen (see pg. 14 to book a charter with Capt. Ron)



The Allens take a quick picture before releasing this nice snook that Elaine caught in Flamingo with Capt. Matt Bellinger of Bamboo Charters at Holiday Isle Resort and Marina.

Contact Us: editor@weeklyfisherman.com or 305-766-BOAT (2628).

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# Fishing Report

Capt. Lain Goodwin fishes the inshore waters of the Upper Keys Everglades National Park and Biscayne Bay. Capt. Lain is on the Pro Staff for Hook Up Lures, Berkley, Abu Garcia and Fenwick Rods. To book a trip with Capt. Lain, call (305) 304-2212, or visit [www.dirtywaterscharters.com](http://www.dirtywaterscharters.com)




## Capt. Lain Goodwin Key Largo Backcountry

This past week brought the strongest cold front so far this year to the Florida Keys. The temperatures plummeted to the high 50's!!! But, despite the recent cold and windy conditions, fishing has remained good in the backcountry. As water temperatures begin to dip below the high 60's in Florida Bay the fish will be on the move to their wintertime spots. Many of these fish will make their annual journey into the backcountry (Whitewater Bay) and the deeper channels around Flamingo where the water temperatures remain more consistent throughout the winter. A 4" Gulp shrimp or live shrimp on a Hank Brown HookUp Lure have produced the best results for fishing in the channels and creeks. The windy conditions can make it difficult to pole the flats this time of year so make an adjustment to your technique to

find these linesiders and reds. On those windy days, drop the anchor in a creek or channel where the mullet are moving through and it's almost a guarantee that they won't be far away. If you are using live bait, throw out a few freebies every now and then to keep the fish biting. It helps to stun the freebies by squeezing them to keep the bait in the general area of where you are fishing. If you prefer artificials, remember to work baits slower during those cold days as the fish will become more lethargic and less aggressive.

The trout bite in the bays around Flamingo will continue to improve as the water temps drop. Find the grass beds and you will find the schools of trout ranging from 12" to over 25". Shutdown the boat on the upwind side of the flat and drift across while casting Cajun Thunder popping corks with a HookUp Lure and Berkley Gulp shrimp. On the windy days drifting can be difficult as the boats moves too fast for anglers. But, consider using a drift sock to slow the boats speed allowing you too get more time in the productive areas. Once you get a few bites, quietly drop the anchor or power-pole to stop the boat. This will allow you to work the area thoroughly. When the bite slows, go back to drifting until you find another school of fish. If you don't find any trout in the basins on those cold mornings, stake-off in one of the deep channels around Flamingo and bounce some baits off the bottom. Don't forget that trout season is closed through December so handle these fish with care and get them back in the water quickly. The best way to handle trout is by wetting your hands and just grabbing the fish from the water instead of using a net. This will protect their slime coating that prevents disease from penetrating their delicate scales.

Until next week, tight lines and light winds! 

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Lance Coy of Pensacola had a banner day of fishing in the Everglades with Capt. Lain Goodwin. Lance and friend Daniel caught a mixed bag with more than 20 snook, 12 redfish, goliath groupers, sheepshead and snappers.




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# Fishing Report

The Islamorada Offshore Fishing Report is brought to you by Capt. Joe Petrucco of Killer Instinct Charters, located at Papa Joe's Marina, MM79 bayside. If you are interested in fishing with Capt. Joe, call (305) 304-4580, or visit [www.killerinstinctcharters.com](http://www.killerinstinctcharters.com).



**Capt. Joe Petrucco**  
**Islamorada Offshore**



## Sailfish . . .

Sailfish, sailfish, and more sailfish are pouring through the reef edge in sunny (and windy) Islamorada. The fresh northeast breezes and cool temps have the sails on the move. The bait has been abundant and the fish are here working on the shoals of baitfish. The frigate birds have been following the marauding spindlebeaks into the shallows to feed on ballyhoo fleeing for their lives. Many of Islamorada's finest were out on the edge participating in the fast sailfish action. Capt. Steve Leopold on the YABBA DABBA DO from Holiday Isle has been successful on every trip out this week with his best day capturing and releasing nine sails. Capt Alex Adler on the KALEX from Bud & Mary's had thirteen sails one day and ten on another. Of course he also loaded up on cobia and king mackerel too. Capt. George McElveen on THE REAL MCCOY posted several double digit days along with Capt. Scott Stanzyk on the CATCH 22. Both of these guys and many others who can put you on the fish can be found at Bud & Mary's marina at mm80. The sails are coming to the boat by the kite and by running showers. The best baits seem to be ballyhoo and pilchards. In other words; the usual suspects are still doing the job. The bite has been from Conch reef all the way down to Tennessee reef so just about anywhere in Islamorada is a good place to start. When you do connect with that first sailfish and you want to remember it forever; think of a Gray's taxidermy release mount. They

are the largest and most trusted taxidermy service in the world and they have a wide range of styles and sizes to choose from. They can make an exact duplicate of your trophy and you can still let 'em swim. Ask your mate or captain what you need to do before you catch that fish so they can be ready in case that special fish presents himself.

The gulf of Mexico fishery is under full swing due to the cold fronts. The Spanish mackerel are moving in well with many fine fish up to 8 pounds being taken on shrimp and cut bait. The fishing for these guys will steadily improve over the next month or two, however; it is already wide open. It may take a little longer for your chum to start working so be patient. Once the dinner bell is rung, hold on to your hats. It is wise to make a bunch of rigs before going out to your favorite haunts. It is much easier to tie them up in front of the T.V. instead of when your hands are covered in slime from the frenzy. Bring plenty of live shrimp with you if you plan to enjoy some quality time. I usually go through 250-500 shrimp in an outing. If you need live shrimp, either Islamorada outfitters, Able's, World Wide Sportsman, Bud & Mary's, or Caloosa Cove will be open early and have what you need. Have a great Thanksgiving Holiday and remember to thank God for your life, family, and friends, and while you're at it, thank a Veteran too!



Capt. Ted Benbow of Skins and Fins Charters out of Islamorada guided his anglers to this nice two spotted redfish.

## LOOKING FOR A GUIDE OR CHARTER?

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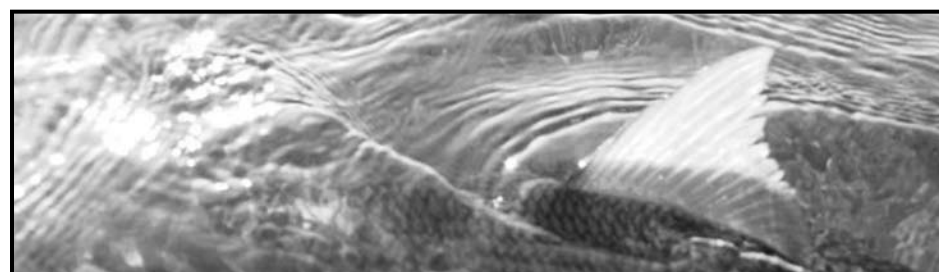
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# Fishing Report

**Captain Nick Borraccino**  
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## Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon



It would seem winter is upon us here in the Keys. Not winter in the sense of shoveling snow and ice skating, but more like catching sailfish and snapper. Cold fronts have fed us a steady diet of northeast wind and sixty something degree temperatures for the past week or two. But as all good anglers do, we take the good with the bad. Along with the “cold” weather has come everybody’s favorite game fish, the sail. Reports have been coming in consistently for weeks now of solid sailfish catches out of Islamorada, and it seems the action is finally starting to come this way. This time of year of brings with it a unique opportunity to catch sailfish and dolphin in shallow reef waters. And although some of you might be scratching your head trying to find the connection between cold fronts and dolphin, trust me, there is one. It’s called ballyhoo. Circling frigate birds in 30 to 60 feet of water on the reef from Duck Key to Bahia Honda will point out the action. Large schools of ballyhoo reside in such waters right now and where you find large schools of bait, you more often than not find predators. Sailfish and dolphin in the 10 to 20 pound range harass the bait which you will find showering out of the water when being pursued. Throwing a live ballyhoo with a hook on it into the mix is your best bet for a bite. While a tower helps you in spotting the fish, smaller boats need just to find the birds, and bait. Anchoring on a patch reef in 20-30 feet of water and chumming will usually result in ballyhoo showing up behind the boat. A cast net or small baited hair hooks will get the job done from the there.


Not much is being heard from offshore this week, as the weather has

not lent itself lately for far runs. On the one of the last calm days we did have, however, we did manage a trip to the Marathon hump with Captain Jason Long on the Best Bet. Our experiences were consistent with that of some other captains that had recently made the venture; lots of blackfin tuna, but unfortunately, lots of sharks too. We live chummed with pilchards and almost immediately had blackfin in the 15 to 20 pound range chasing them behind the boat. After boating a nice fish in that size range, it seemed as though we were looking forward to a banner day. But the sharks caught notice of the action and proceeded to take 18 of the next 20 tuna we hooked. Rumor has it that the silky sharks are spawning out there now which accounts for both the higher than average number of them, and their aggressiveness. If considering a trip to the humps for tuna soon, I would first consult with your local shark expert to find out when the shark orgy should be over. Sorry, I don’t know any shark experts!

As for a closer to home option, the wrecks on the ocean side in 100 to 300 feet have been very productive. Minimal current lately has made deep dropping favorable with a very active mutton bite. Live baits such as pinfish, pilchards, or just about anything you can get your hands on have been doing the trick for small and big muttons alike. Don’t be afraid to bump up your tackle, and your bait size to entice a big black grouper which may be lurking on the bottom. Get your fill now though, because after January 1, those groupers will have to go back into the water, floating or not. Also always present on the wrecks are jacks of every sort waiting to give your arms a workout. If you’re interested in wreck fishing, you’ll most likely have to take a trip with a local captain or charter boat, but with constant action and usually some great table fair at the end of the day, you’ll be glad you did.

Coming in a little closer, the deep reefs in 60 to 100 feet of water continue to provide plenty of nice yellowtail snapper while patch reefs in 20-40 feet are becoming more and more active with mangrove snapper, red groupers, mutton snappers and mackerel. Anchoring just up and chumming will get things started. Use jigs tipped with shrimp, small live baits or cut ballyhoo and you should enjoy a nice variety of biting fish.

Out in the gulf trips have been hard to come by given the aforementioned wind. Last I heard though trips to wrecks in the 20 to 30 mile range were well worth the ride with large schools of cobia cooperating and eating everything thrown their way from anglers on both the Sea Squared and the Big Dawg out of Key Colony Beach. Time will tell what the gulf holds in store for us this year, but if you pick the right day, and the right boat, you are sure not to be disappointed.

Until next week, keep warm, and good luck. 



Capt. Nick Borraccino took a a busman’s holiday with friends this week.  
 (L-R) Genuine red snapper, large mutton snapper, Nick and his girlfriend with her amberjack!

Contact Us: editor@weeklyfisherman.com or 305-766-BOAT (2628).

# Fishing Report

Capt. Ned Hammond fishes the Chesapeake and Virginia Beach area seasonally aboard a custom 31 Ocean Master, Sea Trial. Call Capt. Ned at (410) 703-0186 or, email him at Nedlyh@weeklyfisherman.com to book a charter or just swap fish stories.



## Capt. Ned Hammond, Jr. Mid-Atlantic

These past few weeks the striper fishing in the mid bay has been great. The water temp is now in the low 50's (man I need a trip to the keys) and the wind has been merciless for most of November, however if you can get out on the water there are plenty of nice fish to be found. There has been a good mix of resident and sea run stripers in middle Chesapeake Bay. A 52.6 pound striper took the honors in the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association's Fall Rockfish tournament held the weekend of November 15 and the reports of large sea run fish keep coming in.

Just this weekend I had the opportunity to fish with some close friends aboard Capt Richie Roberts boat the Marcy Lynn and we caught one of approximately 40 pounds. (see inset photo) One can only speculate as to why we're having such a great run, but I suspect it's got a lot to do with the abundance of menhaden in the Maryland waters of the bay this year. Most of the fish recently caught or heard of by this captain are full of them and our best catching has been where we can find large pods of this bait.

For those of you that are just visiting the Keys, there is still some good fishing right here in Maryland if you don't mind the cold. So, get out on your boat or call a charter captain and get out there before the fun ends.

Checkout Capt Richie at [www.marcylynncharterfishing.com](http://www.marcylynncharterfishing.com) He's got a comfortable ride, great tackle and electronics, and most importantly, a great first mate (John).



This striper was caught in Chesapeake Bay last week - length to tip of tail was 47.5 inches, girth was 32 inches and it weighed in on a cheap scale at 40 lbs!

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Looks fairly chilly, doesn't it?

Captain Ned needs to wrestle these big 'uns just to warm up!

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# Fishing Report

This Islamorada Backcountry report is brought to you courtesy of Capt. Matt Bellinger, of Bamboo Charters. Capt. Matt operates out of Holiday Isles Resort & Marina in Islamorada. To reach Capt. Bellinger, call (305) 393-0909.



## Capt. Matt Bellinger Islamorada Flats

Welcome back to all you readers! Here we go once again with fishing tips, reports and fish tales from the waters of the Everglades National Park and the nearshore waters that surround the island chain we call Islamorada.

The first real blast of cold weather, or at least what we here in the Keys refer to as cold weather, has hit. The effect of low temps along the mainland portions of the Everglades, high 50's and low 60's at night and highs in the low 70's during the days was immediate. The average depths of the 'Glades waters runs about 3 feet deep with plenty of water only 1 foot deep or less at high tide, so water temps dropped rapidly. Morning lows were in the low 60's and this pushed snook and redfish into the deepest water they could find. Along with the fish heading for the warmer deep water would be shrimp and bait fish. Last week area guides found plenty of action while fishing the channels and run-offs on the falling tide. Live shrimp pinned to a 1/4 or 3/8 oz chartruese Hookup Lures jig and worked using a 6-10 lb spinning outfit is the set up I like to use. The snook were averaging 18 to 24 inches long and the redfish have been running the full length of their slot of 18 to 27 inches.

Out in the Gulf of Mexico spanish mackerels have been on again off

again. While chumming them up plenty of snappers are showing up behind the boat. Muttons, mangrove and lane snapper will be looking for live baits like shrimp and pilchards, remember to use non-stainless, non-offset circle hooks only if you plan to harvest these snappers while using any type of natural baits. Look out for bluefish, pompano and the occasional cobia to show up as well looking to fight.

This week being a holiday week will find plenty of families out on the water fishing. My favorite fishing charter has to be taking new fishermen out on the water in search of their first fish. Large or small it really doesn't matter a fish is a fish and bent rods make for big smiles all around. Take Nicole and Jason Shapiro of Concord N.C. as an example. Jason works for Joe Gibbs Racing as the car chief of number 20 Home Depot car on the NASCAR circuit. After the race season ended in Homestead this month Jason likes to spend a couple of weeks fishing and diving the waters that surround the Islamorada area. This year his 3 year old daughter Kelsey accompanied her dad into the backcountry in search of her first fish fight. Jason, Nicole and Kelsey head out to the Twin Key snapper grounds and after proper planning to prevent pretty poor performance Kelsey was fishing. When kid fishing you have to entertain them and keep them busy, I refer to kid fishing as "Short attention Span Theater" and Jason had his hands full, soon enough Kelsey had here hands full with a bent fishing rod and landed her very first fish. Now try to tell Kelsey or her dad that it was just a small snapper, this was and will be one of the biggest and most important fish that Jason has ever chummed up behind his boat and the best fight that young Kelsey will have fought. These are memories that will last their lifetime and you can do the same for your family while you are in town this week.

Take the time out of your holiday this week to get out on the water and take in the beauty and the excitement that surrounds the island chain that I am lucky to call home. I am Captain Matt Bellinger and operate Bamboo Charters out of Hloiday Isle Resort and Marina at mile marker 84 in Islamorada.

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L to R: Kelsey & Jason Shapiro with her very first fish. Kelsey practicing catch and release. Kelsey ready to begin training as Islamorada's cutest backcountry guide.

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# TOURNAMENTS

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 Have it listed here for FREE by calling  
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## Fishing Tournaments 2008-2009

The 45th Annual Islamorada Sailfish Tournament kicks off December 4th 2008 at Whale Harbor Restaurants and Marina. Fishing takes place December 5th, 6th and 7th. Awards banquet Sunday night December 7th at Braza Lena Brazilian Steak House. This tournament is an IGFA offshore qualifying event. The Islamorada Sailfish Tournament is the primary fundraiser for the Islamorada Charter Boat Association a 501-C-3 organization.

For more information please call Dianne Harbaugh 305-852-2102 or, visit us on the web at [www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com](http://www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com).

The Florida Keys Gold Cup Championship Series kicks off with the Islamorada Sailfish Tournament December 4th thru 7th 2008, The second leg of the series is the Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament January 15th thru 17th 2009. The Islamorada Fishing Clubs' Sailfish Tournament on January 21st and 22nd 2009 is the final leg of this trifecta. Each tournament has their own set of rules and entry fees. Each angler competes on an individual basis for the Championship Ring that includes bragging rights for the entire year. Teams compete for the coveted Gold Cup Trophy that is displayed at the Islamorada Fishing Club, headquarters for the final event. There are also team awards for second and third places. The Gold Cup guarantees \$10,000.00 in cash prizes.

The tournament raises money for the Islamorada Charter Boat Association a 501-C-3 organization. For more information please visit us on the web at [www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com](http://www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com) or call Dianne Harbaugh 305-852-2102.

The Islamorada Fishing Club is having the following events. They are all limited to the first 30 paid entries:

**Islamorada Fishing Clubs Captain's Cup Sailfish Tournament** has a December 10th kick off with fishing on Thursday December 11th 2008. This is a one day all release sailfish tournament. A winner takes all event with a \$30,000.00 payout based on a full field of 30 boats. Entry fee is \$2500.00 per boat and is limited to two anglers. This tournament is an IGFA offshore qualifying event. Please visit us on the web [www.theislamoradafishingclub.com](http://www.theislamoradafishingclub.com). Contact IFC 305-664-4735.

Email: [fishing@theislamoradafishingclub.com](mailto:fishing@theislamoradafishingclub.com).

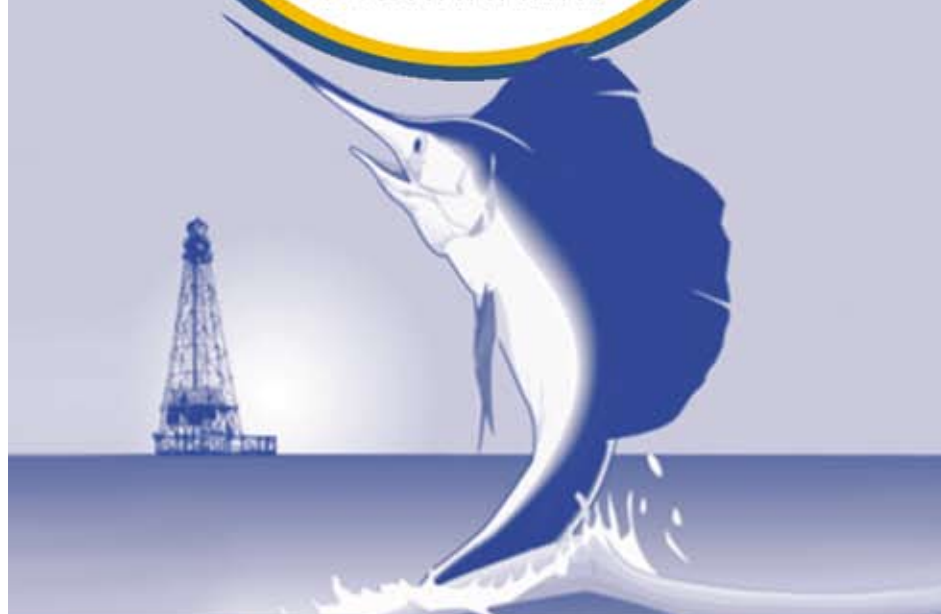
**Islamorada Fishing Clubs 2009 Sailfish Tournament** has a January 21st kickoff with fishing on Thursday January 22nd 2009. This is the final leg of the Florida Keys Gold Cup Sailfish Championship. This is a one day all release sailfish tournament. A winner takes all event with a \$30,000.00 payout based on a full field of 30 boats. Entry fee is \$2500.00 per boat and each boat is limited to two anglers. Please visit us on the web [www.theislamoradafishingclub.com](http://www.theislamoradafishingclub.com). Contact IFC 305-664-4735.

Email: [fishing@theislamoradafishingclub.com](mailto:fishing@theislamoradafishingclub.com).

**Islamorada Fishing Clubs Captain's Cup Dolphin Tournament** has a June 3rd kickoff with fishing on Thursday June 4th 2009. The combined weight of three Dolphin determines the winner. This is a winner takes all event with a \$30,000.00 payout

# "Get Hooked"

The 45<sup>th</sup> annual  
 Islamorada  
 Sailfish  
 TOURNAMENT



December 4th - December 7th

|   |                           |   |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| December 4 - Kick-off<br>Whale Harbor Restaurant & Marina | December 5 - 7<br>Fishing | December 7 - Awards Banquet<br>Braza Lena Brazilian Steak House |
|---|---------------------------|---|

The Islamorada Sailfish Tournament is the primary fundraiser for the Islamorada Charter Boat Association, a 501-C-3 organization.



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based on a full field of 30 boats. Entry fee is \$2500.00 per boat and each boat is limited to two anglers. . Please visit us on the web [www.theislamoradafishingclub.com](http://www.theislamoradafishingclub.com). Contact IFC 305-664-4735.  
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## KEY LARGO (OCEAN REEF)

|        |     | High        | Low             | High            | Low             | High            |
|--------|-----|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date   | Day | Time/Height | Time/Height     | Time/Height     | Time/Height     | Time/Height     |
| Nov 26 | Wed |             | 01:03 / 0.23 ft | 07:25 / 2.87 ft | 13:34 / 0.68 ft | 19:19 / 2.63 ft |
| Nov 27 | Thu |             | 01:40 / 0.21 ft | 08:02 / 2.87 ft | 14:12 / 0.68 ft | 19:56 / 2.60 ft |
| Nov 28 | Fri |             | 02:17 / 0.22 ft | 08:39 / 2.84 ft | 14:49 / 0.69 ft | 20:33 / 2.55 ft |
| Nov 29 | Sat |             | 02:53 / 0.25 ft | 09:16 / 2.79 ft | 15:26 / 0.71 ft | 21:10 / 2.50 ft |
| Nov 30 | Sun |             | 03:30 / 0.31 ft | 09:53 / 2.73 ft | 16:04 / 0.74 ft | 21:50 / 2.43 ft |
| Dec 1  | Mon |             | 04:08 / 0.39 ft | 10:31 / 2.64 ft | 16:44 / 0.76 ft | 22:31 / 2.36 ft |
| Dec 2  | Tue |             | 04:49 / 0.48 ft | 11:10 / 2.55 ft | 17:26 / 0.78 ft | 23:16 / 2.31 ft |

## BIG PINE (W.SIDE PINE CHANNEL)

|        |     | High        | Low              | High            | Low             | High            |
|--------|-----|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date   | Day | Time/Height | Time/Height      | Time/Height     | Time/Height     | Time/Height     |
| Nov 26 | Wed |             | 04:38 / -0.00 ft | 09:50 / 0.69 ft | 15:47 / 0.30 ft | 20:48 / 1.09 ft |
| Nov 27 | Thu |             | 05:16 / -0.02 ft | 10:25 / 0.67 ft | 16:21 / 0.29 ft | 21:22 / 1.09 ft |
| Nov 28 | Fri |             | 05:54 / -0.03 ft | 10:59 / 0.65 ft | 16:55 / 0.28 ft | 21:58 / 1.08 ft |
| Nov 29 | Sat |             | 06:32 / -0.02 ft | 11:35 / 0.63 ft | 17:29 / 0.28 ft | 22:35 / 1.07 ft |
| Nov 30 | Sun |             | 07:11 / 0.00 ft  | 12:13 / 0.62 ft | 18:03 / 0.30 ft | 23:14 / 1.05 ft |
| Dec 1  | Mon |             | 07:52 / 0.03 ft  | 12:54 / 0.61 ft | 18:41 / 0.31 ft | 23:55 / 1.01 ft |
| Dec 2  | Tue |             | 08:33 / 0.07 ft  | 13:39 / 0.62 ft | 19:26 / 0.34 ft |                 |

## ISLAMORADA (WHALE HARBOR)

|        |     | High        | Low             | High            | Low             | High            |
|--------|-----|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date   | Day | Time/Height | Time/Height     | Time/Height     | Time/Height     | Time/Height     |
| Nov 26 | Wed |             | 01:46 / 0.09 ft | 07:46 / 1.63 ft | 14:14 / 0.39 ft | 19:46 / 1.50 ft |
| Nov 27 | Thu |             | 02:25 / 0.09 ft | 08:25 / 1.62 ft | 14:52 / 0.40 ft | 20:24 / 1.49 ft |
| Nov 28 | Fri |             | 03:03 / 0.11 ft | 09:03 / 1.60 ft | 15:30 / 0.41 ft | 21:02 / 1.46 ft |
| Nov 29 | Sat |             | 03:40 / 0.13 ft | 09:41 / 1.57 ft | 16:07 / 0.43 ft | 21:40 / 1.43 ft |
| Nov 30 | Sun |             | 04:17 / 0.18 ft | 10:19 / 1.53 ft | 16:45 / 0.46 ft | 22:20 / 1.39 ft |
| Dec 1  | Mon |             | 04:54 / 0.23 ft | 10:58 / 1.49 ft | 17:24 / 0.48 ft | 23:01 / 1.35 ft |
| Dec 2  | Tue |             | 05:32 / 0.28 ft | 11:38 / 1.45 ft | 18:05 / 0.49 ft | 23:46 / 1.32 ft |

## CUDJOE KEY (PIRATES COVE)

|        |     | High            | Low              | High            | Low             | High        |
|--------|-----|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Date   | Day | Time/Height     | Time/Height      | Time/Height     | Time/Height     | Time/Height |
| Nov 26 | Wed |                 | 05:40 / -0.00 ft | 13:19 / 1.02 ft | 16:49 / 0.56 ft |             |
| Nov 27 | Thu | 00:17 / 1.62 ft | 06:18 / -0.04 ft | 13:54 / 0.99 ft | 17:23 / 0.54 ft |             |
| Nov 28 | Fri | 00:51 / 1.61 ft | 06:56 / -0.05 ft | 14:28 / 0.96 ft | 17:57 / 0.53 ft |             |
| Nov 29 | Sat | 01:27 / 1.60 ft | 07:34 / -0.03 ft | 15:04 / 0.93 ft | 18:31 / 0.53 ft |             |
| Nov 30 | Sun | 02:04 / 1.58 ft | 08:13 / 0.01 ft  | 15:42 / 0.91 ft | 19:05 / 0.56 ft |             |
| Dec 1  | Mon | 02:43 / 1.55 ft | 08:54 / 0.06 ft  | 16:23 / 0.91 ft | 19:43 / 0.59 ft |             |
| Dec 2  | Tue | 03:24 / 1.50 ft | 09:35 / 0.13 ft  | 17:08 / 0.92 ft | 20:28 / 0.63 ft |             |

## MARAHON (BOOT KEY HARBOR)

|        |     | High        | Low              | High            | Low             | High            |
|--------|-----|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date   | Day | Time/Height | Time/Height      | Time/Height     | Time/Height     | Time/Height     |
| Nov 26 | Wed |             | 02:00 / -0.02 ft | 08:44 / 1.52 ft | 13:19 / 0.87 ft | 19:24 / 2.39 ft |
| Nov 27 | Thu |             | 02:39 / -0.04 ft | 09:13 / 1.49 ft | 13:52 / 0.86 ft | 20:00 / 2.41 ft |
| Nov 28 | Fri |             | 03:18 / -0.03 ft | 09:40 / 1.45 ft | 14:24 / 0.85 ft | 20:37 / 2.41 ft |
| Nov 29 | Sat |             | 03:58 / 0.02 ft  | 10:09 / 1.41 ft | 14:54 / 0.85 ft | 21:16 / 2.39 ft |
| Nov 30 | Sun |             | 04:38 / 0.08 ft  | 10:42 / 1.38 ft | 15:23 / 0.86 ft | 21:56 / 2.33 ft |
| Dec 1  | Mon |             | 05:19 / 0.16 ft  | 11:20 / 1.35 ft | 15:55 / 0.88 ft | 22:37 / 2.24 ft |
| Dec 2  | Tue |             | 06:02 / 0.24 ft  | 12:01 / 1.34 ft | 16:34 / 0.91 ft | 23:21 / 2.12 ft |

## KEY WEST (S.SIDE HAWK CHANNEL)

|        |     | High        | Low              | High            | Low             | High            |
|--------|-----|-------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Date   | Day | Time/Height | Time/Height      | Time/Height     | Time/Height     | Time/Height     |
| Nov 26 | Wed |             | 02:16 / -0.00 ft | 08:37 / 1.42 ft | 13:25 / 0.65 ft | 19:35 / 2.25 ft |
| Nov 27 | Thu |             | 02:54 / -0.05 ft | 09:12 / 1.37 ft | 13:59 / 0.63 ft | 20:09 / 2.24 ft |
| Nov 28 | Fri |             | 03:32 / -0.06 ft | 09:46 / 1.33 ft | 14:33 / 0.62 ft | 20:45 / 2.22 ft |
| Nov 29 | Sat |             | 04:10 / -0.04 ft | 10:22 / 1.29 ft | 15:07 / 0.62 ft | 21:22 / 2.19 ft |
| Nov 30 | Sun |             | 04:49 / 0.01 ft  | 11:00 / 1.27 ft | 15:41 / 0.65 ft | 22:01 / 2.15 ft |
| Dec 1  | Mon |             | 05:30 / 0.07 ft  | 11:41 / 1.26 ft | 16:19 / 0.69 ft | 22:42 / 2.09 ft |
| Dec 2  | Tue |             | 06:11 / 0.15 ft  | 12:26 / 1.28 ft | 17:04 / 0.74 ft | 23:27 / 1.99 ft |

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## Islamorada Sailfish Tournament Celebrates 45 Years . . .

The 45th Annual Islamorada Sailfish Tournament will kick-off on December 4th 2008. Fishing takes place December 5th thru the 7th. The Islamorada Sailfish Tournament will continue to be a light tackle tournament using manufactures stated 12 pound test line. The tournament will include a junior division with a junior entry of \$200.00. Major sponsors Caribe Boat Sales, Contender Boats and Yamaha Outboards are onboard for another spectacular sailfish tournament weekend! As always you will be able to find up to the minute results during the tournament on our web site.

Last year Captain Scott Stanczyk led anglers David Spilman, Jim Falker, John Soltysiak and Tyson Mayers, all from the Maryland and Delaware area, to the winner's circle of the 2007 Islamorada Sailfish Tournament. The team released a total of 9 sailfish over the three day event. Angler David Spilman released 5 of the Catch 22's 9 fish to take home the high point angler award.

Join us for the celebration of the 45th year of the Islamorada Sailfish Tournament. The Friday night standings party and live radio show is always a blast. Tournament entry forms and information can be found on the official tournament web site [www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com](http://www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com). Angler entry fees include an exceptional clothing package, a ditty bag full of fishing goodies, loads of fishing tips, an entry to all tournament functions and free drink coupons. The first anglers entry includes everything for the Captain as well as the angler. Entry fee for the first angler is \$600.00 and \$500.00 for each additional angler. Junior anglers under the age of 16 receive all but the drinks for \$200.00. The Islamorada Sailfish Tournament boasts the best trophies anywhere. From artwork to the "Bill Hirni" high point angler perpetual trophy, all winning anglers and winning crews receive a trophy. The tournament also has trophies for Most Outstanding Catch other than a Sailfish, Largest Tuna, King Mackerel and Dolphin.

The Islamorada Sailfish Tournament is the primary fund raiser for the Islamorada Charter Boat Association. A 501-C-3 organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the fabulous fishing in the Florida Keys.

Once again, Whale Harbor Inn and Marina will host the event with mouth watering stone crabs added to the already awesome all you can eat seafood buffet. VMC hooks, World Wide Sportsman, and TIB Bank will continue to help make this the best Sailfish tournament in the Keys. Whether you are a seasoned angler or just wish to wet a hook for the billfish thrill of a lifetime the Islamorada Sailfish Tournament is a great way to do so. The tournament combines the fun of fishing with the ability to meet and socialize with some of the world's best fishermen and women. The gala awards dinner on Sunday night at Whale Harbors new Braza Lena Brazilian Steak House culminates with incredible trophies and prizes for the Champions of the tournament.

The Islamorada Sailfish Tournament is the first leg of the coveted Florida Keys Gold Cup Sailfish Championship. The Gold Cup Series includes the Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament and the Islamorada Fishing Clubs January 2008 Sailfish Tournament. The Gold Cup Series has a limited entry of 30 boats. Space is still available for the

Gold Cup Series. Check out all the information under Florida Keys Gold Cup on our web site [www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com](http://www.islamoradasailfishtournament.com).

Come and be a part of one of the oldest and most exciting tournaments in the Florida Keys!

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## Fuel Prices: the bright spot in downturn

It comes too late in the year to be of much help to the marine industry, but the one bright spot in an otherwise economically volatile autumn has been the steady downward trend in gasoline prices.

The descent began in August, after prices hit all-time highs in June and July and were threatening to go even higher. Unfortunately, the principal factor in the decline, experts agree, has been the weakness in the global economy and a corresponding drop in projected demand for petroleum products.

In the most recent U.S. Department of Energy fuel price report (Nov. 10), the nationwide average price for a gallon of regular gasoline at the pump had fallen to \$2.22. That's 17.6 cents less than the preceding week and down 88.7 cents from a year ago. It's also more than \$2 a gallon below the midsummer peaks.

Prices at the fuel dock typically run 30 to 35 percent higher, in part because marinas, given their proximity to the water, factor in their additional insurance costs for fuel spill coverage.

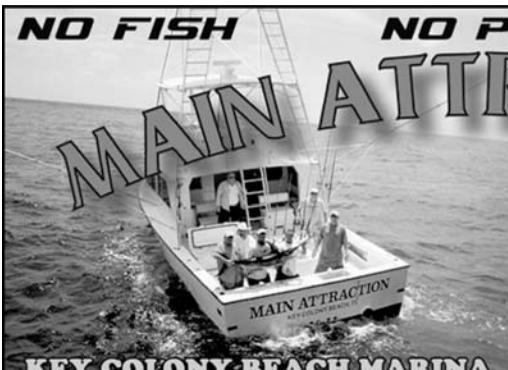
The Lundberg Survey, the private firm that tracks fuel prices, said in November that barring a short-term deep reduction in global demand for oil, gasoline prices may soon hit bottom.

"No one knows at which precise point falling prices would cause demand to stop shrinking or to grow," Lundberg said. "Whenever that might be, it will be within the context of how the overall economy is performing."

None of the experts can say with certainty when prices will rise. On one point, however, they do agree: The low prices now are a temporary phenomenon.

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11/13



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1300 hrs., Full tower with controls. Lower station includes Garmin 182C. Color GPS/Chart-plotter, Furuno FCV-582L Color Depth Finder and Icom M45 VHF radio. Other features include: 35 gal live well, saltwater washdown, freshwater shower, E-Tec Outriggers and clear glass enclosure. This boat is in good condition for its age and the engines are still strong. Service records available. **Priced at wholesale only \$14,995.** Call (954) 610-6740 or email: [timhaines@bellsouth.net](mailto:timhaines@bellsouth.net)

11/06

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11/06

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## NOAA Invites Proposals for Research in the Commercial Shark Fishery

### • Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico

NOAA Fisheries Service is requesting applications for the 2009 shark research fishery from commercial shark fishermen with a directed or incidental permit. The shark research fishery allows for the collection of fishery-dependent data for future stock assessments, while also allowing NOAA and commercial fishermen to conduct cooperative research. The objectives of this research program are outlined in a Federal Register notice.

Commercial shark fishermen who are interested in participating in the shark research fishery must submit an application for consideration. Generally, these permits will be valid through December 31, 2009, subject to the terms and conditions of individual permits. Applications must be received no later than 5pm, local time, on December 3, 2008. For more information, contact Jess Beck at (301) 713-2347.

### • Gulf of Mexico - NOAA Extends Use of Tow Times in the Shrimp Fishery

NOAA Fisheries Service has issued a temporary rule effective from October 29, 2008 through November 28, 2008, to allow shrimp fishermen to use limited tow times as an alternative to Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in state and Federal waters off Louisiana. Specifically, this rule applies from the western end of Timbalier Island eastward to the Plaquemines/Jefferson Parish line, extending offshore 15 nautical miles. The previous 30-day exemption from TED requirements was effective September 26 through October 26, 2008. This action is necessary because environmental conditions resulting from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike still persist on the fishing grounds, preventing some fishermen from using TEDs effectively. For more information, contact Michael Barnette at (727) 551-5794.

### • Alaska - NOAA to Evaluate Status of Pacific Herring

NOAA Fisheries Service is requesting information, data, and comments pertinent to a risk assessment as part of a status review of the Southeast Alaska population of Pacific herring. On April 11, 2008, the agency initiated a status review of this herring stock under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Southeast Alaska distinct population segment of Pacific herring extends to Dixon Entrance in the south, where the Southeast Alaska stock is genetically distinguished from the British Columbia stock; and to Cape Fairweather and Icy Point in the north, where the stock is limited by physical and ecological barriers. The status review for this stock will include an analysis of risk extinction, an assessment of the factors listed under section 4(a)(1) of the ESA, and an evaluation of conservation efforts for the distinct population segment.

As part of this status review, NOAA is seeking information regarding the stock's population structure and trends, current conditions of its habitat, known and anticipated threats to the viability of the population, and efforts being made to protect the species. Specifically, the agency seeks data concerning: (1) existing and historical population abundance; (2) existing and historical habitat location and condition; (3) population structure; (4) known and anticipated threats to Southeast Alaska Pacific herring, including destruction or modification of habitat, overutilization, disease or predation, inadequate regulatory mechanisms, or any other natural or human factors; and (5) efforts being made to protect the species. Relevant information may be sent to SEAKherring@noaa.gov until December 8, 2008.

To learn more about the status review, read the Federal Register notice or contact Kate Savage at (907) 586-7312.

## Florida Fish & Wildlife given boating award

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was recognized by the States Organization for Boating Access for its efforts to increase access in the Sunshine State.

The FWC brought home the Boating Access Program Excellence Award for 2008 at the SOBA annual conference in Norfolk, Va.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended the FWC for SOBA's boating access program award because of its leadership in addressing the challenges of providing and maintaining boating access in a highly urbanized and ecologically sensitive environment.

Currently, the state manages and controls more than 250 boat ramps that provide access to fresh water, intracoastal waterways and marine environments. The FWC, in partnership with other state agencies, has replaced or constructed new ramps and built or expanded public marinas. Six new sites also are in the planning stages.

There are more than 1 million registered boats in Florida. Experts estimate the number of trailered boats vying for existing boat ramps will double, along with the human population, from about 900,000 boats on trailers to nearly 1.8 million by 2060, the agency says.

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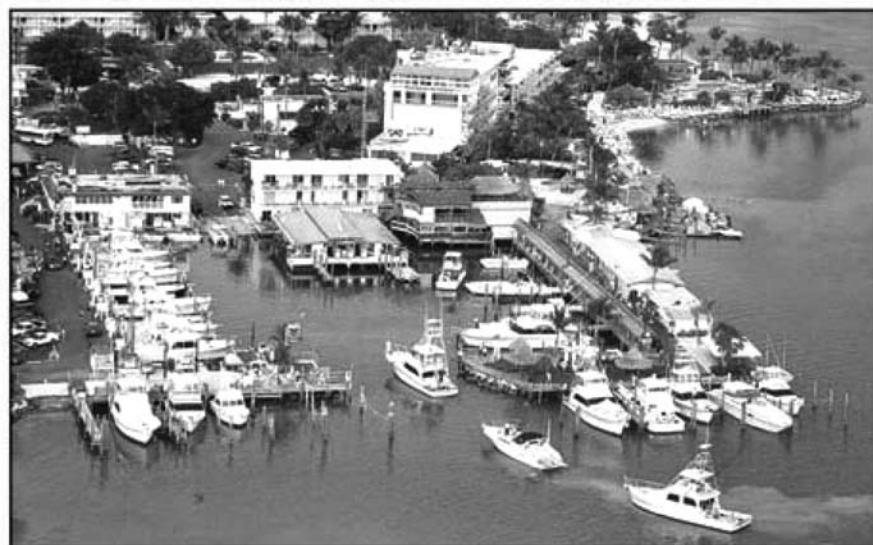
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# KEYS CAPTAIN & GUIDE DIRECTORY



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## Upper Keys Key Largo to Islamorada

### Captain / Charter Contact Info

|                                |                     |   |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Key Largo Fishing Adventures   | OFF/BC/REEF         | (305) 923-9293<br>www.keyssportfishing.com              |
| Capt. Scott Keller             | OFF/BC              | (305) 664-6678<br>captscott@badhabitfishingcharters.com |
| Capt. Ron Moore                | OFF/REEF/MD         | (305) 304-9473<br>www.millertimesportfishing.com        |
| Capt. Matt Bellinger           | BC/GULF/REEF/WR     | (305) 393-0909<br>www.bamboocharters.com                |
| Capt. Joe Petrucco             | OFF                 | (305) 403-4580<br>www.killerinstinctcharters.com        |
| Capt. George Clark, Jr.        | OFF/REEF/BC         | (305) 522-2638<br>www.rodeochararters.com               |
| Capt. Jef Pfister              | BC/FL               | (877) 362-5743<br>www.docksidecharters.com              |
| Capt. Mike Makowski            | BC/FL               | (305) 481-0111<br>www.blackfootfishing.com              |
| Capt. Wells Gable              | BC/FL               | (305) 522-2373<br>www.captwellsable@msn.com             |
| Killer White Charters          | OFF/REEF/TP         | (305) 522-0374<br>www.killerwhite.com                   |
| Capt. John Kohler              | BC/FL               | (305) 852-0369<br>jdkohler@bellsouth.net                |
| Capt. Ann Holahan              | BC/FL/TP/FLY        | (305) 664-5891<br>www.boneranger.com                    |
| Capt. Lain Goodwin             | BC/FL               | (305) 304-2212<br>captain@dirtywatercharters.com        |
| Capt. Tad Burke                | BC/FL/GF/OFF        | (305) 852-0739<br>(305) 451-7354                        |
| Capt. Kevin Brown              |                     | (305) 394-0792<br>www.goldreservecharters.com           |
| Capt. John & Suzanne Taskowitz |                     | (305) 664-9202<br>www.suzannefishingcharters.com        |
| Capt. Ted Benbow               | FL/BC               | (305) 393-0363<br>www.skinsandfinscharters.com          |
| Capt. Bill Wert                | BC                  | (305) 393-1910<br>mrbill54@bellsouth.net                |
| Capt. Stephen Murray           | BC                  | (305) 393-1641<br>stevemurray126@comcast.net            |
| Capt. Ron & Nancy Allen        | Fish Tales Charters | (305) 664-0050<br>www.fishtalesportfishing.com          |
| Capt. Butch Green              | Sassy Lady Charters | (305) 394-4717<br>sassyladycharters@comcast.net         |
| Capt. Jeff Van Derflue         | BC                  | (305) 393-6940<br>flatitudecharters@hotmail.com         |
| Capt. Don Clark                | OFF                 | (305) 393-2788<br>www.seahorsecharers.com               |
| Capt. Dave Purdo               |                     | (305) 852-5989  |

## Upper Keys (cont.) Key Largo to Islamorada

### Captain / Charter Contact Info

|                      |     |  |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| Capt. Skip Bradeen   | OFF | (305) 481-5151<br>www.bluechiptoo.com    |
| Capt. Steve Friedman |     | (305) 393-3474<br>www.wafishingguige.com |

## Middle Keys Long Key to Marathon

### Captain / Charter Contact Info

|                          |                       |   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Capt. Pip's Sportfishing | OFF/REEF/TP           | (305) 743-4403<br>www.captainpips.com       |
| Capt. Butch Hewlett      | Live Bait Tarpon Only | (305) 743-4594<br>bnbfishing@bellsouth.net  |
| Capt. David Schugar      | OFF/REEF              | (305) 610-4778<br>www.sweetenufcharters.com |
| Main Attraction          | OFF/REEF              | (305) 289-0071<br>www.mainattraction.org    |

## Lower Keys Big Pine Key to Key West

### Captain / Charter Contact Info

|   |                   |   |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Capt. Chris Lembo                             | OFF/REEF          | (305) 292-0067<br>incognitochararters@comcast.net |
| Capt. Kevin Wilson                            | OFF/REEF          | (305) 745-5634<br>www.fishmekeywest.com           |
| Capt. Brad Nowicki                            | BC/FL/OFF/REEF/GF | (305) 481-7908<br>www.captainbradnowicki.com      |
| Sightfish Charters                            | FL                | (305) 304-6132<br>www.sightfishfloridakeys.com    |
| Capt. Sandy Horn                              | BC/FL             | (305) 393-6913<br>shorn2979@yahoo.com             |
| Andy Griffiths Charters<br>Night Swordfishing | OVN/MD/OFF/REEF   | (305) 296-2639<br>www.fishandy.com                |
| Capt. Bo Sellers                              | BC/FL             | (305) 304-8442<br>www.sightfishingkeywest.com     |
| Capt. Andrew Tipler                           | BC/FL/OFF/REEF    | (305) 744-9796<br>www.lastcastcharters.net        |

**Weekly Fisherman's Captain & Guide Directory is one of the most visible directories throughout the Keys. The Weekly Fisherman reaches thousands of locals and tourists each week via the widest distribution network available from Florida City to Key West. Combined with www.weeklyfisherman.com, your contact info is readily available to potential visitors worldwide as they plan their Keys vacation!**

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## World Fishing Network Launches Anglers' Legacy Contest to Increase Participation in Boating & Fishing

World Fishing Network is kicking off an Anglers' Legacy contest this week to help increase participation in boating and fishing, the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) announced today. Visitors to [www.wfn.tv/pledge](http://www.wfn.tv/pledge) are encouraged to "Take the Pledge" and make a promise to introduce at least one newcomer to fishing. The contest encourages both new and current Anglers' Legacy Ambassadors to share their stories about introducing newcomers to the sport for a chance to win a personalized TV spot on WFN and WFN HD. "We encourage our Anglers' Legacy Ambassadors to submit their stories, pictures and even videos about sharing the legacy of boating and fishing," said RBFF President & CEO Frank Peterson. "We know our Ambassadors are committed to the cause. We look forward to hearing these inspiring stories and signing on new boaters and anglers to the program." The contest will be promoted through TV PSAs, Web banners and newsletter articles to encourage Ambassadors to share their stories. WFN's judges will be evaluating entries based on passion, creativity and commitment to the cause. Visitors to [www.wfn.tv/pledge](http://www.wfn.tv/pledge) can submit essays or videos and link to the full contest rules. All entries must be received no later than January 7, 2009. WFN will provide four grand prize winners with their very own 30-second Anglers' Legacy TV spots on WFN & WFN HD, including airfare and hotel accommodations. "We feel it's the responsibility of the nation's 44 million anglers and all of us in the industry to support initiatives that get more people on the water fishing," said WFN President Mark Rubinstein. "We look forward to using our multimedia platform to support Anglers' Legacy and encourage all anglers to introduce at least one newcomer to fishing." Anglers' Legacy, a program aimed at increasing first-time boating and fishing experiences, has signed on more than 75,000 Ambassadors nationwide since its inception in May 2006. Based on a recent RBFF survey, Ambassadors purchase approximately \$140 in fishing tackle and equipment, \$153 in boating supplies and accessories, and more than three fishing licenses which support critical fish and wildlife management efforts through the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

About WFN:

World Fishing Network was originally launched in December 2005 as North America's first channel dedicated to covering every aspect of the angling and sport fishing industry. In November 2007, WFN secured an agreement with Verizon FiOS TV as its first U.S. distribution partner. WFN HD launched in June 2008 on Dish Network. Today, WFN and WFN HD are available in more than 20 million households through North American cable, satellite, and telecommunications distributors.

About RBFF:

RBFF is a nonprofit organization established in 1998 to increase participation in recreational angling and boating. RBFF helps people discover, share and protect the legacy of boating and fishing through national outreach programs including the Take Me Fishing™ campaign and Anglers' Legacy™.

## FWC Proposes Changes to Anchoring and Mooring Statutes

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is seeking common-ground solutions and is proposing legislation to modify and/or clean up statutes related to vessel management, anchoring, mooring and local government authority.

The FWC's Boating and Waterways Section will present its recommendations Dec. 3, at the Commission meeting in Key West.

Problems began to arise when public access sites for boaters

diminished due to development of waterfront properties and privatization of boating facilities. As a result, boaters began to anchor or moor their vessels for long periods, or even permanently, on the water and often behind waterfront properties. At times, vessels became derelict, created navigational hazards, caused property damage, damaged sea grass and corals and caused pollution.

Under pressure from homeowners and others, local governments passed ordinances that pre-empted state laws.

"There are definitely two sides to this," Maj. Paul Ouellette, from FWC's Boating and Waterways Section said. "Boaters believe boating is the last bastion of freedom, but waterfront property owners do not want to deal with a boat's pollution, noise and other problems – especially when boats are practically anchored in their back yards."

The situation became especially confusing for boaters as they traveled from county to county and encountered local jurisdictions with inconsistent regulations. However, based on public input, the FWC is proposing slightly more authority to regulate anchoring and clarify local government authority.

"We've had 13 public meetings," Ouellette said. "Boaters generally felt laws should be overseen by the FWC to ensure uniformity and consistency. But local governments wanted more authority to address problems that were unique to their own communities and fell outside the scope of what the state can enforce."

In addition to giving local governments more authority, the recommendations also would delete obsolete and confusing language in current boating statutes.

"One of Florida's greatest outdoor activities is boating," Ouellette said. "As the population of Florida boaters increases, we will continue to have to revise our statutes and provide and improve boating access. Freedom to navigate must be weighed against growth management so boating isn't just for the elite."

To learn more about what the future of boating may be, visit [MyFWC.com/Wildlife2060](http://MyFWC.com/Wildlife2060). To learn more about anchoring and mooring, and other boating issues, visit [MyFWC.com/boating/](http://MyFWC.com/boating/).



Doug Robertson with a handful of speckled trout and a green lizard while fishing with Capt. Matt Bellinger of Holiday Isle Resort and Marina in Islamorada.

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