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Vol. XI • Issue 29



Upper Keys Bonefish

A really nice day in the backcountry, fishing with Capt. Lain Goodwin.

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— Swordfishing on Snapper Charters —
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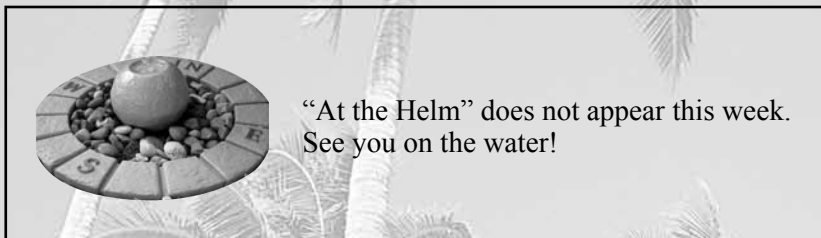
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Published by Hot Toddy & Family

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Printed at Southeast Offset • (305) 623-7788 • Hialeah

28th Annual Bartenders Sailfish Open

35 Bartenders fishing on 13 boats joined in the fun for the 28th Annual Bartenders Sailfish Open, Monday January 12th. The First Sailfish release, at 8:59 by Renee Jensen, aboard the T&A, put the Ocean View in the lead. It was not soon after, that Captain Nick Stanczyk of the B&M called in a triple header of sails. B&M’s mate Dan Flynn got the release on all three fish and the B&M never looked back. With another triple at 12:20 and three single fish released through out the day the B&M would solidly take home First Place. Anglers Skyler McGarry and Ryan Crocket will proudly display the First Place bar trophy at Dillon’s for the next year. The T&A’s Captain Phil Wright with anglers Renee Jensen and Kelly Farr from the Ocean View would pick away at the Sailfish all day. They would land Second Place bar honors with a total of 6 releases. Main Attraction fishing Matt Anthony, Alison Baker, Carolyn Anthony, Denise Matzen and Michael Nealis all from Sparkey’s Landing took Third Place with 5 releases.

Island Grill once again hosted the Bartenders with live music, fantastic food and a great party. Overall, a total of 33 fish were released out of 43 called in hook ups. High Point Bartender honors went to Skyler McGarry aboard the B&M with a total of 6 releases. Second Place Bartender was Renee Jensen from Ocean View with 5 sailfish releases. Ryan Crocket from Dillon’s was Third Place Bartender with 3 sail releases. The Fourth Place Bartender trophy was awarded to Kenley Turchetti from the Big Chill, fishing aboard the Bad Habit with two releases on time. Dillon’s would cap off the awards ceremony taking the Most Outstanding Catch award with a 32.9 Pound Wahoo caught by Ryan Crocket. 🐟



L-R Dan Flynn, Dianne Harbaugh, Ryan Crocket, Skyler McGarry and Capt. Nick Stanczyk.

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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. In this week's issue you will find an overview of what has been biting Keys wide, what to expect in the upcoming week of fishing and who made news in the fleet. You will also find area detailed reports from local Captains who bring their on-water experiences back and share them with you. If I can help you get hooked up with a local crew to do some fishing while you are in the area please contact me at the information above.

This past week marked the middle of the Sailfish tournament season here in the Keys with the passing of the Annual Islamorada Presidential Sailfish Tournament. This event replaced the Cheeca Lodge Presidential as

6 fish lead over the Real McCoy team going in to the last leg this Thursday at the Islamorada Fishing Club.

The weather conditions the last week have taken on a familiar pattern for this time of year as the cold fronts from the north have been flying through every four days or so. This fact, combined with the large volume of bait that we have on the edge of the reef Keys wide, has been producing some excellent Sailfishing. The high hook-ups of the fleet have been catching five to ten Sails a day. I expect the weather and fishing to continue the same patterns this week.

The King Mackerel fishing has also been very good. Large Kings to 45 pounds have been caught by several of the boats in the fleet recently. These fish are feeding on larger baits along the ledges in the reef from 90 to 150 feet

and are being caught Keys wide. There has also been good fishing for Greater Amberjacks, Blackfin Tuna, Wahoo, and Cobias lately. This is the time of year in the Keys when the winter time fishery is in full swing. Make sure you get out and do some fishing during the next two weeks while all of this action is available to you.

Further back into the Gulf the Spanish Mackerel bite has continued to be strong. These fish are in place from 5 to 15 miles to the West of the Keys and are congregated around areas of structure in 7 to 20 feet of water. The succession of Cold fronts has sparked the Snook bite back in the creeks and rivers of the Cape. There have also been some quality schools of Redfish and Trout on the Bayside. The bonefishing has been good closer to the Islands along the Ocean flats during the heat of the day. We will start to see a warming of the water temps in the shallows over the next 30 days and the beginning of February will find more and more guides and their anglers out on the water catching these and other species.

There is no better time to come out and experience some of the best fishing the Florida Keys has to offer. Whether your pleasure is chasing Sailfish along the reef or a wide variety of fish in the backcountry you couldn't be here at a better time. We have one of the greatest collections of fishing captains and crews in the world here in the Keys so make sure you take advantage and go fishing during your visit. Enjoy your stay here in the Sportfishing Capital of the World and please get out and enjoy our amazing fishery. Good fishing Capt. Greg

and are being caught Keys wide. There has also been good fishing for Greater Amberjacks, Blackfin Tuna, Wahoo, and Cobias lately. This is the time of year in the Keys when the winter time fishery is in full swing. Make sure you get out and do some fishing during the next two weeks while all of this action is available to you.



Login Herbert from Chesterfield, VA with his 1st Sailfish!!! He was fishing aboard Fish Tales out of Islamorada.

Yamaha halts production at 11 plants

Yamaha Motor Company plans to temporarily stop production at 11 facilities worldwide because of the soft market. It was not specified which facilities would be affected. The company said production would stop for seven to 10 days in February and March at plants that manufacture marine products, as well as those that make motorcycles, recreational vehicles and parts. Yamaha is based in Japan, with Yamaha Motor Corp. USA headquartered in Kennesaw, GA.

Weekly Fisherman's Captain & Guide Directory is one of the most visible directories throughout the Keys. Weekly Fisherman reaches thousands of locals & tourists each week via our distribution sites from Florida City to Key West, plus, of course, www.weeklyfisherman.com. Your info is available worldwide, as folks plan their Keys vacation! Call (305) 766-BOAT (2628) to start your listing today! Each Listing: \$5.50/week (\$286 annually) Send your pix to photos@weeklyfisherman.com • NOTE: .com

Fishing Report

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



Capt. Matt Bellinger Islamorada Flats



Well if you are a "local" this past week was an ugly stretch of winter weather, but if you are from anywhere north of say, West Palm Beach, its been a wonderful week! All one has to do is take a look at the sub 0 temperatures up north and really, its been very nice here. We have had cold weather here, as weather normally goes around here and the north winds have been blowing hard. So the cold water of the Everglades and the very low tides have been a challenge for guides and anglers alike. That being said, the fishing has been pretty damn outstanding for those who said "to Hell with the weather, lets GO FISH!"

This week I was again thankful to have 24 feet of fiberglass boat wrapped around me and my anglers to venture out into the backcountry. With some of the lowest tides of the season upon us out back the fish have been clumped together in the deeper channels. In the cold mornings, those that found deep water, like Capt. Steve Murray were rewarded with some good numbers of reds, black drum, snook and sea trout. Live shrimp on a Hook Up Lures 1/4 - 3/8 ounce jig work VERY SLOWLY across the bottom did the trick. I had very good luck on the

first of the incoming tide by working the edges of the flat. My clients would throw their shrimp as far up on the flat from the channel edge and just let the shrimp lay there. It took no time at all to hook up some fat and happy redfish this way, we had several reds over 27 inches fall for this method. And if it worked once, I figured it would work twice, it did and we had a blast bailing big reds on the incoming tide. Capt. Mark Johnson of Tail Spin Charters at Papa Joe's Marina showed a couple of families of four a great day on the water by just working the deeper channels and run outs this week as well. He reported a good mix of reds, black drum and trout as well as some nice snook. Once you find a fish or two in these conditions you just have to stick it out in that area and the fish will be there. You just don't leave fish to find fish!

Learn it, live it, love it!

Capt. Scott Meyer down in Hawk's Cay, has been staying close to home and catching good numbers of schooling bonefish in deeper water. When that action cooled down he switched guns and went after a good bite of snappers and spanish macks in the deeper channels around Hawk's Cay. Capt. Steve Friedman and his papa, Greg, broke in Steve's new skiff this past weekend while doing a shake down cruise. It was windy and cool out and the barometer was up and down, no big deal, the Friedman boys caught and released a nice tarpon to break the boat in right. All this action in what we call less than "perfect" conditions! Another great reason to hire a fishing guide.

Here is just a brief report of whats going on out in the Gulf. Redfish, sea trout, cobia, permit, pompano, sharks of every kind, groupers, mutton, lane, mangrove, schoolmaster and yellowtail snappers are beating the snot out of all comers who dare to dangle a bait in the chum slick behind a boat. Its just an incredible bite that is going on out there in the Gulf of Mexico. Find 10 to 11 feet of dirty water with some current and you are going to get into some of the best fishing action that you will ever encounter! This is a great fishery and the action will continue for a few more months to come. If hard fighting fish that will keep you busy as long as you keep a bait in the water then make plans to get out in the Gulf.

Take a look at the Captain and Guide Directory in this issue of the Weekly Fisherman and get out on the water.

GO FISH! 



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Scott Prigge with a nice 28 inch - 9 pound redfish caught in less than perfect conditions in the Everglades while fishing with Capt. Matt Bellinger of Bamboo Charters in Islamorada.

Fish Tales

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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.



Capt. Joe Petrucco Islamorada Offshore



The winter temps are cold but the fishing is red hot in Islamorada. We have had many cold fronts this winter. They have been exactly what we need to spark the fish to migrate south and spend the winter here in the keys. The reef edge has been excellent for sailfish, king mackerel, snapper, grouper, and cobia. We have not had a bad trip this year. Every trip out has been great. The sailfish have been center stage on the catch list. They have been holding here in good numbers all season. Every tournament has been successful with plenty of fish to go around. The RELENTLESS team led by Capt. Paul Ross has been dominating the scene day in and day out. They are in good shape to take the Gold Cup win this year with only the Islamorada Fishing Club tournament left to decide the winner. Not ever out of reach is THE REAL MCCOY led by Capt. George McElveen. They are close behind and very dangerous if



Brett Ericksen with a good football blackfin. He was fishing on the KILLER INSTINCT with Capt. Joe Petrucco.

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you are in the lead. Capt. George is sure to show up with a big finish so this one is not over yet. The KALEX captained by Alex "Cappy" Adler is always ready to take the victory and so is the CATCH 22 and Capt. Scott Stanzyk. This has been an exciting tournament season and it will be a great grand finale when the Gold Cup finishes with the IFC event. If you have not had a chance to get out and catch a sailfish yet then treat yourself to a day on the water and do battle with the fastest fish that swims. They truly are the best light tackle fighter in the fish world. The fish are plentiful this year and ready to please.

The king mackerel have also made a strong showing this year for similar reasons to the sails. They have been on all of the wrecks and reef points from Molasses to Sombrero. The cigar minnows work the best but ballyhoo will also work well too. The bait has been much tougher this week. Hopefully this will improve in the weeks to come. If not, a butterflyed ballyhoo on the deep rod will catch plenty of kings in a pinch. It works even better from a downrigger if you have one. If not, a dropper loop system can be employed with the same success. The fish have been concentrated from 40-140 feet. Keep an eye out for a wahoo while fishing the edge this week. They are also moving through the keys reef system.

There have also been some nice mahi mahi in town this week. Focus on debris with life. Find a triple tail and you will probably find a wahoo or two and some dolphin. We landed several slammers and gaffers this week during our travels to and from the hump and sword fishing. There are also a few medium tunas out there willing to bite a feather trolled way back. Get out on the water and enjoy the beautiful cool weather that makes wintertime so wonderful in south Florida.



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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

Capt. Lain Goodwin Key Largo Backcountry



A big THANKS to Capt. Kerry Wingo for filling-in while I spent some time in Louisiana for the holidays. It's always great to spend time with family and friends while also getting a chance to do plenty of fishing for reds and trout in the marshes of south Louisiana. Returning to the keys last week, I was greeted by some typical winter weather for South Florida, a barrage of cool fronts with limited sun and plenty of wind. This is the typical pattern for January and February here in the Keys. But, don't let a little bit of weather discourage you from getting on the water. The fishing may not be as comfortable as fall and spring, but there's still plenty of rod bending to be had out there.

In the backcountry, the snook bite has remained steady between the upper keys and Flamingo. I have been finding fish in the creeks as well

as moving along the deeper shorelines looking for their next meal. When the water is clear along leeward shorelines, you can spot the fish hanging tight along the mangrove roots which provides added protection from predators. When you spot a fish, they've been eating just about any live bait as well as Berkley's Gulp baits. If you keep your rod tip low to the water on your cast, you can skip the baits under the overhanging mangroves. Make sure to set your drag as tight as possible because once the snook takes the bait he will head right back into the roots. It also helps to keep your rod tip close to the water during the fight until the fish is clear from any overhanging snags. In the deeper creeks and channels, use an 1/8 oz Hook Up Lure rigged with a live or gulp shrimp. Work the bait slowly by bouncing it along the bottom giving it a rest for a few seconds after each twitch. We've been catching snook, black drum, sheepshead, and redfish using this technique. These fish like to school in the deeper creeks so when you catch one make sure to work the area thoroughly. Your best bet is to fish the deeper channels in the mornings and then get up on the flats surrounding Flamingo in the afternoons. When the snook and reds move up on the flats they will tend to hang with the schools of mullet. You can pole along looking for tailing and waking fish as you blind cast. Also, reds will create little puffs of mud as they feed along the flats. Make sure to cast to any muds and potholes you see along the way. When rigging for the flats my bait of choice is a Gulp Jerk Shad rigged weedless and slowly twitched through the grass.

Bonefish are probably the most temperature sensitive species in the Upper Keys. Targeting bonefish this time of year can be very tidal dependant when choosing where to go. Overnight temperatures will drastically cool down water temperatures on the shallow flats. During an early morning outgoing tide, work deeper depressions and troughs as these areas will hold the warmest water. But once the tide turns bringing

Cont. on pg. 9

Fishing Report

Brought to you by Capt. George Clark, Jr. of RODEO CHARTERS and the 43' "Gotta Mon" sportfishing charter boat located at Key Largo Fisheries docks, 99.5 Oceanside. Capt. George can be reached at (305) 522-2638 & his website www.rodeocharters.com.

Capt. George Clark, Jr. Key Largo Offshore



On the front line!

Cold fronts here in the keys may seem mild to all of our northern visitors, and they probably are compared to snow drifts and white out blizzards, but to us keys folks everything is relative. I can't stand cold weather and I won't fake like I do either. We live in the tropics, although it is the only time I break out long pants and pullovers. The fact is warm weather is better to me -- and fishing in it is great. These last little fronts really chilled things down and the positive side of things may be that it stirred things up. Sail fishing has been far from great lately, although we are finding a few each day. Kings have also been a little on the lean side while we are live bait fishing for sails, but we can locate more mackerel around the wrecks and stay on them better if we anchor down.

Cero macks are plentiful inshore from 50 to 20 feet where we find big schools of ballyhoo. There have been a ton of muttuns inside the reef too. Fish live ballyhoo way back (out of the riggers) for some fun mutton fishing. Even though the cuda's can be plentiful in there, the mutton snapper will find those baits and pop them off the surface. You may even find a grouper or two also while dragging the livies around slow over broken bottom. Patch fishing has also improved a little and we have caught some really nice size yellow tail snapper and some good size porgies and hogs. Further offshore we have been able to pick a few Mahi while targeting the black fins. The dolphin have been 5 to 8 pound fish while the tunas are mixed in size. Wahoo fishing has been a pick still and we haven't seen that big push quite yet. You can, however, get lucky and find a few out there; but that varies from day to day and depths change too as to where they are hanging.

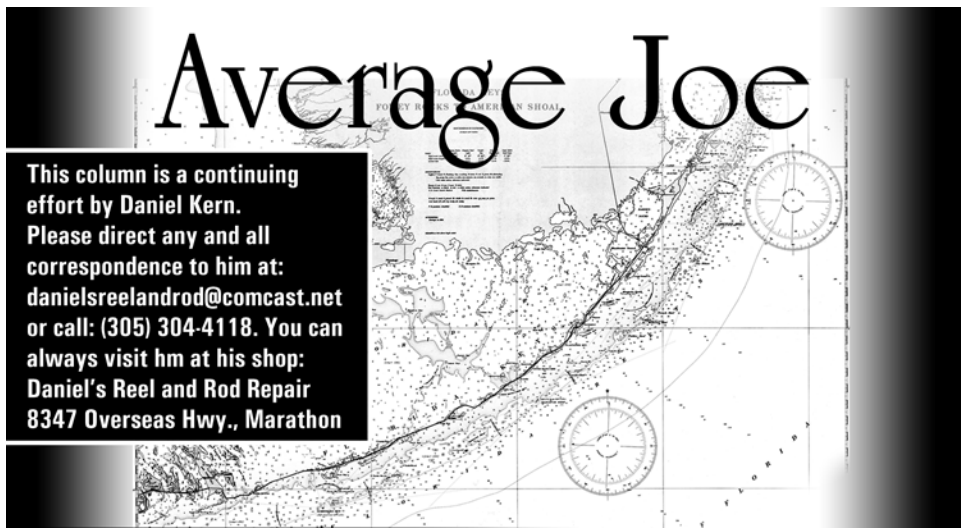
The wrecks outside of 200 feet are swarming with life right now and leading the way is Amber jack. Big jacks are nasty fighters and most fish are 30 to 50 pounds and will smack live runners or butterfly jigs instantly. These big fish require at least 50 pound leaders minimally, so rig a little heavier for these guys.

I expect good things again while the surface temperature begins to rise a little. Look for Cobia to continue to get better in the near future and watch for another good push of sails heading south.

Good luck and good fishing!

Capt. George





This column is a continuing effort by Daniel Kern. Please direct any and all correspondence to him at: danielsreelandrod@comcast.net or call: (305) 304-4118. You can always visit him at his shop: Daniel's Reel and Rod Repair 8347 Overseas Hwy., Marathon

Daniel Kern . . .

The fishing adventures of the "Average Joe". Since I am just passing on these fishing reports, stories, or tales; there is no way I can validate them. I will say this though, "There is no way I would ever question the integrity of a fisherman or fishing lady. As far as I'm concerned, whatever you say . . . is gospel."

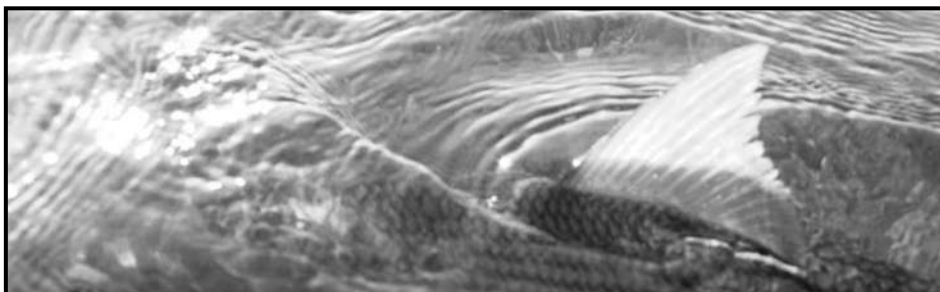
The weather, or more explicitly the wind, is back . . . and with a vengeance. I always tell our visitors, especially the first timers, if it's calm go fishin' . . . you can go to Key West when the winds a blowin' and ya won't even feel it as ya walk and I hope not "crawl" down Duval Street. In the winter, if we get one or two days a week of calm wind, we are blessed. if we get more, we almost forget that it's January and start thinkin' about those calm seas and long hot days of Summer, as the Sun shines a little longer each day.

The up side of the winter season is the Spanish Macks are all over the Bay; the "Smoker" Kings are cruisin' just outside the reef; the most tasty Cobes are out back and in Hawks Channel; the Sails are just a sailin'; and the "Silver King" (it's a beautiful thing – thanks Randy) are a headin' south.

Dunta! Dunta! Dunta! . . . Shark Story! Shark Story! Read all about it!!! Fins to the left! Fins to the right!

Although, not a reel exciting one, but a shark story just the same. A local angler was fishin' for tuna on the Marathon Hump with light tackle; a small Avet reel spooled with 25lb. string on a good ole "Ugly Stick". He hooked what was estimated to be a 7-8 foot Lemon or Bull Shark; it's really hard to tell the difference looking down into the water from a boat, not having a book handy to tell the difference. Of course, we all know there's no such thing a "lure tree" in our backyard where we can just go to pick off another lure when we need one. This being the case, our frugal angler was intent on gettin' his "lucky" lure out of the mouth of "Jaws". Hummmmmmm?

With "Ole Mister Mouth Full of Razors" hopefully wore out from strugglin' against all that drag, and pulled up tight under the boat with only his head stickin' out; Mister Thrifty tried to get his hand on the lure which was still hooked in the mouth of U-Know-Who, and wrench it



out. OUCH! After couple of intense tries as our finned buddy just pushed off the bottom of the boat and sounded . . . finally our angler gave up while he still had all his digits in place. I guess he figured he didn't have "finger tree" in his backyard either.

CATCH OF THE WEEK ---

Al and Margaret from somewhere up north, drug their boat 1,500 miles down the asphalt just to fish in the almost crystal clear waters we are blessed to call home.

After droppin' anchor in 90 feet of water off Marathon they were rewarded with a 30 inch Black Grouper which hit the Barbie, and an estimated 30 pound "Jew Fish", which didn't hit the Barbie.

Throw in 16 Yellowtail Snapper of which at least 6 were "Flags" and the rest a respectable 14-16 inches, and that long trip was well worth the effort. This is not the first time they made the journey and it won't be their last. Yes! That's what we want to hear.

Maintenance and Fishing Tips for You and Your Pals –

Last week I mentioned the ugly unsightly appearance your reels and rods will attain if they're not dried off and our hard water is allowed to dry. Although that will not in its self ruin your equipment . . . "fishin' dirty" will.

Keep a small hand towel close by when fishing. Hang it on your belt or keep it within easy reach. Wipe off your hands after handling bait, chum or fish. If needed, wash your hands in fresh or salt water. The slime, blood, and guts will ruin your reel; and when it dries it's very hard to remove. When I clean and oil a reel, I clean it in mineral spirits. Mineral spirits will not remove protein. When I'm finished, I do spray the reel down with CRC 656, which protects it and makes it look good . . . for a while. The trash left behind by dirty hands remains underneath the slick appearance and will come back as soon as the CRC washes off. UGH! "FISH CLEAN", it only takes a few seconds to wipe your hands. Your reels and rods will thank you for it; and it makes my job a whole lot easier!

Don't forget the soldiers, they keep us "fishin' free", God bless the peacemakers. To support our troops go to Forgotten Soldiers Outreach: www.forgottensoldiers.org

God Bless and keep smilin', even when the fish don't bite.

Daniel Kern



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Fishing Report

This Key West Flats report is brought to you by Capt. Sandy Horn. If you would like to fish with Capt. Sandy, please call: (305) 393-6913, or e-mail: shorn2979@yahoo.com and make your reservation today!

Capt. Sandy Horn Key West Flats



Hope everyone is keeping warm because we are in quite a cold snap right now and it doesn't seem to be going anywhere. We actually had two cold fronts come down this week which had highs in the low seventies and lows in the high fifties. Most people reading this report would be laughing because I'm saying that is cold but it is a whole different world on the water. I had some folks from Wisconsin on the boat this week and they were cold so that what that means to me is that just about anyone would be cold because they left negative twenty degree weather. What this front did do was settle in a huge high pressure system that really kicked the winds up and sent some rain along with it. At times the winds were in excess of thirty knots which is border line unfishable but there are still things you can do on the flats. This is a real

tough situation for a fisherman like myself who primarily sight fishes in shallow water. One reason is that you can't see in the water with the heavy cloud cover which makes spotting fish on the flats very difficult. If you are over muddy bottom you can sometimes stake the boat out to slow yourself down. I had a couple of situations this week where I was over rocks and I didn't have a chance at slowing the boat down and getting a quality shot. The good thing is that we live in the Florida Keys so at least it's not snowing.

I did mostly barracuda fishing this week because I had a muskie fisherman on board and they love them. If you are a muskie fisherman and have never caught a barracuda you will be pleasantly surprised. I have always said that barracuda is the most underrated game fish on the flats and I still feel that way. They make explosive runs and they will often times jump. The best thing about a cuda is the strike. You can see why they are such an awesome predator by the way they attack a lure or fly. I certainly go in fish for them over permit, bonefish, or tarpon but they are a great species and a lot of fun to catch. The best lure to use is a tube lure which you can buy at any local tackle shop. The retrieve can vary a little with some people but I like to throw the bait way past the fish and start reeling at a regular speed. Once the fish has seen the tube and starts to follow just start reeling as fast as you can. It is important that when the barracuda strikes the lure that you don't set the hook and just keep reeling. Once the fish has turned the other direction then you can set the hook. After he is on you can enjoy one of the coolest fish fights you have ever seen. They are so fast that they can do figure eights in the water and you can't reel fast enough to keep up with them. Hopefully we get a break in the weather so we can get back to doing a little permit fishing but for now keep pounding those barracuda. Hope everyone has tight lines and fish boat side until next week. 🦞

Fishing Report

Brought to you courtesy of Capt. Chris Lembo of Incognito Charters, Key West. To fish with Capt. Chris, call (305) 292-0067, or visit www.incognitolighttackle.com incognitocharters@comcast.net

Capt. Chris Lembo Key West Offshore



January weather is on us and we should be in for a good month of strong fronts passing through. Not been many boats were on the water this week due to the 25+ winds and cold. The Key West Race Week is usually a little slow anyway.

Offshore has been steady for dolphin all fall and winter, and hopefully the same trend will remain right through to the spring. There have been some nice fish caught this past week. Most of the fish have been in the 5-10 pound range with a few 15-20 pound fish mixed in. Any depth from 100 feet to 250 can produce this time of year. I have been working 2 small lures, 1 plain ballyhoo and 1 deep lure in my spread when trolling. The Dolphin are small and lures keep from having to constantly change out ballyhoo. Wahoo, tuna and sailfish were biting good this past week

and the tunas and sailfish should remain hot while the wahoo bite will fade until the next moon phase.

Reef fishing has been good and should be on the upswing as the full moon moves out. Look for a good current along drops in 60-100 feet. Try to stay in water that is not crystal clear and the bite will be better. I have been catching a good variety of fish on whole dead squid and pinfish. This time of year is good for keeping the rods bent with a variety of species from grouper to snapper to margates to porgies and African pompano. Yellowtail have been ok but the fishing has been tough with the current running up the anchor line. I worked a little closer to the reef and shallower and found plenty of fish in the medium size range. The action was fast and furious and came in waves.

The gulf is excellent from now through the spring and into summer. Look for cobia, kingfish, grouper, snapper, bonito, cero and Spanish mackerel and some big sharks to be cruising any of the wrecks and rock-piles. Keep the chum flowing and you will find the fishing to just get hotter and hotter the longer you sit. I tend to stay on the structure much longer in the gulf than I do in the Atlantic.

Deep dropping is very productive this time of year if the current cooperates. It can be difficult to hold bottom and you may need a lot of weight to do so. Clear water with a good current usually produces good catches of snowy grouper, yellowedge grouper and tilefish. All of my barracuda have been in clear fast moving current during the winter. On shallower structure there should be loads of silky snapper and red porgies.

Deep wrecks will be holding tons of bait and huge amberjack, african pompano and sharks will be working the bait schools. Close to the bottom there should be plenty of grouper and red snapper. 🦞

Fishing Report

This report is brought to you by Capt. Steve Lamp. He & his wife Gennifer operate out of Key West. If you would like to fish with Capt. Steve, please call: (305) 304-0497, or visit: www.fishingkeywest.com www.keywestfishingteam.com

ODYSSEY THE EXTREME CATEGORY
MERCURY "Do The Water"
Yellowfin

Capt. Steve Lamp Key West




Old man winter looks like he is getting on the gloves again as of this past weekend. With temps dipping back into the low sixties over the weekend and a forecast of even lower in to the low fifties coming up this week will certainly put a big chill on the water here in the lower Keys. Does that hurt? Not really. In fact it puts things right where they need to be in most arenas of fishing.

The offshore report has been decent for the last week or so. With the chill coming many of us are looking forward to the possibility of a late January or early February sailfish bite like we had last year. Putting the North Easterly up for some possibly good tailing conditions. The cooler weather never hurts bottom fishing, in fact I think that it really spruces it up especially in the patch reefs. Good thing, as when that wind is

Capt. Goodwin cont. from pg. 6

in the warmer ocean water, expect the bonefish to disburse across the flats searching for their next meal. If you are new to bonefishing, find a flat that has plenty of light bottom to give you a better chance of spotting these grey ghosts on a windy day. You will need to take a stealthy approach trying not to spook the fish before you can get a cast off. When you do cast, make sure to land it at least 5-7 feet in front of the lead fish in the school. As the school approaches, just lift the rod tip slightly to make sure your shrimp is not hiding in the grass. This will ensure that the bonefish has an opportunity to see the bait. This time of year there are plenty of sharks prowling the flats looking for an easy meal. If a shark gets after your fish the only thing you can do is open the bail to let the fish get away then when it's clear get back to the fight. Make sure to have the camera ready so you can snap a quick picture and get the fish back in the water and revived.

Until next week, tight lines and light winds! 

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howling staying close is a great option especially when we can find good fishing on grouper, snapper and mackerel.

The flats fishing last week was impressive with some shots at permit on the tops and the baby tarpon out in the Marquesas. The big story on the flats are the barracudas, these things will crush a top water plug that gets within 15 ft of them with resounding force. I have had barracudas hit so hard and so late that it almost scares me off the boat. Winter barracuda fishing can be big fun for anyone wanting a winter thrill on the flats. Look for the barracudas near the white areas up on the flats in 16 or less inches of water as they sun themselves looking for an easy meal.

The backcountry fishing this week has been stellar with tarpon in the channels during the warming trend and lots of trout, pompano and jacks in the back as well. We have been catching some nice sized mutttons too in the backcountry using lipped plugs from MirroLure across the sponge beds. I tell my clients that it is like bass fishing back home only our fish are on steroids.

I would like to welcome all the big rig kingfish boats coming down for this weekends Key West Harbor King Mackerel tournament. Touted as the largest fishing tournament in the Florida Keys. Be sure to check out the weigh in at the Yacht Clubs of America on Stock Island at 3 pm Saturday and Sunday. See you all out there.

From my crew and I here at Dream Catcher Charters enjoy your week. Come see us soon. 

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Fishing Report

Brought to you by Capt. Frank Piku. If you want to fish with Capt. Frank, please call (305) 509-1547, or visit www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com The "Golden Streaker" (a 35' Jaguar Cat) is a comfortable ride!



Capt. Frank Piku Lower Keys

Want to catch a SWORD FISH? These great grey giants of the deep are awesome! Also very elusive too. Sometime they're hungry and roam in schools, or in pairs. So when you find them and they're ready to eat, multiple hook-ups are possible. They live in the deep depths of the Ocean, 2000 feet plus. If you see how big there eyes are you can understand they live in very deep depths.

Daytime fishing is possible and easier than at night. Anything is less troublesome than night time fishing. You can see what you're doing and the ocean doesn't seem as threatening too. Doing a deep drop for swordfish in the daytime at depths from 1000' to 2000' is possible. I personally like my Dolphin Electric power assist reel, because it's the only manual with an electric override. Lets you play a fish manually and if you need help the switch is there to help with the electric motor. It's

also helpful when you want to check your bait, and have to spend 15 minutes cranking up the bait. On my boat, we use one rod and reel for daytime fishing to avoid any crossing in lines.

My friend Lenny had to do 9 trips to catch 2 Sword fish but he's hooked on this fishing. His first Sword was 150lbs. The next one topped 200lbs. The last fish ate during the 4 to 5 o'clock time and took 3 1/2 hours to fight and land it. This made that one into a night time fishing trip. He can't wait to catch his next sword.

If you do an evening trip this is where you will be able to fish 4 rods at different depths. Starting at 250' > 1st rod, 200' > 2nd rod, 150' > 3rd rod, and the 4th at 50'. These aren't the only depths you may need to fish. Sometimes even 550' to start than higher depths with the other rods. Strobe lights near the baits and lumen lighting up the lines and than a Lindren-Pitnam clown light 6' to 8' above the bait. Remember NO LIGHTS, NO BITES.! Lights are a must to attract bait around the boat to lure the swordfish up. A light overboard on the Surface is a must, too. Green glow neon light seems to work best. You should get Squid, Flying Fish, Tinker Mackerel, etc. coming to the surface around the boat. This will {should} bring the Swordfish up. Don't fish on a FULL MOON unless you want to fish right down to the bottom. I've struck out every FULL MOON trip. I won't even try it then. Several days after or before is OK.

Don't bring a live Swordfish on your boat. They use their sword aggressively, and have attacked many a boat, leaving bills in transoms. Safety is the key here. If you've never gone swordfishing on your own, please hire an experienced Captain, so you can enjoy your trip and learn how it's done. Then next time, you can try it for yourself. And, be patient; remember most of the fun is in the anticipation . . . it's fishing – not always catching. 🐟



First Place:

L-R David Wirth, Capt. Paul Ross, Fenton Langston, Jimmy Hendrix, Debbie David, Jimmy David, Tournament Director Dianne Harbaugh

Second Place:

L-R David Wirth, Kevin Clark, Hunter Barron, Glen Miller, Dianne Harbaugh, Sam Worden, Jill Clark (in front) Kristen Miller, Jacqueline Clark



Islamorada President's Cup Winners



High Point Angler:

L-R Tournament Director Dianne Harbaugh, David Wirth, Jill Clark, Jacqueline Clark, Kristen Miller

Third Place:

L-R David Wirth, Sean Smith, Larry Amyotte, Kiwi Hughes, Capt George McElveen, John Watson, James Allen and Dianne Harbaugh



ESPN Outdoors Saltwater Series to Include 2009 Florida Keys Outfitters IGFA Inshore World Championship

ESPN Outdoors announced today that the 2009 Florida Keys Outfitters IGFA Inshore World Championship will be broadcast as part of the second year of the ESPN Outdoors Saltwater Series on ESPN2 and will be presented on other ESPN Outdoors multimedia platforms, including daily tournament coverage at www.ESPNOutdoors.com.

“The IGFA Inshore World Championship continues to set the standard in the industry as a top-tier event and the addition of the World Championship to the ESPN Outdoors Saltwater Series schedule solidifies our position as a leader in outdoors events,” said Jamie Wilkinson, senior director of event operations and business development, ESPN Outdoors. “We feel it will provide us with some compelling content across all of our multimedia platforms.”

The championship, set for July 7-9 in Islamorada, Fla., began in 2001 and has grown into a premier inshore fishing event. Robert Collins of Naples, Fla., claimed the 2008 World Championship, his third in four years. At the 2009 World Championship, anglers will compete in two divisions: light tackle and fly fishing.

Anglers receive qualifying berths into the event by winning one of 36 inshore qualifying tournaments throughout the United States, Australia and Bahamas. The field will include 30 anglers, with 15 competitors in each of two divisions. Anglers will be scored on their ability to catch bonefish, tarpon, permit, redfish and snook.

“It makes sense to take the world’s greatest inshore fishing tournament to the largest outdoors network,” said Michael Myatt, IGFA chief operating officer. “People will want to watch the ESPN Outdoors Saltwater Series to see the anglers compete for the IGFA World Championship title. ESPN Outdoors is growing the sport and making heroes.”



Sandy Moret’s Florida Keys Outfitters, a renowned saltwater fly fishing shop, will manage the championship operations, while the IGFA will remain the championship’s nonprofit benefactor with a fundraiser and auction to be held during the championship.

“Our goal is to take this tournament to new heights,” said Moret, an IGFA rules committee member.

“ESPN Outdoors will be able to help expand the importance of the IGFA in continuing its role in preserving the traditions and heritage of sport fishing.”

For more information on the IGFA Inshore World Championship and qualifying tournaments, fishing fans can visit www.igfa.org.

The IGFA World Championship will be on the ESPN Outdoors Saltwater Series schedule in 2009 along with five other events. ESPN Outdoors will release the entire schedule later this week.

For more information, contact ESPN Outdoors Communications at (407) 566-2208 or visit www.ESPNOutdoors.com. Visit www.ESPNOutdoorsMedia.com for ESPN Outdoors’ latest releases, schedules and other news, plus photos, video and audio clips and more.


About International Game Fish Association

The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping. It was founded in 1939 and

has members in over 125 countries. The association welcomes visitors to its 60,000 square foot IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Dania Beach, Fla. The IGFA Web site is www.igfa.org.

About ESPN Outdoors

Since its inception in 1980, ESPN Outdoors has strived to inform and entertain anglers, hunters and people of all ages who enjoy the outdoors. ESPN Outdoors is committed

to increasing awareness of and participation in outdoor activities, a direction best exemplified by television programming on ESPN2. Each year, ESPN Outdoors stages more than 30 marquee events, including the Bassmaster Classic. ESPN Outdoors is comprised of BASS, the worldwide authority on bass fishing, and a growing array of multimedia platforms, including Bassmaster.com, ESPNOutdoors.com and programming on ESPN2, in addition to promotions and activities that deliver a clear message of conservation and ethical sportsmanship. 



Islamorada President’s Cup – Most Tagged Fish –



L-R: Jill Clark, Hunter Barron, Glen Miller, Kevin Clark, Sam Worden.
Dianne Harbaugh - Tournament Director





TOURNAMENTS

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Fishing Tournaments coming up in 2009 . . .

Jan. 19-20: Boomer Esiason Foundation Captain Al Flutie Over the Hill Rip-Off. Islamorada. Anglers ages 50 and over are challenged to catch and release the most sailfish. Contact Bill Kelly at (305) 394-5333.

Jan. 21-22: Islamorada Fishing Club Sailfish Tournament. Islamorada. The historic fishing club offers a \$30,000 cash prize to the winning team in this sailfish challenge. The tournament is limited to 30 boats. Contact Theresa at (305) 664-4735, e-mail: fishclubtheresa@bellsouth.net, or visit: www.theislamoradafishingclub.com.

Jan. 23-25: Hog's Breath King Mackerel Tournament. Key West. Anglers use fast boats to target the voracious king mackerel, also known as kingfish, for cash prizes. Contact Lee Murray at (305) 797-1117.

Jan. 24-25: Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association Swamp Guides Ball. Islamorada. This all-release event offers fishing for bonefish, redfish and snook in the shallows of the Florida Keys and the saltwater fringes of the Everglades. Contact Terry Albury at (305) 664-5142 or e-mail: talbury@aol.com.

Feb. 5-8: 44th Annual Fort Lauderdale Billfish Tournament. Ft. Lauderdale. A four-day event with a two-day offshore tournament that showcases Sailfish as the target species with other divisions that include Dolphin, Wahoo, Tuna and Kingfish payouts. The website is www.lauderdalebillfish.com; phone: (954) 523-1004, or e-mail: kitty@billfishtournament.com.

Feb. 6-8: Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament. Islamorada. Female anglers challenge fishing's famous tail-dancers to win trophies and prizes. Contact Tammie Gurgiolo at (305) 852-9337.

Feb. 17-18: Poor Girls Sailfish Tournament. Key Largo and Islamorada. This popular Keys tournament typically draws more than 200 anglers. Contact Mark Mills at (305) 852-9085 or visit: www.keysradio.com.

Feb. 26-28: Backcountry Fly Championship. Islamorada. This new fly-fishing competition is to target snook and redfish in a region of the Keys that is famous for them. Contact Charlotte Ambrogio at (305) 664-2444.



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A nice cobia caught while fishing with Capt. Chuck Kitto of Sniper Charters on a recent Islamorada fishing trip. Way to go Ozzie, great fish!



Ryan Franks of Michigan caught this nice 32 pound king, while visiting with his parents in Islamorada.



Frank and 1st mate Caveman with a nice sailfish caught on the KILLER INSTINCT with a kite and Capt. Joe Petrucco.



Matecumbe Anglers Fishing Club
At their annual Christmas-Holiday Party, \$400 was raised on a raffle of a Santa painting. The proceeds were donated to the **Hospice & Visiting Nurse Association of the Florida Keys** in honor of club member Wendy Riske. Presenting the check are Loi Baltes and Lorrie DiVico.



Clockwise from top left: Amber Jack – Greg Kimball; Mutton Snapper – Ernie Borraccino; Cobia – Jeff Heighton.

Hm-m-m, Señor Dos . . .

Hi everyone, this story was given to me by Kirk Weisman, a four-times a year client of Casa Veija Lodge. Every time he comes down he wants to try to do something "Unheard Of". Well, the picture of the fly and story is great for a chuckle and, if anyone out there is a cell phone wizard, the marlin with the \$2.00 fly pictures are on the phone. Antonio is trying everything possible to get them off, but it's an older phone that you can't download to a cpu. I'm sure someone out there could get those pictures. Anyway, here's the story and attached is your fly!

They call me Senior Dos, I got that name from my friends at the Casa Veija Lodge. First time I stayed at the lodge I showed up with 2 dollar bills to give as "Suerte" (good luck). I gave 2 dollar bills to fellow anglers at the lodge, employees and anyone that would take one. And some people more than one bill. Coincidentally, I was given room #2, which has stuck.

Each time I returned to the lodge, I would continue with my 2 dollar bills and stay in room #2 as tradition for good luck. If you look in the kitchen, Mama Loya tapped a 2 dollar bill above the stove. There's also a \$2 bill taped in Julian's tip jar on the bar - 24/7. AND, last year with Captain Mike Sheeder, amazingly, I released a sail on 2# tippet, hence, the name Senior Dos. Not to mention the \$2 bills showing up everywhere in the marina after I leave.

Upon my arrival this trip I learned room #2 was occupied, I was not happy. Antonio told me room #24 could be the new room #2. Room #24 looked pretty good and was the closest room to the food, so OK. While settling in my new room, I hear the sound of a drill on the door. What I found when I stepped outside is that Antonio had removed the "4" from the door. He did this so I would feel more at home in the new room #2.

My first day of fishing, I released only 2 sails on the fly. Capt Mike suggested that Flaco make a fly out of a \$2 bill and tomorrow we will try releasing a sailfish with it. At least it will make a great story. And for my part in changing our luck, I decided to call my Rabbi on the satellite phone to ask him to pray for more fish. I called the Rabbi a second time at the end of the day. His question was: do you want me to pray for size or amount? I said both.

The sea was angry that day, my friend . . .

For luck every day I got on the Intensity (the boat) I handed everyone \$2 bills for their pockets, this day was no exception. With the \$2 tradition for luck and a new \$2 bill fly, I planned to use the \$2 fly on the

second fish of the day. So that morning, after releasing the first fish, we switched to the \$2 fly that Flaco made, putting it on my 14 weight Cam Sigler fly rod with 20 pound tippet. While ready but waiting, I sat with Cap Mike. A tragedy struck, my lucky coin fell from my pocket and bounced into the Pacific, "this is not good". Fortunately this turned out to be minor, because as luck goes maybe Manolo had saved us. In the \$2 tradition, a bill goes on the Intensity's transom when we go out. The wet bill sticks to the transom, but will eventually blow off into the sea. This upsets Manolo, so this trip he carefully tied the bill with fishing line to the bottom of transom. Each time the bill blew off; he would catch it and slap it back to the transom. Good job Manolo.

A little after 12 noon, up in the spread, comes a marlin. Captain Mike told me to cast out the marlin fly on the marlin rod. As I cast out, the fly becomes tangled, the marlin hits it, I strike the fish and the fish spit out the tangled fly. After many expletives coming from the bridge, Capt. Mike, yells out, "get the other rod." I make my cast, the marlin eats it and its game on! About 2 minutes into the fight, everyone realizes it is the \$2 fly I have on the marlin. Lucky fish. And approximately 45 minutes later, we released, tagged and billed the marlin, having recovered the \$2 fly. By the way, the blue marlin was about 200 pounds. I think I will keep passing out my \$2 bills for "mas suerte". Calling the Rabbi two times could not have hurt.


Just call me Senior Dos . . . 




Manufacturers offer boat show promotions

Retail promotions abound this boat-show season, with two more manufacturers offering special incentives.

Suzuki Marine is offering its Gimme 6! sales promotion. Consumers buying a new Suzuki 4-stroke outboard from 40- to 300-hp between Jan. 1 and March 31, can get the engine maker's standard three-year limited warranty plus three years of Suzuki Extended Protection at no extra charge, or they can receive a cash rebate of up to \$500. The extended warranty offer applies to repower and new boat purchases (for non-commercial use only).

Godfrey Marine is teaming up with BRP to offer special incentives for consumers who purchase a Sanpan, Aqua Patio, Sweetwater, Parti Kraft, Hurricane, Hurricane Fishing Series, Polar and Polar Kraft boats packaged with an Evinrude E-TEC outboard. The sales promotion offers the consumer a 5-year BRP factory-backed warranty and a special low consumer financing program. The promotion runs Jan. 1 through April 15 for new, unused 2009 model year and earlier Evinrude E-TEC engines 40-hp and above. 

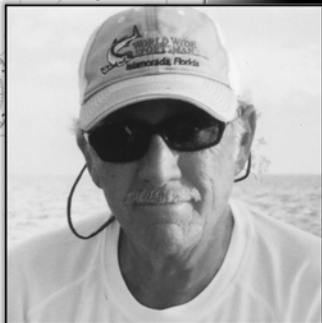
Century's 2350DC wins design award

Century Boat Company of Panama City, Florida, won a 2009 Excellence in Design award from Trailer Boats magazine for its 2350DC dual console. According to the magazine, "Dual console models must function as both big-water sportfishers and family boats. The trick is to make it work well in both roles, and Century has succeeded with the 2350DC." The article goes on to note, "Though serious anglers may scoff, this is one fishing machine you can enjoy with the whole family. And isn't that what life is all about? 



Fishing Report

This report is brought to you courtesy of Capt. Ron Wagner aboard his boat the Producer. If you would like to fish with Capt. Ron, please call: (304) 664-2028, or visit: www.captainronwagner.com fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com



Capt. Ron Wagner Long Key

There were a lot of great fishing days on Long Key the past week. Whether you were going out into the blue or running into the gulf, the catches were excellent. Seabird Marina reported a lot of Cobia, Snapper and Grouper that were brought back to their fillet table. And the Mackerel trips out in back of Sprigger bank was wild also. A lot of this gulf side fishing can be anywhere from 7 to 40 miles into the gulf and preparation is very important. And most important is taking enough supplies like bait, ice, chum and an array of terminal tackle. When you plan a trip such as this and plan to spend the day out back, running out and cutting a trip short can be very embarrassing. So stock up your boat before you head out and enjoy the day.

Back in Everglades National Park, some big Snook and Redfish were caught in the Middle Cape canal and I've seen 4 Snook over 20 Lbs. there. Live pinfish did the best but throwing 1/2 oz. buck tails in red & white tipped with shrimp caught a lot of them also. Give me the first 2 hours of an incoming tide at the inlets and I will score the best catches. You cannot always hit the perfect tide but if you're pre-planning it, why not hit it right on the button mate. Smaller tarpon are in the same area and they make great sport to the first timers back there. Mix in some Black Drum, Sea trout and Sheepshead and you have a great chance to score a big day in the swamp.

I have had a few good days Bonefishing the past week poling anglers into some schools that had up to 100 fish in them. Between Arsnicker keys and the Rabbit keys seems where they have been at this time of year. And poling in to such a school of fish in flat calm conditions

can leave you breathless. Makes you wonder how the angler is also re-acting. I love this type of fishing whether we're throwing a fly or pitching a small crab or live shrimp at one. I enjoy Bonefishing as much as the first time my Father poled me at my first one, and that my friends was 52 years ago. Over those years, I have had some great catches with some making the World Record Books. One of my anglers, Thomas Sinclair of Hyannis Port, Ma. Caught a 14 lb. 8 oz. Moby fish that became the record on 8 lb. line and was at the time the largest bone ever taken on an artificial lure. A 1/4 oz. white Hampson bucktail, not that long ago, one great jig, that did the job. And it was released to live and fight again. We brought the fish in via a large cooler to the old World Wide Sportsman where it was certified and weighed, quickly brought back to the Lorelei and set free. Plenty of pictures however. Next I was wading on Lower Matecumbe, threw to the first tailing fish I saw and caught a 12lb. 13 oz. bone that hit the record books. I used my own fly which had a greenish chenille body and white bucktail tied to ride hook up on a size 1/0 Mustad 3407 hook. But the best of all, the most memorable of all was having my mom and dad out on Shell key one late evening in spring where with the setting sun, my Mother threw a small finny crab and then fought and landed a 14 lb. Bonefish on 10lb. Ande that became the Women's World Record and at the time the biggest ever caught by a women. That fish was mounted as a full mount and adorns our living room wall where it seems to always be watching me.

And although I am blessed to have had 3 World Records on one species like the Bonefish to my credit and they are on record in Ft. Lauderdale's I.G.F.A. headquarters, the reel joy was to watch those accomplishments. I hope never to come across bragging at what I write in articles. And even on those days I'm shut out and pulling zero's, it's being on the water that really is "what its all about! Those days of record catching fish are still set firmly in my memory. So get out on the water, and remember that although we might fish, it's not really the fish were after. Catching a 10 inch Mangrove snapper to some is as thrilling as another who pursues giant Tarpon.

And with that, I will see you on the water. 



Jack Cummings of Atlanta, Ga. with a 9 lb. bonefish with Capt. Ron Wagner. He was all smiles!

Quick Note on Photography . . .

Please submit your photos in RGB format, with the largest pixel dimension (count) set to at least 1600 (1600x1200, for example).

Photos from camera phones generally are not big enough. We do our best to include all photos, but unfortunately, some aren't high enough quality. Please do not adjust (Photoshop) files when sending photos.

We strive to publish the best reproduction of your beautiful catch for everyone's enjoyment . . .

Thanks!

Fishing Report

Captain Nick Borraccino
Noreaster Sport Fishing (.com)
508-769-4189
Best Bet Sport Fishing (.com)
305-395-1376



Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon

Wind was on the menu this week in the Keys; served with a side of Cold. But at least the fishing is still good.

It was a tough stretch for visitors planning on fishing this week. We've been hit with one of our first real cold fronts of the year that left many boats tied up. But there's always something to do. Anglers looking for refuge from the wind found it in the form of fishing bridges and creeks. When all else fails, cruising the shore lines and mangroves around Duck Key and Sisters creek can save the day. There have been snook, jacks, snappers, and redfish hiding in the shallows that can be taken on shrimp, pilchards, pinfish, and plastics. While it may not be what you were expecting, at least you're bending a rod.

The few days before the front hit on Tuesday night the weather was beautiful, allowing for anything you wanted to do. Some took advantage and headed to the swordfish grounds with some impressive results. Capt. Billy Turnbull of Snapper Charters (631-220-0211) put his customers onto some daytime swords on Sunday, most between 50 and 100 pounds, only to loose the would be catch of the day (estimated 200 pounder) at the side of the boat. Isn't that always the way it goes? Regardless, that's


a great day and proves how the bite has been offshore.

Sailfish seem to have been spotty this week, from what limited reports have come in. Most boats sail fishing are flying at best a few flags a day, but remember that since Tuesday there just simply weren't many people fishing. Monday was the Island Grill's Bartenders Sailfish Tournament. Key Colony's team from Sparky's Landing took third place with 5 fish, with first and second place scoring 8 and 6 fish respectively. Congrats to the crew from Sparky's and Main Attraction on bringing home the bronze. For the rest of us, stick with slow trolling between 100 and 150 feet for your best shot at a sail or two.

When it's been possible to sneak out, the deep wrecks have been very active. After catching some mangroves on a shallow patch reef on a half day on Wednesday afternoon, we managed a half dozen or so big Jack Crevalles and Amberjacks, a nice cobia, and a hefty 19 1/2 pound mutton snapper before heading to the dock. Other anglers are also reporting an unusually high number of cobia on the ocean side wrecks... and no one's complaining. Also piled high on the wrecks right now are kingfish of all sizes to keep you busy. Any live bait seems to be working on the bottom, and for fast kingfish action, try a small flashy vertical jig with a trace of wire... works every time.

Yellowtailing is again hit or miss, depending on where you go. The crew of the Tailwalker out of Hawks Cay reported a nice yellowtail bite off Duck key at least one day this week. You just have to make sure your chum isn't running up your anchor line!

The shallower reefs and channel humps continue to be active, and more and more appealing with every knot of wind. Mangrove, mutton, and yellowtail snappers are all possible on the shallow reefs, with lots of small groupers biting as well. Another plus to these locations is having ballyhoo come to the boat and beg you to take them sailfishing!

Obviously no one is in a rush to fish in the gulf when it blows hard out of the North, but right before the front the cobia and big kingfish were excellent on wrecks in the 20 mile plus range. What's happening out there now remains to be seen, but I'm sure it will be red hot again before long. Remember to call and book your local charter boat or guide soon, as we're starting to get real busy. Good luck fishing this week. 



Capt. Nic Borraccino took his brother and 2 friends out for some keys fishing while they were escaping the New England weather. Here they show off their nice Mutton Snapper & Cobia. Fun was had by all!

Fishing Report

If you would like to book a charter with Capt Luke Kelly in the Lower Florida Keys for fly or light tackle inshore fishing, please call: (305) 304-3152, or e-mail: KeyFlat@me.com. Visit www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com for more information.

Capt. Luke Kelly Lower Keys



Well it's here, I was beginning to wonder for a minute. Winds upward of thirty mph and temps in the low sixties with what looks like more to come will certainly drop those water temps surrounding the Lower Keys. Jan 17th I was able to get on the water and go north of Bow Chanel, Sugarloaf Key and measure a surface temp of 68 degrees Fahrenheit. Water temps leading this front were as high as 74 degrees in some areas, great for fishing, but a little warm for this time of year. In any event, this current drop in water temps should definitely give Lower Keys flats and backcountry fishing a long awaited stir. Currently, water Gulf-side of the Lower Keys is choppy with poor clarity, not so great for fishing. Yet water on the Atlantic side can be very calm in areas with excellent water clarity, providing plenty of flats sight fishing opportunity. Such extremes are due mainly to the amount of north wind we receive during these

cold fronts. The gulf side is obviously wide open to the northern fronts we receive, while the leeward Atlantic shore lines of the Lower Keys provide plenty of cover from the north wind. Personally, I never mind a heavy north wind because it forces you to direct all your attention to a particular area and give it all you got. Doing that almost always proves for great fishing, no matter the time of year.

During fronts with northern wind, finding tarpon, permit, or bonefish near the flats that will take a fly, or even live bait for that matter, proves to be very difficult. I'm not saying it can't be done, though I am saying the number of chances you have in a day to do so greatly diminish as a front progresses. What does become plentiful during these fronts, specially on the leeward Atlantic shoreline flats, is the amount of sharks, crevel jacks, and huge barracuda. Catching any three of these on fly in a sight fishing manner is an absolute blast. They are very aggressive, strong, and found everywhere when the temps are dropping. Simple fish patterns can be applied to any of these, where I find black and reds to work well for sharks, and non-weighted, longhaired pilchard green and white/silver fish patterns for jacks or barracuda. Aggressive casting with strips leading away from the fish tends to result in a hook up. The idea is to make that fish chase the fly, you couldn't out strip any of these fish if you tried so pull it as fast as you can and watch for the strike. If that fish thinks for a second your fly is getting away, chances are your fish will nail that fly, especially the large barracuda and crevel jack. Sharks are a bit easier, just put a large black and red fly on their nose and hold on, they require a stiff strip set. Pick your fight wisely when targeting sharks, hooking a two hundred pounder with a nine weight will hurt you and kill the shark if caught. I find the best match to be between a fifty pounder and a ten weight, they are easily recognized as the slender four to five foot sharks. Remember to use wire leader for those barracuda

Cont. on pg. 18

Fishing Report

Brought to you courtesy of Capt. Dave Navarro. He is a life-long resident of Marathon, owns the world-class Angler Bait & Tackle store in Marathon (MM 50.5), plus the charter boat "Dave's Dream". To fish with Capt. Dave, call: (305) 743-6139.

Capt. Dave Navarro Marathon



Man is it cold up north! I look at the pictures of the people and they all resemble the Stay Puffed Marshmallow Man. For those that have escaped and have traveled all the way to the end of Florida, many of them finally thawing out about the time they passed Jewfish Creek Bridge, they think our bad days are wonderful. Think of it in the big picture, when looking at a map of the state, are we, (the Keys,) really inhabited islands or just where the ink ran on the map? You sometimes wonder if they just decided to keep driving south until they ran out of road figuring that it had to get warmer sometime.

While the areas 'back home' are frozen solid, we too have experienced a taste of what has been going on this past week. The winds more so than the cold temperatures have caused an unwanted break in the fishing

activity for most although those that knew where to go have had a good week. Working the bridge channels with a strong cross wind -vs.- current can cause some uncomfortable fishing conditions in the open passes but using the banks and shoals to protect you from the seas can be advantageous. For that matter, using the islands of the Keys themselves for protection from direct winds is one of the best options you have for getting out to some good fishing, even though it may not be on the reef or one of your favorite deep water spots you prefer.

There are plenty of good action spots along the 'belly of the islands' that will provide you with the opportunity of catching some nice dinner as well as having a good time comfortably. You don't even have to go all the way to Hawk Channel to find this type of fishing either. There are plenty of humps and bumps within a mile of shore that holds more fish than you may realize. On those real bad days, the channels and creeks can provide you enough action to keep you from going into fishing withdrawals.

Right now the bay is alive with action. It is that one sanctuary that you can run to and fish in almost any wind condition and still have tons of action. All of the banks and shoals along with the numerous islands provide many areas of sanctuary as well as some very nice fishing. Knowing where to go and how to rig up is the main topic of discussion of this week's free fishing seminar at our Marine Educational Center at our new location, 3740 Overseas Highway, this Sunday evening. Starting time is 6pm and everyone is invited to attend.

The bay waters are so full of mackerel right now that anglers have been flat out spoiled! It is not too many times or in too many places where you can go out, set up a chum line and catch fish non-stop for the entire period that you are fishing. This is the case for those that venture 7+

Cont. on pg. 18

Capt. Navarro cont. from pg. 17

miles north of the islands. The mackerel are so thick that working a bait beneath them has been somewhat of a challenge. Snapper have been very good as well in shallows as well as the open bay. Cobia have been showing up in good numbers too. I have had several reports of redfish in the past couple of weeks in the northeastern portion of the bay that were very large with fish over 20 pounds being caught quite frequently.

Prior to all of the winds of last week, I can tell you that the kings were really coming into their own as well. We have started to see numerous anglers with 40+ pound fish in their boxes. These 'smokers' are quite the catch. They are called that because not only are they very good fish to smoke but when one that big hits your line, odds are your reel will be smoking too. If you want to practice catching the big ones just go to the highway and hook a passing Buick!

Along the edge of the reef out about five miles, activity has been mixed with some very nice tunas, scattered wahoo and a very nice showing of some decent dolphin. It is a good thing that they do not read the books stating they are not supposed to be here in any numbers this time of year because several anglers have actually found their limit of them in the 5+ pound range in recent weeks. Sailfish have been quite good in the recent winds, which as most know, is their conditions to show and feed. Charter and larger private boats have been doing well while smaller boats may have needed seat belts to keep the anglers aboard.

We are on the darkening phase of the moon now so there should not be any excuses for fishing along the reef as well as Hawk Channel weather permitting. Reports all had been very good on mutton snapper, grouper along the deep edge as well as on the patches. Kings and mackerel abound throughout and 'tails are just about everywhere from the deep waters to the patches and even in the Hawk. It all looks awesome on the ocean side of the islands. Have a 'pitch bait' ready to go at any time because you never know what is going to pop up alongside of you this time or year; not only trolling but even at anchor on the Oceanside. 🐟

Capt. Kelly cont. from pg. 17

and sharks, using an Albright knot to attach wire to your leader, and a haywire twist/barrel twist for the fly to wire attachment.

On a past note, the pre-frontal conditions leading our current weather were absolutely great. I spent the day before this front on the water with a colleague of mine and absolutely crushed the Bones. It was like they knew the front was coming (which I'm sure they did), and they were eating shrimp flies without even thinking about it. All bones were caught in deeper water off the flats using full sinking line and shrimp patterns. It was easy, anyone can cast fly line twenty feet and slowly pull it back to the boat. We even got a chance at a permit before the day was over, and he rightfully put us back in our place as we failed to stick him. One can only hope for similar conditions in our near future.

Until next time – Capt. Luke



A large African caught aboard on the Gold Reserve, recently with Capt. Donald Jenkins. Weighed in at apx 39 lbs.

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Rob Stitzer from Raleigh, NC, shows off his 1st sailfish! Capt. Ron Allen took a family fishing day aboard the Fish Tales, and it was great!

28th Annual Bartenders Sailfish Open . . .

13 Boats • 35 Anglers
33 Releases • 43 Called-In Hook-ups

AWARD / BAR	ANGLER(S)	BOAT	CAPTAIN	MATE	#FISH
<i>HARD LUCK</i> Island Grill	Gina Rew and Holly Stewart The girls caught fish but never saw a Sailfish	"Cheeca II"	Capt Chris Barth	Mate Billy Chrisman	???
<i>OUTSTANDING CATCH</i> Dillons	Ryan Crocket	"B & M"	Capt. Nick Stanczyk	Mate Dan Flynn	Wahoo 32.9 lbs.
<i>4TH BARTENDER</i> The Big Chill	Kenley Turchetti	"Bad Habit"	Capt. Scott Keller	Mate Brad Goodrich	2 Fish (on time)
<i>3RD BARTENDER</i> Dillon's	Ryan Crocket	"B & M"	Capt. Nick Stanczyk	Mate Dan Flynn	3 Fish
<i>2ND BARTENDER</i> Ocean View	Renee Jensen	"T & A"	Capt. Phil Wright	(no mate)	5 Fish
<i>1ST BARTENDER</i> Dillon's	Skyler Mc Garry	"B & M"	Capt. Nick Stanczyk	Mate Dan Flynn	6 Fish
<i>3RD PLACE BAR</i> Sparkey's Landing	Matt Anthony, Alison Baker, Carolyn Anthony, Denise Matzen, Michael Nealis	"Main Attraction"	Capt Marty Lewis	Mate Jamie Platt	5 Fish
<i>2ND PLACE BAR</i> Ocean View	Renee Jensen and Kelly Farr	"T & A"	Capt Phil Wright	(no mate)	6 Fish
<i>1ST PLACE BAR</i> Dillon's	Skyler McGarry & Ryan Crocket - 9 fish!				
<i>OUTSTANDING MATE</i> Dan Flynn	<i>OUTSTANDING CAPTAIN</i> Nick Stanczyk	<i>OUTSTANDING BOAT</i> "B & M" - 9 Fish!			



— Bartenders Tournament out of Islamorada —
 Photos courtesy of Team Sparky's Landing
 — Main Attraction —

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KEY LARGO (Ocean Reef)

Date	Day	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height
Jan 21	Wed	04:53 AM / 1.93 ft	11:04 AM / 0.62 ft	04:50 PM / 1.83 ft	11:24 PM / -0.05 ft	
Jan 22	Thu	05:46 AM / 1.98 ft	11:54 AM / 0.55 ft	05:43 PM / 1.88 ft		
Jan 23	Fri		12:11 AM / -0.13 ft	06:32 AM / 2.06 ft	12:40 PM / 0.43 ft	06:31 PM / 1.95 ft
Jan 24	Sat		12:54 AM / -0.23 ft	07:13 AM / 2.15 ft	01:22 PM / 0.29 ft	07:15 PM / 2.03 ft
Jan 25	Sun		01:34 AM / -0.31 ft	07:52 AM / 2.23 ft	02:01 PM / 0.15 ft	07:57 PM / 2.10 ft
Jan 26	Mon		02:12 AM / -0.36 ft	08:29 AM / 2.30 ft	02:37 PM / 0.02 ft	08:37 PM / 2.16 ft
Jan 27	Tue		02:48 AM / -0.37 ft	09:05 AM / 2.32 ft	03:12 PM / -0.09 ft	09:16 PM / 2.19 ft
Jan 28	Wed		03:23 AM / -0.34 ft	09:40 AM / 2.31 ft	03:46 PM / -0.19 ft	09:56 PM / 2.21 ft

BIG PINE (West Side - Pine Channel)

Date	Day	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height
Jan 21	Wed		02:43 AM / -0.06 ft	08:08 AM / 0.33 ft	01:12 PM / 0.18 ft	06:41 PM / 0.77 ft
Jan 22	Thu		03:34 AM / -0.09 ft	08:50 AM / 0.35 ft	02:09 PM / 0.16 ft	07:34 PM / 0.80 ft
Jan 23	Fri		04:17 AM / -0.11 ft	09:21 AM / 0.38 ft	02:58 PM / 0.14 ft	08:20 PM / 0.84 ft
Jan 24	Sat		04:53 AM / -0.12 ft	09:49 AM / 0.42 ft	03:43 PM / 0.11 ft	09:00 PM / 0.87 ft
Jan 25	Sun		05:25 AM / -0.13 ft	10:17 AM / 0.46 ft	04:24 PM / 0.09 ft	09:38 PM / 0.89 ft
Jan 26	Mon		05:54 AM / -0.12 ft	10:44 AM / 0.51 ft	05:04 PM / 0.07 ft	10:15 PM / 0.90 ft
Jan 27	Tue		06:21 AM / -0.11 ft	11:12 AM / 0.56 ft	05:45 PM / 0.06 ft	10:52 PM / 0.87 ft
Jan 28	Wed		06:47 AM / -0.09 ft	11:41 AM / 0.61 ft	06:27 PM / 0.03 ft	11:31 PM / 0.82 ft

ISLAMORADA (Whale Harbor)

Date	Day	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height
Jan 21	Wed	05:19 AM / 1.10 ft	11:50 AM / 0.30 ft	05:16 PM / 1.05 ft		
Jan 22	Thu		12:10 AM / -0.03 ft	06:12 AM / 1.13 ft	12:40 PM / 0.26 ft	06:09 PM / 1.08 ft
Jan 23	Fri		12:57 AM / -0.06 ft	06:58 AM / 1.18 ft	01:26 PM / 0.20 ft	06:57 PM / 1.12 ft
Jan 24	Sat		01:40 AM / -0.11 ft	07:39 AM / 1.23 ft	02:08 PM / 0.14 ft	07:41 PM / 1.16 ft
Jan 25	Sun		02:20 AM / -0.15 ft	08:18 AM / 1.28 ft	02:47 PM / 0.07 ft	08:23 PM / 1.21 ft
Jan 26	Mon		02:58 AM / -0.17 ft	08:55 AM / 1.31 ft	03:23 PM / 0.01 ft	09:03 PM / 1.24 ft
Jan 27	Tue		03:34 AM / -0.17 ft	09:31 AM / 1.33 ft	03:58 PM / -0.04 ft	09:42 PM / 1.26 ft
Jan 28	Wed		04:09 AM / -0.16 ft	10:06 AM / 1.33 ft	04:32 PM / -0.09 ft	10:22 PM / 1.26 ft

CUDJOE KEY (Pirates Cove)

Date	Day	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height
Jan 21	Wed		03:45 AM / -0.11 ft	11:37 AM / 0.49 ft	02:14 PM / 0.34 ft	10:10 PM / 1.14 ft
Jan 22	Thu		04:36 AM / -0.17 ft	12:19 PM / 0.52 ft	03:11 PM / 0.30 ft	11:03 PM / 1.19 ft
Jan 23	Fri		05:19 AM / -0.21 ft	12:50 PM / 0.56 ft	04:00 PM / 0.26 ft	11:49 PM / 1.24 ft
Jan 24	Sat		05:55 AM / -0.23 ft	01:18 PM / 0.61 ft	04:45 PM / 0.22 ft	
Jan 25	Sun	12:29 AM / 1.29 ft	06:27 AM / -0.24 ft	01:46 PM / 0.68 ft	05:26 PM / 0.18 ft	
Jan 26	Mon	01:07 AM / 1.32 ft	06:56 AM / -0.23 ft	02:13 PM / 0.76 ft	06:06 PM / 0.14 ft	
Jan 27	Tue	01:44 AM / 1.33 ft	07:23 AM / -0.21 ft	02:41 PM / 0.84 ft	06:47 PM / 0.10 ft	
Jan 28	Wed	02:21 AM / 1.29 ft	07:49 AM / -0.17 ft	03:10 PM / 0.91 ft	07:29 PM / 0.06 ft	

MARATHON (Boot Key Harbor)

Date	Day	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height
Jan 21	Wed	07:28 AM / 0.78 ft	10:50 AM / 0.58 ft	05:06 PM / 1.70 ft		
Jan 22	Thu		12:48 AM / -0.19 ft	08:01 AM / 0.81 ft	11:45 AM / 0.52 ft	06:05 PM / 1.76 ft
Jan 23	Fri		01:33 AM / -0.25 ft	08:22 AM / 0.85 ft	12:33 PM / 0.44 ft	06:54 PM / 1.83 ft
Jan 24	Sat		02:12 AM / -0.30 ft	08:39 AM / 0.91 ft	01:15 PM / 0.36 ft	07:37 PM / 1.89 ft
Jan 25	Sun		02:47 AM / -0.33 ft	09:00 AM / 0.98 ft	01:55 PM / 0.29 ft	08:16 PM / 1.92 ft
Jan 26	Mon		03:19 AM / -0.34 ft	09:24 AM / 1.08 ft	02:33 PM / 0.22 ft	08:54 PM / 1.91 ft
Jan 27	Tue		03:48 AM / -0.32 ft	09:50 AM / 1.17 ft	03:11 PM / 0.16 ft	09:32 PM / 1.85 ft
Jan 28	Wed		04:14 AM / -0.26 ft	10:18 AM / 1.28 ft	03:50 PM / 0.10 ft	10:10 PM / 1.74 ft

KEY WEST (South Side Hawk Channel)

Date	Day	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height	Low Time/Height	High Time/Height
Jan 21	Wed		12:21 AM / -0.13 ft	06:55 AM / 0.68 ft	10:50 AM / 0.39 ft	05:28 PM / 1.59 ft
Jan 22	Thu		01:12 AM / -0.19 ft	07:37 AM / 0.72 ft	11:47 AM / 0.35 ft	06:21 PM / 1.65 ft
Jan 23	Fri		01:55 AM / -0.24 ft	08:08 AM / 0.78 ft	12:36 PM / 0.30 ft	07:07 PM / 1.73 ft
Jan 24	Sat		02:31 AM / -0.27 ft	08:36 AM / 0.85 ft	01:21 PM / 0.25 ft	07:47 PM / 1.79 ft
Jan 25	Sun		03:03 AM / -0.28 ft	09:04 AM / 0.95 ft	02:02 PM / 0.21 ft	08:25 PM / 1.84 ft
Jan 26	Mon		03:32 AM / -0.27 ft	09:31 AM / 1.05 ft	02:42 PM / 0.16 ft	09:02 PM / 1.84 ft
Jan 27	Tue		03:59 AM / -0.24 ft	09:59 AM / 1.16 ft	03:23 PM / 0.12 ft	09:39 PM / 1.80 ft
Jan 28	Wed		04:25 AM / -0.19 ft	10:28 AM / 1.26 ft	04:05 PM / 0.07 ft	10:18 PM / 1.69 ft

Moon Phases

New: 01/26/09 • First Quarter: 02/02/09
Full: 02/09/09 • Last Quarter: 02/16/09

All Tide predictions may not be accurate. The Weekly Fisherman, The Islamorada Charter Boat Association and The Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association accept no liabilities associated with any referenced use of the above-listed tidal information.

Islamorada Presidential Sailfish Tournament Another Huge Success!

The weather was right for Sailfishing on January 16th and 17th and the Islamorada Presidential Sailfish Tournament took advantage of it. 27 boats sporting 85 Anglers braved the weather forecast. Saturday night at the awards most Anglers and Captains agreed the weather was no where near the forecasted seas. A total of 123 Sailfish were released out of 177 called in hook ups.

Day one would find the Wet Dream fighting a double header at lines out. The two sails would put them in the lead for the tournament. Anglers Jill and Kevin Clark knew how important both fish were. As Jill's fish got close to the boat it rushed underneath the vessel and the line wrapped around the propeller shaft. Captain Glen Miller took the engines out of gear. Mates Sam Worden and Hunter Barron had Jill back off the drag. Hunter jumped in the water to see how bad the line was wrapped up. The team decided to have Jill get in the water and see if she could unwrap the line. After a short swim Jill managed to get the line untangled and the fish was still there. She climbed aboard, tightened the drag and fought the fish back to the boat for a legal release. Meanwhile Kevin still had his fish on. Captain Glen maneuvered the boat in his direction and the fish was subsequently released. A quick call by Kevin to Mike Myatt of the IGFA confirmed Jill's fish would meet all IGFA rules. The rules committee of the Islamorada Presidential agreed that the fish was caught within the rules of the tournament. The Wet Dream would take day one with 6 Sailfish releases. Captain Paul Ross of the charter boat Relentless would release 5 fish that day.

On day two the Relentless' anglers Fenton Langston, Jimmy Hendricks, Debbie and Jimmy David would release 6 Sailfish. The 11 Sails would land Relentless in the winners circle receiving original

wooden hooks by local artist David Wirth. Second Place would go to the Wet Dream with 9 releases. Third place Reel McCoy fishing Larry Amyotte, Sean Smith, and John Watson also released a total of 9 Sailfish. Captain George McElveen's last release would be just minutes after the Wet Dreams putting the team in third place on time. Forth place would go to Captain Scott Stanczyk's Catch 22. Anglers David Spilman, Jimmy Fakler, John Soltysiak and Ty Mayers would release a total of 8 fish over the two days. Bob Rich and George Kreimer fishing aboard the Esperanza would take home the 5th place artwork by Pasta Pantaleo.

The Islamorada Presidential Sailfish tournament awarded the high point angler trophy to Jill Clark of the Wet Dream with 6 Sailfish releases. The Wet Dream would also be awarded trophies for the most tagged fish with 3 tags.

The tournament director Dianne Harbaugh would like to give thanks to all who helped make this event a huge success. After the fire at Cheeca Lodge the management cancelled the Cheeca Presidential Sailfish Tournament. "In 9 days with the support of the Islamorada Charter Boat Association and so many others we were able to make this almost impossible task possible" stated Ms Harbaugh. Pasta Pantaleo and David Wirth manufactured 1st thru 5th place trophies in less the 9 days. Screenprint Plus designed and printed tee shirts in 5 days. Island Custom Embroidery did bags, visors and jackets in less than one week. Our host Marker 88 restaurant put up a nice tent, served excellent food and beverage with the classiest presentations. The tournament committee offered excellent assistance to make everything run smoothly. A 50/50 raffle was held during the awards ceremony for the Islamorada Fire Department. In true keys spirit the winner of the raffle, Dianne Harbaugh, donated all the winnings back to the fire department. The Islamorada Charter Boat Association will be the benefactor of the tournament.

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**

**Sponsored by the Islamorada Charter Boat Association and the Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association.
Join them and be listed for free.**

Lower Keys Captain / Charter	Big Pine Key to Key West	Contact Info
Capt. Chris Lembo	OFF/REEF	(305) 292-0067 incognitocharters@comcast.net
Capt. Kevin Wilson	OFF/REEF	(305) 745-5634 www.fishmekeywest.com
Capt. Brad Nowicki	BC/FL/OFF/REEF/GF	(305) 481-7908 www.captainbradnowicki.com
Sightfish Charters	FL	(305) 304-6132 www.sightfishfloridakeys.com
Capt. Sandy Horn	BC/FL	(305) 393-6913 shorn2979@yahoo.com
Capt. Steve Lamp	FL/OFF/WR/GF/FLY/TP	(888) 362-3474 www.fishingkeywest.com

Lower Keys (cont.) Captain / Charter	Big Pine Key to Key West	Contact Info
Capt. Frank Piku	OFF/GULF/REEF	(305) 509-1547 www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com
Andy Griffiths Charters Night Swordfishing	OVN/MD/OFF/REEF	(305) 296-2639 www.fishandy.com
Capt. Bo Sellers	BC/FL	(305) 304-8442 www.sightfishingkeywest.com
Capt. Andrew Tipler Last Cast Charters	BC/FL/OFF/REEF	(305) 744-9796 www.lastcastcharters.net
Capt. Tony Taverna Morning Star Sportfishing	OFF/REEF/INSHORE	(631) 355-9344 www.morningstarsportfishingcharters.net
Capt. Luke Kelly	FL/FLY/LT/BC/TP	(305) 304-3152 keyflat@mac.com www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com
Capt. Barry / Capt. James Eva Marie Sportfishing	OFF/REEF/WR	(305) 407-4381 bgandrews18@aol.com (305) 304-6283

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Upper Keys Captain / Charter	Key Largo to Islamorada	Contact Info
Capt. Greg Eklund Cloud Nine Charters	OFF/REEF/WR/FL	(305) 360-7476 www.islamoradafishingtrips.com
Key Largo Fishing Adventures	OFF/BC/REEF	(305) 923-9293 www.keyssportfishing.com
Capt. Scott Keller	OFF/BC	(305) 664-6678 captscott@badhabitfishingcharters.com
Capt. Ron Moore Miller Time Charters	OFF/REEF/MD	(305) 304-9473 www.millertimesportfishing.com
Capt. Matt Bellinger	BC/GULF/REEF/WR	(305) 393-0909 www.bamboocharters.com
Capt. Joe Petrucco	OFF/GF/WR/REEF/BC	(305) 304-4580 www.killerinstinctcharters.com
Capt. George Clark, Jr.	OFF/REEF/BC	(305) 522-2638 www.rodeocharters.com
Capt. Jef Pfister	BC/FL	(877) 362-5743 www.docksidecharters.com
Capt. Mike Makowski Black Foot Charter	BC/FL/FLY/LT	(305) 481-0111 www.blackfootfishing.com
Capt. Wells Gable	BC/FL	(305) 522-2373 www.captwellsable@msn.com
Killer White Charters	OFF/REEF/TP	(305) 522-0374 www.killerwhite.com
Capt. John Kohler	BC/FL	(305) 852-0369 jdkohler@bellsouth.net
Capt. Ann Holahan	BC/FL/TP/FLY	(305) 664-5891 www.boneranger.com
Capt. Lain Goodwin	BC/FL	(305) 304-2212 captain@dirtywatercharters.com
Capt. Tad Burke	BC/FL/GF/OFF	(305) 852-0739 (305) 451-7354
Capt. Kevin Brown Golden Reserve Charters		(305) 394-0792 www.goldreservecharters.com
Capt. John Taskowitz	OFF	(305) 664-9202 www.suzannefishingcharters.com
Capt. Ted Benbow	FL/BC	(305) 393-0363 www.skinsandfinscharters.com
Capt. Bill Wert Whisper Charters	FL/BC/LT/GF/FLY	(305) 393-1910 mrbill54@bellsouth.net
Capt. Stephen Murray	BC/FL/LT	(305) 393-1641 stevemurray126@comcast.net
Capt. Ron Allen Fish Tales Charters		(305) 664-0050 www.fishtalesportfishing.com
Capt. Butch Green Sassy Lady Charters		(305) 394-4717 sassyladycharters@comcast.net
Capt. Jeff Van Derflue	BC	(305) 393-6940 flatitudecharters@hotmail.com
Capt. Don Clark	OFF	(305) 393-2788 www.seahorsecharters.com
Capt. Richard Burson R-U Fishing Yet Charters	BC/FLY/LT/GF/REEF	(305) 360-3262

Upper Keys (cont.) Captain / Charter	Key Largo to Islamorada	Contact Info
Capt. Juan Garcia Beats Land Charters	BC/GF/REEF/OFF	(305) 297-0438 www.beatslandcharters.com
Capt. Skip Bradeen	OFF	(305) 481-5151 www.bluechiptoo.com
Capt. Steve Friedman	FL/BC/FLY	(305) 393-3474 www.afishingguide.com
Capt. Larry Wren A Pirates Choice Charters	OFF	(305) 360-4900 www.apirateschoice.com
Capt. Dave Purdo	FL/BC	(305) 852-5989
Capt. J.R. captainjr@bellsouth.net	OFF	800-473-4106 or 305-481-0649 www.captainj-rcharters.com
Capt Mitch Mitchell	BC/FL	305-587-1150 www.reelchaoscharters.com
Capt. Kerry Wingo	BC/LT/FL/FLY	Klcaptkw@aol.com www.tailsupfishing.com
Capt. Augie Wampler's captwamp@yahoo.com	OFF	(305) 393-2765 www.BlueWaterPredator.com
Capt. Ron Brack www.hatatudecharters.com	OFF	(305) 484-8410 (305) 393-0452
Capt. Jeff Frasier Genesis Charters	OFF	(305) 393-3981 www.genesischarters.com
Capt. Donny Lange whereisd@yaho.com	BC/FL	(305) 522-1929 www.captdonny.com
Capt. Ron Wagner	FL/BC	(304) 664-2028 fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com
Capt. Paul Hunt captpaul@finhuntercharters.com	BC/FL/LT/FLY	(305) 393-2495 www.finhuntercharters.com
Capt. Bruce Andersen Capt. Easy Charters	OFF/WR	(305) 360-2120 www.captaineasycharters.com
Capt. Skip Nielsen	BC/FL/LT	(305) 664-9314 skipcyd@bellsouth.net
Capt. Robert Mathias, Jr capt@floridakeysfishing.com	"RESTLESS TOO"	(305) 304-4422 www.floridakeysfishing.com
Capt. Bruce Pollock Edge Charters	FL/BC/LT	(305) 393-5269 www.florida-keys-fishing-guides.com CaptainBruce@florida-keys-fishing-guides.com

Middle Keys Captain / Charter	Long Key to Marathon	Contact Info
Capt. Nick Borraccino Best Bet Sportfishing	OFF/REEF/WR	(508) 769-4189 www.bestbetsportfishing.com
Capt. Pip's Sportfishing	OFF/REEF/TP	(305) 743-4403 www.captainpips.com
Capt. Butch Hewlett	Live Bait Tarpon Only	(305) 743-4594 bnbfishing@bellsouth.net
Capt. David Schugar	OFF/REEF	(305) 610-4778 www.sweetenufcharters.com
Capt. Paul Suarez	Licensed Captain Any Boat	(305) 731-7464

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