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Serving the Keys Fishing Community Since 1998 Vol. XI • Issue 30

Gordon Denyes, Gary Hendricks, Ron Coulter, Doug Gray, Bill Collins and Gene Sensbach had a fun day on the GOTTA MON while fishing with Capt. George Clark Sr. and Capt. Carlos Padron of Rodeo Charters in Key Largo catching plenty of snapper and mackerel.

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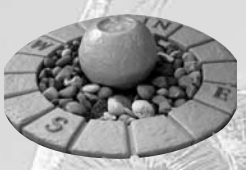

“At the Helm” does not appear this week.
See you on the water!

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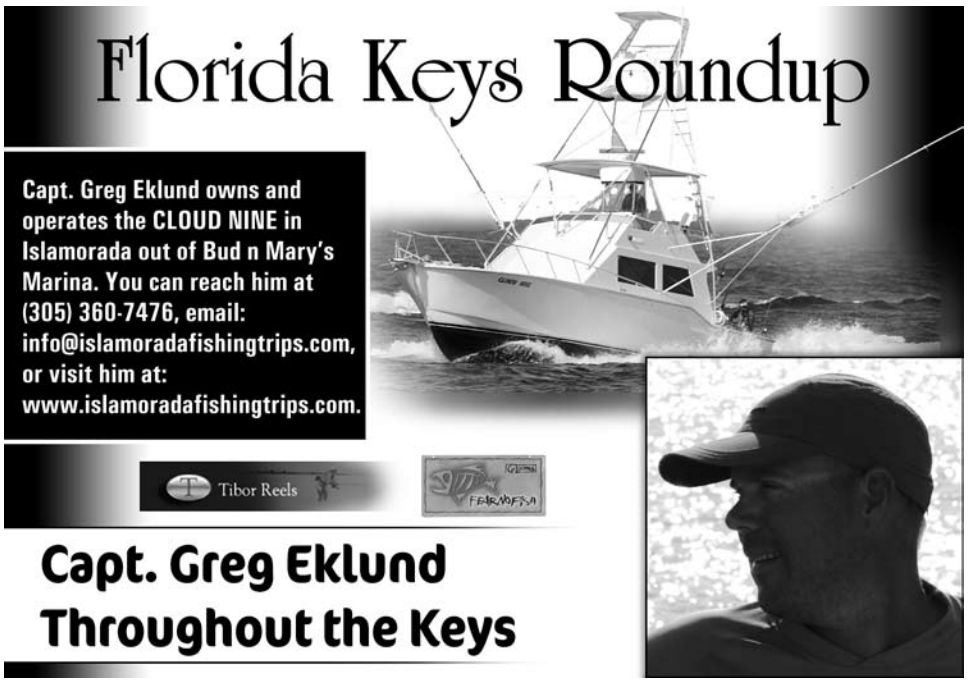
Florida Keys Roundup



Capt. Greg Eklund Throughout the Keys

Welcome to the Fabulous Florida Keys and the Sport Fishing Capitol of the World. Fishing this past week here in the Islands has been fantastic. Along the reef edge on the Ocean side of the Keys the Sailfish action has been consistent with most crews releasing 3 to 5 fish a day. Out back in the Gulf of Mexico the King Mackerel and Cobia fishing around the numerous wrecks and ledges has been producing some awesome fish to fifty pounds. We are in the height of the winter fishing season here in the Keys and as a visiting angler you couldn't have picked a better time to come here fishing.

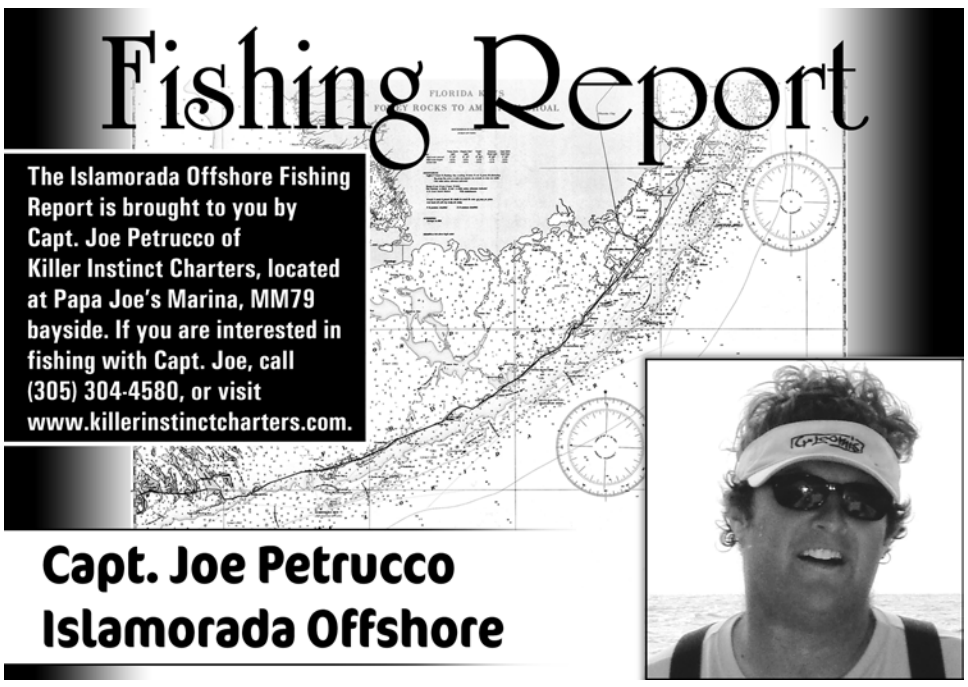
As I mentioned above the Sailfish action has been very good along the reef from Ocean reef to Key West. The strong series of cold fronts we have experienced over the last ten days has held up the migratory sailfish in large quantities around the bait that is heavily stacked on the shallower ledges of the reef line. Ballyhoo, sardines, cigar minnows, and goggles eyes are all providing forage for the Sailfish that are here right now. We have been using several of these baits, flown under kites for stealth, to produce some quality fishing for our clients. Last week concluded the Florida Keys Sailfish Gold Cup Series with the Islamorada Fishing Club's Sailfish Tourney. The Relentless team ran away with the last event and closed out the series winning all three legs of the Gold Cup. The Relentless team is led by Capt. Paul Ross and featured anglers Jim Hendrix, Jimmy and Debbie David from Miami, and Fenton Langston of Key Largo. They released 48 sailfish in 6 days of fishing while on their way to top honors in the Gold Cup series. Congratulations to all of them on their victories and very impressive season.

The Sailfish are not the only game in town on the Ocean side these days. The King Mackerel schools have taken up residence Keys wide and range in size from a few pounds to more than fifty pounds. The larger Kings have been holding in 120-180 feet of water and falling for cigar minnows, blue runners, and speedos. These make for great sport on light tackle and should remain in place in our waters now through March. There has also been an increasing number of Cobia caught lately. These fish are migrating through our area right now and range in size from 10 to more than 60 pounds. They can be found along the shallower ledges in the reef all the way back to the wrecks on the Gulf side. Sight fishing for these powerhouse fish can produce the best results and some great fights for visiting anglers. These fish will also continue to congregate in our area now through the middle of March. As we approach the beginning of February we will see an increase in the number of Snappers and Groupers along the top edge of the reef. These fish start to assemble this time of year into pre-spawning schools and we will see fishing for these species improve over the next few weeks.

The inshore fishing has also been improving. The Redfish and Trout are biting well in several spots in Everglades National Park and around the banks and Islands to the SW toward Key West. The bonefishing has been excellent on the rising water nearer the main Island chain lately. As we start to get more warm days between our cold fronts in February the fishing will only improve on the flats. Once the water temps warm back into the 70's we should also see the first signs of Tarpon activity in our area in several months.

February is a great month to fish here in the Keys. We have a lot of excellent action for visiting anglers this time of year and our world class collection of guides and crews are available to put you on them. If I can answer any questions you have about fishing here in the Florida Keys or help you get hooked up with a day on the water please contact me at the number or email above. Have a great week and good fishing! Capt. Greg

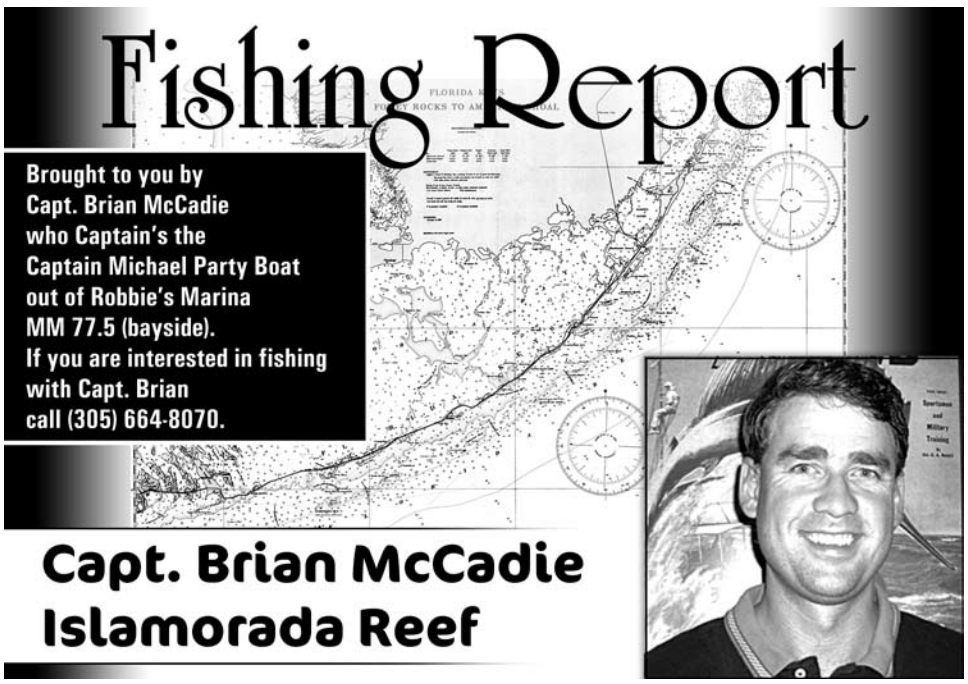
Fishing Report



Capt. Joe Petrucco Islamorada Offshore

Sail fishing remained strong this week as cold north winds continued to blow. As the wind moves around to the north east this week, expect more awesome sail fishing to continue. We are enjoying an awesome season of bill fishing here in Islamorada. If you want to catch more or get out for your first one, then this week should be a good choice. The sailfish love the cooler temps and northeast winds. This will cause them to migrate through the surface of the water column feeding on any reasonable offering along the way. My favorite bait is a blue runner or goggle eye on the kite. If you can catch some fresh ballyhoo, then this will also be a great choice to work the reef edge. While out on the reef, a king mackerel or wahoo may also come up and eat your live baits so an eighteen or twenty inch trace of #5 or #6 wire will help to catch one of these guys. If you are only targeting billfish then 30 or 40 pound fluorocarbon leader will be a better choice. A VMC 7/0 or 8/0 circle hook is a must and will help hook more fish. The winds will be fresh next week around 15-20 knots so it is the perfect time to go fly a kite! Get out on the reef edge and enjoy the perfect sail fishing conditions.

If calmer waters are your preference then you can head out to the Gulf of Mexico and enjoy some fast action with Spanish mackerel, snapper, grouper, sharks, king mackerel, and cobia. The gulf season is at it's peak and the fishing is awesome. If you want to bend the rod, then the Gulf will always deliver. The biggest problem is bringing enough bait to last eight hours. It is not uncommon to go through 500 shrimp in a day with three anglers. The end result is three sets of very sore arms and three completely restored souls. Nothing improves your outlook on life like catching a whole boat full of fish! Give one of Islamorada's finest a call and book that trip of a lifetime.



First off I must apologize for not offering a report last week. Our second captain on the Capt. Michael, Ron Howell took a vacation to the Bahamas to do some fishing with his father out of Eluthera. They were able to catch mutton snappers up to eighteen pounds, dolphin averaging 15 pounds and one wahoo in the 75 pound range. After the busy holiday season Ron deserved a chance to get out and catch some fish for himself, so congrats Capt. Ron.

Getting a bit more up to date, this past week was quite exciting with king fish, mutton snappers, red groupers, a few yellowtails and lots of porgies and lane snappers. On the Capt. Michael we fish for the most abundant fish that every person on the boat can catch. We tend to fish with 20 or 30 people a lot of the time so we like to target snappers and porgies that bite all the way around the boat. This week we found lots of these tasty fish in the 100 to 200 foot range. And, as usual, in the midst of the 1 to 4 pound fish we picked up a handful of groupers, margates and mutton snappers.

This time of the year it's not always all that productive to target yellowtails, as they don't like to bite all that well when the water is under 70 degrees. The surface temperature out there has been ranging from 63 to 67 degrees. This cold water really shuts down the 'tails and mangrove snappers that we catch so many of in the summer months. This certainly doesn't mean that you can't catch these fish, it just means that it isn't as easy as you'd like it to be.

The king macks have been a lot of fun too. Most of the charter boat captains I talk to have been limiting out every day that they fished. They stop in the morning to fill the livewell with live cigar minnows then fish them on a wire leader and a treble hook. If you put a cigar minnow anywhere near a kingfish it's most likely going to get eaten right away.

On the party boat we use whole ballyhoo for the kings on a three hook rig. The three hooks are rigged in tandem by attaching the eye of one hook to the shank of the one in front of it. This creates a 6 or 7 inch long stretch of hook making it so you rarely need a wire leader in front of the bait. This rig can be deadly while drifting or at anchor.

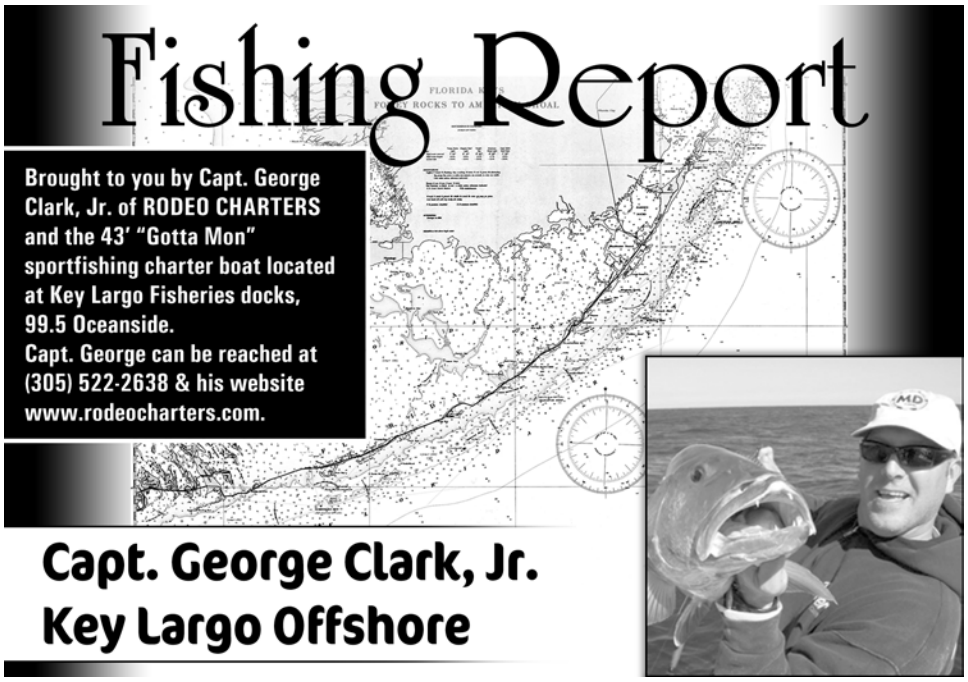
On Friday afternoon we anchored up on a wreck in about 130 feet of water. While the customers were working on lane snappers, porgies and kings I put up our kite with a live blue runner on it for bait. About 2 minutes after deploying the bait it got attacked by a sailfish. Once hooked the fish started peeling line off the reel in a fast manner. We pulled the anchor and started backing down on the fish to eliminate the chance of it spooling the rod. The fish never jumped and it acted as if it were foul hooked, or not hooked in the mouth. This makes the fight take a long,

Cont. on pg. 19

After this week's cold weather, I'm looking forward to getting back to the 70's the next few days. This latest cold snap was the chilliest so far this year with a few days in the 50's. The strong north winds also blew out what water remained in the bay leaving it EXTREMELY shallow. The shallow water cools quickly which plummeted the water temperatures down to the mid-50's. This upcoming week looks to be mild with light winds which should get the bite fired-up.

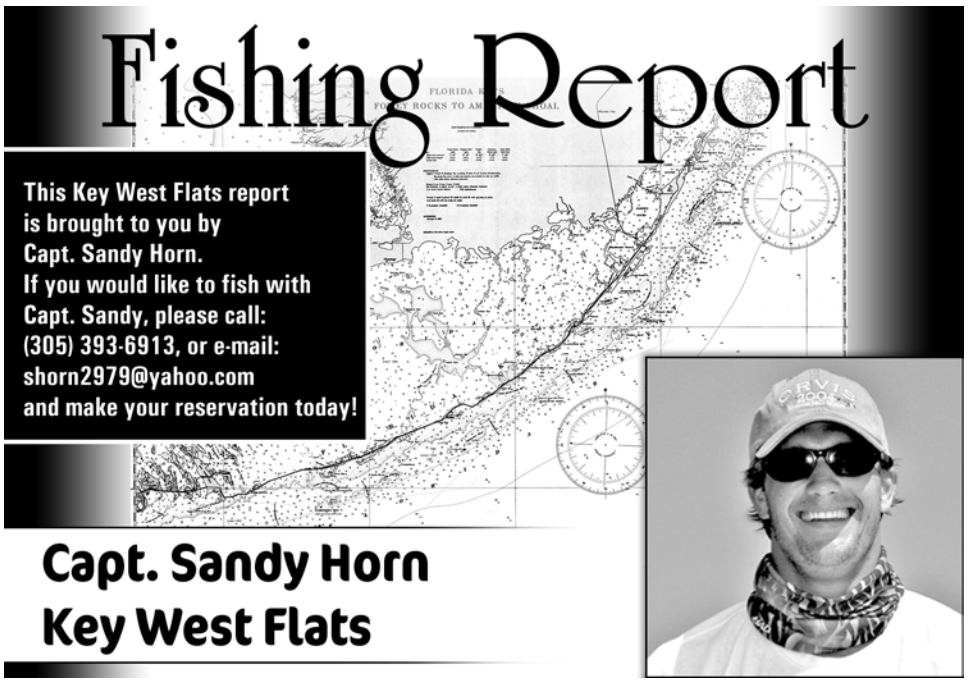
For the adventurous anglers, there's a good bite going on back in Whitewater Bay. As water levels drop in the Everglades, it forces fish from the thousands of shallow ponds which are normally inaccessible for anglers. The fish pour into the many rivers on the eastern side of Whitewater. The rivers have a wide variety of fish - if you enjoy casting lures, you'll love fishing in Whitewater Bay. And, if you head far enough back in the rivers you might even bring a couple bass to the boat. Dark colored lures especially black/gold colors are productive when fishing in the tannic stained waters. Shallow diving stick baits and jerk baits are great for pitching shorelines in the rivers and around islands. River mouths and the points of islands are a great place for finding hungry fish. The trolling motor is great for covering a lot of territory while pitching baits and twitching them back until the rod buckles. The gag and goliath grouper bite has been great in the deeper rivers leading out to the Gulf. Keep an eye on your sonar for any sign of structure on the bottom. There are multiple rock piles and various other debris that will hold grouper during the winter and spring. Just about any type of baitfish dropped down to the bottom will provoke a bite from one of these inshore freight trains. You will need to step-up the tackle to turn these grouper before they run you back into the liar. I step up to 30-50 lb Spiderwire Ultracast with 60 lb fluorocarbon leaders and a large 7/0 circle hook on a stiff rod to neutralize the groupers. The rod-bending action out in the middle of Whitewater has also been productive. Work the deeper basins with popping corks and Berkley Gulp baits on a HookUp Lure for the trout and ladyfish.

Closer to home in northeast Florida Bay, I'm expecting the flats bite to heat-up along with the water temperatures. This week there were plenty of fish in the shallows but they were very lethargic as they were more concerned with survival than eating. Most of the snook have been off the shoreline out in the sunlight trying to warm their body temperatures. This is uncomfortable for snook, so they have been VERY spooky. The redfish are unaffected by the cold water and have been moving down the shorelines. I've been having success working chartreuse/glow jerk baits slowly through the grass and potholes. The water is very shallow so proceed with caution and refer to the Florida Bay Map & Guide. Til next time, light winds and good fishin' . . .



This week the sail fishing exploded here in the upper keys and south Miami. Two large tournaments gave anglers a jolt of excitement when the Reef Cup and Mayor's Cup overlapped each other. The Reef Cup was four days of fishing with each boat fishing three days and picking a lay day. There were over 500 fish released during the reef cup between 61 boats and the top 3 teams released 21, 20 and 20. Captain Zane Albury kept his streak going another year placing once again taking 3rd place overall. The Mayor's Cup saw even bigger numbers of releases and within two hours of fishing there were over 200 hundred sails let go. These are amazing numbers of bill fish and really show how well circle hooks are working in regards to letting fish go unharmed. The other factor is we don't boat any fish during tournaments so the fish aren't stressed out any worse or beat up on boat decks. This week we have also found good numbers of dolphin coming thru and in some areas we also found very nice edges with thick Sargasso weed and loads of bait fish hiding in it. We caught plenty of nice mahi all 5 to 10 pounds and some even bigger fish were landed up and down the reef. Nice black fins were blowing up angler's ballyhoo, too. We caught one really nice one this week while live bait fishing. King fishing has been steady when you find where they are hanging. Capt. George Sr. had trouble keeping kings away from his baits recently and caught some nice mackerel up to 20 pounds and Cero mackerel up to 10 pounds all on the live baits. The Vermillion and yellow eye snapper have been chewing very well out past the 300 foot depth. These schooling fish will eat almost any small morsel when you get right over them and squid is an easy bait to use for them. The snapper have been 2 to 5 pounds and we are catching them sometimes several at a time on the chicken rigs. AJ's and almaco jacks are on the humps and where the jacks are you can expect to see some shark activity. Down deep around the bottom we have been able to find a few muttons and maybe a grouper or two, but when the sharks begin to take a couple it is time to leave and find another mark of fish. Sand bars, lemons and bull sharks a just a few of the species we are seeing right now and when we look hard enough we also see a few t heads cruising on the surface. So, if you like pulling on big nasty fish drop down a bonito slab connected to a big circle hook and heavy wire and hang on. Yellowtail snapper have been active lately and Capt. Chan of the party boat GULF-STREAM docked beside us at Key Largo Fisheries has had good numbers of nice tails. The tails have averaged 2 to 3 pounds and Chan has also caught some really nice muttons and blacks of late. The bite has really relied on the conditions and when the current has been going to the North East the fish really bite much better. Patch fishing has heated up again too and most fishermen that put the time in are finding some mutton's inshore and some good hogs on the shrimp.

Give us a call if you want to have some fun. Thanks – Capt. George



Hope everyone is keeping warm in Key West because it sure was a cold week down here. I am on vacation in Italy so to tell you the truth I don't care. If anyone is interested it is about fifty degrees and drizzling here. Since I am not in Key West, I have no idea what is going on on the flats so the reports for the next couple of weeks will be short and I do apologize for that. I will give you a little info on Italy and go over how to tie some flies during my time here. Also, the keyboard is largely in Italian and I have no idea what most of this stuff means so there is probably going to be some typing errors so again I apologize. All the rivers are closed here in Italy, so I have not been able to do any fishing as of yet. I am going to visit a fly shop in Florence so hopefully I can coax someone to take me out when I get there. I could probably do some kind of off-shore fishing here but that really doesn't interest me in the least; mainly because I would be freezing my tush off because it is cold over here. I'm sure you are sick of hearing about my trip so I will stop boring you and talk about tying barracuda flies.

I have talked about barracuda flies before but like any fly tyer I am evolving my flies as much as I can. I will tie some of my flies with schlappen feathers and they work fine but the feather doesn't hold up well in the barracuda's mouth so you have to change flies often which means more time at the vice. That is why using synthetic material is a much better choice. not only does it hold up better but you can make the flies as long as you want. I have a friend who ties his barracuda flies about twelve inches long which you could never do with schalppen because it just doesn't come that long. I don't tie them that long, but it makes a lot of since when you see the size of the needle or hound fish the barracuda are eating. Like I said, I don't have a lot to talk about so bear with me until I get back. Hope everyone has tight lines and fish boat side. Until next week.

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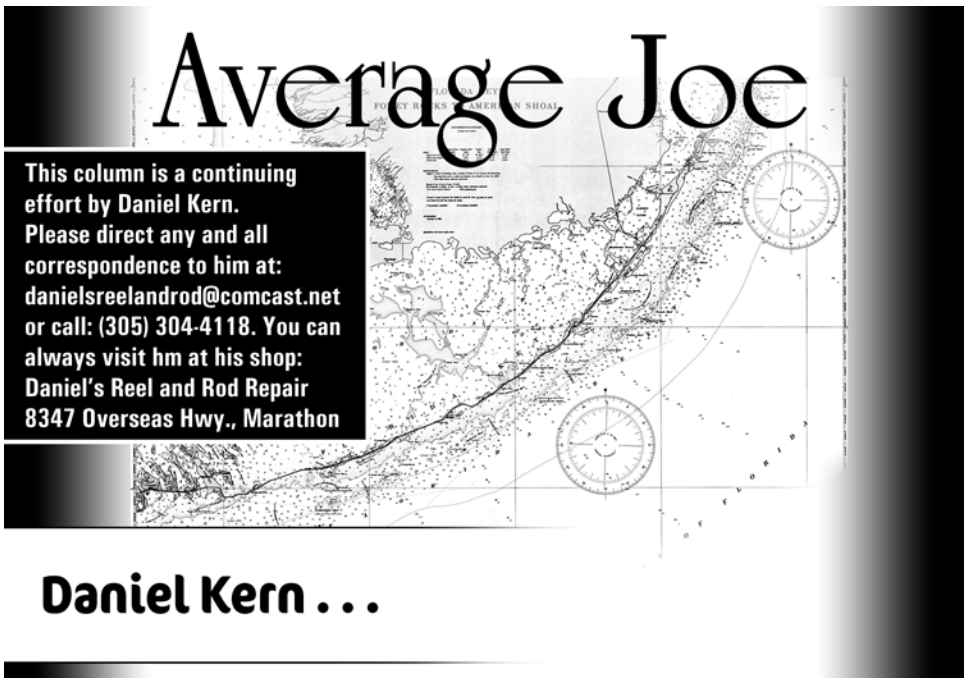

Since I am just passing on these fishing reports, stories, or tales; there is no way I can validate them. I will say this though, "There is no way I would ever question the integrity of a fisherman or fishing lady. As far as I'm concerned, whatever you say . . . is gospel."

Brrrrrrrrrrrrrrr! That's the fish; they're not as loud as me. That's 'cause I hate the cold more than they do. But, I don't think they like it too much either, according to the reports I've been gettin'. Not much happenin' out back. No Snapper or very many Mackerel either. On the reef the Yellowtail have been pretty scarce also. Off shore . . . ya' gotta' be kinda' desperate or just plain crazy. Man, it's real cold out there and a whole lota' bumpy too.

Traditionally, last week is usually the coldest days of the winter, and I for one am glad to get 'em behind us. I like to look at the first day of winter in a positive way by not calling it by that name; instead I refer to it as the first day of summer a comin' . . . since from the 22nd of December onward, the days start gettin' longer. Oh yeah!

Just an afterthought - I kinda' look at temperatures a bit different than our northern visitors . . . 90's are hot; 80's are warm; 70's are cool; 60's are cold; 50's are freezin' and anything in the 40's or below are an artic blast! Ya got that! That's what happens to ya after ya been here 37 years. And man I love it . . . there's no place on God's awesome planet I would rather be. Amen!

Catch of the Week –

Here's a lady angler's story from Chuck and Linda Griffijn, down Big Pine way. It may not be a monstrous catch like some I have received but they don't typically bottom fish on the reef for the biggies. They do use cut or live bait from time to time but Chuck and his wife have always preferred fishing with artificial lures on light tackle. Their favorite for snapper are bucktails . . . using white when the water is clear and brown when it's darker. They like chasing snapper not only because they are great eating but pound per pound they can be great fighters . . . especially on 8-10# test line.

New Year's Eve was a beautiful day, so they headed out from Big Pine to fish the Content and Sawyer Key area. Getting into the gulf they saw a lot of bird action on the water about 2 miles offshore. Thinking they could get a few mackerel for their smoker (the only way Chuck and his bride will eat em') they ran out to investigate. It ended up being about 5 acres of ballyhoo being consumed by hundreds of jack crevalle in the 5-15# range! What a sight . . . we all should be so lucky. They got caught up in the excitement and started casting around the outside hoping to pick off something eatable but all they got were sore arms haulin' in jacks. It was fun, but this was not getting them an evening meal so they headed to some of their favorite spots. They ended up catching a lot of small snapper 10-12" but Linda got the two winners which they took home. The mutton was a good fight but the mangrove gave her a fit by diving under a couple of ledges and wrapping around some seaweed making it more challenging, but she prevailed.

While everyone else was dining out on prime rib or some other favorite dish that evening, they were blessed to celebrate the New Year's Eve with fried snapper, black beans and rice. Yum! Yum! Ya can have prime rib anytime, but fresh caught snapper is always a treat, specially when ya caught 'em yourselves. Maybe they'll eat out next year . . . if the weather is too bad to fish. Yea, buddy, that's a "reel keys" attitude for ya.

Maintenance & Fishing Tips for You & Your Pals –

Let's talk rods and roller guides. I am not an advocate of spraying your roller guides with WD 40. In a very short time it will form a coating that looks and acts like varnish; totally locking up the rollers, making them useless. If you must spray a water displacement lubricant on the guides, use CRC 656; which is really not an adequate lubricant, only a good water repellant to protect your rod and keep it lookin' new longer.

The lubricant I recommend is Super Lube Oil. It comes in a small pen oiler that is made for oiling small oil ports on reels; and getting into tight spaces like roller guides, line rollers, etc.

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 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

Capt. Steve Lamp
Key West

The last blast of winter left us with very cold water throughout the week with very milky water conditions throughout the gulf, bay and Hawks Channel. With the North East winds the water has been pushed out of Florida Bay making for exceptionally low tides.

The offshore fishing last week was lots of fun. I was fishing the Hogsbreath Kingfish tournament experiencing a mixed bag of offshore activity from sailfish, tuna wahoo to dolphin. Seemed like every time we hooked up on a king some other species would curiously slide by the boat to say hello. The sailfish were pretty aggressive in all sizes eating large baits that were set out for kingfish on wire. The fishing tournament was lots of fun and well run by the organizers as usual. We caught lots of Kingfish but nothing to break over 40 lbs. Just wasn't our year.

The flats fishing last week was pretty slow for us here at Dream Catchers. Dirty waters were a problem early last week but by Sunday it was incredible. The clarity came up to the gin clear we are used to and the tailing fish were back in full force. Looking forward to a great week of fishing the flats before the next big blow scheduled for Friday.

The backcountry fishing lost the tarpon component however the Trout are bigger than ever and mixed with large bluefish ranging in size from 2 – 7 lbs makes for a bunch of fun the back. Fishing the 4 – 8 ft water depths near the tiderips and thermoclines we have been having a ball in these strong North Easterly winds. With the incredibly low water levels it takes little guess work to find the fish as they can't be on the flats. On many mornings we have been leaving the dock looking up at the edges of the channels.. I have to mention these are the lowest tides I can remember in the winter.

I know it's chilly and it may be hard for some of us to think about tarpon right now, but its time. February holds much big fish in the Key West harbor that come in out of the Gulf to feed and lay up. The timing has to be good in between cold fronts but big fish can be had. Also remember, with a really cold winter comes a KILLER tarpon season to follow.

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

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Atlantic Coast - Snapper-Grouper Amendment Addresses Overfishing

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has submitted Amendment 16 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery of the South Atlantic Region for review by NOAA. Amendment 16 was developed to address overfishing in the snapper-grouper fishery. It would establish management reference points and specify interim allocations for the commercial and recreational sectors for gag and vermilion snapper, and implement management measures in the commercial and recreational sectors of the snapper-grouper fishery. These measures include: a four-month spawning season closure of the recreational and commercial shallow water grouper fisheries; a five-month closure of the recreational vermilion snapper fishery; commercial quotas for gag and vermilion snapper; a reduced recreational grouper aggregate bag limit (including tilefish) and vermilion snapper bag limit; and a requirement to use dehooking and venting tools to reduce bycatch mortality of snapper-grouper species.

Comments must be received by 5pm on February 23, 2009. For more information, read the Federal Register notice or contact John McGovern at (727) 824-5305.

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Capt. Andrew Tipler
Lower Keys

The weather threw everyone for a loop this past week. The major drop in temperature, accompanied by strong North/ North East winds helped some areas of the fishery while hurting others. There was a lot going on offshore while the flats ended up devoid of life. With the weather warming back up it will not be long before the flats rebound to pre-front conditions.

On the way offshore we found lots of action. There have been GIANT schools of Jacks roaming Hawk channel. These are not small jacks but big bruisers willing to give you a work out. They are a lot of fun but not good for much else, unless you are keeping one for shark chum. The jacks are chasing schools of ballyhoo and moving fast, try and get ahead of them before throwing into the school. Buck tail jigs will get the job done but for a challenge try throwing a fly.

Offshore produced decent numbers of sailfish over the past week. We found pilchards and put them to use drifting from the reef line out. The kings and cero mackerel kept us busy tying on new hooks but once we got out further the targeted species showed up. The sailfish were a little scattered, moving through the green water. Saturday brought cleaner water into the reef but did not improve the fishing as much as I expected. A few boats came across a sail while trolling but the weekend proved to be a little slow. If we had good current it would have really fired things up. There were good numbers of blackfin caught on Saturday, after the water cleared up. Boats trolling ballyhoo or tuna feathers did well in the 150 to 300 ft depths. A few dolphin were caught but nothing worth mentioning. Look for the tuna fishing to remain strong through the next week.

Reef fishing was good with yellowtails being moderately cooperative. The fish were not that big but the numbers were there. Chum heavily and flat line bonito strips or ballyhoo plugs back to the fish. They were not overly eager to pop up in the slick so focus on the bottom rods through your first block of chum. Grouper fishing was very good this past week and a live pinfish did not last long. Rig heavy and work fast to keep them from getting back to their home. There was a by catch of various jacks coming from the grouper rods. I did not find any but heard reports of a few cobia coming off the reef. The cobia numbers should increase through the coming months.

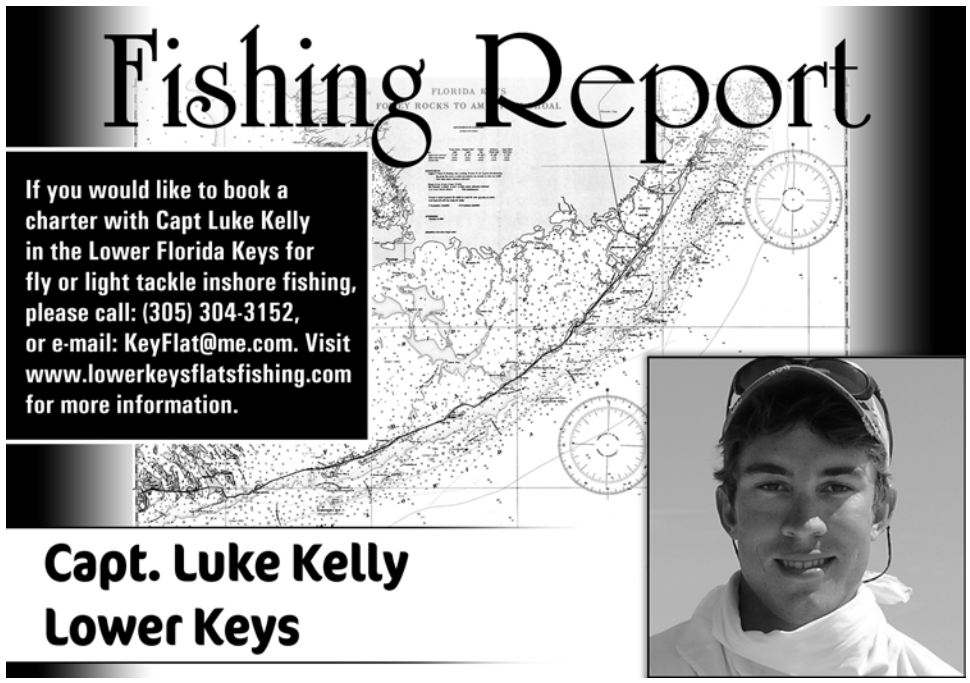
Flats fishing took a nose dive after the cold front came through. Water temps dropped to the low 60's making it unpleasant for most flats species. There were some sharks around but even they were slow to eat. We found a few redfish and a couple of snook but the numbers were hardly worth targeting. The barracuda were around in good numbers but it took some convincing to get them to eat. They were not even willing to give chase to a cuda tube. Throwing plugs was the way to go and you had to work hard to convince them to eat. Put the plug in front of the cuda and give it a few twitches, to get his attention, then gradually increase the action until he tracks the plug, only then do you bump up the speed of the retrieve. As water temps continue to climb the permit will move back onto the flats followed by the bonefish.

Good luck and good fishing.

Dyan with a pair of black grouper.

A days catch from the reef.

Every Day's a Holiday
Fishing in the Keys!



The temperatures dropped in the Lower Keys this week and the flats and backcountry fishing fell with it. A strong cold front pushed through Jan 21st and I was coincidently booked for charters Jan. 22nd and 23rd. Needless to say, I will not be reporting about anything close to good fishing this week. I awoke on the 22nd to an air temperature of 49° on Upper Sugarloaf Key - easily the coldest air I have felt this winter.

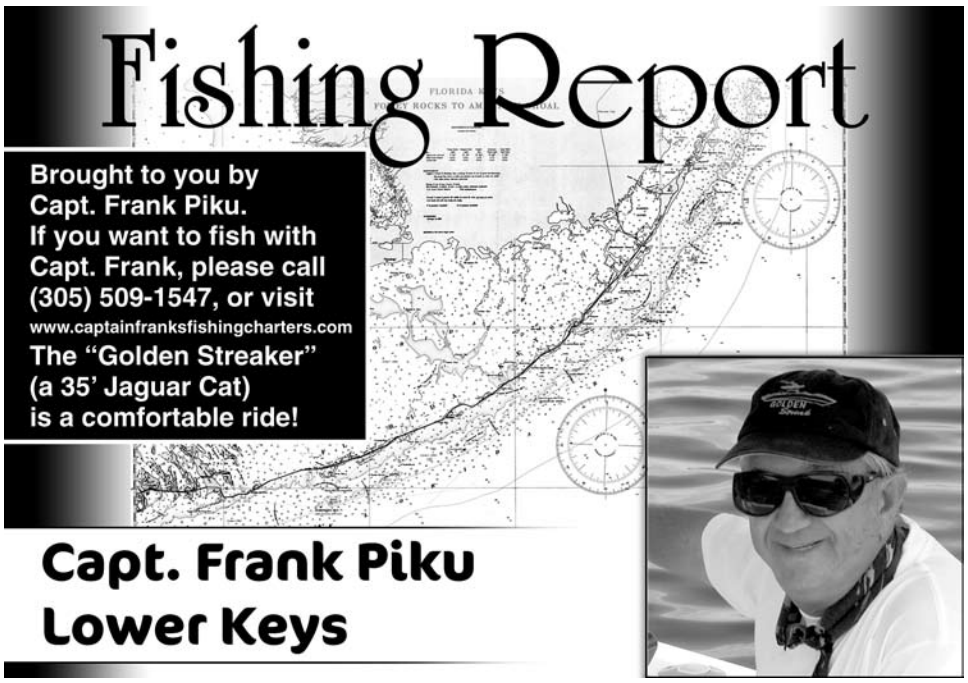
The anglers I guided for the two days had planned their three-day fishing vacation months in advance and were ready to fish regardless of what the weather had to offer. I didn't blame them for this, and after stressing my concerns at the dock we set off to fish the backcountry with plenty of optimism, little did I know what lay ahead of me.

We shot thru the frigid air towards Upper Harbor Key with intensions of starting the day with some sea trout. I took my boat off a plain, and measured a water temperature of a staggering 55 degrees. I immediately thought my temperature gauge was busted and stood up on the poling platform looking for a sea trout mud or any sign of life for that matter. The surrounding water had that look, the look of emptiness. We poled in near Upper Harbor Key and caught mangrove snapper as I went through my thoughts as to what we could accomplish that day. Often when it is cold and all other fishing is tough, I turn to barracuda to fulfill that good fight feeling. We headed inland and found a dark grass flat where the water temps were slightly warmer. I poled in and found the cudas, lots of them, schools of them large and small. These poor guys pulled baits in front of them perfectly and did nothing but get a look at them. Those fish were frozen, all huddled up and warming in the sun, certainly not hungry. It was then when I came to grasp with my obviously correct temperature gauge. I knew that we had just received our cold-water shock for the year and it was currently too cold to catch fish in the backcountry.

The second day we went ocean side in-search of warmer water. It was, but by only a few degrees. We fished all of the near-shore ocean side honey holes searching for anything to take a hook. Barracuda were acting the same as they were the day before, even the lemon sharks were just sleeping on the flats, laying motionless. Found the baby tarpon, couldn't get them to eat, and again were left with some good mangrove snapper fishing as the highlight of the day.

Never do you have a better chance in getting to know someone until on a boat with a day of bad fishing. Collin and Chris, of New York and Connecticut, showed me their great character, as they honestly understood the ups and downs of fishing, yet still fished the downside with a smile.

That only comes with a true love for fishing. I told them I owed them one in July for some bonefish - I hope they take me up on it.



Well, this week's fishing report is not good as the winds have been blowing like Heck and the seas are 11' or more. Also, this cold front has been really cool. This was the time to stay at the dock and clean the boat and redo the fishing tackle. So no report on the fishing!!! Lots of fishing gear has been replaced or re-done on my CAT.

Can't wait to go get them this week as the forecast calls for warmer weather and winds in the 10 to 15 mph range. Also, the fish will be very hungry as we haven't fed them this last week. I'm going on a trip Saturday and Monday and I know we'll find the fish very hungry.

So, now what do I write that will be of interest!

Yes, look at the ads for boats for sale! You will find my Jaguar 35' Catamaran FOR SALE, among the other boats for sale, too. This is a good time to buy a boat, as the winter season has just started and you have all winter to enjoy fishing and boating.

WHY am I selling this awesome Cat? This is the very best center console you can find on the market and it was custom-built. Over 2 years in the building and designing. Has twin 250 E tech Evinrude outboards. These are the quietest outboards on the market and low EPA emisions, too. Not gas guzzlers, but really easy on the fuel consumption. WHY? Each of them are 125lbs lighter than competitive 4-stroke outboards, and plane at 25mph. They just purr and run like h---- warranty 'til January 17, 2010. This cat cruises at 45mph and tops out at 65mph. AWESOME!!!!! Why am I selling it ????

Yes, I forgot to get to that - I'm doing more overnight Sword fishing and want a covered cabin to stay out at night and also fish the Dry Tortugas with overnight accomodations. If you have a sport fish with a small cabin, I'll even consider a trade?!

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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.

Feb. 27-28 & Mar. 1: Captain Leon Shell Memorial Billfish Tournament. Key Colony Beach. Anglers pursue sailfish in honor of the late lure maker who made the Middle Florida Keys his home. The tournament benefits Hospice of the Florida Keys. 27th - Captains Meeting / Late Registration; 28th - first day of fishing; 1st - second day of fishing / banquet; phone: KCB Marina (305) 289-1310; website: www.leonshelltournament.com.

March 6-7: Backbone Lures Fish Til You Lose It. Islamorada. Anglers compete to catch the finned denizens of the flats and backcountry, fishing with one lure until they lose it. Contact Paul Tejera at (305) 393-2156, e-mail captbackbone@gmail.com

March 13-15: Key West Fishing Tournament Kick-Off. Key West & Lower Keys. Targeting multiple species, this annual challenge starts a season-long tournament that awards certificates for outstanding catches and prizes in a host of categories. Contact Doris Harris at (800) 970-9056 or (305) 295-6601, e-mail director@keywestfishingtournament.com, visit www.keywestfishingtournament.com

March 13 - Nov. 30: Key West Fishing Tournament. Key West. This popular 8.5-month-long competition targets more than 40 species of fish. Contact Doris Harris at (305) 295-6601 or (800) 970-9056, e-mail director@keywestfishingtournament.com or visit www.keywestfishingtournament.com.

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Thursday, January 29, 2009
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Greg Kimball (fishing w/the Borraccino's) w/a cobia just short of legal, so it was nicely released.

Results of this couple fishing on the Best Bet; one nice mutton, some big tails & some bonitas. Nice memories are going back to Ohio!

First mate Caveman and Barry Bennet with another big sail fish on the KILLER INSTINCT.

Waiting at the (cleaning) table for treats!

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 . . .

Send your e-mail to: photos@weeklyfisherman.com

Thanks!

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

Last week showed the movie Wind Across The Everglades at the Islamorada Library and it was a huge success. We had to turn people away as the room was full. Those that attended were treated to a great story filmed in our area in 1958. With a cast of stars that included Richard Plummer, Burl Ives, Gypsy Rose Lee, Peter Falk, Chana Eden, McKinley Kantor, Emmett Kelly, Tony Galento, and Sammy Renick. We are hoping to do it again, so others can see it, I will keep you posted on when it will play again.

Then came a big cold front through our area blowing hard right out of the Everglades that made the bay and gulf off limits to fisherman. Strong winds and dropping water temperatures put the bite off for several days and my fishing trips were shifted to the ocean side. Adjusting my departures to later in the morning, we left at more comfortable air temperatures and I focused my attention to the inshore patch reefs between channel 5 and long key bridges. First I had Mike And Sally Davis from Howell, Minnesota, anglers very use to cold temps especially where they are from, and the bite on reef dwellers was almost instant. We brought back a lot of good fish to fillet at Seabird Marina that consisted of Mutton Snapper, Hog Snapper, Porgy's, Lane Snapper and Mangroves. This is great type of fishing down this way with all the action you could want topped off by some incredible good eating. The next day I had 3 anglers from Knoxville, Tennessee, Jim Burger and his son Chris and daughter Savannah. With slightly warmer morning temperatures we made our way through the channel 5 bridge and headed to what I call the 10' Rock and again spent the day with the same excellent results. Throw in some really good size Hog Snappers, and their trip was a success. Again, a lot more cleaning at the dock as they would be taking their catch back home mixed in with a bunch of stone crab claws they would buy to impress their neighbors with a feast. I wish I could be there.

When your fishing inshore , bottom structure is very important and how you approach it is important. You never want to anchor on top of these choice areas but position your boat up current about 100 feet so that when you start to chum, you will draw them out from their cover to your offerings. This way when you start hooking up they will have to fight a long way back to their place to hang you up or break you off. Chum is king out here to get them excited and in a frenzy to feed. I always mix in Menhaden oil, pouring it right on the chum bag in the water, tied to the middle or bow of the boat. I rarely put it off the stern as it can tangle around a line as an angler is bringing in his catch . Unless I'm bringing in bait to throw a net on, it is up front for Capt. Ron. Light to medium spinning outfits normally is all you need to do this type of fishing. I will take 8 outfits on my charters, 3-10lb, 2-12lb, 2-20lb. And 1 -50lb. Outfits that are rigged the night before each trip so I am ready quickly. Leaders can be from 20-50lb. Mono, and of, course Pink Ande has always been my choice. IT WORKS. Two to three feet is about right . I will then slide a 1/8 to 1/4 oz. egg sinker that slides right down to the hook that varies from 1/0 for most of these fish to a 5/0 for grouper and big Muttons. I use no swivels, no snap swivels, nothing that will affect my fishing and spook many of these fish. Sure you might get a few the other way but they get smart quick. Bait can be live Shrimp which all patch fish love to dine on, to squid , pilchards, and Balao. Cut bait like fresh mullet and pinfish can work well here also.

Well that's it for this week. Get yourself ready and head out there and enjoy some wonderful fishing at this time of the year, take only what you need to eat, and release the others for tomorrow.

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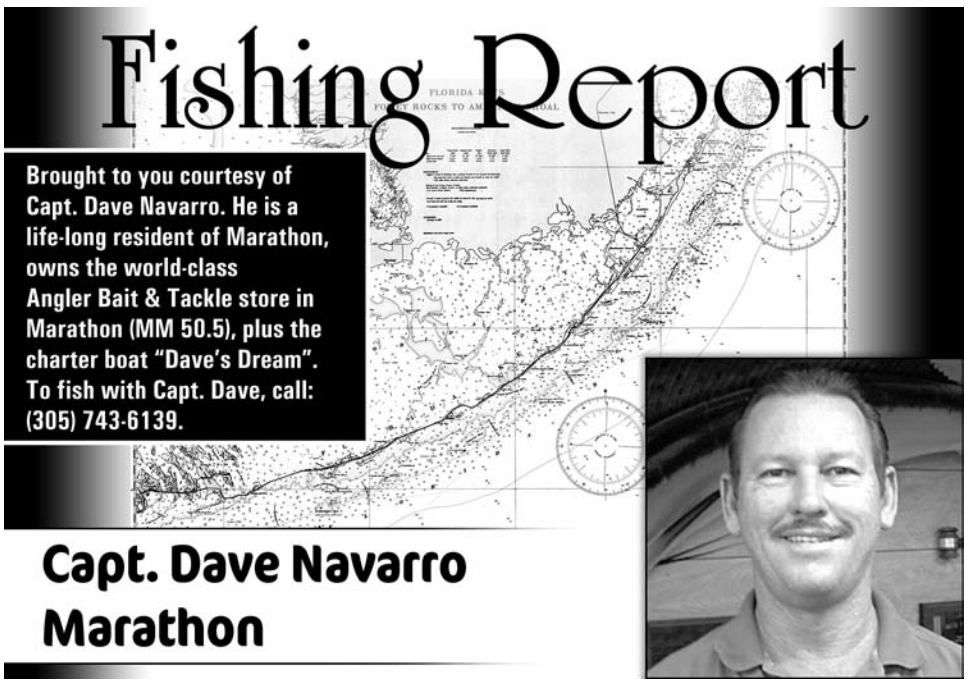
Judge – Ethanol Suit Moves Forward

A District Court judge in southern Florida recently denied a request to dismiss a lawsuit regarding the damage that gasoline blended with ethanol does to boat engines and fuel tanks. The suit was filed last August by The Kopelowitz Ostrow law firm on behalf of clients Erick Kelesceny, John Egizi and Todd Jessup, all Florida residents. Defendants in the case are Exxon, Chevron, Conoco Phillips, BP and Shell. The suit alleges that the oil companies failed to warn boat owners that ethanol-blended gasoline may destroy fiberglass tanks and tends to absorb water and phase separate, which could cause damage to any boat, regardless of its fuel tank material.

The next step following this week's ruling is pursuing certification to become a class-action lawsuit, according to a report in the Naples News. If successful, the oil companies will be forced to place a warning label on pumps at all Florida gas stations. The plaintiffs also seek compensation for Florida boat owners whose boats have been damaged by the fuel.

"Denial of the motion is a significant step toward redressing the wrong perpetrated on Florida's boating population," said TKO managing partner Jeffrey Ostrow, in a statement. "Florida is the boating capital of the world, and it is reprehensible for oil companies to enjoy significant profits, while knowingly paralyzing Florida's boaters."



It's been a long time coming but the sailfish bite is finally on. This past week has been one of the best for sail fishing along the Middle & Upper Keys all winter. The shear numbers of them have been impressive for most of the charter boats as well as quite a few private anglers. On the windy days, they were 'tailing' along the surf and for most of the calmer days, they were found 'balling up' baits just beyond the reef line.

Now it hasn't been so thick as to say that you go out, drop a bait and they are lining up to eat it. But for those that know what to look for, the signs of sailfish have been evident. Most of the action has been from the edge to 180 feet of water where you should look for 'bait sprays' which is areas of baitfish spraying out of the water in an attempt to escape becoming lunch for the sailfish. Other signs are large dark areas of water where baitfish have been 'balled up' into a tight circle by the sailfish, 'tailing' sailfish which is where you will see their fins cutting through the surface of the water and the most obvious sign of all, actually seeing them jumping out of the water.

The best baits have been the live ones, of course. Live pilchards, live ballyhoo, small live blue runners, small live bonito are all good. Live pinfish are not a usual favorite of sailfish, mostly because they are not used to seeing them. This is not to say that they won't eat them, as I know they will on occasion. The other baits that are working well are a trolled dead ballyhoo or many different lures have been effective.

One of the keys to the good sail fishing is actually due to a lack of another species that is usually here in abundance now. The best rig for sailfish is to have a monofilament leader, not wire. Usually the kingfish are so thick along the reef line this time of year that it is almost impossible to keep a live bait in the water on mono without getting cut off repeatedly. The kings have slowed this past week, which makes the sail fishing even easier to do properly. This is not to say that you won't find spots with concentrations of kings, just that they are not everywhere as usual. Heck, there are still unusual numbers of dolphin being taken daily with some over 20 pounds.

Even boats anchored up along the reef line have been taking advantage of the sailfish action on 'flat lined' baits behind their boats. Some have had sails on as shallow as 40 feet of water in the past week while most of the lucky anglers were in 80 to 120 feet of water. Most were fishing for yellowtail, which has started to pick up again as waters warm. Action for them has been scattered from 35 to 120 feet of water and not very consistent in a certain depth for more than a couple of days in a row. The fish are moving following the baitfish and do not always stay in a certain depth, just because . . .

Cont. on pg. 19

Let's just put it this way; on more than one occasion this week I had all the doors and windows of my house shut with the oven on and the door open. Obviously my place doesn't have heat. I'm sure everyone is aware by now of the weather conditions last week... near record cold and windy. That being said, you should not be surprised that the fish were affected by the extreme water temperatures.

Near shore and bay water temperatures dropped into the 50's, something that rarely happens in the keys. Any and all fish in water in this temperature range basically shut down. This means that for a week or so there has been very little activity to speak of in the gulf, and in shallow waters oceanside. I had friends and family in town this week who were eager to fish everyday, and ended up pretty disappointed that we were only able to squeeze in a day and half of fishing over their 7 day stay. The good news is that when we did get out, the fishing was good.

When the air temperature drops quickly and drastically, look to deeper water to maintain a more steady temperature, and therefore a more reliable zone to fish. I thought, along with many others, that the cold front would help the sailfish bite improve. It didn't quite have the desired effect. There still appears to be limited numbers of sails around the middle keys, even when conditions seem ideal. There still are some fish on top of the reef chasing schools of ballyhoo (which there seem to be plenty of), and as usual stray singles and small packs out beyond the reef in 100 -200 feet. Boats targeting sailfish and dedicating the day to it can usually catch one or two slow trolling a spread of live baits or rigged ballyhoo, but as for those double digit days we're looking for, well I guess we'll just have to wait for some more fish to migrate south (which they will sooner or later).

Wreck fishing has been the savior for many this week, as the deep water beyond the reef was least affected by the cold air. Mutton snappers upwards of twenty pounds are being found on and near wrecks along with grouper, plentiful amberjacks, and kingfish. Captains Josh Gilmartin and Jason Long on the Best Bet II out of Key Colony Beach put their clients on 9 mutton snappers, a dozen vermillion snappers, a handful of amberjacks, and one sailfish on Friday of this past week, a great catch by any standard. Just remember as always when you're out there to practice good etiquette on the water. Just because you see a boat anchored or drifting and bottom fishing does not mean you should drive over to them. Running up on a boat to steal their spot while they are fishing is an example of poor etiquette, and is never a good idea. This can create a bad situation for everyone.

On another note, things appear to be starting to get back to normal weather wise with temps back in the 70's predicted for the first part

Cont. on pg. 19

Fishing Report

Capt. Dave Schugar
of Sweet Enuf Charters
is located at Castaway's
Restaurant/Marina in Marathon.
If you would like to fish
with Capt. Schugar,
call (305) 610-4778, or visit:
www.sweetenufcharters.com
sweetenufcharter@aol.com

Capt. Dave Schugar
Marathon

Well, I fished up in Islamorada this week practicing for the two tournaments, which we had entered. We didn't win (didn't expect to), but mainly I wanted to give these guys an idea of how to win a tournament - and my clients did pick up the tournament gig near the end of the last day. Everyone on the boat did well and they only will get better with more and more practice. Fishing tournaments is a whole different way to fish than people are used to. Getting the right bait, and hoping you're in the right spot at the right time, when the fish turn on. Sailfish are funny, but what I mean is that you can be in the right place and still not get any bites. But all of a sudden, you'll be covered up by sailfish, and at the same time everyone else who is situated in a feeding area are hooked up too. Its fast and furious and fishing 12-pound line even the littlest things, such as a nick in the line from a faulty clip, will become your worst nightmare.

The sail fishing down here has been great for me, I had out some clients on Friday and in four hours we raised eight fish and releasing three. We had some issues with the bait getting fouled as the fish ate the kite baits. We had a blast as I was saying before, we sat there for two hours without a bite and in two hours we had caught three fish and pulled the hooks on five others. The bite was a little west of the Span and down to the Bahia Honda Bridge. We fished the kites and I haven't done that in almost eight years. Its fun to go fly a kite and even more fun catching fish while you are flying the kite.

The yellowtail have been slow, but I heard that some guys were getting them good out in front of Bahia Honda in 60 feet of water. The muttons have been biting from the reef's edge to the wrecks out into 250 feet. The sharks are still a problem and there is just no getting around the predator problems. I guess, I would try and use heavier tackle and wench them right up to the boat. I talked to a few guys that have been fishing at night and they told me it was great, but cold. To cold for me, I tell you that right now. If I was cold during the day, there is no way you're getting me to go out there at night when the sun has set.

I still don't recommend going to the hump, but if you must expect to catch some small tunas and some AJ's and sharks. There was a great weed line with some dolphin on it in 700 feet and a few others out beyond that. If you willing to rough the seas the fish are waiting out in 700-900 feet of water. There has been some dolphin action around 200-450 feet too. But there are more out beyond 700 feet. The water is cold which will make the fish far an in-between but, if you put some time into it, you will find them.

Good luck and I will see you out there, and by the way the kingfish are starting to get thick, as the water temperature is perfect. I would troll big live baits around wrecks and the drop-off for some great slob kingfish action. I know their just kingfish, but they are whole lot fun to catch. You release sailfish for fun; you might as well do the same thing on the big kings because they don't even smoke that great anyways.

New Economic Report Finds Commercial & Recreational Saltwater Fishing Generated More Than Two Million Jobs

U.S. commercial and recreational saltwater fishing generated more than $185 billion in sales and supported more than two million jobs in 2006, according to a new economic report released by NOAA Fisheries Service. The commercial fishing industry - harvesters, seafood processors and dealers, seafood wholesalers and seafood retailers - generated $103 billion in sales, $44 billion in income and supported 1.5 million jobs in 2006, the most recent year included in the report. Recreational fishing generated $82 billion in sales, $24 billion in income, and supported 534,000 jobs in 2006.

The report breaks down the sales, income and job figures for each coastal state. It also includes descriptive statistics on commercial fish landings, revenue, and price trends; recreational fishing effort, catch, and participation rates; and employer and non-employer establishments, annual payroll, and annual receipt information for fishing-related industries such as seafood retailers and ship and boat building.

Fishing Report

Capt. Joe Trainor fishes multiple locations (NJ, MD, NC, FL & the Bahamas) via five boats & Over Under Adventures.
If you would like to engage Capt. Trainor, please visit www.overundercharters.com joe@overunderadventures.com.

OVER UNDER ADVENTURES
SPORTFISHING AND AIR CHARTERS

Capt. Joe Trainor
The Bahamas

Bahamas fishing remains very good throughout the Bahamas chain. We are continuing to see an increasing amount of dolphin as every week progresses. This is very early for the dolphin to show themselves but we continue to see at least 4 or 5 dolphin bites per trip. There has also been a couple billfish , although not many, there seems to be a couple whites here and there. Wahoo fishing remains strong with the last passing cold front…. The strongest one of the season. Water temps are hovering around 73, 74 so we expect the fishing to remain consistent.

Just got back in from a half day trip which was very successful. Although it was a bit slower, we managed 6 bites in 3 hours of trolling. We quickly got into the action today boating one 25 lb dolphin and pulling the hook on another. We went an hour without a bite before we got bombarded by wahoo . Unfortunately, we went 1-4 on them today as we got bit off on mono , missed two on the deep rod before boating one on a spinning rod. Yup , you heard that correct. I had some locals on the boat today who love to fish and he asked if he could put a 760 Penn spinner out and I said sure go for it . I trolled this from the bridge today with a feather and that was the only one to come tight out of the 4 hooked. After doing battle on the spinner for close to 15 minutes we boated our only wahoo of the day being 25 lbs. After trolling we decided to deep drop catching a bunch of yelloweyes , gueens and mutton snapper. Then we went to the reef to grab some yellowtails. We managed to catch a good bit of tails, although the current wasn't cooperating. The tails seemed to be hanging way out in the slick so getting your bait way back was the key.

Finished a half day today where we did just this . 3 Types of fishing in a half day trip. Bottom fishing, deep dropping and trolling are all within footsteps of each other and all is possible in four hours. After catching some pelagic stop right there and deep drop for some tasty snapper then set your sights on the reef. Anchoring on the reef here is the key. I like to find the dark patches and anchor just in front for unlimited grouper and snapper fishing.

The Out Islands remained hot this week as the wahoo and dolphin bite continued. There also seemed to be a bit of yellowfin around this week just off of Columbus Point in Cat Island. Cow Hunter was once again in on the action as they released a white marlin, as well as catching their fill of dolphin, tuna and wahoo.

Fishing remains excellent throughout the Bahamas chain. On a daily basis we are seeing increasing amounts of dolphin. Wahoo fishing remains some of the best we have seen. Now is the time to get over to the Bahamas while the fishing remains HOT!!!!!

Harry and the Geezers Takes 3 wahoos one being 64.7LB and 5 tuna, a great day at Columbus Point!

www.keysboatexchange.com ranked #1 on Google for Keys "boats for sale".

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1985 46' Ocean Super Sport Boat

2-671 Detroit's JT 450 hp diesel engines with 1825 original hours; 8 KW Gen Set-Galley maid 200 gpd R/O Plant; all new GPS electronics; radar-fathometer; (Furuno)-2 VHF radios; one single side-band radio; KVH-6 Satellite track TV system-2 color TV's with built-in DVD players; 1 Salon/1 main Stateroom; central Vacuum system; 2 Staterooms/2 Bathrooms; Galley down Salon up; Fresh water flush system; 2 central A/C's; Washer/Dryer and a lot of extras!
All refurbished interiors - must see all the teak and wood work! 12 ft. fiberglass Boston Whaler on bow with a 15 hp Johnson-Electric hoist crane. Boat is well maintained - Ready to Fish and Travel!
Was ~~$199,500~~. Priced reduced to $159,500.
Fabulous Boat at a Great Price! Call: Jack Sweeting:
Home: (305) 872-3036; Cell: (305) 395-8738.

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1999 Stamas 31´

Twin 350's fresh H2O cooled (aprox. 450 hrs). Full Tower with steering station & electronics. 2 Furuno Color fish finders; Furuno GPS; Furuno radar. New Eisenglass enclosure. Immaculate Condition Inside and Out. Asking $77,500. Call (305) 289-0455 or (716) 499-2243

2007 Hydra-Sports Vector 2200VX

This is a Brand New Vector 2200VX with a Yamaha F250hp Outboard Motor. Fully Loaded with all the options. Please call or e-mail joliver@johnson-marine.com for all the details. This boat must sell. $61,999 Ask for Joe @ (909) 986-1189.

2007 Hydra-Sports Vector 2900CC

This is a Brand New 2007 Vector 2900 CC with Twin Yamaha F250hp Outboard Motors. Twin Raymarine C120 screens; radar, auto pilot, windlass, two large bait tanks. This boat must sell! $116,899. Call or e-mail joliver@johnson-marine.com with all $$$ offers. Ask for Joe @ (909) 986-1189.

1992 Grady White 28´ Marlin

Twin 250 Yamahas. VHF,GPS, Depth Finder, Stereo, CD. 10'7 beam, Roomy cockpit. Ready for anything. A Must See Boat. Asking $39,500 obo. Call (305) 852-0842 home, or (305) 451-7850 cell

2004 Conch 27 w/Trailer

Less than 250 hrs. on Twin 200 Yamaha engines with Furuno Bottom Machine, Furuno Radar, Search Light, Garmin Chart Plotter, Excellent Condition. Price $90,000. Call John: (305) 744-0291

1988 17'9 ActionCraft

Totally rewired, new tank, incredibly light/bare hull, superb boat for the flats specialist or first-timer, shallow/deep water capabilities that match any $30K boat! One Owner, equipped with 2001 90hp YAMAHA perfectly maintained (only 500 hrs), 2005 custom trailer. Only $8,000. Call Chuck @ (305) 517-9542 - leave message.

2001 Egg Harbor Sport Fisherman

Asking $265,000. Original owner. Pristine Condition! Low hours. Full electronics: GPS, Radar, Autopilot, VHF, Depthfinder. Teak interior in NEW condition. Professionally maintained and Seasonal Usage only. Located in Islamorada. Call (609) 731-1712

2005 18´ ActionCraft

With Trailer, 150HP Yamaha with Garmin Chart Plotter and Fishfinder. Low Hours, Excellent Condition. Price $22,000. Call John @ (305) 744-0291

1985 Proline 20'-

With 2002 Mercury outboard – serviced 2003. GPS, Depth Finder, Radio & Trailer. Asking $6,500 obo. Call: (630) 334-1175 (cell), or (305) 289-4205 (home).

Maverick 17´ Flats Boat

Kevlar; 155 hrs. 4-stroke Yamaha; trolling motor, power pole; custom poling platform with backrest; 2nd casting platform for bow casting; extra cleats, thru-hull lifting eye in bow; spare prop; trim tabs; VHF radio;boat rack with wheels; extra rod holders; 2 new batteries; new shore battery charger; cushions, anchor, etc. Dry weight with engine: 1,115 lbs. - $17,500 Call (305) 607-4136 (owner direct).

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2001 Cobra Center Console

2003 200 HP Mercury with stainless steel prop. Includes: Garmin GPS; aerated baitwell; Bimini top; tandem axle trailer. In Islamorada . . .
Must sell before January 30th! $12,900. (417) 712-1950, or tmorgan@pontiaccove.com

Hydra-Sports, 2004, 230

225 HP 4-stroke Yamaha, 110 hrs, recent service, extended warranty. T-Top; fishbox; bait well; self-bailing cockpit; trim tabs; twin batteries; swim platform w/ladder. VHF; AM/FM/CD; Garmin GPS; port toilet, galley sink, yellow hull. No trailer. $35,000. Tavernier.
E-mail: skellyre@aol.com, or phone: (772) 486-3442

2003 Action Craft 1720 Flats Master

Comes with 115 4-stroke Yamaha outboard with 175 hrs; poling tower; push pole; GPS; VHF radio; aluminum trailer. This boat is in pristine condition & ready to fish. See it at Action Marine MM 102. $15,995
Call (305) 451-1840,
or e-mail:Actionmarine102@aol.com

1995 268 Grady White Islander

One owner, inside-stored boat w/low hr. twin Johnson 200 outboards. The boat is pristine. Radar; GPS; galley; sleepers; head. Roomy rear area. As close to new as you can get & priced to sell. See it at Action Marine MM 102. $25,995. Call:
(305) 451-1840 or e-mail: actionmarine102@aol.com

Jaguar 35' Catamaran

Smooth Ride! Easy on the gas, planes@15mph, cruises@45mph, tops@65mph. Evinrude E-Tech Twin 250hp Outboards warranty 'til Jan 2010. Health forces sale; Best Equipped Center Console 35' on the market. Includes custom 6 wheel, 3 axle Trailer. Call Frank
Piku (305) 509-1547 or e-mail: fpiku@comcast.com

2005 Angler 2600

Twin 200hp 4-stroke Johnsons; clean boat; dry racked its entire life (exc during use). Dive ladder & tuna door; less than 250 hrs on engines; Garmin 3210 GPS; linked Garmin GSD Sounder; Uniden VHF; head; lg. live well; add. outriggers; anchor w/line. Asking $38,000, obo.
Call (305) 240-3916, or e-mail: hydroslider@hotmail.com

2003 Parker 2510 Walkaround

2003 Yamaha 225 4-stroke; mod. V-hull; swim plat; kicker bracket; full-enclosure curtains; bimini; Garmin GPS; depth finder; marine radio; AM/FM/CD; live box; fresh & salt water washdowns. Cust. stg. cvr. Low hrs. Alum. trailer incl. $44,500.
Jim (305) 872-5496 or e-mail jimjanewatermolen@msn

1997 Proline 2700 cc

Upper station w/controls; great electronics; super heavy-duty windlass; console cover; leaning post cover; engine covers. Twin 250 Mercury engines low hrs.; head; T-top w/slide-out enlargement. This boat is a steal. See it at Action Marine MM 102. Call: (305) 451-1840,
or e-mail actionmarine102@aol.com

25' Custom Lookout Open Fisherman

Built 2005 in Beaufort, NC. T-Top, Center Console, Live Well, 200 HP Yamaha HPDI, Motor Mount, Tandem Trailer. Must Go!
$19,500.00 or Best Offer.
(252) 202-3078
e-mail: 2lakes@pinn.net

1986 29' Aquasport Tourney 290 Sportfish

'02 Twin Mercruiser V-8's w/450 hrs, freshwater cooled. '02 B/W velvet-drive transmissions. '09 elect.; head; full tower w/dual cont; windlass; trim tabs; sleeps 4; fighting chair; outriggers; Tri-axle trailer. Call (305) 745-2992 or (860) 529-2084 or e-mail: mwalexander@cox.net.ing $29,500. Located in Cudjoe.

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info@charterboatassociation.com
P.O. Box 462 Islamorada, FL 33036

Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association Inc.

Key Largo (Ocean Reef)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height
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
Jan 29	Thu		03:59 AM / -0.27 ft	10:15 AM / 2.27 ft	04:21 PM / -0.27 ft	10:36 PM / 2.20 ft
Jan 30	Fri		04:37 AM / -0.17 ft	10:50 AM / 2.21 ft	04:59 PM / -0.34 ft	11:19 PM / 2.18 ft
Jan 31	Sat		05:19 AM / -0.03 ft	11:28 AM / 2.14 ft	05:43 PM / -0.37 ft	
Feb 1	Sun	12:06 AM / 2.14 ft	06:07 AM / 0.13 ft	12:10 PM / 2.06 ft	06:33 PM / -0.37 ft	
Feb 2	Mon	12:59 AM / 2.09 ft	07:02 AM / 0.28 ft	01:00 PM / 2.00 ft	07:33 PM / -0.37 ft	
Feb 3	Tue	02:02 AM / 2.06 ft	08:07 AM / 0.39 ft	02:01 PM / 1.96 ft	08:40 PM / -0.40 ft	
Feb 4	Wed	03:11 AM / 2.07 ft	09:17 AM / 0.39 ft	03:12 PM / 1.98 ft	09:49 PM / -0.50 ft	

Big Pine (West Side - Pine Channel)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height
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
Jan 29	Thu		07:13 AM / -0.06 ft	12:09 PM / 0.65 ft	07:11 PM / 0.01 ft	
Jan 30	Fri	12:12 AM / 0.75 ft	07:40 AM / -0.02 ft	12:38 PM / 0.69 ft	08:00 PM / -0.02 ft	
Jan 31	Sat	12:58 AM / 0.65 ft	08:10 AM / 0.02 ft	01:09 PM / 0.72 ft	08:56 PM / -0.04 ft	
Feb 1	Sun	01:52AM / 0.54ft	08:43AM / 0.07ft	01:44PM / 0.75ft	10:01PM / -0.06ft	
Feb 2	Mon	03:00AM / 0.42ft	09:21AM / 0.11ft	02:29PM / 0.77ft	11:17PM / -0.09ft	
Feb 3	Tue	04:32AM / 0.33ft	10:09AM / 0.14ft	03:29PM / 0.80ft		
Feb 4	Wed		12:38AM / -0.13ft	06:19AM / 0.30ft	11:13AM / 0.16ft	04:45PM / 0.83ft

Islamorada (Whale Harbor)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height
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
Jan 29	Thu		04:45 AM / -0.13 ft	10:41 AM / 1.30 ft	05:07 PM / -0.13 ft	11:02 PM / 1.26 ft
Jan 30	Fri		05:23 AM / -0.08 ft	11:16 AM / 1.27 ft	05:45 PM / -0.16 ft	11:45 PM / 1.25 ft
Jan 31	Sat		06:05 AM / -0.01 ft	11:54 AM / 1.22 ft	06:29 PM / -0.17 ft	
Feb 1	Sun	12:32AM / 1.23ft	06:53AM / 0.06ft	12:36PM / 1.18ft	07:19PM / -0.18ft	
Feb 2	Mon	01:25AM / 1.20ft	07:48AM / 0.13ft	01:26PM / 1.15ft	08:19PM / -0.18ft	
Feb 3	Tue	02:28AM / 1.18ft	08:53AM / 0.18ft	02:27PM / 1.12ft	09:26PM / -0.19ft	
Feb 4	Wed	03:37AM / 1.18ft	10:03AM / 0.18ft	03:38PM / 1.14ft	10:35PM / -0.24ft	

Cudjoe Key (Pirates Cove)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height
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	
Jan 29	Thu	03:00 AM / 1.22 ft	08:15 AM / -0.11 ft	03:38 PM / 0.97 ft	08:13 PM / 0.02 ft	
Jan 30	Fri	03:41 AM / 1.11 ft	08:42 AM / -0.04 ft	04:07 PM / 1.02 ft	09:02 PM / -0.03 ft	
Jan 31	Sat	04:27 AM / 0.96 ft	09:12 AM / 0.05 ft	04:38 PM / 1.07 ft	09:58 PM / -0.08 ft	
Feb 1	Sun	05:21AM / 0.79ft	09:45AM / 0.13ft	05:13PM / 1.11ft	11:03PM / -0.12ft	
Feb 2	Mon	06:29AM / 0.63ft	10:23AM / 0.21ft	05:58PM / 1.14ft		
Feb 3	Tue		12:19AM / -0.17ft	08:01AM / 0.50ft	11:11AM / 0.27ft	06:58PM / 1.18ft
Feb 4	Wed		01:40AM / -0.24ft	09:48AM / 0.45ft	12:15PM / 0.30ft	08:14PM / 1.23ft

Marathon (Boot Key Harbor)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height
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
Jan 29	Thu		04:38 AM / -0.17 ft	10:47 AM / 1.38 ft	04:34 PM / 0.03 ft	10:52 PM / 1.58 ft
Jan 30	Fri		05:02 AM / -0.04 ft	11:17 AM / 1.48 ft	05:22 PM / -0.02 ft	11:37 PM / 1.38 ft
Jan 31	Sat		05:26 AM / 0.10 ft	11:49 AM / 1.58 ft	06:19 PM / -0.07 ft	
Feb 1	Sun	12:27AM / 1.16ft	05:52AM / 0.24ft	12:27PM / 1.68ft	07:28PM / -0.11ft	
Feb 2	Mon	01:28AM / 0.92ft	06:22AM / 0.36ft	01:12PM / 1.76ft	08:49PM / -0.17ft	
Feb 3	Tue	02:47AM / 0.73ft	07:03AM / 0.47ft	02:08PM / 1.83ft	10:11PM / -0.27ft	
Feb 4	Wed	04:51AM / 0.63ft	08:13AM / 0.54ft	03:17PM / 1.89ft	11:24PM / -0.40ft	

Key West (South Side Hawk Channel)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height	Time/Height
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
Jan 29	Thu		04:51 AM / -0.13 ft	10:56 AM / 1.34 ft	04:49 PM / 0.02 ft	10:59 PM / 1.54 ft
Jan 30	Fri		05:18 AM / -0.04 ft	11:25 AM / 1.42 ft	05:38 PM / -0.04 ft	11:45 PM / 1.34 ft
Jan 31	Sat		05:48 AM / 0.05 ft	11:56 AM / 1.48 ft	06:34 PM / -0.09 ft	
Feb 1	Sun	12:39AM / 1.10ft	06:21AM / 0.15ft	12:31PM / 1.54ft	07:39PM / -0.14ft	
Feb 2	Mon	01:47AM / 0.87ft	06:59AM / 0.24ft	01:16PM / 1.59ft	08:55PM / -0.20ft	
Feb 3	Tue	03:19AM / 0.69ft	07:47AM / 0.31ft	02:16PM / 1.64ft	10:16PM / -0.28ft	
Feb 4	Wed	05:06AM / 0.62ft	08:51AM / 0.35ft	03:32PM / 1.71ft	11:33PM / -0.38f	

Moon Phases

New: 02/24/09 • First Quarter: 02/02/09
Full: 02/09/09 • Last Quarter: 02/16/09

All Tide predictions may not be accurate. The Weekly Fisherman accepts no liabilities associated with any referenced use of the above-listed tidal information.

Capt. Navarro cont. from pg. 13

This season has been phenomenal for yellowtail, not for the numbers but more so for the average size of the fish that have been taken. I have seen more big happy faces of anglers that were holding up their day's prize, which have been what we call 'flags,' big yellowtail over 4 or 5 pounds. Sometimes I couldn't see the face for the fish as I passed them in one of the local canals. There's nothing like getting a hit from a 'flag' yellowtail, (except for maybe hooking a Buick on the highway!) It is nice to go fishing and not to have to even think about measuring a fish to see if it is legal.

One thing that I have found that has been absolutely extraordinary for catching yellowtail has been something that I recently tried. The Owner Mutu Light Circle Hook has been devastating on catching them. What I found was that with either live shrimp or silversides as bait, these circle hooks worked extremely well on not only hook up ratio but all were hooked in the lip. This is awesome because if you want to release a fish, the odds of a lip hooked fish surviving are great as opposed to a fish that has the hook deeply embedded into his inner body or gills.

Another big advantage is the fact that you do not have to re-tie on so many hooks as you do when you loose one deep into a fish and have to cut the line. With them being lip-hooked, it is easy to remove not only for you but also for the fish. Plus, you don't loose the hook. Yes, these fancier hooks cost more money than the conventional ones but if you factor in your losses, the amount of leader that you loose when you have to cut off and the time lost from fishing while you are sitting & rigging, you actually save money with them. (What would you rather have in your hands, your rigging pliers or your favorite beverage?)

This week's free fishing seminar is on yellowtail and reef snappers. It is being held this Sunday evening from 6 to 8pm @ our Marine Educational Center at our new location at 3740 Overseas Highway.

Capt. Borraccino cont. from pg. 13

of the week. This should help the yellowtail fishing, which is still unpredictable, but seems to getting better. On Saturday, we had a nice school of big tails behind the boat and eating on almost every drift. But, they are still a bit lethargic, and the bite didn't last too long. It's day to day, so, as usual, you'll just have to try it for yourself to see when and if they're biting.

I think everyone is looking forward to this week – as the water heats up, so should the fishing.

Good luck this week and be safe on the water . . .

Capt. McCaddie cont. from pg. 4

long time usually. That was the case in this situation as well. We just couldn't gain any line on the fish no matter what we did. Finally after an hour of fighting the fish I knew that it was indeed foul hooked and in order to land it we had to tighten the drag excessively or the fish would die from fighting so long and being pulled in backwards. Since we don't kill sails at Robbie's Marina I decided to explain the situation to the angler and inform her that we had to tighten the drag even though it was very likely that this would cause the hook to pull out of the fish's skin.

We did tighten the drag to what seemed to be an appropriate level only to have the hook pull out less than a minute later. It was disappointing after that long of a fight, but the whole boat understood that the fish's life was most likely saved. In the end we all knew that we did the right thing.

We found nice muttons on Friday morning in about 120 feet eating ballyhoo plugs fished on long leaders. The spot we were on also had a nice kingfish bite and lots of blue runners. Don't be afraid to try for muttons this time of year. They may not be biting like they do in May, but they are out there and they have to eat.

Thanks for reading – Capt. Brian

KEYS CAPTAIN & GUIDE DIRECTORY

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

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

Listings in this Directory are available for only $5.50/week, = $286/year print and web.

Lower Keys — Big Pine Key to Key West

Captain / Charter		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.) — Big Pine Key to Key West

Captain / Charter		Contact Info
Capt. Frank Piku Daytime/Nightime Swordfishing Trips	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 keyflat@mac.com	FL/FLY/LT/BC/TP	(305) 304-3152 www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com
Capt. Barry / Capt. James Eva Marie Sportfishing	OFF/REEF/WR bgandrews18@aol.com	(305) 407-4381 (305) 304-6283

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

Listings in this Directory are available for only $5.50/week, = $286/year print and web.

Upper Keys — Key Largo to Islamorada

Captain / Charter		Contact Info
Capt. Greg Eklund Cloud Nine Charters	OFF/REEF/WR/FL	(305) 360-7476 www.islamoradafishingtrips.com
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.captwellsgable@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.fishtalessportfishing.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.) — Key Largo to Islamorada

Captain / Charter		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 whereisdl@yahoo.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 www.florida-keys-fishing-guides.com	(305) 393-5269 CaptainBruce@florida-keys-fishing-guides.com

Middle Keys — Long Key to Marathon

Captain / Charter		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
Main Attraction	OFF/REEF	(305) 289-0071 www.mainattraction.org