

FREE The Original Weekly **Fisherman**

& the Keys Boat Exchange

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

Vol. XI • Issue 33

Serving the Keys Fishing Community Since 1998



Justin Rea caught and released this 22lb. permit on fly last week fishing with Capt. Steve Friedman in the lower keys. This now beats the previous Rea house record held by his wife, Loren who had the title with a 20 pounder.

Contact Us: (305) 766-BOAT (2628) • www.weeklyfisherman.com • 02/18/09

\$10 OFF
YOUR DINNER TAB*

BLUEWATER TIKI BAR
Oceanfront Dining

MM 82.1 OCEANSIDE, ISLAMORADA 305-664-2031
ON THE BEACH AT THE ISLANDER RESORT

*TO BE USED FOR FOOD OR NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ONLY. GRATUITIES NOT INCLUDED. LIMIT ONE PER TABLE PER VISIT. NOT VALID WITH OTHER DISCOUNTS. NOT REDEEMABLE DURING HOLIDAYS AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

CUDJOE SALES
2009 FISHERMEN'S WAREHOUSE
SHIMANO
Fishing Tour

with **VEC MAVERICK BOAT COMPANY**

Enter to Win a **PATHFINDER 2000 BAY BOAT**
with Yamaha F150 Outboard

FREE Seminars from Shimano Pros & Local Captains

Next Upcoming Events: FEB. 27, 1-7PM • FEB. 28, 8-7PM
At: **CUDJOE SALES** • 22536 US Hwy 1, MM 22.5, Cudjoe Key

For more info & complete 2009 schedule visit:
<http://fish.shimano.com/tour>

Feb. 18th, 2009

Volume XI, Issue 33

In This Issue . . .

Special Features

Shimano Fishing Tour	2
KBE - Featured Boat	9
7th Annual Key West Boat Show	10
11th Annual Leon Shell Memorial Tourney	10
Key West Fishing Tournament	11

Regular Features

Fishing Reports	3-9, 12-15
She's at Sea - Elizabeth Jolin	6
Tournament Listings (through March '09)	10
Tide Tables	18
Captain & Guide Directory	19-20



Advertisers

Barefoot Baits	19
Bluewater Tiki Bar	BC
Capt. Ron Wagner	2
Capt. Steve Murray	6
Cudjoe Sales	BC
DJ's Reel Repair	9
Fish Tales Charter Boat - Islamorada	6
Kev's Café	14
Keys Boat Exchange	15-17
Keys Custom Rods	14
Keys Magic Charters	6
Keys Plastics Shop	3
Key West Bait & Tackle	8
Key West Marine Hardware	6
Main Attractions Charters	14
Over Under Adventures	9

Published by Hot Toddy & Family

©2009 - All Rights Reserved. No photographs, descriptions, art, or other items submitted to The Weekly Fisherman may be reproduced without prior written permission.

Contact Elizabeth at (305) 766-BOAT (2628) or, by e-mail: info@weeklyfisherman.com for ad sales and other information.

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

2009 SHIMANO FISHING TOUR

Visit with Reps and Pros from Shimano, Maverick Boat Company, Costa Del Mar, Sebile Lures, Power Pro and Better Bait Systems.

Attend "Meet the Shimano Pros Cocktail Reception" pre-event tour party sponsored by Bacardi, with drinks & hors d'oeuvres. Meet special guest & TV host Rick Murphy as well as local Shimano Pros.

Listen to the latest techniques from flats to offshore with our resident professionals. View and test the latest products from Shimano and other tour sponsors.

Enter to win thousands of dollars in prizes from Maverick, Shimano, Costa Del Mar, Power Pro, Sebile Lures and Better Bait Systems.

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO WIN

FEB 27th, 1-7 pm • FEB 28th, 8-7 pm

- CUDJOE SALES -

22536 OVERSEAS HWY. • MM 22.5 • CUDJOE KEY

WWW.CUDJOESALES.COM



Bob (Topper) Topoleski, Great Meadows NJ, went tuna fishing using butterfly jigs on the Marathon Hump. Topper caught this nice 18 lb. blackfin on the Latitude Adjustment with his friend, Capt. Bill Thomas of Marathon.

Capt. Ron Wagner

WWW.CAPTAINRONWAGNER.COM

Backcountry • Flats • Gulf

**Bonefish • Tarpon • Permit • Snook
Redfish • Cobia • Trout • Sharks**

HALF DAY • FULL DAY • ALL TACKLE PROVIDED

(305) 664-2028

FUN, FRIENDLY & PROFESSIONAL

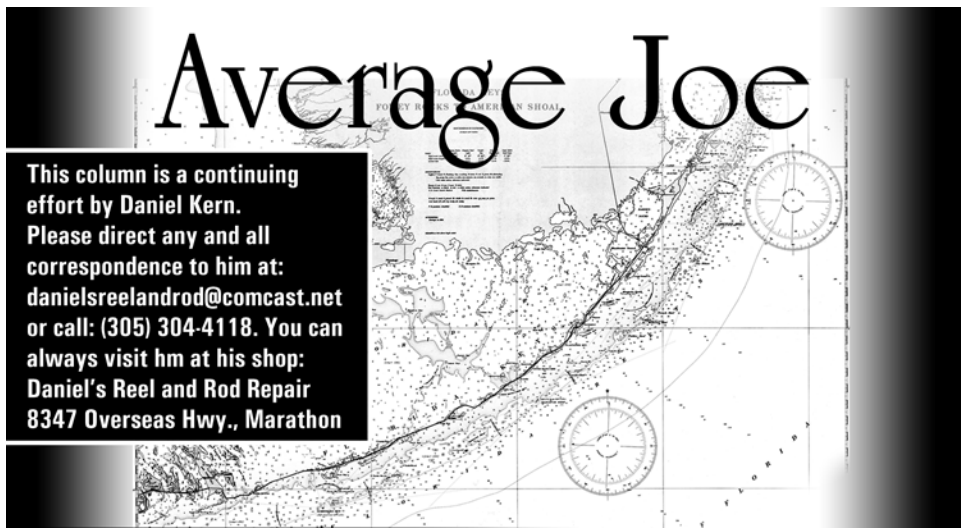
Weekly Fisherman's Captain & Guide Directory reaches 1000's of locals & tourists each week via our distribution sites from Florida City to Key West, plus, of course, www.weeklyfisherman.com.

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



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, what ever you say . . . is gospel."

With the waters warming up, the fishin' is heatin' up also. The Gulf Stream was close in bringing with it those tasty Mahi Mahi; with my wife and I being humble recipients of some fresh fillets. Ah, yes, the perks. Some day (and I just keep sayin' some day), I'm gonna' get out there and catch some of those flashy blue-green streaks myself . . . yea right . . . some day.

Those days are comin' soon . . . right after the "Silver King" (it's a beautiful thing . . . miss ya Randy) make their annual spring migration to our waters . . . close on their tail fins are our spring and summer "Chinese fire drill" we call fishin' for dolphin.

I also heard of some really big "Smoker" Kings hittin' the deck. One story teller was not so pleased with his "gaff man" . . . who beat and stabbed his trophy 40lb King Mack right off his hook and into freedom.



Lauren Douglas shows off a nice red caught on spin gear while fishing in the Flamingo area with Capt J.R. Gabriel.



Of course the "gaff man" told another side to the story. I'm not sure which of these 40 plus year friends to believe; as they trashed and ribbed each other as only good old friends can do. Hey, if ya can't make your friends look foolish . . . who can ya make fun of?

CATCH OF THE WEEK ---

Sometime Ocean Isles Fishing Village resident, "Chiz" Burdett and friend made the best of a very snotty day headin' off shore and came home with a bounty of fish. To quote Chiz, "When the "wimps" were just 'a sittin' at the dock this "Ole West Virginia boy just claimed the promise of Genesis 1:26, and went forth catchin' Flag Yellowtails, large Mangroves, 20lb. Muttons, Groupers that looked to be close to 30 pounds and Sail Dogs on blue and white lures. In case you're not familiar with the Bible, Gen. 1:26 says God gave us dominion over the fish of the sea. Thank you Father!

Chiz is the sporting type, using lighter tackle than most. Whatever he used, he certainly knows what he's doin'; I saw the pictures as proof. Not that I would ever question anyone with his ability to defend, cross-examine, overrule, and object with the highest degree of authority. Court adjourned.

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

I welcome disagreements, corrections, or comments; along with your favorite fishin' adventure. I'm always looking for fishin' reports, stories, or tales. E-mail them to me at: danielsreelandrod@comcast.net, phone (305) 304-4118, or come by my shop:

Daniel's Reel and Rod Repair, 8347 Overseas Hwy, Marathon, FL. 33050

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

Daniel Kern 

Keys Plastics Shop

Custom Fabrication of:
King Starboard • Plexiglas • Lexan • PVC

- Consoles Doors
- Windows
- Tackle Centers



- Dash Panels
- Hatches
- Display Cases

FAST Turnaround!

Replace Your Teak with Starboard Forever!
MM 90.8 Tavernier Creek Marina, Tavernier • (305) 852-0100

Vacation Opportunity . . .

Fishing, Skiing, Travel to Europe or Overseas . . . Go Anywhere!

If you think the fishing is good in the Fabulous Florida Keys, why not try Belize, Costa Rica, Mexico – where's your dream fish?

Retail value - \$3,500 for 7 days, now offering for \$800. Can also be an all inclusive (meals, drinks, etc., but not airfare). Send e-mail to: vacation@weeklyfisherman.com for more information and details . . .



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



This past week I had the pleasure and the honor of going fishing with four American men who chose years ago to serve their country. Three were enlisted men, one was an officer, all are heroes. They were part of a group down here from Walter Reed Hospital in Washington D.C. These men all carried scars and horrific wounds that stop you in your tracks. They referred to the moment that they were wounded in terms like “there I was walking on patrol and I got blown up” or “there was a flash and I was down crawling to my buddy” almost like me saying “then the fish peeled off 200 yards of line”. It just happened and they moved on. They spoke of the efforts that they’re making to get back into shape to go back to Iraq, but in terms of when they get their running leg adjusted and their stump heals completely. I heard a Staff Sargent from North Carolina who handles bomb sniffing dogs explain to me with total clarity

Fishing Report

The Islamorada Offshore Fishing Report is brought to you by Capt. Joe Petrucco of Killer Instinct Charters, located at Fiesta Key Campgrounds – MM70. If you are interested in fishing with Capt. Joe, call (305) 304-4580, or visit www.killerinstinctcharters.com.

Capt. Joe Petrucco Islamorada Offshore




What a beautiful week here in the Florida Keys. The weather was superb. This is why so many come and spend time here in the winter months to enjoy the mild temps and hot fishing action. The sailfish were on the slower end this week however; anyone willing to put in their time got their chances and many fish were caught and released. Capt. Mel Walker on the GOTCHA from Holiday Isle was successful at releasing sails more than a few times this week. Capt. Scott Stanzyk on the CATCH 22 from Bud & Mary’s marina also caught many sails for his anglers throughout the week with six releases on Sunday. The best action seems to be up by Conch reef, only a short ride from anywhere in Islamorada. Ballyhoo are still the number one bait in 90-120 feet of water. We should have a little more wind this coming week so the goggle eyes and blue runners from a kite will get the job done. The wahoo


and need, how he will be back on patrol in combat as soon as he gets his wind back and his sprint times down. All this as he was adjusting the spring action on his artificial leg! There was no false bravado here, just everyday American men who have made sacrifices of their time, their bodies and their futures, so the rest of the world (not just America) may be a better place.

They were far removed from the hours of therapy that make up their days and were given a dose of the medicine that can only be found out on the water while fishing. The effect of the day’s fishing was so effective, yet so simple, you could see the disconnect from the hospital. When you are concentrating on a running, leaping sailfish on a blue - blue sea, you can’t and won’t look too much past the task at hand. That is the beauty and power of fishing. We were fishing on the charter boat “Relentless” out of Bud ‘n Mary’s Marina. Capt. Paul Ross and mate Jimmy Hendricks put on a show! It’s no wonder these guys have dominated the sailfish game as of late, they never stop looking for signs of bait, birds and sailfish. We ran up and down the reef-line all day, constantly changing baits and setups as conditions changed throughout the day. We caught 3 sails the first day and they caught 6 sails on the second day winning the tourney that was held for them and their buddies.

The level of commitment these men showed to recover and move on is amazing and humbling. I have an artificial knee and another is in my future, but I will never complain about either joint again. If you come across a soldier or veteran, take the time to shake their hand and tell them “Thank You” (personal “world views” are not necessary).

Thank you to all of the boat crews and to Mangrove Mike’s for taking care of these soldiers from Walter Reed. Also, thanks to the Elk’s Club for their efforts, the lunches from The Island Grill, and so many other people who helped. Thanks to Elizabeth (of this paper), for all of her efforts – she somehow fit into her schedule to work as the committee boat/tournament director, plus made sure these soldiers had fun on the water. 

were moving through the reef this week as several nice fish from 35-55 pounds were taken. They will usually show up in a pack of three to five fish so be ready for multiples if possible. Live baiting speedos on the reef edge and on wrecks out to 160 feet will produce huge results. An added benefit is that the sails and smoker kings love them too. The bad news is that they can be challenging to procure. While we are on the subject of PROCURE, I have found a great new product that helps me to catch fish. The name of the company is PROCURE and they sell products to add scent to your offerings. The super squid gel is my favorite one. Add a drop to your squid rig to entice more and larger snappers and groupers to bite your deep rigs. Smear some on your high speed jig for that extra touch on days when the bite is slower. I have even got fish to bite a bare hook with it! You can find it on-line at www.procure.com. Try it out, you will not be disappointed. They also make a dye to make your ballyhoo bright green, pink, and or blue. The bright green ballyhoo are really brilliant in the sunlight. The mahi mahi should be able to find them easier this spring when we shift our sights to the offshore grounds.

The kings have been steady on the wrecks up and down the coast from Pickles to Tennessee reef. All that is required is some live ballyhoo or cigar minnows. Drop one down on a dropper loop rig with #5 or #6 wire and a ha ha stinger for great results. Of course the downrigger works very well as the depth fished will be more precise. Capt. J.R. Rudzin on the CAPT. JR from Holiday Isle is a downrigger master. He has been deploying a downrigger in his fishing system for over 20 years. He catches wahoo, tuna, dolphin, snapper, king fish, and grouper on his deep baits routinely. If you like to troll with live or dead baits, a downrigger will make a great addition to your arsenal. Enjoy another fabulous week of fishing in world famous Islamorada. See you next week! 

Fishing Report

Brought to you by
Capt. Brian McCadie
who Captain's the
Captain Michael Party Boat
out of Robbie's Marina
MM 77.5 (bayside).
If you are interested in fishing
with Capt. Brian
call (305) 664-8070.

Capt. Brian McCadie Islamorada Reef



If you have been reading my reports for a while you will probably remember that I always like the darkening side of the moon phase. A waning moon always seems to produce better fishing on the reef. Thus far this has proven true yet again. This past week brought big king mackerels, red groupers, mangrove snappers, mutton snappers and more yellowtails than we have caught in a couple of months.

When it came to the yellowtails and mangroves the common rule was the shallower you fished the better you did. Our hottest 'tail bite was on a patch reef that was 18ft deep. We fished it repeatedly over the course of the week and it just kept on producing. The only time we fished it without success was on Thurs. when the water had begun to clear up. Prior to that, the water was very dirty everywhere and it made the snappers a lot more susceptible to our antics.

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.rodeocharter.com.

Capt. George Clark, Jr. Key Largo Offshore




Do you know the thing I like best about Florida? If you get frustrated with the weather you don't have to wait very long before it changes. So within a few days after a wicked cold snap, the sun can pop out, wind lighten up and things can heat up quickly. Lately we have enjoyed some of the best weather in the past several months regarding perfect conditions and great fishing. Although this is still sail fish season and they are still here and biting well, there are so many other things happening too! For instance reef fishing has been great. Mutton snapper have lead the way here with grouper running a close second and yellow tail snapper are just in a league of their own and biting very good. Mutton snapper are a keys favorite and the numbers of fish right now may be as good as we have seen in several years. Although these tasty fish haven't been giant by any means they are 4 to 6 pound fish. That is the size of a very large yellow tail

The one fish that I was hoping to be able to come up with this week but couldn't was ballyhoo. The charter boats have been catching them fairly consistently early in the morning over grassy bottoms but they just haven't been anywhere near where we typically fish. I love using live ballyhoo on the bottom this time of year in the patches for muttons and groupers.

Another thing the 'hoos are helpful with are the king macks. Since we didn't have any live baits we stuck to using dead ballyhoo flat lined back in the chum slick then jigged back to the boat. On Tuesday afternoon we fished the edge of the reef for kings and groupers. The groupers sure didn't bite for us that day but the kings were jumping on basically every bait we put in the water. The big star of the day was a 45-pound king that ate a bait right before we were to head home. We ended up pulling the anchor in order to chase the trophy which was hooked on 12-pound test. After about 35 minutes we finally gaffed the fish and pulled it into the boat. Not only did that monster end up in the icebox but also on the angler's wall. The measurements were sent off to Grey's Taxidermy and the fish will be living permanently up in Illinois.

Finally, the night fishing really picked up for Capt. Ron on the 7:30 trip. Thursday night he ended up boating 10 mutton snappers, a bunch of mangroves, vermilion, yellowtails, almaco jacks and margates. He said it was constant action from the drop of the anchor until it was time to head home. And getting home didn't happen quite as planned as they hooked a large shark or stingray that drug the boat almost a mile in an exhausting hour of fighting before finally breaking off. Talk about a big disappointment!

This hot action will continue for a couple more weeks, so get out there and take advantage of the opportunity. Plus, keep your eyes out for cobias while you are anchored up or running over the sand inside of the reef.

Thanks for reading, 

and we are catching some up to 12 or 13 pounds too. On the grouper scene we are finding some mixed size blacks and reds in these same depths from 120 to 135 feet around good live bottom. We have had no problem letting these under size fish go by using a venting tool and grouper are tough fish that respond well to acupuncture. Along with this great rod bending fishing we are also enjoying a great bite of kings too. You can always tell when the bite is good off of Key Largo because even the Islamorada charter boats will make the run up here to get in on this steady action when things are slow to the south. I attribute this to bait concentrations off the edge of the reef and this changes quite often. These crazy mackerel are eating like wild dogs and you can catch them on just about anything from spoons to plugs and a wide variety of live offerings as well as jigs and even strips fished on light wire. The kings are 4 to 5 pounds on up to thirty plus pounds. Further offshore the humps have been active with old Mr. Rubber lips or reef donkey's better known as amber jacks. These bruiser fish are suckers for live blue runners or large cigar minnows and will gladly break your back and fight until they get to the boat. Along with the aj's are almaco jacks and plenty of big sharks too. Right off the bottom on these spots are vermilion snapper and yellow eye snapper and these fish can be taken on chicken rigs with smaller chunks. We have recently had some Wahoo sightings too. Wahoo have slid into the upper keys and from the edge of the reef in 130 feet on out to 250 can be targeted with rigged baits or trolling plugs, just remember to kick up your speed a bit and you should get a few knock downs. Mahi have also popped up once more and the magic depth has been from 350 feet to 500. Work weed edges and current rips for best success. Good luck!

Capt. George Clark Jr. 

She's at Sea
 Pearls, Pinfish & Patience

Bay & Reef Company
 P.O. Box 1334
 Islamorada
 elizabethjolin@bellsouth.net
 www.bayandreef.com
 (305) 393-0994

Elizabeth Jolin
A Woman's View

Oh happy day it is for me to be writing for the Weekly Fisherman about all things feminine that have to do with the water - hence the name of this column:

- She's at Sea - the subject. This will be a column about what women are doing on the water, what they should be doing, what they could be doing, and what they want to be doing. (She's at Sea also happens to be the name of a boat handling course for women that I created and teach. Admittedly, I am trying to create a little name recognition, but with such an apt description of the subject matter of this column, I couldn't resist.) I often wonder why the world of fishing and boating is still a predominantly male dominated pursuit but frankly, that kind of wonderment is a real waste of time. Instead, I will just make the effort to write about the smart and capable women in our community who are fishing and boating. In the meantime, I may do a little to tip the scales of participation.

- Pearls, Pinfish, and Patience - the meat of the column. Surely you have read Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus -- hmmm - can I presume that about this readership? Suffice it to say that this article will simply address boating and fishing issues from a female perspective.

Articles will range from interviews with female tournament winners and losers to digressions about what to eat or wear on board. Oh - I have always longed to enter a recipe contest and I can see one in the future of this column.

I am open for topic suggestions. One acquaintance suggested that I interview backcountry captains about what they really do when the lady angler on board has to use the bathroom. Another suggested a column on how to throw a cast net and yet another suggestion was about women who do other cool stuff on the water like kitesurf and spearfish. Clearly the options are endless.

Please forward any great photos of women or kids participating in spectacular nautical adventures - or mild adventures. I really shouldn't relegate photo request to only the spectacular.

I look forward to highlighting the many women of this coastal community who love their watery backyard as much as I do.

Please e-mail with thoughts, suggestions, and photos to: info@bayandreef.com.



Stew from Pennsylvania caught this 40lb black with a little help from Capt. Dan on the Second Nature. The fish was caught on a live 14 in yellow tail in 60 ft of water. Stew and his father also caught 2 big mutton, 12 total tails and a few cero mackerel!

KEYS MAGIC CHARTERS

Middle Keys - Marathon
 - MM53 -

Offshore • Reef • Wreck • Bay

Capt. Ron Teke
 (305) 289-8790
 www.KeysMagic.com

FREE STONE CRAB / SHRIMP LUNCH - FULL DAY CHARTERS

KEY WEST Marine Hardware Inc.

- Complete Line of Marine Supplies
- Charts and Publications
- Sailboat Hardware
- Largest In-Stock Inventory In The Keys
- Marine Hardware
- Fishing Tackle

305-294-3519 305-294-3425

818 Caroline St., Key West

BACK COUNTRY FISHING

Tarpon, Bonefish, Permit, Snook, Redfish, Trout, Snapper, Shark

FULL DAY, 3/4 DAY, 1/2 DAY TRIPS
 NIGHT TARPON TRIPS

MILE MARKER 84.1 OCEANSIDE
 @ HOLIDAY ISLE RESORT & MARINA

Capt. Steve Murray
 (305) 393-1641 • stevemurray126@comcast.net

Fish Tales

Located at Whale Harbor Marina MM 83
 Captain Ron Allen, Owner/Operator
 (305) 664-0050
 50' Custom NC Boat
 AC, Clean & Comfortable,
 Fun, Friendly & Professional

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 having a great week down here in the lower keys and what a week it has been. The fishing has been marginal for myself with some really nice weather on occasion when you would think the fishing would be hot. I was saying to friends that I took a left when I really should have taken a right and that will happen as a fisherman every once in a while. Not to say I have had horrible fishing, but I felt that I should have been seeing more fish on some of the days I fished. I am probably being a little too honest here but hopefully as a reader you will appreciate it. Don't get used to it though, because towards the end of the week I got back into a better rhythm and will explain the fishing I was doing. The real story this week was the fog. I've lived in south Florida my whole life and have never seen fog like this in the Florida Keys. As you get to the mainland of Florida you will get heavy fog like we've

been having but usually it will break up over the water as the sun starts to rise and that has not been the case this week. The fog in itself was making the fishing difficult because you can't see over a distance which makes sight fishing nearly impossible. The fog also caused the water and air to be much cooler and the tarpon spots I was fishing just weren't working until the fog had lifted. It was definitely a beautiful sight in the morning and I appreciated that aspect of it but I am ready for it to go away.

The good thing was that when the fog would lift in the afternoon the fishing would get fantastic. We also had some good permit fishing mid week right before we were engulfed by the fog. I am a big fan of fishing in February because it's when everything starts to warm up and we start seeing the first signs of spring. It is also some of the easiest fishing you will have because whether you are fishing for tarpon or permit, they haven't been fished for too heavily and seem easier to entice a bite. This doesn't hold as true to permit as it does tarpon but I have noticed a difference over the years. The tarpon are starting to move up to the flats and should continue through this week. We have a weak frontal boundary approaching the keys but it is not supposed to affect the weather that much and winds are going to be blowing southeast. That means warm weather, which in turn means warm flats with hungry fish. I can't begin to tell you how excited I am to be talking about tarpon again on the flats. Any serious fisherman who has not fished for the silver king is really missing out on an experience of a lifetime. I am assuming the fog will lift by this week and the weather forecast looks great so if you get a chance to fish this week head out and see what I am talking about.

Hope everyone has tight lines and fish boat side until next week. 🎣

Fishing Report

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

Capt. Andrew Tipler Lower Keys



What a great week we just had here in the Lower Keys. The weather had been less than favorable for a few weeks and it finally broke. This week brought great boating and fishing. If you did not get out on the water then you missed out.

Flats fishing took off during the warm weather. Big tarpon have started to move into the area. Look for the big tarpon to be working Oceanside flats and willing to eat a well presented fly. Out back produced shots at good numbers of big permit. Live crabs will get the job done but for the ultimate challenge break out the fly rod. Bonefish rounded out your possibility for a grand slam. The last few weeks made for tough flats fishing but this week more than made up for it. We have a little bit of a front moving back in but I doubt that it will do much to harm the fishing.

Reef fishing was good this week with dirty water making the fish less Feb. 18th, 2009

wary than they have been. A mixed bag catch was the name of the game. The grouper bite was good with live pinfish, grunts and yellowtails all getting good attention. Kingfish have not been red hot this year but there were a few around this past week. We had a few big kings nail live blue runners while on the reef. Snapper rounded out the reef bite and put some tasty fish in the box. Yellowtails were quick to pop up in the chum slick. If you were lucky then you might have come across a mutton or two, there were a few around.

Offshore was very good over the past week. There were a lot of dolphin roaming the reef line early in the week. It was still a little rough but the fishing definitely made it worth getting out. As the week progressed the fish scattered a little bit. Sailfish were few and far between. Typically this time of year brings good sail fishing but this year has been a little hit or miss. We have had a few days of good sail fishing and then a slow week. Capt. Charley of the Squid Roe had a great day on Sunday with a bunch of dolphin up to 28lbs while headed out to do some sword fishing. He pulled most of his fish out from under debris in 750 but reported getting scattered bites all the way out. The Gulf Stream was running in the 300 ft depths making for a good place to start. I rarely get out much further than the mid 300 ft depths during the winter time, unless sword fishing. If you do get out in deeper water then look for floaters to make your day.

I made one trip to the gulf I hopes of a banner day of cobia fishing unfortunately this was not the case. We did find good action with fun fish but no cobia. There were plenty of grouper, snapper, jacks, mackerel, goliaths and sharks to keep us busy. I had reports of another boat that made a long run out to the towers in hopes of cobia. They gave me similar reports of fun fish with an absence of cobia.

Good luck and good fishing. 🎣

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



What a week this has been. Just as the weather turned for the better side of things, we get hit with some Friday the 13th fog that has now lasted three mornings straight. As of the 11th, the wind laid down, both water and air temps climbed, and the flats came to life. Permit where the highlight of my week as they became very active given the mild conditions they received following our past cold front.

I was able to get on the water for just about every day this week and have watched the conditions go from bad to good and then to very bad. The very bad I am referring to would be the dense fog that covered the Lower Keys backcountry in a way I myself have never witnessed. Each year brings a little fog down here, but this fog was anything but little.

This past Thursday gave way to the best conditions by far, a long awaited window in which I had the pleasure of spending the day with a well-minded fly fisherman from Colorado. Jeff and I were very fortunate to embark on a primo day for his first permit-specific charter. We fished west of Key West and were provided an early incoming tide, which lead to a great falling tide by noon. I found the best fishing to be found during the entire fall where dozens of permit in the 10 - 20 pound range were found feeding atop a handful of flats we spent our time on. We found plenty of permit, and were offered at least six solid opportunities to stick one on fly, though failed to put one beside the boat after unfortunately pulling the hook on what I felt was a well-deserved fish. Jeff knew that what he was trying to do was no easy task and I certainly respected his efforts. See you in March Jeff, those pre-spawn permit will be waiting.

Friday the 13th brought the fog that lasted for three mornings in a row. The first morning I left the dock with high hopes that the rising

sun and breeze would burn off the then light blanket of fog that had just came on us. It didn't, as of 15 minutes after arriving at our destination, again in search of permit on fly, I was left poling through a dream-like flat, unable to see 70 yards in either direction. I never expected to be handed such hazardous conditions, and felt the best thing to do at the time was stay shallow, fish and wait for it to move on. Even though we were literally fishing inside of a cloud, we managed to pole up on a few groups of traveling permit, though given the less than poor conditions, Henry of New England was never given a fair chance. Four hours into the trip I realized it was a major fog event and shot back to Sugarloaf, once I was in safe enough water to use my chart plotter. I will never look at a passing cloud on a sunny day of flats fishing in the same way.

The second day of fog I decided to return to the flats off of Key West a bit later in the day and was able to fish between the vast banks of fog over relatively calm and absolutely crystal clear water. Kevin of Tennessee had no problem in landing two very nice permit that day using live crabs as bait (see photo below left). The grey skies and near perfect conditions shadowed us from the permit, making for great fishing, and I all of a sudden didn't mind the fog anymore. That feeling lasted until about the next morning when I awoke to see the third morning of the heaviest fog yet. I cancelled my morning trip and was unable to fish the beautiful conditions that followed by noon.

If you wish to fish on your own for permit on fly in the Lower Keys during these upcoming months, you will first find where they hang out, and then provide yourself with the more natural looking crab and/or shrimp patterns from the hundreds available. Your colors should not exceed brown, olive, tan, white, grey, black, or blue. And rather than worrying about the exact fly you are using, you should first worry about how you plan on presenting the fly to the permit. Remember to keep it basic, treat that permit like a jack so to keep your cool. Place your fly five feet in front and inline of its path, give it one long strip, and then let it sink in front of it. Watch for a positive reaction from the fish on the fly, strip set, and raise your rod tip only after you feel the line pulling back.

Drop a live crab or shrimp in the flats and watch what it does, nine times out of ten it will go straight for the bottom where it feels safest. Never will a crab or shrimp want to feel safer until it is in front of a hungry permit. If your fly resembles one of our many crabs or shrimp, and you make it act like one, chances are you will fool nature and catch yourself one of the greatest challenges in saltwater fly fishing. You can find everything you need in the heart of permit country at Sugarloaf Marina, best prices on bait, fuel, and tackle. They can even hook you up with some of the best guides in the area, who can put you on those permit. Thanks for reading. 🦋

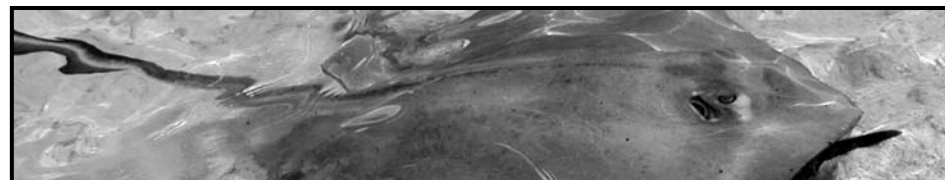


Shimano Top-Shelf Tech Dealer



Shimano Butterfly Jig System • Trevala Rods • New Stradic Reels

www.keywestbaitandtackle.com • 305-292-1961 • 241 Margaret St.



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

We went fishing for sails on the 8th and there were none to be had. Caught a few dolphin around eight pounds in 110 feet of water. We slow trolled from the 200-foot barge out in front of the light all the way to Marker 20. We got nothing but four dolphin. We picked up and moved to the west end of long key bridge and found more current but no fish. I decided to go dropping. We caught eight Amberjacks that were all 24 inches long. No keepers but loads of fun for my clients Brian and Dawn. There was a four to five foot dark brown shark that swam around the boat, which we tried to hook up. I cut up a slab of Jack Cravalle and slung it over the side. He kept circling it until it was out of sight. Finally, we got a bite and we were off to the races. The fish stripped off 200 yards of line on a two minute run. We were able to get him close to the boat and then another 200 yard run. We got half of that in and another 200 yard run. Thank god for the Fin Nor Offshore Spinning Reels. Lots of line, but 2/3 of the line was out. Twenty minutes later the fish shined just under the boat, about 60 feet down. It didn't look like a shark. Another run, which was short lived and finally we got him boat side,

guess what: a 45 pound kingfish. Wow, high fives all around like we just won the Key West SKA tournament. The fish was five feet long and the meat was firm like a jack, I've never seen a king that big with green meat and firm too. It's going to be great in the smoker. After that we ran home. Listening to the radio, I didn't hear that much was caught other than some dolphin up the road and some snappers on the reef. Maybe tomorrow will be better. I got to do it all over again. Sailfish, oh where did you go?

On the 9th we didn't mess around. We shot up to Tennessee Light and right off the bat we hooked a sailfish in 165 feet of water, which thought he was a superstar. He jumped around for ten minutes strait, until he tail-whipped the leader. Then we foul hooked a blackfin tuna around 20 pounds in 200 feet of water. After all the chaos settled down I managed to get two baits back out while trying to untwist the spun lines. Another sailfish hooked up in 175 feet of water, and the chaos started all over again. We hooked another sailfish, one other line out and two other rods out with 150 yards of line in the water trying to get un-spun. We got the fish in for a photo within 8 minutes. We got the lines out again and got harassed by sharks for two hours strait. We gave up on the sail fishing and caught about ten AJ's deep dropping in 250 feet of water. We went home and had sushi, sashimi, and tuna salad (Japanese style), which was fixed by my favorite sushi chef. Fresh tuna, yum-m-m.

We went to Washerwomen and caught all the bait we needed really fast. I like to get 25 baits hair hooked first, and then I throw the net and load up. I do this because they last longer in the well than the ones you net. We went straight out to 150 feet and worked slowly down sea. Good thing we did, because we hooked up with the first sail around 10:00 and got the release after about ten minutes. The fish first came up on the live bait teaser, which is only eight feet past our motors. We hooked this fish in 140 feet of water. I pulled the teaser away from him and he fell back on the first bait on the right flat. I generally keep that bait five to eight feet behind the teaser. This fish was a nice sixty-pound fish. Then we trolled for about a half hour more when all the baits including the teaser started to jump frantically out of the water. There were five fish back

Cont. on pg. 17

QUALITY PRE-OWNED BOATS, MOTORS AND ACCESSORIES FOR SALE THROUGHOUT THE KEYS

LISTED FOR TWO MONTHS! **THE KEYS BOAT EXCHANGE** \$60 FOR 2 MONTHS PRINT & WEB

VIEW LISTINGS ONLINE AT WWW.KEYSBOATEXCHANGE.COM

Featured Boat!



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.

03/18

Want to Fish More Than Six?

Roomy, Comfortable, Air-Conditioned Custom Sportfish designed to fish large groups

- Fish in Comfort and Style -

Can hold up to 23 passengers
 Perfect for large groups, corporate events, families

To book a charter, call 866.682-8862 or check out www.overundercharters.com

Located at Bud 'n Mary's Marina




D.J.'S REEL REPAIR

Penn • Daiwa • Shimano • Everol • All Others

Expert Service
 Complete Line of Parts
 Rod Repairs




Tavernier (305) 852-5007
 E-Mail address: DJREEL@POBOX.COM

Discount to all Charter & Commercial Captains



TOURNAMENTS

We want to hear about your tournament!
Have it listed here for FREE by calling Elizabeth at (305) 766-BOAT (2628), or via e-mail: info@weeklyfisherman.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.

VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE
 (305) 393-6099 Leave a Message

SEVENTH ANNUAL KEY WEST BOAT SHOW

AND NAUTICAL MARKET
February 27 - March 1, 2009
ALONG THE WATERFRONT AT TRUMAN ANNEX

Fish Florida Children's Free Fishing Clinic, Rod, Reel Giveaway!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28
 9:30am - 1:30pm:
 Melvin Newton Steel Drums
 2 - 5pm: Caribe
SUNDAY, MARCH 1
 11am - 2pm: Bubba System

www.keywestboatshow.com



11th Annual LEON SHELL MEMORIAL SAILFISH TOURNAMENT

Original by J. Serrano

2009

This year's tournament dedicated to the memory of Capt. Marty Sendecki

Grand Prize \$25,000 Cash!

Cash Prizes for 1st & 2nd Runners-up Also!

February 27, 28 & March 1, 2009

- Key Colony Beach -

Weight Divisions for Dolphin, Kingfish, Tuna & Wahoo

- Cash, Prizes, Awards & Trophies -

Junior Division for Anglers - 9 to 15½ years of age

Academic Scholarships, Cash Prizes & Trophies

Awards Banquet at Sparky's Landing, Key Colony Beach Marina

Dinner, Awards, Prize Drawings & Auction

Angler's Marketplace • Key Colony Beach Marina

Tournament & Sponsor Merchandise • Guest Appearance

by Noted Marine Artist, Joe Surovic

\$500/Boat for Captain & 1st Angler • Ea. Add. Angler \$150

Reg. Deadline Monday, Feb. 23 • \$100 Late Fee Applies

Registration Forms Available at all Sponsors & most

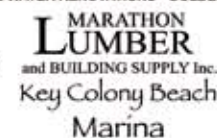
Marinas & Tackle Shops, plus Key Colony Beach Marina

(MM 54 - Sadowski Causeway)

www.LeonShellTournament.com • (305) 289-1310



FISH LIPS ISLAND CARGO • MC DUFF CONSTRUCTION • MARATHON WEEKLY • KLEEN-RITE SERVICES
CONCH REALTY SALES, INC. • HURRICANE GRILLE • KEYS CUSTOM ROODS • KENNEDY STUDIOS • CUDJOE SALES
SOUTH SEAS RIGGING • SICKLES MOTORCYCLE CORP. • CAPTAIN HOOKS MARINA • CENTENNIAL BANK
SEAMARK ELECTRONICS, INC. • SHELTER BAY MARINE • FISH TALES MARKET AND EATERY • A CUT ABOVE
CHAMPION CONSTRUCTION • SPECIALTY HARDWARE • KEYS BOAT WORKS • MARATHON ELECTRIC
GREENMAN AND MANZ • RHINO MARINE SERVICES • MAIN ATTRACTION CHARTERS • SPORTFISHPRODUCTS.COM
BLUE WATER RENOVATIONS • GOLDEN SUN BUS SERVICES • ACE PROMOTIONS • KEYS COMPUTER SERVICE





Capt. Ted Benbow guided a father and son team to a great day of fishing in the Flamingo area. They're all smiles, showing off one of their many snook!



Gus Castellucci came down from New York with friends and to go fishing aboard Capt. Allen's Fish Tales. Gus shows off his nice Sailfish – Good Work, Gus!



Hot action in the Bahamas . . .



Best of luck! We're told that this tarpon won!



Kick-Off 2009

with Conchy Joe's Marine & Tackle

Saturday, March 14th & Sunday, March 15th
15 Different Species Worth \$5,000 in Cash Awards

Win \$500 & Trophy

- Most Marlin Releases
- Most Sailfish Releases
- Most Tarpon Releases
- Heaviest Dolphin

Win \$300 & Trophy

- Heaviest of Mutton Snapper ~ Kingfish
- Blackfin Tuna ~ Grouper ~ Cobia ~ Wahoo
- Most Barracuda Releases
- Most Permit Releases ~ Most Bonefish Releases

Win \$150 & Trophy for Heaviest Mangrove Snapper & Heaviest Grunt
Junior Division ~ Farthest Traveled ~ Hard Luck!

First 50 registered boats receive a Dexter-Russell filet knife!
Registration & Captain's Meeting ~ Friday March 13th ~ 6 to 8 pm
At the DoubleTree Grand Key Resort, 3990 S. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West

***** Registration is \$200 per boat up to 6 anglers *****

For information, contact Doris Harris, Director at (305) 295-6601

www.keywestfishingtournament.com

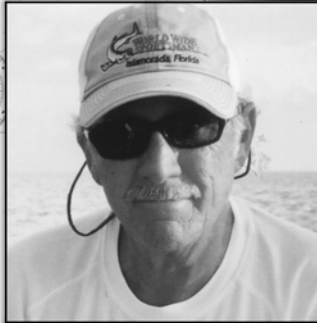


Fishing Report

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



Good bye cold weather, bring on the sunshine. What a relief to get a break from such cold and how happy those fish will be. They say work is for people who don't know how to fish. So why work when I can go fishing. But really, the fishing got excellent in a hurry. Down here it does not take long for good days to come again and with that some nice catches on long key. Whether you chose the front side, back side out in-between, catches soared. So lets gets started and tell you what's been happening.

Trout, Redfish and some big Black Drum were being caught in the channels and passes from middle cape to flamingo. Working buck tails tipped with shrimp and worked slowly on incoming tides seemed best. I use light spinning rods with either 8 or 10 lb. test. Add a short piece of 20 or 30 lb. mono. There are many times just slow reeling in with no rod

action can do better as until the water hit's the best temps, they can be slow to take. Some really big trout are taken this way.

Out in the gulf, we got into 2 amazing days of fog that made a GPS your best friend. For all that time I never saw another boat and I'm sure there were others that could say the same. My anglers were grateful to see the boat finally stopping to anchor and chum. Me too. The catch was a lot of nice Mangrove Snapper with a bunch of mackerel to keep everyone busy. And somehow the area was covered with some big Black Tip Sharks that seemed to swallow any mackerel that got in their way. No swimming out here fellows.

Way out in the gulf some Marathon boats came across a school of big Jacks reaching 25 lbs. That's a great fight for anyone lucky enough to find them. A couple more days and some big Permit should be marauding around with Cobia close by.

With the slick calm surface and late afternoon warming, Tripletail were for the taking. You get only 2 per person but once eaten become a culinary delight your tummy will thank you for. Snook, Gag Grouper and tripletail are 1,2,3 as far as eating go. Just my choice. I have been throwing mostly a nice plump shrimp but lately I have had great success offering them small bright red flies. Not sure why they love to eat that color but both angler and fish see it well. Might be the next go to pattern. I'll keep you posted.

Well that's it for now but I will leave with this ---President Herbert Hoover, without a doubt our best leader to fish all the Florida Keys especially here on Long Key, While responding to each arena of his life said that ALL MEN ARE EQUAL BEFORE FISH. So let's get out on the water and have a great day (unless you have other plans).



Q: Why does this 30 lb. king have no gaff marks?

A: Cause he free jumped in the boat. Seriously.

Dave Manz fishing on his boat alone off Marathon - pg. 17.



These snappers were caught in 200 ft of water in the Big Coppitt secret spot! Fisherman are Tim Wier and Ralph DePalma.



Rick Anderson and Capt Greg had a great day on the Miss Molly fishing out of Sister Creek Marathon. They were deep dropping for sword fish and got lucky to bring home an estimated 200 pounder.

The battle took 2 hours on a perfect day.

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

After 2 weeks of heavy winds it finally calmed down to no wind. Dennis From Marathon, Florida, called me to take him and his wife Karen for a Grouper fishing trip.

This was to be their first Grouper fishing excursion.

Dennis has been reading my articles for quite sometime and was really interested in seeing if the Fly rod method I've been writing and bragging about was really true or just a fairy tale. He called me and we set a date for this last week. I cancelled to dates because the winds were still blowing and I wanted to take them to my favorite GROUPE HEAVEN locations. Finally Wednesday showed a weather report that was great. Calm winds and no seas let me go far West beyond the Marquesa islands. We stopped at a few locations to see if there were any Cobia in the area. With no luck we continued West. After about an hour run with

my Cat doing 40mph. We arrived at my first location. Karen started off with landing 2 keeper Groupers on Stand up rods. This would beat her up if we continued on these rods. I broke out the Fly rod, and when she hooked up to a nice Grouper she could battle this one with out the strain of the stand up rod. I had to give a fly rod to Dennis and he immediately hooked up too. After about 10 or more landing and releases we moved on to another location. This is a 40 hump surrounded by 70' deep water. Here the bigger fish seem to concentrate. WE hooked into more and larger fish. With the Fly rods they were having the time of their life. In the mean time my friend Ken Domanski celebrating his birthday today was on to the Yellowtail Snappers and was using new chartreuse flies I tied for them. This was proving to be HOT, and the cooler was filling up with nice Flag Yellow Tails. Since we had our limit filled we fished our way trolling for Kings but they just weren't in our area so we buggied on home. Dennis is interested in a Swordfish trip after returning to Florida the first week of March. This will not be a fly rod method, but an evening of Sword fishing out 20 miles south of Key West. I guess it pays to write about our adventures in fishing!!!! This is always rewarding to have new anglers get a real great fishing trip, not just reading about it. Their next adventure will be for the big Swordfish that are south of Key West. So stay tuned and read my articles. Or visit my web site for more information.

Captain Frank 



Danny & Karen Weiss plus grouper pals.

Fishing Report

Captain Nick Borraccino
NoreasterSportFishing.com
 (508) 769-4189
BestBetSportFishing.com
 (305) 395-1376



Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon

Isn't it great when Florida feels like Florida? Extreme wintry conditions gave way this week to calm seas, sunny skies, and warm air. It was just what the doctor ordered. Fish that had been for the most part inactive suddenly awoke, and decided it was time to eat. Usually the first few warm days after a stretch of cold weather prove to be active fishing days, as was the case this week.

For starters, bay waters warmed back into the apparent comfort zone of mangrove snappers by Wednesday. Numerous reports from fisherman in the bay, on the banks, and around the bridges confirmed that the mangrove snappers were biting good, as were just about everything else you would usually encounter in these areas. On a half day trip Wednesday morning aboard the Best Bet we found a great snapper bite on shallow bay structures, with fish up to 4 pounds! So long as the water

temp doesn't suddenly plummet, I would expect a good week of fishing in the Bay and around the bridges. Mangrove snapper, yellow jacks, Spanish mackerel, yellowtail snapper, lane snapper, hogfish and more can be taken on live shrimp on a jig head or with a small weight and 1/0 or 2/0 hook. If you find yourself with little or no current, wait it out. Once the tide starts running, things usually pick up.

The reef activity has picked up as well. Mangrove and yellowtail snapper are biting well on reefs in 20 to 40 feet of water. Finding current is the key. We have had inconsistent currents on the reef making the fishing just that. One day the current was moving at a steady pace to the east, and we had an excellent morning catching mangrove and yellowtail snapper, red and gag grouper, and plenty of mackerel. A day later, however, the current switching and barely moving, the fishing was not as good. There were plenty of cero mackerel and kingfish up to 30 pounds patrolling the shallow reefs though, so have your wire ready. A live pilchard, small blue runner or ballyhoo will always do the trick, and when they're reel thick, try throwing a popper plug or spoon to have some fun. It can be difficult to get a bait to the bottom when the macks are in the chum... so catch them till your arms get tired, or till they seem to leave, then go for the snappers again! The lack of current off the reef edge has made fishing deep wrecks this week a bit lack luster. The fish jut don't seem to e very active out there when there is no current. The better choice for most of the week was in hunting sailfish and dolphin.

There seems to be a good number of sailfish still chasing live ballyhoo on the reef. Showering bait and frigate birds are the tell tail signs. If you're not seeing them in shallow, try off the reef edge with some live baits or trolling rigged ballyhoo. Some boats this week in Marathon reported seeing 10 or more sails in a morning, and catching up to six.

Cont. on pg. 19

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.



Capt. Joe Trainor The Bahamas

HOT...HOT...HOT — Bahamas Fishing

Bahamas fishing was nothing sort of insane this week. After the strongest cold front of the year with temps in the upper 40's at night, fishing got awesome. We saw water temps drop to 72 degrees and this fish actively responded. This week we fished mainly off of Guana Cay as we had to go no place else. We were fairly busy this week and fished quite a bit never leaving a 2 mile area all week off of Guana.

We fished a half day trip on Wednesday that was simply insane. Setting lines out we quickly went 3-5 on wahoo as they ate everything in the spread. Shortly after we got into the dolphin and it remained a furious bite, catching and releasing well over 20 dolphin. This is extremely early for the dolphin to be here, but Hey, I'll take it!

Out the next day again, the bite got even better. On Thursday's half day trip we consistently picked away at the dolphin and had one of the best 'hoo bits in quite some time. However, on this day we managed to come unglued on a fair amount of fish as they were doing the famous wahoo head shake as well as a couple short bits. We managed to go 6- 11 on the 'hoos, as well as a half dozen dolphin. We have noticed the wahoo are getting a bit bigger as of late as we boated some to 60 lbs this week. For some reason this week our bait of choice this week was ballyhoo with 9 wire. For some reason they weren't responding to the plugs this week. Simply putting a bait down or on your riggers got em going. I believe the amount of bait in the area is why. We also tried something new this week putting some Spanish macks behind our billy baits on the deep rods. It seemed to work great as we caught 2 fish on the macks.

On a sour note, the bite seemed to tail off a little bit on Saturday with extremely flat seas. I believe we need another front to get things red hot again. We are expecting one tomorrow, hopefully to drop the sea temps back down again.

All in all this is one of the best weeks I have ever had here. We continued to have double digit wahoo bites on some days as well as dolphin. We continue to see some yellowfin filter in the area as we are catching a couple on a daily basis now. Some have been in the 50 lb range although we personally haven't caught them.

Now's the time to fish the Bahamas as we continue to see some of the best fishing in recent years!



**Full Menu
Available Daily**

**Specializing in
Boxed Lunches
for Charters**

includes:

- Sandwich* or Sub**
- Potato Chips
- Fruit
- Two Snacks
- Homemade Dessert (varies daily)
- * **\$10.50** (wheat, white or rye)
- ** **\$11.50** (8" sub)

Full Breakfasts!

(305) 522-1128

Kev's Café

at
Bud 'n Mary's Marina

**We're Up
Before
the Bait!**

**Don't Miss
the Boat –
Order Ahead!**

OPEN at 6am

Order the Night
Before to P/U
Before 6



MAIN ATTRACTIONS

No Fish • No Pay • Full Day

**We find 'em,
You wind 'em!**

www.mainattraction.org

(305) 289-0071

– MM 53.5 –



Keys Custom Rods

**Stick Lead
2.50 lb.**



**Bionic Chum
\$31 / case**

**Avet, Crowder, Daiwa, Fin-nor,
Penn, Quantum, Shimano, Star & Ricky Rods**

Deep Drop Supplies * Electric Reels * Bait * Ice

**Corner of Aviation & 107th
Marathon, FL**

**(305)
743-3054**
www.keyscustomrods.com

QUALITY PRE-OWNED BOATS, MOTORS AND ACCESSORIES FOR SALE THROUGHOUT THE KEYS

LISTED
FOR
TWO MONTHS!

THE KEYS BOAT EXCHANGE

\$60
FOR 2 MONTHS
PRINT & WEB

VIEW LISTINGS ONLINE AT WWW.KEYSBOATEXCHANGE.COM



02/25

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



03/04

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.



03/04

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.



03/04

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



03/04

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.



03/18

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).



03/18

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 \$29,500. Located in Cudjoe.



04/01

1996 Key West 19' D.C.

115 Yamaha & Alum. Trailer. Runs A+, extra-clean, low hours. 2nd owner, fresh water use, Many Extras including: Bimini, Full Cover, C.G.E., Live Well, Cooler, Fish Box, etc. Great, all-around fun little boat - Ready for the Water Now! \$7,800 (neg.) Call 305-942-3571 for more info

& pix, or e-mail: bucknrosie@aol.com.



03/11

2004 Hydra-Sports, 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



03/11

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: hydroslicer@hotmail.com

QUALITY PRE-OWNED BOATS, MOTORS AND ACCESSORIES FOR SALE THROUGHOUT THE KEYS

LISTED
FOR
TWO MONTHS!**THE KEYS
BOAT EXCHANGE**\$60
FOR 2 MONTHS
PRINT & WEBVIEW LISTINGS ONLINE AT WWW.KEYSBOATEXCHANGE.COM**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,

03/11

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:

03/11

(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

03/18

Piku (305) 509-1547 or e-mail: fpiku@comcast.com**1990 ChrisCraft
372 Sundeck Cruiser**

Xlnt condition modern cruiser or comfort live-a-board. 2 staterooms w/heads. Total pro refit all systems; refit twin 454's; 7.5 Westerbeke genset. Fully insured. Ready to fish and cruise! Live-a-board slip avail. in best

04/01

sunset marina. \$80k value, SELL \$59,900. (561) 797-4197, or (954) 600-7731. Poss. owner financing, poss. long-term lease.

**2001 Pro-Line
Dual Console**

20 foot Dual Console,, Bimini Top. Mercury 150 HP 2 stroke with 153 hours, Trim tabs, radio, fish finder, bait well, stainless prop and spare aluminum prop. In excellent condition. Includes boat and motor covers. Sugarloaf Key. Priced to sell at \$ 8900.00.

03/04

**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.

03/11

Jim (305) 872-5496 or e-mail jimjanewatermolen@msn.com**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,

03/11

or e-mail actionmarine102@aol.com**1985 46' Ocean S/S**

2 671 Detroit JT 450hp diesels w/1825 hrs. New GPS elect.; Radar-fathometer (Furuno); 2 VHF radios; single side-band; KVH 6 Sat. track TV sys.; cent vac; 2 SR/2BA; f/w flush; W/D; 2 cent. A/C's. 12ft Whaler w/15 hp Johnson-Elec bow hoist crane. \$199,500; \$159,500. Call:

03/18

Jack Sweeting (305) 872-3036, Cell (305) 395-8738.

**2003 Grady-White 265
Express**

Twin 225 4-stroke Yamahas with trailer. All options. Hoist kept, 95% fresh water use. Raymarine GPS, radar, auto pilot, and (2) VHF radios. One owner boat, looks and runs like new. Located in Islamorada. \$68,000. Call Randy (586) 945-7568 or email:

04/01

a_schmitt@comcast.net.

**Advertise your boats, engines, etc. here
in the Keys Boat Exchange**

— www.keysboatexchange.com —

Your ad will reach up & down the Keys!

Call (305) 766-BOAT (2628)

E-mail: info@weeklyfisherman.com

QUALITY PRE-OWNED BOATS, MOTORS AND ACCESSORIES FOR SALE THROUGHOUT THE KEYS

LISTED
FOR
TWO MONTHS!

THE KEYS BOAT EXCHANGE

\$60
FOR 2 MONTHS
PRINT & WEB

VIEW LISTINGS ONLINE AT WWW.KEYSBOATEXCHANGE.COM



04/01

**1989 37' Topaz
Express Fisherman**

Twin 3208 Cats at 375 hp; less than 2,000 original hours. 8kw gen set kobota, 2 staterooms, tower, swim platform, new bottom paint. Ready to fish or cruise. Valued at \$120,000 Sacrifice for \$85,000. Located in KCB. Call: (912) 577-6006.



04/01

**1988 28' Spencer
Center Console**

270 hp turbo diesel inboard. Asking \$10,000 obo. Call: (305) 879-9123.



04/08

**2003 21' Boston Whaler
Outrage**

Mercury 225hp four-stroke. Can't go wrong with a Whaler. \$19,000 obo. Call Xavier at 305-393-1779.



04/08

2001 Hydra Sports

w/ 200 HP Ocean Pro Johnson. Must see. Like new condition! Less than 50 hrs. 8'-8" beam, electronics, cover. Live-well, fish box, foldout rear bimini & More. Asking \$17,500. Call owner (305) 852-6255 In Tavernier

**Photo will be
available soon
visit
www.keysboatexchange.com
for more details!**

04/08

**2006/07 Grady White 222
Fisherman**

225 Yamaha 4-stroke - 115 hrs & extended warranty 'til 2012. Color Chart/Sounder; VHF; Stereo; Full cushions, covers & curtains. '07 Galvanized trailer. Good as new - \$54,950. Call (443) 668-6268



04/08

2004 Pro Line 23 Sport

Twin 150 Merc Salt Water Series. 2004 dual axle trailer; new rotors & pads; extra tires. S/S props; fresh H2O shower/wash down; low range GPS; Porta Potty in console; live well & fix boxes; console canvas encl; trim tabs. Asking \$34,000. Call (305) 853-5888 or (973) 441-1117 or e-mail marinaguy@aol.com. Boat in Tavernier.

Believe It or Not: The Biggest King I Never Caught . . .


I never would have believed it, had I not been an eyewitness. I was fishing alone - so who would believe me? But I swear to it. I was on working birds appx. 1/2 mile out on the ocean side of the seven mile bridge, to the east of Pidgeon Key. I was trolling a big spoon. Got a big hit. Lost it, wheeled around, chased down the birds, got a smaller hit, and began to work the fish to the boat. Turned out to be a spanish mack. As I had the mackerel about fifteen feet dead off the stern, this king skyrocketed straight up like a ballistic missile from directly under the mackerel, intending to hit the mack, but missed; came up right over the boat, froze in mid-air (an indelible sight if there ever was one) came down, bounced once off the engines, and landed at my feet. I was dumbfounded. It was so surreal I couldn't comprehend it at first. But swear to god it happened just like that; proof is, that the fish has no gaff marks, and of course I could never have got that fish in the boat alone without gaffing it, maybe not even by gaffing it.

So, that's the story of the biggest king I never caught . . . 

Photo on pg. 12 . . .

Schugar cont. from pg. 8

there, two on the teaser and one on each of the flats, and one on the left rigger. This all happened in 120 feet of water; One on, two on, three on, my first triple of the year, which turned into a double after three minutes. One fish went northeast and the other one went west. I had one fish on a Fin Nor Offshore 6500 spinner, which had 400 yards of twenty, and one on a BG60. We had to go after the one on the BG60 because it holds less line. We were getting close to that fish when I got mugged by two private boats. One of them ran over the fish, which was stretched out. Then the other boat ran right on top of the line and both boats were pitching freebees. I got on the radio to tell them the situation but they just kept doing what they do best, mug the guy who is trying to make a living. I called repetitively over the radio that I have a fish stretched out 200 yards and one of the boats finally moved once we got the other fish and I charged him. I was in ramming mode. I was able to do this because my angler was reeling like there was no tomorrow. I charged this one boat trying to make him move off of my fish or line. I couldn't tell where it was. Finally, I scared him off and we got the release of the other one. So we went three for four. Never saw another fish after that.

Happy hunting and be courteous to your fellow fisherman/boaters. 

Tide Tables Brought To You Courtesy Of...



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



**Florida Keys Fishing
Guides Association Inc.**

KEY LARGO (Ocean Reef)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Feb 18	Wed	03:07 AM / 1.77 ft	09:29 AM / 0.75 ft	03:07 PM / 1.71 ft	09:56 PM / 0.18 ft	
Feb 19	Thu	04:12 AM / 1.77 ft	10:29 AM / 0.73 ft	04:12 PM / 1.72 ft	10:53 PM / 0.14 ft	
Feb 20	Fri	05:10 AM / 1.85 ft	11:24 AM / 0.61 ft	05:12 PM / 1.80 ft	11:43 PM / 0.04 ft	
Feb 21	Sat	05:59 AM / 1.97 ft	12:12 PM / 0.44 ft	06:05 PM / 1.92 ft		
Feb 22	Sun		12:28 AM / -0.08 ft	06:42 AM / 2.10 ft	12:54 PM / 0.23 ft	06:51 PM / 2.06 ft
Feb 23	Mon		01:09 AM / -0.20 ft	07:21 AM / 2.22 ft	01:32 PM / 0.03 ft	07:33 PM / 2.19 ft
Feb 24	Tue		01:47 AM / -0.29 ft	07:59 AM / 2.31 ft	02:08 PM / -0.17 ft	08:14 PM / 2.30 ft
Feb 25	Wed		02:23 AM / -0.34 ft	08:35 AM / 2.36 ft	02:42 PM / -0.34 ft	08:54 PM / 2.38 ft

BIG PINE (West Side - Pine Channel)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Feb 18	Wed		01:05 AM / -0.02ft	06:42 AM / 0.27ft	11:18 AM / 0.18ft	04:55 PM / 0.68ft
Feb 19	Thu		02:16 AM / -0.04ft	07:48 AM / 0.30ft	12:39 PM / 0.18ft	06:12 PM / 0.70ft
Feb 20	Fri		03:11 AM / -0.05ft	08:24 AM / 0.34ft	01:49 PM / 0.17ft	07:14 PM / 0.75ft
Feb 21	Sat		03:52 AM / -0.07ft	08:51 AM / 0.40ft	02:45 PM / 0.13ft	08:03 PM / 0.80ft
Feb 22	Sun		04:25 AM / -0.08ft	09:15 AM / 0.46ft	03:32 PM / 0.10ft	08:45 PM / 0.83ft
Feb 23	Mon		04:53 AM / -0.07ft	09:40 AM / 0.54ft	04:14 PM / 0.06ft	09:24 PM / 0.85ft
Feb 24	Tue		05:17 AM / -0.07ft	10:05 AM / 0.61ft	04:55 PM / 0.01ft	10:03 PM / 0.85ft
Feb 25	Wed		05:41 AM / -0.05ft	10:31 AM / 0.68ft	05:35 PM / -0.04ft	10:42 PM / 0.82ft

ISLAMORADA (Whale Harbor)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Feb 18	Wed	03:33 AM / 1.01ft	10:15 AM / 0.35ft	03:33 PM / 0.98ft	10:42 PM / 0.09ft	
Feb 19	Thu	04:38 AM / 1.01ft	11:15 AM / 0.34ft	04:38 PM / 0.99ft	11:39 PM / 0.07ft	
Feb 20	Fri	05:36 AM / 1.06ft	12:10 PM / 0.29ft	05:38 PM / 1.03ft		
Feb 21	Sat		12:29 AM / 0.02ft	06:25 AM / 1.13ft	12:58 PM / 0.21ft	06:31 PM / 1.10ft
Feb 22	Sun		01:14 AM / -0.04ft	07:08 AM / 1.20ft	01:40 PM / 0.11ft	07:17 PM / 1.18ft
Feb 23	Mon		01:55 AM / -0.09ft	07:47 AM / 1.27ft	02:18 PM / 0.01ft	07:59 PM / 1.25ft
Feb 24	Tue		02:33 AM / -0.14ft	08:25 AM / 1.32ft	02:54 PM / -0.08ft	08:40 PM / 1.32ft
Feb 25	Wed		03:09 AM / -0.16ft	09:01 AM / 1.35ft	03:28 PM / -0.16ft	09:20 PM / 1.36ft

CUDJOE KEY (Pirates Cove)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Feb 18	Wed		02:07 AM / -0.04ft	10:11 AM / 0.40ft	12:20 PM / 0.34ft	08:24 PM / 1.01ft
Feb 19	Thu		03:18 AM / -0.07ft	11:17 AM / 0.45ft	01:41 PM / 0.35ft	09:41 PM / 1.04ft
Feb 20	Fri		04:13 AM / -0.10ft	11:53 AM / 0.51ft	02:51 PM / 0.31ft	10:43 PM / 1.11ft
Feb 21	Sat		04:54 AM / -0.13ft	12:20 PM / 0.59ft	03:47 PM / 0.25ft	11:32 PM / 1.18ft
Feb 22	Sun		05:27 AM / -0.14ft	12:44 PM / 0.69ft	04:34 PM / 0.18ft	
Feb 23	Mon	12:14 AM / 1.24ft	05:55 AM / -0.14ft	01:09 PM / 0.79ft	05:16 PM / 0.11ft	
Feb 24	Tue	12:53 AM / 1.27ft	06:19 AM / -0.13ft	01:34 PM / 0.90ft	05:57 PM / 0.02ft	
Feb 25	Wed	01:32 AM / 1.26ft	06:43 AM / -0.10ft	02:00 PM / 1.00ft	06:37 PM / -0.07ft	

MARATHON (Boot Key Harbor)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Feb 18	Wed	06:46 AM / 0.62ft	08:59 AM / 0.58ft	03:11 PM / 1.52ft	11:29 PM / -0.07ft	
Feb 19	Thu	07:21 AM / 0.68ft	10:21 AM / 0.56ft	04:32 PM / 1.53ft		
Feb 20	Fri		12:24 AM / -0.12ft	07:38 AM / 0.75ft	11:25 AM / 0.48ft	05:43 PM / 1.59ft
Feb 21	Sat		01:08 AM / -0.18ft	07:49 AM / 0.83ft	12:18 PM / 0.37ft	06:37 PM / 1.67ft
Feb 22	Sun		01:44 AM / -0.23ft	08:03 AM / 0.95ft	01:03 PM / 0.25ft	07:21 PM / 1.74ft
Feb 23	Mon		02:16 AM / -0.26ft	08:22 AM / 1.09ft	01:44 PM / 0.13ft	08:01 PM / 1.77ft
Feb 24	Tue		02:43 AM / -0.25ft	08:45 AM / 1.24ft	02:23 PM / 0.00ft	08:41 PM / 1.75ft
Feb 25	Wed		03:08 AM / -0.21ft	09:10 AM / 1.39ft	03:01 PM / -0.12ft	09:20 PM / 1.70ft

KEY WEST (South Side Hawk Channel)

Date	Day	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height	Low Time / Height	High Time / Height
Feb 18	Wed	05:29 AM / 0.56ft	08:56 AM / 0.40ft	03:42 PM / 1.40ft	11:54 PM / -0.08ft	
Feb 19	Thu	06:35 AM / 0.62ft	10:17 AM / 0.40ft	04:59 PM / 1.45ft		
Feb 20	Fri		12:49 AM / -0.12ft	07:11 AM / 0.71ft	11:27 AM / 0.36ft	06:01 PM / 1.54ft
Feb 21	Sat		01:30 AM / -0.15ft	07:38 AM / 0.82ft	12:23 PM / 0.30ft	06:50 PM / 1.64ft
Feb 22	Sun		02:03 AM / -0.16ft	08:02 AM / 0.96ft	01:10 PM / 0.21ft	07:32 PM / 1.72ft
Feb 23	Mon		02:31 AM / -0.16ft	08:27 AM / 1.10ft	01:52 PM / 0.12ft	08:11 PM / 1.76ft
Feb 24	Tue		02:55 AM / -0.15ft	08:52 AM / 1.25ft	02:33 PM / 0.02ft	08:50 PM / 1.75ft
Feb 25	Wed		03:19 AM / -0.12ft	09:18 AM / 1.39ft	03:13 PM / -0.08ft	09:29 PM / 1.69ft

Moon Phases

New: 02/24/09 • First Quarter: 03/04/09
Full: 03/10/09 • Last Quarter: 03/18/09

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




Ray & Kevin (from Massachusetts) with mackerels, groupers, and snappers from a half-day with Capt. Nick Borraccino and Jason Long on the Best Bet.

Borraccino cont.

zone and you should run across them. There have also been a few bigger fish sighted, so have your 20 pound pitch rod with a live bait at the ready in case the slammer decides to swim up to your transom.

I have limited reports from offshore this week, but the one boat I know of that went to the humps for blackfin tuna did well, catching good size fish and in good numbers. I'm still a little hesitant to make the long run offshore, given that last time I went there the place was devoid of life! But everyday is different, and that's what makes it fun.

With all this good news and all these options I hope you all are as excited about fishing this week as I am. Good luck! 

Borraccino cont. from pg. 13

The warm weather has also seemed to fire up some wintertime dolphin for us. Over the past few days there have been packs of birds working small bunches of schoolie dolphin between 150 and 300 feet on weed lines and color changes. Troll your favorite small skirts or lures in the



Barefoot
Baits
& Fishing Services

Goggle Eyes – Pilchards – Threadfins

Live Baits
Guaranteed to Catch Fish
or Die Trying . . .
Reserve your baits early

Captain Billy Harbaugh
(305) 481-5562

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.

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
Capt. Ron Teke Keys Magic Charters	OFF/REEF/WR/Bay	(305) 289-8790 www.KeysMagic.com

Lower Keys	Big Pine Key to Key West	
Captain / Charter	Contact Info	
Capt. Chris Lembo	OFF/REEF	(305) 292-0067 incognitocharter@comcast.net
Capt. Kevin Wilson	OFF/REEF	(305) 745-5634 www.fishmekeywest.com

Lower Keys (cont.)	Big Pine Key to Key West	
Captain / Charter	Contact Info	
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
Capt. Frank Piku Daytime/Nighttime 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	(305) 407-4381 bgandrews18@aol.com

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.**

Upper Keys Captain / Charter	Key Largo to Islamorada Contact Info	Upper Keys (cont.) Captain / Charter	Key Largo to Islamorada Contact Info
Capt. Greg Eklund Cloud Nine Charters	OFF/REEF/WR/FL (305) 360-7476 www.islamoradafishingtrips.com	Capt. Juan Garcia Beats Land Charters	BC/GF/REEF/OFF (305) 297-0438 www.beatslandcharters.com
Key Largo Fishing Adventures	OFF/BC/REEF (305) 923-9293 www.keyssportfishing.com	Capt. Skip Bradeen	OFF (305) 481-5151 www.bluechiptoo.com
Capt. Scott Keller	OFF/BC (305) 664-6678 captscott@badhabitfishingcharters.com	Capt. Steve Friedman	FL/BC/FLY (305) 393-3474 www.afishingguide.com
Capt. Ron Moore Miller Time Charters	OFF/REEF/MD (305) 304-9473 www.millertimesportfishing.com	Capt. Larry Wren A Pirates Choice Charters	OFF (305) 360-4900 www.apirateschoice.com
Capt. Matt Bellinger	BC/GULF/REEF/WR (305) 393-0909 www.bamboocharters.com	Capt. Dave Purdo	FL/BC (305) 852-5989
Capt. Joe Petrucco	OFF/GF/WR/REEF/BC (305) 304-4580 www.killerinstinctcharters.com	Capt. J.R. captainjr@bellsouth.net	OFF 800-473-4106 or 305-481-0649 www.captainj-rcharters.com
Capt. George Clark, Jr.	OFF/REEF/BC (305) 522-2638 www.rodeochararters.com	Capt Mitch Mitchell	BC/FL 305-587-1150 www.reelchaoscharters.com
Capt. Jef Pfister	BC/FL (877) 362-5743 www.docksidecharters.com	Capt. Kerry Wingo	BC/LT/FL/FLY Klcaptkw@aol.com www.tailsupfishing.com
Capt. Mike Makowski Black Foot Charter	BC/FL/FLY/LT (305) 481-0111 www.blackfootfishing.com	Capt. Augie Wampler's captwamp@yahoo.com	OFF (305) 393-2765 www.BlueWaterPredator.com
Capt. Wells Gable	BC/FL (305) 522-2373 www.captwellsable@msn.com	Capt. Ron Brack www.hatatudecharters.com	OFF (305) 484-8410 (305) 393-0452
Killer White Charters	OFF/REEF/TP (305) 522-0374 www.killerwhite.com	Capt. Jeff Frasier Genesis Charters	OFF (305) 393-3981 www.genesischarters.com
Capt. John Kohler	BC/FL (305) 852-0369 jdkohler@bellsouth.net	Capt. Donny Lange whereisd@yaho.com	BC/FL (305) 522-1929 www.captdonny.com
Capt. Ann Holahan	BC/FL/TP/FLY (305) 664-5891 www.boneranger.com	Capt. Ron Wagner	TP/LT/FLY/BC/FL/GF/REEF (304) 664-2028 fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com
Capt. Lain Goodwin	BC/FL (305) 304-2212 captain@dirtywatercharters.com	Capt. Paul Hunt captpaul@finhuntercharters.com	BC/FL/LT/FLY (305) 393-2495 www.finhuntercharters.com
Capt. Tad Burke	BC/FL/GF/OFF (305) 852-0739 (305) 451-7354	Capt. Bruce Andersen Capt. Easy Charters	OFF/WR (305) 360-2120 www.captaineasycharters.com
Capt. Kevin Brown Golden Reserve Charters	(305) 394-0792 www.goldreservecharters.com	Capt. Skip Nielsen	BC/FL/LT (305) 664-9314 skipcye@bellsouth.net
Capt. John Taskowitz	OFF (305) 664-9202 www.suzannefishingcharters.com	Capt. Robert Mathias, Jr capt@floridakeysfishing.com	"RESTLESS TOO" (305) 304-4422 www.floridakeysfishing.com
Capt. Ted Benbow	FL/BC (305) 393-0363 www.skinsandfinscharters.com	Capt. Bruce Pollock Edge Charters	FL/BC/LT (305) 393-5269 www.florida-keys-fishing-guides.com CaptainBruce@florida-keys-fishing-guides.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		

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