



Fishing Seminar

October 2023



Agenda

Harbor Overview - Jim Crawley

Contests/tournaments - Captain
Mike Dougherty

Tarpon - Captain Rick Sarkisian and
Jude Panetta

Snook - Richy Kale

Cobia - Richy Kale

What's in Richy's tackle bag

Spanish Mackerel - Captain Mike
Dougherty

Sheepshead - Captain Mike White

Shark - Captain Mike White

Spotted Seatrout - Randy Douet

Solunar Tables - Randy Douet

King Mackerel - Gary Selzer

Near-shore - Fred De Mella

Red Grouper – Captain Jeff Barnhart

Fish Safety and ID - Dennis Krausman



Harbor Basics

Jim Crawley



5 Preserves: 150,000 acres

Lemon Bay Aquatic Preserve - July, 1986

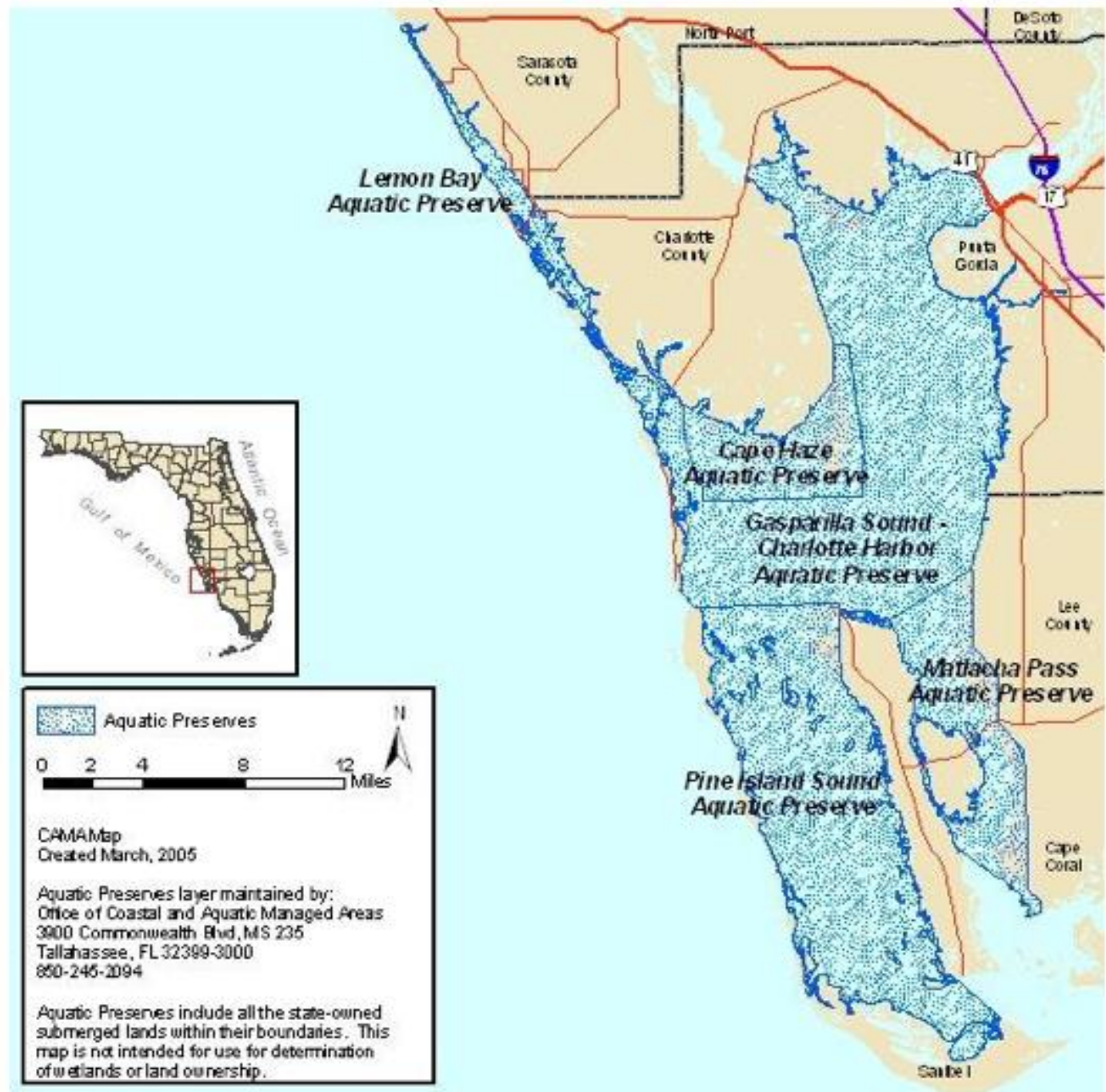
Cape Haze Aquatic Preserve - 1978

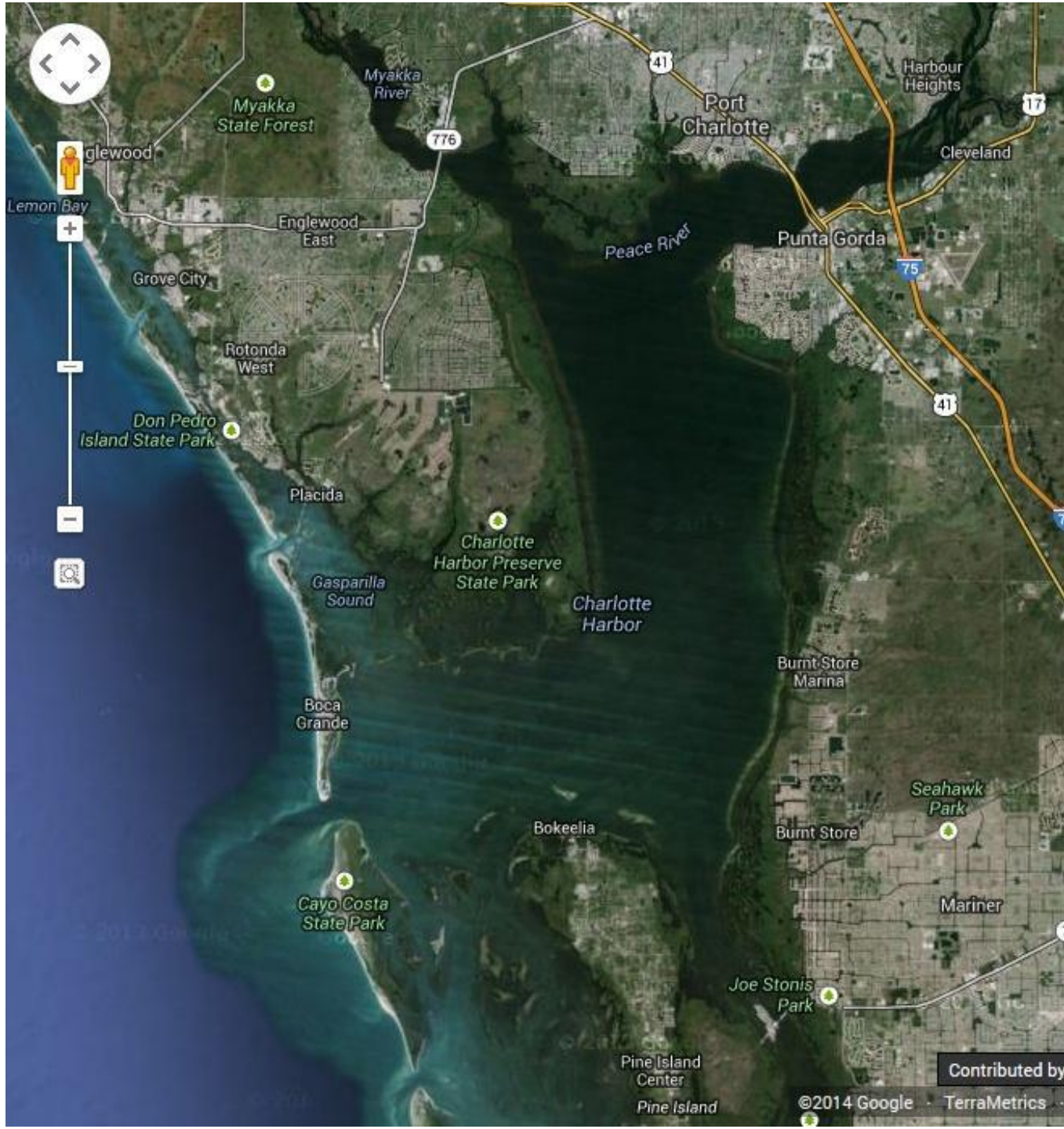
Gasparilla Sound - Charlotte Harbor

Aquatic Preserve - 1979

Matlacha Pass Aquatic Preserve - 1972 Pine

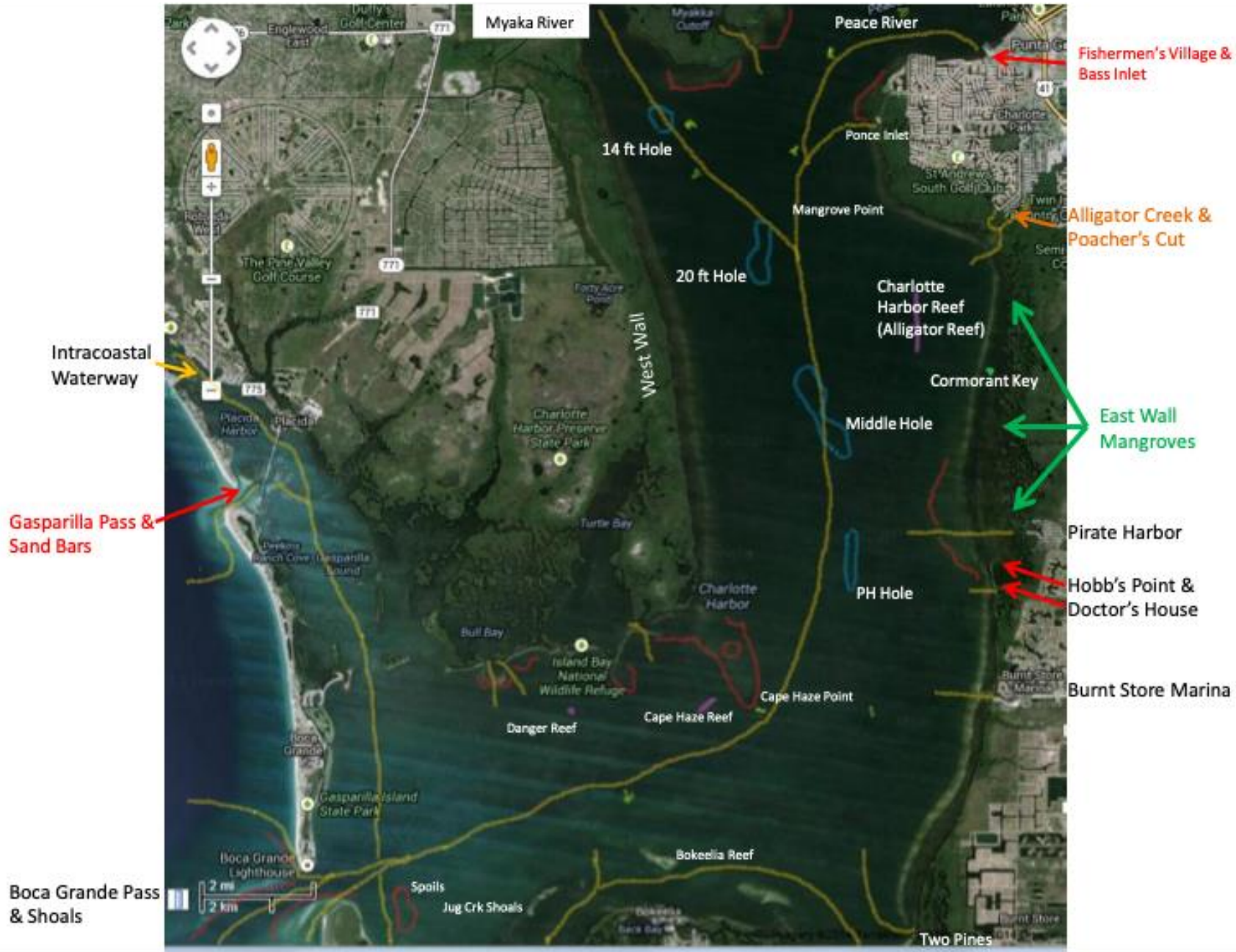
Island Sound Aquatic Preserve -





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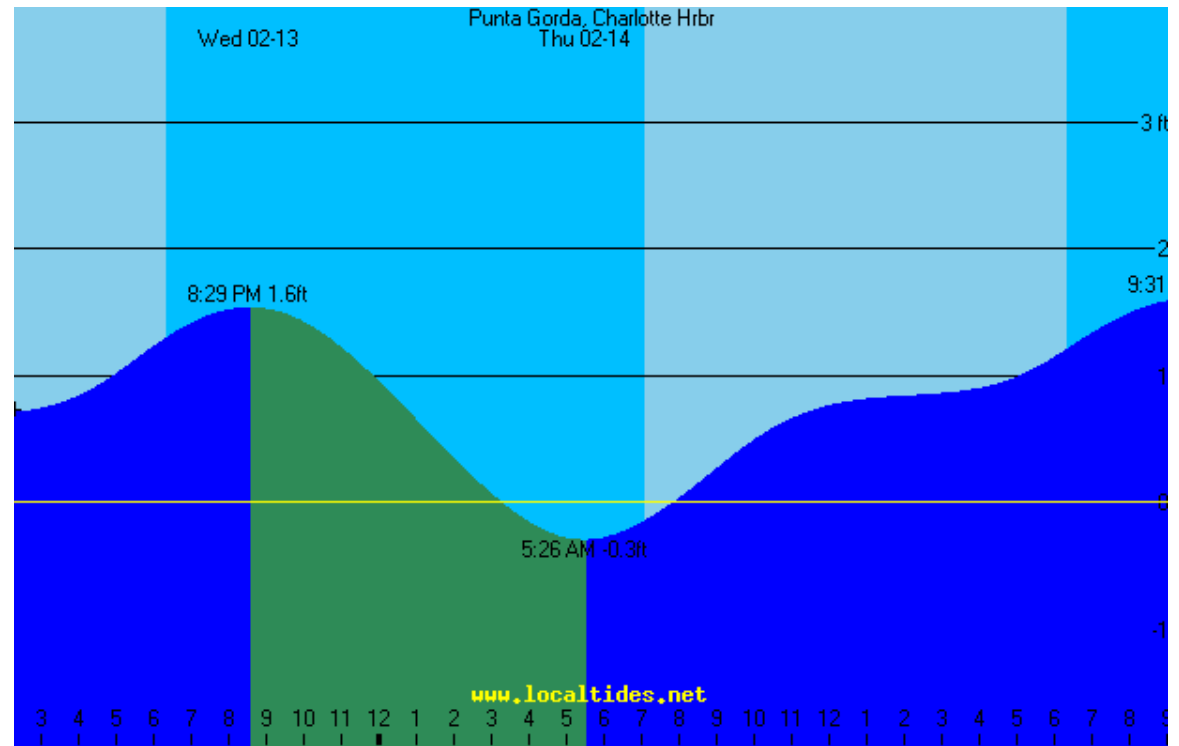
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LOCALTIDES.NET

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA TIDE CHARTS

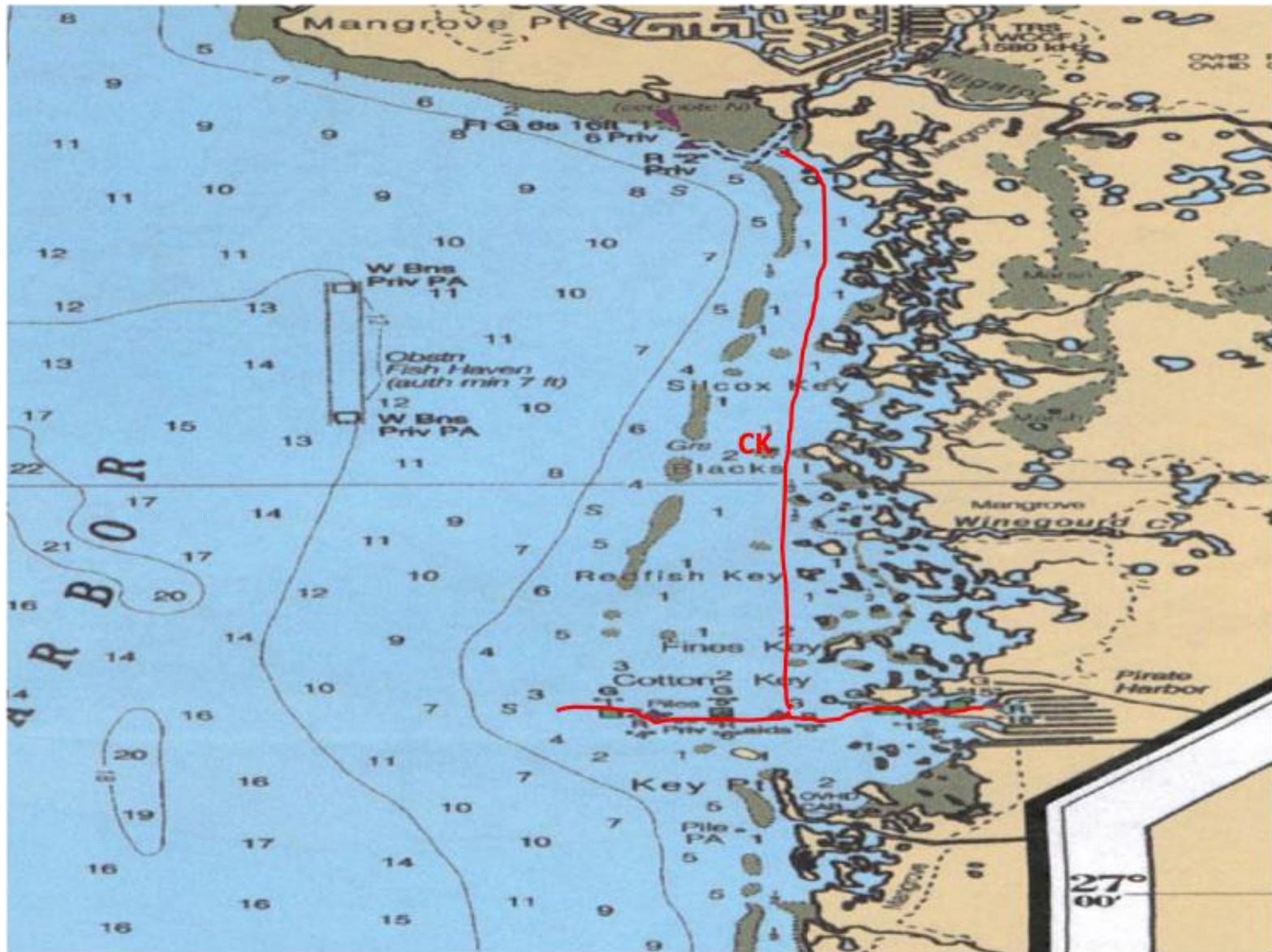


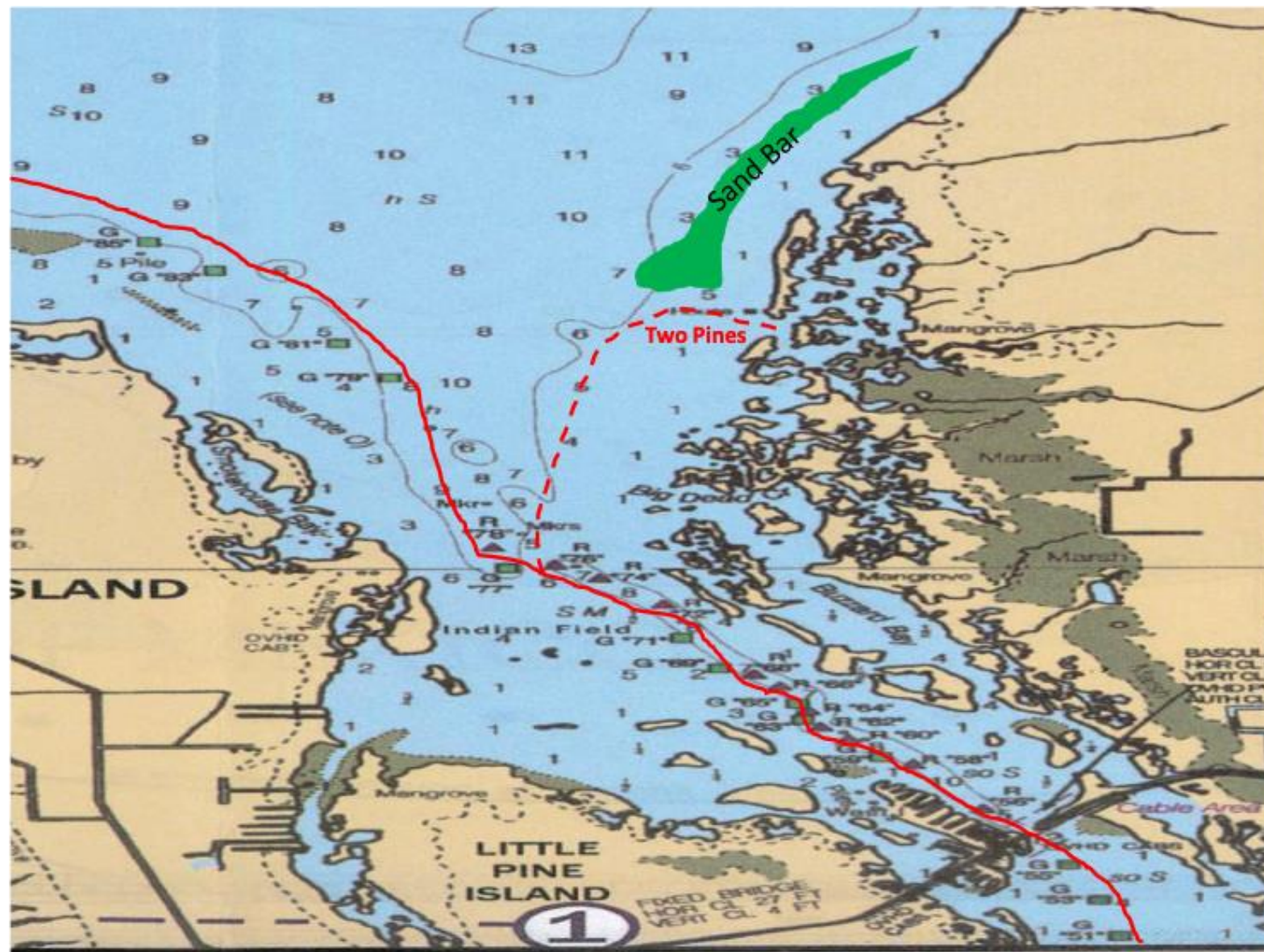


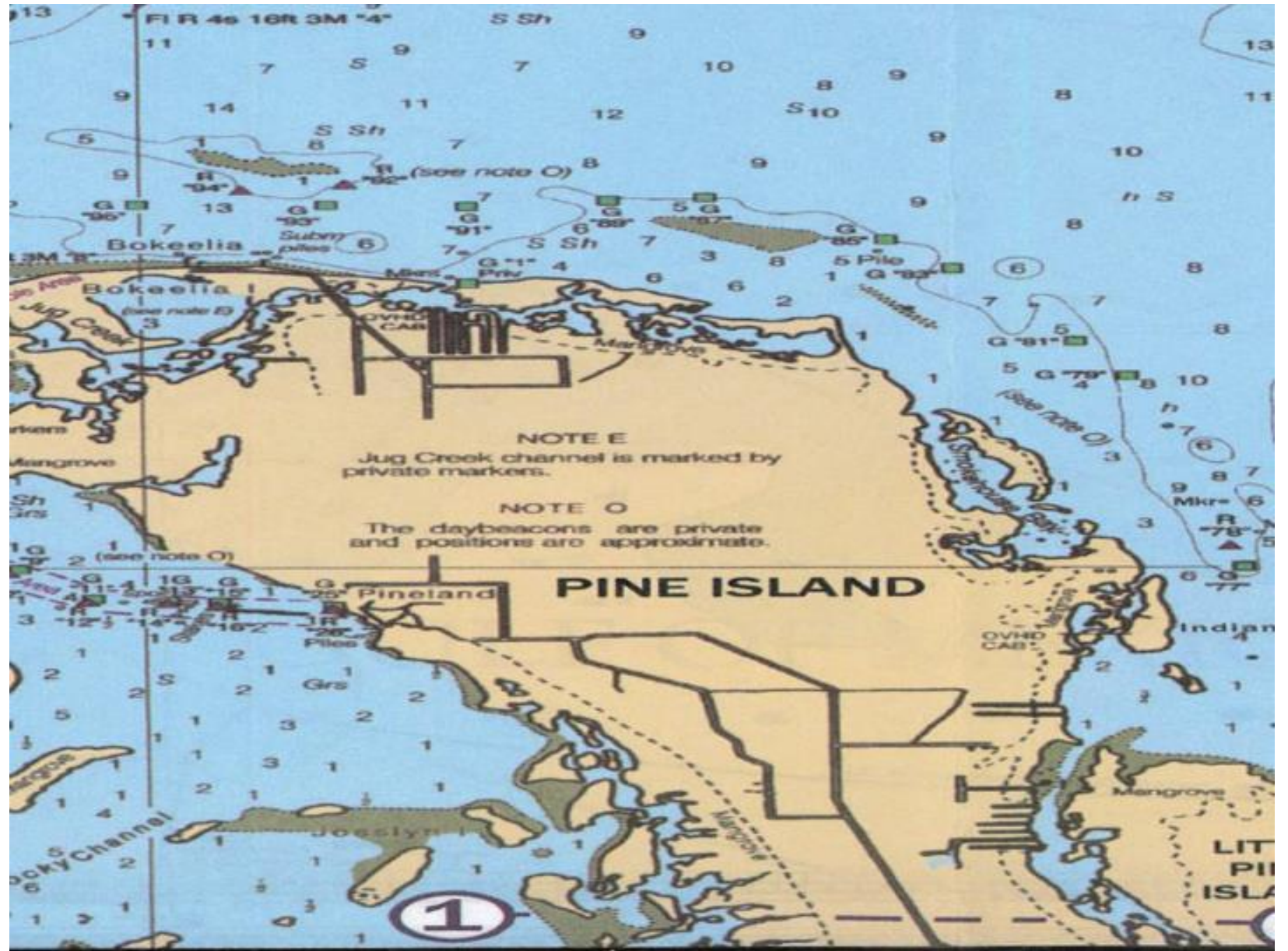
Finding Fish

- Look for structure - points, oyster beds, pot holes in grass flats
- Look for birds, bait, swirls from fish movement
- Don't run up on your spot - stop and ease in with trolling motor
- Fish will be facing into the current
- Use scent with artificial lures
- Fish move around the harbor seasonally
- Summer - high H₂O temps and low oxygen
- Fall - cooling water and good fishing
- Winter - cool water and high oxygen
- Spring - warming water and good fishing
- Knots: <https://www.animatedknots.com/fishing-knots>
https://www.netknots.com/fishing_knots



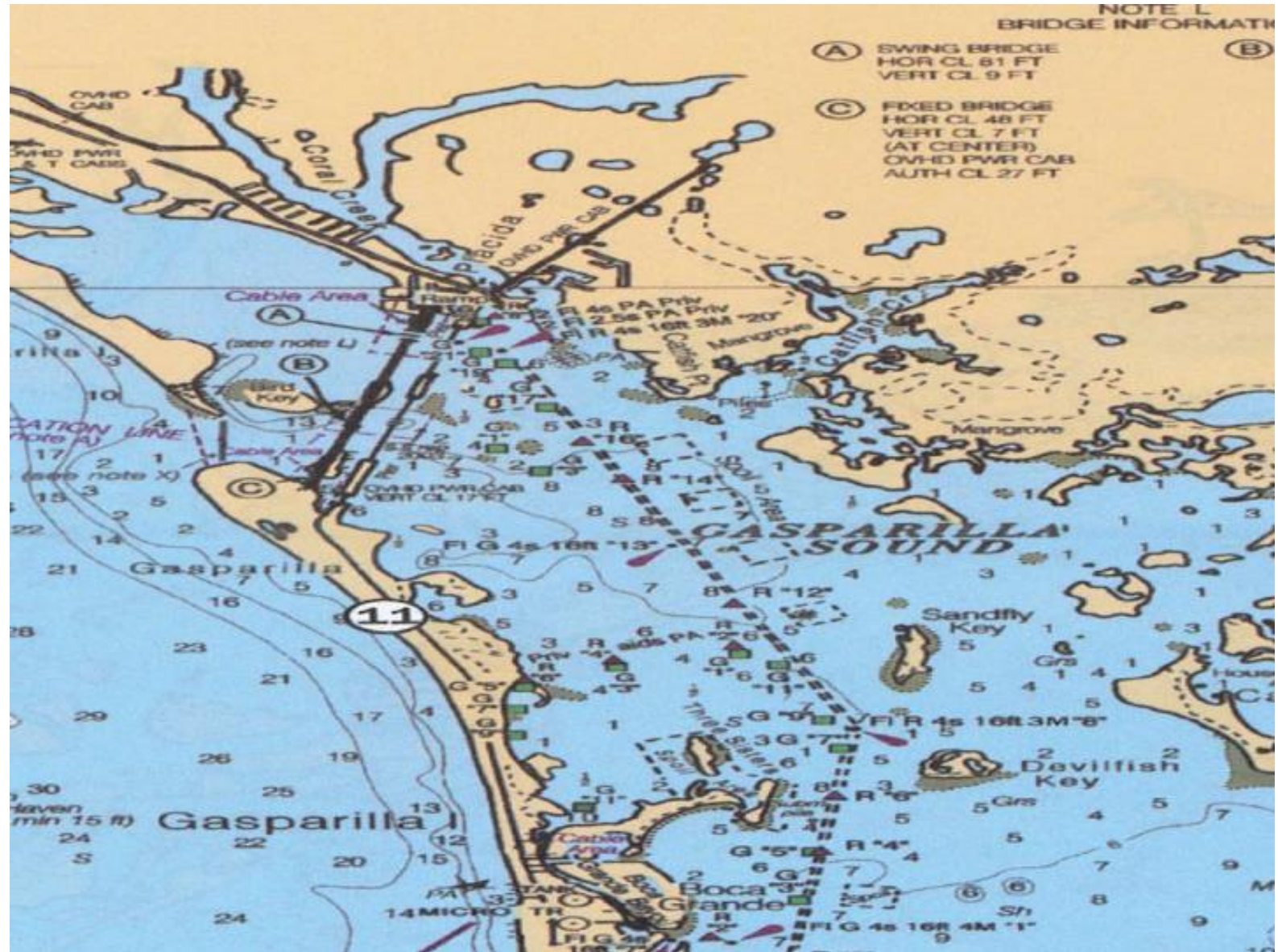












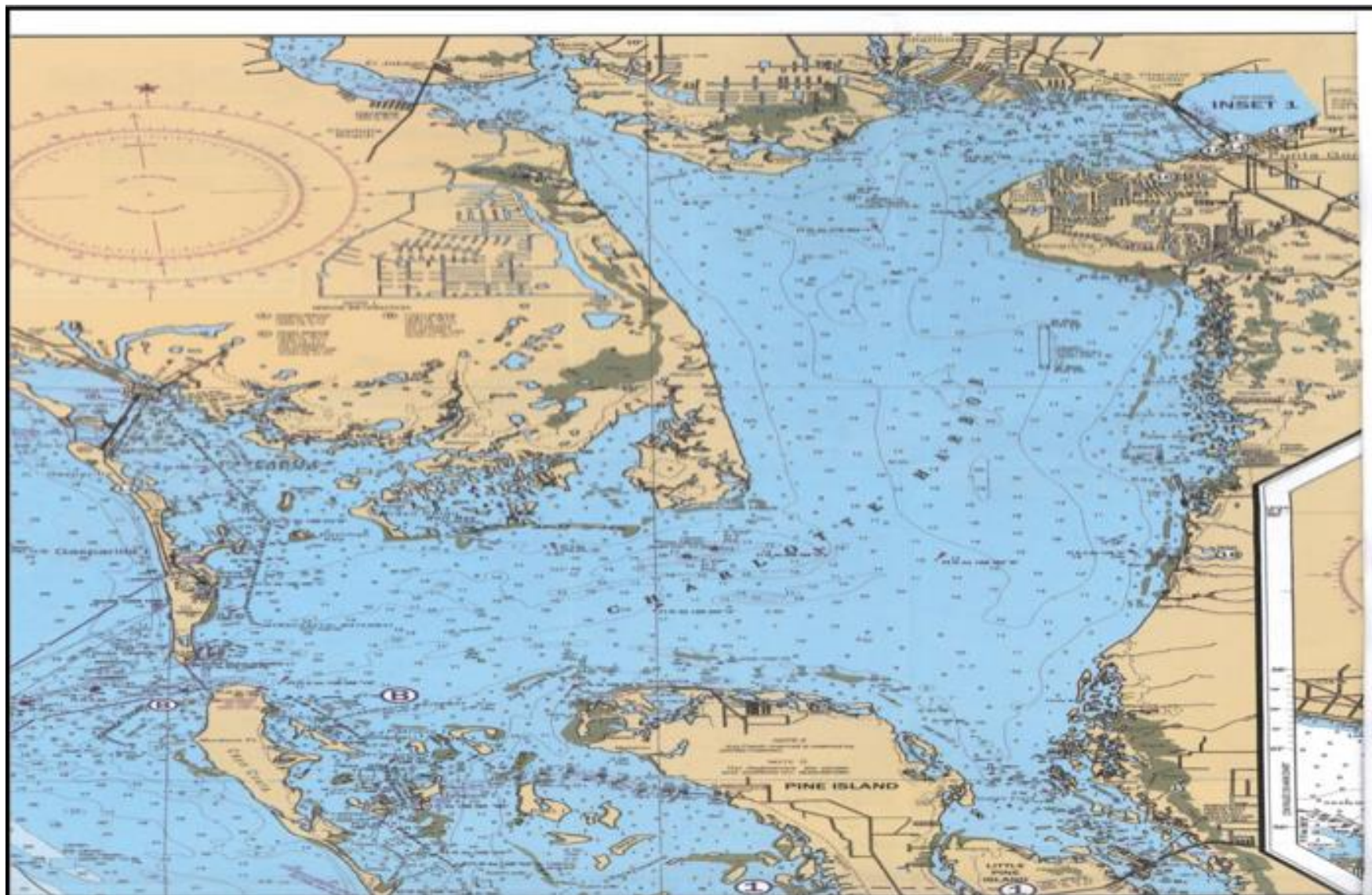














Questions?



Contests/Tournaments

Captain Mike Dougherty



Overview of Club Contests /Tournaments

- Ladder of Achievement Rules (LOA)
- Fish of the Month (FOM)
- Tournaments and Fishing Events
- Master Anglers Tournament (MAT)
- Isles Trophy Race & Awards



Summary of Ladder of Achievement (LOA)

1. 1st fish – any length from the eligible list = Club hat
2. Bronze pin - 5 fish on any size
3. Silver Pin - 5 fish of eligible size and 300 points (more about points later)
4. Gold Pin - 7 fish of eligible size and 700 points
5. Snook Pin – Lifetime master angler level I - 9 fish of eligible size and 1,000 points
6. Redfish Pin – Lifetime master angler level II - 13 fish of eligible size and 1,400 points
7. Tarpon Pin – Lifetime master angler level III – 18 fish of eligible size and 1,700 points
8. Grand Master Angler shirt (GMA) - 23 fish of eligible size and 2,000 points
9. GMA star – achieve 2,000 points in a year



Summary of Ladder of Achievement

- All fish must be from the eligible species list, caught within 50 miles of Charlotte Harbor
- All fish must be of eligible size to the closest ½"; some fish size are estimated
- Paid charter captains can be used for LOA and minimal assistance from other anglers; note this changes rule is different for other contests
- Submit a picture of you with your fish, date caught, if a guide was used, length of fish (fork length if required) to fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org



Ladder of Angling Achievement Tables

Eligible Angler Achievement Species

**MEASURE
ALL FISH
FLAT TO
CLOSEST
½ INCH
FOR LOA
PURPOSES
ONLY**

**NOT FOR
FWC
REGS**

Name	Eligible Size	Name	Eligible Size	Name	Eligible Size
Amberjack	34" (fork length)	Grunt	All	Sheepshead	12"
Barracuda	All (fork length)	Jack Crevalle	All (fork length)	Snapper - Yellowtail	12"
Black Drum	14"	King Mackerel	24" (fork length)	Snapper – all other*	8" – 16"
Bluefish	12" (fork length)	Ladyfish	All	Snook	28"
Blue Runner	All	Permit	11" (fork length)	Spanish Mackerel	12" (fork length)
Bonita	All	Pinfish	All	Stingray	All
Catfish (all)	All	Pompano	11" (fork length)	Tarpon	All (fork length)
Cobia	36" (fork length)	Redfish	18"	Tripletail	18"
Flounder	14"	Seatrout	15"	Whiting	All
Grouper:		Shark	All (fork length)		
▪ Red	20"				
▪ Gag or Black	24"				

*Snapper all other: Lane = 8"; Mangrove (Gray), Schoolmaster, and Vermilion = 10"; Cubera, Blackfin, Dog, Queen, Silk = 12'; Red = 16"; Mutton = 18"



Points for Ladder of Achievement

Points Earned Based on Length			
Points Earned	100	200	300
Species	Size in inches		
Amberjack (fork length)	34"	40"	46"
Black Drum	32"	42"	46"
Cobia (fork length)	37"	40"	43"
Grouper	25"	29"	33"
King Mackerel (fork length)	32"	36"	40"
Redfish	25"	30"	35"
Seatrout	18"	21"	24"
Shark (fork length)	40"	50"	60"
Sheepshead	16"	19"	22"
Snook	29"	36"	42"
Spanish Mackerel (fork length)	21"	23"	25"
Tarpon (fork length)	36"	48"	60"



LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT

LOA

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



- A different fish each month
- Awards for Ladies and Men categories
- Generally 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place
- Award amounts subject to change

FISH of the MONTH

JANUARY: SHEEPSHEAD



FEBRUARY: GROUPER



MARCH: SPANISH MACKEREL



APRIL: SNOOK



MAY: COBIA



JUNE: JACK CREVALLE



JULY: SHARK



AUGUST: TARPON



SEPTEMBER: BLACK DRUM



OCTOBER: REDFISH



NOVEMBER: MANGROVE SNAPPER



DECEMBER: SPOTTED SEA TROUT





FISH OF THE MONTH

(FOM)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



Tournaments and Events

- Generally 4 to 6 a year
- Ladies and Men's category; and often a new member category
- Usually 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes for each category
- Multiple species – off-shore and in-shore
- Communication sent via e-mail and in the newsletter
- Registration required



Master Angler Tournament

- Runs Jan1 – Dec 31st
- The longest fish, no guide may be used, or assistance from another angler other than netting/gaffing. Same angler must hook and land the fish
- No paid guides
- Species included: Spanish Mackerel, Amberjack, Black Drum, Cobia, Grouper, King Mackerel, Sheepshead, Snook, Spotted Seatrout, and Redfish
- No separate category for men and women – the longest fish wins



Isles Trophy Race Contest

- Two awards; the top women and men
- Awards based on the percentage the length of fish is compared to the club record
- Winner receive a traveling trophy award with their name engraved retained for 1 year as well as a gift card
- Eligible species: Amberjack, Black Drum, Cobia, Grouper, King Mackerel, Redfish, Sheepshead, Snook, Spanish Mackerel, and Spotted Seatrout



General Information

- Rules can be found on the PGI Fishing Club web-sites and change from time to time
- All fish are submitted to fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org
- You and the fish **MUST** be in the picture
- See various contest rules for timing to submit to the fish to be eligible for awards



Questions??



Adult Tarpon – Charlotte Harbor

Captain Rick Sarkisian and Jude Panetta



Tarpon



ADULT TARPON IN CHARLOTTE HARBOR

World Class Fishing In
Your Backyard





Tarpon

Safety is #1

- BIG animals
- Don't go alone
- Start with guide or experienced companion



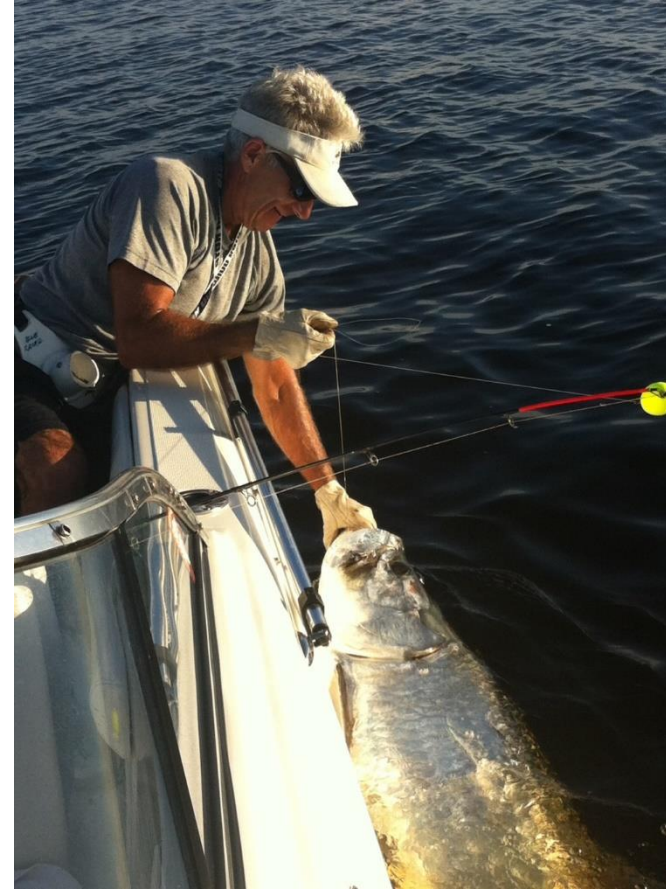


Tarpon



Their Safety

- MUST revive
- Best option for beginners is “tow and cut”
- Boat in reverse for pictures and revival
- For PGIFC submittals a picture of the fish only is acceptable
- Be aware of potential sharks when fighting or releasing
- Limit fight to 30 minutes or less
 - Minimum 50 lb. line





Tarpon



Locations

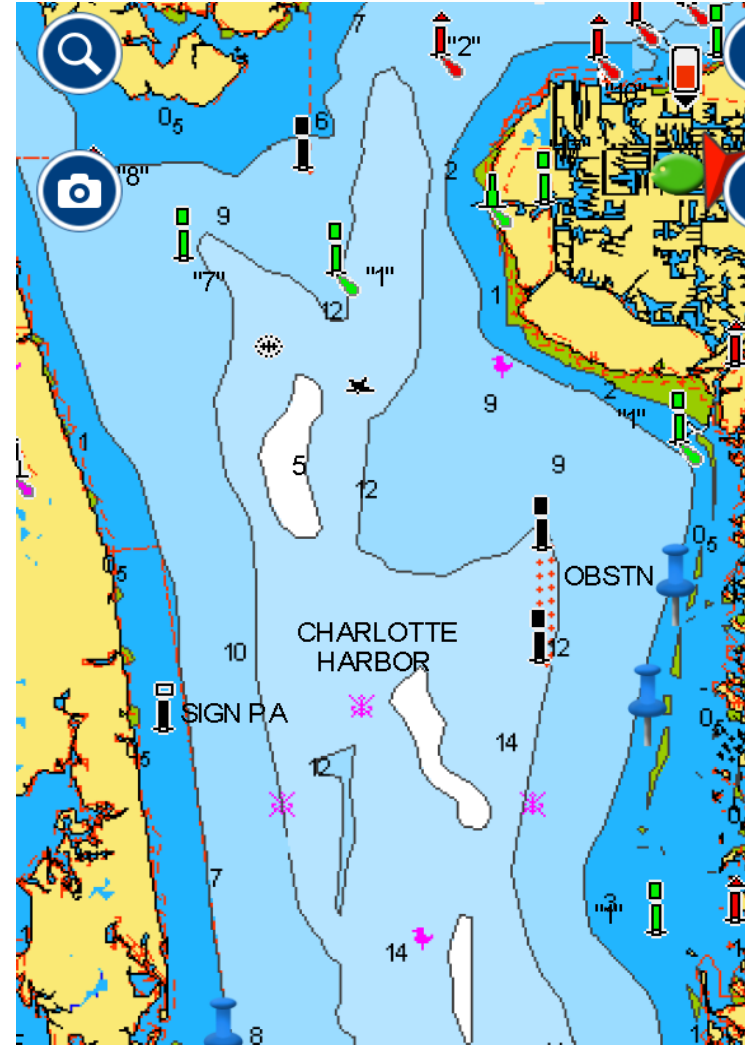
- Open water fish
- Fish are in the harbor from March to November
- BGP area is best May and June, but much more technical
- Harbor is best place in the state from August to November
- “Best place to tarpon fish is where they are at”
- “Best time to tarpon fish is when you are where they are at”
- Deep hole always good



Tarpon

Finding tarpon

- Busting tarpon
- Rolling tarpon
- Ladyfish schools
- Birds
- Blind fish in deep holes
- Side Scan





Tarpon

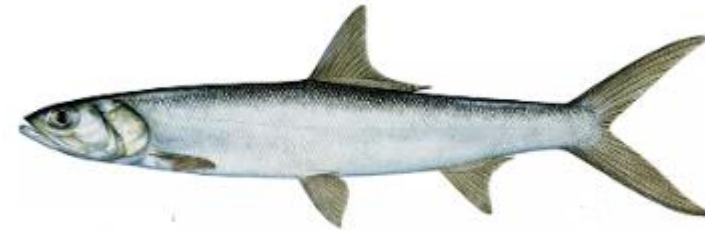
Two Techniques

DOA BaitBuster

- Simple and effective
- Any boat
- Any time

Live ladyfish

- Requires good livewell
- Messy
- Best method in fall





Tarpon



Tarpon with DOA BaitBuster

- How to catch a tarpon from your deck boat
- Rig
 - 4' to 6' leader 50 to 80 lb. fluorocarbon
 - Trolling model Bait Buster in root beer, silver/black or purple
 - Keep hook **sharp!**
 - Loop knot
 - Lure must run true





Tarpon



Tarpon with DOA BaitBuster

Retrieve

- No sink, countdown, or drop to bottom
- Steady retrieve, no action, SLOW
- Throw at rolling fish
- Also, dead stick (dangler) with or without bobber

Tap!

- Hard hook set
- Bow to the silver king



Tarpon



Tarpon free-lining ladyfish

Rig

- 6' to 8' leader 80# fluorocarbon
- 8/0 or 9/0 circle hook (Trokar Lancet offset CK3 or offset TK3)
- Bobber

Hook live ladyfish thru mouth and nostril

- Catch trolling in 3-5'
- Walmart crappie jigs, small spoons, etc



Tarpon



Tarpon free-lining ladyfish

Drift behind boat

- Trolling motor control
- One or two rods
- 30' to 100' back
- .8 to 1.4 mph

Rod in holder

- No free spool and no hookset
- Bow to the silver king



Tarpon



Tackle

Standard "tarpon rod"

- 8' spinning rod
 - Shimano Teramar TERSES80XHB (\$219)
- 5,000-10,000 reel
 - Daiwa BG5000 (\$130)
 - Quantum Cabo 60 (or 50) (\$240)
- 50 or 65# braid
 - DO NOT use less than 50#
- 6' of 50, 60 or 80# fluorocarbon leader



Tarpon



Tackle

Knots

- Spider Hitch or Bimini Twist to double the braid (optional)
- Albright, FG, GT, or Double Uni for braid to leader
- Loop knot for Bait Buster
- YouTube and practice



Tarpon



Harbor tarpon etiquette

- Tarpon are easily “put down” by boats
- Do not run your outboard any closer than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from a group of boats fishing for tarpon
- Only enter a group of boats fishing for tarpon with your trolling motor. (If you don't have a trolling motor, stay outside “the pack.” Tarpon schools in the harbor are large and scattered so you don't need to be in the middle of the group)
- Unless invited, stay 100 yards away from other boats
- Do not block the drift of other boats
- Note: When casually running down to the beach do not go through the middle of a loose group of boats in the middle of the harbor



Tarpon



Tarpon are large and dangerous. It is best to go out first with an experienced angler or guide.

RECOMMENDED HARBOR TARPON GUIDES

- Captain Scott Hughes 941-628-4247
- Captain Karl Butigan 941-565-7325
- Captain Brock Horner 941-822-5908



Tarpon



Questions



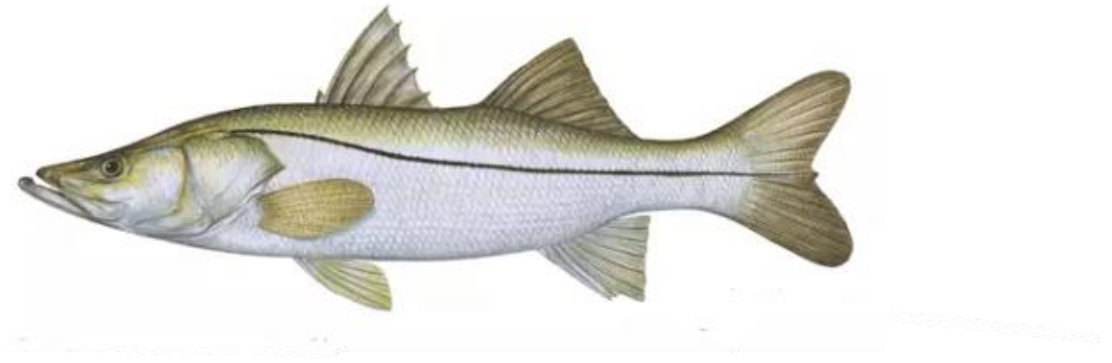


Snook

Richy Kale



Snook



Locations

Tides/Water Temperature

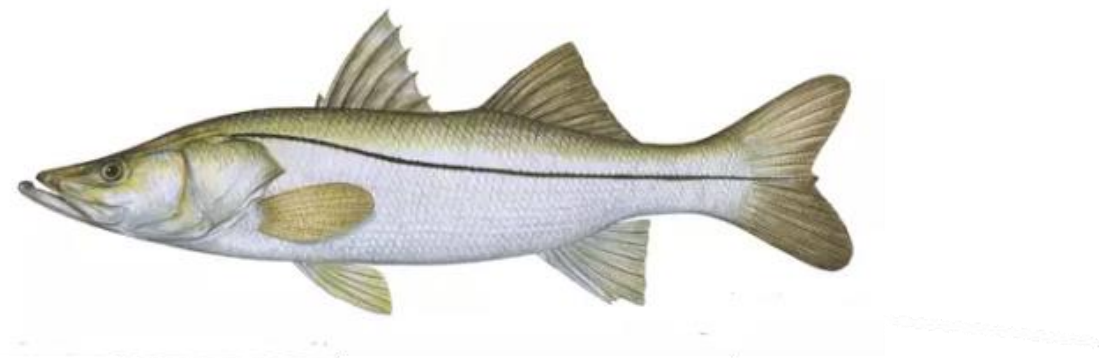
Time of year

Gear

Technique



Snook



Questions?



Cobia
Richy Kale



Cobia



Locations

Tides/Water Temperature

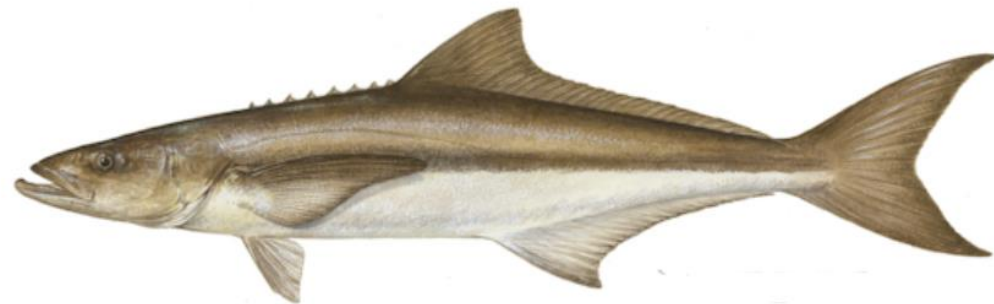
Time of year

Gear

Technique



Cobia



Questions?



What's in Richys' Table bag

Note: Richy is a very advanced angler and rarely uses live bait (shrimp, whitebait, etc).

Many soft plastics resembling "white bait"



Bucktails in assorted colors and weight used with a "gulp type" bait



Deeper diving lures for Gag Grouper in the harbor reefs and structure





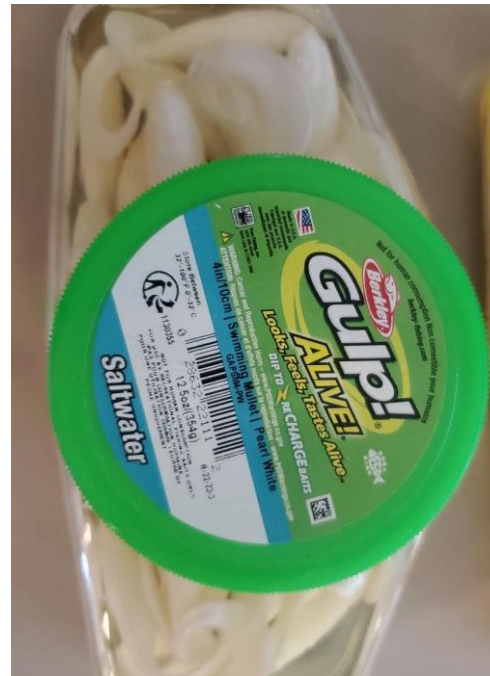
What's in Richys' Table bag

Note: Richy is a very advanced angler and rarely uses live bait (shrimp, whitebait, etc).

Gulp shrimp



Swimming Mullet Gulp



Larger Gulp





What's in Richys' Table bag

Note: Richy is a very advanced angler and rarely uses live bait (shrimp, whitebait, etc).

Use to fish when the river is receding after high levels

Trolling DOA Baitbusters for harbor tarpon; root beer, purple, silver glitter, and gold

Various lures





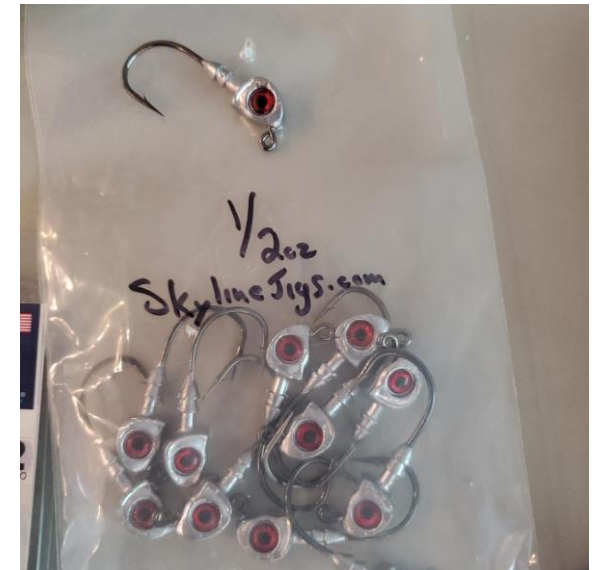
What's in Richys' Table bag

Note: Richy is a very advanced angler and rarely uses live bait (shrimp, whitebait, etc).

Vudu Shrimp



Jig heads – weights will vary based on depth and current

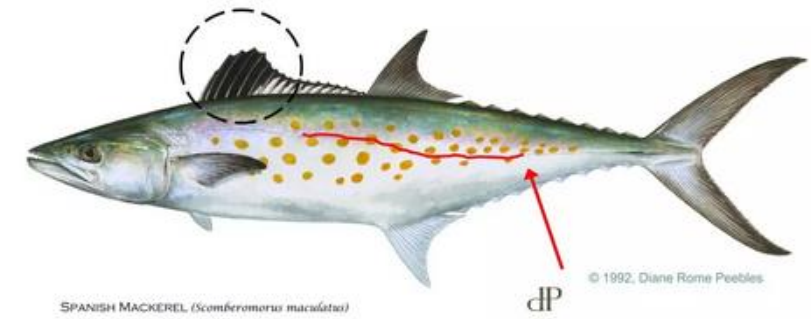




Spanish Mackerel Captain Mike Dougherty



Spanish Mackerel



Identification

- Back is bluish-green, fading to silvery sides and belly
- Irregular golden-yellow spots on sides
- Bluish-black blotch on front of first dorsal fin
- Lateral line slopes gently from behind the gill cover to the tail

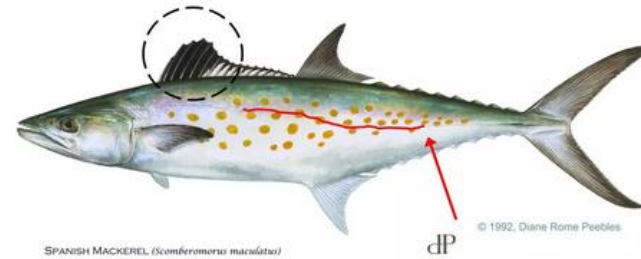
Size: Up to 36 inches , State Record 12 lb.
Club Record – 30” Carl Leicher

Behavior

Aggressive feeders that will strike a wide variety of natural and artificial baits. Many anglers identify the location of Spanish Mackerel by trolling or watching for birds diving on schools of baitfish, which often indicates that mackerel are forcing the bait to the surface



Spanish Mackerel



Technique

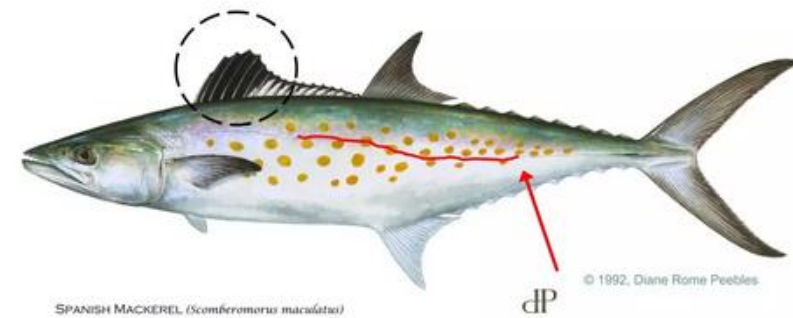
- Fast retrieve or troll – troll between 4 – 6 mph
- When you find them, cast for them with a fast retrieve
- Very sharp teeth; wire leader will save you lures but reduce the catching
- When water is murky wire leader isn't seen as much

Gear

- Spoons or trolling lures; use least expensive



Spanish Mackerel



Questions?



Sea Trout

Randy Douet



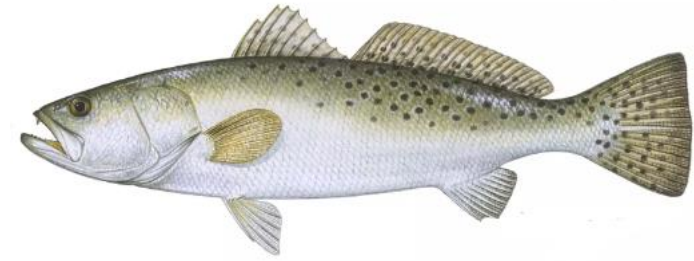
Sea Trout



- Overall Club Record: 29" (Rich Brennan & Aaron Wagner)
- Ladies Club Record: 26.5" (Joanne Landaker)
- Florida State Record: 17 pounds 7 ounces (~37")



Sea Trout



I believe there are two reasons to use live shrimp:

- 1) You're BRAND new to fishing here
- 2) You aren't able to efficiently and quietly cover ground

Artificial Baits:

- See pictures

Popping Cork Rig:

- 1) Adds sound dynamic
- 2) Keeps bait exactly within grass tips
- 3) Easy to locate (prevents cross-casting)





Sea Trout

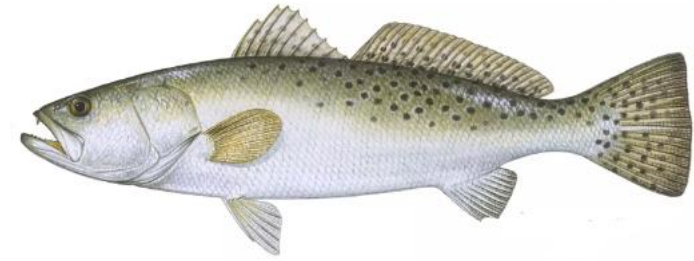


Locations

- Look for 2.8-3.5 foot of water over healthy grass beds
- Find flats that are NEAR deeper water
- Turtle Grass is best grass species to work
- Try to fish areas with breeze above 5 mph
- Drift and anchor several times per spot. 20 yards makes a big difference
- Don't fish grass that is matted up with dead brown grass (red tide?)
- QUIET!
- Fish edges of potholes
- "Fish the Slick"



Sea Trout



“Slick” defined

- Slicks naturally form with breeze conditions.
- Trout hate direct sunlight.
- Slick forms a “boundary” to them
- They like to hang on its edges





Sea Trout



Reverse "slick"

- Found on dead wind, glass days
- Fish the edges





Sea Trout





Winds, Tides, Solunar, and Fronts

Randy Douet



Wind

- Most prevailing wind is Easterly here (good!)
- My favorite wind speed is 5-10mph.
- Situate boat to cast downwind
- Wind SHIFT while fishing is a symptom of a front or storm



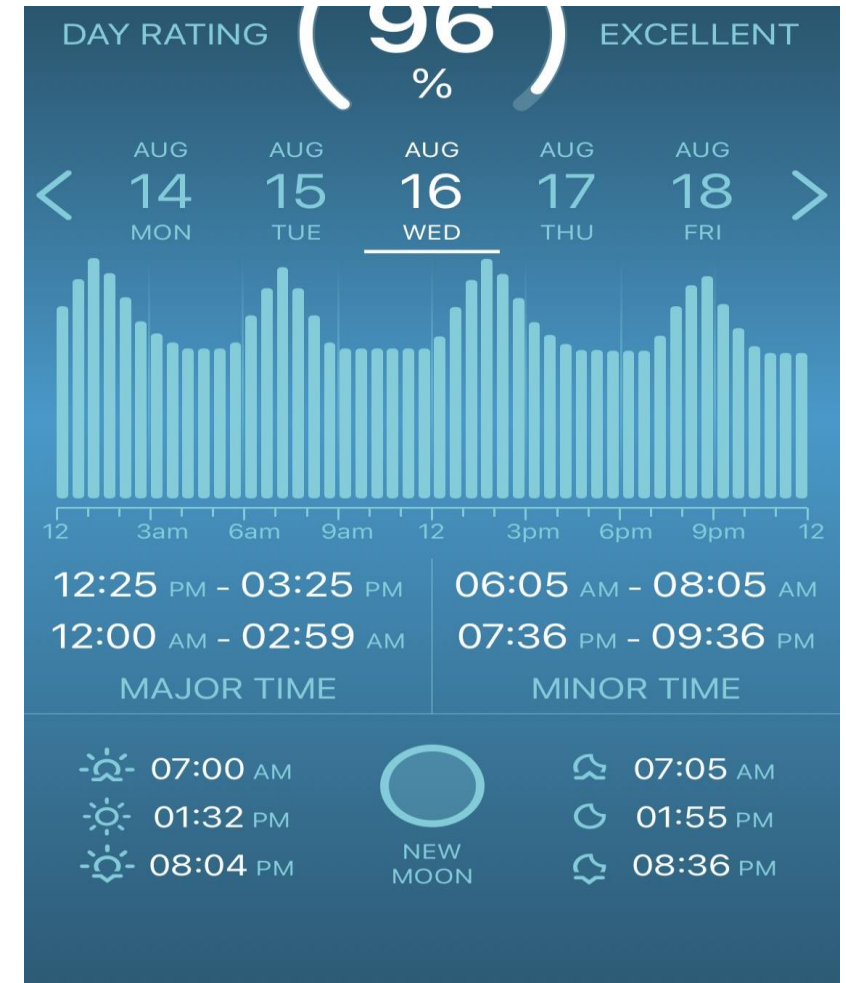
Tides

- Must have moving water for most species
- “Winter Water” is ~1.5’ lower than Summer
- Plan your journey for no “slack” tides
- Too much movement is not ideal
- Tide levels move daily by about one hour daily (moon rotation is 25 hours)



Solunar

- NOT an almanac prediction! Science documented since 1926
- Full moon and no moon best
- Associates moonrise and moonset with high fish activity
- Plenty of published SOLUNAR tables (some with tides)
- Most days have two “major periods” and two “minor periods”





Fronts

- Fish are more active (feeding) during LOW or unchanging barometric pressure
- Likewise; they do NOT feed well with rising barometric pressure
- To us, that's basically a weather "FRONT"
- Best time is BEFORE an incoming front
- Worse time is immediately after a front (sometimes 2-3 days!)



Winds, Tides, and Fronts

Questions



Sheepshead

Captain Mike White

Club member and owner/operator of Charlotte Harbor Fishing Ventures





Sheepshead

- State record – 15lbs 2oz
- World record 21lbs 4oz
- Club Record – 26", Mike White
- Bait – small crabs, small shrimp, oysters, and barnacles
- Habitat – oyster bars, docks, bridge pilings, reefs (near- shore, rivers, and harbor)

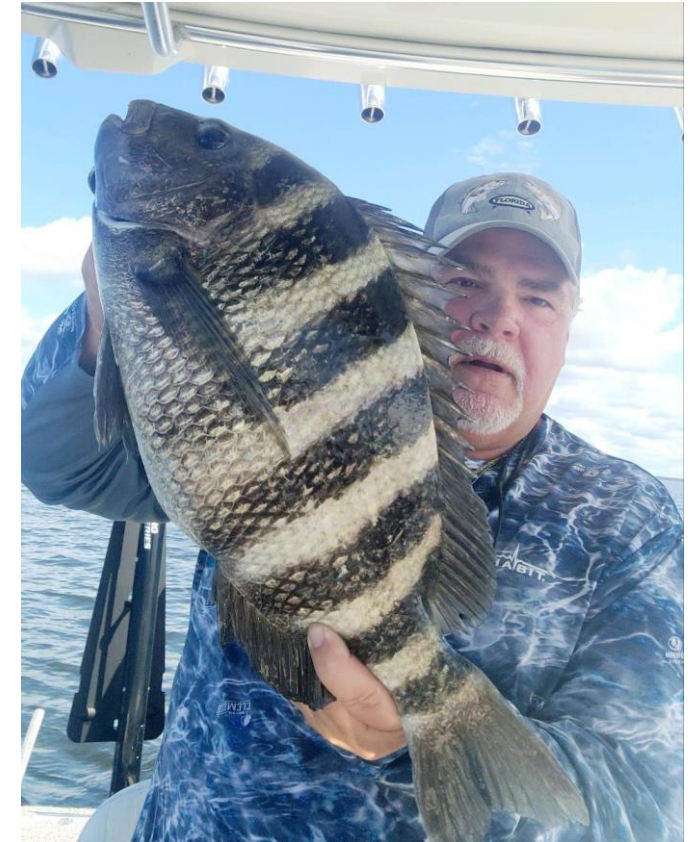




Sheepshead



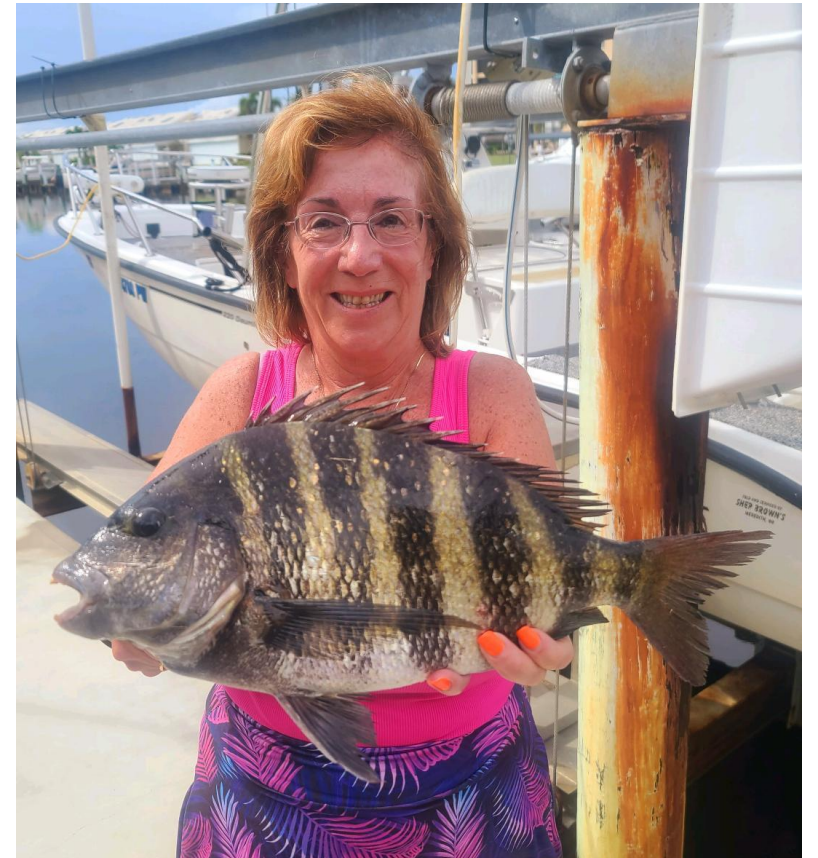
- When - October – April/May
- Where - structure with barnacles – docks, seawalls, Alligator Reef, near shore reefs, makers, any given depth
- Rod – 6-14 or 8-17 with 2,500 - 3000 spinning reel
 - Beef up the gear to target the big ones
- Rigging – 10 - 20lb braid with 10 – 20lb leader, jig head or hook with split shot – smaller hook
 - Beef up line and leader to target the big ones
- Technique – cast/drop over/at structure, let lure sink, wait for the “nibble” then the commitment to take the bait. If nibbles don’t turn into a bite, very slowly reel the bait away





Sheepshead – Locations

- Alligator Reef
- Near shore reefs
- Canals – seawalls and docks
- Bridges
- Phosphate and condo docks by Boca Grande
- North Captiva Pass
- Gasparilla Sound railroad tracks





Sheepshead

- Great to eat; white and flaky
- Harder to fillet due to thick scales
- Mangrove Snapper hang in the same areas so expect by-catch (meaning bring a lot of bait)
- Fun fighting fish; they are slim and have a big tail!





Sheepshead

Questions?



Shark Captain Mike White

Club member and owner/operator of Charlotte
Harbor Fishing Ventures

This is boat based fishing for shark. For rules on land based shark fishing it is required to take the FWC course



Shark



Locations

- “Clean” side of tide lines; they will be taking cover and looking for bait flowing through
- Start at marker 2 towards marker 1, stay outside the tire reef on the way to marker 1
- On an out-going tide go to the west side of Alligator Reef to the west wall/marker 5 area. Stay in the deeper water and look for the tide line
- Outside the bars on east and west wall; in 6 to 8’ of water
- Deeper water near “the hill”
- Deep holes

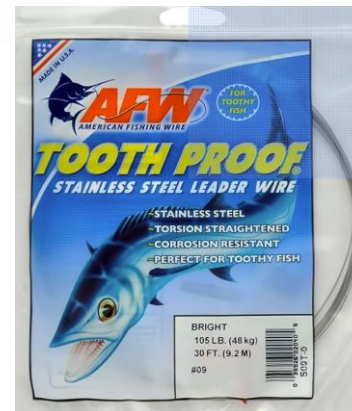


Shark



Rigging

- 8' of 80 – 100lb; monofilament or fluorocarbon. Tie the leader to the braid
- 1' – 3' wire leader (Tooth Proof 100 lb) with a swivel at one end and a 8 – 12 inline circle hook to the other end. Use a haywire twist knot when making your wire leader
- Tie the leader to the barrel swivel that is on the wire leader
- A large float (so you can see where your bait is)
- Rig the ladyfish through the nostril and lip or “bridle” through the eyes





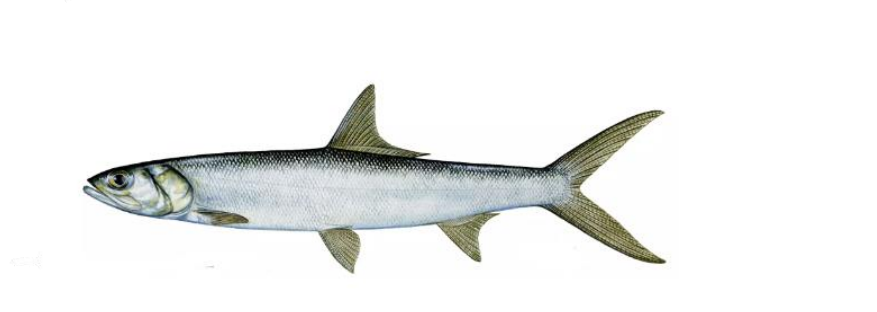
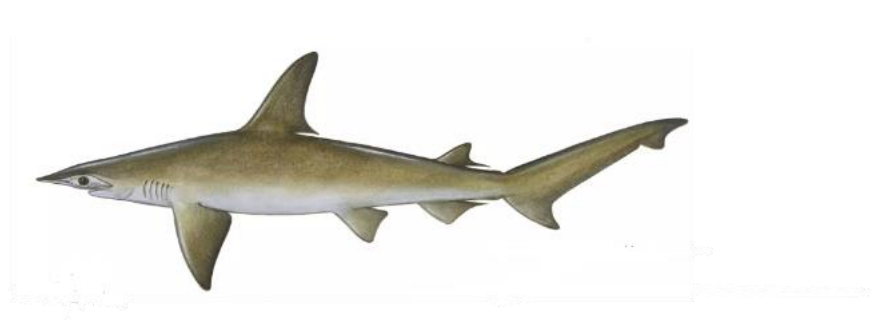
Shark

Bait

- Live or dead ladyfish
- Live or dead other legal bait

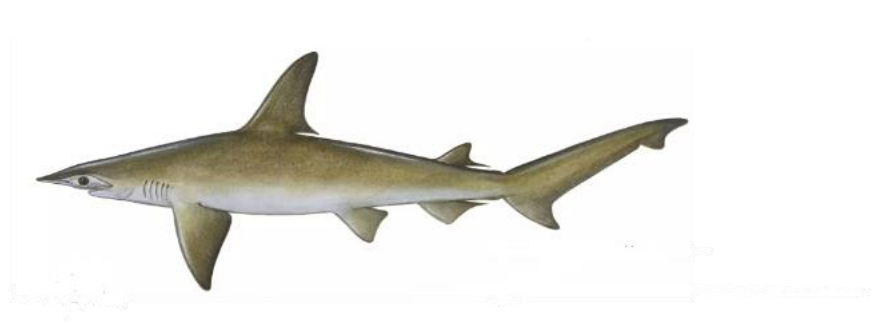
Technique

- Slow troll or drift
- Troll clean side of weed line to avoid bait getting tangled
- Use rod holder extension arms to keep bait far apart
- Keep bait 150' behind the boat
- Live bait in livewell will create scent in the water. Can also use a chum bag while drifting





Shark



The bite:

- Hard, strong, and get ready for the drag to peel off the reel
- Get other rods reeled in and stowed for the fight
- It's hard to miss a shark (or other large fish) that take your bait

Safety

- Release the shark as soon as possible
- Don't boat the shark
- Always have a good pair of protective gloves on board to grab the leader
- Do not wrap the leader around your hand
- Have a good pair of long handled wire/hook cutters and dehooking device



Shark

Questions?



King Mackerel

Gary Selzer



King Mackerel



World Record 90 lb.

FL Record 90 lb. Club: 52.0", John MacLeman

About the Fish

- Coastal Pelagic
- Built for speed (hard, forked tail; slime coating)
- Voracious appetite
- Slash baits, cutting off the tail

Habitat – Found offshore from Boca Grande Pass to continental shelf, primarily in depths of 18 to 150 feet. Good place to troll is around, but not on top of artificial reefs, wrecks; or over hard bottom.

Behavior – Must use wire as teeth are like razors. If using live bait use a stinger rig. They are aggressive eaters.



King Mackerel



Where to Fish

- 18 to 150 feet
- Just outside Boca Pass if you see a color change
- Wherever you see or mark schools of bait, or diving birds
- Power Pole Reef 26*41.000/82*22.200
- School Bus Reef 26*36.370/82*27.222
- Boxcar Reef 26*42.220/82*36.018
- My Favorite Spot- Just west of the Power Pole in 50+- feet of water

When to Fish

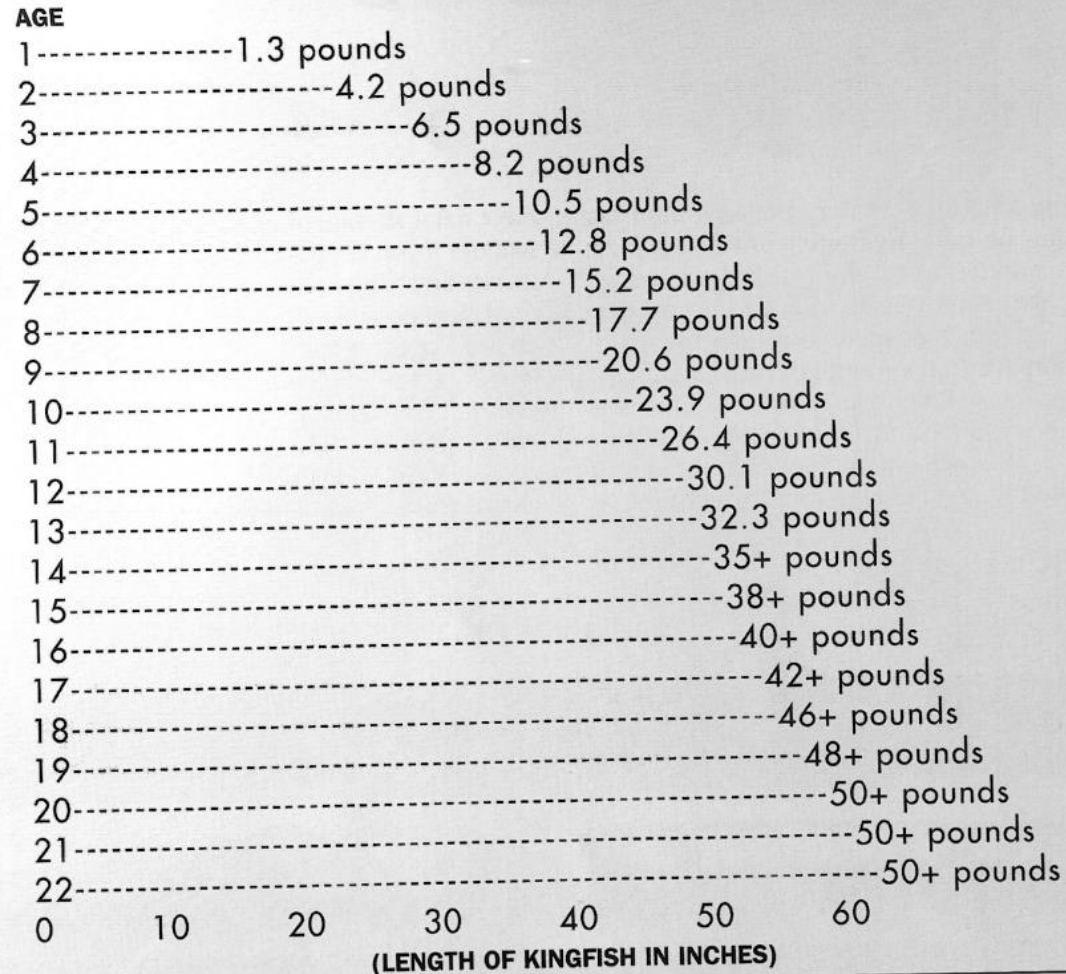
- In the Spring; March, April, early May
- In the Fall; October, November, early December
- Preferred water temps of 68 to 85 degrees
- In the Spring I look for 76 to 78 degrees



King Mackerel



GROWTH CHART, FEMALE KINGFISH





King Mackerel



How to Fish and Tackle

Trolling Artificials

- Can use your grouper rods
- #2 or #3 planer followed by 15-25 feet of 80# mono to a spoon
- Spoons to use; #3 ½ Huntington Drone Spoon, Kingspoon by Gator Lures, Tony Accetta Pet Spoon by Luhr-Jensen
- Diving Plugs such as Yozuri Deep Diver, or Rapala Magnum 20 or 30
- Trolling Speed of 4-6 mph





King Mackerel



How to Fish and Tackle

Live Bait Fishing

- Can be slow-trolling, drifting, anchored, or kite fishing
- Chum is optional
- Can use conventional or spinning tackle
- Light line 15-30# mono for needed stretch as a shock absorber
- Single-strand stainless steel coffee colored wire leader



King Mackerel - Slow Trolling Live Bait (the fun part)



- Typical tackle is any conventional reel, high speed retrieve, capable of holding 350 yards or more of 20# mono to 10-15 feet of 25# fluorocarbon leader to assist leader stinger rig. My preference is a good star drag reel
- Rods need to have a soft tip and good backbone
- Makers of Kingfish-specific rods are Star, Chaos, Connelly
- Trolling speed is less than 2 mph; bait has to appear natural
- Reel drags are set to 5# or less



King Mackerel - Slow Trolling Live Bait (the fun part)

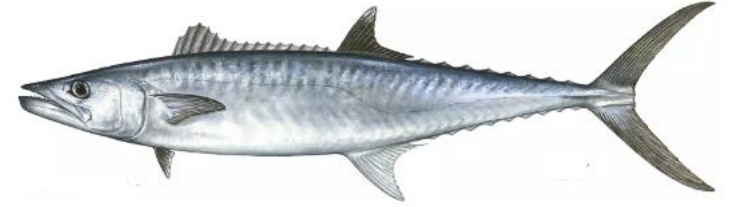


- Blue Runners, Cigar Minnows, Threadfin Herring, Sardines, Bluefish, Spanish Mackerel, Ladyfish, Mullet, Pinfish, Ribbonfish (dead bait, also known as cutlassfish)
- Acquire your live baits with sabiki rigs
- Hayabusa size 8 (#S068AE)- green head w/fish skin or equivalent Tsunami brand at Walmart, for cigar minnows and threads, etc.
- Hayabusa or Tsunami sabiki in size 12-16 for Blue Runners
 - These have bigger hooks and heavier line as blue runner have a lot of power





King Mackerel – Stinger Rig



- Pre-made from places like captharry.com or kingfishzone.com
- Homemade using:
 - #1 thru 3/0 live bait hook, Owner or Gamakatsu for the lead hook.
 - #2 thru #6 treble for the stinger
 - AFW #5 coffee colored stainless steel wire (44# test)
 - Spro Power Swivel size 8 (50# test)
 - DuBro Haywire Twist Tool
 - Size the rig to the bait





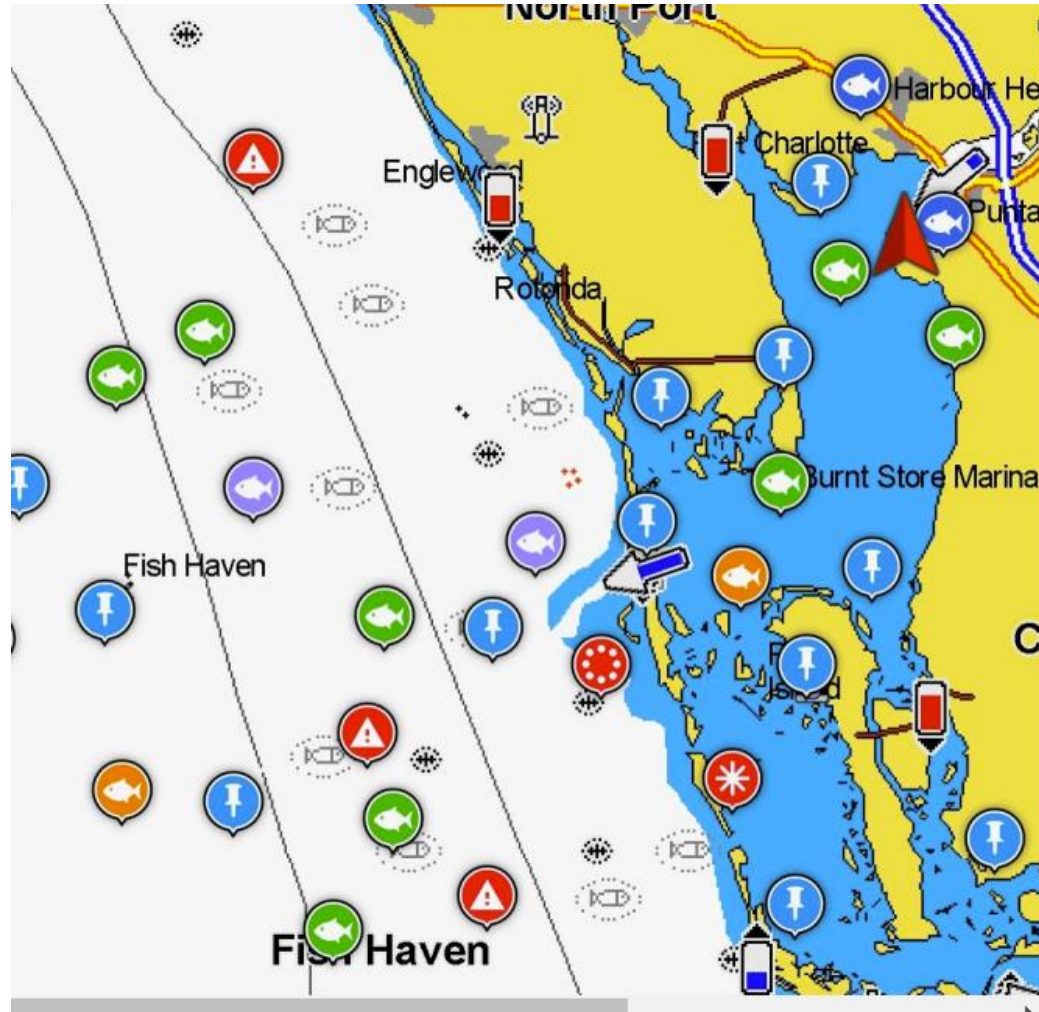
King Mackerel – Slow Trolling Live Bait



- Typically four rods, two top lines way back, and two down lines
- Down lines using Downriggers or Lead-core line
- Clickers “on”
- Clear the rods when a fish is on
- Chase the fish if needed (the first run is usually 50-150 yards)
- Keep some bend in the rod
- At the “end game” coax the fish to the boat smoothly, no horsing
- Gaff the King or grab by the tail (no nets)
- Large fish are high in mercury content



King Mackerel





King Mackerel

Questions?

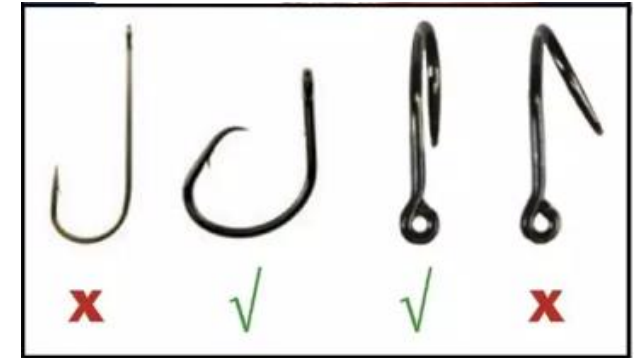


Near-shore Fred De Mella



Basic Gear Rules

- Descending device rigged and ready to use or venting tool required when in state and federal waters
- Circle hook or non offset (in-line) circle hook must be used when using live bait
- Must have a dehooking device
- Must have a state reef fish angler licenses



From left to right: J-hook, circle hook, non-offset (in-line) circle hook, offset circle hook.

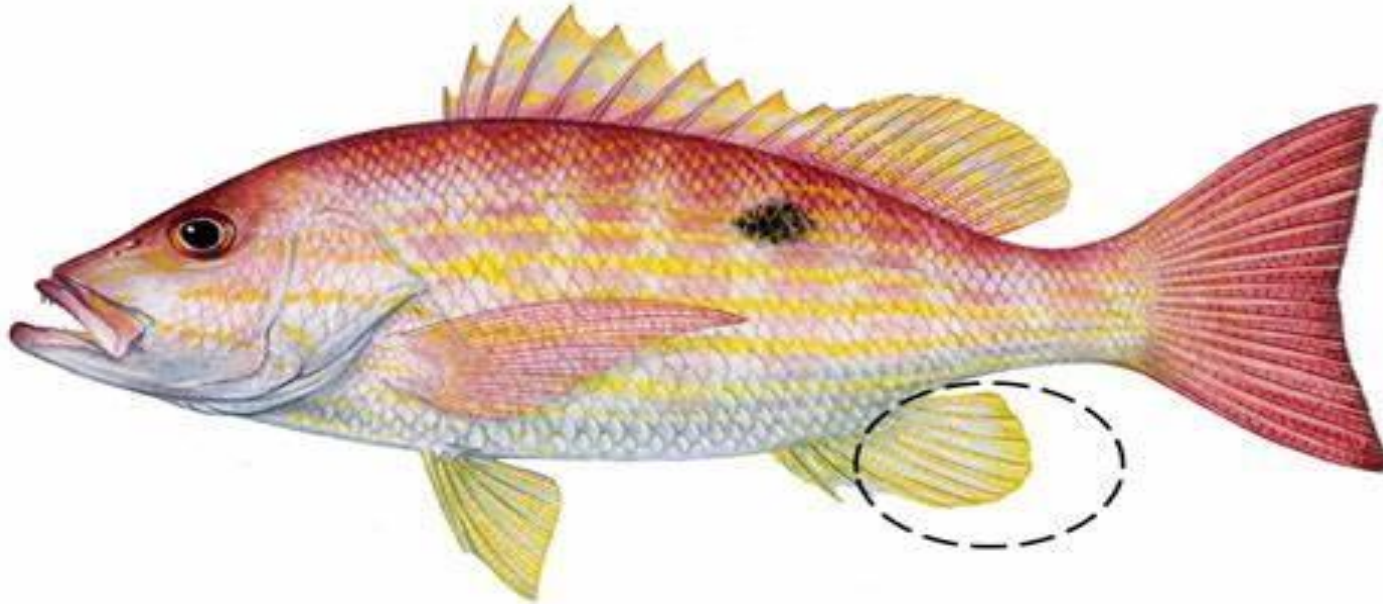


Snapper

- Lane
- Mangrove
- Vermillion
- Mutton
- Yellowtail
- Red
 - Most commonly encountered is Lane
 - Schooling fish
 - Responsive to chumming
 - All good table fare
 - Different tactics to catch



Lane Snapper

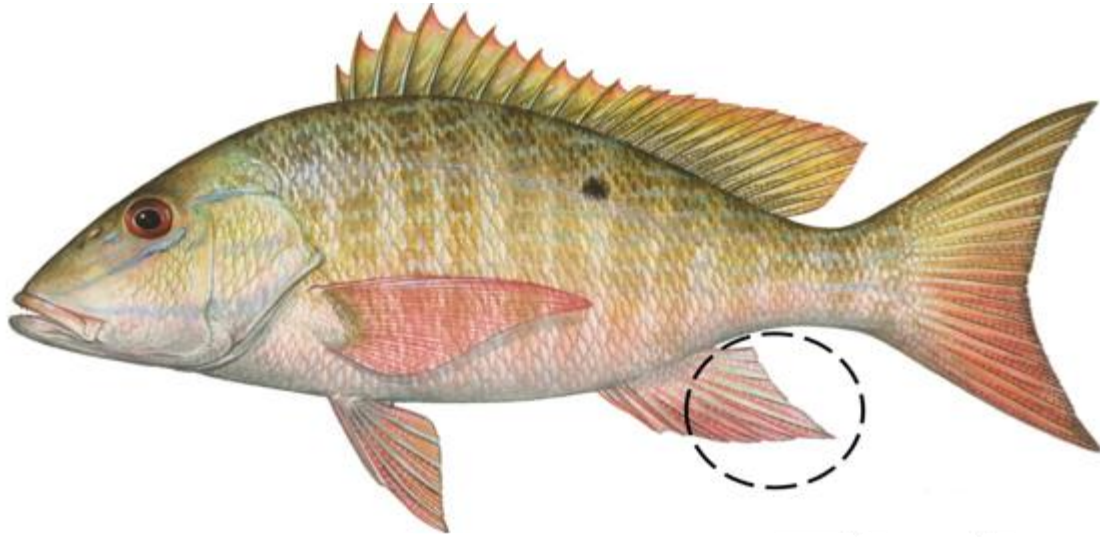


Minimum size 8 inches

Mostly on bottom (or close)



Mutton Snapper



- Minimum size 16"
- Mostly on bottom or close to it
- Can be confused for red snapper
- Small ones can be confused with lane snapper



Mangrove Snapper

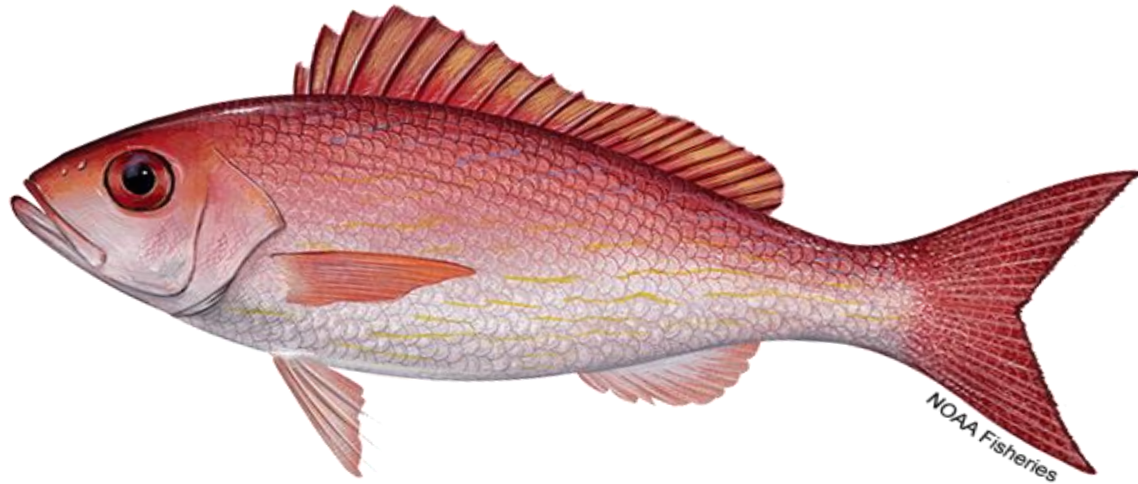


- 10 or 12 inch minimum size
- Mostly bottom (or close)
- Better at night; excellent vision





Vermillion Snapper



- Tend to be up in water column
- 10 inch minimum
- Can be on the bottom



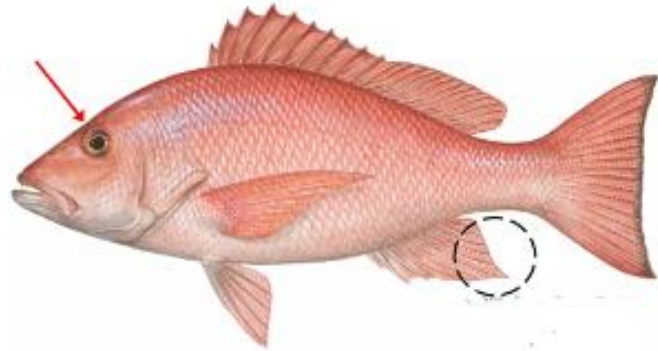
Yellowtail Snapper



- Minimum 12 inches
- Anywhere in water column
- Good vision
- Often chummed up off the bottom



American Red Snapper (ARS)



- Red eye
- Tightly regulated
- Min. size 16 inches
- School up often in the water column
- Rear of anal fin pointed





African Pompano

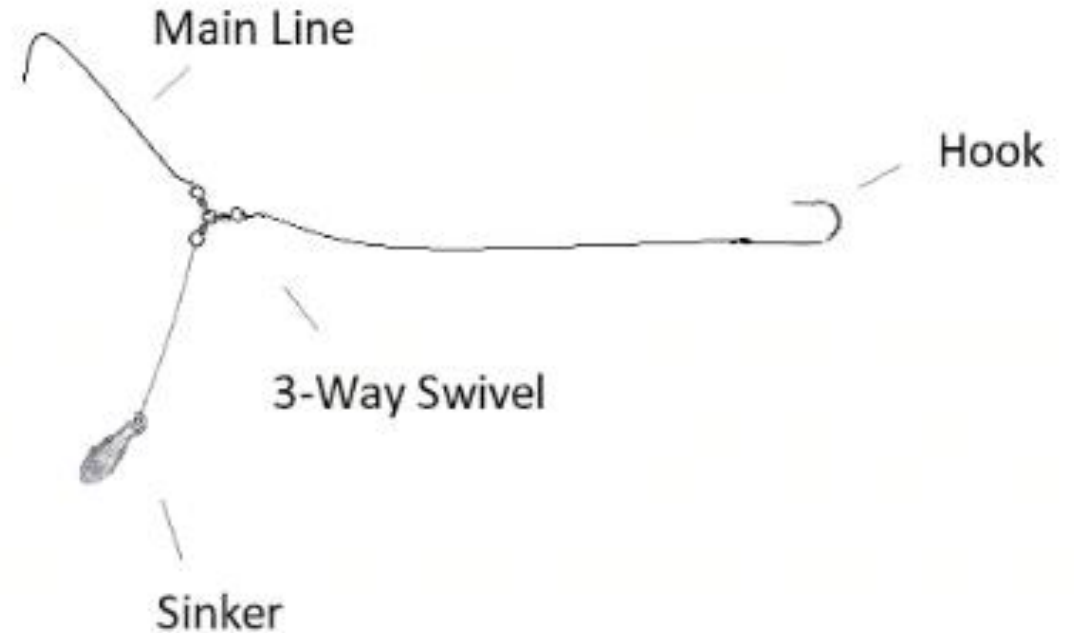
- Min. size 24 inch fork
- Small schools favoring near shore wrecks with relief
- Smaller fish have threadfins
- Great vision
- Feed on small fish, crustaceans
- Pelagic in nature





Rigging – 3 Way Rig

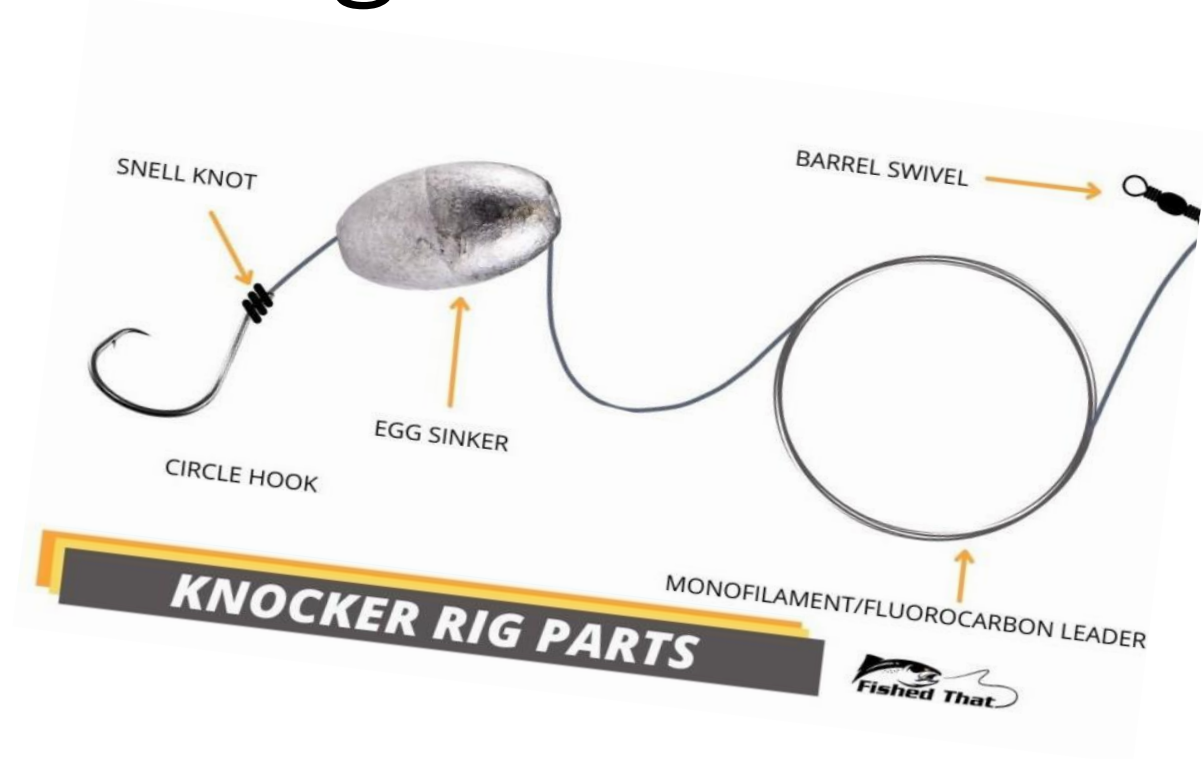
- 3 way swivel attached to main line, 3' fluorocarbon for weight and 3' – 7' fluorocarbon for the hook
- Bait will flow with the current
- Can result in some unique tangles especially when not on the bottom





Rigging – Knocker Rig

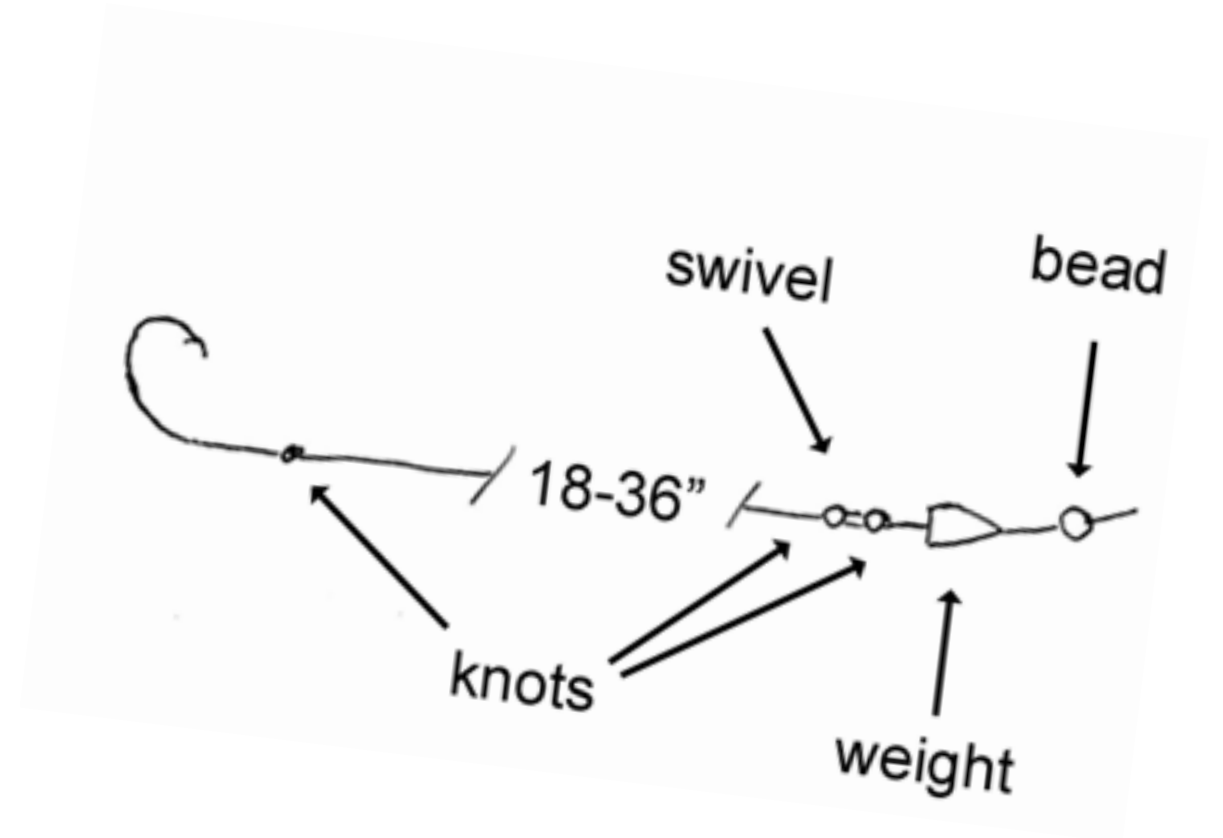
- Better when anchored
- Good when bottom fishing; not mid water column
- Bait stays just above seafloor





Rigging – Carolina Rig

- Best for fishing off the bottom





Rigging – Weighted Hooks

- Best when anchored and chumming
- Available in different weights & colors
- Want to keep hooked baits in the chum line
- Non-circle...
- Yellowtail
- Can not use with live bait





Techniques

Drift

- Dependent on conditions (current, tide, wind)
- Covers more area
- Allows to target
- May require more weight
- Sea anchor



Anchor

- Requires skill to find spot
- Drift to find fish
- Accurate anchoring key
- Best for chumming
- Time consuming
- Spot lock
- Can save fuel



Fish Handling at Depth - Barotrauma

- Caused when fish are brought up quickly from depth
- Organs contain gas used for buoyancy at depth and the gas expands when brought up
- Bulging stomach
- Bulging eyes
- Bloated belly
- Distended intestines



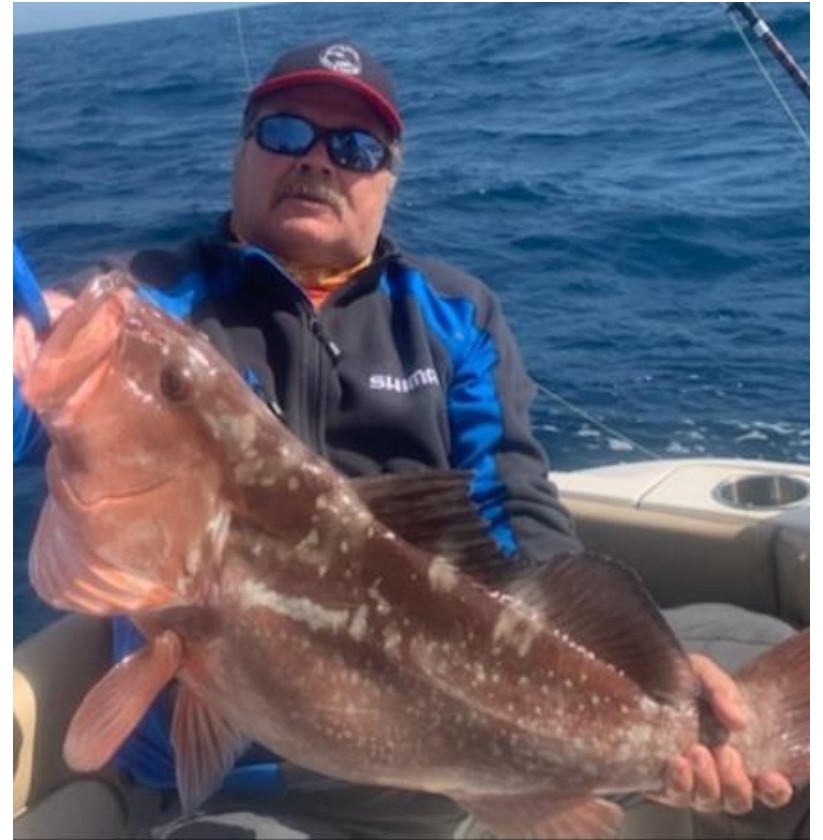


Questions





Red Grouper and By Catch Captain Jeff Barnhart





Background



- Grew up in NJ
- Fluke & Seabass fishing
- Tuna & Marlin fishing
- 100 ton USCG Master Captain



Tackle

- **Reel** - Penn Fathom 40
- **Rod** - Penn Rampage 6.2
 - Need a short, stout rod to get the fish off the bottom
 - Rated 50 to 100# braid
- #8 non offset circle hooks
 - In-line circle hooks required for live bait





Tackle

Sabiki rod

- A rod that has a tube inside that holds the sabiki rigs

Sabiki rig - #8

- Have 6 – 12 smaller hooks with feathers, weight is attached to the bottom of it, and jigged on the bottom.

Snapper Rod

- A regular in-shore rod can be used to reduce rods on the boat as a snapper rig can be used for other fish.
 - More ergonomic
 - 20lb braid with 20lb fluorocarbon





Rigging



- Snell knot on hook
- 4 – 5' 80# fluorocarbon leader
- 65# braid with 1.5" snap swivel
- Carolina, fishfinder (Jersey)
- 10# weight
- Swivel to braid palamar knot



Starting Out



Weather – Know your boat and the seas you can tolerate

- **Apps to check predicated conditions:** Windfinder, Windy, Buoyweather, Ventusky, and NOAA
 - Set your planned location for the apps and travel path

Where to go – wind, seas

Structure

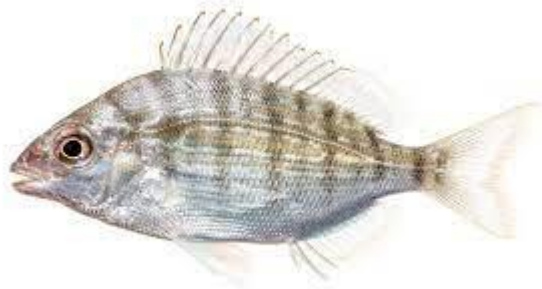
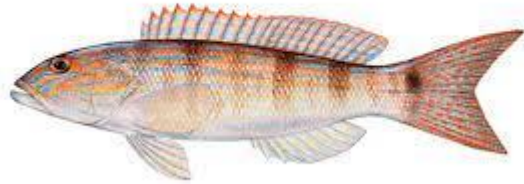
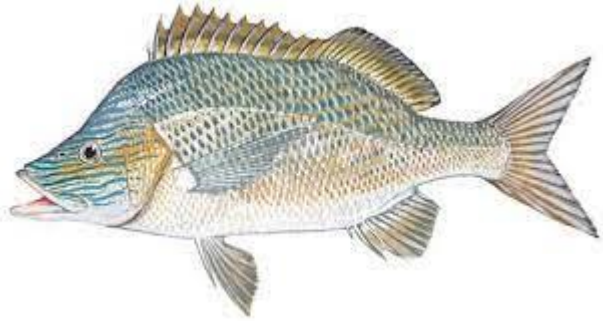
- ledges, holes, humps, hard bottom



Starting Out



- **Required Safety Equipment to Consider:**
 - **EPIRB** – emergency position indicating radiobeacon
 - **PLB** – personal location beacon
 - **First Aid supplies / AED**
- **Float Plan:**
 - Always inform someone of your general direction, estimated miles, and expected return time.



Getting Bait

- Hit or miss
- Grunts, sand perch (squirrel fish), Pinfish
- Cigar minnows, sardines
- Back up squid
- Fish bites or squid for sabiki
- No live bait
 - Squid and sardines



Setting Up



- Drifting .5 to 1 knot
- Over structure – read the sonar
- Dead stick
- Hold the rod



Rigging The Live Bait



- In front of dorsal
- Through bottom lip to upper lip
- Behind anal gland



Techniques



- Hold bottom
- Be patient
- Present bait naturally
- Grouper are intelligent hunters
- Smaller grouper (dinks) will peck
- Larger grouper will circle bait



Techniques

- Be prepared – when big grouper hit, they hit
- Not trout fishing – put the hammer down
- First five cranks are critical
- This is where the battle is won / loss
- Don't let it get you in a hole
- Pull up – Reel down
- Constant pressure





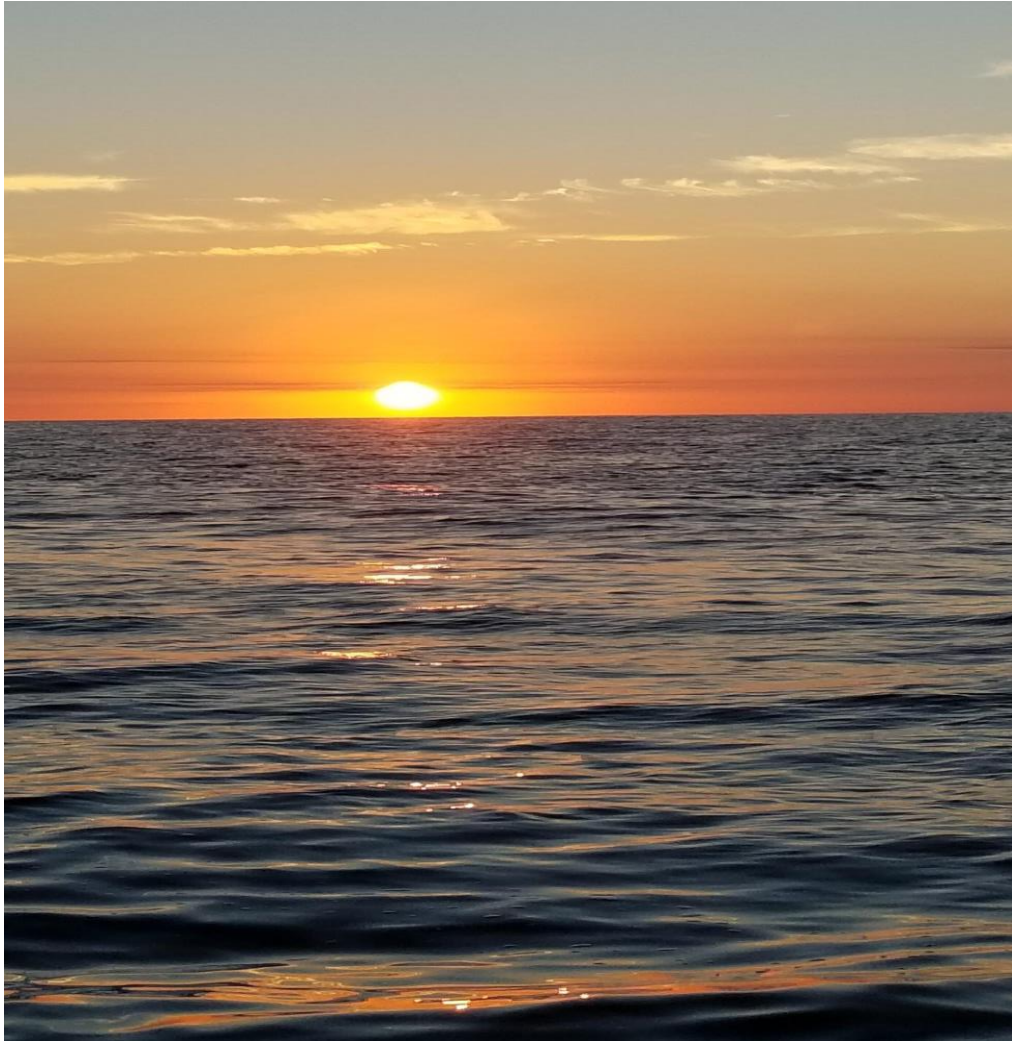
Know The Regs



- Fish rules app
- Reds 20" min 2 PP
- Points 25" 29" 33"
- Gag, scamp, black, goliath
- Vent released fish or use descending devices



Opportunity Catch



Enjoy The Day

- Blue water
- On your boat
- Friends
- Safety first
- Redundancy



Fun Facts

- **Gag Grouper**

- World Record – 80 lb. 6 oz.
- FL Record – 71 lb. 3 oz.

- **Red Grouper**

- World Record – 42 lb. 4 oz.
- FL Record – 39 lb. 8 oz.

- **Club Record**

- Ladies- 37", Dianne Bukowski
- Men - 39", Tom Hamilton





Good Luck /
Questions





Fish Handling and Identification

Dennis Krausman



Fish Handling

- <https://www.saltstrong.com/articles/catch-photo-release-fishing-best-practices/>

Salt STRONG TACKLE FISHING TIPS ABOUT COMMUNITY

THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO CATCH, PHOTO, & RELEASE FISHING

By: Luke Simonds on December 19, 2016

Found In: [Conservation](#), [Fishing Tips](#)



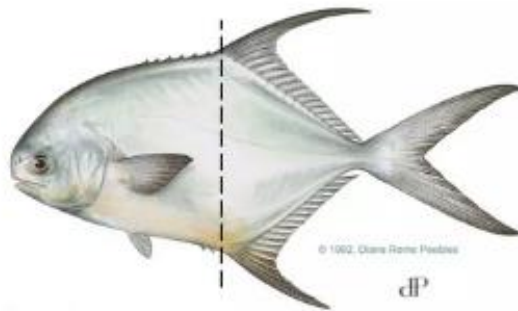


Fish Identification

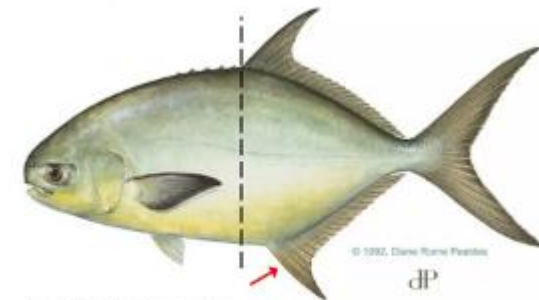
- <https://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/profiles/#!categoryid=1306&subcategoryid=&status=>
 - MyFWC.com, Saltwater Fishing, Fish ID
- Fish Rules App for phones



Cobia (Sciaenops ocellatus)



Pompano (Trachinotus falcatus)

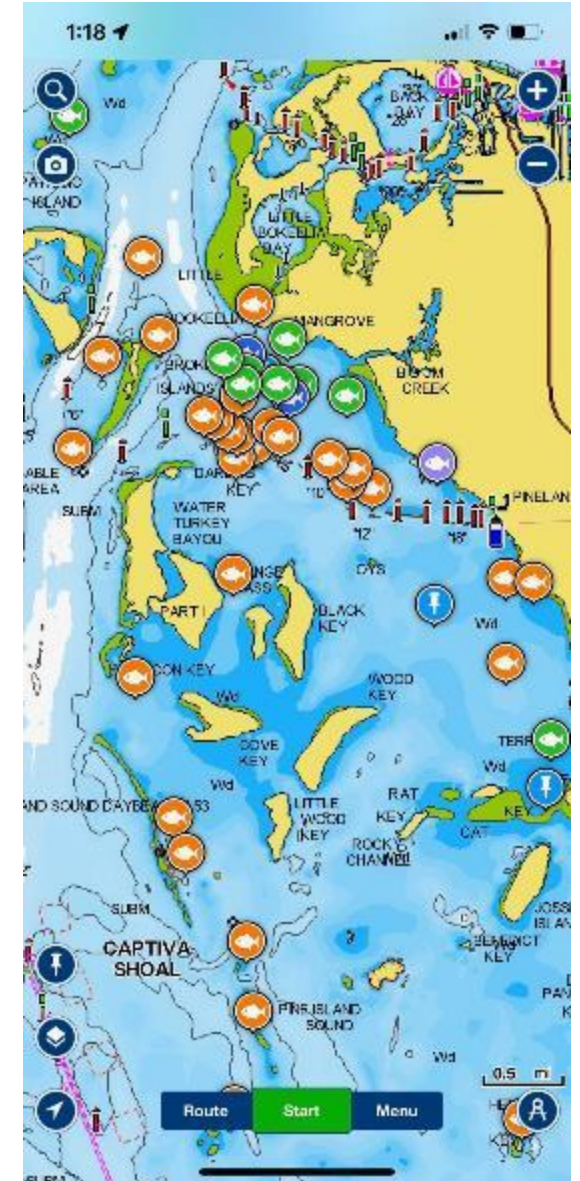


Florida Pompano (Trachinotus carolinus)



Navionics

- <https://www.navionics.com/usa/apps/navionics-boating>





Courtesy

- Navigation near others who are fishing - leave plenty of room
- Most of us are recreational fisherman
- Guides are trying to make a living
- When approaching a group of boats stay to the outside until plenty of clear space opens up
- Observe and learn from others fishing an area



Fish Handling

Questions?

