

FROM THE HELM

THE PGI FISHING CLUB IS A PART OF THE
PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION (PGICA)

FEBRUARY 2024



Greetings from the President.

Glad to hear that some of us are still catching fish with all this rainy and windy conditions.

I guess if you catch a calm day it's fruitful to be out on the water. The Sheepshead the red grouper catch is doing well, and big trout, redfish and snook can also be caught. Tarpon season is just around the corner, then later this spring the cobia should be in.

We are still looking for a Fishing Event Director and we can use your help in recruiting one. See everyone at the February meeting!

Good Fishing
Ron Deroche



Next Meeting: Tuesday February 13, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>February 2024 Club Newsletter</i>	PAGE
COVER - PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	- 1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	- 2
FISHING REPORT	- 3
FISH OF THE MONTH—GROUPE	- 4
<i>LOCATION, DESCRIPTION, TIPS,</i>	
<i>TACKLE AND BAIT</i>	5
CLUB & INDIVIDUAL FISHING STATS	
<i>JANUARY RESULTS - WINNERS</i>	- 6
<i>MONTH IN REVIEW - WHATS BITE'N</i>	- 7
<i>TROPHY RACE STANDINGS MEN</i>	- 8
<i>TROPHY RACE STANDINGS WOMEN</i>	- 9
<i>LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT</i>	- 10
<i>MASTER ANGLER SUMMARY</i>	- 11
SUNSHINE LADY	- 12
CLUB LEADERSIP	- 13
MEETING MINUTES	14
MEMBERSHIP REPORT	- 15
MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS	- 16
CLUB WEB LINKS	- 17
CLASSIFIED ADS	18
<i>DANFORTH ANCHOR</i>	-
ADVERTISEMENTS	-
<i>INGMAN MARINE</i>	- 19
<i>PINCH-A-PENNY</i>	- 20
<i>CHARLOTTE COUNTY FORD</i>	- 21
<i>PROBLEM SOLVED PEST CONTROL</i>	- 22
<i>UNDERWATER FISH LIGHT</i>	- 23
<i>FISHIN' FRANKS BAIT & TACKLE</i>	- 24
<i>TOW BOAT US</i>	- 25
<i>MARINE CONTRACTING GROUP</i>	- 26
<i>CAPTAIN TED'S TACKLE</i>	- 26
<i>MARINE MAX BOAT SALES</i>	- 27
<i>BUSINESS CARD ADS</i>	- 28
DISCOUNTS & DEALS	- 30
RECOMMENDED FISHING GUIDES	- 31
<i>Southern Charm - Capt STEVE PHILLIPS</i>	- 32
MEMBER CATCHES FOR THE MONTH	- 33
<i>MEMBER PHOTOS</i>	

FISHING REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



Fellow PGIFC members, it is my duty to produce a monthly fishing report for the Charlotte Harbor and surrounding waters. Cathy Hunt has done such a great job and I hope to be able to carry on and provide you with some helpful information. I personally did not go out to fish this month. I am still among the employed and this is my very busy show season in the Fishing Tackle industry

January proved to be a very difficult month to even get on the water. We faced difficult conditions from rain to wind to unseasonable temperatures. The seemingly never stopping wind caused many to stay in our beautiful canals to try and find various species.

- Sheepshead have been plentiful on shrimp, fiddler crabs and sand fleas. Jigs have also been working.
- Lots of Snook around the docks and mangroves. I have heard that light lines with plastic tubes as well as floating hard baits have been producing a lot of bites and some reasonably big Snook as well.
- Trout have been biting in and around Bull and Turtle Bay as well as Pirate Harbor.
- Mangrove Snapper are also plentiful in the mangroves.
- I have seen some photos of some nice Grouper caught in 75-90 feet of water. Just watch the weather closely before you make that 50- mile run.
- Snook season will open March – April 28-33 slot limit.
- As the waters warm and we get back to our predictable weather patterns, the harbor will become alive again.

Take this time while the weather is difficult to get your equipment and boat prepared for the upcoming seasons. Replace worn line and clean those reels. Amazing fishing is right around the corner!

Tight Lines,

Jeff Covert

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

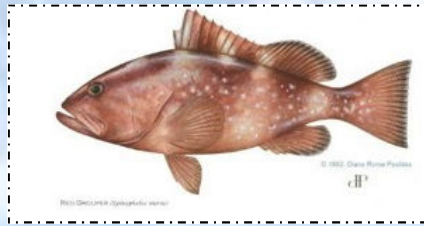


Fine Print: See "Fish of the Month Contest Rules" here: <http://pqifishingclub.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Fish-of-the-Month-Contest-Rules-Rev-7-021220.pdf>

Fish of the Month For DECEMBER

Location, Description, Tips, Tackle and Bait

GROUPE



Species:

Red and Gag Grouper are the most common types to catch in our area. For the most part these are bottom or near-bottom dwellers, often hiding under ledges or other hard structure and hard bottom.

Most offshore anglers will drift or anchor over hard bottom, looking for ledges or craters and abrupt changes in depth. Depths can range from 80 feet and deeper for keepers, but smaller fish can be found in the 40 foot range.

A stout s' 6' conventional rod and reel with 40lb braid will get the job done. Use enough weight to keep the line vertical to the boat, it's not uncommon to use 8 to 12 ounces of lead. Use a drift sock or 5-gallon bucket if needed and adjust weight as needed based on the drift. Use a size 8 inline circle hook for live bait, as grouper have big mouths.

Bait:

Live squirrelfish, pinfish, small grunts, frozen sardines, squid, and octopus will work. Grouper are not fussy eaters. The live bait can be found in 35 to 50 feet of water and caught using a sabiki rig.

The bite:

The bite is a hard tug on the line. Not a tug and run, but a tug. Reel 5 or 6 cranks to get the fish off the bottom and you are set. It's key that enough weight is used to keep the line vertical, if your line is telescoping away from the boat that gives the fish a better chance to swim back into structure.

Inshore/near shore:

Smaller gag grouper can be caught throughout the harbor by structure; alligator reef, the rocks by fisherman's' village/Laishley, docks by Boca, and channel markers. Pitch a shrimp.

Trolling a stretch near the reefs, or the pass, orange rocks by Cayo Costa, and near shore by structure has also been successful; with several results in keeper size gags.

(Copied from February 2023)

JANUARY RESULTS

Club & Individual Fishing Statistics



REPORTED CATCHES as of 2/1/2024 and FISH OF THE MONTH (FOM) RESULTS

20 total fish turned in (2100 points) by 12 different anglers

FOM (SHEEPSHEAD)

Women

1st – Diana McKenna —16.0”

2nd – None

3rd – None

Men

1st - Fred De Mella — 21.0”

2nd - Bob Gariepy —18.0”

3rd - Carl Leicher — 17.0”

TIE—Allen Wade—17.0”

Interesting Tidbits

January was a slow month for our anglers given the effects of the El Nino weather pattern in the Pacific that is sending many fronts our way. One lucky angler, Jeff Barnhart, was able to get off-shore and found the red grouper cooperating nicely with fish reported up to 31.5”. Our fish of the month, Sheepshead, made up the majority of our reported catches (13) with most fish earning points and the largest, a respectable 21” fish, caught by Fred De Mella. Fred also reported a 34” black drum and a few anglers reported catches of seatrout up to 20”.

Club Hat

None

Silver Pin

None

Snook Pin

None

Tarpon Pin

None

GMA Star

None

Bronze Pin

None

Gold Pin

Joe Lombardi

Redfish Pin

None

GMA

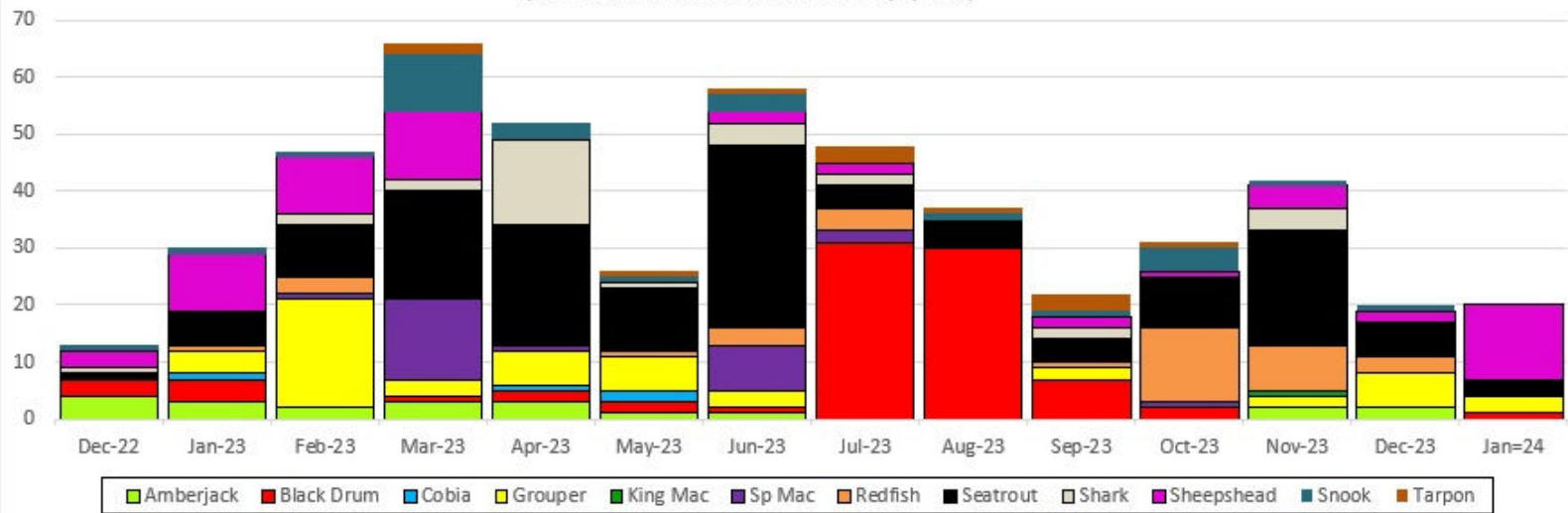
None

ACHIEVEMENTS!

WHAT'S BITE'N



14 Month Catch History
(Number of Fish Recorded Each Month by Species)



Recorder's Data

Monthly Performance

	November	December	January	
Anglers	26	13	12	↓
LOA Awards	5	2	1	↓
Fish Recorded	64	26	20	↓
Points Recorded	2700	2,700	2,100	↓

TROPHY RACE (Men)

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCH-ES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2024 LENGTH in INCH-ES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF RECORD
X	Amber Jack	Joe Udvari	53.5	2019				0.0%
X	Black Drum	Mike White	51.5	2019	Fred De Mella	34.0	1/13/24	66.0%
X	Cobia	Rich Kale	66.0	2022				0.0%
X	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	Jeff Barnhart	31.5	1/1/24	80.8%
X	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012				0.0%
X	Redfish	Mike White	47.0	2020				0.0%
X	Seatrout	Rich Brennan	29.0	2009	Joe Esposito	20.0	1/11/24	69.0%
		Aaron Wagner	29.0	2012				
X	Sheeps-head	Mike White	26.0	2022	Fred De Mella	21.0	1/2/24	80.8%
X	Snook	Mike White	49.0	2023				0.0%
X	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012				0.0%

This Year's LEADERS are in BLUE

★★ Denotes New Club Record

New Entries This Month are in RED

TROPHY RACE (Women)

OVERALL CLUB REC-ORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2024 LENGTH in INCHES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF REC-ORD
	Amberjack	Darlene Madsen	40.0	2017				0.0%
	Black Drum	Christine Fontaine White	52.0	2022				0.0%
	Cobia	Joanne Landaker	50.0	2008				0.0%
		Marilyn McGregor	50.0	2013				
	Grouper	Dianne Bukowski	37.0	2018				0.0%
	King Mackerel	Nancy Pearson	40.0	2022				0.0%
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan	38.0	2008				0.0%
		Missy Becker	38.0	2008				
	Seatrout	Joanne Landaker	26.5	2011				0.0%
	Sheeps-head	Dianne Bukowski	22.5	2021	Diana McKenna	16.0	1/3/24	71.1%
	Snook	Missy Becker	42.0	2013				0.0%
	Spanish Mackerel	Missy Becker	28.0	2007				0.0%
		Lynn Reeves	28.0	2019				

This Year's LEADERS are in BLUE

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New Entries This Month are in RED

PAST WINNERS OF ISLES TROPHY RACE

2009	Rich Brennan, Christine Jordan	2017	Rich Kale, Darlene Madsen
2010	Kel Krotzer, Margie Hofman	2018	Joe Udvari, Dianne Bukowski
2011	Greg Chestnut, Joanne Landacre	2019	Joe Udvari, Lynn Reeves
2012	Jim Quorollo, Rose Ann McCaffrey	2020	Mike White, Dianne Bukowski
2013	Steve Landacre, Missy Becker	2021	Rich Kale / Tim Gibbons, Dianne Bukowski
2014	Vinnie Madsen, Margie Hofman	2022	Rich Kale, Christine White
2015	Bob Mays, Karen Lodge	2023	Mike White, Wanda Zimka
2016	Gary Reeves, Rose Ann McCaffrey	2024	

JANUARY RESULTS—LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT

BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	LIFETIME LEVEL I SNOOK	LIFETIME LEVEL II REDFISH	LIFETIME LEVEL III TARPON	GRAND MASTER ANGLER GMA	TOTAL STARS
Sherry Barrett	Jeff Bellairs	Gary Adams	Paula Arnold	Doug Arnold	Frank Barrett	Jeff Barnhart	***
Trudi Baxter	Joanna Boeckl	Jack Botbyl	Mary Heins	Mike Dougherty	Rick Brown	Ron Baxter	•
Tori Brown	Marc Boeckl	Mark Cummins	Chuck Henry	Doug Du Fresne	Dick Conant	Fred Benson	•
Bob Critchfield	Todd Brooks	Carl Cucco	Tom Hunt	Theresa FitzGerald	Dave Dyke	Larry Benz	★
Colleen De Mel-la	Anne Careau	Ken Garden	Larry Kissner	Jenny Goodell	Marv Dyrstad	Rich Brennan	*****
Ron Deroche	Don Cummins	Dale Hall	Michael Knipe	Bill Guenther	Ed Girzi	Donnie Brennan	★
Tom desEnfants	Yvette Du Fresne	Bill Hess	Jim LaRocca	Ken Hardesty	Bob Mays	Bob Bretts	*****
Sharon Dyke	Kathy desEnfants	Karen Lodge	Marie LaRocca	Jack Howarth	Diana McKenna	Elaine Bretts	*****
Mike Endres	Tony Destefano	Joe Lombardi	Tom Lodge	Julie Kale	Bill Muir	Dianne Bukowski	★
Richard Farmer	Tamara Dillman	Sonia Nelson	Sherry Moerke	Jonathan Landon	Nancy Pearson	Joe Bukowski	★★
Steve Fritz	Joanell Dyrstad	Cheryl Panetta	William Neff	Mark Lee	Lynn Reeves	Jim Crawley	★
Chris Gibbons	Richard Embury	Gary Selzer	John Simonieg	Marty McCaffrey	Jack Spies	Fred De Mella	****
Frank Grazier	Gary Frost	Steve Trego	Ed Verminski	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Mark Storm	Mark Dillman	
Renee Gibbons	Tim Gibbons	Sheree Wolfinger	Ted Wierzbowski	Dennis McKenna	Gretchen Sunderland	Dick Doster	
Bob Giffin	Art Goodell	<div> <div>RED = Awards This Month</div> <div> <div>Club Hats</div> <div>None This Month</div> </div> </div>		Gary Moerke	Karen Udvari	Randy Douet	*****
Sheryl Hatch	Jim Gregory			Chip Peterson	Allen Wade	John Fitzgerald	•
David Hatch	Randy Hall			John Saitta	Rich Willingmyre	Christine White	★
Tom Hay	Roz Hickey			Paul Whiting		Bob Gariepy	★★
Scott Hutchins	Jack Hinnenenthal			Joseph Zurad		John Gettinger	★★★
Jack Jonaitis	Larry Hofmeister					Mike Gilger	★★
Dennis Jones	Dave Joe					Tom Hickey	★
Fran Krausman	Lisa Kellythorne					Jim Hoffman	★
Buddy Krauss	Mike Knipe					Margie Hoffman	
Jim Kunard	Ron Kruse					Jan Holm	
Patti Kunard	Denys LaChance					Cathy Hunt	*****
Richard Larson	Kevin LaPointe					Bud Johnston	
Bob Mueller	John McFarland					Cindi Johnston	
Patricia Nalipi	Mike Nalipi					Rich Kale	*****
Ann Northen	Wayn Nelson					Dennis Krausman	*****
Connie Nowicki	Randy Page					Kel Krotzer	★★★
Chuck Pearson	Kim Pflaum					Carl Leicher	•
Bruce Peterson	Paul Robinson					Joe Maillet	•
Chris Pflaum	Hezzie Samons					Pete McGregor	★★
Chris Pollinger	Mike Sandling					Jude Panetta	★★★★
Glenn Ranfos	Deb Sarkisian					Tom Parsons	★★
Doug Salminen	Tom Schmitt					Gary Reeves	
Mark Schruer	Gary Skillicorn					Rick Sarkisian	*****
Alan Schulman	Lynne Stockinger					John Stockinger	★
Jess Searle	Don Taylor					Donna Sullivan	★★
Miriam Taylor	Mike Trost					Ron Topper	*****
Patti Topper	Mike Wagner					Joe Udvari	*****
Mike Trost	Stella Wagner					Aaron Wagner	
Roxie Trost	Greg Widney					Mike White	*****
Joanne Widney	Sandy Wierzbowski					Jeff Wilson	★
Wanda Zimka	Tom Youngblood					John Wolfinger	
	Lenny Zimka						
	Wanda Zimka						

(BOLD star = earned this year)

JANUARY RESULTS

MASTER ANGLERS TOURNAMENT, 2024 STANDINGS

	AMBER JACK	BLACK DRUM	COBIA	GROUPE	KING MACKEREL	REDFISH	SEATROUT	SHEEPSHEAD	SNOOK	SPANISH MACKEREL
1st Place		Fred De Mella ###		Jeff Barnhart 31.5			Joe Esposito 20.0	Fred De Mella 21.0		
2nd Place							Joesph Lombardi 19.0	Bob Gariepy 18.0		
3rd Place							Mike Dougherty 18.0	Carl Leicher 17.0		
								Allen Wade 17.0		

New this month are shown in Red



SUNSHINE LADY

THE PGI FISHING CLUB IS A CLUB OF THE PUNTA GORDA
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We care! If you become aware of someone in the club that needs a card for any reason, please let me know. I can also provide a meal for or visit someone who is in need. Please call or email me

Paula Arnold

724-504-5347

1207swanct@gmail.com

CLUB LEADERSHIP



OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT	Ron Derouche	president@pgifishingclub.org
VICE PRESIDENT	Jeff Covert	vicepresident@pgifishingclub.org
TREASURER	Daryl Reynolds	treasurer@pgifishingclub.org
SECRETARY	Nancy Pearson	secretary@pgifishingclub.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ADVERTISING	Chip Peterson	advertising@pgifishingclub.org
COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSN	Bob Mayes	cca.cmac@pgifishingclub.org
FISHING EVENTS	<i>Position is Vacant</i>	fishingevents@pgifishingclub.org
GREETERS	Yvette Du Fresne	greeters@pgifishingclub.org
MEMBERSHIP	Bill Muir	membership@pgifishingclub.org
NEWSLETTER	Jim Kunard	pattijimk@comcast.net
RECORD KEEPER	Paul Whiting	recordkeeper@pgifishingclub.org
SOCIAL EVENTS	<i>Position is Vacant</i>	socialdirector@pgifishingclub.org
SUNSHINE LADY	Paula Arnold	sunshine@pgifishingclub.org
WEBMASTER	Richard Embury	website@pgifishingclub.org

MEETING NOTES



PGI Fishing Club January 9, 2024

General Meeting Minutes

Location: PGICA Auditorium

Start time: 6:00 pm

President: Ron Deroche

Members in attendance: 34

Treasurer: balance as of today \$7,780.48

50/50 Winner: Bill Neff \$79

Social: a new member has volunteered to be our new social director

Fishing Events: FOM **December** Winners – Sea Trout – Fishin Franks gift cards

Women: \$35 1st – Donna Sullivan \$25 2nd – Gretchen Sunderland

Men: \$35 1st - ,Glen Ranfos \$25 2nd – Fred Benson 3rd – Randy Douet

LOA:

GMA Star – Jeff Barnhart #3, Randy Douet #5

Meeting adjourned 7:00

Submitted by Nancy Pearson

MEMBERSHIP REPORT



At the end of January we had 326 members from 177 households. Starting the new year we have 255 members who renewed their membership from 133 householdS. But we are on the upswing with 8 new members

New members for January.

Thomas and Mary Ellen Bardoun of Vivante Blvd

Richard and Barbara Finnicum with home on Almar Dr

Ralph and Patricia Leadbetter with home on Mineo Dr.

Paul Levengood with home on Lucia Dr.

Carl Leicher with home on Dipper Ct.

Please welcome them to the Club!

Tight Lines

Bill Muir

Membership Director



MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



It's fun to succeed! **One of the great things about our club are the members we have who are willing to take new members out for a day of fishing to help them learn our waters.** Below is a list of members that are willing to host you for a fishing trip in our local waters:

- **Gary Burgess (Harbor Only), g2873477@hotmail.com**
- **Gretchen Sunderland (Harbor Only, especially for beginner women), gretchensun2@gmail.com**
- **Fred De Mella (Inshore or Offshore) fdemella@gmail.com**



Contact them through email to arrange a trip.

Members, if you want to take another member out on your boat, please send your contact information to: editor@pgifishingclub.org

CLUB LINKS

THE PGI FISHING CLUB IS A CLUB OF THE PUNTA GORDA
ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION



CLUB WEBSITE: <http://pgifishingclub.org>

CLUB FACEBOOK: <http://facebook.com>, then
search for pgi fishing club

FISHING CONTEST RULES: [http://
pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?page_id=30](http://pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?page_id=30)

GENERAL INFORMATION: [http://
pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?pageid=101](http://pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?pageid=101)

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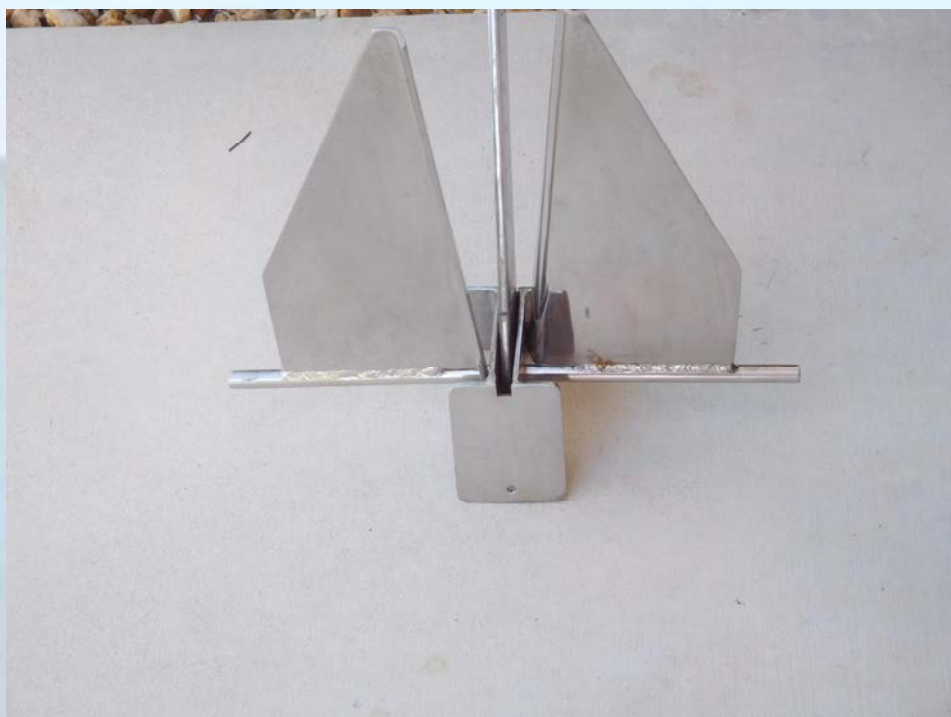


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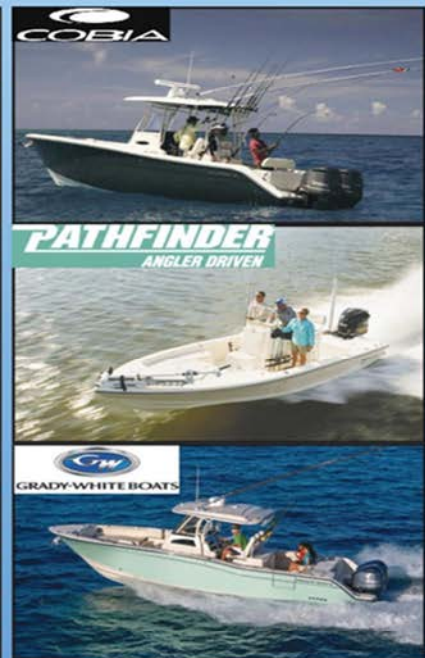
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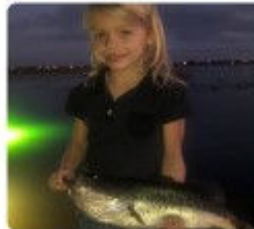
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DISCOUNTS & DEALS



PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR LOCAL BUSINESS-

Captain Ted's – 10% discount off all purchases

* See Note 1

Marine Contracting Group - \$100 off docks, lifts, seawalls with

advertisement in the PGIFC newsletter

Sea Tow – 13 month membership at 12 month price (\$199)

Must call local Punta Gorda Office at 941-625-5454 to get 13 month pricing

Waterproof Charts – 10% discount

Must present PGIFC card at time of purchase

Tow Boat U.S. – discounted price for our members is \$115. Call 239-283-6060.

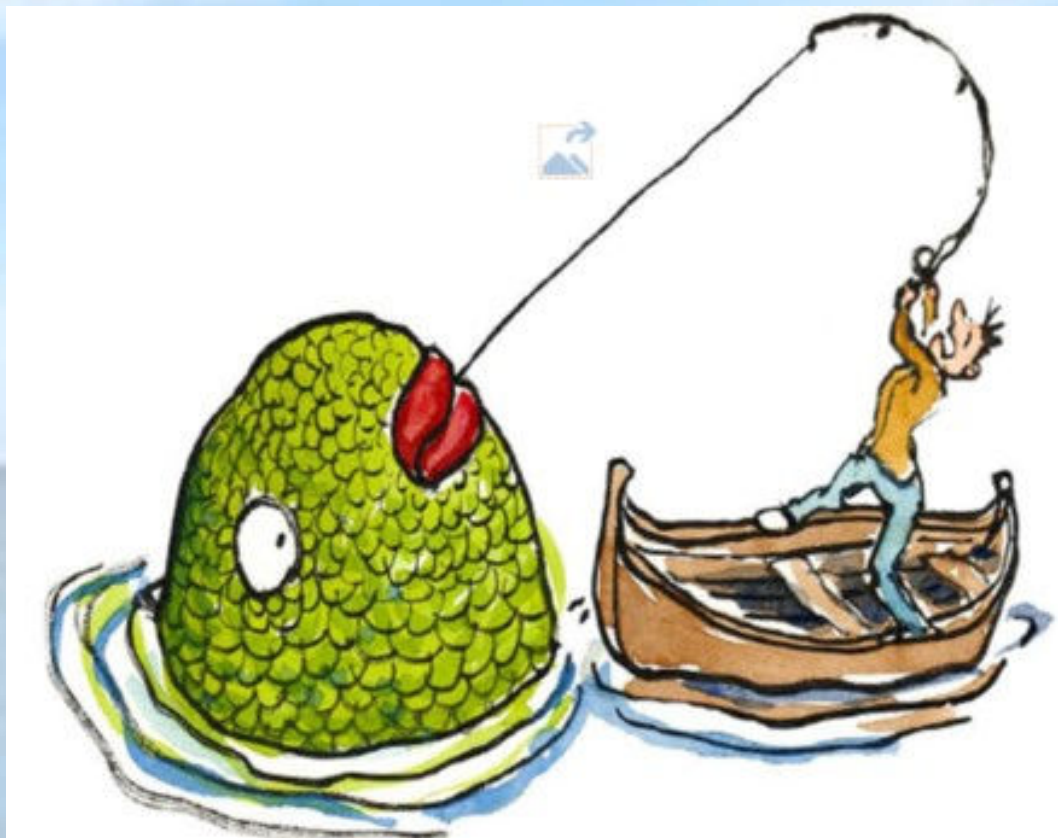
FISHING GUIDES



RECOMMENDED FISHING GUIDE

The following guide is referred by our members—honest, reliable and will give you a great fishing experience! By using a guide, you can learn about some great fishing spots. Guides can also help you refine your technique and teach you the best bait/lures to use with various species of fish.

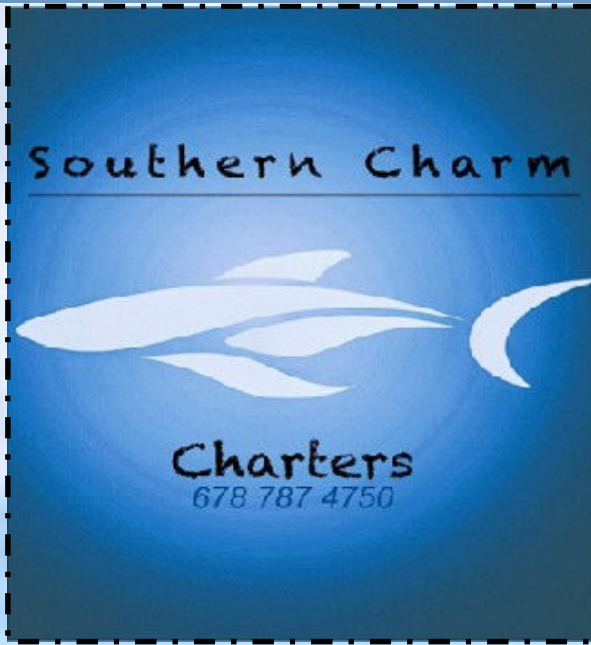
Give **Southern Charm** a call—see their ad on the next page



FISHING GUIDES



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(678) 787-4750

Fish the beautiful waters of Charlotte harbor and enjoy the local wildlife! Southern Charm Charters is here to show you the variety of fish species you can find in the area and, more importantly, how to catch them. **Captain Steven** has been in the business long enough to know all of the tricks you won't find in any tutorial. Learn from an experienced guide and fill out your bucket with the tastiest fish meat.



"From the time we stepped on the boat until the time we stepped back on the dock, Captain Steve and his mate Paul were great. Set expectations early and fulfilled them all. Would highly recommend!!" Tracy S.

"Best charter we have ever been on. They made sure our grandson caught the 1st fish. Very knowledgeable and great guys." Eric H.

"Captain Steve is very knowledgeable of places to fish and works hard to put fish in the boat, had a great time, caught Snook, Tarpon and Jacks" Rich P.

FISH PHOTOS

January

GROUPE



JEFF BARNHART

DRUM



FRED DE MELLA

SEATROUT



JOE ESPOSITO



MIKE DOUGHERTY

FISH PHOTOS

January

SHEEPSHEAD



BOB GARIEPY



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FISH PHOTOS

January

SHEEPSHEAD



FRED DE MELLA



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