## FROM THE HELM

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



MARCH 2024

Greetings from the President.

I hope everyone is out fishing. The winds are not as constant as it's been. Also, the water temperature is rising.

There have been reports of good size and quantities of sea trout, snook and redfish. The water is still clear in most places further south in Charlotte Harbor. I think the sea grass is still spotty, but around pilings the sheepshead are chewing. A neighbor caught a 42in cobia down around Gasparilla, so I guess it's time to target them.

Don't forget we have a picnic on March 10 with pulled pork and chicken. You should have already gotten a email about it

Good Fishing Ron Deroche



Next Meeting: Tuesday March 12, 2024, 6:00 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

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## FISHING REPORT



#### MARCH 2024

#### Submitted by RICHIE KALE

It was Tuesday February 20th and of course it was dark, it was windy, it was cold and of course it was drizzling. With 3 more hours till dawn, I wondered if 2 more rain jackets would keep the cold away long enough till the snookzillas would start to chew. Did they eat that morning is for me to know and for you guys and gals to try and find out. February was a very weird month for me. With the constant wind ns cold the inshore fish set up totally different than I am use to.

The trout are bigger than average size than most years with many breaking the 20-inch mark. Mike White can attest to that. I personally did my best in 2 feet and less water or the reefs. A 6 inch grub worked best!!!

The small rat reds were in the creeks but the constant north/east wind made it a tide game to get to them. A little bumping of the boat bottom is always worth it. Spoons for me.

Boys and girls, now for the snook. The smaller fish are just about everywhere. Jerk baits, hoppers, and vudu shrimp is all that was needed. Now for the big ones. A whole different animal. Big baits, deep water and a strong rod. With the absence of the juvie tarpon this February I was able to prowl the 3 bridges most nights. With my notes a little blurred I can say with certainty that at least 50+ slot or over snook came off those 3 bridges this February. It was personally the best 30-day period of big snook that I ever had. They are home up river by now in the deep runs.

Having a trailer for my skeeter enabled me to trail my boat to Eldrid's Marina and launch where the wind didn't matter. Fishing the bars around Placida and a call from Karl (I personally think that he is the best guide out there) he put me on some of the biggest pompano I ever saw. Now that was fun Yahoo! A great 3 weeks.

## FISHING REPORT



## **MARCH 2024**

(Continued)

And now for a pleasant surprise my buddies the cobia showed up around the 5th of February. It's been an every-days thing since. The small personal reefs that somehow get built in this harbor, are the bigger fish ticket and the walls are loaded with small fish. Find the Texas rays and you will find the cobia.

And now for offshore. I personally had 2 trips offshore since January 1st. (For those of us that do not have boats capable of 45/125 miles out) I use the party boat fleet out of Bradenton. They are good captains. Try them it's worth it. On our front I have heard of red grouper, snappers, cobia and African pompano being caught regularly when the wind is good.

With the beginning of March, everything changes, water warms to the mid 70's and the switch turns to snook, reds, trout, cobia and pompano all in the shallows. With lots of bait around alligator reef to pirates it is about ready to explode.

On February 28th I saw and marked and marked and scoped tarpon in the harbor. So you guys can have all the other fish. LOL. So in other words for me big catch season is officially over. I will personally fish for tarpon from now until mid December. Definitely a disease I can live with (Tarpon fever).

So once again it is getting later and the semi sad eyes of my yellow lab beckons me for our evening walk. So please, please, please go out and give our fish filled harbor a good try!

Tight Lines, Richy Kale

## FISH of the MONTH

JANUARY: SHEEPSHEAD

FEBRUARY: GROUPER

MARCH: SPANISH MACKEREL

**APRIL: SNOOK** 

Мау: Совіа

JUNE: JACK CREVALLE

JULY: SHARK

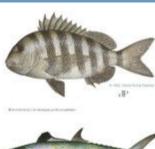
AUGUST: TARPON

SEPTEMBER: BLACK DRUM

OCTOBER: REDFISH

NOVEMBER: MANGROVE SNAPPER

**DECEMBER: SPOTTED SEA TROUT** 



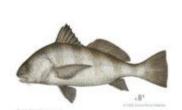


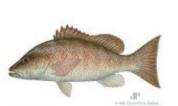




















Fine Print: See "Fish of the Month Contest Rules" here: <a href="http://pgifishinqclub.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Fish-of-the-Month-Contest-Rules-Rev-7-021220.pdf">http://pgifishinqclub.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Fish-of-the-Month-Contest-Rules-Rev-7-021220.pdf</a>

## Fish of the Month For MARCH

Location, Description, Tips, Tackle and Bait

#### SPANISH MACKEREL



**Identification:** Greenish back with silver sides and belly; yellow/olive green spots on the sides; fork tail. They have very sharp triangular teeth.

**Location:** Spanish Mackerel move into our area around March as the water temperatures warm. They can be found nearshore, on the beaches, and in the harbor. When targeting them keep an eye out for bait being chased or birds diving. In the harbor they can be found in many locations; Cape Haze, Cape Haze reef, Danger reef, the shoals, and the West Wall. They move into the river as water temperature rises and salinity changes; skating rink, Ponce, Grassy Point.

**Technique:** Spanish Mackerel are fast aggressive feeders, found in schools, and respond well to trolling. When offshore use of a diving planer or a heavy spoon at a trolling speed between 4.5-7 mph. Watch for twisting of the line when trolling at higher speeds; sometimes barrel swivels help, sometimes they don't. Inshore troll a bit slower  $\sim 4.3-5.5$  mph in 4'-6' of water. Always vary the trolling speed; especially if you think you are on the fish and not getting any bites. Casting at a school with a fast retrieve can also achieve good results once the school is located. They have also been caught in the deep holes.

**Gear:** Light spinning gear is ideal; something you would use for snapper or sheepshead. A heavier leader or metal leader is helpful based on their sharp teeth. Often times a metal leader will result in fewer bites, keep many lures in you tackle box. Use various spoons (gold, silver, and multi colored), Got Cha plugs, or any trolling lure. Soft plastics also work, but likely won't hold up well due to their sharp teeth. Use of inexpensive lures is a common practice.

Spanish Mackerel are measured to the fork; make note in any fish submittals the measurement is to the fork and check FWC regulations for harvesting.

## JANUARY RESULTS

## Club & Individual Fishing Statistics



#### REPORTED CATCHES as of 2/29/2024 and FISH OF THE MONTH (FOM) RESULTS 44 total fish turned in (5200 points) by 16 different anglers

#### **FOM (GROUPER)**

Women Men

1st - Cathy Hunt —13.0" 1st - John Gettinger — 33.0"

2nd - None 2nd - Mike White — 32.0"

3rd - None 3rd - Mark Cummins — 31.0"

#### **Interesting Tidbits**

February saw twice as many fish reported and points earned as in January, thanks, in part to those who sought out our FOM, grouper in the far offshore waters. 17 grouper were reported and all but 3 were points earning size red grouper. John Gettinger claimed the first 300-pointer of the new year with a 33" red grouper and another four 200 pointers were submitted by other anglers. Mike White has mastered the art of finding large species inshore and is currently leading the MAT in Sheepshead (24"), Seatrout (24.5") and Snook (39"). 15 seatrout made up most of the remaining catches for the month with 3 AJs as well. Congratulations to Dave Dyke who became our 58th Grand Master Angler in our Club's history, and to Mike White who has already earned the 2000 points needed to claim his 6th GMA Star – the first one awarded this year after only 2 months. Congratulations also to Mark Cummins who earned both his Snook and Redfish Pins in the same month.

Club Hat **Bronze Pin** 

None **Andy Athens, Beth Watkins** 

Silver Pin Gold Pin

**Glenn Ranfos** None

Redfish Pin Snook Pin

**Mark Cummins Mark Cummins** 

Tarpon Pin GMA

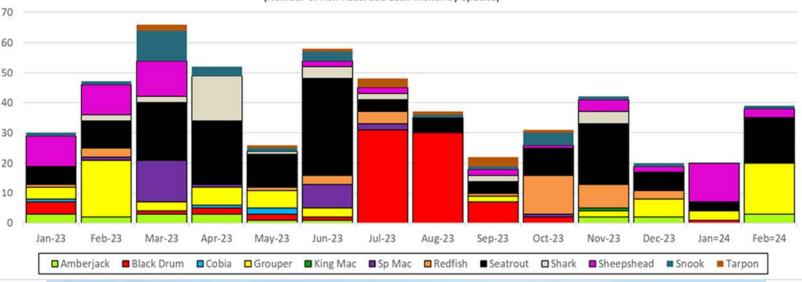
None **Dave Dyke** 

ACHIEVEMENTS! **GMA Star** Mike White—#6

## WHAT'S BITE'N







#### Recorder's Data

## **Monthly Performance**

	December	January	February	
Anglers	13	12	16	1
LOA Awards	2	1	7	1
Fish Recorded	26	20	44	1
Points Recorded	2700	2,100	5,200	1

## 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 REC- ORD	
х	Amber Jack	Joe Udwari	53.5	3.5 2019 Glenn Ranfos 36.0		2/16/24	67.3%		
x	Black Drum	Mike White	51.5	2019	Fred De Mella	34.0	1/13/24	66.0%	
Х	Cobia	Rich Kale	66.0	2022	Larry Kissner	sner 36.0 1/30		54.0%	
х	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	33 0		2/16/24	84.6%	
Х	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012				0.0%	
X	Redfish	Mike White	47.0	2020				0.0%	
х	Seatrout	Rich Bren- nan	29.0	2009	Mike White	24.5	2/28/24	84.5%	
		Aaron Wag- ner	29.0	2012					
X	Sheeps- head	Mike White	26.0	2022	Mike White	24.0	2/26/24	93.3%	
Х	Snook	Mike White	49.0	2023	Mike White	39.0	2/26/24	79.6%	
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%
	000.0	Marilyn McGregor	50.0	2013				0.070
	Grouper	Dianne Bu- kowski	37.0	2018	Cathy Hunt	13.0	2/17/24	35.1%
	King Macke- rel	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	Elaine Bretts	19.0	2/14/24	71.7%
	Sheeps-head	Dianne Bu- kowski	22.5	2021	Diana McKenna	16.0	1/3/24	71.1%
	Snook	Missy Becker	42.0	2013				0.0%
	Spanish	Missy Becker	28.0	2007				0.0%
	Mackerel	Lynn Reeves	28.0	2019				0.070

This Year's LEADERS are in BLUE

★★ Denotes New Club Record

New Entries This Month are in RED

#### PAST WINNERS OF ISLES TROPHY RACE

2009	Rich Brennan, Christine Jordan	2017	Rich Kale, Darlene Madsden
2010	Kel Krotzer, Margie Hofman	2018	Joe Udwari, Dianne Bukowski
2011	Greg Chestnut, Joanne Landacre	2019	Joe Udwari, 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 Madsden, Margie Hofman	2022	Rich Kale, Christine White
2015	Bob Mays, Karen Lodge	2023	Mike White, Wanda Zimka
2016	Gary Reeves, Rose Ann McCaffrey	2024	

## FEBRUARY RESULTS—LADDER OF ACHIEVEMENT

				ADDEN DI ADILIE			
			LIFETIME			GRAND MAS	TER ANGLER
BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	LEVEL I	LIFETIME LEV-			TOTAL
2.(0.142	OIL V LI (	3010	SNOOK	EL II REDFISH	EL III TARPON	GMA	STARS
	1 (CD II :			5 4 11		. "	
Andy Athens	Jeff Bellairs	Gary Adams	Paula Arnold	Doug Arnold	Frank Barrett	Jeff Barnhart	***
Sherry Barrett	Joanna Boeckl	Jack Botbyl	Mark Cummins	Mark Cummins	Rick Brown	Ron Baxter	
Trudi Baxter	Marc Boeckl	Mark Cummins	Mary Heins	Mike Dougherty	Dick Conant	Fred Benson	<b>.</b>
Tori Brown	Todd Brooks	Carl Cucco	Chuck Henry	Doug Du Fresne	Marv Dyrstad	Larry Benz	*
Bob Critchfield	Anne Careau	Ken Garden	Tom Hunt	Theresa FitzGer- ald	Ed Girzi	Rich Brennan	**
Colleen De Mella	Don Cummins	Dale Hall	Larry Kissner	Jenny Goodell	Bob Mays	Donnie Bren- nan	*
Ron Deroche	Yvette Du Fresne	Bill Hess	Michael Knipe	Bill Guenther	Diana McKenna	Bob Bretts	*****
T desEnfants	Kathy desEnfants	Karen Lodge	Jim LaRocca	Ken Hardesty	Bill Muir	Elaine Bretts	*****
Sharon Dyke	Tony Destefano	Joe Lombardi	Marie LaRocca	Jack Howarth	Nancy Pearson	Dianne Bukow- ski	*
Mike Endres	Tamara Dillman	Sonia Nelson	Tom Lodge	Julie Kale	Lynn Reeves	Joe Bukowski	**
Richard			_				
Farmer	Joanell Dyrstad	Cheryl Panetta	Sherry Moerke	Jonathan Landon	Jack Spies	Jim Crawley	*
Steve Fritz	Richard Embury	Gary Selzer	William Neff	Mark Lee	Mark Storm	Fred De Mella	***
Chris Gibbons	Gary Frost	Steve Trego	John Simonieg	Marty McCaffrey	Gretchen Sun- derland	Mark Dillman	
Frank Grazier		Sheree Wolfinger	Ed Verminski	Rose McCaffrey	Karen Udwari	Dick Doster	
Renee Gibbons	Art Goodell		T Wierzbanowski	Dennis McKenna	Allen Wade	Randy Douet	****
Bob Giffin	Jim Gregory			Gary Moerke	Rich Willingmyre	Dave Dyke	
Sheryl Hatch	Randy Hall			Chip Peterson	Dave Dyke	John Fitzgerald	
David Hatch	Roz Hickey			John Saitta		C Fonyaine	*
Tom Hay	Jack Hinnenthal		RED = Awards	Paul Whiting		Bob Gariepy	**
Scott Hutchins	Larry Hofmeister		This Month	Joseph Zurad		John Gettinger	***
Jack Jonaitis	Dave Joe		THIS WISHLI	7 P	ı	Mike Gilger	**
Dennis Jones	Lisa Kellythorne	ı		I		Tom Hickey	*
			Club Hats			•	*
Fran Krausman	Mike Knipe					Jim Hoffman	×
Buddy Krauss	Ron Kruse		None			Margie Hoffman	
Jim Kunard	Denys LaChance		This			Jan Holm	
Patti Kunard	Kevin LaPointe		Month			Cathy Hunt	***
Richard Larson	John McFarland					Bud Johnston	
Bob Mueller	Mike Nalipi					Cindi Johnston	
Patricia Nalipi	Wayn Nelson					Rich Kale	****
Ann Northen	Randy Page					Dennis	****
Connie Nowicki	Kim Pflaum					Krausman Kel Krotzer	***
Chuck Pear-	Glenn Ranfos					Carl Leicher	•
son Bruce Peterson	Paul Robinson					Joe Maillet	
							-
Chris Pflaum	Hezzie Samons					Pete McGregor	
Chris Pollinger Doug	Mike Sandling					Jude Panetta	***
Salminen	Deb Sarkisian					Tom Parsons	**
Mark Schruer	Tom Schmitt					Gary Reeves	
Alan Schulman	Gary Skillicorn					Rick Sarkisian	*****
Jess Searle	Lynne Stockinger					John Stockinger	*
Miriam Taylor	Don Taylor					Donna Sullivan	**
Patti Topper	Mike Trost					Ron Topper	****
Mike Trost	Mike Wagner					Joe Udwari	*****
Roxie Trost	Stella Wagner					Aaron Wagner	
Beth Watkins	Greg Widney					Mike White	*** <b>*</b>
Joanne Wid-	Sandy Wierzban-					Jeff Wilson	*
ney Wanda Zimka	owski Tom Youngblood					John Wolfinger	
	Lenny Zimka		1	11		(BOLD star = ear	nod this year)

Wanda Zimka

(BOLD star = earned this year)

# FEBRUARY RESULTS MASTER ANGLER

## **MASTER ANGLERS TOURNAMENT, 2024 STANDINGS**

	AMBERJACK	BLACK DRUM	м	COBIA		GROUPER	3	KING Mackerel	REDFISH	SEATRO	UT	SHEEPSI	ÆAD	SNOOI	K	SPANISH MACKEREL
lst lace	Glenn Ranfos 36.0	Fred De Mella	34.0	Larry Kissner	36.0	John Gettinger	33.0			Mike White	24.5	Mike White	24.0	Mike White	39.0	
nd ace						Mike White	32.0			Randy Douet	22.0	Fred De Mella	21.0	Andy Athens	15.0	
01						Jeff Barnhart	31.5			Joe Esposito	20.0	Bob Gariep	18.0			
)/																

New this month are shown in Red



#### LADY ANGLERS OFFSHORE FISHING GROUP



## SUNSHINE LADY

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



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	Position is Vacant	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	Greg Widney	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	Jennifer Huey	socialdirector@pgifishingclub.org
SUNSHINE LADY	Paula Arnold	sunshine@pgifishingclub.org
WEBMASTER	Richard Embury	website@pgifishingclub.org

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT



At the end of February we had 283 members from 148 households. However, 77 members from 40 households have not paid their dues yet and have until the middle of March to complete their membership before their membership lapses. Please send in your dues now if you have not already done so.

February was a stellar month with 15 new members.

#### Please welcome our new members for February:

Philip and Joanne Frasier residing on Towhee Ct Steve and Michelle Gordon residing on Rio Grande Dr Joe and Tricia Sander residing on Pamela Dr. Mark and Mason VanViegen Bal Harbor Blvd Ken Balkovic residing on St Davids Island Ct Keith and Christy residing on Kosnic Via Tripoli Jim and Debbie Morrison residing on Mineo Dr Thomas and Rosanne Stangl residing on Raven Ct

Tight Lines
Bill Muir
Membership Director



# MEMBERS HELPING MEMBERS



Its 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
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**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

GENERAL INFORMATION: http://
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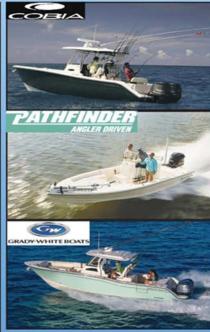


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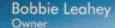
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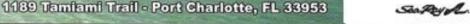
Sales Consultant

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## DISCOUNTS & DEALS



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Captain Ted's – 10% discount off all purchases

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

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Waterproof Charts – 10% discount

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

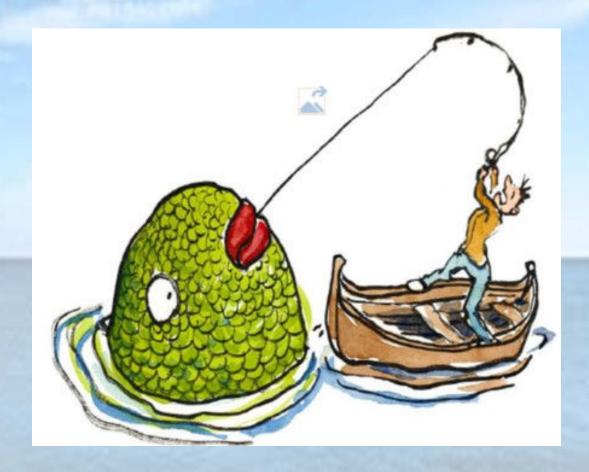
## FISHING GUIDES



## 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.

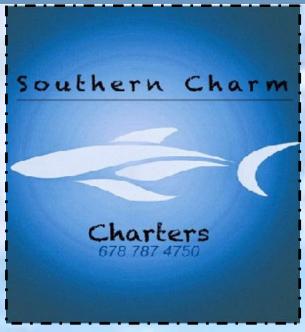
Give Southern Charm a call—see their ad on the next page



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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.

#### **AMBER JACK**







**GREG WIDNEY** 

(See also the last page for Bill Muir's AJ)

#### **BLACK DRUM**



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**ANDY ATHENS** 

**AMBER JACK** 



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