FROM THE HELM

THE **PGI FISHING CLUB** IS A PART OF THE

PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION (PGICA)



FEBRUARY 2025

This Club is your key to Excellent Sport Fishing in and around Charlotte Harbor!

This productive Harbor offers great shallow water fishing for Snook, Redfish, Sea Trout, Jack Crevalle, and many species of Snapper. During the spring and summer months, often extending into early fall, Tarpon, Shark, Cobia, and Spanish Mackerel roam these inside waters. Off shore reefs hold a wide variety of species including Grouper, Barracuda, Permit, and Amberjack. Anglers watch for the spring and fall King Mackerel migration. The Tarpon fishing in and around Boca Grand pass is world famous. **Come and join the fun!**

Our monthly meetings at PGICA allow members to enjoy expert local speakers, to provide data on tackle selection, rigging methods, and techniques that have proven successful in local waters. Members have the opportunity to ask questions, report on current fishing conditions, exchange ideas, and swap fish stories.

Other Highlights:

"How to" Clinics
Social Functions

Our Membership is made up of anglers, both male and female, whose fishing skills range from **Beginner to Expert**. Come to ramp up your game, and build on your success with a bunch of like-minded folks.

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 11, at 6:00 p.m., Followed by social time with drinks and snacks.

What kind of music should you listen to while fishing? Answer: Something catchy!

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FISHING REPORT For JANUARY

We have no Fishing Report for you this month!

We would like to continue publishing a monthly Fishing Report based on the observations of our Members, their angling success and the physical challenges in Sport Fishing in the Gulf and our beautiful harbor each month. The size and species of fish you've encountered and the apparent abundance of them would be of interest to many.

It would be great to have one seasoned volunteer to write our monthly Fishing Report.

Alternatively,

if several of you would submit your own casual notes each month, your thoughts and experiences could be collated and published as a whole.

Become a Contributor!

If you are interested, please contact any Board Member or contact the Editor: jimkunard@gmail.com.



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

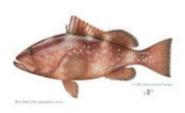
OCTOBER: REDFISH

NOVEMBER: MANGROVE SNAPPER

DECEMBER: SPOTTED SEA TROUT





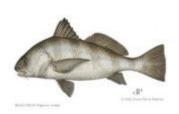


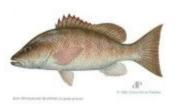


















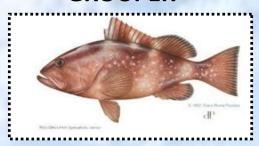


Fine Print: See "Fish of the Month Contest Rules" here: http://pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/wpcontent/uploads/2020/02/Fish-of-the-Month-Contest-Rules-Rev-7-021220.pdf

Fish of the Month For FEBRUARY

Location, Description, Tips, Tackle and Bait

GROUPER



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 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 readily in the Gulf in 35 to 50 feet of water and caught using a Sabiki rig.

The bite: The bite is a hard tug oh 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 Grand Pass, and channel markers. Pitch a shrimp. Trolling a stretch near the reefs, or the pass, the 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 1/31/2025 and FISH OF THE MONTH (FOM) RESULTS 27 total fish turned in (2000 points) by 18 different anglers

FOM (SHEEPSHEAD)

<u>Women</u> <u>Men</u>

1st - Elaine Bretts, 13.0" 1st - Jim Gregory - 19.0"

2nd - Diana McKenna, 10.0" TIE - Carl Leicher

TIE with Donna Sullivan 2nd— Bob Gariepy, 18.5"

3rd - Cathy Hunt, 9.0" 3rd - Bobby Bretts - 18.0"

Interesting Tidbits

Finally, after three weeks of nasty, cold and windy weather, we had a week of calm waters and warmer temps. Most of our catches reported this month happened this last most welcomed week. Our FOM, Sheepshead, had a respectable 8 reported catches up to 19." The Red Grouper season is now open again and we had 8 reported catches up to 31" for those able to get offshore. A few Seatrout were found by those seeking them and we had reports of a Cobia and an Amberjack as well as a Black Drum and a Redfish.

Achievement Categories

Club Hat Bronze Pin

None None

Silver Pin Gold Pin
None None

Snook Pin Redfish Pin

None None

Tarpon Pin GMA

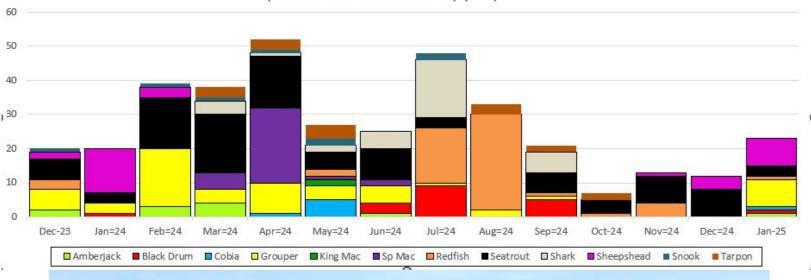
None None

GMA Star None

WHAT'S BITE'N



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



Monthly Performance November December January 18 **Anglers** 10 10 **LOA Awards** 2 0 1 Fish Recorded 27 18 15 2,000 **Points Recorded** 1400 1,400

Recorder's Data

TROPHY RACE (Men)

OVERALL CLUB RECORD	SPECIES NAME	MEMBER NAME	RECORD LENGTH in INCH- ES	DATE CAUGHT	MEMBER NAME	2025 LENGTH in INCH- ES	DATE CAUGHT	% OF REC- ORD
Х	Amber Jack	Joe Udwari	53.5	2019	Fred De Mella	30.0	1/29/25	56.1%
	Black Drum	Mike White	51.5	2019	Mike Dougherty	15.5	1/28/25	30.1%
Х	Cobia	Rich Kale	66.0	2022	Allen Wade	32.0	1/16/25	48.5%
Х	Grouper	Tom Hamilton	39.0	2003	03 Jim Kunard		1/29/25	79.5%
Х	King Mackerel	John MacLeman	52.0	2012				0.0%
X	Redfish	Mike White	47.0	2020	Allen Wade	21.0	1/16/25	44.7%
Х	Seatrout	Rich Brennan Aaron Wag- ner	29.0 29.0	2009 2012	Carl Cucco	22.0	1/27/25	75.9%
Х	Sheeps- head	Mike White	26.0	2022	Jim Gregory Carl Leicher	19.0	1/28/25 1/29/25	73.1%
Х	Snook	Mike White	49.0	2023				0.0%
Х	Spanish Mackerel	Carl Leicher	30.0	2012				0.0%

This Year's Leaders 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
х	Black Drum	Christine Fontaine White	52.0	2022				0
	Cobia	Joanne Lan- daker	50.0	2008				0
		Marilyn McGregor	50.0	2013				
	Grouper	Dianne Bu- kowski	37.0	2018				0
	King Mackerel	Nancy Pear- son	40.0	2022				0
	Redfish	Donnie Brennan Missy Beck-	38.0	2008	Beth Watkins	15.0	1/5/25	39.5%
		er	38.0	2008				
	Seatrout	Joanne Lan- daker	26.5	2011	Donna Sullivan	19.0	1/28/25	71.7%
	Sheepshead	Dianne Bu- kowski	22.5	2021	Elaine Bretts	13.0	1/30/25	57.8%
	Snook	Missy Beck- er	42.0	2013				0
	Spanish	Missy Beck- er	28.0	2007				0
	Mackerel	Lynn Reeves	28.0	2019				

This Year's LEADER 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	Mike White, Cathy Hunt

		JANUAR	Y RESULTS— L A	DDER OF ACHIEV	'EMENT
BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD	LIFETIME LEVEL I SNOOK	LIFETIME LEV- EL II REDFISH	LIFETIME LEV- EL III TARPON
Andy Athens	Jeff Bellairs	Gary Adams	Paula Arnold	Doug Arnold	Frank Barrett
Sherry Barrett	Joanna Boeckl	Jack Botbyl	Carl Cucco	Mark Cummins	Rick Brown
Trudi Baxter	Marc Boeckl	Steve Fritz	Mark Cummins	Mike Dougherty	Dick Conant
Tori Brown	Todd Brooks	Ken Garden	Mary Heins	Doug Du Fresne	Marv Dyrstad
Bob Critchfield	Anne Careau	Dale Hall	Chuck Henry	Jenny Goodell	Theresa FitzGerald
Colleen De Mella	Don Cummins	Bill Hess	Tom Hunt	Bill Guenther	Ed Girzi
Ron Deroche	Ron Deroche	Karen Lodge	Larry Kissner	Ken Hardesty	Bob Mays
Tom desEnfants	Yvette Du Fresne	Joe Lombardi	Michael Knipe	Jack Howarth	Diana McKenna
Sharon Dyke	Kathy desEnfants	Sonia Nelson	Jim LaRocca	Julie Kale	Bill Muir
Mike Endres	Tony Destefano	Cheryl Panetta	Marie LaRocca	Jonathan Landon	Nancy Pearson
Richard Farmer	Tamara Dillman	Glenn Ranfos	Tom Lodge	Mark Lee	Lynn Reeves
Steve Fritz	Joanell Dyrstad	Gary Selzer	Sherry Moerke	Marty McCaffrey	Jack Spies
Chris Gibbons	Richard Embury	Steve Trego	William Neff	Rose Anne McCaffrey	Mark Storm
Frank Grazier	Gary Frost	Greg Widney	Gary Selzer	Dennis McKenna	Gretch Sunderland
Renee Gibbons	Tim Gibbons	Sheree Wolfinger	John Simonieg	Gary Moerke	Karen Udwari
Bob Giffin	Art Goodell		Ed Verminski	Chip Peterson	Allen Wade
Sheryl Hatch	Jim Gregory		TWierzbanowski	John Saitta	Rich Willingmyre
David Hatch	Randy Hall			Paul Whiting	
Tom Hay	Roz Hickey		RED = Awards	Joseph Zurad	
Scott Hutchins	Jack Hinnenthal		This Month		
Jack Jonaitis	Larry Hofmeister			_	
Dennis Jones	Dave Joe		01.1.1.		
Fran Krausman	Lisa Kellythorne		Club Hats		
Buddy Krauss	Mike Knipe				
Jim Kunard	Ron Kruse		None		
Patti Kunard	Denys LaChance				
Richard Larson	Kevin LaPointe				
Tim Locke	John McFarland				
Bob Mueller	Mike Nalipi				
Patricia Nalipi	Wayn Nelson				
Ann Northen	Randy Page				
Connie Nowicki	Kim Pflaum				
Tony Nowicki	Paul Robinson				
Chuck Pearson	Hezzie Samons				
Bruce Peterson	Mike Sandling				
Chris Pflaum	Deb Sarkisian				
Chris Pollinger	Tom Schmitt				
Doug Salminen	Gary Skillicorn				
Mark Schruer	Lynne Stockinger				
Alan Schulman	Don Taylor				
Jess Searle	Mike Trost				
Miriam Taylor	Roxie Trost				
Patti Topper	Mike Wagner				
Beth Watkins	Stella Wagner				
Joanne Widney	Greg Widney				
Wanda Zimka	S Wierzbanowski				
	Tom Youngblood				Į

Lenny Zimka

Wanda Zimka

Larry Benz * ***** Rich Brennan Donnie Brennan **Bob Bretts** ***** ***** Elaine Bretts Dianne Bukowski * Joe Bukowski ** Jim Crawley Fred De Mella **** Mark Dillman Dick Doster Randy Douet ***** Dave Dyke myre John Fitzgerald Christine Fontaine **Bob Gariepy** ** John Gettinger **★★★** Mike Gilger ** Tom Hickey * Jim Hoffman Margie Hoffman Jan Holm Cathy Hunt **** **Bud Johnston** Cindi Johnston Rich Kale **** Dennis Krausman **** Kel Krotzer *** Carl Leicher Joe Maillet Pete McGregor ★★ Jude Panetta *** Tom Parsons ** **Gary Reeves** Rick Sarkisian ***** John Stockinger Donna Sullivan ★★ Ron Topper **** ***** Joe Udwari Aaron Wagner Mike White **** Jeff Wilson John Wolfinger (BOLD star = earned this year)

GRAND MASTER ANGLER

GMA

Jeff Barnhart

Ron Baxter

Fred Benson

TOTAL

STARS

JANUARY RESULTS MASTER ANGLER

MASTER ANGLERS TOURNAMENT, 2025 STANDINGS

PLACE	AMBER JACK		BLACK DRUM	-	COBIA		GROUP- ER		KING MACK- EREL	RED- FISH		SEA- TROUT		SHEEPS- HEAD		snook	SPANISH MACK- EREL
1st	FRED DE MELLA	30.0	MIKE DOUGH- ERTY	15.5	ALLEN WADE	32.0	JIM KUNARD	31.0		ALLEN WADE	21.0	CARL	22.0	JIM GREGORY	19.0		
								A:						CARL LEICHER	19.0		
							MARK			BETH		RANDY		вов			
2nd							CUMMINS	27.0		WATKINS	15.0	DOUET	19.5	GARIEPY	18.5		
							DAVE DYKE	27.0									
		,					8	ý.	y:	s					c -	17	
3rd												DONNA SULL- IVAN	19.0	BOBBY BRETTS	18.0		

New this month are shown in Red



SOCIAL NEWS For FEBRUARY 2025



HAPPY FEBRUARY!

HAPPY HOURS

EVERY WEDNESDAY - ICE HOUSE - 5PM

GENERAL MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

6PM WITH SOCIAL AT 7 PM at PGICA

BUNCO

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 6PM

SIGN UP? PLEASE CLICK THIS LINK:

https://pgica.org/content.aspx?
page id=4091&club id=799073&item id=2533556

HAPPY FEBRUARY FISHING!

Membership Report For JANUARY 2025



Dear 2024 members (those who are not yet 2025 members)!

We have 200 renewal members and 104 household memberships as of this time. **It is time for renewal of your membership.** The PGICA dues do not renew the Fishing Club membership. The trend of membership is shown in the chart below.



We have received renewals from 65% of our 2024 members. So consider the benefits you might be missing if your membership ends.

So, stop by on the next second Tuesday (FEB 11) and drop off a

- Great meeting topics about fishing our inshore and off shore estuary
- Snacks, drinks and storytelling after the meetings.
- Fishing Club tournaments
- Ladder of Achievement growth
- Weekly social event on Wednesdays
- Bunco events
- Club Socials

check or cash or send a check to PGICA office to the attention of the Fishing Club.

Questions? Comments on Fishing Club activities?

Contact the Fishing Club Membership Director: Tim Locke

Membership@pgifishingclub.org, Cell 816-392-9889

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	Vacant	
VICE PRESIDENT	Vacant	
PAST PRESIDENT	BILL MUIR	president@pgifishingclub.org
TREASURER	LISA ROSS	treasurer@pgifishingclub.org
SECRETARY	Vacant	secretary@pgifishingclub.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

ADVERTISING	FRED DE MELLA	advertising@pgifishingclub.org
COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSN	BOB MAYES	cca.cmac@pgifishingclub.org
FISHING EVENTS	GREG WIDNEY	fishingevents@pgifishingclub.org
GREETERS	YVETTE DUFRESNE	greeters@pgifishingclub.org
MEMBERSHIP	TIM LOCKE	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

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
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

GENERAL INFORMATION: http://
pgifishingclub.org/wordpress/?pageid=101



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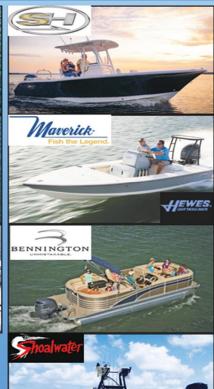
N. FORT MYERS 15001 Gasparilla Rd 14531 N. Cleveland Ave. 239-599-9069

WE HAVE 12 NEW BOAT LINES TO CHOOSE FROM









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Unlimited towing details and exclusions can be found online at BoatUS.com/towing or by calling. For 1st year New Memberships. Details found at BoatUS.com/Agree



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Sat. 8-5, Sun. 9-3

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Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner

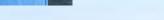
615 Cross Street #1101 Punta Gorda, Florida 33950 Phone: +1 (941) 575-1888

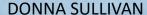
SEA TROUT





CARL CUCCO







RED GROUPER





FRED DE MELLA



JIM KUNARD



REDFISH



AL WADE



BETH WATKINS

AMBERJACK



FRED DE MELLA

BAT RAY



WANDA ZIMKA

BLACK DRUM



RICHY holding MIKE DOUGHERTY'S FISH

COBIA



AL WADE

JACK CREVALLE



ROXIE TROST



JIM KUNARD

SHEEPSHEAD



AL WADE



BOB BRETTS



BOB GARIEPY

JIM

SHEEPSHEAD



DIANA McKENNA



DONNA SULLIVAN



ELAINE BRETTS

SHEEPSHEAD



CATHY HUNT





CARL LEICHER

JIM GREGORY