

Nassau * Duval * Clay * St. Johns * Flagler * Volusia * Brevard

MAY 2021
VOLUME XX ISSUE 05

Fishing Connection



Your information leader in
waterways and fishing days!

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**Capt.
John Eggers**

Flounder fishing will be pretty decent in May. Not a ton of fish but the quality seems to be better than the dead of winter and middle summer months.

Finger mullet will be around and will be about the top bait. Rigged Carolina style or just a plain jig head the fish will be best targeted either incoming to high or the first few hours of the turn from high.

As long as the water level still touches the spartina grass you are good. I like fishing for them in the ICW where there are several feeder creeks in short stretches down the ditch or big mudflats.

Oyster beds are another good bet as they will lie on the beds waiting for bait to pass by. Reds

will be in the same places and will still be thick in the creeks. Although they are spread out at high they tend to school back up on the outgoing especially in the creek's deepest holes near the low.

Some big black drum will be scattered in the river on the drops and the Sheepshead bite will start to wind down. Spanish mackerel and bluefish schools will be thick in the river close to the jetties and at the rocks as well as up and down the beach. Gotcha plugs for casting into the schools is a sure way to catch them but trolling Clark spoons is a close 2nd.

Use a minimum leader of 40 fluorocarbon or wire to keep from breaking off. The bigger speckled trout will be biting early and late on topwater lures around rocks, bulkheads, docks, and oyster beds.

Popping corks with a 2 foot leader and a finger mullet or mud minnow will be the best live bait option to catch these bigger fish. Tight lines!

Capt. John Eggers

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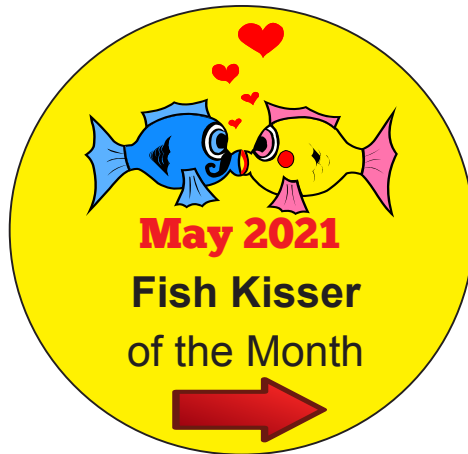
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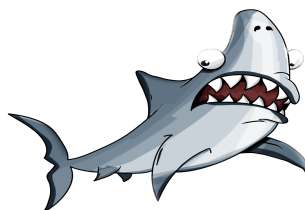


Congratulations to our Fish Kisser of the month, who looks really happy laying a big kiss on that fish's slimy lips. We have a **Free Annual (12 issues) FISHING CONNECTION** subscription mailed each month to your home or office (\$24.00 Value) for any of you that submit your photo to the contest and are chosen as the winner. If you are this month's winner please contact Joe Dionne at fbmgjax@gmail.com with your name and phone # to claim your certificate.

Prize must be claimed no later than midnite of the last day of this month to be valid. If you would enjoy seeing your photo in the **Fishing Connection** please send in your best Fish Kissing Photo. Thanks to all who send in a Fish Kisser photo. Anyone can win, maybe soon it will be you. Send photos to **fbmgjax@gmail.com**

Rules are Simple

Your lips **MUST CLEARLY** touch the fish's **mouth**. The person in the photo must be clothed but clothing on the fish is optional. Remember, all submissions are considered against future entries too, so if you haven't seen your photo yet, you're still in the contest.



Disclaimer

We are not responsible if the fish you're kissing bites your head off

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**Capt.
Charlie Freeman**

It's now May, my favorite month of the year. Days are getting longer, the weather is mostly calm and the fishing inshore and offshore is picking up. Who can ask for more?

Now is the time to head way offshore if you want Wahoo, Mahi, and Tuna as the seas will be calm. High-speed trolling is called for. Now we're talking in the 15-18 kt speeds using lures like C&H "American Express" or their "Mr. Big" lures either which are good choices. Using trolling weights between 16oz. to 64oz. well ahead of the lures are required as are heavy trolling outfits.

Staggering the lines starting at 50ft, 100ft, 150ft and 250ft is the usual rig. A long line (400-500') in the back with a cedar plug will complete the spread and get tuna and Mahi.

It will be the end of the big black drum run but a half or quarter of a blue crab fished on the bottom at the south St Mary's jetty, or in a deep hole in the ICW or behind the range marker will still get hits by the black drum or bull redfish.

Surf fishing will continue to only get better as the whiting, redfish and finally, the permit will bite. Pieces of shrimp, mussels, or using Fishbites will work. Inshore is where the good action will improve. Fishing the

St Marys jetties, the shoreline from the West Rock paper mill to downtown Fernandina, or down at the South End of the island by Nassau Sound will show good catches of whiting, slot side redfish, seatrout, and sheepshead.

This is also one of the best months to fish for tailing redfish on the flats when the high tides are in the late mornings/early afternoons so you have the sun above you. Fly fishermen look for this all year long.

Freshwater fishing now will mean the beginning of the early morning or evening time fishing from the shoreline for bass, catfish, and crappie. Lures will still work well and mid-day action can and will be decent at times, but live bait will still begin to be your best bet.

If you are visiting the area or have just moved here, we have plenty of great charter boat captains available for you to hire.

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*Capt.
Charlie Freeman*



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**Capt.
Bert Deener**

Get your river boats ready. It's about to get silly!

Alapaha River

I heard of several great trips this week – some caught limits. The best catches I heard of were made with bruiser, black/chartreuse and crawfish Satilla Spins. Ronnie Gaskins made a trip this week and caught some really nice rooster redbreasts on the bruiser color. There were 19 trucks with trailers at the new Hwy 168 ramp in Berrien County at one point on Saturday. The cool nights will slow the morning bite somewhat, but expect the bite to heat up with the afternoon temperatures. The river level at the Statenville gage on April 22nd was 3.5 feet and falling.

Ogeechee River

Several folks reported good catches on the Ogeechee this week. Jason Arrington had a board of fish that took him awhile to filet. Looked like a 2-person limit. He caught them on electric chicken Satilla Spins. The river level at the Eden gage on April 22nd was 6.3 feet and falling.

Satilla River

The Satilla Riverkeeper week-long tournament is still going on, so check out the details on Facebook or their website at

satillariverkeeper.org. Some nice fish have been weighed in so far this week. The upper river is in pretty good shape and is definitely fishable. The cool nights will probably push the best bite into the afternoon.

I talked with several folks who fished the river this week, and most caught a half-dozen or so fish. Hopefully the water will warm before it gets tough to get around. The river level on April 22nd at the Waycross gage was 6.7 feet and falling (68 degrees). The Atkinson gage was 6.2 feet and falling.

Savannah River – Tyler Finch had another productive trip on the Savannah. He and a friend ended up keeping 84 panfish, and all of them ate white Satilla Spins with a cricket. The river level at the Clyo gage on April 22nd was 7.9 feet and falling.

St. Marys River – The results of the Shady Bream Tournament his past Saturday were impressive. Some giant fish were caught, with the biggest being 1.06 pounds – caught by Tamara. The Team of Hunter and Shawn won with 9.81 pounds of panfish (10 fish). Second was Ernie and Ronnie (8.95 pounds), while Dale and Emma came in third with 8.38 pounds. The next Shady Bream Tournament will be held Saturday, May 22nd out of the Trader's Hill Landing near Folkston. Check out the Shady Bream Tournament trail on Facebook for more information. The river level at the MacClenny gage on April 22nd was 6.8 feet and falling.

Local Ponds – Davis Summerlin had a great trip to a local pond for bass on Thursday. He caught several 5's, a 6, a 7, and an 8 1/2-pounder. His biggest bass ate a pink floating worm. For his

Davis Summerlin caught this 8 1/2-lb bass this week on a pink floating worm in a local pond.



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post-spawn basin', Davis uses a topwater frog a lot, but they often don't actually eat it. He then follows up a miss with a floating worm, and they will usually inhale it (he said 9 of out 10 times). His favorite search bait this time of year is a 3/8-oz. green pumpkin Chatterbait. Some anglers got together and fished a bass tournament on Saturday at a Brunswick area pond. The winner fooled 17 pounds of bass (5 fish limit) using plastic worms, Rat-L-traps, and spinnerbaits. Chip Lafferty and his partner earned runner-up and big fish by throwing Texas-rigged Keitech Mad Wag Worms (black-blue flake and green pumpkin candy fooled most of them) and wacky-rigged stick worms (junebug and green pumpkin worked best). Another group of anglers had an impressive 27 catfish catch. Catfish are shallow preparing to spawn right now, so give them a try if you have a good catfish pond. Look for bluegills in your favorite bream pond, as the coming full moon will push another wave shallow.

Okefenokee Swamp – An angler fishing on Thursday said that they caught a few panfish, but not enough to worry with cleaning them. The cold nights late this week slowed the warmouth bite, but you can still catch a few fliers and warmouth per trip along with some pickerel (jackfish). The bowfin bite hasn't taken off yet, but it will in a few weeks when the nights quite cooling off as much. The latest water level (Folkston side) was 120.96 feet.

Ocmulgee Public Fishing Area (near Hawkinsville)

The biggest largemouth bass I heard of being caught at the area was a 9.21-pounder caught on Saturday. On Sunday a 9.01 pound bass was reported. A couple of anglers fished the area on Friday and caught a 2, 3 and 4-pounder. The big crappie bite has slowed, but anglers are still catching decent numbers of smaller fish.

Saltwater (GA Coast)

On Saturday, Shane and Joshua Barber fished around St. Marys and landed 15 trout and sheepshead (8 keepers), a croaker, and a whiting. **Continued on Page 9**

FERNANDINA BEACH TIDES

Florida, Fernandina Beach
N 30° 40.5' / W 81° 27.9'

May 2021

Date	Day	High Tide		High Tide		Low Tide		Low Tide		Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase
1	Sa	12:54a	7.3	1:15p	5.9	6:57a	-0.2	7:00p	-0.1	6:42a	8:04p	12:28a	10:39a	
2	Su	1:50a	6.9	2:12p	5.7	7:58a	0.1	8:03p	0.3	6:41a	8:05p	1:27a	11:43a	
3	Mo	2:49a	6.6	3:13p	5.6	9:00a	0.3	9:11p	0.6	6:40a	8:06p	2:17a	12:47p	3rd
4	Tu	3:50a	6.2	4:16p	5.6	10:00a	0.3	10:17p	0.7	6:39a	8:06p	3:00a	1:48p	
5	We	4:51a	6.0	5:18p	5.7	10:56a	0.3	11:19p	0.7	6:38a	8:07p	3:37a	2:48p	
6	Th	5:49a	5.9	6:15p	5.9	11:47a	0.3			6:37a	8:08p	4:10a	3:45p	
7	Fr	6:41a	5.9	7:05p	6.2	12:15a	0.6	12:34p	0.2	6:37a	8:08p	4:39a	4:39p	
8	Sa	7:27a	5.8	7:49p	6.4	1:07a	0.5	1:18p	0.1	6:36a	8:09p	5:07a	5:33p	
9	Su	8:10a	5.8	8:30p	6.5	1:55a	0.4	2:00p	0.1	6:35a	8:10p	5:35a	6:27p	
10	Mo	8:50a	5.7	9:09p	6.6	2:38a	0.3	2:39p	0.0	6:34a	8:10p	6:03a	7:21p	
11	Tu	9:29a	5.6	9:46p	6.6	3:18a	0.2	3:15p	0.1	6:34a	8:11p	6:33a	8:15p	New
12	We	10:07a	5.5	10:23p	6.6	3:56a	0.2	3:50p	0.1	6:33a	8:12p	7:06a	9:11p	
13	Th	10:45a	5.4	11:01p	6.5	4:32a	0.3	4:24p	0.2	6:32a	8:12p	7:43a	10:07p	
14	Fr	11:23a	5.2	11:38p	6.4	5:08a	0.4	4:59p	0.4	6:32a	8:13p	8:25a	11:01p	
15	Sa	12:03p	5.1			5:45a	0.6	5:36p	0.5	6:31a	8:14p	9:12a	11:54p	
16	Su	12:18a	6.2	12:44p	5.0	6:26a	0.7	6:17p	0.7	6:30a	8:14p	10:05a		
17	Mo	1:00a	6.1	1:28p	5.0	7:11a	0.8	7:07p	0.8	6:30a	8:15p	11:01a	12:42a	
18	Tu	1:45a	6.0	2:16p	5.1	8:01a	0.7	8:06p	0.8	6:29a	8:16p	12:00p	1:27a	
19	We	2:36a	6.0	3:10p	5.3	8:56a	0.6	9:11p	0.8	6:29a	8:16p	1:02p	2:07a	1st
20	Th	3:32a	5.9	4:10p	5.6	9:51a	0.4	10:16p	0.5	6:28a	8:17p	2:04p	2:45a	
21	Fr	4:33a	6.0	5:12p	6.0	10:45a	0.1	11:18p	0.2	6:28a	8:18p	3:07p	3:19a	
22	Sa	5:35a	6.0	6:12p	6.5	11:39a	-0.2			6:27a	8:18p	4:12p	3:53a	
23	Su	6:34a	6.2	7:10p	7.0	12:18a	-0.1	12:33p	-0.6	6:27a	8:19p	5:20p	4:27a	
24	Mo	7:30a	6.3	8:05p	7.4	1:17a	-0.4	1:26p	-0.9	6:26a	8:19p	6:30p	5:03a	
25	Tu	8:24a	6.3	9:00p	7.7	2:13a	-0.7	2:18p	-1.1	6:26a	8:20p	7:42p	5:43a	
26	We	9:19a	6.3	9:55p	7.8	3:08a	-0.9	3:10p	-1.2	6:25a	8:21p	8:56p	6:29a	Full
27	Th	10:13a	6.3	10:49p	7.7	4:00a	-0.9	4:01p	-1.1	6:25a	8:21p	10:07p	7:22a	
28	Fr	11:09a	6.1	11:44p	7.5	4:52a	-0.8	4:52p	-0.9	6:25a	8:22p	11:13p	8:21a	
29	Sa	12:04p	6.0			5:45a	-0.6	5:45p	-0.5	6:24a	8:22p		9:26a	
30	Su	12:38a	7.2	1:00p	5.8	6:40a	-0.3	6:43p	-0.1	6:24a	8:23p	12:09a	10:32a	
31	Mo	1:32a	6.8	1:56p	5.7	7:37a	-0.1	7:45p	0.3	6:24a	8:23p	12:57a	11:37a	

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**Capt.
Lee Bowman**



Spring is here. Fish are biting. The club has been meeting, members have been fishing and we are excited and looking forward to this fishing season and all the excitement it will bring.

The clubhouse was pretty packed for our April 1st meeting. We had the Easter egg hunt for the kids and they had a great time. We also had Captain Chad Starling from Team Buck Rogers Fishing Charters come out and give us a seminar on anchoring, sea bass, and rigs.

If you weren't there you missed a great opportunity to see some of the tricks he was willing to give out. If you want to get more info from him follow him on social media or check out his website teambuckrogers.com, we also had Connie Schreifels the Sales Manager with Revere Survival come out and talk to us about safety and life rafts.

Fishing boards are piling on some fish but there is room to knock someone off the board with some of the big ones that

are offshore and inshore right now.

We would also like to thank everyone who signed up to help work the JOSFC booth at the boat show.

We hope to see you are the clubhouse soon. We are excited about some of our plans and speakers coming up. Bring your friends and family for a night of food, fun, and learning.

Look for our flyers in stores and bait and tackle shops and scan our new QR code to get right to our website.

Upcoming Events:

May 1st

"2021 Men's Sailfish Pot Party" more info at their Facebook page. (not a JOSFC event)

May 6th

Club Business. Dinner.

May 15th

Trolling Tournament and Inshore Redfish Tournament.

The backup date is May 22nd.

You have to be a member to participate. Make sure you get in on the Calcutta.

May 20th

speaker TBD. Dinner

Find us on Facebook and check out our website to keep up with upcoming events, schedules, or any changes. www.JaxFish.com

Our meetings are on the first and third Thursday of each month. Due to Covid guidelines, we are currently meeting outdoors. Dress for the weather. We are open to the public so we would love to have you at a meeting even if you are not a member.

Capt.

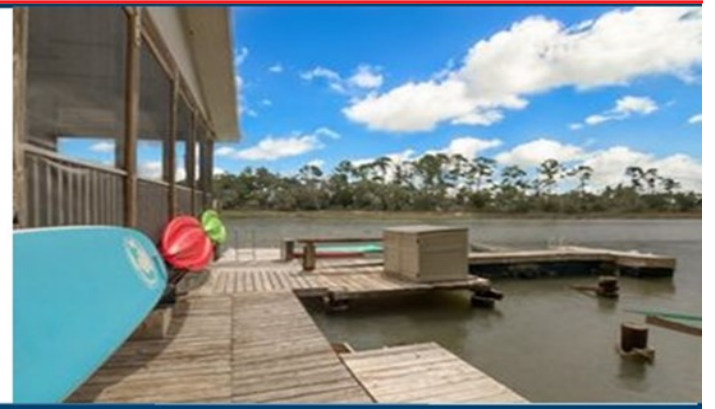
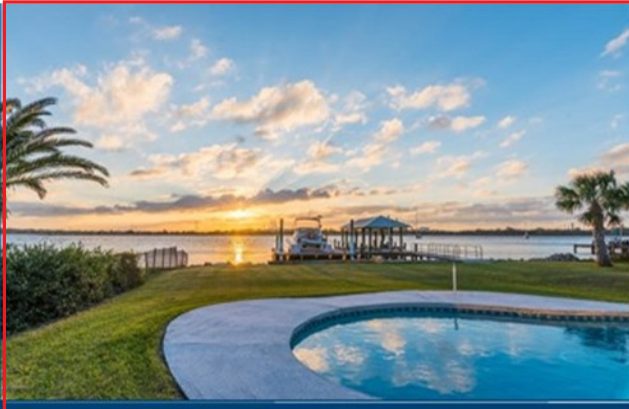
Lee Bowman



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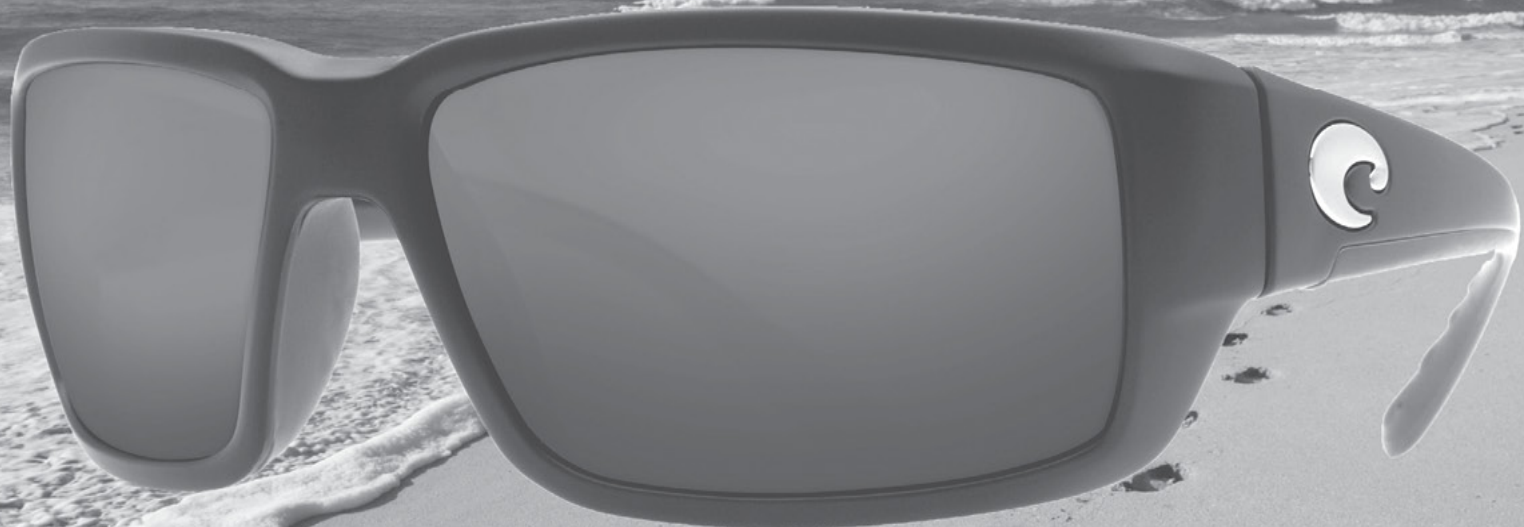
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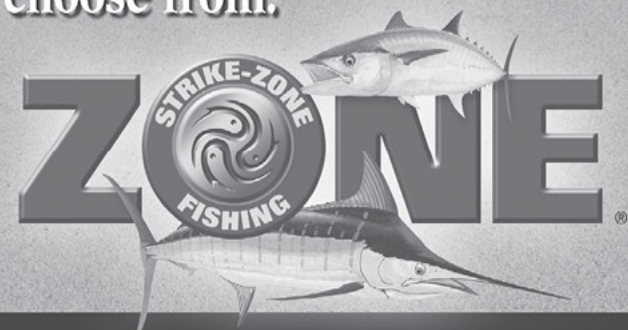
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John Nooney

Tight Lines and Screaming Reels. Fishermen! How do you really feel?

Tax On?

We've all heard the expression. Fish On!, 67 counties in the state of Florida. In Duval County there is active Jacksonville legislation ordinance 2020-0559 see October 2020 Fishing Connection. This legislation only applies to Duval County and is a 50% tax increase on vessel

registrations. Tax On?

Another Duval County only potential tax is for the doubling of the current gas tax from 6 cents to 12 cents. At this writing the legislation has yet to be filed.

Tax On?

Pulling from another FC Contributor Capt. Jim Suber (Who wears many hats) in the April 2021 FC writes. "The Jacksonville Waterways Commission is working on several issues and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission via the state Legislature and NOAA and National Marine Fisheries WILL be considering several issues and State and Federal Laws that may affect you as a Waterfront Property owner or Waterway user. Tax On?

Just asking the question. In your county have the Fishermen reached their limit for taxes on certain species and or items? So, at the 4/6/2021 Rules Committee of the Jacksonville City Council Meeting. I was directed by the Rules Chair to only speak to an item on the Rules agenda. So, I picked one of my favorites 2020-0559. Again see the October 2020 Fishing Connection. Tight Lines and Screaming Reels Fish On!

John Nooney

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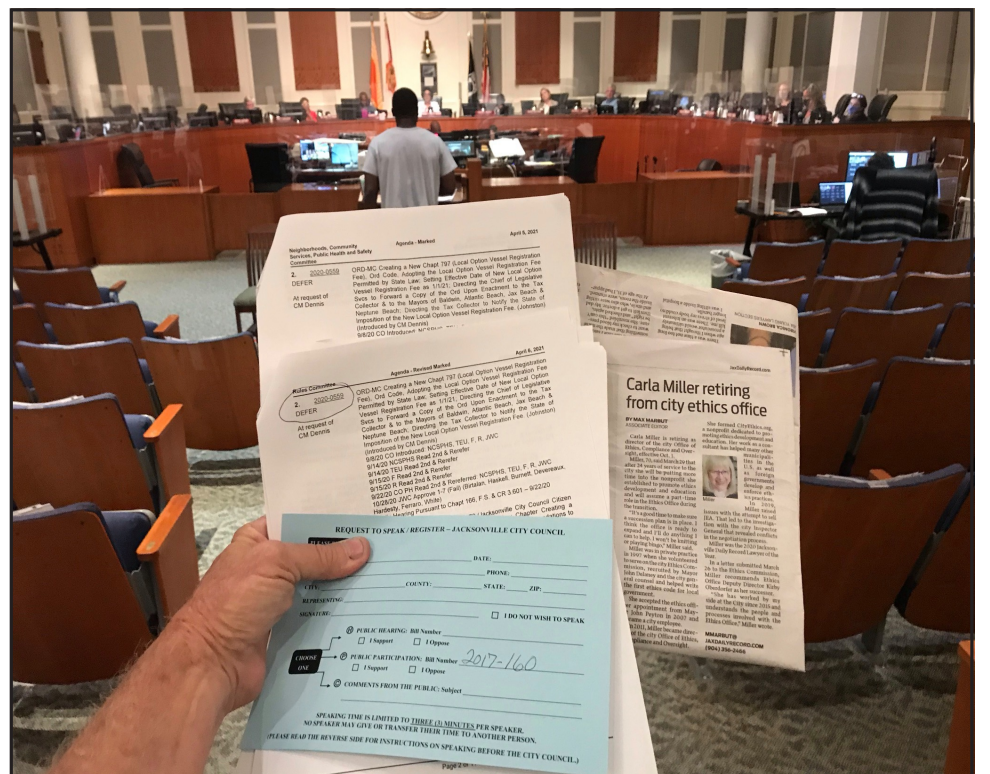
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Jacksonville Boat Club is looking for a few low hour, center console fishing boats, bow riders and deck boats to add to our fleet.

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It's your choice to join Jax Boat Club or not, but there are a lot of benefits. When you're in the club, you get to use a wide variety of boats. Ours range from 16 to 35 feet. We have fishing boats for flats, inshore and offshore fishing. Our pleasure boats include deck boats, bow riders, and express cruisers! We pride ourselves in always having availability for our members! We even have same day boating... call before noon and you can be cruising by 1:00 pm that same day.

And when your in the club, we pay for cleaning, maintenance, storage and insurance... *you just have fun.* Call Andy or Rick 904.477.9794 if you're interested in selling.



2020 Jax BC, LLC Jax Boat Club on the water at Palm Cove Marina * 14603 Beach Blvd. * Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

Continued from Page 4

The trout ate grubs, while fiddler crabs fooled the rest. Todd Kennedy caught his first trout out of his new kayak this week. It ate a topwater.

Trout fishing has been good in Crooked River and the Brunswick area. Expect to catch a meal's-worth per trip. Tripletail fishing has been good this week, with folks having multiple shots at fish on the flats off Jekyll Island.

Most experienced anglers reported catching a few fish per trip. Live shrimp under a small float is the traditional way to catch them. Brentz and Claudia McGhin went crabbing with hand-lines in the St. Simons area this Friday and brought back 46 big crabs.

They spent some time picking them, but there will be some delicious crab cakes in the future. Whiting fishing was good this week on days you could get

out. The winds have been bad a few days, so make sure to check the marine forecast before going. The normal King and Prince and Cumberland Sound spots have produced.

For guide trip information, call Capt. Greg Hildreth at (912) 617-1980 or check out his website

georgiacharterfishing.com. Check with the Jekyll Island Fishing Center (912-635-3556) for the latest on the Jekyll Island Pier or St. Simons Bait & Tackle (912-634-1888) for the latest on the St. Simons Pier.

Keaton Beach, Florida

Capt. Pat McGriff of One More Cast Guide Service www.onemorecast.net Phone: 850-584-9145 said that he and Billy Pillow fished on a bad tide day (Tuesday) with no wind and still managed to catch a limit of trout to 18 1/2 inches. They realized early on that they could

not get many fish to play on artificials, so they switched to live pinfish under Back Bay Thunders and caught their limit that way. The increasing tidal fluctuation and warming trend throughout the weekend should make for some great fishing. His best depths have been 4.0 to 4.5 feet, but he expects to be able to get some big trout to suck down topwaters in the 2.0 to 2.5 foot range.

Full Moon is April 26th. To monitor all the Georgia river levels, visit the USGS website (www.weather.gov/jax/). For the latest marine forecast, check out www.srh.noaa.gov/jax/.

Capt. Bert Deener makes a variety of both fresh and saltwater fishing lures. Check his lures out at Bert's Jigs and Things on Facebook. For a copy of his latest catalog, call him at 912-288-3022 or e-mail him

(bertdeener@yahoo.com). For a 20% discount on some really comfortable fishing shoes (the Miami style is my favorite style of Skuze Shoes), use the **CAPTBERT20** discount code at checkout on their website skuzeshoes.com



Date	Day	High Tide		High Tide		Low Tide		Low Tide		Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase
1	Sa	1:09a	4.5	1:35p	3.7	7:20a	-0.1	7:16p	-0.1	6:42a	8:04p	12:27a	10:40a	
2	Su	2:08a	4.3	2:37p	3.6	8:25a	0.0	8:26p	0.1	6:41a	8:05p	1:26a	11:43a	
3	Mo	3:12a	4.1	3:43p	3.6	9:29a	0.1	9:37p	0.3	6:40a	8:05p	2:17a	12:47p	3rd
4	Tu	4:18a	4.0	4:50p	3.7	10:28a	0.1	10:43p	0.4	6:39a	8:06p	3:00a	1:49p	
5	We	5:22a	3.9	5:52p	3.7	11:23a	0.1	11:44p	0.4	6:39a	8:06p	3:37a	2:48p	
6	Th	6:19a	3.8	6:46p	3.9	12:13p	0.1			6:38a	8:07p	4:09a	3:45p	
7	Fr	7:08a	3.8	7:33p	4.0	12:39a	0.3	1:00p	0.1	6:37a	8:08p	4:39a	4:39p	
8	Sa	7:53a	3.7	8:16p	4.1	1:30a	0.2	1:43p	0.0	6:36a	8:08p	5:07a	5:33p	
9	Su	8:33a	3.7	8:55p	4.2	2:16a	0.1	2:23p	0.0	6:35a	8:09p	5:35a	6:26p	
10	Mo	9:11a	3.6	9:31p	4.2	2:59a	0.0	2:59p	-0.1	6:35a	8:10p	6:03a	7:20p	
11	Tu	9:48a	3.5	10:06p	4.2	3:38a	0.0	3:32p	0.0	6:34a	8:10p	6:34a	8:15p	New
12	We	10:24a	3.5	10:41p	4.2	4:14a	0.0	4:02p	0.0	6:33a	8:11p	7:07a	9:10p	
13	Th	11:00a	3.4	11:16p	4.1	4:49a	0.1	4:32p	0.1	6:33a	8:12p	7:44a	10:06p	
14	Fr	11:37a	3.3	11:52p	4.1	5:22a	0.2	5:03p	0.2	6:32a	8:12p	8:26a	11:00p	
15	Sa	12:16p	3.2			5:57a	0.4	5:39p	0.3	6:31a	8:13p	9:13a	11:53p	
16	Su	12:30a	4.0	12:57p	3.2	6:35a	0.4	6:21p	0.4	6:31a	8:14p	10:05a		
17	Mo	1:11a	4.0	1:41p	3.3	7:20a	0.5	7:13p	0.5	6:30a	8:14p	11:02a	12:42a	
18	Tu	1:57a	3.9	2:31p	3.3	8:11a	0.5	8:13p	0.5	6:30a	8:15p	12:01p	1:26a	
19	We	2:48a	3.9	3:26p	3.5	9:05a	0.4	9:19p	0.5	6:29a	8:16p	1:02p	2:07a	1st
20	Th	3:45a	3.8	4:27p	3.7	10:00a	0.3	10:25p	0.4	6:29a	8:16p	2:04p	2:44a	
21	Fr	4:47a	3.8	5:30p	3.9	10:54a	0.1	11:29p	0.1	6:28a	8:17p	3:07p	3:19a	
22	Sa	5:49a	3.8	6:29p	4.2	11:48a	-0.1			6:28a	8:17p	4:12p	3:53a	
23	Su	6:49a	3.9	7:26p	4.4	12:31a	-0.1	12:42p	-0.4	6:27a	8:18p	5:19p	4:27a	
24	Mo	7:45a	3.9	8:21p	4.6	1:31a	-0.3	1:35p	-0.6	6:27a	8:19p	6:29p	5:03a	
25	Tu	8:40a	3.9	9:15p	4.8	2:27a	-0.5	2:27p	-0.8	6:26a	8:19p	7:42p	5:44a	
26	We	9:36a	3.8	10:10p	4.8	3:21a	-0.7	3:18p	-0.8	6:26a	8:20p	8:55p	6:30a	Full
27	Th	10:31a	3.8	11:04p	4.8	4:15a	-0.7	4:10p	-0.8	6:26a	8:20p	10:06p	7:22a	
28	Fr	11:27a	3.7	11:59p	4.6	5:08a	-0.6	5:02p	-0.6	6:25a	8:21p	11:12p	8:22a	
29	Sa	12:23p	3.7			6:04a	-0.4	5:59p	-0.4	6:25a	8:22p		9:26a	
30	Su	12:53a	4.4	1:20p	3.7	7:03a	-0.3	7:01p	-0.1	6:25a	8:22p	12:08a	10:33a	
31	Mo	1:49a	4.2	2:19p	3.6	8:03a	-0.1	8:09p	0.1	6:24a	8:23p	12:56a	11:38a	



Continued from Page 20

2-fish aggregate taking home just over \$3800 in winnings. All-inclusive, this cash tournament paid out \$46,080 in winnings to 6 winners. Most of you know I run the Wahoo Junkies Facebook Group and Website. I do monthly live streams on Facebook usually accompanied by my good friend Casey Smith. This was our inaugural tournament and next year we hope to have a bigger tournament with a record payout in cash. For results & information, you can visit www.wahoojunkies.com

May is usually Mahi Madness. We Floridians call them Dolphin and we make runs of 55-65 miles to deeper water to slow-troll for some of the most exciting and best-eating fish you will ever catch. Most Dolphin are caught on a rigged Ballyhoo skirted with a Sea-Witch or small Chugger or Ilander type lure. My personal Favorite is a "naked" split bill Ballyhoo. If you de-poop and break the back correctly along with cutting off the pectoral fins to make it swim naturally, this is in my mind the most deadly bait you can put out. My rig leaders are usually 80lb fluorocarbon and I make enough of them so that when a fish is landed, I unclip the leader and drop the whole fish in the fish box.

Pro-Tip: Years ago, I sat through a seminar by Captain Robert Johnson. He was adamant that after a Dolphin strike that you put the reel in free spool and let the Dolphin swallow it. Leave it in free spool for as long as you can stand it, but no less than 15-20 seconds. This will ensure a hook-up. He said when you get the fish in the boat unclip the leader/lure and drop it straight into your fish box. Get your rig back when you clean your fish. Captain

Johnson is one of the most prestigious Captains in North Florida and owner of Jody Lynn charters out of St Augustine.

Where can you purchase all of your Dolphin tackle and rigging? Strike-Zone Fishing Jacksonville. Strike Zone owner Dave Workman Jr. has the largest selection of Shimano Reels in Northeast Florida and has a huge selection of Dolphin Trolling-specific tackle and rigging. Ask for Archie or Dalton to get expert advice on all your Dolphin-specific needs.

At HooDoo Sportfishing Charters we specialize in Dolphin charters this time of year! So, if you're interested in a great time targeting Dolphin, please contact us at HooDoo Sportfishing @ www.saltwaterchallenge.com or call/text 904.859.6314

I'll say it again and again until we get through this COVID-19 has affected our economy on every level. Please support your local businesses because they are the one's disproportionality impacted. Until next month, please stay safe on the water and remember that great things happen when you take a kid fishing.

Capt. Tim Altman

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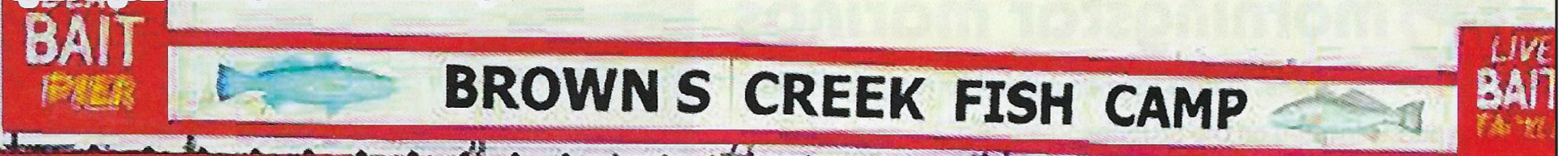
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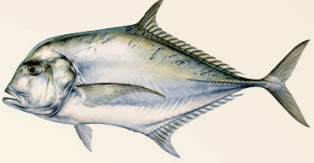











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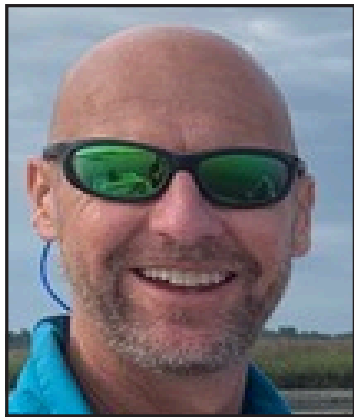
 <p>Bluefish ▲ ■</p> <p>Minimum Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12" fork length <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 per harvester 	 <p>Flounder ▲ ◆ T</p> <p>Minimum Size Limit:</p> <p>14" total length</p> <p>Daily Bag Limit:</p> <p>5 per person</p>	 <p>Bonefish ★ ■</p> <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 per harvester <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catch and release only • Hook and line only 	 <p>Pompano, African ● ★ ▲ T ■</p> <p>Minimum Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24" fork length <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel 	 <p>Sheepshead ■ ● ▲ ◆ T</p> <p>Minimum Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12" <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 per harvester <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snatching prohibited • Vessel limit of 50 fish during March and April
 <p>Permit ● ▲ ★ T ■</p> <p>Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22" fork Special Permit Zone (SPZ); Not less than 11" or more than 22" fork length all other areas. <p>Closed Season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 1-July 31 SPZ Only <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 per harvester, not to exceed 2 per vessel SPZ; • 2 per harvester all other state waters <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May possess 1 over 22" fork length outside the SPZ, not to exceed 2 over 22" fork per vessel per day. For map of SPZ, please see: MyFWC.com. • Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels. 	 <p>Weakfish ▲ ★ ◆</p> <p>Minimum Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakfish Management Area (WMA) in Nassau County - 12" • All other areas - no minimum <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WMA - 1 per harvester • All other areas - 100 pounds per day <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations apply in parts of Nassau County only. • See map at: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Weakfish 	 <p>Spotted Seatrout ● ★ ▲ ◆ T ■</p> <p>Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not less than 15" or more than 20" (See remarks) • Changes pending, see MyFWC.com for updates <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 per harvester per day N.W. Zone • 4 per harvester per day S.W. Zone • 4 per harvester per day S.E. Zone • 6 per harvester per day N.E. Zone • Changes pending, see MyFWC.com for updates <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May possess no more than 1 over 20"; included in the regional bag limit. See management zone map at MyFWC.com. • Feb. 22 - May 10, 2019: zero fish over 20"; May 11, 2019-May 31, 2020: zero fish Pasco-Hernando county line south to Gordon Pass in Collier county. 	 <p>Snook (All species) ▲ ★ ◆ T ■</p> <p>Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not less than 28" or more than 32" Atlantic excluding Monroe. • Not less than 28" or more than 33" Gulf and Monroe County. <p>Closed Season:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic (excluding Monroe) closed Dec. 15-Jan. 31 and June 1-Aug. 31. • Gulf including Monroe County, Dec. 1-end of February, and May 1-Aug. 31. <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 per harvester <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snook permit required for harvest when saltwater license required. See MyFWC.com for snook permit details. Snatch hooks and spearing prohibited. • Zero daily bag and possession limit for captain and crew on for-hire vessels. • Catch and release only in SW region, see MyFWC.com for more information. 	 <p>Tarpon ● ★ T ■</p> <p>Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 per harvester per year. \$50 harvest tag required. Vessel limit of one fish. Harvest tag can only be used when fish is retained for potential IGFA record. <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tarpon over 40 inches must remain in the water during release. Spearing and snatch hooking prohibited. Bottom weighted jigs prohibited in Boca Grande Pass. See: MyFWC.com/Fishing/Saltwater/Recreational/Tarpon for additional information.
 <p>Black Drum ▲ ◆ T ■</p> <p>Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not less than 14" or more than 24" <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 per harvester <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May possess one over 24". Snatching prohibited. 	 <p>Mullet, Striped (Black) & Silver</p> <p>Minimum Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No minimum size <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 aggregate per harvester • Aggregate vessel limits Feb. 1-Aug. 31: 100 per vessel; Sept. 1-Jan. 31: 50 per vessel 	 <p>Pompano, Florida ▲ ★ T ■</p> <p>Minimum Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11" fork length <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 per harvester <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hook and line, cast net and beach or haul seine ONLY. 	 <p>Blue Runner ■</p> <p>Minimum Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No minimum <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 fish per harvester 	 <p>Red Drum (Redfish) ▲ ★ ◆ T</p> <p>Size Limits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not less than 18" or more than 27" <p>Daily Recreational Bag Limit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 per harvester per day in the NE zone, and 1 per harvester in the NW and S zone. See management zone map at MyFWC.com. • Off the water possession limit of 6 fish, not to exceed 8 per vessel. <p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giggling, spearing, snatching prohibited. Harvest in Federal waters prohibited. • Catch and release only in SW region, see MyFWC.com for more information.

Always check FWC Website for Recent Changes to the above Regulations at MyFWC.com

Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-FWCC (3922) Report Exotic Species Sightings: 888-IveGot1 (888-483-4681)

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) consists of 1,947 full-time-equivalent employees, including more than 700 sworn law enforcement officers. More than 900 Other Personal Services employees also work for the FWC. All personnel work together to protect and manage more than 575 species of wildlife, 200 species of freshwater fish and 500 species of saltwater fish. The FWC works to balance the needs of these fish and wildlife species and the habitats that support them with the needs of Florida's nearly 19 million residents and the millions of people who visit the state each year. Mission: Managing fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people.





**Capt.
Todd Philcox**

May in NE Florida is a great time to be on the water, pleasant temperatures, longer days and less afternoon storms than our summer months will allow for great morning as well as evening fishing action. Weekend boat traffic will continue to increase so be sure to get out very early, or late evening, if you plan to fish along the Intracoastal waterway.

Mid-day boat traffic will make fishing the ditch uncomfortable and less productive due to wave action and muddied water, favor creeks or other protected areas when the boat traffic increases.

The number of fish species cruising our inshore and nearshore waters will continue to increase with many options to bend a rod for sport or table fare.

Look for birds to reveal schools of jack crevalle, ladyfish, bluefish and spanish mackerel from the jetties, up the river and in the Intracoastal. Jacks and blues will crush topwater plugs and poppers, spoons and live bait will also draw aggressive bites.

Tarpon should begin showing by late May, along the beaches with the pogy pods first, then at the jetties and select inshore locations.

Fishing the grass edges along the ditch at higher tides will continue to improve as warmer water and increasingly abundant

bait will result in strong redfish, trout and flounder action.

Fish jigs and shrimp, minnows or finger mullet, which will be easier to find and cast net this month. On calm mornings I will go with lighter jigs, 1/8 ounce, or just a 3/0 to 4/0 circle hook with heavier baits, live finger mullet or chunks of larger mullet are great baits as are chunks or strips of ladyfish, which redfish will devour.

During lower tide phases work the steeper drops along the Intracoastal with heavier jigs to get your baits down deep, larger reds and trout will be waiting! I look forward to seeing you on the water, give me a call if I can help get you out fishing!

Capt. Todd Philcox

Continued from Page 19

Use of a lookout and being aware of your surroundings are always a priority. Invest in a QUALITY EPERB, File a float plan with someone that will miss you first so if things don't go as planned, the search for you can be narrowed and recovery can be quicker.

Take a safe boating course and do your part to activate our waterways! The Jacksonville Sail and Power Squadron, America's Boating Club, continuously offers America's Safe Boating Course at Lamb's Yacht Center and classes have resumed monthly so check there web site for 2021.

The cost of the classes to the student will continue to be reduced to an affordable \$10.00 thanks to a donation from Jacksonville Marine Charities from proceeds from the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament. The next class will be announced on the America's Boating Club web site at usps.org/localusps/Jackson.

The Jacksonville Sail and Power Squadron, America's Boating Club of Northeast Florida and United States Coast Guard Auxiliary are back available for vessel safety

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checks. With the New Year everyone needs to have their vessel re-inspected.

I continue to remind all that if you are aware of an event that will impact our waterway or if you are a member of a club or organization that is planning an event that will impact our waterway please let us know so we can help you with promoting.

North Florida is fortunate to have a large number of organizations and individuals that invest hours and hours of volunteer time to make opportunities for our friends in need with the participation of our gracious anglers and business owners.

If you send the information to me at jsuber@coj.net we will publish on the website and promote on Facebook pages. The

city of Jacksonville has several events around the city and Beaches that we are just not getting credit for as a community. We want to promote our city and our beaches as a city with great waterways and beaches with tournaments, events and entertainment opportunities that are happening just not being included in the Big Picture.

Last but not least, show pride in the facilities provided for your use with your tax dollars by properly disposing of your by product when you clean your fish and dispose of your trash appropriately

BE SAFE! AND WASH YOUR HANDS!!

Capt. Jim Suber



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John Chapman

Birds singing, baby geese, and ducks waddling around all the neighborhoods. Spring has sprung and making its way to summer.

Now in my opinion we need to get a little break in this wind. I'm sorry it's just been my observation that every day off, wind, and rain have greeted me. Ventured out on a couple of trips in between the weather and had a

little luck with the trout. They are getting bigger and bigger. The females are fat and full of eggs right now so if you can afford to take care of them and let them go, it will further the species.

Just remember the big ones are the strongest of the species and have the best genes and are the ones that we want to breed and make more. After all how many last-place finishers at the Kentucky Derby are put out to stud on the farm.

Ok public service message over. At the very least keep with the published limits and do the right thing.

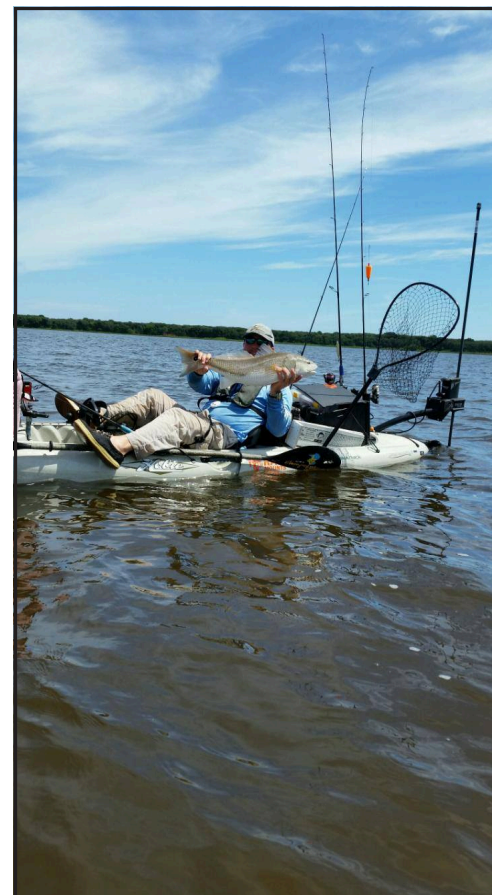
Don't forget the flounder rules have changed. The flounder bite is on as well, and they are fat. Just remember the new size limits. I've had luck with a spinnerbait and a jig head with the go-to, never fail white swimming mullet.

Reds are cruising the shallows at low tide crashing bait. It's

always awesome to ease into a creek at low tide and throw a gulp to the cruising redfish. Just remember to downsize your jig head and throw way ahead of the fish you are aiming for.

They can also be snared this time of year by dropping a cigar-sized finger mullet in the bends of the creek mid-tide coming in or out. They will also almost always grab a live shrimp in the same areas, problem with this is you just have to beat all the junk fish away. Those shrimp will get expensive. Hope everyone gets some cooperative weather and gets out on the water. Tight lines and Good Luck!!

John Chapman





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Thinking Outside the
(Tackle) Box



So I was having dinner with my daughter, you might remember, Jr. Bobberz...Jessica? Anyway, I mentioned that I still needed to write my column for this very publication but I had no idea what I was going to write about.

Without skipping a beat she asked if I knew that a puffer fish' entire skeletal structure

expanded when they well, you know, puffed.

No! I didn't know that. So she proceeded to show me a picture that one of her chiropractor clients has posted. So what else was I to do but Google it?!

Not only do they have specialized "scales" that can be like little daggers when puffed, but their skeleton resembles a bunch of awkwardly skinny sharks teeth perfectly intertwined in an incredible display of structural integrity and self preservation.

Absolutely amazing! Like an inside out artichoke heart. I think. You know, the choke part you cut out? Oof. Ok, maybe not, but cool nonetheless. But not something I would try to consume if I were an ocean dwelling species in my natural habitat.

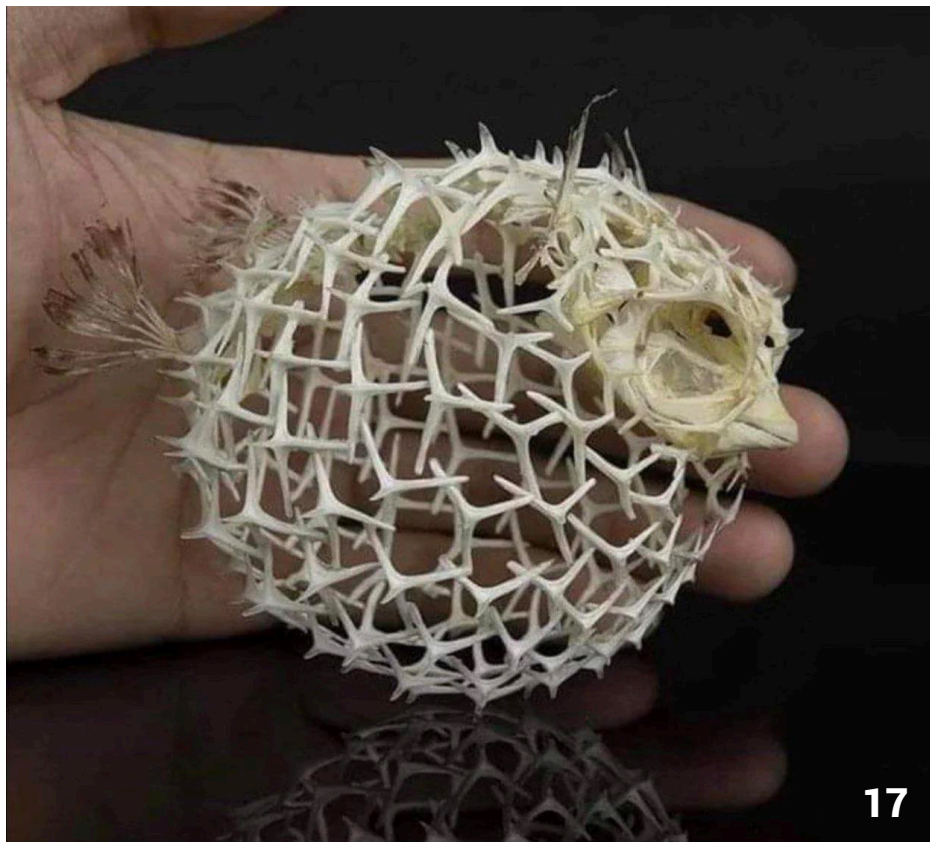
God gave this fish an outward layer of protection, it's spines, and a beautiful, perfectly

structured inner layer of security and strength, it's skeleton.

Kind of like the armor He gave us to put on each day, and the strength, security and peace He gave us within from the Holy Spirit. Coincidence? I think not. We are not meant to be consumed by this world.

Stand fast my friends, stand fast. Eph 6:11

Trina Polkey





Spencer Brogden

The month of May is an exciting time to be a surf fisherman in northeast Florida. May, with the average water temperature in the low 70's brings an assortment of fish to the surf zone.

The biggest guest that grabs the attention of many is the Pompano! To target these tasty fish, use the standard double hook dropper rig and use fresh clam, crab knuckles, live sand fleas, and fish bites.

I stay away from shrimp when going after the pompano because the bluefish and small whiting and croakers will get to the bait faster than the pompano usually. Look for fairly clean water and light east winds for some of the best days to catch pompano. Look for a good runout or nice sandbar to target the pompano. Usually, on the days the pompano bite is hot, the bluefish and Spanish mackerel will also be feeding.

All three of these species love clean water. To target the blues and Spanish, Gotcha lures, diamond jigs and any type of shiny spoon works well.

I use a 25-30lb fluorocarbon leader or you can use a wire leader, however, the wire leader does not give the lure as much action.

Whiting will also be around, although not in the big numbers that we saw in the cooler

months. They will hit the clam and sand fleas as well when you are pompano fishing.

Black drum and redfish are also showing up this time of year. Look for a good run-out or deep slough close to the beach to try to get one. Fresh shrimp, crab knuckles, and sand fleas are great bait for either.

Don't forget to check out our youtube page Brokenreel23, where we give surf fishing reports and forecasts twice a week. Until next time, Tight lines!

Spencer Brogden

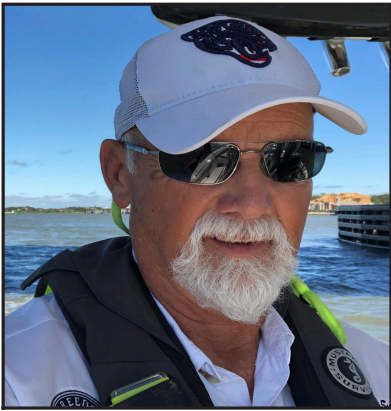


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SPRING Is rapidly approaching SUMMER! We are really seeing the fishing, boating and waterfront pick up steam and the activity is strong.

The water temperatures are warming. The month of April lived up to the April showers title and north Florida passed the average rain fall. With warmer temperatures the Manatees are arriving back in the North Florida waterways.

With the increase in boating activity it is more important than ever as Waterways Coordinator I remind all to be aware manatees will be in the shoreline areas and not only in manatee zones. We have had a good

couple of years showing no boat related fatalities of manatees so with everyone being observant and aware along with wearing a quality pair of polarized sunglasses we can share our waterways with the wildlife.

The river salinity has continued to balance out to a more normal level.

We will start seeing tournaments kick in now and a couple of boat parades are scheduled. We will host CCA at Jim King may 8th with their river clean up event, The Elite Redfish Tournament May 1, and Jacksonville Marine Association Redfish Roundup Redfish Tournament to benefit Safe Harbor Boys Home and Maritime Academy.

We are only a couple of months away from the start of the Kingfish Tournament season. With all of the fishing tournaments we will see the Jazz Festival return to the waterfront and plans for a boat parade is being worked on.

We had a great four week series of concerts at Waterfront Plaza in downtown Jacksonville with fantastic turnout. There was major interest from boaters to attend via the waterways but the docks are still under construction.

The pace is impressive on the dock work and we will see a quality safe dock facility ready for use in early summer.

The Jacksonville Waterways Commission has been working on speed zone requests. The subcommittee met and after resistance from boaters and property owners combined a speed zone change in the Ortega River was removed from consideration at this time. Additional speed zones are still on the table at Shad Creek (zone extension),

A slow speed zone 300 ft. from each side of Clapboard Creek Bridge on Heckscher Drive due to congestion from two boat ramps and public docks and two

marinas, and additional slow speed zones in the Ft. George River area due to congestion and unpredictable water depths. We started the installation of lighting at Lions Club boat ramp.

The project is near completion and should be in full operation by May 1. Pottsburg / Beach Blvd boat ramp has had much needed improvement to the parking area to improve drainage. The ramp is back open but caution should be used due to the calaps at the end of the ramp.

Signage shows where NOT to back to. The ramp improvement is being placed on the capital improvement request list for a total replacement.

A contract for the dredge project for Oak Harbor Basin has been awarded and work should be full speed soon. Getting this contract signed out and a notice to proceed continues to stall but the process is moving.

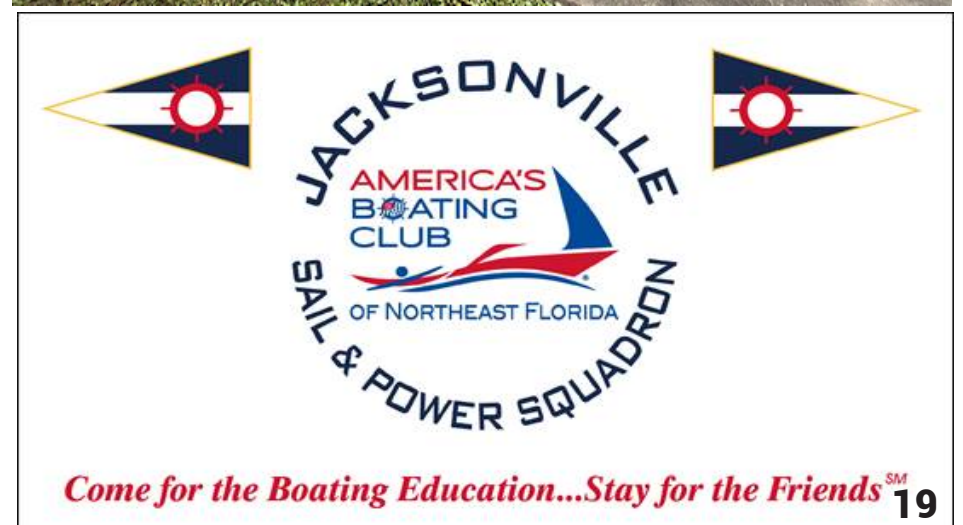
The installation of the new adaptive kayak launch and dock extension for Mandarin Park has also had a slight delay in paperwork and contract execution but we are hoping work should begin soon!

New dock projects on the south bank area Jackson Street and Post Street continue to work through permits and contracts and all of the obstacles are being considered.

We are working through the process to begin construction phases for the dredging of Burt Maxwell Boat Ramp, The construction of the new dock on the east side of the Jacksonville Zoo, the dredging of the Kayak access at Castaway Island Preserve, and a new fishing platform at River Road Park in San Marco.

As always allow me to remind everyone to always check your boat and yourself...

Continued on Page 15





Capt. Tim Altman

904-859-6314

tim@saltwaterchallenge.com
www.saltwaterchallenge.com

I had several offshore charters in April that were pretty awesome. In mid-April, we had a great 8-hour charter with 6 Jacksonville Jaguars players. #75 Jawaan Taylor, #55 Lerentee McCray, #76 Will Richardson, #77 Tre'vour Wallace-Simms, #14 Terry Godwin, and #10 Laviska Shenault. What a Great bunch of young men!

On this perfect offshore day, the Triggerfish bite was a little slow, but we limited out in Beeliners (Vermillion Snapper) very quickly.

We also landed several big Amberjacks and released numerous huge Red Snapper. The most impressive catch of the day was made by wide receiver

Laviska Shenault as he caught a huge Blackfin Tuna on a Triggerfish rig!

Additionally, my first mate and youngest son Chris challenged Right Tackle Jawaan Taylor to an arm-wrestling contest, needless to say Jawaan was gentle enough not to send Chris to the ER.

The following week the weatherman gave us another perfect day and we had an 8-hour charter with a group of fantastic gentlemen.

Most of the group were West Virginia natives and although they were avid fly fisherman, for 3 of them this was their first offshore experience. It was a birthday trip for Tom put together by his wife Sherri. In 125ft we limited out in Bliners in less than an hour.

Folks these were some of the biggest Beeliners I've seen in quite a long time. We then bumped out to 135ft in search of the Triggerfish bit. Instead, we found more Beeliners, big Sharks, and a big Gag Grouper that made an appearance 2 weeks early. Released safely with our barometric descending device, this 30lb class fish lived to be eaten another day. For the day we ended up with a Mangrove Snapper, Triggerfish, Jacks, limit of huge B-liners.

The Triggerfish we caught on this day were in 165ft. It was another great day on Mother Ocean.

Northeast Florida Wahoo Shootout Tournament:

It turns out that my old pals Casey Smith & Geoff Stam onboard the Turn 3/Sofishticated did hold on and win the Northeast Florida Wahoo Shootout, but it wasn't without some anxiety from the winners during the last week of the tournament.


Spencer Ross and Team Flossy weighed a 107lb fish on Friday of the final weekend and had one day left to fish going into Sunday, the final day of the tournament. Despite rough conditions, Team Flossy gave it a run on the final day needing only a 68lb to claim the lead. Although they came up a little short, Team Flossy finished in 2nd place which yielded them a Kubota side by side worth over \$15,000.

Folks this is a great tournament! Congratulations to all the winners in the world's largest Wahoo tournament and a huge "Thank You" to Paul and Lauren Dozier for continuing to put on a World Class tournament.

Wahoo Junkies St. Augustine Showdown:


29 Boats competed in the inaugural St Augustine Showdown presented by Strike-Zone Fishing. Capt. Geoff Stam and Team Turn 3 (without Casey Smith) won the tournament by weighing a 96.77lb and a 44.40lb Wahoo for a 2-fish aggregate of 141.17lbs and took

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home just over \$11,500 in cold hard cash. Marc Padgett and Team Finnikki won 2nd place with a 2-fish aggregate of 109.56lbs and was the tournament's leading money winner taking home just over \$23,000 in general tournament and Calcutta winnings. Gary Terrell and Team Hoos on First rounded out the winners finishing 3rd with a 99.30lb..

Continued on Page 11



ST. AUGUSTINE TIDES

Florida, Fernandina Beach, St. Augustine, city dock
N 29° 53.5' / W 81° 18.6'

May 2021

Date	Day	High Tide		High Tide		Low Tide		Low Tide		Sunrise	Sunset	Moonrise	Moonset	Phase
1	Sa	12:34a	5.5	12:55p	4.4	6:58a	-0.2	7:01p	-0.1	6:42a	8:04p	12:28a	10:39a	
2	Su	1:30a	5.2	1:52p	4.3	7:59a	0.1	8:04p	0.3	6:41a	8:05p	1:27a	11:43a	
3	Mo	2:29a	5.0	2:53p	4.2	9:01a	0.3	9:12p	0.5	6:40a	8:06p	2:17a	12:47p	3rd
4	Tu	3:30a	4.7	3:56p	4.2	10:01a	0.3	10:18p	0.6	6:39a	8:06p	3:00a	1:48p	
5	We	4:31a	4.5	4:58p	4.3	10:57a	0.3	11:20p	0.6	6:38a	8:07p	3:37a	2:48p	
6	Th	5:29a	4.4	5:55p	4.4	11:48a	0.3			6:37a	8:08p	4:10a	3:45p	
7	Fr	6:21a	4.4	6:45p	4.7	12:16a	0.5	12:35p	0.2	6:37a	8:08p	4:39a	4:39p	
8	Sa	7:07a	4.3	7:29p	4.8	1:08a	0.5	1:19p	0.1	6:36a	8:09p	5:07a	5:33p	
9	Su	7:50a	4.3	8:10p	4.9	1:56a	0.4	2:01p	0.1	6:35a	8:10p	5:35a	6:27p	
10	Mo	8:30a	4.3	8:49p	5.0	2:39a	0.3	2:40p	0.0	6:34a	8:10p	6:03a	7:21p	
11	Tu	9:09a	4.2	9:26p	5.0	3:19a	0.2	3:16p	0.1	6:34a	8:11p	6:33a	8:15p	New
12	We	9:47a	4.1	10:03p	5.0	3:57a	0.2	3:51p	0.1	6:33a	8:12p	7:06a	9:11p	
13	Th	10:25a	4.0	10:41p	4.9	4:33a	0.3	4:25p	0.2	6:32a	8:12p	7:43a	10:07p	
14	Fr	11:03a	3.9	11:18p	4.8	5:09a	0.4	5:00p	0.4	6:32a	8:13p	8:25a	11:01p	
15	Sa	11:43a	3.8	11:58p	4.7	5:46a	0.5	5:37p	0.5	6:31a	8:14p	9:12a	11:54p	
16	Su	12:24p	3.8			6:27a	0.6	6:18p	0.6	6:30a	8:14p	10:05a		
17	Mo	12:40a	4.6	1:08p	3.8	7:12a	0.7	7:08p	0.7	6:30a	8:15p	11:01a	12:42a	
18	Tu	1:25a	4.5	1:56p	3.8	8:02a	0.6	8:07p	0.7	6:29a	8:16p	12:00p	1:27a	
19	We	2:16a	4.5	2:50p	4.0	8:57a	0.5	9:12p	0.7	6:29a	8:16p	1:02p	2:07a	1st
20	Th	3:12a	4.4	3:50p	4.2	9:52a	0.4	10:17p	0.5	6:28a	8:17p	2:04p	2:45a	
21	Fr	4:13a	4.5	4:52p	4.5	10:46a	0.1	11:19p	0.2	6:28a	8:18p	3:07p	3:19a	
22	Sa	5:15a	4.5	5:52p	4.9	11:40a	-0.2			6:27a	8:18p	4:12p	3:53a	
23	Su	6:14a	4.7	6:50p	5.2	12:19a	-0.1	12:34p	-0.5	6:27a	8:19p	5:20p	4:27a	
24	Mo	7:10a	4.7	7:45p	5.5	1:18a	-0.4	1:27p	-0.8	6:26a	8:19p	6:30p	5:03a	
25	Tu	8:04a	4.7	8:40p	5.8	2:14a	-0.6	2:19p	-1.0	6:26a	8:20p	7:42p	5:43a	
26	We	8:59a	4.7	9:35p	5.8	3:09a	-0.8	3:11p	-1.1	6:25a	8:21p	8:56p	6:29a	Full
27	Th	9:53a	4.7	10:29p	5.8	4:01a	-0.8	4:02p	-1.0	6:25a	8:21p	10:07p	7:22a	
28	Fr	10:49a	4.6	11:24p	5.6	4:53a	-0.7	4:53p	-0.8	6:25a	8:22p	11:13p	8:21a	
29	Sa	11:44a	4.5			5:46a	-0.5	5:46p	-0.5	6:24a	8:22p		9:26a	
30	Su	12:18a	5.4	12:40p	4.3	6:41a	-0.3	6:44p	-0.1	6:24a	8:23p	12:09a	10:32a	
31	Mo	1:12a	5.1	1:36p	4.3	7:38a	-0.1	7:46p	0.3	6:24a	8:23p	12:57a	11:37a	

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age 11
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Fishing in Papa Rusty's
canal off Drs Lake.
Nice Red Belly. 3-27-21.



Nice Bass
caught in Neighborhood lake in
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Jax Pier Pompano



Storm Movin' In
Stormy day at Nassau Sound



Will Niemann

Sitting on my porch, smelling the smoke roll off my Egg, writing this article, I can't help but be thankful to live in the envy of the nation, the free state of Florida.

To all the newcomers, Welcome, the fishing is fantastic. With the exception of a little rain and some wind, the weather is also great this time of year.

May is a fun month to hit the water. The mullet are here and so are all the fish that follow. Inshore and nearshore kayak fishing is top-notch this month.

On days that allow, going beyond the breakers, or BTB, will start to produce cobia and kingfish by trolling live baits, large paddle tails, or big silver spoons.

Having a large bucktail at ready is a good idea as well, especially when you see a cobia. Look for rays and schools of baitfish. There is usually cobia in with the rays. Gear up accordingly, a steel leader will most likely be needed if kings are the intended target. Towards the end of the month, don't be surprised to start seeing big tarpon in the mix, and never discount a slob snook that may be cruising the beach.

But keep in mind, where there are fish feeding, there are likely sharks. Not only will they be a bycatch, but they may become a

nuisance when fighting your fish. The taxman is never far.

Inshore, the bite is HOT! From trout and reds to flounder and snook, our fishery is at its finest. The area flats are teeming with fish right now.

Getting an early start is preferred. One, to avoid some wind, and two, most fish feed heaviest in low light conditions. Using a topwater first thing around and over the oyster beds and grasses will produce some heart-stopping hits.

As the sun comes up, switching to a sub-surface bait will continue the bite. I throw a paddle tail, like a Fishbites Fight Club Butt Kicker or Hackney Jr Belly, and a suspending bait, such as an Unfair Rip & Slash 70 or a Mirrolure MR17.

I alternate between the two. One will generally out fish the other depends on what the fish are wanting that day. For flounder, look for runouts between the oyster beds and grasses.

Bouncing a Fishbites Fight Club Brawler or Dirty Boxer on a 1/16 oz red Fishbites jighead along the bottom will put a few flatfish in your cooler. Remember, the flounder regulations have changed.

May is a great month to be on the water for multiple reasons. Get on out there and enjoy our beautiful state. Good luck and tight lines. I'll see ya out there.

Will Niemann

Lead Guide
at

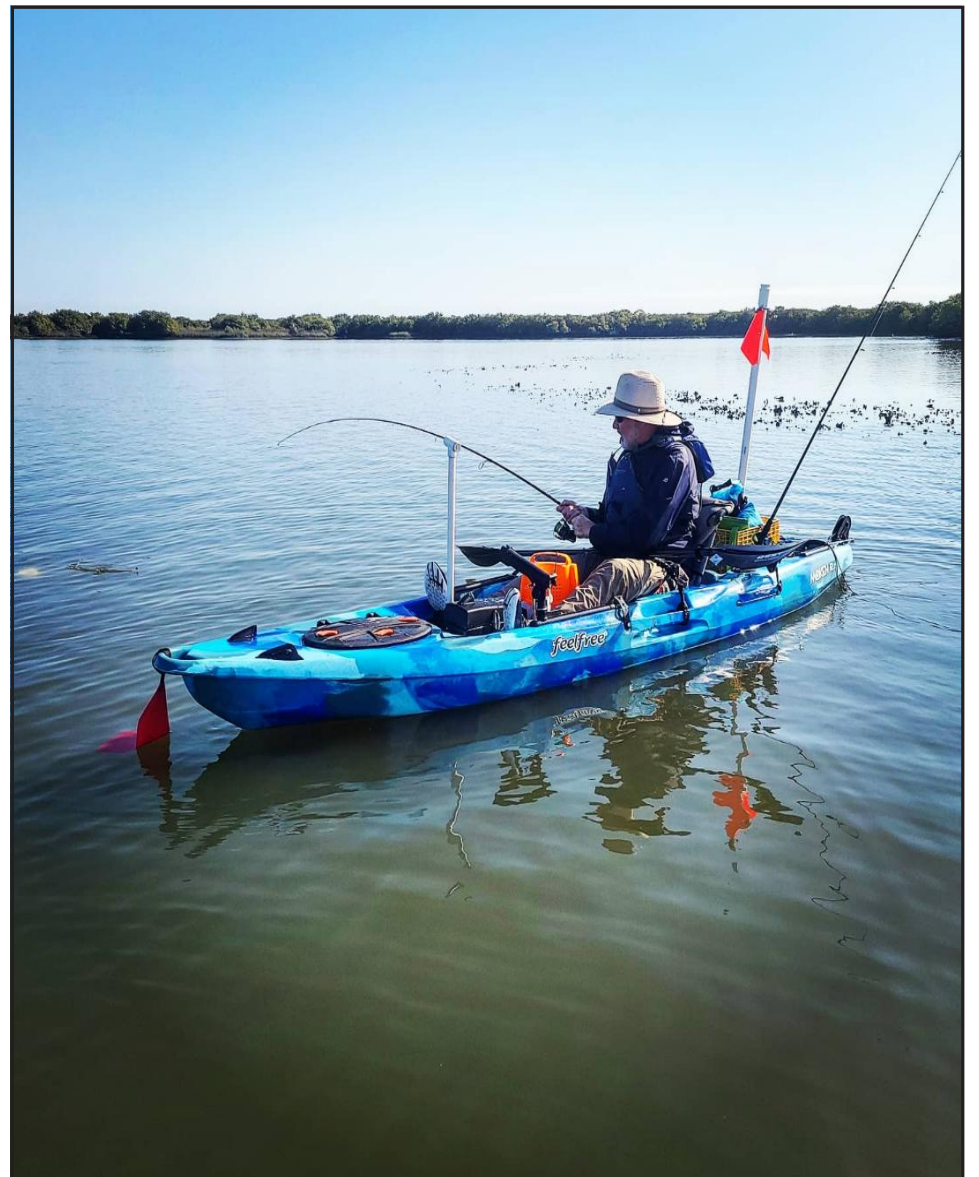
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**Capt.
Matt Chipperfield**

Water temperatures are climbing upward, the weather is beautiful and the fish are chewing. Southern winds have started pushing their way up our coastline and with them comes one of the most exciting times of the year. As local water temperatures rise a steady train of fish begins migrating into our region. Black drum, tripletail, and cobia are typically the first to arrive at our inlets and beaches. These are some great nearshore species to target during the coming month. The backcountry is also alive with redfish, trout, and some lingering sheepshead. So, let's break down the bite and get you ready for your next outing.

We will start inshore. Low tides have continued to push redfish into the shallows of the Intracoastal. Water clarity is still good in most areas and sight-fishing conditions are consistent in the skinny stuff. Look for tailing fish and pushes along shallow oyster bars, mudflats, and creek banks as the tide bottoms out. These reds are pushing skinny to trap shrimp and minnows so choose a presentation that mimics these baits. Be sure to use lightweight jig heads or flies to avoid spooking these fish with heavier presentations. Lead your fish by 5-8 yards and try to allow them to find your lure. Casting directly in front of them will often result in a denial or spooked fish. If all else fails,

casting a free-lined shrimp in their path will often work.

Let's head to the inlet and beaches. Slime ball season is upon us. Big breeder-sized black drum are stacking up along the inlets and prowling the beach. These crab-crunching drum congregate in our waters every year as they migrate up the coast for their spawn. They can be located along the rocks using a fish finder or sighted on the beach in massive schools. Soaking chunked crab and cut mullet using heavy bank rigs and Carolina rigs are the best methods to raise one of these beasts to the boat. Scented soft plastics and procure gels applied to lures can be used to target these big uglies as well. They have two large sets of nostrils on either side of their head so they tend to prefer a bait with some stank on it. Just be sure to bring the heavy tackle so you can safely and effectively fight these behemoths. Remember these are spawning fish so getting them to the boat in a timely fashion ensures a healthy release.

As the nor'easters fade into May keep your eyes peeled for tripletail and cobia moving up our beaches. Tripletail has already started showing up and can often be found clinging to floating buoys, debris, and channel markers close to shore. Freelined live shrimp, soft plastic shrimp, or shrimp flies will typically draw a strike from a lingering triple tail. They use the floating objects as cover and ambush passing prawns. They run hard and even jump on occasion, not to mention they taste amazing. Speaking of good eating fish the cobia should start trickling into our region over the next several weeks. They migrate into our beaches from nearshore wrecks and migrate up our coast from southern waters as temperatures rise through the '70s. They can be found riding and drafting manta rays or free swimming on the surface. This makes for some excellent sight fishing opportunities. Get your 2 oz jigs and soft plastics ready because the brown bombers are coming. Good luck and tight lines!

Capt. Matt Chipperfield
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Roy Mattson

Roy's Surf Fishing Challenge Spring 2021

Due to the weather we had on March 20th we moved the Tournament to March 27th, 2021. The weather could have not been any better.

Water got dirty over night but there were nice fish. Event was held at Lost Lagoon Wings & Grill in New Smyrna

Pompano

1st Place - Kevin Young 4.2 \$800.00
2nd Place - Kyle Allen 3.7 \$500.00
3rd Place - Chad White 2.7 \$250.00
4th Place - Vulinh Vo 2.2 \$200.00

Whiting

1st Place - Patrick Monaghan 1.7 \$800.00
2nd Place - Sarah Jean Dennis-Schull 1.4 \$500.00
3rd Place - Kelly Musson 1.4 \$250.00
4th Place - Chris McLutosh 1.4 \$200.00

Bluefish

1st Place - Joseph F. McKinne 1.6 \$800.00
2nd Place - Cody Grant 1.3 \$500.00
3rd Place - Abby Addison 1.0 \$250.00
4th Place - Don Turner 0.9 \$200.00

Ladies

1st Place - Julia Walsh 2.6 \$400.00
2nd Place - Shell Troche 2.4 \$300.00
3rd Place - Alison Golde 1.4 \$150.00
4th Place - Morgan Hammerie 1.1 \$100.00

Junior

1st Place - Mason Sullivan 3.2 \$600.00
2nd Place - Kaden Webster 1.5 \$400.00
3rd Place - Warren Hendrix 1.5 \$200.00
4th Place - Kayden Tourville 1.3 \$150.00

Roy's Surf Fishing Challenge Cart Show

Winner's are listed by their tourney registration #'s
Grand prize #1 akios reel \$85value
2wheel 1st runner up #160 - sandspike \$60

2wheel 2nd runner up #67 - FB gift pack \$50
4 wheel 1st runner up #104 - sandspike \$60
4wheel 2nd runner up #4 - FB gift pack \$50
4 wheel 3rd runner up #43 - Rig bag with rig kit \$40

Prize Payout to Fishermen was \$7,550.00
50/50 for Ben was \$900.00 Plus another \$200.00 = \$1,100.00
Halifax Sport Fishing Club Kid's Group \$445.00
The Academic Angler Fishing Kid's Team \$445.00
Grand Total was \$9,540.00
Surf fishing Challenge will return in Fall Oct 22-23, 2021

Ben Burford Benefit Surf Fishing Tournament Held at Fishbites Trading Post

Adult Largest Pompano

1st place - Tim Ward
2nd Place - Ado Angeles
3rd Place - Barry Croneberger
4th Place - Bryan Curlett

Adult Largest Whiting

1st Place - Wendall Nolan
2nd Place - Tony Younan
3rd Place - Doc Legassie
4th Place - Randy Mazerolle

Kids Largest Pompano

1st Place - Abby Demo

Kids Largest Whiting

1st Place - Aliyah Broaden
2nd Place - Anthony Lacona
3rd Place - Sybbie Leigh

We Raised over \$8,500.00 Gofund Page Plus \$1,200.00 in Food and Roy's Surf Fishing Challenge \$1,100.00 Grand total of over \$10,000.00 to Help Back Ben Buford Benefit.

I am very Proud of our Fishermen for all they do.

As your all Aware the Founder of Fishbites Dr. William (Bill) Carr Passed away in late January.

On October 6th, 2021 We will start out the Fall Season with a Tournament in Honor of Mr. Carr. The Event will be at FishBite Headquarters Trading Post.

Follow on Roy Mattson facebook page and www.surffishingchallenge.com

Roy's Surf Fishing Guide Service

I will be taking some time off with my Family for a few Months, see everyone in the Fall. Brett Buford with Fishbites will be telling you more about Fishbites.

Thank you everyone Stay safe see you on the Beach.

Roy Mattson Jr.





**Capt.
Jeff Patterson**

There is some great fishing of all types going on right now. This time of year I fish the Tomoka River and the ICW in Ormond all the way down to Ponce Inlet and off the beach as well. There's been a lot of bait back in the Tomoka and quite a variety of fish. Redfish, snook, seatrout, black drum, jacks, ladyfish, and some tarpon. I personally like fishing the Tomoka with artificial.

I use Rapala and Yo-Zuri divers and hard plastic twitch baits a lot. Soft plastics can be just as productive I just don't use them as much. I like creek mouths and areas with moving water.

There's lots of trees and structure back there to fish where you can try out some live bait too. Always keep an eye out for those tarpon rolling and I can usually convince them to eat a free lined mullet.

The Tomoka Basin is good for the first couple hours of daylight and last couple before sunset too. Topwater lures are a blast this time of year for seatrout, reds, snook, and jacks.

I like fishing the docks in the intracoastal in Ormond and Daytona especially when the waters up higher and you'll find a variety doing that too. I use live shrimp, mud minnows, and finger mullet fishing the docks and if

I'm not having luck at a dock I don't hang out long. I tend to fish a lot of older docks with a lot of barnacles and oysters making a home for small crabs and bait fish. Oyster bars and mussel beds will be holding seatrout, redfish, and pompano this time of year.

You'll see pompano jump and skip on their side giving u their location. There's days where I've had it happen 20-30 times at one spot and even jump in the boat! When I was a kid I always thought they were jacks. I still learn new things even as much as I'm on the water.

Awesome fishing at the inlet in May! Slot redfish and the bulls are caught fishing the jetties and the inlet. Live mullet and blue crabs and two great choices but even cut bait works great sometimes.

I've already been seeing some very big tarpon up over 100 lbs around the jetties lately. They are trickier to get there because they are pressured so much from so much traffic down there any more but it can be done. Snook are in the area too but just remember that season closes June 1- Aug 31. Check out Pole Dancer Fishin' Charters on Facebook to keep up with what's biting. Tight lines!

Capt. Jeff Patterson

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Capt. Adam Morley

Having been in the “outdoors” industry for most of my professional career as a captain or on the retail side of things I have seen more opportunities for wonderful family memories scrapped and ruined because of weather predictions that never come true than I care to recall.

We complain about our kids spending too much time on their digital devices and not enough time outside, yet we let a digital device that tells us there is a chance of rain 3 days out rule our lives and cancel our outdoor plans before they are even made.

We will invest hundreds of dollars in the newest tech but will not invest in a quality rain suit so we can still enjoy our favorite outdoor activities. The weather is not the problem, what we have been conditioned to think about the weather and our lack of preparedness is the problem.

Now this is not an argument

suggesting we put aside common sense and go out to the beach with 13’ graphite surf rod pompano fishing in a thunderstorm or go kayaking during the peak of a hurricane and its storm surge (me during Hurricane Matthew), but letting weather “predictions” change our plans before we make them is like listening to the psychic who had to close up shop due to unforeseen circumstances.

It’s silly. Some of the most successful outdoor companies I’ve worked for all have the same weather cancellation policy; show up prepared to go and if it’s unsafe at the time of departure we’ll cancel and reschedule or refund.

I’ve had more great trips and adventures with families that thought they wanted to cancel due to weather but instead ended up creating some of their best vacation memories because we wouldn’t let them back out until they showed up ready to go.

This is a Florida reality, there is a chance of rain and if you’re going to cancel things because it “might” become unsafe I’d suggest staying home and never driving anywhere again because that too might be unsafe.

PS. I’m writing this on my personal device while my son is outside in the rain digging up Megalodon teeth from our parking lot and I’m going to join him. He is 5 and a half so it’s a little late for a rain coat.

Capt. Adam Morley

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Capt. Cory Sparks

Palm Valley has come alive with species! Just about any fish that swims is lurking in our waters.

Jacks, Ladyfish, and Spanish macks are around. The Bonnethead and Bull sharks have shown up and I've been seeing more and more small Tarpon rolling.

The opportunities are endless. Redfish are still schooled up on the usual banks and flats. Target funnels that concentrate fish on low tide or push back along the grass lines on high tide while throwing mud minnows or cut ladyfish on popping corks.

The first and last light stays committed to your topwater action. Day by day, fish are getting more aggressive and the strikes are improving. Trout numbers and size have been on the rise and should continue being a hot bite in May.

Find the clean water and the trout will be there! Use your popping corks or jig heads with paddle tails for the trout this month.

Any scattered shell bottom should be worked by casting up current with a live shrimp tipped with a Fishbites strip and allow it to bounce across the bottom with the current.

Repeatedly making that drift will locate Whiting, Drum, Pompano, Redfish, and many others. The bigger Black Drum

will remain on the deeper ledges that contain shells or debris. Banks with steep drops will hold slot-sized fish and are a much-overlooked target. These fish are strong fighters, pull drag on light inshore gear, and are excellent table fare!

They can have very soft bites though so be patient and keep the slack out of your line when targeting them to feel every nibble.

Now for the toothy critters... Bonnetheads or shovelnose sharks and Bull sharks have shown up in big numbers in Palm Valley and should be here to stay for a while.

The Bonnet sharks are hitting any moving shrimp on shell bars or flats with moving water. They are often confused with a hammerhead shark but their nose is more rounded like the spade of a shovel rather than straight across.

Also, decent-sized Bull sharks are cruising the flats. Cut mullet, crab, or even mud minnows and live mullet under corks are triggering the bite. They are around the same areas you want to target redfish at.

They put up fun fights, violent runs and head shakes. All the presentations they will hit are good for catching redfish as well so you never know what may bend that rod over! Keep Reeling!

Capt. Cory Sparks

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Matt with an upper slot redfish on vacation.

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Jeff Altman

Seafood Lasagna

This is a great recipe you just have to put a lot of love into it. Just like any lasagna, this recipe has a lot of prep time but the end result will be a happy family.

Ingredients

- 11/2 lb shrimp peeled and deveined
- 1 lb scallops (I used sea scallops and cut them into pieces)
- 1 lb fish fillets (i used flounder) or you can use 1 lb crab meat
- One box of lasagna noodles I used about half a box
- 8 oz portobello mushroom sliced
- One large onion chopped
- One and a half cups chopped spinach (press the water out)
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 cups grated Parmesan cheese
- 4 cups mozzarella cheese
- 1lb ricotta cheese
- 3 eggs
- 3 tbsp Italian seasoning
- 2 tbsp fresh minced garlic
- 2 cups half and half
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cook half a box of lasagna noodles according to directions then set aside. Next in a large bowl mix ricotta cheese, eggs Italian seasoning, and spinach. In a pan melt butter then add flour stir in 2 cups half-and-half when thicken add 2 cups of grated Parmesan cheese. Next sautee portobello mushroom and onions and we are ready to build the lasagna.

In a large lasagna pan put a light layer of parmesan and half-and-half mixture then put lasagna noodles. Put a layer of scallops and shrimp portobello mushrooms and onions now a layer of the ricotta cheese mixture then some mozzarella cheese then repeat the process for the second layer on the third layer use your fish fillets then add the last 2 cups of mozzarella cheese bake at 375 for approximately one hour. Put aluminum foil over top the first 45 minutes of cook time to prevent burning.

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Spring Tournaments

Florida Lure Anglers

(Steinhatchee Redfish/Trout)

- 1st Malcolm Griffith/Chris Peterson 11.41
- 2nd Phill Zeller/Scott Koons 11.39
- 3rd Chris Warde/Robert Lytle 10.88
- 4th Jeremy MacDonald/Chad Duncan 10.60
- 5th Charles Dehlinger/Bob Morris 10.43

St Augustine Wahoo Junkies

- 1st Turn 3 141.17
- 2nd Finnikki 109.56
- 3rd Hoos on First 99.30

Big WT (whiting)

- 1st Alan Deloach 28.8oz
- 2nd Patrick Hotto 22.6
- 3rd David Johnston 21.05

Ladies - Taylor Chenoweth

Wednesday Night Tourney

Lions Club Winners

- 1st Leigh Davis/Mike Snyder 8.10
- 2nd Richard Hulett/Jessica 7.12
- 3rd Jimmy Pausche/Kyle Pausche 6.56

Sisters Creek Winners

- 1st Bob Morris/Eddie Cabler 10.56
- 2nd Richard Hulett/Jessica 7.96
- 3rd Scott O'Brien/Wade Hastings 7.33

Mike McCue Boat Ramp Winners

- 1st Brad Hoffman/Omry 8.49
- 2nd Fred Rounsaville/Mike Davis 7.71
- 3rd Alec Pope/Kieran O'Brien 7.59

North Florida Inshore Slayers (Sheepshead in a Kayak by weight)

Big Fish

- 1st Steve Conner 8.5
- 2nd Rodriri Agustin 6.9
- 3rd Jacob Stephens 6.8

Aggregate

- 1st Miles Forster 17

- 2st Eddong Pedro 12.8
- 3nd Rodriri Agustin 12.6
- Junior Angler Bodgan Cirilo

Upcoming Tournaments

May

- 1st Elite Redfish Champions Team Tour
- * FLA 2 day Championship
- * Wildwood Inshore Vilano
- * 8th Jax Elite Redfish
- * 15th Safe Harbor Redfish Roundup Spots
- * Florida Surfcasters Spring Tourney
- * SAHS in St Augustine
- * 29th CCA Star begins

June

- 1st Big WT
- * 3rd Kingfish Mayhem St. Augustine
- * 12th Jacksonville Elite Redfish Championship
- * 26th Anglers with Angels Vilano

Miles Forster

Aggregate winner of the North Florida Inshore Slayers Sheepshead Tournament



Charles Dehlinger and Bob Morris Florida Lure Anglers Team of The Year



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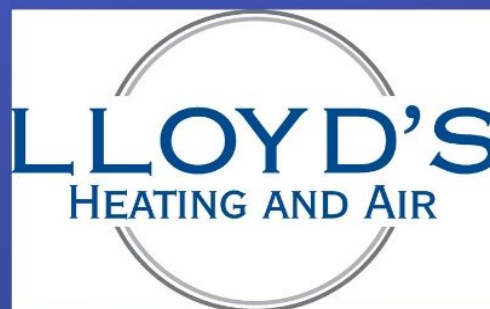


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