



The Newsletter of the ...

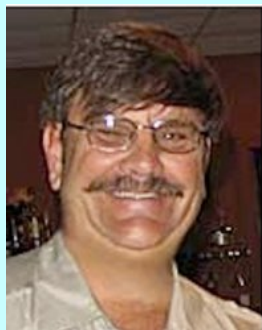
The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 56 Issue 7

July 2016



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Chris Rooney

July Madness, "The Kingfish Craze"

This is the Month when the Kingfish Anglers get crazy, different things take priority in life, like "where can we get hand caught ribbonfish?" "Did you call and reserve our goggle eyes?", "and the worst question of the month, "did you hear a thermocline is moving in?". The Kingfish widows are used to it by now; they just stand back and shake their heads, hopefully seeing the humor in the antics. Let's take a bit of a look at the kingfisherman's trials and tribulations.

First thing to start and get ready are the rods and reels, were going to pray for a 50 lb fish on 15# test with 30 yards of 20 # fluro carbon leader down to #4 wire and a #6 x-strong tremble hook rig. The rod has to be at the least 7 feet long, with a real flexible tip so we don't put undue stress on our little poggie buddy. The reel has to hold at least 400 yards of this line, with at a minimum a 6.2 to 1 retrieve ratio so if that 50 lb fish makes a run to the boat we can keep up?? Don't forget that reel better have a smooth drag cause that 50 lb fish is going to be pulling against at the least 3-4 lbs of drag and I like it tight!!

Let's get to the rigs, #4 wire, what's that 30lb test at best, and we worry about the kingfish seeing the leader! #6 hooks are the same sizes that

are on the spinning lures I used to use for trout fishing in small streams. This is not to mention that an average kingfish strike comes at about 60 miles an hour, I need a magnifying glass to see the rigs when I tie them up, but this fish is going to see them at 60 miles and hour and not going to eat our little Poggie buddy that is swimming unstressfully at 1.5 knts. Alright, the kingfish are here and our pogies are still intact, what's next.

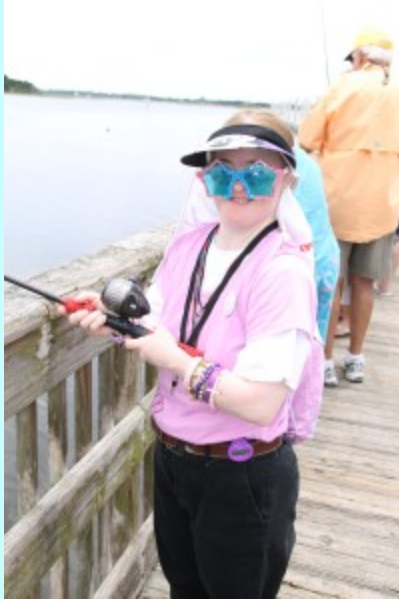
Lets rig a Ribbon fish, and fish some goggle eyes or blue runners, well we've moved up in the world of the kingfisherman. We just went from free bait to another 3 C notes a day for fishing on top of the gas to run past were that thermocline is effecting the fishing. Well at least now we can cover more ground, cause we can troll at 3 knots and these baits aren't like our little poggie buddies they won't drown.

So we're out in 110' around the Elton Bottom, dragging \$120.00 worth of bait and rigs behind the boat and it happens. The drags start screamin!!!! First the short down rigger, then the other down rigger we start to get the other rods in and two more get hit!! It's pandemonium we've got four fish on, everybody's fighting a fish and nobody's driving the boat. "HEY I'VE GOT FLOUROCARBON" here comes the first fish, Damn it's a Cuda. We still have three on though and they are strong we can't get any line on them!! 20 minutes later we find out the other three are AJ'S in the 50 lb class! Well let's put out that 120 dollar bill out there and try again, boy I'm glad my wife doesn't know how much this costs.

Lightning:

**5 seconds between Flash and
Thunder = 1 Mile**

**DOWN AT THE DOCK FISHING DERBY
JULY 13, 2016
Calling all JOSFC Volunteers!**



For the third year in a row JOSFC has been asked to sponsor and support the Down on the Dock Tournament. As most of you know I was

approached by Chuck Darner and Roger Walker and ask if JOSFC would be willing to offer our services to the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Association when I was President. This year Steve Thompson the Chairman for the GJKA approached me and asked for our support once again. I am asking all members who have in the past if you would be willing to give 2 hours of your time to support our local Northeast Fl Down Syndrome Association.

A little background on what it is we do. On July 13th from 1 to 3 (time may change) JOSFC volunteers help rig baits, take fish off the hooks and help with the weighing of the fish. This is fun event that will put smiles on your face. Over the last 2 years the biggest event was last year when one of the children caught a blue crab. The delight and excitement of them catching something other than a fish put a smile on everyone's face. The saddest part of the day was saying goodbye to them as they all wanted to stay. One little girl was in tears and refused to leave and sat down in protest. Several of our members went to her and promised her that we would make sure that she can come back this year. She got up and left holding her pole tightly to her after we cut the hook off with a smile knowing she would return (pictured above.) For many of these participants it is the only time that they hold a fishing pole and actually fish.



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**Cobia are still HOT during the month
33" Fork Length, 1 a Day / Person**



**Wear these, they
don't work in the
cabin!**





Next month is the GJKT, and a lot of us both fish the tournament as well as help out there!

**This year Tournament week is
July 18 - 23, 2016**

This year they have gone back to the good format where the BIG fish wins! Catch the biggest King on day 1, and nothing on day 2, you still win. Catch the smallest or any small King on day 1 or no King, you still get to fish day 2 and have your chance to catch the biggest King then!

First place is a Contender with a Yamaha 250 Four stroke engine on a trailer with a custom 'T' Top by Pelagic Fab!

They have a "Single Engine Class: Top 5 Largest & Top 5 Agg! A Lady Angler Division, and a Redfish Tournament on July 16th with it's own Kayak division!

There is also a Kids dock Tournament on Saturday July 23rd from 1:30 Pm to 3:00 Pm!



July is the Month of the KING!

King Mackerel or Kingfish are thick off Jacksonville now, and the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament runs for the week of July 18th through the 23rd.

SO, How do you catch a big King? By SLOW trolling live Pogies. However there is another bait that they call Kingfish Candy . . . Ribbonfish! I like to use a down rigger to troll a Ribbonfish about 10 below and 15 to 20 feet behind my Pogies. This makes the ponies very nervous and a lot more active, therefore attracting more Kings. I have caught more Kings on the Ribbonfish than the pogies.

Get big Ribbonfish for your bait, and you want the best ones you can find, well brined and frozen without a lot of scales missing. I also recommend checking them often and replacing them when needed.

Here is something that most people do not realize. Think about this, When the shrimp boats are culling their catch, there is always a feeding frenzy behind their boat. The disturbance of the bigger predator fish feeding and competing for the choice morsels attract more big predator fish. ANY disturbance in the water is seen as a feeding frenzy and attracts fish to it. SO, when you are trolling for Kings or any striking fish like Dolphin, Wahoo, Sailfish, you want your boat to make as big of a disturbance as you can!

When Kingfishing, I like to drag a Chum bag over the side of my boat, and I tilt my Engine UP some to make it splash the water up behind the boat. IF you have something like a dredge that you can hang over the side partway out of the water so it splashes that also will help. You want to create as big of a disturbance at the surface as you can. This will attract the Kings to you and away from that guy that is trolling 50 or 100 yards to your side.



Great news! Last Wednesday, a bill that would dramatically improve management of Gulf red snapper passed through the House Natural Resources Committee.

HR 3094, championed by Rep. Garret Graves, would transfer responsibility for the oversight of Gulf red snapper away from the Federal government and to the five Gulf states.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has a tremendous record of balancing all the complicated factors involved in resource management, and doing so in a way that maximizes public enjoyment and economic activity.

That's why it's important for the FWC to hear from fishermen like you, thanking them for their support of state management of Gulf red snapper!

Keep writing those letters to our Representatives & Senators both State & Federal!!!

Fish Weight Formula:

Now for those of us without a good scale, how to tell, approximately, the weigh of that big fish.

This formula works for most pelagic fish like Kings, Cobia, Sails, Wahoo etc.

Girth in inches Squared, Times Length in inches Divided by 800 = Weight in Pounds.

G2 X L divided by 800 = Weight in Lbs

For bottom fish use:

Length in inches Squared times Girth in inches divided by 1200

L2 X G divided by 1200 = Weight in Lbs

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Loud Hailings

Bill Breen
Newsletter
Editor

I am looking for PICTURES of club members with local catches, to use in our newsletter. If you have a good photo PLEASE E-mail it or give it to me at a meeting. I will Scan it and return it to you undamaged. Don't forget to include a piece of paper with your name address, and the information on the catch, size or weight, and when. You can even include your numbers where caught, I won't tell anyone else, I promise! ;-)
Cross my heart and hope to catch your fish!

Just a reminder, ANYONE and everyone can submit something, a good story, joke, or you can also submit photos to be included in our Newsletter. Just get your article and or pictures to me by the 18th of the month, to be in the next months newsletter. Just hand me a copy at any meeting, or E-mail it to me at : breenw@bellsouth.net

Catching Ribbonfish

Take a look at a Ribbonfish's intimidating assortment of dental equipment and it's easy to see that this guy's built for grabbing live prey. Needle like canines line the top and bottom jaws, with elongated lances protruding from the front. Therefore, sturdy rigs are a must. Eight to 20 pound main line with 30 or 40 pound mono filament leaders tied to 2/0 long shank hooks will suffice, but adding a 6-inch trace of No. 3 wire will minimize bite-offs. For simplicity, use pre-rigged wire with barrel swivels for attaching to the main line and snap swivels for hanging the hook.

Ribbonfish thrive in estuaries and other muddy bottom environments from Maine to South America. In Florida waters, they're found more commonly on the East Coast, particularly in major inlets such as St. Johns, St. Augustine and Port Canaveral. Although ribbons occasionally turn up in castnets full of menhaden (pogies), it's tough targeting these fleet-finned hellions with anything but hook and line. It mostly entails night fishing because, like goggle eyes, that's when they feed most. Fortunately, hook and line operations can produce 100 or more in a good night.

Kingfish tournament veterans Steve and Scott Senecal catch their ribbons mostly in Port Canaveral, where the voracious bait fish put on quite a show as they leap across the surface to nail finger mullet and other forage species. Sometimes, the nocturnal action grows so intense that all you need to do is drift an area and watch for the carnage.

Ribbons follow schools of smaller bait fish from the open water to sea walls, jetties, piers and bridges. To find the concentrations, work chrome or blue Rat-L-Traps in the likely areas. After a busy night, Scott said he often retires bald lures, completely stripped of paint by ribbonfish ferocity.

Their shiny, hi-vis profiles appeal to kingfish.

Ribbonfish experts congregate the critters by hanging a fluorescent light tube, connected via alligator clips directly to their boat's main battery, from the stern. Casting an eerie green glow, the light attracts small forage fish, which in turn draw in the ribbons. Once you've located a concentration of ribbonfish, thumbnail size chunks of fresh shrimp or previously caught ribbons will bring plenty of action. These perceptive hunters will sniff out anything edible, but mini light tubes clipped to the hook shanks add just enough visibility to make the baits stand out in dark water.

Medium-action 6 1/2- to 7 foot spinning rods, the same ones you'd use for sabiki (gold-hook) duties, will handle most ribbonfish. A hooked ribbon fights a respectable fight, but it's wise to get them in fast. Intense feeding competition reaches cannibalistic heights when the struggling commotion of a hooked ribbonfish presents an easy target for its brethren. Reeling up half a ribbon is nothing rare. Maximize this aggression by tossing in rigs with fresh bait near the point of attack.

Ribbonfish are almost always fished dead, but handling the fresh catch requires planning. Prior to the trip, prepare a brining solution, which toughens the big baits for freezing. Without this step, thawed ribbons turn mushy and wash out quickly. In a 70- to 130-quart cooler, mix two 1-pound boxes of baking soda, three 3-pound boxes of coarse Kosher salt (not iodized) with a 5-gallon bucket of sea water and an 8-pound bag of ice. Initially, the brining solution should sit just above the cooler's drain plug.

Add more ice as needed to maintain a chilly slush, but don't let the ice form a solid sheet over your ribbons, premature freezing prevents thorough brining. Conversely, leaving ribbonfish in the brining solution for more than 24 hours tends to blow out their stomachs and ruin the baits. After 8 to 12 hours of brining, remove and freeze.

Plastic food storage sleeves closed with a vacuum sealer will keep ribbonfish in good freezer condition. Depending on the size of your ribbonfish, freezing multiple baits in the same sleeve works fine as long as baits lie flat with at least 1/4-inch of surrounding space. Lacking this option, double wrap them in heavy-duty aluminum foil and be sure to force out all of the air.

To thaw, just put the fish on the deck for a few minutes. (Tip: It's actually easiest to rig bait fish when they're still partially frozen as the rigidity facilitates handling. In the water, the bait will thaw quickly.)

When it comes to rigging ribbonfish for king mackerel, a stinger rig with multiple trailing segments is the way to go. A common setup uses a 1/4-ounce jighead as the lead hook, because a jig keeps the bait tracking straight through the water. Run through the bait's lower jaw and out the topside.

However, the Senecal brothers also rig ribbons with a single lead hook, which allows the baits to flutter and flow erratically.

With the right handling and preparation, ribbonfish will add a productive facet to your kingfish arsenal, they seem particularly attractive to big smoker kings.

How about some safety tips for Anglers!

Ok, you anglers, if you haven't done it yet, the odds are you will. What? Get a fish hook imbedded somewhere in your body! How do you get it out? There are two ways to do this: 1 - if the hook goes all the way through, and the barb is showing, carefully use the cutters you have in your first aid kit (You did remember to put a good pair of Wire Cutters in your kit didn't you?) cut off the point and barb, then back the hook out. 2 - If the barb is buried, make a loop of strong fishing line and put it around the bend in the hook, then PUSH the eye of the hook down against the skin and use the line to yank the hook out. OK, There is a 3rd way, leave it alone and quit fishing for the day and go to the hospital and let a doctor do one of the above.

Knives - ALWAYS keep your Knives razor sharp! They cut easier and you are less likely to have to push or pull hard and then have it suddenly pop free and stab and cut your self. Also on your boat if you stow a knife in a rack, ALWAYS put the sharp edge toward the wall. When someone stumbles or slips on the wet deck, they won't fall against the sharp edge and cut themselves.

One last idea on Knives is to go to Harbor Freight Tools and buy one of their CERAMIC knives for your Boat or Bait Knife! They don't rust and stay sharp! (How many boats have you been on and seen an OLD dirty rusty knife as the bait knife? Makes me cringe!)

Gaffs. . . . Keep them sharp, and use some surgical tubing or a spring to cover the tip to keep your crew from impaled! Always carry the Gaff vertically, NEVER horizontally. I also learned the hard way never to look over the Gaff man's shoulder as they gaff a fish. The handle coming back as he gaffed it almost took my nose off!

Sunscreen! Do I need to say it again? OK Sunscreen!

Always use it liberally! I bet everyone has a picture of them, their kids or friends looking like a boiled lobster. Use it even on cloudy days as the clouds do NOT filter out the UV rays.

After you have ignored my advise, there are several things you can do to help with the burn.

A bit of baking soda in a cool or lukewarm bath will temporarily provide relief to sun burn pain. Just remember to let your skin air dry out of the bath so the baking soda really soaks in and soothes the pain.

After it dries, use Aloe to help it heal faster! Pure Aloe gel or best is a leaf off a real Aloe plant!

Fingers and Fishing Line . . . Once again we all know a person (Like yourself.) that has been cut by fishing line, specially with the new Super Braids. I carry a "Kevlar Fishing Glove" just in case I need to grab a line. You also never want to wrap the line around your hand. When you need to grab a leader or line, try to grab it from below the line, bringing the outside (Little finger side) up against the line and twisting your hand up around the line ONCE! If the fish suddenly pulls hard, the line is easy to release without getting cut!

Finally, RELAX!!!!. Some people get really excited when the fish gets near the boat, and really start yelling to get the gaff, get the net, get the leader. Quick!

Your reel has a DRAG on it for a reason. If people in the boat are not ready to boat the fish, lighten up on the drag and let the fish take another run. Just keep the line tight so they don't come unhooked, and when people are ready bring it back to the boat.

Another habit to get into is when the fish gets to the boat, LIGHTEN UP THE DRAG! IF the Gaff Man misses the gaff, the fish will make a sudden, hard run for freedom, and can and frequently do Snap the line! A light drag will let them run without snapping the line, and you just slowly tighten the drag again and the fish back to the boat of another try!

Remember, NEVER approach the dock any faster than you want to RAM the dock!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<h1>July</h1>					1	2
						
3	4 Club Board Meeting	5	6	7 Club Meeting	8	9 Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament
						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
						
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
 <h2>The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament</h2>						
						
24	25	26	27	28 Club Meeting	29	30
						
31	 <p>COMING EVENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 5th - Tuesday - Club Board of Directors Meeting July 7th - Club Meeting July 9th - The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament July 28th - Club Meeting October 22nd - Annual Awards Banquet 					
						



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Tournament Schedule for 2016

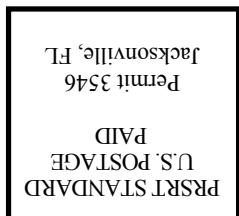
Tournament - - - - - Month - - - - - Date / - - - - - Alternate
 - All are on Saturday -

- The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament - June - - - - - July - 9 - Derek Seigel
- The Ladies Tournament - August - - - - - 6 - - - - - 13 - - Fishing Director
- The Light Tackle Tournament - August - - - - - 27 - - - - - Sept. 3 - Alan Shepard
- The Bottom Tournament - September - - - - - 17 - - - - - 24 - Steve Kalatizs
- Triple Challenge Tournament - October - - - - - 15 - - - - - 22 - Alan Shepard

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