



The Reel News

The Newsletter of the ...



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 57 Issue 7

July 2017



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Captain 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 # fluoro 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 size that are on the spinning lures I used to use for trout, (bait) fishing in small streams in Jersey. 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 un-stressfully 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 get drowned.

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"

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Presidents Message Cont.

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. Yes see does and I'll pay for it later cause after the kingfish season comes the summer doldrums and you better take that lady of your's on vacation and don't let her see the packable rod and reel our your rigging bag.

Welcome to the Summer folks and I'll see you out there on the water!!!

Capt. Chris



John Ballis has one that will be hard to beat for the fishing boards, a really nice 45 Pound Cobia

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The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament is HERE!

They depend on all volunteers to run it, and WE the JOSFC have always helped out in a big way.

The first event that we have committed to help with is the "Down at the Dock" Tournament. This is on July 12th starting at about 11:00 AM and runs to 1:30 PM. The Down's Syndrome community brings about 50 young adults and kids to the Kingfish site and we help them FISH! We measure everything they catch, toad fish, crabs, trout, any thing that comes up on their hook! We will be tying on lots of hooks & weights, and helping them cast and bait their hooks. I have done it two years in a row, and it is a blast. The kids have the time of their lives! There are several other chances to volunteer, they have the Redfish Capt. Meeting on the 14th, with the Tournament on Saturday the 15.

The main event opens on Monday the 17th with Registration, Bag pick up, the Junior Anglers Captain Meeting at 6:30 PM.



John Ballis AGAIN with a nice Mahi.
I am predicting that John will be winning at least one Board this October.



Otto Jelinek with his 48 Pound Bull Mahi-Mahi
Now that is a fish of a life time! It will also be really hard to beat for the boards! From the looks of the other Mahi at his feet, they had a GREAT day not only fishing but catching!

July is Kingfish Time,

So here is a way to have some fun, as well as save some money!

There just happens to be one particular bait that Kingfish LOVE, we call it Kingfish Candy. OK, I will tell you what it is, how to fish it and how to catch your own! What is it?

Ribbonfish!

GJKT Cont.

The Junior angler Tournament is the 18th and then on the 19th is more Registration and the General Tournament's Capt. Meeting at 6:30 PM. Day 1 fishing on the 20th and Day 2 fishing on the 21st with the Awards ceremonies on the 22nd.

To volunteer for all this fun Sign up is easy:

Visit our website at www.kingfishtournament.com, & click on Volunteers to see list of opportunities. Or Download the form & fax your choices to 904-251-3738. OR Call Gay Septon at 904-412-4497

The way I was taught to use this candy bait works on two fronts. First the Kingfish love it, and second the Pogys fear Ribbonfish. So when you are trolling some live Pogys about 20 yards behind your boat at the surface, put a Ribbonfish about 15 to 20 feet deep on your down rigger and put it about 15 feet behind your Pogys. The Pogys will be aware of the Ribbonfish and will swim harder and be very nervous that will actually send out better vibrations that will attract the Kingfish!

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

Continues page 5

Ribbonfish Continues

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,

News from Membership

Welcome to our newest members!

Tobias Almy, Robert and Kimberly Growcock, Ron and Cathy Brace, Jeffrey Perkins, Bill and Bonnie Schuetz, and Bill and Penny Lane. We are delighted to hear you love grits and want to be members of our JOSFC family!

We are in the middle of one of the busy seasons for our club with all the tournaments and warm up tournaments coming up during summer. Remember to fly your burgees whenever participating in the JOSFC tournaments. It ends to be seen and documented to put fish on the boards or win the tournament.

Of course, one of the best parts of your membership are the meals Mrs. Tasha prepares for us. The lady can cook! Nobody walks away from her tables hungry or unimpressed.

The camaraderie you get with JOSFC is unmatched anywhere else. New to the area and you're not sure how to fish our river and ocean, just tap someone on the shoulder, introduce yourself, and ask away. You won't get secret numbers, but you will receive all kinds of help catching the fish you want to catch. **Don't miss our seminars each meeting. They are brimming with information for everyone.**



In every Newsletter I strongly suggest that you wear your Life Jacket at least while your boat is underway.

Here are some other safety things that you should consider.

Is your Fire extinguisher current? Do you have a big enough one, or more than one? How about a "Ditch Bag" is it properly stocked, and sitting out where it is handy?

First aid kit current, plenty of Hydrogen Peroxide to clean wounds?



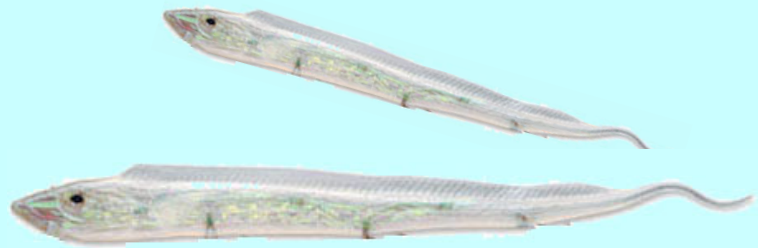
Ribbonfish Continues

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. Personal observation has shown them that ribbons don't always swim straight. Very often, they dart and dash in varying angles, and occasionally turn perfectly vertical to target surface meals.






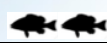


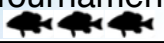
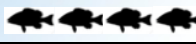






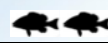
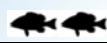
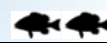
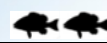

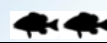


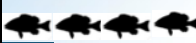


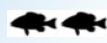
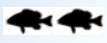
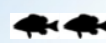

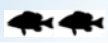
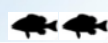
With the right handling and preparation, ribbonfish will add a productive facet to your kingfish arsenal, they seem particularly attractive to big smoker kings. And this is one bait fish that's also a blast to catch.



Loud Hailings

Bill Breen
Newsletter
Editor

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<div>July</div>						1
						
2	3 Board Meeting	4	5	6 Club Meeting	7	8 Kingfish Tuneup Tournament
						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament					
						
23	24	25	26	27 Club Meeting	28	29 The Ladies Tournament
						
30	31					
						

COMING EVENTS:



July 3rd - Board Meeting

July 6th - Club Meeting

July 8th - The Kingfish Tuneup Tournament

July 27th - Club Meeting

July 17th - 22nd - Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament

July 29th - The Ladies Tournament

October 28th - Annual Awards Banquet

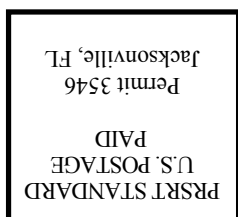
Tournament Schedule for 2017

Tournament	-	-	Month	-	—Date / Alternate
- All are on Saturday -					
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -			July	-	8 - Steve Kalaitzis
The Ladies Tournament -			July	-	29 - August 5 - Chuck Darner
The Light Tackle Tournament -			August	-	12 - 19 - Steve Kalaitzis
The Bottom Tournament -			September	-	2 - 9 - Steve Kalatizs
Triple Challenge Tournament -			October	-	15 - 22 - Alan Shepard

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