



The Newsletter of the . . .

# The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

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## PRESIDENTS CAST NET

*Trina Polkey*

I don't know about you, but I am pretty sure we are all just about tired of this wind. I always try to look for the positive in everything though and so far, here's what I've come up with...vampire sand gnats don't stand a chance in these gusts, and I can fly a kite. To Europe. Hopefully by the time you read this we have seen some relief from it.

Many of us gathered at the Palms Fish Camp for a nice dinner and seminar for our second meeting last month. Captain Robert Johnson put on a great seminar as usual, though it was a little tough for some to hear him. Other than that, it seemed like everyone enjoyed it. It was nice meeting with the Jacksonville Bluewater Club, and we look forward to more opportunities for our clubs to interact. Rest assured we will work with PFC to make sure everyone can hear the program before we do it again.

As Captain Johnson mentioned, Mahi will be here soon, and are God's gift to fisherman. I have personally caught these delicious little treats within sight of land and all the way out to the ledge and beyond. They are so fun! Most recently a friend of mine had laid his rod down in

the back of the boat with a bait dangling in the water and a little peanut came right up and almost snatched his rod right out. This was less than 15 miles from the jetties!

Our next tournament is the May Trolling Tournament on May 5<sup>th</sup>, (come on winds, give us a break!). Once again as the name implies this is a TROLLING tournament. All fish must be hooked while the boat is under power and moving. All general rules apply, and members must fly a JOSFC burgee. For complete rules and to register, please visit [www.jaxfish.com](http://www.jaxfish.com), any questions please call Tom at 904-521-5364.

This month's meetings will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. We will be opening the building up around 6:00 each meeting to allow for more time to visit, and we start at 7:00. Hope to see you there!



**The 2016 Sailfish Pot Party will be held this year on May 12, 2018**

**Pay attention Guys, PLEASE pre-Register! A couple years ago they had an unusually large number of people wait to pay at the door, and that so there were a**

## Sailfish Party Continued

lot of unhappy people that didn't get their steak dinner!

To aid in planning, send in your money ASAP! All Pre-registered patrons will be guaranteed dinner via a voucher obtained at check in.

This is a STAG event, and there will be lots of cussing, belching, and crude guy behavior, so no young boys please.

The Sailfish Pot Party is NOT a JOSFC event. It is its own stand alone event where everyone that buys a ticket to it is entered in the POT. The first person to catch a Sailfish after the party wins the POT, ( Lots of moola. ) BUT THEY must put on the party for the next year!

There is also one gigantic Raffle to end the thing!



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## US Interior Secretary Zinke Addresses Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council Meeting.

### NEWS from BoatUS

Boat Owners Association of The United States  
 880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304

BoatUS Press Room at [www.BoatUS.com/PressRoom](http://www.BoatUS.com/PressRoom)

WASHINGTON, April 6, 2018 – U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke addressed the [Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council](#) at its recent meeting held April 4 and 5 at the Department of Interior in Washington, D.C.

### "Boats are good. A lot of boats are better."

The secretary emphasized the importance of outdoor recreation, specifically as it relates to boating, and included a message directed squarely at America's nearly 12 million registered boat owners: "Boats are good. A lot of boats are better," said Zinke, as he discussed his priorities to update and modernize visitor facilities on federal lands and "Bring them into the 21st century" to improve the visitor experience. The secretary also discussed his support for increasing recreational boating access on federal lands, and addressing maintenance backlogs that have plagued the agency for decades.

"[BoatUS](#) has sat on the council for several secretaries and administrations, and it is encouraging to see how well Secretary Zinke understands the importance of outdoor recreation, and that expanding recreational opportunities improves the conservation of our resources," said Edmonston, BoatUS Vice President of Government Affairs. "The Secretary also noted that he looked to the council for help, saying 'I need really good advice.'" Topics for the meeting included discussions regarding the backlog of maintenance at fish hatcheries and parks, permitting issues and improving access to interior lands and waters.

The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council is funded through the [Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act](#). Its purpose is to advise the Secretary of the Interior, through the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, on aquatic conservation endeavors that benefit recreational fishery resources and recreational boating, and to encourage partnerships among industry, the public, and government.



NEWS from BoatUS

Boat Owners Association of The United States

880 S. Pickett St., Alexandria, VA 22304

BoatUS Press Room at [www.BoatUS.com/](http://www.BoatUS.com/PressRoom)

[PressRoom](http://www.BoatUS.com/PressRoom)

## BoatUS Spring

### Commissioning Checklist

March 27, 2018 — With boatyards, backyards, marinas, and clubs now coming to life, spring commissioning time has arrived. Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has a [Spring Commissioning Checklist](#) to help boaters start the season right:

#### Before You Launch:

1. Hose clamps should be inspected and replaced as necessary. Double clamp below-waterline connections, including all hose and fuel lines with marine-rated stainless hose clamps and keeping seacocks closed when you are away are wise moves.
2. Inspect cooling hoses for stiffness, rot, leaks and cracking. Make sure they fit snugly.
3. Replace deteriorated sacrificial anodes.
4. Inspect prop(s) for dings, pitting and distortion. Make sure cotter pins are secure. Grip the prop and try moving the shaft - if it's loose, the cutless bearing (on inboard drive systems) may need to be replaced.
5. Check the rudderstock to ensure it hasn't been bent.
6. Inspect the hull for blisters, distortions and stress cracks.
7. Make sure your engine intake sea strainer is not cracked or bent from ice, free of corrosion, and is clean and properly secured.
8. With inboards, check the engine shaft and rudder stuffing boxes for looseness. A stuffing box should only leak when the prop shaft is turning and needs to be inspected routinely.
9. Inspect and lubricate seacocks.
10. Use a garden hose to check for deck leaks at ports and hatches. Renew caulk or gaskets as necessary.
11. Inspect bilge pump and float switch to make

sure they're working properly.

12. Check stove and remote tanks for loose fittings and leaking hoses.
13. Inspect dock and anchor lines for chafing.
14. If equipped, ensure that the stern drain plug is installed
15. After the boat is launched, be sure to check all thru-hulls for leaks.

#### Engine Outdrives and Outboards:

1. Inspect rubber outdrive bellows for cracked, dried and/or deteriorated spots (look especially in the folds) and replace if suspect.
2. Check power steering and power trim oil levels.
3. Replace anodes that are more than half worn away.
4. Inspect outer jacket of control cables. Cracks or swelling indicate corrosion and mean that the cable must be replaced.

#### Engines and Fuel Systems:

1. Inspect fuel lines, including fill and vent hoses, for softness, brittleness or cracking. Check all joints for leaks, and make sure all lines are well supported with noncombustible clips or straps with smooth edges.
2. Inspect fuel tanks, fuel pumps and filters for leaks. Ensure portable tanks and lines are completely drained of stale fuel before filling with new fuel. Clamps should be snug and free of rust. Clean or replace fuel filters.
3. Every few years, remove and inspect exhaust manifolds for corrosion.
4. Charge battery. Clean and tighten electrical connections, especially both ends of battery cables. Wire-brush battery terminals and fill cells with distilled water (if applicable).
5. Inspect bilge blower hose for leaks.

#### Sailboat Rigging:

1. Inspect swage fittings for cracks and heavy rust (some discoloration is acceptable). Inspect wire halyards and running backstays for "fishhooks" and rust.
2. Remove tape on turnbuckles and lubricate threads, preferably with Teflon. Replace old tape

## Checklist Continued

with fresh tape.

3. If you suspect the core around a chainplate is damp, remove the chainplate to inspect and make repairs.

## Trailers:

1. Inspect tire treads and sidewalls for cracks or lack of tread and replace as necessary. Check air pressure – don't forget the spare.

2. Inspect wheel bearings and repack as necessary.

3. Test all lights and winch to make sure they're working properly. Inspect hitch chains.

4. Inspect trailer frame for rust. Sand and paint to prevent further deterioration.

5. Inspect brakes and brake fluid reservoir.

## Safety:

1. Check expiration dates on flares. Inspect fire extinguishers. Replace if over 12 years old. Over 40 million Kidde extinguishers with plastic handles were recalled on Nov. 2, 2017.

2. Make sure you have properly sized and wearable life jackets in good condition for each passenger, including kids. Check inflatable life jacket cylinders.

3. Test smoke, carbon monoxide, fume and bilge alarms.

4. Check running lights and spare bulb inventory.

5. Update paper charts, chart plotter software.

6. Replenish first aid kit items that may have been used last season.

7. Be sure to get a free vessel safety check from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary or US Power Squadrons. Find out more at [SafetySeal.net](http://SafetySeal.net).

## For the Dock:

1. Check both ends of the shore power cable connections for burns, which indicate the cable and/or boat's shore power inlet or the dock's receptacle must be replaced.

2. Test ground-fault protection on your boat and private dock, and know how to prevent [Electric Shock Drowning](#).

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## The Paperwork:

1. Make sure your boat registration is up to date. Don't forget your trailer tags.
2. Review your [boat insurance](#) policy and update coverage if needed. Provide a copy to your marina or club.
3. If applicable, ensure your BoatUS Towing Membership is in good standing. Log in to [BoatUS.com/Account](http://BoatUS.com/Account) to check your membership status or join at [BoatUS.com](http://BoatUS.com).



Mahi or Dolphinfish should be out there by now and boy are they TASTY!

# Southeast US White Shark Encounter Database

## Background

White sharks, or “great whites,” are one of the most recognizable sharks in the public eye. Recent research has shown that white sharks migrate south to the waters off the southeastern US during winter months (Fig. 1).

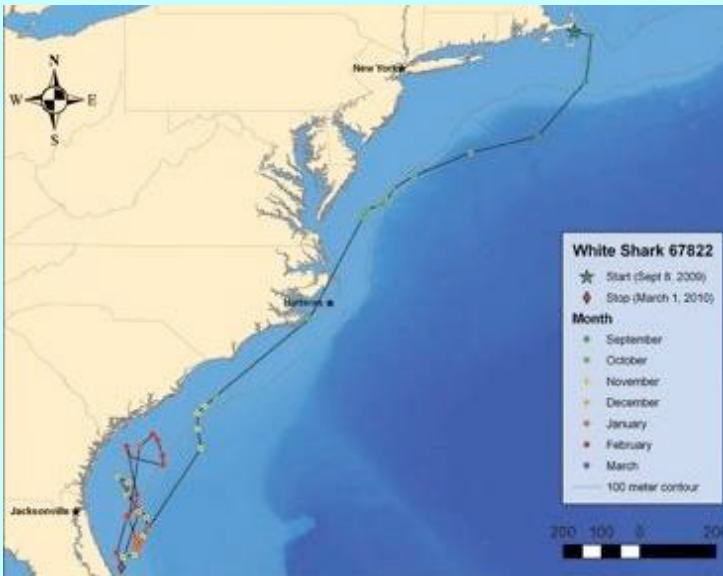


Fig. 1 – Southern migration of a white shark tagged in the north Atlantic in 2009 © MA Division of Marine Fisheries

## Objectives

This database was set up to record white shark sightings off the southeastern US. This will help researchers to:

- Document white shark movements and habits.
- Determine the when and how long white sharks are present.
- Identify hotspots

## White Shark Sightings

Each winter there are multiple reports of white shark sightings off the southeast US from fishermen, boaters, etc. Only recently have these sightings started to be documented and recorded (Fig. 2).

## How to report an encounter!

Go to [www.unf.edu/sharks](http://www.unf.edu/sharks) and follow the link for the White Shark Encounter Survey.

You can also download a copy of the survey to fill out. Completed surveys can be sent to:

SharkProgram@unf.edu  
 UNF Shark Biology Program  
 University of North Florida  
 1 UNF Dr.  
 Jacksonville, FL 32224

## What information to report?

Your report can help research efforts by providing the following information:

- Name, phone number, and email address
- Date, time, and location of encounter
- Size and behavior of white shark
- Your activity at the time of the encounter
- Information on distinguishing markings
- Reports of past encounters are welcome!

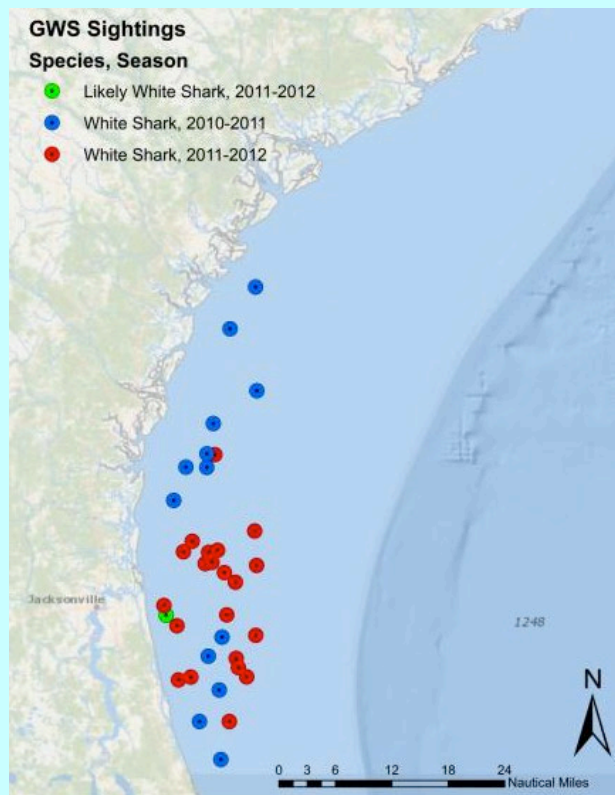


Fig. 2 – White shark sightings from 2010-2012. Sightings occurred from December – March



## Safety First

Safe boating should begin at home before you trailer your boat to the ramp or leave your dock or marina. To ensure that your outing on the water begins and ends safely, the first thing to do to ensure the safety of your trip on the water is to develop a float plan and leave it with your spouse, significant other, some other reliable person, or your marina. Ask the custodian of the plan to contact the Coast Guard or other local authority if you do not return by the indicated time on the plan.

The float plan should contain your name, address, phone number, name and description of your vessel, names of other persons on board, trip details including geographical location of your destination, the route you will take to get there, and/or GPS numbers if possible, time of return and time to call local authorities or Coast Guard if you do not return by the scheduled time. A properly executed float plan could be a lifesaver in an emergency if you have to abandon your vessel at sea, or break down, with no power for your radio to communicate your location and notify someone of your need for help.

A properly executed float plan would enable the person in custody of the float plan to initiate a timely search for you if you did not return by the time specified. Time could be a critical factor in saving your life in a real emergency. A sample float plan is available in the boating safety materials rack at the Mayport clubhouse.

File a float plan each time you go boating/fishing to help ensure your safety on the water.

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## Some Thoughts on Trolling

With two Trolling Tournaments coming up, The Unlimited on April 29th, and the May Trolling Tournament on May 5th, These hints just might help you catch more fish.

For starters, fish are NOT smart! Their little brains only have 3 things that they are genetically programmed for. 1 - Food, where and

what to eat. 2 - Survival, avoid being eaten. 3 - Reproducing.

They don't see your leader and say, "There is something wrong with this picture."

All they think is EAT IT!

Now think about this, to a predator fish, a DISTURBANCE in the water is a FEEDING FRENZY!

Your boat IS a disturbance in the water. I trim my engine UP to make my boat plow through the water, and in my boat I run at about 10 MPH, just short of breaking up onto the plane, making as big of a disturbance as I can.

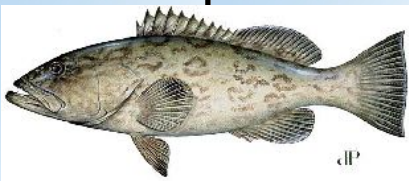
I don't use weights to get my lures down deep. Wahoo and other predators will see or sense your 'Feeding Frenzy' from quite a distance. They will travel vertically 100' or more in a second to attack your lure!

I run my short lures just outside the wake on the edge of the clear / bubble water at about the 2nd and 3rd wave, about 40' feet back. My longer lures are run just where the bubbles are starting to clear up, about 80' feet back. Your "Way Back" should be about 120' to 150' feet back.

I personally have had better luck finding a temperature break, or a break between clear water and green water and trolling on the warmer side or clear side of the break than going back and forth over structure, but that is probably a 50 / 50 difference or personal preference.

Just remember the fish are coming to your BOAT / Feeding Frenzy, and you can't have your lures too close, I have literally had fish take the lure AT the rear of the boat as I was putting the lure in the water!

One last thought, use one of the attractant oils like "Smelly Jelly" or even WD-40 on your lure or bait, test have shown that they give you an advantage over people that don't use anything. YES, WD-40! It is made with fish oil.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Club Meeting	4	5
6	7 Board Meeting	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 Club Meeting	18	19 The River Tournament
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	<h1>May</h1>	



**COMING  
EVENTS:**

- May 3rd - Club meeting
- May 5th - The May Trolling Tournament
- May 7th - Board Meeting
- May 17th - Club Meeting



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



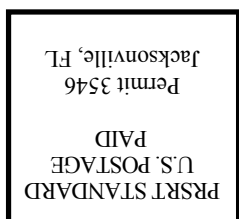
**2018 Captain of the Year Tournament Schedule**

Tournament	-	Date	-	Rain Date
The May Trolling	-	May 5th	-	12th
The Junior Angler	-	June 23rd	-	30th
The Kingfish Tune-Up	-	July 7th	-	14th
The Ladies Tournament	-	August 4th	-	11th
The Bottom Tournament	-	September 8th	-	15th

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