



The Newsletter of the ... **The Reel News**



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 59 Issue 2

February 2019



The 2019 EL Cheapo almost is Here!

The 19th annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament and Fish Fry will be held on March 9th, 2019.

For those of you who have never fished this tournament before, welcome to "The World's Largest Sheepshead Tournament" and one of the largest tournaments in the US! For those of you who have fished it before, welcome back! --- And I'm sure you'll find the 19th edition of this tournament the best one yet! This year our Grand Prize winner will receive a **18 Foot Center Console Carolina Skiff with a Suzuki 4 stroke motor on a Magic Tilt Trailer plus a Replica Taxidermy Mount of the winning fish!** This is the 4th year that Suzuki Marine has partnered with us and the 10th year for Carolina Skiff.

A we have some great sponsors that have stepped up again for this year. I'd like to welcome back and thank Dell Marine, and all our fantastic returning sponsors! Go to elcheapojax.com to see our sponsors and be sure to shop them for your needs, and thank them for their support!!!



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Trina Polkey

Its That time again!! **The EL Cheapo!!!**
This is the biggest event of the year for our club. Things are going along nicely with the sponsors and the volunteers as well as out tournament director, Rob Darner.

We already have our first and second place boats here and they will be on display at various places around town!

Thank you Rob for all of your hard work and thank you for making this one of he best, most fun, **best payout tournaments** that I've ever seen.

While we continually thank our sponsors for that big number, the reality is that without the J.O.S.F.C. membership, **NONE** of this would be possible. It's truly a spectacle to behold watching all the volunteers come together to transform our clubhouse and grounds of the Mayport Boat Ramp into a First Class tournament facility. To have such a large event take place at a such small venue in such a short amount of time is testament to how dedicated and focused our members and volunteers are.

I look forward to seeing all of you out there and making the 2019 El Cheapo the best one yet!

This month also we have our **ANNUAL CHILI COOKOFF**. Man, oh man, oh man, there's some good chili cooks in this club. So if you've got a secret family recipe that you think could be a winner, bring it on. If you've got a hot one, please be sure to label it "hot" so the judges can be ready for it and they don't have smoke coming out of there nose and ear holes.

Barnacles

Club member Bob Houghton has some good information for us just in time for the El Cheapo.

Bob asked the FWC about barnacles and the practice of scraping them from the bridges, docks, and rocks. Here is their reply.

Bob: Barnacles are not specifically regulated by FWC, As a non regulated species, the default **recreational daily bag limit is 100 pounds per person**. This would apply if the barnacles were harvested for later use as chum. If they are simply scraped from a piling and allowed to sink (not harvested) the 100 pound limit would obviously not apply.

While FWC does not specifically regulate barnacles or the activity of scraping barnacles, it is possible that the owners of specific structures (ie. bridges, docks, etc.) do restrict the activity. It would be a good idea to check with the county or owners of specific structures to determine if there are any local regulations that may apply.



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It is time to Troll for those Wahoo & Mahi!

Here are some fishing facts to think about.

First and foremost, when you are trolling, you have to remember that the fish you are targeting are PREDATORS. Not rocket scientist. Their tiny brain only works on three things, 1 - Eating, 2 - Not being eaten, 3 - reproducing.

To all predators in the ocean, any **DISTURBANCE** in the water **IS A FEEDING FRENZY**. They don't think is that a boat? NO, they think FOOD! And I need to get there to take advantage of it.

How does that help you? Your BOAT is a disturbance in the water, unless you are high speed trolling, you want your boat plowing making as much of a disturbance as possible.

Don't put your lures WAY, WAY back. You want them at the 3rd to 5th wave back. (I have had fish take the bait out of my hand as I was trying to set the down rigger, right at my transom!)

Again unless you are high speed trolling, you don't need weights on your set-up. Wahoo are one of the fastest fish in the ocean. They will come from 100 + feet down to hit a bait on the surface.

Remember, Kite fishing dangles your bait AT the surface, bouncing it out of the water, and that is very effective! IF your bait is bouncing out of the water, that just makes it more attractive to the predators!

Another trick to improve your luck. (or Skill?) Use any fish oil on and even in your trolled bait or lure. (I learned this from a guy that was winning tournament after tournament. He injected WD-40 into his bait so it left an oil trail as he trolled. WD-40 is made from fish oil.) I use a 35 mm film canister with a couple small holes in it and a sponge in it saturated with Smelly Jelly fish attractant. It is attached to my down rigger or line ahead of the bait. Here is another tip that just might help with your

hook-ups. When you troll a bait, you want to bury your hook in the body of the bait. Not because the predator will see it , but to reduce your chances of picking up weeds. You want to scrape off all the **SCALES** from both sides of your bait for about a half inch before and behind where the hook will come out when the predator strikes. WHY? This prevents a hard scale from sticking to the tip of your hook and preventing it from doing it's job and imbedding itself in the mouth of your fish! Think about that. I know you have found your own hooks with a scale on the tip of the point.

Another trick to help cutdown on the tedious task of clearing weeds from your lines is to put a soft plastic squid on your line ahead of your bait so it can be slid sown over the head of your bait, making it very streamlined and a lot less prone to weeding up.

Don't worry, they won't see it and THINK "something looks wrong" remember they don't think. All they see is a straggler trying to catch up with the school and it is easy prey to all predators!

This story is true, I was there and watched the rod being returned.

There were a bunch of us trolling for Salmon, when a guy came on the radio and said "If anyone catches a big salmon with a Pen H-113 on a Pen rod dangling from it mouth, that is MY fish and Rod & Reel."

Everyone gave him a bad time for losing his rod to a fish. After about 45 minutes someone came on the radio and asked if the guy that lost his Rod & Reel was still out there.

He was, and the second fisherman said "You can have your Rod & Reel back, but I am keeping that 44 pound King"!

That fish was swimming around still feeding with a lure hanging out of the corner of it's mouth, dragging a rod & reel and it struck another of the exact same lure, to be caught 45 minutes later. lesson? Not slow learners, but NON-Learners, fish are nowhere near as smart as people give them credit for!

Emergency Phone Numbers First for Any Emergency - 911

U.S. Coast Guard, Jacksonville Emergencies

904-564-7500 Press 1

U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center

1-800-424-8802

Jacksonville Sheriff's Marine Unit

904-630-2160

Florida Fish and Wildlife

1-888-404-3922

Sea Tow

1-800-473-2869

Tow Boat U.S.

1-800-391-4869



Now use that thing on top of your shoulders for more than a Hat Rack! Program the above numbers into your Cell Phone so you always have them!



Honestly we did not stage this photo! This was a total surprise and has become a prized photo in my collection!

Like I have posted in the past, "Parents don't take pictures of their kids playing X-Box " Take your kids FISHING!



Life Jackets,
Yeah, I know
you don't wear
one most of the
time, but
maybe you should
consider wearing
one at least while
the boat is
underway!



Gary Newman
INSURANCE
Family Owned & Operated

• **Boat**



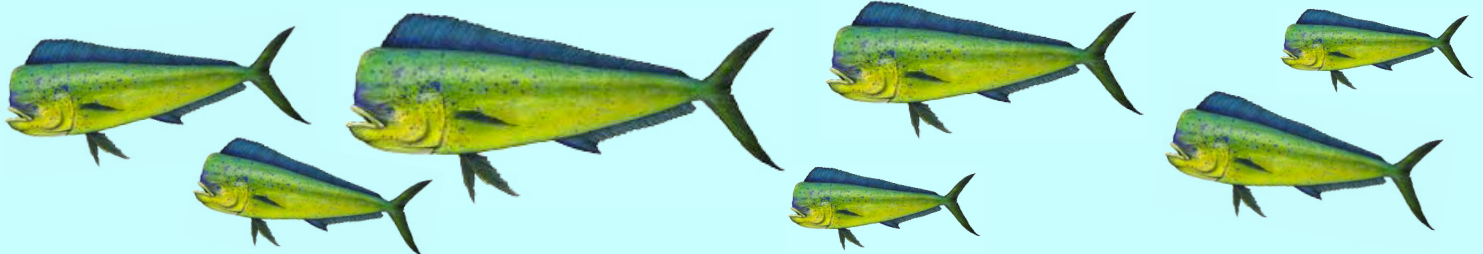
• **Auto**



• **Home**

67 E. Sailfish Dr. • Atlantic Beach, FL

241-0777





Now that is a lot of GOOD eating! Captain Steve Kalaitzis (A JOSFC Past Captain of the Year.) is holding a really nice 20.5 Pound Gag Grouper that he caught right here off of Jacksonville.

Economic Impacts of Recreational Sport Fishing Jacksonville Metropolitan Area

Background:

Sport fishing in Northeast Florida has a significant and frequently underestimated impact on the local economy. Duval County contains a unique expanse of both fresh and saltwater fishing environments. It is one of the few places in the United States where you have world class freshwater, estuary and ocean fishing environments in and around a major metropolitan area.

Jacksonville's notable status as a fishing destination is backed up by being the host city for America's largest Kingfish competition – The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament, and the JOSFC's El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament. The waters offshore the First Coast are home to the largest artificial reef program on the eastern seaboard. By some estimates, more than half of the inland saltmarsh on the Atlantic Coast is located in Northeast Florida and Southeast

Georgia. When it comes to fishing, Jacksonville is a “grand slam” city.

The findings that follow are based on Florida retail sales of recreational fishing licenses as reported by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission as well as the Commission's statewide assessment of economic impact.

Findings:

- FWC reports the current annual economic impact for Florida fishing as:

Classification	Dollars	Jobs
Saltwater	\$5,691,949,544	54,516
Freshwater	\$2,630,617,741	24,805
Total	\$8,322,567,285	79,321

Conclusions and Recommendations:

The Jacksonville metro economic impact of recreational fishing, at **OVER one half billion dollars annually**, is significant. To put this in perspective, the economic impact of sport fishing in the metro area is as large as the most optimistic estimates of the impact from Jacksonville's 2005 Super Bowl venture. **Jacksonville sport fishing is essentially an economic Super Bowl, every year! Year after year after year!**

Among the economic extenders related to sport fishing, but not quantified in the reported numbers, include the affect world class recreational fishing availability has on quality of life. We know people have come to Jacksonville and located a business here for the lifestyle and outdoor opportunities the area provides. This offers a “no cost” economic incentive to locate, or relocate a business here and should be a part of the economic development marketing appeals promoted by the city.

Government interest in the Jacksonville metro community should take a more proactive approach in supporting and facilitating the fishing community. While the City of Jacksonville has begun to move forward on new access for kayakers and boaters, these actions have not kept pace with growth.

Summary Recommendations:

Have the City of Jacksonville Legislative Affairs Chief actively solicit the reduction of restricted access zones in the St. Johns River as imposed by federal agencies.

- Relocate non-fishing/boating recreational interest from boat ramp facilities (where possible) to new city locations.
- Create a long term plan for boating, shoreline and fishing access in the Jacksonville area addressing population growth and economic development concerns.



This is the season for fishing for Wahoo, so I thought this would be a good time to give you this information.

Kingdom - Animalia

Phylum - Chordata

Class - Osteichthyes

Order - Perciformes

Family - Scombridae

Genus - Acanthocybium

Species - Solandri

Common Name - **Wahoo**

I will attempt to tell you everything that science and expert fishermen know about Wahoo except how to actually catch one.

Here are some facts to start with. The Wahoo is a member of the Family - Scombridae, which includes both the Mackerel and Tuna. World wide there is only one "Species" of Wahoo, they are the same fish no matter where you go. Fish tagged in the Gulf have been caught off the Carolina's.

They mature between 1 and 2 years of age, and live an average of 5 to 6 years. They grow quickly from fry 1" long to about 30" in the first year, then they grow at about 1.2" to 1.5" per month. Their max length is about 98" long with the average being 39" to 66".

They are one of the fastest fish in the ocean, with an estimated speed of 60 plus MPH!. (Remember this for later.)

The world rod & reel record, Caught off the Pacific coast of Mexico is 158 pounds 8 oz. The Florida record caught off Marathon in 1960 is 139 pounds.

Wahoo like warm water, with a lower avoidance temperature of 65 degrees F. And a preferred range of 68 to 80 degrees and an upper avoidance temperature of 88 degrees F.

Unlike that of most mackerels, wahoo flesh is white and delightfully flavored. It's still a good idea to remove the dark lateral line from the steaks.

Wahoo are far more structure-oriented than you may think, especially with regard to big fish. The rocky perimeter of the continental shelf off northeast Florida is a prime example. You will catch more fish staying on the ledge than on a good temperature break just a mile further out.

Here is a new finding, **depth of presentation is not necessarily the key to catching Wahoo**. Far more important, it seems, is speed. About 18 knots to be more specific. Use weights to keep the lures in the water, the fish will sense and see the lure coming and come up to it.

The best bite is at first light, right at daybreak when you can just barely see your lures in the water, until around 9 o'clock. Then it gets good again late in the day, around sunset. It's also good on an afternoon tide change.

Wahoo are rarely alone. They travel in packs along color changes and drop offs, no matter where you're fishing. If you catch a wahoo on a color change or weed line in 200 to 500 feet of water, circle back around and there's a good chance you'll catch another one.

Finally another great tactic is to shut off your engines and let the fish come to you. Use weights or downriggers to put live baits at 100 to 200 feet, and chum as you drift.

Try this Wahoo, Bananas & Dark Rum

Prep Time:: Less than 15 minutes

Cook Time: Less than 15 minutes

Cooking Method: Sauteed

Meal Type: Entree

Main Fish: Wahoo

Ingredients

* 6 wahoo fillets (about 6 oz. each)

* 1 tsp. salt

* 1/2 tsp. pepper

* 4 tbsp. flour

* 4 tbsp. unsalted butter (1/4 cup)

* 1/4 cup Black rum

* 3 large or 6 small bananas - sliced lengthwise

* 2 tbsp. minced parsley

* orange slices - halved

Directions

Mix the salt and pepper with the flour and dredge the fillets in the mixutre. Shake off excess. Melt the butter in a saute pan and just as it starts to foam, add the fish, cooking both sides until just cooked.

Removed from pan and keep warm. Add the remaining butter to the pan, then the bananas and saute for 2 minutes.

Add the dark rum and ignite. Flambe for 2 minutes or until the flames die down. Pour over the fish. Garnish with banana slices, parsley and halved orange slices.

Serve with boiled rice and steamed vegetables.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
February					1	2
3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7 Club Meeting & Chili Cook-Off	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Sheepshead Tune-Up Tournament
17	18	19	20	21 Club Meeting	22	23 Club Clean-Up for El Cheapo
24	25	26	27	28		



COMING

EVENTS:

February 4th - Board Meeting

February 7th - Club Meeting Chili Cook-Off

February 16th - Sheepshead Tune-Up Tournament

February 21st - Club Meeting

February 23rd - Club House & Grounds Clean-Up

March 8th - Set-Up & Captains Meeting El Cheapo

March 9th - El Cheapo Tournament

2019 Offshore Tournament Schedule

Date	Make-up Date
Sheepshead Tune-Up	Feb. 16th Feb. 23rd
Offshore Non-live	March 30th April 6th
Unlimited Trolling	April 27th May 4th
May Trolling	May 25th June 1st
Junior Angler	June 22nd
Kingfish Tune-Up	July 6th July 13th
Ladies Tourn.	August 3rd
Bottom Tourn.	Sept. 7th Sept. 14th

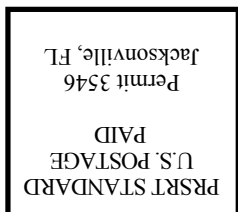
2019 Inshore Tournament Schedule

Date	Make-up Date
Sheepshead Tune-Up	Feb. 16th Feb. 23rd
Artificial Lures	March 30th April 6th
Trout only	April 27th May 4th
Roulette	May 25th June 1st
Junior Angler	June 22nd
Redfish	July 6th July 13th
Ladies Tourn.	August 3rd
Flounder	Sept. 7th Sept. 14th

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