



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

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 60 Issue 3

March 2020



The 2020 EL Cheapo is Here!



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Tom Ruggles



is ready for the 1st annual El Cheapo Kayak Tournament. Entries are continuing to flow in. And my dining room continues to fill up with box after box of stuff for the tournament. Now we all (especially my wife) just have to wait.

Anybody know what time it is?

It's EL CHEAPO time! We are only a couple of weeks away from the 20th Annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament. The prize boat is ready. The sponsors are plentiful. The really nice pedal kayak

With the move to March and the crazy winter we've been having it could end up being an 80 degree sunny day. Or 50, gloomy and drizzly if it's off by a day. Place your bets! The great news is that the recent warm weather seems to have helped all of our favorite bait shops stock back up on fiddlers. If you want to buy yours early so you don't miss out but do not know about fiddler care and feeding just ask on Dock Talk for some tips. A bunch of us are good at keeping them alive for many weeks. I had some for a month a few years back.

For those who are new to the club, and those who aren't so new to the club alike, we have all kinds of great opportunities to offer. There is a whole lot to do throughout the tournament weekend and we could use lots of help. **How can you help you ask?**

Thursday 3/5 - Buckets! At the regularly scheduled club meeting we will be stuffing

captains' buckets. This is really something to see as we end up filling and stacking about 400 buckets in record time. It's easy work and kind of fun to see this people machine in action. If you haven't seen this you really should.

Friday 3/6 - We will start setting up the site for the tournament. The tents will be delivered and set up for us but we get to do the rest. We will be setting up the main tent for the Captains' Meeting with chairs, PA, raffle table and lights. We will be adding lights to the Hell's Kitchen tent. We will be setting up the El Cheapo Boutiquo. And we will be setting up the clubhouse for registration. There is lots to do throughout the day, often including running errands to pick up things from sponsors and local businesses. And then registration happens!

Saturday 3/7 - The tournament! While the tournament is underway we will be getting Hell's Kitchen ready. We will be continuing to sell merchandise at the Boutiquo. We will be setting up the awards and the always impressive giant raffle table for after the awards. We will start weighing, cutting and cooking the best sheephead that you will have. And, once the lights go down, we will be breaking down the site.

We will be making it very clear what needs to be done so that we can get more hands involved and lighten the load for everybody. No prior experience? No problemo. None of the jobs are particularly difficult and we are more than happy to teach you everything you need to know.

Let's all "Make El Cheapo Great Again."



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Please Note



We have a new address to Snail Mail the Club! It is on the last page.

Our Local fish and the 2020 size and Bag limits

2020 Fishing Rules

Species	Bag Limit	Size limit	Season
African Pompano	2 / Day	24" Fork Length	Open Year Round
B-Liners	5 / Day	12" Total Length NOT included in the 10 Fish Snapper Aggregate Limit	Open Year Round
Banded Rudderfish	5 / Day	Slot Limit 14" to 22" That is 5 per person in the Aggregate of the Lesser Amberjack and Banded Rudderfish	Open Year Round
Baracuda	2/day	Or 100 Pounds, No minimum Size	Open Year Round
Black Drum	5 / Day	Slot Limit 14" to 24" - including 1 OVER 24"	Open Year Round
Black Grouper	1 / Day	24" Total Length Included Within the 3 Grouper Aggregate Only 1 can be a Gag OR a Black Grouper	State Closed January 1 through April 30 Federal CLOSED February 1 through March 31 Seaward of 20 Fathoms
Black Seabass	7 / Day	13" Total Length	Open Year Round
Blackfin Tuna	2 / Day	No Minimum Size	Open Year Round
Blue Marlin	1 / Day	99" All Landed Fish MUST be reported to NOAA within 24 Hours 1800-894-5528 HVS Permit required	Open Year Round
Bluefish	10 / Day	12" Fork Length	Open Year Round
Cobia	1 / Day	33" Fork Length	Open Year Round
Cubero Snapper	10 / Day	12" Total Length 10 / Day UNDER 50" 2 per Harvester or Vessel OVER 50" that are NOT within the 10 fish Aggregate	Open Year Round
Dolphin (Mahi Mahi) (Dorado)	10 / Day	20" Fork Length	Open Year Round
Flounder	10 / Day	12" Total Length	Open Year Round
Gag Grouper	1 / Day	24" Total Length Included Within the 3 Grouper Aggregate Only 1 can be a Gag OR a Black Grouper	State Closed January 1 through April 30 Federal CLOSED February 1 through March 31 Seaward of 20 Fathoms
Gray Triggerfish	10 / Day	12" Fork Length	Open Year Round
Greater Amberjack	1 / Day	28" Fork Length	Open Year Round
Hogfish	1 / Day	16" Fork Length	Open May 1 through October 31
King Mackerel (Kingfish)	2 / Day	24" Fork Length	Open Year Round
Lane Snapper	10 / Day	8" Total Length, Included in the 10 Fish Snapper Aggregate Limit	Open Year Round
Lesser Amberjack	5 / Day	Slot Limit 14" to 22" That is 5 per person in the Aggregate of the Lesser Amberjack and Banded Rudderfish	Open Year Round
Mangrove Snapper	5 / Day	10" in Florida Waters, 12" in Federal Waters Included in the 10 Fish Snapper Aggregate Limit	Open Year Round
Mutton Snapper	5 / Day	16" Total Length, Included in the 10 Fish Snapper Aggregate Limit	Open Year Round
Pompano	6 / Day	11" Fork Length	Open Year Round
Red Drum	2 / Day	Slot Limit 18" to 27" - In FLORIDA Waters ONLY - Closed beyond 3 miles	Open Year Round
Red Grouper	3 / Day	20" Total Length Included Within the 3 Grouper Aggregate	State Open Year Round Federal CLOSED February 1 through March 31 Seaward of 20 Fathoms
Red Porgy	3 / Day	14" Total Length	Open Year Round
Red Snapper	2 / Day	20" Total Length In Florida Waters ONLY Closed beyond 3 miles.	State Closed January 1 through April 30
Seafile	1 / Day		Open Year Round
Selfish	1 / Day	63" All Landed Fish MUST be reported to NOAA within 24 Hours 1800-894-5528 HMS Permit required	Open Year Round
Scamp Grouper	3 / Day	20" Total Length Included Within the 3 Grouper Aggregate	State Closed January 1 through April 30 Federal CLOSED February 1 through March 31 Seaward of 20 Fathoms
Sheepshead	8 / Day	12" Total Length	Open Year Round
Snowy Grouper	1 / Day	None Included Within the 3 Grouper Aggregate	Open Year Round
Spadefish	100 Pounds	None	Open Year Round
Spanish Mackerel	15 / Day	12" Fork Length	Open Year Round
Spotted Seatrout	5 / Day	Slot Limit 15" to 19" May possess 1 over 19" / Vessel	Open Year Round
Swordfish	1 / Day	47" All Landed Fish MUST be reported to NOAA within 24 Hours 1800-894-5528 HMS Permit required	Open May 1 through October 31
Tarpon	0	Catch & Release ONLY 40" over must remain in Water. Must have Tarpon Tag to harvest if in pursuit of record.	Open Year Round
Tripletail	2 / Day	18"	Open Year Round
Wahoo	2 / Day	No Minimum Size.	Open Year Round
Weakfish	None	100 Pounds / Person Special Management Zone Nassau County - 1 / Day 12" Total Length	Open Year Round
White Marlin	1 / Day	66" All Landed Fish MUST be reported to NOAA within 24 Hours 1800-894-5528 HMS Permit required	Open Year Round
		Measured as total length. Total length is the straight line distance from the most forward part of the head with the mouth closed to the farthest tip of the tail with the tail compressed or squeezed together while the fish is lying on its side.	
		Snapper Aggregate Bag Limit - Within state waters of the Atlantic and Gulf, all species of snapper are included in a 10 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of snapper species, unless stated otherwise.	
		Atlantic Grouper Aggregate Bag Limit - all species of grouper plus golden tilefish in the Atlantic are included in a 3 fish per harvester per day aggregate bag limit in any combination of grouper/golden tilefish species. NOTE - Only 1 can be a Gag OR a Black Grouper, you may NOT have 1 of each.	





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The cost is \$25.00 cash or personal check for training materials, which are yours to keep. Two students can share course materials for a total cost of \$30.00.

March 28, 2020:

Palm Valley Community Center

148 Canal Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

May 9, 2020:

Sea School

14180 Beach Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32250

September 12, 2020:

Palm Valley Community Center

148 Canal Blvd., Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Note: Classes are 8 hours – 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

We suggest bringing your own Refreshments and Lunch
Locations subject to change

For information and enrollment please contact:
Bill Hurlburt

boatsafely04@outlook.com; 904-200-9409

SHEEPSHEAD RECORDS

EL CHEAPO SHEEPSHEAD TOURNAMENT RECORD:



14# 3oz, 3/4/17, Chris Beasley,
Mayport, FL



FLORIDA STATE RECORD:

15# 2oz, 1/29/81, Eugene Lechler,
Homosassa Springs, FL



WORLD RECORD:

21# 4oz, 4/92, Wayne Deselle,
Bayou St. John, Louisiana



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



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.

Gary Newman

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Maybe you
should consider
wearing one at
least while the
boat is
underway!



Think about this!

As safety is always FIRST & FOREMOST on our minds, Here are some things that I know a lot of boaters don't actually remember to think about. (Not JOSFC members, but the "Other Guy.")

Your FLOAT PLAN You did remember to fill one out and leave it on the dash of your tow vehicle, didn't you? Here is a link to a good Float Plan you can print out and use. <https://jaxfish.com/fishing-info/fishing-links/> Or you can go to jaxfish.com, over to the "FISHING INFO" tab and down to "LINKS" and you will find the Float Plan.

You do have a DITCH BAG, and have it on deck, not buried in the cabin don't you?

Now this one I know you did. You gave your crew a safety "Tour" or talk of where the first aid box was, how to operate your radio, GPS and Etrib and the boat if you are incapacitated.

Did you remind your crew prior to going out that you would like them to wear shoes? Almost everything out there has very sharp teeth, and if they step on a HOOK while barefoot, that can ruin a whole fishing trip!

Oh, in your Safety tour did you remind everyone to ALWAYS put the "Bait Knife" in the holder with the sharp edge against the boat so, not if, but when, someone slips on the slippery wet deck because the boat is rocking, they don't put out their hand and slice it up for bait!

You did assign everyone a Life Jacket? Do you require that they wear it while the boat is underway? While on that subject, did you tell everyone the MOB procedure? (Man Over Board) You know, one person keeps an eye on the person in the water and points at them until you are back to them to pull them into the boat.

Here is a hint, as you don't want to run over them, you circle down wind / current of them, then come up to them slowly, but not so close you run over them. Have a

rope with a throwable PFD attached so when you get abreast of them you can toss it to them and shut off your engine and then pull them to the boat and then get them aboard. (Got a couple towels and a couple of the Mylar Space Blankets to help dry and warm them up?

Talking about going overboard, our waters are still in the 50's and low 60's so here is again something to think about.

Hypothermia

The Fatal Scenario

When your body's core Temperature reaches:

96 Degrees Fahrenheit - Violent shivering begins.

95 Degrees Fahrenheit - Rational thought stops.

93.2 Degrees Fahrenheit - Consciousness becomes clouded.

92 Degrees Fahrenheit - Memory loss, hallucinating begins.

91.4 Degrees Fahrenheit - Shivering stops.

90 Degrees Fahrenheit - You become unconscious.

86 Degrees Fahrenheit - Death results from heart failure.

86 Degrees Fahrenheit is the ambient temperature of a fairly hot summer day. Our water off Jacksonville is rarely that warm!



















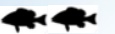
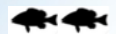




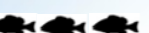




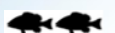


It doesn't have to be freezing out to kill you!

Water Temp. / Exhaustion or Unconsciousness / Survival Time

0° to 32° -	Under 15 Minutes -	15 to 45 Minutes
33° to 40° -	15 to 30 Minutes -	30 to 90 Minutes
41° to 50° -	30 to 60 Minutes -	1 to 3 Hours
51° to 60° -	1 to 2 Hours -	1 to 6 Hours
61° to 70° -	2 to 7 Hours -	2 to 36 Hours
71° to 80° -	3 to 12 Hours -	Indefinite
81° + -	Indefinite -	Indefinite

Yes, you don't have to be in Alaska to get hypothermia, even here in Florida you can DIE from Hypothermia! Fall in 65° F water, have a 10 MPH breeze blowing and not have away to get warm . . .



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1 	2 Board Meeting 	3 	4 	5 Club Meeting 	6 El Cheapo Setup and Captains Meeting 	7 The El Cheapo 
8 	9 	10 	11 	12 	13 	14 
15 	16 	17 	18 	19 Club Meeting 	20 	21 Club Tournaments Non-Live & River 
22 	23 	24 	25 	26 	27 	28 
29 	30 	31 		March		



COMING

EVENTS:

March 2nd - Board Meeting

March 5th - Captains Bag / Bucket Stuffing

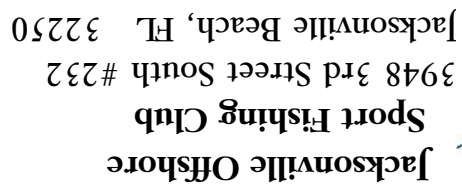
March 6th - El Cheapo Setup and Captains Meeting

March 7th 2020 El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament

March 21st - Club Tournaments Offshore -Non-Live
Inshore - River

Club Annual Banquet - October 17, 2020

Month - Offshore -	Inshore -	Date - Weather	Date
Mar. - Non-Live -	River	- 3/21/20 - 3/28/20	
April - Unlimited Trolling -	Shrimp Only	- 4/11/20 - 4/18/20	
May - May Trolling -	Trout	- 5/9/20 - 5/16/20	
June - Junior Ang. -	Junior Ang.	- 6/6/20 - 6/13/20	
July - Kingfish Tune-up -	Roulette	- 7/11/20 - 7/25/20	
Aug. - Ladies -	Ladies	- 8/15/20 - 8/22/20	
Sept. - Bottom -	Flounder	- 9/12/20 - 9/19/20	



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