



The 2021 EL Cheapo almost is Here!

The 21st annual El Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament will be held on March 6th, 2021.

We have some great sponsors that have stepped up again for this year, in spite of the COVID problems, 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!!!

The Jacksonville Offshore Sports Fishing Club (JOSFC) welcomes you to the 21st Annual EL Cheapo Sheepshead Tournament. No doubt that 2020 was a tough year and all of us faced many unique challenges. At the Tournament, we have had our challenges as well, just like many of you. One of our challenges was filling gaps in our prize structure. I am proud of the assistance and great strides the JOSFC made in bringing forth new sponsors to such a wonderful tournament. I



PRESIDENTS CAST NET CAPTAIN

Robert Vermillion

Well we made through January, we have the biggest fundraiser of the year and the biggest Sheepshead Tournament in the world coming up in a month! The EL Cheapo has 300 plus boats registered each year. Rob Darner has been doing a great job for the club and things are moving in the right direction.

Please watch your emails for volunteer spots we cannot do it without you. The tournament will be a little different this year

with Covid still around, we will have food trucks instead of hells kitchen. This years CAPT. Meeting will be a pickup only. We are going to need help with set up on Friday March 5th and tear down on Sunday March 7th. Club clean up is going to be on February 27th at 8:00 am so bring some tools and your strong back. It should not take long if we all chip in.

The chili Cook-Off will be on February 4th bring out your best pot of chili and see how it stack up.

On the fishing front, we have our 1st tournament for CAPT. Of THE YEAR coming up, the Sheepshead Tune-Up. It will be on February 6th with the cold snaps we have been having it should get the sheep's fired up. So, make sure you sign up. I would like to see more boats sign up this year, for our tournaments they are fun and we would like to see all our members participate so get out there and get involved, we are working on speakers for all the meeting with covid it has been a challenge.

If you can get out to the deep-water Cobia should be on the reefs and wrecks around 80 to 100 feet. There's been good reports of wahoo at the ledge, Seabass should be getting big enough to keep and eat.

On the inshore side, big Trout and Reds are around the Oyster bars and holes, work your bait slow, the waters are cold and the fish are moving slow.

Make sure you show up for the club meeting the board has been working hard to bring you good meetings and big raffles and good food. If you have any suggestions on speakers, you would like us to bring in let us know. we are working hard to make the club better, but we cannot do it without you. Thanks for everyone's help this is your club. So, make the best of it.
Tight lines
CAPT. Rob



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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, even if you are high speed trolling, you want your boat 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."

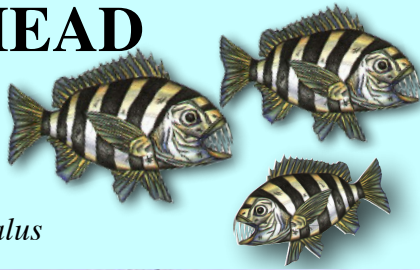
Everyone gave him a bad time for losing his rod to a fish. After about 45 minutes someone came on the radio and asked if the guy that lost his Rod & Reel was still out there.

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!

SHEEPSHEAD

Order: Perciformes
Family: Sparidae
Genus: *Archosargus*
Species: *probatocephalus*



This is your target for the month of February, the Sheephead, 7 Striped Jetty Snapper, or as I like to call them DINNER!

Although it reaches a maximum size of about 29.5 inches (76 cm) and 22 pounds (9.6 kg), adult sheephead are most commonly about 1-8 pounds (.5-3.6 kg) and 14-18 inches (35 cm). Maximum known lifespan of the sheephead is at least 20 years with maturity typically reached at 2 years of age.

This fish is highly valued for human consumption due to its fine white flesh and mild flavor. However, its heavy scales and strong fin spines make it difficult to clean and fillet. It is marketed fresh and frozen and may be prepared by frying, broiling, microwaving, and baking.

Primarily occurring inshore around rock pilings, jetties, mangrove roots, and piers as well as in tidal creeks, the sheephead prefers brackish waters. It seeks out warmer spots near spring outlets and river discharges and sometimes enters freshwater during the winter months. This fish moves to offshore areas in later winter and early spring for spawning, which sometimes occurs over artificial reefs and navigation markers.

Sheephead average about three pounds but can get over ten, and are terrific fighters who like to run anglers' lines around the pilings where they are most often caught. Their bite is very hard to detect and they

are a difficult fish to hook if you don't know what you are doing.

Sheephead are tied to hard structure such as bridges, jetties, docks, and piers. They use their sharp teeth to scrap barnacles from this structure and gobble up and break the shells of barnacles, mussels, and crabs. They do not travel in schools but orientate themselves around a food source and become very territorial, often staying in an area until the food supply is used up.

Catching sheephead is not easy. They are not often caught incidentally by bottom fishermen but are hooked and fought by local anglers in many states who target them. A strong rod and heavier than usual line, around 20 lb test, is recommended as when hooked sheephead quickly try to run the line around those pilings. It is important to put strong pressure on the fish to bring them away from the hang-ups.

Sheephead are caught on unusual saltwater baits and rarely take usual ones such as cut shrimp, squid or cut fish. Instead they hit fiddler crabs, pieces of larger crabs such as cut blue crab, sand fleas (also called mole crabs) or even barnacles scrapped from a piling and held together by their own sticky mesh or rubber bands.

- Despite their brute strength Sheephead have a bite that it is so soft it is often impossible to detect. ***The old saying among sheephead fishermen is that you must set the hook just before a sheephead bites!*** It's not that difficult, but almost. One trick is to watch the rod tip, which will have a slight dip from the weight of your sinker. When a sheephead bite the dip will disappear as the tip rises. Even if you feel nothing, set the hook.

Sheephead anglers don't stay in one place but move from piling to piling. Sometimes they can be seen in clear water rising up and slowly working on the barnacles and mussels of the pilings.

Sheephead have protruding lips that give the fish its name. They also have a white body and big, black bold stripes. They are sometimes confused with black drum, another inshore structure fish that covers the same areas but is easier to catch.

Sheephead are a hearty, tasty fish that yield delicious white meat fillets which fit into many seafood recipes. Sheephead fillets are also very good simply breaded and fried.

El Cheapo Welcome Continued

would like to thank Fishing Nosara, Hagan Coastal Outfitters, Mousa Auto & Marine along with 121 Financial plus some of our long-term sponsors like Styles Smith Plumbing, B&M Bait & Tackle, Browns Creek and Solomons RV Storage. It is their support that makes what we do for you possible. Please take time to visit these fine folks and let them know you appreciate their support of the best sheepshead tournament around. We have the prize structure now listed on the website: www.elcheapojax.com. Take a minute to visit the site and look for yourself.

As a result of meeting today's challenges, we have submitted our Covid plan to the City for review and approval. Updates will be posted on our website and media pages when they become available. We at the JOSFC believe in the challenges of Covid and will do everything we can to run a safe and fun tournament for each one of you. As Covid lingers, we are holding our tournament to bring back some normalcy in our daily lives. You deserve it! We invite you to come out with us safely and have a great time catching sheepshead like we have done over the past 20 years. Can you believe it, 20 years? I am looking forward to seeing each and everyone of you on March 6, 2021.

Best Wishes for Catching that Tournament Winner,
Rob Darner
Tournament Director.

Gary Newman
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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!



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



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
	1 Board Meeting 	2 	3  	4 Club Meeting. Chili Cook Off  	5   	6 Inshore & Offshore the Sheepshead Tune-Up  
7  	8  	9  	10   	11   	12    	13   
14  	15  	16  	17  	18 Club Meeting. Capt. Bag stuffing  	19  	20  
21  	22  	23  	24  	25  	26   	27 The Club clean-up and repair work day    
28   	   					
February						

 The more little fish the better the fishing day - From Sol-Lunar Tables 



Coming Events

Feb. 1st - Board Meeting

Feb. 4th - Club Meeting - Annual Chili Cook-Off

Feb. 6th - The Sheepshead Tune-Up Tournament

Feb. 18th - Club Meeting & El Cheapo Capt. Bag Stuffing

Feb. 27th - Club Repair & Clean-Up Saturday

March 6th - The EL CHEAPO TOURNAMENT



2021 Offshore Tournament Schedule

2021 Inshore Tournament Schedule

Date	Make-up Date
Sheepshead Tune-Up Feb 6th	Feb 20th
Offshore Non-live March 20th	March 27th
Unlimited Trolling April 10th	April 24th
May Trolling May 15th	May 22nd
Junior Angler June 19th	June 26th
Kingfish Tune-Up July 10th	July 24th
Ladies Tourn. August 7th	August 14th
Bottom Tourn. Sept. 4th	Sept. 11th

Date	Make-up
Sheepshead Tune-Up Feb 6th	Feb 20th
River March 20th	March 27th
Shrimp only April 10th	April 24th
Redfish May 15th	May 22nd
Junior Angler June 19th	June 26th
Roulette July 10th	July 24th
Ladies Tourn. August 7th	August 14th
Flounder Sept. 4th	Sept. 11th

JOSFC SPONSORS

Listed in alphabetical order.

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