



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 61 Issue 7

July 2021



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Rob Vermillion

Looking back at June, we had the Past Presidents party, lots of good food and stories. One thing I got out of it is the passion all the past Presidents have for the club, and the fishing community and the East Coast fishery.

As President, I would like to put together a committee for Reef development. Our reefs are old and breaking down and when the reefs are gone so are the fish. With all the added pressure we have put on the reefs of North Florida, it's time to get involved, I will be looking for some Members and nonmembers to start this process in the coming months. I would like to thank Dennis Young for making us all aware of this potential problem we are going to face in the near future.

In July we have a meeting on the 1st. We will be doing a Kingfish workshop

REMEMBER WE HAVE MEMBERS LOOKING FOR A RIDE!!!

When you are going out and have room for one more, or need crew to help pay for gas, we have several members that do not have boats, and are always looking for someone to take their gas money!

Just either give me a call, text or E-mail
breenw@bellsouth.net
904-254-2791

Or post it on the club's Dock Talk page. We will get you that extra person to fill out your crew!

Who knows, you just may find a new great friend!

on rigging bait prep and trolling. There will not be a meeting on July 15th. the Greater Jax kingfish tournament will be held that week, The 12th through the 16th.

NOAA has allowed us to have a Red Snapper Season for a Grand total of three days, the 9th 10th and 11th, so we will be moving the kingfish tune up and the roulette inshore tournament to the make up day the 24th. I would like to see more

Remember to shop at our sponsors and support them as often as you can.

Also remember to pull out your JOSFC Membership card and ask if they give a club discount! They don't all do it, but it lets them know we are supporting them as a Club!

It is also not to late for them to be an El Cheapo sponsor, just have them contact Bill Pollackov at 904-923-9153 or elcheapotournamentdirector@jaxfish.com

NOTHING MAKES A FISH BIGGER THAN ALMOST BEING CAUGHT.



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Summer is here and I know you are headed out on your boat. Here are some tips to make it a save and enjoyable day on the water.

Making sure your boat and trailer are ready to go is a year-round process. Always pay attention and try to stay ahead of any problems.

Make yourself a checklist and check it twice. Here is an example of some things to add to your list that may be overlooked and if you think of more go to our Facebook page and comment on our post.

Grease trailer bearings.

Are the trailer lights working?

Are your Jackets in good condition and do you have enough?

Working horn or whistles?

Flares up to date?

Fire extinguisher charged?

PLB or EPIRB or satellite messenger test and battery life good?

Life raft serviced and up to date?

VHF Radios working?

Run in lights working?

Is windlass operational?

Anchor attached properly?

Registration up to date?

Throwable floatation in good condition?

Swap out fuel filters or fuel water separators.

Check the battery voltage.

Look for oil or fluid leaks.

Are fluid levels good?

Do bilge pumps work?

Look at props for damage.

Do you have a towing membership or coverage and is it up to date?

It's also a good idea if you let your boat sit up over the winter to put 10-15 hours on it in the river before you head out of the inlet. Try to Work out any kinks or bugs close to home.

-Captain Lee Bowman



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 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

Ribbon Fish Continued

baits. After 8 to 12 hours of brining, remove and freeze.

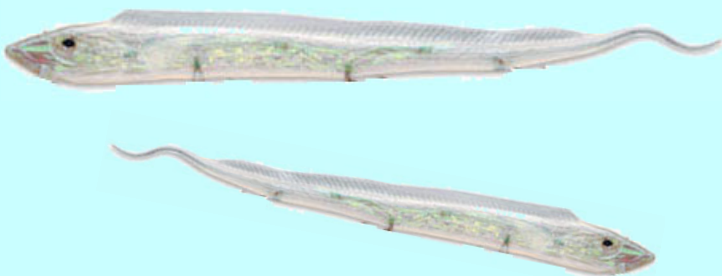
Plastic food storage sleeves closed with a vacuum sealer will keep ribbonfish in good freezer condition. Depending on the size of your ribbonfish, freezing multiple baits in the same sleeve works fine as long as baits lie flat with at least 1/4-inch of surrounding space. Lacking this option, double wrap 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, 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.



How to FISH with a Ribbonfish

For the best results!

Now that you went out and bought some Ribbonfish (You really should have read the previous article, Cheaper & Fun.) here is the best way to use them.

First you want to have some live Pogey's to put out. You want to put them on your OUTSIDE lines and back about 15 yards behind your boat, just at the surface. (Remember your boat is a disturbance in the water that the Kingfish see as a feeding frenzy.)

Now on your down rigger or a deep plainer, put out a Ribbonfish on the inside line. Put it down about 15 feet deep, and let out enough line to have it "Swimming" about 10 yards below and behind the Pogey's.

Those 2 or 3 little Pogey's can sense the Ribbonfish swimming just below and behind them, and they get VERY nervous and swim like they are trying to escape a predator.

That nervous swimming my friends also attracts the Kingfish and can generate a strike! The Kingfish are a predator and hate competition so they will throw caution to the wind to grab a Pogey before the Ribbonfish can get to it or they will go for the Ribbonfish which is also called Kingfish Candy. Either way, you will have Kingfish on your line to try to bring to boat side!

Fish Weight Formula:

This weight formula will give you the approximate weight of your catch if it is too big for your hand scale.

Girth in inches Squared, Times Length in inches
Divided by 800 = Weight in Pounds.

$G^2 \times L \div 800 = \text{Weight in Lbs}$

How about this . . .

Wear one of these or
DROWN!

At least while
underway!



Cast Net Continued

involvement in the Tournaments. It has been a challenge getting them in due to weather.

On the fishing fronts, Offshore Dolphin have been hard to find but the kingfish are starting to show up. There's bait on the beach, so the summer fishing should be good, Make sure you stay hydrated and keep the sunscreen on.

Inshore there's been a lot of Flounder around the docks and creeks, Redfish in the creeks and Drum at the rocks. Find a small creek and fish the outgoing tide.

We would like to recognize Greg Wallace for rescuing a paddle boarder at the mouth of the jetty that was caught in a storm at the Red Tops and washed all the way up to the jetty.

Tight Lines and Be Safe.

CAPT. Robert Vermillion

Summer is here! It's Fishing time!

As the title says, Summer is here, and more of us are catching fish. (At least I hope you are!) What do you do when you catch fish? You cook them and eat them! Here are some helpful tips to make your fish taste even better.

Thaw fish and shellfish in milk. The milk draws out the frozen taste and provides a fresh caught flavor.

Take the Fish out of the Refrigerator 30 minutes before cooking to allow to warm to room temperature. It cooks more evenly through out the entire fillet.

Try soaking fish in 1 cup vinegar / 3 cups water for 15 minutes before cooking for a sweet tender taste.

Microwave limes for 40 seconds before squeezing, you'll get twice the amount of juice.

Add 1 tablespoon of vinegar to the fat in which you are going to deep fry. It will keep the food from absorbing to much fat and eliminate the greasy taste.



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

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KING MACKEREL

Order - Perciformes

Family - Scombridae

Genus - *Scomberomorus*

Species - *cavalla*

Also known as King Mackerel, or just KINGS. If you are really technical, they are also known to the scientific community as *Scomberomorus Cavalla*.

They are what the month of July is all about as far as fishing off Jacksonville is concerned. The club has it's Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament on July 8th, and then from July 16th through the 21st is the 32th Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament!

Kings are a true member of the Tuna family (As are Wahoo for those of you who like to show off or make bets.) They are a Western Atlantic species, found from Brazil north to North Carolina. They prefer water temperatures from a low of 65° F to the highest of 88° F with their preferred range being from 68° F to 76° F. If you really want to tip the scales in your favor, carry a salinity tester and look for water in the 32 to 36 ppt. range. They can be found and caught from the breakers to well off shore.

Kings are constantly feeding predators that feed on any or all available food. Ribbon fish are like candy to them, but they also like Jacks, Sea Trout, Pogies, Thread Herring, Spanish Mackerel, Ballyhoo, Mullet, Sardine like fish, Cigar Minnows, Herring and Squid. and just about anything else that is smaller than they are.

Kingfish are a schooling and migrating fish and they spend the winter in south Florida then move north in the Spring and Summer.

They Spawn during Mid-Summer north of Miami in the Atlantic, and the Gulf of Mexico. The Gulf and Atlantic populations are considered to be separate, even thou they mix in the winter months.

The Kingfish is a streamlined fish, built for speed. It's two dorsal fins can fold back into a groove along it's back to reduce drag, and it has short pectoral fins and rows of small finlets from the dorsal and anal fins back to the big narrow tail.

The business end of these fish is truly dangerous! The entire mouth, both upper and lower jaws are nothing but teeth, razor sharp triangular teeth that can and will cut anything that comes in contact with them. (Don't wear Flip-Flops while kicking one into the fish box.)

Good luck and tight lines to all in the

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!

I know that some of you, like me have C.R.S. (Can't Remember S - - t) and sometimes forget little things like to PUT the PLUG in the boat. SO Here are some safety reminders.

Remember that the USCG does stop us and checks for required equipment like FLAIRS! Are yours expired?

What about your Fire Extinguisher, is it good? Did you get smart and buy that extra 5 Lb ABC extinguisher? They are cheap and worth it if you have a fire!

Did you leave a FLOAT PLAN with someone or on your tow vehicle dash? Just go to:

<https://jaxfish.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/JOSFC-Courtsey-Float-Plan.pdf>










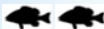







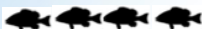




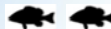
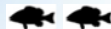
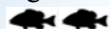

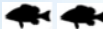
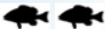
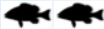



Down load the .pdf, fill out the information that does NOT change and then make several copies of it. Now all you have to do is fill in the information for that day's trip!


I bet that MOST of you do NOT give your passengers or crew a Safety "Tour" or briefing before you take off fishing!

Make sure everyone has a life jacket and wears it while underway. Be sure someone knows how to run your boat, where the first aid kit is, how to operate the VHF, the "Man Overboard" procedure, assign someone to make sure the "Ditch Bag" goes over with everyone if you sink.

Here is a new one for this year, the "Kill Switch Law" operator MUST wear the Kill Switch lanyard. Make sure that the crew knows how to reattach it and that if they are operating the boat they must wear it!

Watch the HEAT, Stay hydrated and use Sun Screen!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	<h1>July</h1>				1 Club Meeting 	2 
3 	4 Independence Day 	5 	6 	7 Down on the Dock Event 	8 	9 
10 	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 	16 
17 	18 	19 	20 	21 	22 	23 King Buster Tournament 
24 Club Tournaments Kingfish / Roulette AND Kingbuster 	25 King Buster Tournament 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 
31 						

The more  the better the fishing day - From the Moon / Tide/ tables.



**COMING
EVENTS:**

- July 1st - Club Meeting.
- July 7th - Down on the Dock Event.
- July 12th - through 16th - Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament.
- July 23rd - through 25th - The King Buster Tournament
- July 24th - Club Tournaments OS= Kingfish, IS= Roulette (King Buster Weigh slips accepted for Club Tournament.)

Club Annual Banquet - Tentative date October 16,



2021 Offshore Tournament Schedule

	Date	Make-up Date
Kingfish Tune-Up	July 10th	July 24th
Ladies Tourn.	August 7th	August 14th
Bottom Tourn.	Sept.4th	Sept. 11th

2021 Inshore Tournament Schedule

	Date	Make-up
Roulette	July 10th	July 24th
Ladies Tourn.	August 7th	August 14th
Flounder	Sept. 4th	Sept. 11th

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Listed in alphabetical order.

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