



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 62 Issue 7

July 2022



PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Capt. Robert Vermillion

June is almost over, we just finished having our annual junior angler tournament this month. With fair winds I hope we got the kids on the boat for a day of fishing.

We have the past presidents party coming up. A little late but we want to be in the new club house for it. And the "Down on the Dock" fishing tournament. Make sure you volunteer for upcoming events.

Mayan and Mark started the membership drive this month at the Mayport boat ramp, we are looking for some help in the afternoons to talk up the club and get some new members.

In July we will be having the Kingfish tune up. Just in time for the Greater Jax kingfish Tournament. We will not be having a meeting in July due to the

Continued page 2

July is the month of the Scomberomorus Cavalla AKA - KINGFISH

We just had the Kingbuster, and now we are looking at the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament. For the JOSFC our Offshore Captains are fishing the Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament, (Sorry Inshore Captains, no Kingfish for you, you are fishing the Roulette Tournament.)

I am going to TRY to give you some good information to up your odds of catching a winner, but you know you just have to have good luck and be in the right place at the right time!

First you do not have to have a big boat and run long distances to catch a winning fish. I believe it was 2004 a Granddad took his 11 & 12 year old grandkids out in his 16' boat, anchored up just outside the breakers just south of the Jax Beach Pier and caught the winning fish in the GJKT. So luck does play a good part of fishing!

You should remember that a Kingfish is a PREDATOR Fish. In July they will be everywhere that BAIT PODS are, and one of their main staples are POGIES. You will find POGIES along the beach and in the waters out to about 40' in depth.

Again, to a PREDATOR any disturbance in the water is a FEEDING FRENZY, and they want to get there to get in on the feast!

Tilt your engine up so that the prop is almost breaking the surface and it is splashing

Continued page 3



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!



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Presidents Cast Net Continued

AC being broken at the Fort Caroline club, so we will see everyone at the August meeting, in the new club house. Make sure you keep an eye out for emails for things we need help with.

On the Fishing Fronts

Offshore

We still have Dolphin being caught in the blue water and Kingfish closer in just look for bait and you will find the fish. Bottom fishing has been strong with B-Liners, Triggers, Red Snapper and Grouper.

Inshore

Tarpon in the river, rocks, and beach. Red Fish Trout, and Flounder in the creeks. go early or late before it gets too hot, and the bite shuts down.

That's it for now tight lines

Capt. Rob Vermillion

Your FLOAT PLAN

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

Don't leave the dock without it! Just click on the above link, download the Float Plan, fill out all your information that **DOES NOT CHANGE**, and make several copies.

Now all you have to do is take a copy, fill in the blanks for your current trip, and leave it on the dash of your tow vehicle!

**ALL THE DOCKING LESSONS YOU WILL EVER NEED .
NEVER APPROACH THE DOCK ANY FASTER THAN
YOU WANT TO RAM THE DOCK.**

KINGFISH Continued

Drag a "Teaser bird" in your wake about 10' or 15' behind the boat. Do anything to make a bigger disturbance.

Hang a Chum bag off your transom with just the bottom $\frac{1}{4}$ of it touching the water. As you troll along it will leave a trail of sent, and small fish pieces giving the impression that the big feeding frenzy is just ahead.

If you have a downrigger, run one with a Ribbon Fish. Put it down about 25 feet, and set it so that the Ribbon Fish is below and about 15 feet BEHIND your Pogies that are live and on top. The Pogies will be aware of the Ribbon Fish, and act very nervous and be darting back and forth drawing attention to themselves.

Run your Pogies just outside the white water of your wake, about the 3rd wave back. This way they can be easily seen and appear to be trying to catch back up to their school. Easy Prey! You can run a Pogy rig farther back in the center just where the water is starting to clear up.

Ribbonfish - AKA - Kingfish Candy.

You can buy your Ribbonfish, or you can catch them yourself. They are here and not hard to catch . . . at Night. Here is how to catch them.

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 cast nets 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 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, you often have to retire 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



Loud Hailings

Bill Breen
Newsletter
Editor

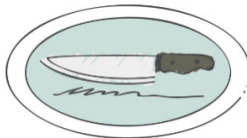
I am looking for PICTURES of club members with local catches, to use in our newsletter. If you have a good photo PLEASE E-mail it or give it to me at a meeting. I will Scan it and return it to you undamaged. Don't forget to include a piece of paper with your name address, and the information on the catch, 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

Quality Knife Sharpening

razor sharp or better

fillet knives
kitchen knives



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commercial knives

IF you missed getting your DULL Filet knife sharpened at our last meeting, Here is the solution!

904-642-9546

local pick up/delivery

jettywolf@gmail.com

KINGFISH Continued

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 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



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!
Did you buy that extra
5lb Fire Extinguisher yet?



KINGFISH Continued

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 measure your Fish's Length!

There are (2) Two different measurements that we are concerned with, and only one way to measure each.

First there is the "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 with the fish laying on it's side.

This is important to remember, as when FWC measures a fish, they use a measuring board. A measuring board is an 'L' shaped board with one end sticking up to put the fish's mouth against and that is the 'O' of the measuring tape on the board.

Lay an extended tape measure on a flat surface. Extend the tape measure so it's visibly longer than the fish you're measuring. Lay the fish flat on the tape measure. Position the fish so the tip of its mouth is lined up with the 'O' end of the tape measure. Pinch the tail fin closed and measure to the tip to get the total length.

The other measurement we look at for some fish is the "Fork Length":

Fish regulated by fork length are measured from the tip of the jaw or tip of the snout with closed mouth to the center of the fork in the tail.

Measure to the point where the tail fin separates to get the fork length.

Some fish are regulated by "Lower Jaw Fork Length" and are measured in a straight line from the anterior most part of the lower jaw (tip of the lower jaw) to the fork in the tail.

Fork Length Species include:

Amberjacks - Bluefish - Rudderfish - King Mackerel - Hogfish - Spanish Mackerel - Dolphin (Mahi) - Permit - Cobia - Pompano - Mullet - African Pompano - Gray Triggerfish

How about thinking SAFETY FIRST!

THIS IS A TEST!!!

You probably already failed! That is **NOT** a good thing. Can you answer these questions without looking up some of the answers?

- 1 - Did you leave a **FLOAT PLAN** with someone, or on the dash of your tow vehicle?
- 2 - What date was your single, woefully too small, fire extinguisher last checked? Is it current, or has it been sitting in it's holder for the last 2+ years with all the dry chemical compacted and hard at the bottom? Do you have a big enough Fire Extinguisher? They are cheap, why not have two or three on board?

3 - What is the expiration date on your **Flares?**

4 - Is your ditch bag sitting out where it will be available and have an **EUPER** attached to it?

6 - Do you even have an **EUPER?** Why **NOT?** They are just a couple of hundred now! Isn't your life and your crews life worth that little money? Are it's Batteries good? They should be replaced every 5 years!

7 - Does your ditch bag have enough water for everyone for a couple days?

Your Test continues on Page 6

Your Test continued

8 - What year did you last replace the batteries in your hand held VHF radio? Is it IN your Ditch Bag? The same thing for your hand held GPS?

9 - Where is your hand operated bailing device?

10 - Does your hand held air horn work? What you don't have one?

11 - Where is your distress FLAG?

12 - Where is your signal mirror

13 - Is the "O" ring on your drain plug old and brittle?

14 - First aid kit current? How long ago did your first aid kit perishables expire? Yes Iodine expires! Here is something to think about. A lot of the (Other guys, not me) members are getting older. Does your first aid kit have some of the new crystalized Aspirin to dissolve under the tongue in case of a heart attack? (My Son was only 34)

15 - Tested your VHF, or better yet upgraded to a new one with the DCS position sending feature?

16 - Checked all your hose fittings are tight, and no corroded Electrical connections?

17 - Your bilge pump working and have a backup if it goes out?

18 - Are your Life Jackets good and readily handy?

19 - Do you give your crew a safety "Tour" before each trip? Make sure they know where everything is and how to work it in case you are disabled?

20 - Have your throwable life preserver handy?

21 - When was the last time you had your wheel bearings packed?

If you did not know the answer to any ONE of these questions, you failed this quick test.

Lucky for you, your boat isn't taking on water, or someone seriously injured and you

aren't trying to answer any one of these questions in a panic to save a life!

You now have a chance to correct any of these shortcomings BEFORE your next outing, and avoid the serious consequences of not being prepared.

Remember --- Keep your VHF radio on! Don't miss a club members distress call!

Bill Breen



**GREATER JACKSONVILLE
KINGFISH TOURNAMENT**

121 Financial
CREDIT UNION



Tournament Schedule

7/14 - Tournament week Begins
Redfish Captains Meeting

7/16 - Redfish Tournament














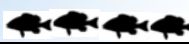














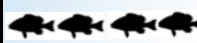



7/20 - Junior Angler Dock Tournament
GT & Jr Captains Meeting

7/21 - GT Final Registration & Bag Pick Up

7/22 - General Tournament FISHING!

7/23 - JR. Angler Offshore Tournament,
9am Site Opens
4pm Jr. Angler Fishing Seminar
6pm Awards Ceremony Begins

- Jr. Angler
- Redfish
- GT Awards
- Raffle Drawings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
<h1>July</h1>			 Ribbon Fish, AKA Kingfish, Candy		1 	2 	
			3 	4  	5 	6 	7 NO Club Meeting 
10 	11 	12 	13 	14 Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament 		15 	16 
17 Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament 		18 	19 	20 	21 NO Club Meeting 	22 	23 
24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 	
31 	FYI, the little fish  is a Sol-Lunar fishing days key, the more fish the better the fishing day.						





July - Not much happening due to the 4th of July week, and several members of the Board being on vacation, and the GJKT. A lot of our members volunteer to work it, and a lot of members FISH it!



COMING EVENTS:

Our next meeting will be AUGUST 4, 2022

The Captain of The Year Tournament Schedule

	Offshore		Inshore
July -	Kingfish Tune-Up		Roulette
August -	Ladies		Ladies
September -	Bottom Fishing		Flounder

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