



The Newsletter of the . . .

# The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 49 Issue 5

May 2009



## Presidents Castings

**Captain Chris Rooney**

### Trolling Away the Month of May

Here we go!!! The winds of the winter and early spring are gone, the temperature breaks are just right out in the deep blue sea and to quote Captain Ricky, "I wish every month was May". Well we have two big trolling tournaments this month starting with the Unlimited on the 16th. Weather permitting we'll all head for where the big boys play, looking for striking fish to go on the Blue Water Board. I think I'll stick my neck out a little bit this month and say the winning Captain is going to have a Billfish!! I mean why not look at the fishing so far this year, a 43# King lead the wining aggregate for the non live, and sixty-what pounds was the Black Drum that brought victory to the Pin Point Crew for the River Tourney? It's been a banner year for the JOSFC tournament season so far and what do you say, how about we continue it!!

The May Trolling tournament is at the end of the month and the pogies have been on the beach sense the beginning of April so the party grounds are alive. How about we weigh a 50# King or three Sailfish are caught and the winning boat has two releases, just don't forget the rules require you to immediately report a billfish release to a committee boat. I'll bet the winning aggregate for both tournaments is over 100 points.

On the Snapper front the petition to request the Snapper SEDAR counts are reevaluated has been out for a month now. Lets hope the thousands of signature's we've collected have had some effect. If it hasn't we're looking at the fishing for Red Snapper closing in mid to the end of July. We can't let our guard down the SAMFC will take away everything if we let them, help keep up the fight! Keep the letters and e-mail going to our Government Officials and check the website; keeponceanfishing.com for more information. Have a great Fishing Month!!

Captain Chris Rooney, JOSFC President



## Rob's Fishing Lore

*Editor s note - This month we are not entertained by one of Rob s great stories, but the below article by Rob is a **MUST** read for us all, and as such was moved to the front page.*

### Mortality

Southeast Data, Assessment, and Review  
Review

To find the latest SEDAR 15 report on Red Snapper one only had to dig through the NOAA instead of the SEMFC website and navigate your way under the 'Fishery' tab. If one wants to print this bureaucratic assessment and review publication from your home computer, one would need to stop by the local Staples or Home Depot store and purchase new rheum of printer paper and at least one new ink cartridges. SEDAR 15 is a mere few pages (front and back) shy of 400 and it is the harbinger of death for an ink cartridge. It is tough going through all the statical jargon that the paper references. To help with that please print out another forty-seven pages entitled *A Guide to Fisheries Stock Assessment*. This guide is your key to interputing the oft confusing language of the SEDAR 15. With all this stated, it begs one serious question, how many of you have read SEDAR 15 from front to back?

Well, I haven't either but I have tackled a good many pages. Too many pages focus themselves on graphs, plot charts and tables in order to give this four hundred page monster creditability. My reading has covered the first two sections and some of third. There are some basic ideas and questions I just have failed to grasp the SAMFC's logic on and thus this article. It is my purpose not to misquote or mislead from the SEDAR 15 report in order to bias any of you in a particular fashion rather, I just merely want to bring to your

Continued Page 2

Mortality Continued

attention some my bafflement at this document. Justly, I have used whole quotes from the SEDAR 15 document itself to illustrate the confusion.

**Section 2.4 Discard Mortality** makes me wonder. It is here the council proclaims a 40% mortality rate. “A previous assessment of the red snapper along the Atlantic coast used release mortality rates of 10% and 25% based on observations by NMFS personnel (Manooche et al. 1998). These values are low estimates of discard mortality based on data in the recent red snapper assessment conducted in the Gulf of Mexico” is how this section begins. What strikes me funny about these two wholly quoted sentences is the last one. Due to a study in the Gulf of Mexico the Atlantic coast red snapper mortality is now low. I thought SEDAR 15 was supposed to look at Atlantic coast red snapper and why does one find Gulf data here. Why can't the author solely rely upon Atlantic observations and studies? One can only conclude that the author wants to alter data and needs some support to do so. Additionally, the author goes on to bolster the 40% mortality rate by referencing commercially gathered data. Burns et al (2004), according to the author, is a study of headboat fisherman in both the Gulf and Atlantic. Here Burns et al (2004) places a 64% mortality on released fish. The researcher goes on to breakdown the causes for the 64% death rate: J-

hook and barotraumas (depth) was the two highest percentage reasons for mortality. However, barotraumas per SEDAR 15 is not common or found in depths fewer than 30 meter or 100 feet. Although another Gulf study in the SEDAR 15, Patterson et al (2001b) concluded a death rate of 9% at 21 meter or 70 feet, 14% at 27 meters or 90 feet and 18% at 32 meters or 105 feet for barotraumas caused mortality.

A confounding point the author brings forward is the “Headboat At-Sea Observer” pilot study. This pilot study was conducted by Beverly Sauls (Florida Wildlife Research Institute). Her paper points out that “The observed release mortality for red snapper (n=1233) was very low (5%) as most fish swam down (condition 1 and 2) after being released.” Then once again SEDAR 15 backs up Beverly Sauls observations by stating “Similar results were noted in the headboat logbook reported by captains from Florida Keys to North Carolina in 2006 (1%, n=17,504).” It now appears there is a conflict in the data the council received. Two large study groups N=1233 and N=17,504 shows low mortality rates vs. one study that combines Gulf and Atlantic observations. So the council then recommends under sections 2.4 to use a 40% mortality rate. As stated previously, past assessments used figures of 10 or 25 % as mortality rates. I can not help but wonder what a 15% to 30% increase in the mortality data figure would do to the computation toward the ‘overfishing’ threshold? Did any of you ever wonder why in all the scoping meetings the council would not support the accuracy of their data but default to ‘it’s the best we can do’ line. Next, why change the mortality % with two large studies vs. Gulf data? Truly, it makes one wonder is this the best mortality % they can do?

Still further on in SEDAR 15 comes section **4.3 Recreational Landings**. Subsection ‘a’ deals with MRFSS estimates. SEDAR 15 on page 22 list MRFSS as “Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistics Survey; combines a telephone survey of households to estimate number of trips with creel surveys to estimate catch and effort per trip”. This is the phone survey the council has stated publicly they can not defend. Again section ‘a’ the paper states “For the 1981 to 2006 time series, there were 9 missing cells for red snapper landings estimates. Due to the high frequency of cells where there were zero estimated fish landed, cells had to be pooled for the entire year for all states combined (year, region)”. To me this means that from their statical representation, the council would not use a zero number but rather had to find or create a number to complete the data. Prior to the above mentioned quote, the author rationalized how this is to be done so it seems reasonable not to use a zero number. “When no fish are weighed in a given cell, then estimated weight of fish landed is not generated for that cell. When there is an estimated number of fish landed, but no corresponding estimate for weight, that cell is referred to as a ‘missing cell’. It is inaccurate to add cells together when there are missing weight estimates; therefore, weight estimates were filled in for missing cells by pooling cells and applying a pooled average weight to the number of fish in the cell with missing estimated weight.” For me I can follow their logic of the last quote. If the survey shows landings of fish but no weight to go with it then the an average is generated. Now, back to the first quote “For 1981 to 2006 time series there were 9 missing cells



*The Reel News* is published monthly by the Jacksonville Offshore Sport Fishing Club (JOSFC). All rights reserved.

- President ..... Chris Rooney
- Vice President ..... Don Cook
- Secretary ..... Jennifer Davis
- Treasurer ..... Tina Proescher
- Newsletter Editor ..... Bill Breen
- Newsletter Staff ..... Bill Breen, Greg Molloy
- Layout & Design ..... Mike Murphy  
Bill Breen

©Copyright 2004

## Mortality Continued

for red snapper landings estimates” this is quite different. Here the missing cells are for red snapper landings. To me this quote shows me that no fish were landed in the 9 missing cells and thus according to the SEDAR 15 report no weight should be given here but the author goes on to use an average weight. Average weight was to be used if there were landings of fish so how can one justify using an average weight with no landings?

Table 4.2 when combined with SEDAR 15’s Section I, Table 6 on page 7 seems counter intuitive to me. Section I Table 6 documents the change in red snapper regulation since 1983. Table 4.2 provides landing numbers for both headboats and recreational anglers via MRFSS. In 1983, new regulations were placed into effect setting a minimum size for red snapper at 12 inches without a bag limit. This regulation book became effective on 8-31-83. Now according to Table 4.2 MRFSS landings (recreational catches) for 1983 totaled 165.96 landings. In 1984, Table 4.2 shows MRFSS landings totaled 412.03 landings. The landings nearly quad tripled from ’83 to ’84. For 1991, it became illegal to sell your snapper catch without a permit and in 1992 new regulation of 2 per person and a 20 inch minimum was established. Now Table 4.2 shows that in 1990, 14.93 MRFSS landings occurred and in 1991 MRFSS landings jumped to 46.28 and in 1992 MRFSS landings increased to 81.28. Once again landing quad tripled from ’90 to ’91 and nearly double from ’91 to ’92. Stepping back and relating new regulation to MRFSS landings suggest that increasing the minimum size and restricting bags limits plus disallowing selling of your catch results in greater landings. Forgive me if I just do not understand this pyridine. **If you limit what you can keep in terms of catch and size this will lead to greater catch landings in the seceding years. If this is true then all regulation needs to be abolished in order to save our red snapper stock.**

Finally, under Section III comes **Submitted Comments**. Please remember that SEDAR 15 focuses on red snapper. The submitted comments come as a memo dated January 29, 2009. The subject line of this document is “Stock Assessment Comments On Greater Amberjack, Mutton Snapper and Red Snapper. The memo references captains from Miami through Islamorada, Fl. Of the captains that commented 6 are in Islamorada, 2 in Miami and 2 private dock. Having reviewed these comments, together these captains together catch in a year what the average NE Florida angler would catch (including release) in a day’s fishing of red snapper. These comments mainly focus on greater amberjack and mutton snapper. It makes one wonder where did all of those headboat observational studies take place at? To me something is fundamental wrong were an assessment is suppose to deal with Atlantic red snapper and other non related data is brought in. SEDAR 15 incorporates Gulf data, creates weights for catches in 9 missing zones and relies on South Florida captains to speak out for red snapper fisherman.

Before I go, let me leave you with this quote from SEDAR 15 Section I: **Projections methods** “This 34 year time frame is the sum of mean generation time (20 years) and

the number of years it would take for spawning biomass to reach SSB-msy(max sustainable yield) if no fishing occurred”. Fishing is a passion for me and my family. It represents all the good things that our country stands for such as Freedom. If you can not find Freedom on the High Seas then you are not looking hard enough.

SEDAR 15 with such incomplete and selective data is an assault upon our freedom. There are those who wish to take it away and for us we must gather together to prevent this from happening. Has anyone read Amendment 17 yet? It will not stop unless we stop it. Who else has been a better friend to the resource then those who have used it? Who was it that recommended greater size limits and reduced bag limits? Finally, what needs to happen? Is it enough just to call and complain via the web or your local call in show? Spreading the word is great and it helps to rally other conservation-minded anglers to our cause but we need to go further. The Mag/ Stevenson Act of 2006 needs to be amended, the law needs to be changed from “MUST” to “CONSIDER”. The PEW group and the Ocean Conservatory through their legislative efforts had the law changed to “must” and now we find ourselves in a very steep uphill battle to save our fishery. Currently, a small band of congressmen are trying to effect this change so we need to have each local representative seek out and support this change. This is a fishing issue and it is likely going to come down to environmental extremist vs. sport fisherman. We need to organize and support organizations that have our best interest at heart.

Best Wishes for Fishing,  
Rob Darner



This was what can only be described as a “Fun day Fishing” Andy Proescher with a 20.5 Lb Gag Grouper, AJ Proescher with a 13 Lb Gag Grouper, and Leigh Davis with a 9.5 Lb. Red Snapper.

That is a nice BIG Grouper Andy, What is this I hear that you are going to give us the numbers you caught it on at the next club meeting?



## Top's Tips Safety First

**Top Ingram**  
**Safety Officer**

### Wakes and High waves

During the past year there have been many stories in the media about boaters being tossed into the water when encountering large wakes and high waves. As the weather warms and we enter the peak boating season, I thought it appropriate to remind everyone of the ever present dangers when encountering a high wave or crossing another boat's wake.

Whether cruising the river, leaving and entering the jetties area, or in the open ocean, you should be alert to protecting yourself, your crew and your boat from the potential dangers of large wakes or high rogue waves.

Nationwide, a number of people have lost their lives, and many were injured, some permanently, in encounters with boat wakes. For instance, in Florida a man was slammed against his center console and broke several ribs when he hit a large wake from another vessel.

Statistics show, however, that the most critical injuries such as fractured vertebrae and compression fractures, tend to occur when people are seated near the bow. Listed below are a few recommendations to protect yourself, your crew, and your boat from wake damage:

Make sure your passengers are seated aft or amidships and away from the bow.

Warn your passengers to sit down, if standing, when approaching another boat's wake. In some cases, passengers were thrown out of the boat. (Another reason to wear your life jacket)

Don't wait until you are in the middle of a wake to slow your boat. Slow the boat before the wake arrives to lessen the impact.

Don't come to a complete stop. Maintain at least some headway into the wake to prevent the bow from being pushed to the side and the boat possibly being swamped.

Don't hit wakes or large waves head on. Try to cross the wake/wave at a slight angle. This will allow your boat to grip the wake/wave longer and prevent the bow from being thrown high into the air.

When overtaking another boat, cross it's wake quickly rather than riding the waves. Keep both hands firmly on the wheel and stay well away from the overtaken boat's stern.

Avoid taking a steep wake on the beam which could swamp your boat. It is better to turn back into a wake briefly and then come back on course.

Never, never, overload a boat. Overloading a boat is foolhardy, even in calm waters. A 29 year old man drowned in the Chesapeake Bay when his 17 foot boat with 8 people on board was swamped by a passing boat.

Always try to anchor away from busy channels. And, never, never, never anchor your vessel by the stern. Many boats are swamped each year by this one mistake. Just recently, an agency investigating a deadly boating accident involving two NFL players and their friends in the Gulf of Mexico concluded it was caused when the vessel was improperly anchored and that the boat capsized after one of them tried to throttle forward to pry loose the anchor.

Follow these common sense rules to protect yourself, your crew and your boat. Always remember the successful boating/fishing trip is the one that begins and ends safely. May you continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram  
Fishtales

## Loud Hailings Newsletter Editor Bill Breen



Anyone can submit an article for the Reel News just send or give it to me at any time. I really like to feature PICTURES of club members with some good catches, like these in this issue. Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting or Phone, Fax, or E-mail me your pictures at:

PH# 904-254-2791 Fax#904-213-9786

[beenw@bellsouth.net](mailto:beenw@bellsouth.net)





Guess what team won the "River Tournament" That Big Drum in the middle is Leigh Davis's Biggest Drum to date, at a hefty 64.9 Lbs



Above is a fish that is going to be hard to beat on the Junior Angler Board. Byron Darner caught this BIG 16 + Pound Grouper by himself!

Below, Byron, Rob, and Chuck Darner and Bill Wilderotter show off their catch form a good day's fishing.



Derek Siegel Sent in this picture of his newest Junior angler with her first Redfish, Congratulations to Amy for her catch and release of a nice 16 inch Red!



*Instant Crew, Just Add Water*

<u>Name</u>	-	<u>Phone</u>	-	<u>Availability</u>	-	<u>Can call the Night before.</u>
Pete St.Laurent	-	220-9199	-	Most weekends	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Gene Fulgham	-	641-9970	-	Any day	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Dale Karg	-	451-2251	-	Most weekends	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Frank Grassi	-	234-7369	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Sara Meier	-	H= 786-5608 C= 812-322-1519	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Perry Arnold	-	H = 304-521-5987 C = 904-379-1189	-	Any day	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Richard Fisher	-	H = 221-9629 Cell 738-1010	-	Nearly every day	-	Up to 8:00 PM the day before.
John Porcella	-	610-3855	-	Nearly any day	-	Up to 10:00 PM
Bob Calfee	-	C = 472-9957	-	Weekends & Some days	-	Up to 8:00 pm
Matt Ennes	-	536 - 7450	-	Friday through Monday	-	Up to 9:00 pm
David Brown	-	962 - 3787	-	Saturdays & Some week days	-	Up to 11:00 pm
Ken Roach	-	221 - 7212	-	Any Day	-	Up to 8:00 pm the day before.
Joe Esparza	-	C = 536 - 4114	-	Any Day	-	Up to 10:00 pm
Mike Gyutsisin	-	C = 296 - 3494	-	Any Day	-	Up to 10:00 pm



## Our Website

We have LIVE MARINE RADIO streaming on our website. You can log onto our website and listen to the boats out there fishing, find out where they are biting, and what the seas are really like. Capt. George and the other charter boat captains are more informative when talking to each other during the week than on weekends.

You can also find the best weather links at our website, and check the fishing boards to see if your big fish will qualify to knock someone off, as well as how the Captain Of The Year Race is going. You can read the "Reel News", get the latest club information and important notices that came in after the newsletter went to press, and see pictures from the latest events.

We would like YOU, our club members, to start talking up our website to everyone you can, just tell them to:

**Check out ..... [www.jaxfish.com](http://www.jaxfish.com)**

**If you know anyone who would like to advertise on the site, Have them contact:  
Greg Molloy, at MacMedia Graphics 904-725-8871**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	
		<h1>May</h1>				1	2
3	4 Board Meeting	5	6	7 Club Meeting	8	9	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
17	18	19	20	21 Club Meeting	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
31							

## Coming Events:

May 16, 2009 - The Unlimited Trolling Tournament

May 31, 2009 - The May Trolling Tournament

October 17, 2009 - JOSFC Annual Awards Banquet

### Tournament Schedule for 2009

Tournament	Month	-Date / Alternate
		Saturday - Sunday
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 16 / 23 -----
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 31 / June 7 -----
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	----- 21 / 27 -----
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	----- 18 / 19 -----
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	----- 16 / 23 -----
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	----- 29 / Sept. 5 -----

## Associate Members

•All Aluminum Concepts • Angie's Sub Shop • Atlantic Coast Marine • Avid Angler • B & M Bait & Tackle • Boathouse Discount Marine • • C & H Lures • Capt. Dave Sipler's Sport Fishing • Consignment Boat Sales • Dell Marine • Donovan Heating & Air • Florida Sportsman Live • First Coast Offshore Rodeo • Fish Carvings by Rick & Billy • Fishing Connection • Gary Newman Insurance • Gear 4 Fishermen • Greater Jax Kingfish Tournament • Gene's Seafood • Great Atlantic Outfitters • Hardees • High Roller Fishing Team • Home - Zone Cleaning • International Ropes • Jacksonville Marina • Just-Right Auto Sales • Knight Electric • Lockwood Marine • Mercury Outboards • MacMedia Graphics • Mike's Taxidermy • Mayport Princess • Murphy Communications • Ocean Get Away • Ocean Waves Sunglasses • Pepsi Bottling Co. • Penn Tackle Mfg. • Production Drywall • Progressive Insurance • Pier 17 • PGA Tour • Rick's Bait & Tackle • River Marine • Safe Harbor Seafood • Salty Styles • Sea Tow • Sea Dance Charters • Skinner Nurseries • Smith & Sons Tree Service • SOC 7 Productions • Solomon's RV & Boat Storage • Southern Propane • Super Chum Slick • St. John's Seafood & Steaks • Strike Zone Fishing • T.B.S. Jigs & Charter • The Canvas Shop of North Florida • The Haggerty Company • The Outdoors Show • Vic2Fish • W.L.S. Contracting • WebCode Fusion • Wilson Trailer & Repair Inc. • West Marine • Woody Wax • Workman's Kwik-Fix Plumbing •



**Jacksonville Offshore  
Sport Fishing Club**

P.O. Box 331185  
Atlantic Beach, FL 32233

PRSRST STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

Permit 3546  
Jacksonville, FL