



The Newsletter of the . . .

# The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 51 Issue 5

May 2011

## THE RACE FOR CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR



PLACE	CAPTAIN	POINTS
1 -	Greg Wallace	19
2 -	Tom Cavin	16
3 -	AJ Proescher	13
4 -	Steve Kalaitzis	11
5 -	Jeff Deyton	9
6 -	Will Aitken	7
6 -	Rob Darner	7
7 -	Butch Ogin	5
8 -	Tony Thompson	4

With two tournaments down out of the nine we fish for Captain of the Year, here are the current standings, and Greg Wallace is off to a great start!



## What can we fish for?

Here is what is open as of May 1, 2011 on our Florida Atlantic coast.

### Grouper - 3 Grouper Aggregate

Minimum size	Bag limit
Gag - 24"	1 per person.
Red - 20"	3 per person.
Black - 24"	1 per person.
Scamp - 20"	3 per person.
Yellow Fin - 20"	3 per person.
Yellowmouth - 20"	3 per person.

**All other Grouper are CLOSED to possession.**

### Snapper - 10 Snapper Aggregate + 5 B-Liners

Cubera - 12"	2 per Boat.
Dog - 12"	10 per person.
Mangrove - 12"	10 per person.
Lane - 8"	10 per person.
Mfahogany - 12"	10 per person.
Mutton - 16"	10 per person.
Queen - 12"	10 per person.
Silk - 12"	10 per person.
Yellowtail - 12"	10 per person.
Vermillion ( B-Liner ) - 12"	5 per person.

**Red - 20" 2 per person, IN STATE WATERS ONLY!**

Gray Triggerfish - 12" 20 per person.  
**Caution!**

Triggerfish are included in your 20 fish Snapper Grouper Aggregate!

Red Porgy - 14" 3 per person.



Steve Hume wants to know if anyone has a good solution for keeping all these pesky nonexistent or highly endangered fish off his hooks so he can catch the Grunts that SAFMC still lets us fish for.

Steve put this one back and drew an 'X' on the water so he can go back when season finally opens again.



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### To Help Keep Us Out Of Trouble

I just spent a couple of hours going through the Fishing Regulations, both Florida and the SAFMC junk.

What I learned is that you need to take a college level class on the combined regulations to even begin to understand them.

What I can say for sure is that NOW if you are going to bottom fish you are required to use non-stainless steel CIRCLE hooks, have an approved DE-HOOKING device, an approved MEASURING Device (The "Tape" molded in the top of a cooler = Citation) and a VENTING TOOL on board. ( No Eddie, a venting tool is NOT called a gaff.)

You should also get or download the LATEST Florida Fishing Regulations and have them with you when you go fishing.

The FWC are good guys, but the rules change so often and fast, they may not remember the latest change, and having the latest from their website might help avoid a citation!

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## Rob's Fishing Lore

### Getting No Respect

The plan was flawless. The tide and time were right. It was the right season and the fish were right there. They hit just about on queue; it was like taking candy away from a baby. Low tide was going to be complete between 10:30 and 11:00 am. With a pint of fiddler crabs and four dozen shrimp, we set out to catch some sheephead. Our captain, who will remain nameless in order to protect the innocent, had his information all right. Captain D took us over to the tips of the North rocks and instructed to pitch the anchor in 24 feet of water. With the Atlantic Ocean being renamed 'Lake Atlantic' the captain and crew had no fear of rollers coming into the jetties and taking out the boat. It did not take too long before the tell tale signs of sheephead abounded on our hooks: crunched crabs, left over shells and all-to-gather missing crabs. The bite was supple to nonexistent but for experienced sheephead men this was not a problem.

The current was slowing and it allowed a once-and-a-half piece of lead to fall to the bottom; however, the current was still strong enough to bow your line in the water thus causing you to loose contact with your bait. It took just a few minutes

to figure out that you needed to have a control drop of the sinker in order to keep the line tight in order to feel



that all important shadow of a bite. After this, it was not too long before the sheephead were coming over the side of the boat. Captain D was the first to strike with a fiver pounder. Next, yours truly struck with a fish of similar size. Two fish in the box and the majority of the day lay ahead of us with such promise.

There was no tap, tap sensation instead a slight taunt pressure and then set the hook. Oh what a marvelous fish this was. It pulled drag and ran. It hovered and hung on the bottom using the outgoing current to its advantage. Skillfully, the fish found its way toward the surface. The large roundish black & white disk stated this was a worthy fish for it was larger then the previous. Captain D got the net

while, the fish was manvoured closer and closer to the boat. Fear crept in the angler's mind because he knew he had the fish by a small khale hook and he became scared of the hook straighten thus freeing the fish. The big fish turned broadside in the current making it near impossible to surf the fish toward the boat. It was only twelve or so inches from the net when the hook broke and the fish disappeared. The fish did its job by punishing the leader on the rocks until the fray spot broke under pressure. After this, my luck was as gone as this fish.

It was Byron who became on fire with the sheephead. Captain D cleared out of the starboard side due to snag & retie



issues so 'The Lad' took over. His first hook up appeared to us that he was well hung upon those same snags that haunted Captain D yet the line was moving up current. Now the drag started to sound off and he worked and fought the fish right to the boat. It was a nice five pound sheephead. He did this five or six more times in the next forty minutes with his largest being 6.75 pounds. Yours truly was caught between netting for the young lad and Captain D and rerigging the lad's

break offs, my fishing action waned.

During a moment of brief calm in the hot fishing action, all three lines were in the water at once. All three anglers were concentrating on that all tell tale sign of a strike and sharing stores. Mostly, you never see it happening until it occurs. Just about all women and some men can relate to this situation: have you ever been propositioned? Did it make you feel uncomfortable and just how did you react to it? Captain D was recounting the savings on his new fishing combo and how good he thought it was and in a moment it was out there! Captain D asked, "If I would like to hold his rod?" What!?! (Note to self...say no..heck no! next time) Without thinking, the offer was accepted and you can rest assured it was not a bent-but rod but rather it was a nice inshore combo with a light graphite stick that telegraphed the strikes. As I stood there holding is rod, Captain D launched a vicious hook strike on what use to be my fishing combo not less than a minute later on what should have been my next fish. It was not sea sick green that ran through the cheeks but a green huge of envy. Not only did I get to hold his rod and became the butt of all the jokes but I had net duty as well. It seemed that Captain D got the best of this whole ordeal.

Not to be out done, my son began to feel sorry for his 'ol man'. He asked if I wanted to hold his rod too? However, he was giving away his rod with a fish on it. The tip bent toward the water and he kept looking at me with a wide grim telling me to "take it Dad, take it." He told me had caught

Continued on Page 5



## Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram  
Safety Officer

### Wakes and High waves

On Friday, March 11, two fishermen were tossed into the water in the Gulf near the Boca Bay Pass Club when their boat hit a big wave. Neither person was wearing a life jacket, and the body of one was recovered the following Tuesday about one-quarter mile off the beach by the Port Boca Grande Lighthouse. After reading this story in the Boca Beacon, I thought it appropriate to remind everyone of the ever present dangers when encountering a high wave or crossing another boat's wake. Also, wear your life jacket as it will only help you if you are wearing it when you enter the water.

Crossing the large wakes of other boats is inevitable. Large vessels often create a dangerous rolling wake, and they can create disturbances in the water for thousands of feet behind them. A wake is essentially a wave. Always alert your passengers when you see a wake coming. An unexpected wake can toss people around in the cockpit or cabin, and even overboard. Severe injuries or even death could result from being tossed about by an unexpected wake. Always minimize the effect of large wakes by reducing speed and turning into the wakes/waves at about a 45degree angle.

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:

1. Make sure your passengers are seated aft or amidships and away from the bow.
2. Warn your passengers to sit down, if standing, when approaching another boats wake. In some cases, passengers were thrown out of the boat. (Another reason to wear your life jacket)
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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. I think it will be very difficult for anyone to forget the deadly boating accident involving two NFL players and their friends in the Gulf of Mexico when their vessel capsized after one of them tried to throttle forward to pry loose the anchor that was tied to the stern.

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

### Respect Concluded

plenty of them so far and I needed to catch one. Having no pride left after taking Captain D's rod in hand, I reluctantly switched rods with Byron and finished off this fish. My life would have been ruined if the fish got away but lucky for me, I was at least not cursed today.

Best Wishes for Fishing,  
Rob Darner



Above Will Aitken holds up a nice eating size Red Drum. No the fish is NOT over sized, Will's head is just that small after his daughter (Below) Jade Aitken gave him a fishing lesson catching a nice Sheepshead along with several other fish that day. I think she LET Will catch the Redfish just to be nice To Dear Old Dad!



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### 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, or E-mail me your pictures at:

PH# 904-254-2791

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



## Instant Crew, Just Add Water

<u>Name</u>	-	<u>Phone</u>	-	<u>Availability</u>	-	<u>Can call the Night before.</u>
Pete St.Laurent	-	C = 220-9199		Most weekends		Up to 8:00 pm
Rodney Anderson	-	C = 318-4005		Any day		Up to 9:00 pm
Richard Fisher	-	H = 221-9629		Nearly every day		Up to 8:00 PM the day before.
John Porcella	-	Cell 738-1010				
	-	C = 610-3855		Nearly any day		Up to 10:00 PM
Joe Esparza	-	C = 536 - 4114		Any Day		Up to 10:00 pm
Phillip Ferdon	-	H = 879-0184		Fri. Sat.		Up to 9:00 pm
		C = 887-6736				
Rod Saffles	-	C = 993-6986		Any Day		Up to Midnight
Ron Hunter	-	C = 733-1197		From Noon Wednesday through Sunday		Up to 8:00 PM
Ronald Cowart	-	C = 879-4724		Weekends		Up to 9:00 PM
Greg Cole	-	C = 412 - 5722		Any Day		Up to 9:00 PM
Jason Jones	-	C = 945.6576		Weekends		Up to 9:00 PM



### Here is a reminder for all our members.

Your membership card for the JOSFC is important for the club as well as valuable for you!

Every time you shop at any of the Outdoor stores, Boating stores, Bait & Tackle shops or any store that has anything to do with boating or fishing, **PULL OUT YOUR CARD AND ASK IF THEY GIVE A CLUB DISCOUNT!**

That does two things. 1 - It lets them know that the JOSFC members shop there, so when we hit them up for donations for the El Cheapo and Banquet, they are more inclined to donate.

2 - Quite often it will get you a discount on your purchases or labor!



OK all you Fish ID Experts, what type of fish is Jim Anderson holding? I think it is a Snowy Grouper, Jim thinks it is a Warsaw Grouper, and other people have guessed, but we are not sure. It was caught in about 65 feet of water near PG.

Your turn, let us know what you think it is!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2 Board Meeting	3	4	5 Club Meeting	6	7 Unlimited Trolling Tournament
8 Mother's Day	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Club Meeting	20	21
22 May Trolling Tournament	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	May			



## Coming Events:

May 7th - Unlimited Trolling Tournament

May 21st - The David Garrard Foundation Inshore/ Offshore Tournament.

May 22nd - May Trolling Tournament



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### Tournament Schedule for 2010

Tournament	-	-	Month	-	-	Date / Alternate
						Saturday - Sunday
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -			May	-	-	7/ 14 - Paul Gallup
The May Trolling Tournament -			May	-	-	22/ 29 - Eddie McGowan
The Junior Angler Tournament -			June	-	-	19 / 26 - S. Kalaitzis
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -			July	-	-	2 / 16 - M. Summersill
The Powder Puff Tournament -			August	-	-	7 / 14 - Judy Altman
The Light Tackle Tournament -			August	-	-	20/ 27 - Greg Wallace
The Bottom Tournament -			September	-	-	10/ - 11 - AJ Proescher

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