



The Newsletter of the . . .

# The Reel News

Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959



Volume 52 Issue 6

June 2012

## PRESIDENTS CASTINGS

Capt. Danny Del Rio



Although I'm writing this in the middle of May, tough weather has kept angler inshore recently, but plenty of offshore fishing is available when anglers can get out safely. There are plenty of snapper and sea-bass but of course, have to be release under federal law. Good news is, grouper season is open and fishing has been excellent off our coast from Fernandina to St. Augustine. The cobia are still holding in area waters along tide rips and bait pods. Inshore fishing has been good for spotted sea trout, flounder and red bass.

***We are excited about the month of June and hope everyone will make an effort to come to the meetings. The first meeting is on June 7<sup>th</sup> and this is the Annual Club Birthday Party / Honoring Past Presidents meeting when we honor our past presidents and celebrate our clubs birthday. Please come out and meet the past Presidents and help us celebrate our 53<sup>rd</sup> year! This is also a Pot-Luck Dinner***

Also, the Junior Anglers Tournament is June 17<sup>th</sup>. Contact Jack Ogin and let's get the juniors out on the water!

The next meeting will be on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Check the web site to see who our guest speaker will be.

I want to thank everyone for participating in the raffles to help support our delicious meals that Larry and Carol prepare for us. Keep up the support!

Tight Line and Safe Boating,  
Danny Del Rio

## The June Openings

Well the SAFMC is going to let us catch a few more fish this month, the Grouper season opened on the first of May and finally all of the bottom fish that still exist will be open on the first of June. Here's the new grouper regulations for this season;

Aggregate Grouper Bag Limit: three (3) groupers per person/day includes:

\* gag, (24 inches total length) \* black, (24 inches total length) \*\*+snowy, +misty, red (20 inches total length), scamp (20 inches total length), tiger, yellowedge, yellowfin, yellowmouth, blueline tilefish, sand tilefish, \*\*\*golden tilefish, coney, graysby, red hind & rock hind.

**\* Maximum of 1 gag or black grouper (but not both) per person/day**

\*\* snowy grouper limited to 1 per vessel per trip, no harvest in depths greater than 240'

\*\*\* Maximum of 1 golden tilefish per person/day no harvest in depths greater than 240' ( They are RARELY caught in less than 240')

Black sea bass fishery - the season reopens June 1, 2012. The recreational annual catch limit (ACL) is 409,000 lbs. Note: the Council has proposed an increase in the minimum size limit from 12" TL to 13" TL. Plus they may keep it closed as they THINK we went over their ACL last year.

**Check [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net) for updates.**

Thank Goodness for Dr. Roy (The tree hugger) Crabtree for letting us fish in the oceans of our great country!!! ( But don't let **him** know we are catching anything or he will close it also! )

## POGEY HEAVEN

Around the end of the rocks we raced  
 Back to the beach, warm air in our face  
 In the distance we saw the birds fly  
 We scanned the surface, with a keen eye  
 There they are! First one, then many  
 Other boats are coming, get the net ready!  
 There in front of us! So throw it straight  
 A good cast, yielded a bounty of bait  
 We turned the boat slowly to the open sea  
 Happy the pogeys were where we wanted  
 them to be

-Don Sipler

*An old poem by Captain Dave Sipler's Dad*



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There is a new feature for this month in this newsletter. You will notice little Fish Silhouettes in the bottom of each calendar square. These denote the best fishing days from the Solunar Tables. There isn't room for the major and minor times, so if you want to see the best times for fishing on the good fishing days, just go to our Website. Click on the "General" tab and go down to "Solunar Tables" to see the days and times!

One Fish Silhouette  is a poor fishing day. Two   are better. Three    are a good day, and four     are the **best** days for fishing.

Let me know if you like this addition, or not.

Your Editor . . . Bill

Angler's for Conservation, Coastal Angler Magazine along with GATE Petroleum and the Southern Kingfish Association will host a "Hook Kids on Fishing" event Saturday, June 9th at Metro Park in Jacksonville. The event is to be held in conjunction with the 3rd Annual Jacksonville Fishing Rodeo June 7-10 and is FREE for kids ages 6 to 16. The event will be from 9-11 AM (kids and parents should show up no later than 8:30AM) There will be clinics for kids on casting, conservation, fishing safety, knot tying, catch and release tactics and more. Professional guides and knowledgeable anglers from across Florida will work with the children in a safe, hands-on learning experience. The first 80 kids to register will receive a FREE rod, reel and tackle box courtesy of Anglers for Conservation.

YOU MUST REGISTER. Call us today at 904-461-6773 to sign your kids up or to volunteer.





May 4th on Morris Anderson's boat  
**GOTTA' FISH!**

Above is Morris with a nice 12 Lb Gag Grouper! Perfect eating size!

To the Right is Bill Wilderotter with a 25 Lb one of those pesky Red things that went extinct when Roy Crabtree got control of the SAFMC. A guy can't even enjoy a good day fishing without being bothered by those red bait stealers! (Yes, they released it as required by law.)

I guess Mike Watts and Henry Taylor were too busy losing bait to those Red things to take pictures!

**Wear your Life Jacket!**  
**At least while you are under way!**



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## Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram  
Safety Officer

### WEAR YOUR LIFE JACKET

Recently accidents in Marion County, Hillsborough County and Alachua County remind us of the need to wear our life jackets when on the water. In Marion County an individual rented a kayak for a day in the Silver River State Park and was found later that day drowned. In Hillsborough County two PWC's collided on Lake Hobbs and one of the PWC operators was thrown from the PWC. His body was recovered a short time later by the sheriff's dive unit. In Alachua County an individual left the Lake Alto boat ramp for a day of fishing. He was reported missing when he did not return home that afternoon. A search located the unoccupied vessel adrift along the West bank of the lake late that evening. The victim's body was recovered from the lake bottom in the early morning hours the next day.

What did the three accidents above have in common? None of the victims were wearing a life jacket. According to U.S. Coast Guard statistics, nearly 90% of all boaters who drown are not wearing life jackets. So, don't let your boat guests tell you they do not need one. At least, give them one and ask them to adjust it so it will fit properly in case of an emergency. A life jacket should fit snugly; it should not be loose enough to slide up over the wearer's mouth or ears. This is especially true for children. That means children should have child-sized jackets. Store your life jackets so they are easily accessible when not worn and those with missing or torn straps should be replaced.

With the advent of warmer weather and Club Tournaments on the schedule, I think it is a very appropriate time to remind the Club membership of the fact that the successful fishing/boating trip is the one that begins and ends safely. One way to ensure a safe outing on the water is to wear your life jacket. Although not required by law, except for children 13 years of age and younger, boaters should wear a life jacket especially when the boat is underway. Historical data shows that many excellent swimmers have drowned when thrown from a moving boat without wearing a flotation device of some type. Recently

we had a near tragic accident when a small boat, with 3 fishermen, capsized near the jetties. Since the fishermen were not wearing life jackets, only the quick action of some nearby fishermen prevented a tragedy.

As a practical matter, I know that many of you will not wear your life jacket. If the life jacket is not worn, however, it should be at least readily accessible and available for immediate donning in an emergency such as a vessel sinking, fire, etc. One place it would be readily available is draped over the helm seat back. Please keep in mind that a life jacket will be of no help to you if you are thrown from the boat without the life jacket on. A life jacket should not be stowed in a closed or locked compartment, or have other gear stowed on top of it.

If your boat is 16 feet or longer, you must have a throwable floatation device in addition to wearable ones for each person on board the vessel. The throwable device must be immediately available near the helm and all persons on board should be informed of its position and use. All recreational boats must carry one type 1, 2, 3, or 5 floatation device for each person on board. Any boat 16 feet or over, except canoes and kayaks, must also carry one type 4 (throwable) device.

Most recreational boaters elect to carry the type 3 floatation device which is designed to keep the wearer vertical in the water and where quick rescue is probable. The type 2 floatation device, or near shore buoyant vest, is designed to turn a person to a vertical position in the water, but not as pronounced as the type 1.

The type 1 floatation device is designed to turn an unconscious person from face down to a vertical position and is used by boaters cruising waters where there is a probability of a delayed rescue. The type 5 floatation device, or flotation suit, provides not only flotation, but also protection from hypothermia and is intended for special; use activities. No matter what type of lifejacket you carry on your vessel, it will only work when worn.

Make it a point to at least wear your life jacket when running from one spot to another. If you encounter a rouge wake or wave and are thrown from the boat your chances of survival are increased. Wear your life jacket and continue to enjoy safe boating throughout the year.

Top Ingram  
Fish Tales

**Economic Impacts of Recreational Sport Fishing  
Jacksonville Metropolitan Area  
January 14, 2012**

**Background:**

Sport fishing in Northeast Florida has a significant and frequently underestimated impact on the local economy. Duval County contains a unique expanse of both fresh and saltwater fishing environments. It is one of the few places in the United States where you have world class freshwater, estuary and ocean fishing environments in and around a major metropolitan area.

Jacksonville’s notable status as a fishing destination is backed up by being the host city for America’s largest Kingfish competition – The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament. The waters offshore the First Coast are home to what may be the largest artificial reef program on the eastern seaboard. By some estimates, more than half of the inland saltmarsh on the Atlantic Coast is located in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia. When it comes to fishing, Jacksonville is a “grand slam” city.

The findings that follow are based on Florida retail sales of recreational fishing licenses as reported by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (2010), as well as the Commission’s statewide assessment of economic impact (2011).

**Findings:**

- FWC reports the current annual economic impact for Florida fishing as:

Classification	Dollars	Jobs
Saltwater	\$5,691,949,544	54,516
Freshwater	\$2,630,617,741	24,805
Total	\$8,322,567,285	79,321

**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

The Jacksonville metro economic impact of recreational fishing, at **over one half billion dollars annually**, is significant. To put this in perspective, the economic impact of sport fishing in the metro area is as large as the most optimistic estimates of the impact from Jacksonville’s 2005 Super Bowl venture. **Jacksonville sport fishing is essentially an economic Super Bowl, every year! Year after year after year!**

Among the economic extenders related to sport fishing, but not quantified in the reported numbers, include the affect world class recreational fishing availability has on quality of life. We know people have come to Jacksonville and located a business here for the lifestyle and outdoor opportunities the area provides. This offers a “no cost” economic incentive to locate, or relocate a business here and should be a part of the economic development marketing appeals promoted by the city.

Government interest in the Jacksonville metro community should take a more proactive approach in supporting and facilitating the fishing community. While the City of Jacksonville has begun to move forward on new access for kayakers and boaters, these actions have not kept pace with growth. An additional factor is that the City of Jacksonville has no central authority or plan to promote and improve access and fishing habitats. Able-bodied people in multiple departments execute on fishing related initiatives in a “stove-piped” reporting structure. This tends to create a more “reactive” than “proactive” function. The city would do well to have one central person/department responsible for a strategic plan, advocacy and execution of water related initiatives. It is important to note, that even with these challenges, certain city staff members have embraced the water access, reef construction, and habitat preservation functions and done good things for the city.

**Summary Recommendations**

- Reinvigorate and fund the Jacksonville artificial reef program by adding new reef structure within state waters (inside 3 miles) to minimize the impact of federal fishing closures.
  - Add artificial reef structures in the St. Johns River, in the areas east of Dames Point to the mouth of the river to minimize the impact of security zone closures and increase local fishing opportunities.
    - Have the City of Jacksonville Legislative Affairs Chief actively solicit the reduction of restricted access zones in the St. Johns as imposed by federal agencies.
  - Relocate non-fishing/boating recreational interest from boat ramp facilities (where possible) to new city locations.
  - Create a long term plan for boating, shoreline and fishing access in the Jacksonville area addressing population growth and economic development concerns.
- By - Scott Shine



**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 or E-mail me your pictures at:

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

PH# 904-254-2791

## Instant Crew, Just Add Water

Our own club member Tim Altman has created the web-site AVAILABLE ANGLER where you can go to find a ride or crew. Just go to:

<http://www.availableangler.com/>

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Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
 <div style="background-color: #00728f; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 20px; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">June</div>					1 	2 
				3 	4 Board Meeting 	5 
10 	11 	12 	13 	14 	15 	16 
17 Junior Angler Tournament 	18 	19 	20 	21 Club Meeting 	22 	23 
24 	25 	26 	27 	28 	29 	30 

## Coming Events:

June 7 - Annual Club Birthday / Past Presidents Party

June 9 - Hook Kids on Fishing @ Metro Park

June 17 - The Junior Angler Tournament

June 21 - Club Meeting

October 20, 2012 is the Annual Awards Banquet

### Tournament Schedule for 2010

Tournament	Month	Date / Alternate	Alternate
		Saturday	Sunday
The Non-Live Tournament -	April	-----14/ 21	----- Greg Wallace
The Unlimited Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 12/ 26	----- Tom Meyer
The May Trolling Tournament -	May	----- 20/ 27	----- AJ Proescher
The Junior Angler Tournament -	June	----- 17 / 24	----- Jack Ogin
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament -	July	----- 8 / 15	----- Greg Wallace
The Powder Puff Tournament -	August	-----12 / 19	----- Tina Proescher
The Light Tackle Tournament -	August	----- 26/ September -1	----- Tournament Director
The Bottom Tournament -	September	----- 8	----- 9 -- AJ Proescher





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