



The Newsletter of the . . .

The Reel News



Serving the Northeast Florida Fishing Community Since 1959

Volume 55 Issue 6

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PRESIDENTS CAST NET

Tom Darga

By the time you read this School is out for the summer and fishing is going on everywhere both inshore and offshore. Memorial Day Weekend is over and summer has begun and family vacations have started.

I was waiting to write this article till after the May Trolling Tournament to announce the winners and participation but Mother Nature had other plans. So I had to weigh the option of waiting till after Memorial Day or face the wrath of Bill about not getting the newsletter in on time. Bill won. So for everyone who fished Memorial Day Weekend I have not forgotten about you and will post the winners in the next newsletter.

Tournaments I need everyone's input on tournaments. We have two options when it comes to tournaments and being fished or not being fished. Option 1 Tournament decision is based on weather reports that are posted on wind finder and reports from individuals.

Option 2 We go back to how the club used to determine if the weather is fishable by meeting in the morning the day of the tournament and making a game day decision on the spot by sending out a scout boat who would then radio back to the club house the conditions.

Continues Page 6

Here is what you can fish for this month.

Here is what you need to know for fishing the Atlantic off Jacksonville!

Grouper:

Gag & Black - 24" TL (Total Length) - 1 / day

Red - 20" TL - 1/day - Total of 3 Grouper / day

Black Seabass - 13" - 5 / day

Cobia - 33" FL (Fork Length) - 1 / day

Dolphin (Mahi) 20" - 10 / day

Kingfish - 24" FL - 2 / day

Spanish Mackerel - 12" FL - 15 / day

Gray Triggerfish - 12" FL - No Limit

B-Liners, (Vermilion Snapper) 12" TL - 5 / day

Bluefish - 12" FL - 10 / day

Flounder - 12" TL - 10 / day

Greater Amberjack - 28" TL - 1 / day

Tripletail - 15" TL - 2 / day

African Pompano - 24" FL - 2 / day

Red Snapper - 20" TL - 2 / Day - FLORIDA WATERS ONLY (Within 3 Miles of shore!)

Snappers - 10 / day aggregate

Mangrove - 10"

Lane - 8"

Mutton - 16"

Cubera - 12'

May possess no more than 2 Cubera Snapper over 30' per harvester or vessel per day, whichever is less. 30" or larger not included within the Snapper aggregate bag limit.

Check the Regs before each trip to make sure they haven't changed!



Loud Hailings

Newsletter Editor
Bill Breen

I really like to feature Pictures of members with some good catches. (Like Mike Watts did.) Either give me a hardcopy at a meeting (I will return it to you) or E-mail me your pictures at: breenw@bellsouth.net

Don't forget to include your name or the name of the person in the photo. (spelled correctly) and the fish weight.

Anyone can submit an article for the Reel News, just send or give it to me at any time. Hint, Photos of KIDS get priority!



As some of you know, in April and May, there are lots of good Wahoo out at the ledge to catch when the weather let us get out there. Above is JOSFC Member Mike Watts holding one of those delicious fish that he caught!

Way to go Mike, OK, Where are my Wahoo steaks you promised me for getting your picture in the Reel News?

Just kidding, I bet Mike has already eaten this whole fish. Was it on the BBQ for Memorial Day?



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Catching Ribbonfish

With Summer here and the numerous Kingfish Tournaments to compete in, here is a handy bit of information on how to catch and brine your own bait, Kingfish candy, the Ribbonfish.

The undisputed number one way to use a Ribbonfish is to run it on a downrigger, about 35 feet back and about 10 feet above the bottom. This does two things, #1, it puts the Ribbonfish in the zone where most of the BIG Kings hangout, and #2, it puts it below and behind your surface running live Pogies, and makes them very nervous and active so they attract more attention from the Kings.

Now, 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 monofilament 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 prerigged 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.

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. Their shiny, hi-vis profiles appeal to Ribbonfish.

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 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.

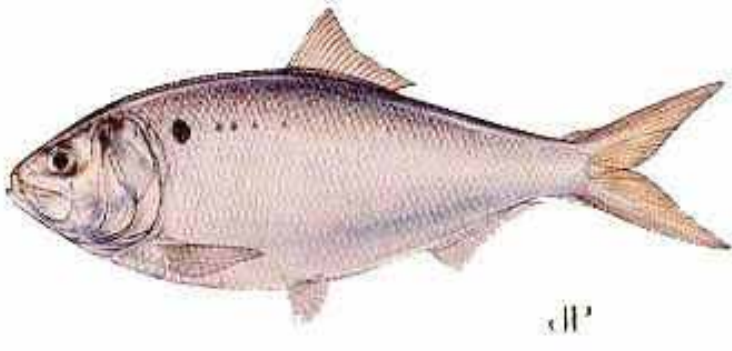
To thaw, just put the fish on the deck for a

Ribbons Continued from Page 4

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, some people also rig ribbons with a single lead hook, which allows the baits to flutter and flow erratically. Personal observation has shown 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.



Atlantic Menhaden

Brevoortia tyrannus

(A.K.A. - Alewife, Bunker, Pogy, Bugmouth, Fat-Back)

A member of the herring family, Clupeidae, Juveniles primarily feed on zooplankton, but adults are mainly herbivores, but retain the ability to feed on zooplankton. The adults are very adaptable and will feed on several species of phytoplankton, as well as suspended organic plant detritus.

2015 Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

It's time for the Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament! This year's tournament will be held **July 13-18** at Jim King Park at Sisters Creek 8203 Heckscher Dr.

Jim King Park is located 2 miles West of the Mayport Ferry and approximately 7 miles East of the Dames Point Bridge.

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Our volunteers are what make the Tournament such a success! Again this year we are looking for the "Best of the Best!" Come out and be a part of the *TEAM*.

- Boatique Retail Center
- Liars' Tent
- Weigh-In/Docks
- Tokens
- Parking
- Bounce House (Sat only)

If you are interested in helping prepare the site and facilities - we could use your help! We'll be working every day the week before the tournament. Come out and join us!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Groups and organizations welcome

Tournament Schedule

7/13 - Tournament week opens. GT registration. Final Jr. angler registration & bag pick-up.

7/14 - Jr. Angler Offshore Tournament. Jr. Dock Tourney. GT & Redfish registration.

7/15 - GT Capt mtg & bag pick-up. GT Final registration.

7/16 - General Tournament Day 1.

7/17 - General Tournament Day 2. Redfish final registration & Capt mtg.

7/18 - Redfish Tournament Awards Ceremonies:

Jr. Angler

Redfish

General Tournament



Top's Tips Safety First

Top Ingram
Safety Officer

Wear your Life Jacket!

Many of you will think that we stress the need to wear a life jacket too often. It cannot be said often enough as long as we have persons continuing to drown from lack of wearing a life jacket when boating. Just this past week a young boater was recovered from the water in the Palatka area two days after falling over board from a 12 foot Jon Boat.

He was fishing with a relative when the wave from a large boat passing them caused them to fall overboard. The older adult was able to swim to shore, but the youngster did not make it. Neither person was wearing a life jacket.

The above is a stark reminder to wear your life jacket when on the water. 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 accessible when not worn and those with missing or torn straps should be replaced.

There is never a guarantee, but a life jacket can only save you if you have it on when you enter the water. Accidents happen so fast you do not have time to don a life jacket as the accident is taking place. You must be prepared in advance. Also, under low visibility, you should slow down, especially if you are in unfamiliar areas.

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.



**Wear these, they
don't work in the
cabin!**



If your boat is 16 feet or longer, you must have a type 4 throwable flotation 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 (offshore) 2 (near shore buoyant vest) 3 (flotation aid) or 5 (special use) flotation 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 flotation device which is designed to keep the wearer vertical in the water and where quick rescue is probable. The type 2 flotation device, or near shore buoyant vest, is designed to turn a person to a vertical position in the

Wear your Life Jacket Concluded

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 floatation suit, provides not only floatation, 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

With summer upon us...

I thought I would revisit the way to tell how close lightning was, so we would know when to panic.

Lightning:

5 seconds between Flash and Thunder = 1 Mile

1 Mile = WAY to close! You want to be at least 10+ away from any lightning.

Fish Weight Formula:

Now for those of us without a good scale, how to tell, approximately, the weigh of that big fish.

This formula works for most pelagic fish like Kings, Cobia, Sails, Wahoo etc.

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

G² X L ÷ 800 = Weight in Lbs

For bottom fish use:

**Length in inches Squared times Girth in inches
divided by 1200**

L² X G ÷ 1200 = Weight in Lbs



Presidents Message Cont.

Both options have pros and cons.

Option 1 –

Pro – You save money and time by going with weather report to determine if it is a fishable day before you buy bait, ice, gas and towing the boat to the ramp.

Con – In actual day turns out to be calm and fishable and everyone is catching Dolphin and Wahoo which happened during the Blue Water Tournament and is considered by many who did fish to be the best day ever for Dolphin with many boats reaching their limit.

Option 2 –

Pro - . The pro is that as in the Blue Water tournament it was calling for 3 to 4 wave height 6 seconds apart. In actual the day was calm with many anglers going to the ledge and filling the boat with Dolphin and Wahoo. An epic day of fishing for everyone. This happened again in the May Trolling Tournament where it was snotty but considered fishable and laid down in the late afternoon but weather report called for 3 -5 ft at 6 seconds.

Con - Many of you have spoken up at meetings that Option 2 will not work because you do not want to prep for the day buying bait, gas, ice and towing the boat just to go home.

The one side of option 2 is that you can still fish if you want but if tournament is cancelled it will not count. I am in the understanding that this was the main reason for option 2 many boats would just fish jetties, river or stay close to shore if able to.

Even with the two options everyone needs to remember that these tournaments are set for the members to come out and have fun fishing. These are not big money tournaments these were put together for the purpose of having members coming together other than in a meeting where we all share in a common interest of fishing, having your name put on the Captains Board and getting fish slips.

On a separate note if anyone knows of a person who would like to speak at the club please contact AJ.

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



**COMING
EVENTS:**

- June 4 - Club Meeting
- June 13 - Junior Angler Tournament
- June 18 - Club Meeting
- June 27 - Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament
- October 17th - **THE ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET**

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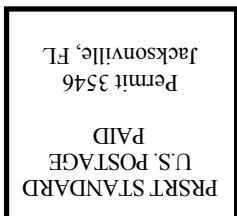
Tournament Schedule for 2015

Tournament	-	-	Month	-	—	Date	/	Alternate
								- All are on Saturday -
The Junior Angler Tournament	-	-	June	-	-	13	-	20 - Jack Ogin
The Kingfish Tune-Up Tournament	-	-	June	-	-	27	-	July - 11 - Rob Cripe
The Ladies Tournament	-	-	August	-	-	1	-	8 - Greg Wallace
The Light Tackle Tournament	-	-	August	-	-	22	-	29 - Jack Ogin
The Bottom Tournament	-	-	September	-	-	5	-	12 - Rob Cripe
Triple Challenge Tournament	-	-	October	-	-	5	-	12 - Steve Shaw

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