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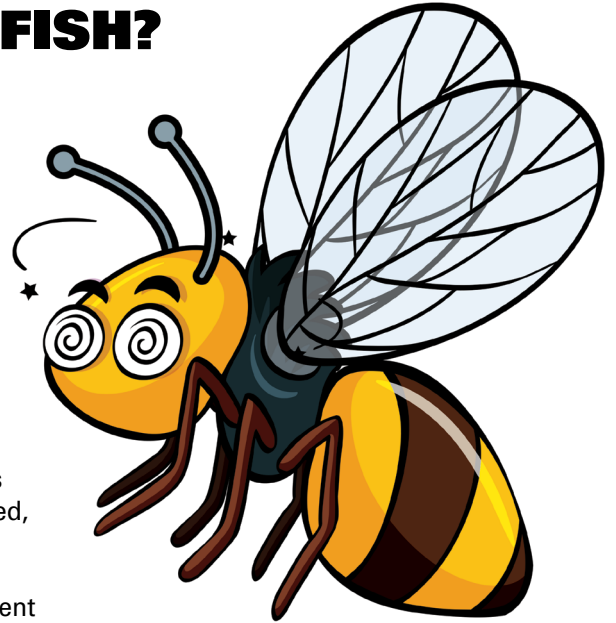


ONLINE PROMOCODE:  
SHOWSPECIAL

## THIS JUST IN, BEES ARE FISH?

Ok, once again, we are faced with another excellent example of factual news that is far stranger than anything I could ever make up. This particular example comes from California, imagine that!!

In an effort to keep our readers up to date on important news about fish, I bring this report for your consideration. Bees made it on to the Federally Endangered Species list in 2017, but because of some very specific language in California's regulations the act only applies to "any bird, mammal, fish, amphibian or reptile that is considered endangered". This gave agricultural groups that oppose protection of bees a loophole to work with since invertebrates or insects were not mentioned. Since they were not mentioned, they legally could not be protected in California.



Now the Conservationists, who wanted to protect the bees, went back to their Law Library and found that the California Fish and Game Code contained a rather surprising and detailed definition of fish. The Code stated that fish was defined as "wild fish, mollusk, crustacean, invertebrate or amphibian". Because the code did not specify aquatic invertebrates only, this left the door open for Bees to qualify to be Fish in the state of California. Naturally, this had to be ruled on by a California Court and, as you would expect, they agreed that bees are, in fact, defined as fish under California Law. Bees don't even have to just identify as fish, they actually are fish under the Law. There are 4 specific species of bees that actually qualify to be protected, but the only one really of interest to me is the Crotch Bumble Bee and no, I'm not making this up. I am particularly happy to live as far away from California as possible, while still in the continental US, because I do not wish to ever encounter even one single Crotch Bumble Bee.

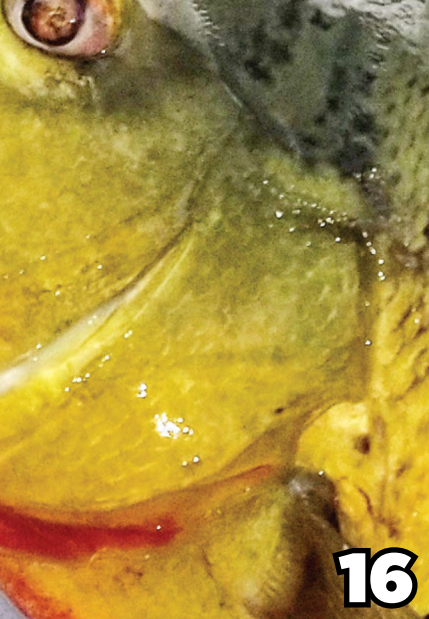
***In any event, this brings to mind a variety of interesting and rather random thoughts.***

- Will there be a new and unexplored market in California for tiny rods, reels and baits for anglers to use while fishing for bees?
- Bee's tendency to fly in the air rather than swimming in the water increases the opportunities for California anglers to fish for bees nearly anywhere. Will this cause an explosion of tourism?
- Will PETA be outraged and suggest that the name Bee has a stigma, or perhaps a stingma, associated with it and suggest that people would be more likely to protect them if we renamed them as air kittens? For those who don't already know, PETA already has proposed that we rename fish as sea kittens.

Thanks to Jason from the office at Belle Harbour Marina for pointing this newsworthy item out to me, in the first place. Also, Flip the Bird insists that I explain that while birds and bees both fly around, birds are clearly not fish and no one had better be out there trying to fish for birds, this would bring down the considerable wrath of birds everywhere down upon us and it would not be pretty, as Alfred Hitchcock clearly illustrated in the movie.

**Flip and I are available at Belle Harbour Marina nearly every day in case you want to discuss the Birds, Bees and Fish.**

Merle



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## REMEMBERING DAD.

by Tom Mohrbach

**T**his past Father's Day got me thinking about my dad, who passed away twenty-five years ago. He was a hardworking auto mechanic most of his life. He raised seven children, who left him little time to relax. Two of his favorite things to do in his limited free time were fishing and hunting. He instilled those passions in his four boys.

Our Summer vacations were always planned around fishing. My dad would rent a cabin, always on a lake, somewhere in Northern Michigan. Northern Michigan was very woodsy. The towns were simple and unhurried.

I have many fond memories of those vacations. Every morning we would rise with the sun and shove our small aluminum rental boats away from the shore into the lake's quiet, almost glassy waters. The mornings were so

peaceful that we almost regretted starting the small outboard motors. The growling of the 7.5 horsepower Mercury outboard would shatter the otherwise silence of the lake.

As we motored across the calm waters, Canadian Geese, a variety of ducks and perhaps a Loon would be spotted gliding in the sky or paddling in the water. Despite mid-July, it was usually cool in the morning, but the brightening Eastern horizon promised a warm day.

Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike were our target fish. My dad didn't bother with panfish too often as he preferred the fight of a big Bass or a toothy, angry Pike. We would bombard the drop-offs and lily pad edges with a handful of exotically named lures like the Bayou Boogie and the Hellbender.



Many a monster Pike were enticed from their lairs by a deep-diving Hellbender. The Pike was like freshwater Barracuda. Their initial strike was fast and hard, and they kept tugging until they were finally netted. Once safely in the boat, they thrashed about like a shark. The shallower running, Bayou Boogie, was a sure thing to get Bass to strike.

My dad wouldn't get any awards for fishery conservation as he kept most of the fish we landed. In his defense, he had seven children to feed. The catch was filleted, battered, and fried for dinner that evening. I've heard many fishermen say that Pike and Bass are not good eating. Still, in my experience, both were excellent when harvested from cold Michigan waters.







My Uncle Bill and Aunt Bonnie would normally accompany us on our trips and rent an adjacent cottage. Their son, Jeff and I, in our teen years, would fish together in one boat and our dads in the other. My father, always a religious man, made a mistake after one Sunday mass near the start of our vacation of lighting a votive candle in the rear of the church. He deposited five dollars in the slot below it before chastising us boys for not doing the same. We had only ten dollars to spend the entire week and were reluctant to part with it. My dad made a remark along the lines of, "we'll see who gets the most fish."



After leaving the church, my cousin and I worried that we were now jinxed. The opposite could not have been more accurate as we caught the most Pike we had ever caught in a week while our fathers combined for their worst week ever. Only one Pike between the two of them.

I have dozens of fond fishing memories with my father, as many of you do. I have done my best to pass on some great outdoor memories to my

daughter, and maybe one day, she can share them with her kids that she swears she'll never have.

I was also blessed to have an excellent father-in-law who loved fishing too. I was fortunate enough to do some crabbing with him while vacationing in Florida. We also did some Smallmouth Bass fishing together in Northern Michigan. My father, father-in-law and uncle Bill have all passed on now, but I think how much I miss their company, especially when fishing. Happy belated Father's Day to all dads. Take some time this year to share your love of fishing with your kids.

They'll never forget it even after you're gone. ☑

**Tom Mohrbach is a retired police officer. He has published four novels since his retirement. All of his books are available to order on Amazon. Tom recommends that outdoor enthusiasts who like action/adventure stories check out his novel, Northern Nightmare. See his website: [tommohrbach.com](http://tommohrbach.com) for additional information on all of his books.**

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# THE RIVERS REPORT

by Captain John Rivers

**T**he inshore bite has been very good for many species in Tampa Bay! Let's start with Spanish Mackerel cause they can be found all over Tampa Bay around the markers and near the flats where there is a abundant amount of bait.



Next on the menu is Mangrove Snapper. The bite has really picked up the past two weeks and is only going to get better. Chum heavily, use a light leader and you'll have good results.

Redfish has been off and on, at least for me over the past few weeks. I know a few areas that are holding them, but getting them to eat is another story! You must catch the tide right and have the right bait, which is either a fresh cut Pinfish or fresh, dead Threadfin.

Snook fishing has been great even though it's July and it's hot out.



The fish that have been out on the beach are starting to make their way back into the bay, but if you're out on the beach, no worries, there are still plenty of big Snook to be caught. Just remember, they are out of season, so take extra care to make sure they swim off alive. One key thing is to find clean water and hit it on the right tide and you'll have a productive day. On my last trip, we crushed the Snook with over





20+ fish and a few over 27-inches. On light tackle these fish are tons of fun and great for families or the serious angler.

Trout fishing is also very good; both in the bay and off the beaches. The key is to hit them early in the morning or close to sunset and you'll do well.

Over the next month the fishing will pretty much stay the same, and you just need to find clean water for Snook, fish shaded spots for Redfish in the middle of the day and Mackerel are pretty much on every marker and near the flats.

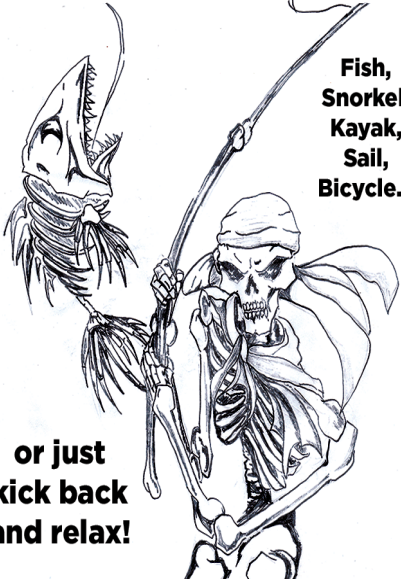
Yes, July can be hot, but don't let that prevent you from booking a Tampa Bay Fishing Trip with Rivers to Bay Fishing Charters, as we are still bending the rods and I'll have plenty of water on board to keep you in the fight. ☑



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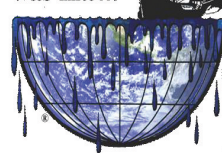
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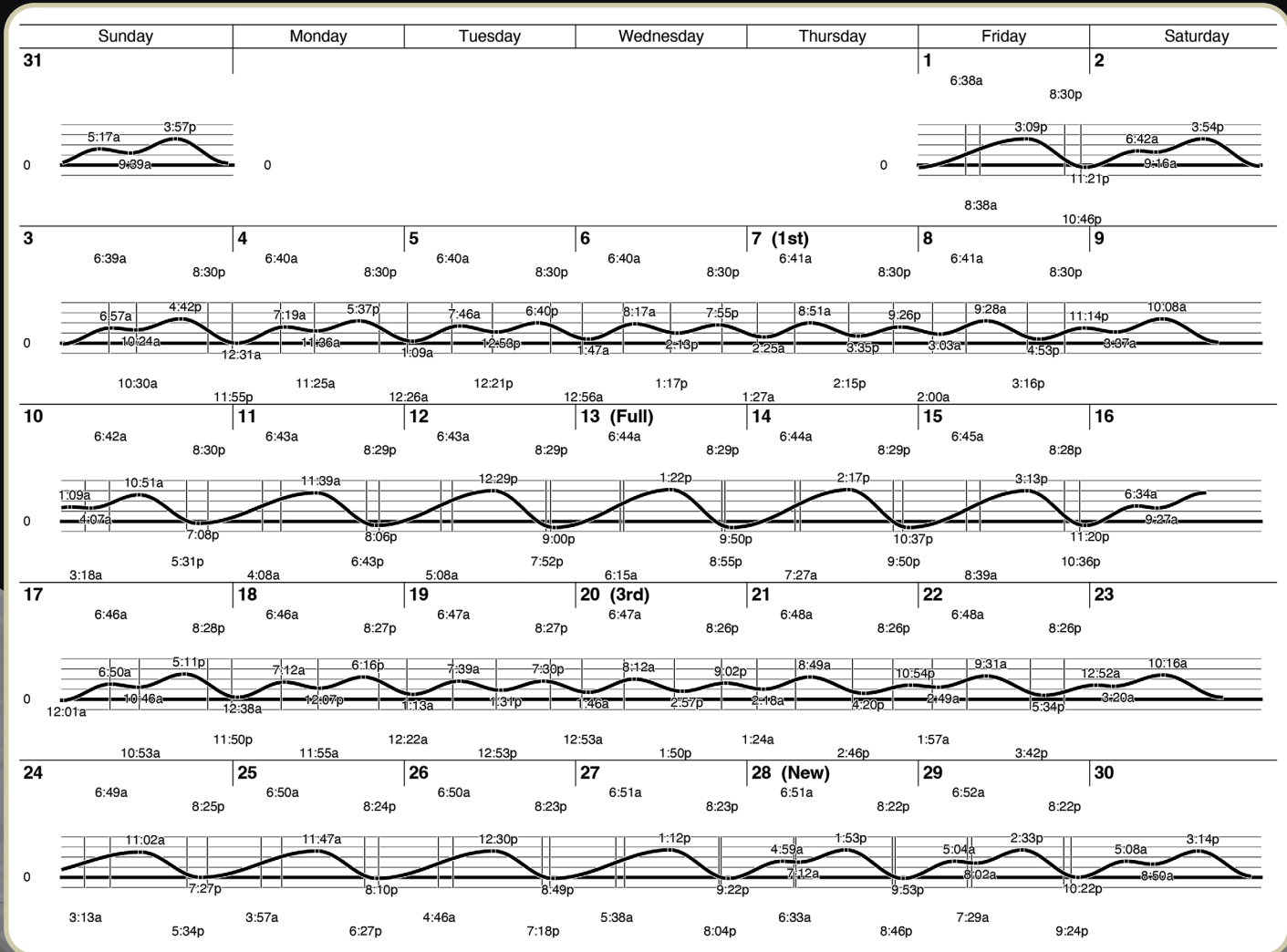
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**Conversions for Clearwater Beach Area**

High	Low	
-0:02	-0:10	Dunedin, St. Joseph Sound
-0:05	-0:15	Anclote Key, South End
+0:42	+0:42	Tarpon Springs, Anclote River
-0:07	-0:03	North Anclote Key
+0:41	+0:39	Old Port Tampa
+0:33	+0:53	Gulf Harbors
+0:42	+1:05	Hwy 19 Bridge, Pithlachascotee River
+0:50	+1:35	New Port Richey, Pithlachascotee River
+0:36	+0:43	Hudson, Hudson Creek

**Conversions for St. Marks River Area**

High	Low	
+0:23	+1:18	Everglades City
-1:17	-1:03	Cape Romano
-1:04	-1:08	Marco Island
-1:59	-2:04	Naples
-0:46	-0:09	Indian Bay
-0:59	-0:42	Bayport
-0:25	+0:23	Withlacoochee River

## Conversions for Tampa Bay Area

High	Low	
+0:49	+0:58	Gandy Bridge
+1:38	+1:55	Courtney Campbell Cswy.
+1:38	+1:55	Safety Harbor
+0:20	+0:22	Ballast Point
+0:07	+0:26	Hillsborough Bay
+0:21	+0:29	McKay Bay Entrance
+0:41	+0:39	Old Port Tampa
-2:27	-2:24	Egmont Key
-2:53	-2:46	Anna Maria, Bradenton Bch
-2:10	-2:19	Anna Maria, City Pier
-1:24	-0:55	Bradenton, Manatee River
-0:30	+0:14	Redfish Pt., Manatee River
-2:22	-1:58	Mullet Key Channel, Skyway
+0:08	+0:17	Shell Point
-0:22	-0:29	Point Pinellas
-1:34	-1:30	Pass-a-Grille Beach
-1:32	-1:05	Gulfport
-1:18	-0:44	St. Pete Beach Causeway
-2:14	-2:04	John's Pass
-1:40	-1:18	Madeira Beach Causeway
-2:00	-1:25	Cortez, Sarasota Bay
-1:38	-0:58	Sarasota Bay
-2:02	-1:38	Venice Inlet
-0:57	-0:40	Englewood, Lemon Bay
-1:27	-0:59	Placida, Gasparilla Sound
+1:38	+1:56	El Jobean, Myakka River
+1:52	+2:30	Shell Point, Peace River
+1:06	+1:27	Punta Gorda, Charlotte Hbr.
-1:12	-1:56	Boca Grande, Charlotte Hbr.
-0:19	+0:26	Pineland, Pine Island
+0:43	+1:28	Matlacha Pass
-0:55	-1:14	Redfish Pass, Captiva Is.
-0:46	-0:20	Captiva, Pine Island Sound
-2:20	-2:28	Captiva, Gulf Side
-0:25	+0:16	Galt Isle, Pine Island Sound
-0:30	-0:44	St. James City, Pine Island
+2:08	+2:44	Fort Myers
+1:15	+2:02	Cape Coral Bridge
+1:08	+1:40	Iona Shores
+0:51	+0:42	Indian Rocks Beach, ICW

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# SEASON 3 OF "LET'S TAKE IT OUTSIDE"

by Misty Wells



New to the lineup for Season 3 is Florida's Space Coast where we filmed two episodes and what a blast we had! To be honest, I had not spent a lot of time in that area of Florida and I have been missing out on some real outdoor fun. A sneak peek into the episodes will reveal some amazing kayak experiences at the Brevard Zoo. Yes, you can kayak through the Zoo on any given day! We also head out the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge for an amazing sunset kayak trip that leads into a bioluminescent nighttime kayak trip that is on fire". The fishing on the East Coast is also a lot of fun. We not only did some shore fishing, we also hopped aboard a boat for some nighttime shark "catch and release" action, as well. Of course, no trip to the Space Coast would be complete without "hanging ten" on Cocoa Beach and taking some much-needed surf lessons from School of Surf. I can't wait until the

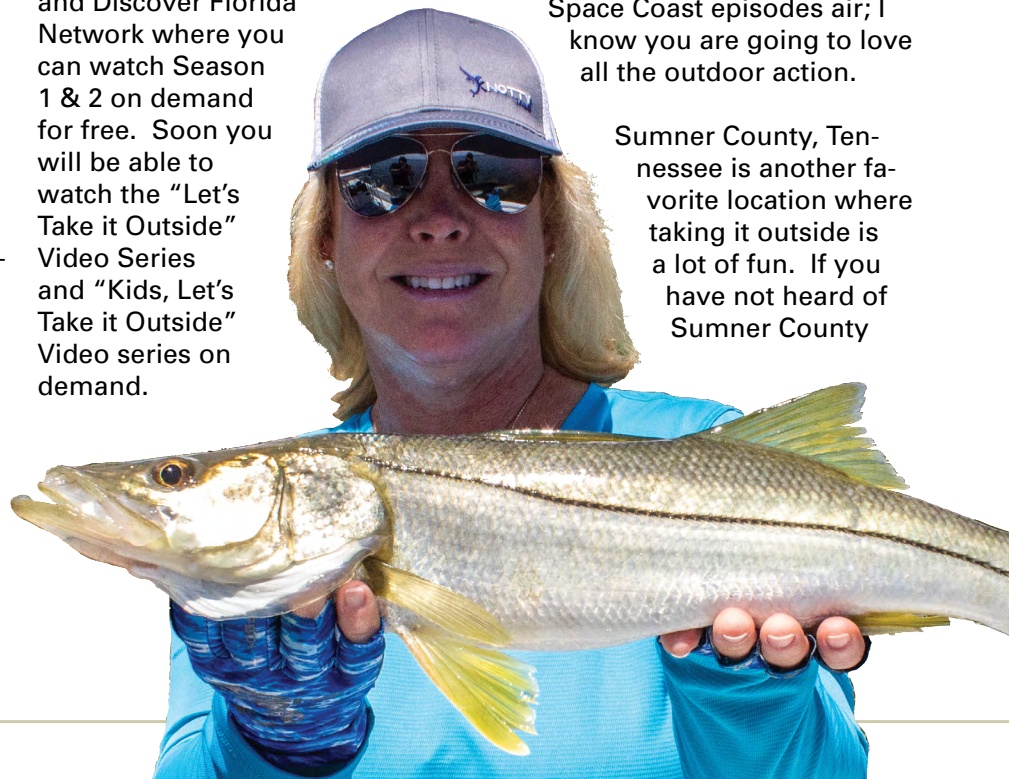
Space Coast episodes air; I know you are going to love all the outdoor action.

I am excited to announce "Let's Take it Outside" Season 3 is airing on Bally (Fox) Sports starting in July and airing on World Fishing Network this October through December. This seasons episodes are going to take you to places like Florida's Space Coast, Sumner County, TN and again to the historic shore of St. Augustine. This Season of "Let's Take it Outside" is being brought to you by Fishbrain, the World's #1 Fishing App. We use this app all season and it is bringing in the catches for sure.

If you are not a fan yet, allow me to introduce myself, Misty Wells, host to one of the fastest growing "Outdoor Television Shows" on air right now called "Let's Take it Outside" and you guessed it, I travel around the State of Florida & the United States highlighting

the outdoors, destinations and fun outdoor things to do. Currently, I have now launched the "Let's Take it Outside" channel on these free digital channels: Waypoint TV, Carbon TV and Discover Florida Network where you can watch Season 1 & 2 on demand for free. Soon you will be able to watch the "Let's Take it Outside" Video Series and "Kids, Let's Take it Outside" Video series on demand.

Sumner County, Tennessee is another favorite location where taking it outside is a lot of fun. If you have not heard of Sumner County



it is the home of Old Hickory Lake, where the Bass fishing is full throttle and, of course, the music scene is on amazing. Sumner County is just minutes away from Nashville, so you can have the best of both worlds in one location. This season I got to meet George Birge, country singer of the hit song "Mind on You" and we got to hit a few clays at the Nashville Gun Club where country legends like Luke Combs and Brantley Gilbert go to unwind. Speaking of Luke Combs, he has launched a new brand of eye wear called "Blue Otter" and they hosted their first "Bass 'n' Bash" Blue Otter Bass tournament on Old Lake Hickory this year. I fished that tournament with my buddy, Captain Ian Huey and with over 120 professional Bass fishing teams in the tournament I am happy to say we placed in the top 50. In this episode I think you will pick up some good Bass fishing tips from Ian and myself that you can use at any freshwater location.



No season would be complete if I did not fish my own backyard in Tampa Bay and this year, I finally got to fish with Captain Chris Wiggins. Captain Chris is one of the best in the bay to be honest. He consistently

wins a lot of inshore tournaments year-round. Austin and I from Fishbrain put the app to the test to see if things matched up with Captain Chris and pretty much they were "hand in hand" in the fish reporting. The summertime Snook and Redfish bite is hot right now and if you can get out on the water you have a good chance of a hook-up. One of the useful tips I learned from Chris is "when it is bright, go light", meaning when the water is clear, go to as light of tackle as you can to get that bite. You can get a lot of useful information on fishing Tampa Bay and surrounding areas by downloading the free Fishbrain App, it will help you increase your catches for sure.

This is just a quick overview of all the outdoor fun we had filming Season 3 of "Let's Take it Outside". I hope you will enjoy this new season because we are excited to bring you to new and exciting places to enjoy the outdoors. So, follow me on my social media channels and if you have any outdoor ideas for us to come film, please send me a message. Until next time I hope you tune in and remember to "Take it Outside" whenever you can in the great State of Florida and beyond. 📌

**Misty Wells Producer & Host of "Let's Take It Outside" TV show airing to 38 million on Bally Sports, World Fishing Network, Waypoint TV, Hunt Channel, MOTV, Discover Florida Network & Carbon TV. Bass Pro-Outdoor Pro & Outdoor & Travel Writer. Founder of "A Reel Future" non-profit devoted to teaching the passion of fishing & conservation to foster children, over 3,500 children & counting.**



**EVERY SUMMER  
HAS IT'S OWN STORY...**







# MINE IS AN EXOTIC ONE!

*By Rosemary J. White: Mom, Angler and all around Wonder Woman!*



**L**ife is colorful, simple, exotic, extravagant and complicated. In order to fully enjoy what life has to offer, I have resolved to, first and foremost, collect adventures and experiences to reminisce about. It is the simple part of life that gives me the most joy. How do you collect adventures cost effectively in today's economy, moreover, how do you involve and incorporate kids into the mixture when outside influences such as video games and the internet are prevalent?

Freshwater exotic fish, such as Peacock Bass, Cichlids and Oscars provide one of the most spectacular color shows imaginable. I compare them to Parrots; water Parrots that is. Just as cool colors can have a calming effect on the body, bold and bright colors such as red, orange and yellow evoke feelings of happiness, optimism and energy! Who doesn't want their children to embody these wonderful emotional states of mind? Fishing has been an important tradition in my family that has provided life-shaping experiences for my children. There are very few memories that stick out in our minds as clearly as catching our first fish and who we were with when we caught it. Fishing provides the opportunity to spend quality time with the ones you love in a peaceful and picturesque setting, talking and reconnecting.

Fishing for freshwater exotics is one of the simplest ways to catch a child's first fish. For years my kids and I have been taking road trips to the East Coast. For us the 4-hour car ride provides unforgettable road trip experiences. Driving also provides the opportunity to fish smaller bodies of water most often passed up by "avid" anglers. We have caught some big fish by stopping at the side of the road and casting into what seem to be little ponds. Florida has 3 million acres of lakes and ponds and 12,000 miles of rivers and streams; you can always find a little spot to fish from land.



Fishing does require a recreational license in Florida. Children under the age of 16 are not required to purchase most recreational licenses. For us adults as Florida Residents, we need a freshwater fishing, or saltwater fishing license. There are several exemptions for those who cannot afford a license! You can find these exemptions on the My FWC website.

Freshwater exotic fish include some of the following: Jaguar Guapote, Midas Cichlid, Myan Cichlid, Bullseye Snakehead, Clown Knife Fish, Oscar, and Pacu. The by-catch possibilities are not too bad either, including but not limited to, Large Mouth Bass, Florida Gar, Pickerel, Snook, Tarpon, Bowfin etc. These fish can all be found in the same general areas of South Florida's diverse ecosystem. These exotics have been introduced into the canals of South Florida in one of the following ways: aquarium release and/or aquaculture escape, released by the Department of Medicine, University of Miami and released by FWC to control other nonnative fishes. New species are being caught and discovered regularly. Many of these fish can be caught quite easily from a land/bank-based location. This is great for those who do not own a boat. Kids love live bait and so do many of

these fish. Shiners have produced some of South Florida's biggest freshwater exotics. A simple bucket and aerator is all you need to keep your bait lively. For more experienced anglers seeking a challenge, artificial and fly tackle are also a great option.

Lighter tackle provides an awesome "fight" for young anglers. Light tackle can include ultra-light rods/reels. Fishing with ultra-light tackle, as its name implies, entails using a very light action rod, light line (usually in the 2 to 10-pound range), and small lures. While some may fail to acknowledge smaller tackle, ultra-light gear and the tactics associated with the technique often times catch more fish. This type of tackle is perfect for any little pond or canal in Florida. If you

or your youngsters have progressed into using lures, I highly recommend an ultra-light. When it comes to those times throughout the year when fish are inactive or sluggish, most anglers will find more success catching fish by downsizing tackle. Kid size tackle! Since most exotic species do not get that large, lighter tackle is the way to go! Even if you get a “biggie”, the fight on light tackle is thrilling to say the least.



Let's talk about one of the realities of South Florida exotic fishing. There is the summer heat, which is great for fishing for exotics in South Florida, but not so much for you. Many bugs, bugs, and oh

bugs! Not to mention snakes, alligators, and even crocodiles! My kids and I always wear boots of some sort to bank fish. We wear performance apparel (does not have to be expensive name brands), hats, and sunglasses. Backpacks are a must filled with drinks, snacks and, of course, fishing tackle. Educating your kids on their surroundings ensures that they are vigilant when walking through brush, water and/or rough terrain to get to a “spot”. A VERY important realty? Silence! Make it a game to see who can get to the fishing hole in the quietest manner possible. Fish can hear. They can feel the vibrations long before you have reached that honey hole. Parents it is up to you to watch for gators and crocs!

Here is another realty you may not know, Florida anglers spent almost 1 billion dollars on fishing in some way, shape, or form in 2011. This generated an economic impact of \$1.7 billion, which supported more than 14,040 jobs according to the FWC. So, you and your kids are positively contributing to our economy when you fish! It is no wonder Florida is considered “the fishing capital of the world”. Who knew that when you took your kids fishing you were inadvertently teaching

them about conservation, economics and geography? Try getting that in such an impactful way in a concrete walled classroom!

Our most recent trips to South Florida have been unsurpassed! The boys and I caught our personal best Peacock Bass, Clown Knife Fish, Midas Cichlid, First Peacock on Fly and first Snakehead for Daryn. Both Daryn and I achieved South Florida slams as well! These include Largemouth Bass, Peacock Bass, Snakeheads and Clown Knife all in the same day. When the kids were younger, we exclusively used live bait, as it was the easiest way for them to catch fish. Now that they are both older and their skill set has evolved, they also use artificial lures and flies. They can also throw a cast net and catch their own live bait! Over the 16 years my kids have been fishing, they have learned to love and understand our fragile environment. Daryn has also developed his passion for photography and many of his pictures have landed me on magazine covers. They appreciate and fully understand the role that they play in conserving and enhancing our resources. Does it make them better people? I sure believe it does! Both of my sons are stewards of our environment, and they have taught others to do and be the same.



**Fishing for Freshwater Exotics has also taught them the education behind where these non-native species of fish have come from. A round about Geography class if you will. Bright and beautiful, these fish capture the eyes. The education that stems from the catch lives with them for a lifetime. ■**

## SOUTHEASTERN FISHING TACKLE TURNING HEADS WITH STUNNING TRANSFORMATION!

If you haven't been over to Southeastern Fishing Tackle lately, at the corner of North Florida Avenue and Floribraska, just north of downtown Tampa, you should make the trip. The company is under new ownership and the renovations begun months ago are not done yet. Many things inside and out have changed but their commitment to customer service and knowledgeable staff have remained the same. You've got to come in and see the new look.

***"When our regular clients come in, they can't believe they're walking into the same store they've been coming to for decades," said General Manager, Doug Ray.***

***"We're really proud to show off our new look and we're not done with the changes to the property," said Ray.***



The parking lot is going to be redone to add additional parking spots. The entire property is getting a face-lift both inside and outside. St. Petersburg muralist Jenny Pearl has completed two new murals on the walls facing North Florida with a breathtaking view of what's under the water's surface in Tampa Bay.

First opened in 1974, Southeastern is one of the oldest and most established fishing tackle companies in the Tampa Bay area. They can outfit any angler for any species of fish for any season at any budget. All their trusted employees have decades of fishing experience, and they are more than happy to share their knowledge with you.

They have a full line of rod and reel repair services on every make and model. Their chief technician,



Gary Westphal, can do it all. They make custom rods to your specifications for inshore and offshore fishing. They can also personalize your existing rods and decorate them to your

liking. They can put line on all your reels, whether it's spinning. Conventional, or baitcaster. They have the finest selection of braided line and monofilament in the bay area. You name the fish, they have the line to catch them. They carry every major brand and if they don't have it, they can get it for you. They ship nationwide with same day service. They also accept phone orders with real people who know how to fish answering the phone.



Southeastern is proud to be part of this amazing community here in the fishing capital of the world. They are committed to building and maintaining long term relationships with their clients, fishing charter captains, non-profit organizations, and community leaders. Their friendships and partnerships are the bedrock of who they are.

You can come into their store knowing nothing about fishing and you will leave with everything you need to catch fish that very same day.

They will rig your setup for you, tell you how to use it, tell you where to get live bait, and tell you about all the great fishing spots.



**They are open seven days a week; Monday thru Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm, and from 10 am to 4 pm on Sunday. And, check out their ad in the front of this issue for a 10% off coupon on your next visit!**

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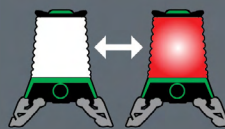


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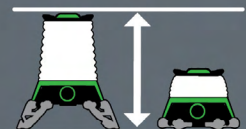
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## **REEL IN AWESOME IN CRYSTAL RIVER**

**Cast your line in Citrus County, Florida for world-class fishing, year-round!**

by Christine Steele

**S**et on Florida's Nature Coast, just a short drive from Orlando, Tampa, Gainesville and Ocala, Discover Crystal River is a true sportsman's paradise. Three spring-fed rivers — the Homosassa, the Chassahowitzka and the Crystal — feed into the Gulf of Mexico and create a rich fishing habitat.

This combination of fresh and salt water fishing, along with the pristine untouched character of the landscape and easy, relaxed pace of life, make Citrus County a world-class fishing destination year-round.

### **GO COASTAL OR GO FRESH**

Homosassa Bay, with its mangrove shorelines, dense seagrass beds and network of islands, is known for its giant Redfish, but that isn't the only species that will give you reel-burning thrills in this authentic Old Florida destination. You'll also find an abundance of Spotted Seatrout, Cobia and Spanish Mackerel ready to challenge the best of light tackle anglers. The clear, pristine flats are perfect for drifting or trolling along and taking in the scenic beauty all around.

At the mouth of the Crystal River, reel in Tarpon, Cobia, Redfish, Seatrout or venture offshore to deeper waters for Snapper, Grouper and Amberjack. At the river's headwaters, you'll find Bass, Sheepshead, Mullet and Bluegill.

Off the coast, the 19,000-acre Tsala Apopka chain of lakes connect with the Inverness and Floral City pools in Citrus County that are prime for landing largemouth bass. Shellcracker and Bluegills also flourish throughout the chain, making this a quality, year-round freshwater fishing destination.

### **FISHING IS A WAY OF LIFE**

Fishing goes back generations in Citrus County. Guides with a lifetime of experience on the water can help you find the best honeyholes to access boatloads of fish, both inshore and offshore.

While visiting, be sure to spend some time swapping fish stories with the locals at unique spots like MacRae's or the Monkey Bar in Homosassa, or Peck's Old Port Cove in Ozello. Or, just sit back and watch the boats go by as you relax with a cold one after a successful day on the water.

During the summer months, Citrus County's famous scallop season is in full swing. The waters off Crystal River and Homosassa are two of only a handful of places in Florida where you can gather buckets of fresh, juicy scallops. Dive into this local tradition likened to an underwater easter egg hunt.

### **FROM FISH TO FORK**

After a fantastic day on the water, pull your boat up to shore and bring your buckets of crabs, cleaned scallops or fish to one of more than a dozen restaurants or seafood shacks where a local chef will cook your catch in this time-honored Florida tradition.

Call ahead and let them know you're coming, then have a seat and let them serve it up to you with all the fixin's, fresh from the water and onto your plate.

With so much to see and do, plan your next fishing trip to Citrus County and discover authentically awesome fishing and more in the soul of Florida. ☑

**Visit [DiscoverCrystalRiverFL.com](http://DiscoverCrystalRiverFL.com) to plan your trip.**



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# OPEN SEASON STARTS IN JULY!

by Misty Wells

**J**uly is the start of a lot of fun in Florida and for some key species it is "Open Season". It's time to grab your mask, fins, bags and tickle sticks, because, yes, I am talking about Scallop and Lobster Season in Florida!

Scalloping on the West Coast of Florida includes three of my favorite things: part snorkeling, part treasure hunting and part eating. July 1st is the opening of Scallop season here in Florida in certain areas and if you have not tried it, it is a bucket list item. Each year we gather our gear and head offshore to what some call, "Florida's largest Easter egg hunt".

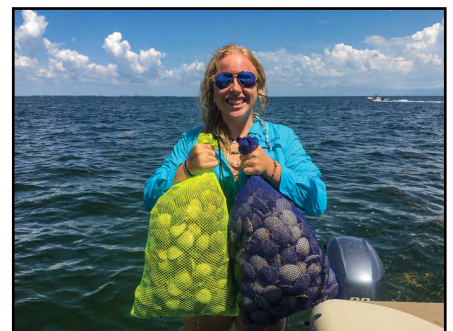
**PRO TIP:** I suggest getting your items purchased before heading to the location you pick; they tend to run out of gear. It might be hard to get last minute items.

One of the remarkable things about scalloping is it can be enjoyed by the entire family, all ages, with mild exercise and it is a wonderful way to spend a day together. In general, when scalloping, you will be in about 4 to 6 feet of water, swimming along the top until you see your prize. Once you know what to look for it is easy because Scallops don't move very fast. A snorkeler will spot them laying on top of the seagrass or along the grassy,



sandy edges just hanging out. I have noticed that they do tend to hang in groups, so before you dive down, look for other Scallops in the area and see how many you can get in one dive.

Scallopers can have 2 gallons of Scallops (in the shell) each or 10 gallons maximum per vessel. Make sure you have a valid Florida fishing license if you are required to have one and you're going to need a 5-gallon bucket to measure your catch. I recommend after harvesting your catch to put them in the live well, if you have one. If not, keep a towel over the water filled bucket to keep them fresh. Another help-





ful hint for beginners is to wear a long sleeve shirt while in the water, I learned the hard way that your back can get pretty sunburn.

Lobster lovers get ready because July 27th and 28th is "Mini Season" and August 6th – March 31st is the beginning of regular "Bug Season". Regardless of whether you are a beginner or expert, one of the most important things is location and knowing



how to find the sometimes elusive bugs. One of the important things about Florida Spiny Lobster is they are nocturnal, so that does make them easier to catch. Popular Lobster hang outs are ledges, patch reefs, holes, big coral heads, and about any type of structure a Lobster can hide. A lot of seasoned professionals have their secret spots and many of these gems can be found

in shallow water. I have limited out of Lobster in 3 feet of water in the Key West. A tell-tale sign to look for is their antennae sticking out. They use these extremely sensitive appendages to detect danger and if touched, they will then start to go deeper into their hiding places. Once you locate a set of antennae, take your tickle stick and place it behind the Lobster to gently urge them out and slowly walk them into your net. Once they are in your net grab the excess material to quickly close the net or they will do the "tail dance" and be gone.

The great news is you can use the same equipment from Scalloping & Lobstering; just add a Tickle Stick, Gloves and a Lobster bag and your good to go. I have also found a new product I think is going to be a "game changer. It's called "Lobster League". I don't know about you, but when I am free diving for Lobster, the hardest part for me is keeping them in the net once I catch them. Well, my buddy Vinny has solved the problem with the first-ever Lobster flip close net; well, that's what I am calling it. You can capture a Lobster and with the flip of your

wrist, close the net underwater so they can't escape. Genius. This is one of those inventions where you scratch your head and say, "why did this take so long?" I already have mine, but if you are looking to up your game, go to [www.lobsterleague.com](http://www.lobsterleague.com) and buy one! You won't regret it. Also, an important reminder is to have your measurement gauge attached to your tickle stick for lobster because they must be measured in the water. The Lobster's carapace must be larger than 3 inches, which means the Lobster is at least 2 or 3 years old and has reproduced at least one season. To measure the Lobster, place the end of your gauge between the horns and the other at the end of the carapace; if it is under 3 inches release and keep looking.



I would like to invite you to come meet me July 22nd through July 24th out at the Open Season Sportsman Expo where I will be doing seminars on "Open Season" in Florida. It will not only be about Scallops and Lobster season, but also getting ready for Hunting Season cause it will be here before you know it! Are you ready? This Outdoor Expo is being held all weekend at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland, FL and the good news is its indoors in the air conditioning and a family of 4 is only \$20 bucks to attend. There is going to be a lot of outdoor vendors and some great appearances by Jason Clark, of Southeastern Snake Encounters along with Byron Ferguson doing a Trick Shot Archery show. You can get all the information you need regarding hours, exhibitors and seminars at [www.openseasonsportsmansexpo.com](http://www.openseasonsportsmansexpo.com). Hope to see you there and remember Florida is the best place to "Take it Outside", especially this Summer. 📍

**Misty Wells Producer & Host of "Let's Take It Outside" TV show airing to 38 million on Bally Sports, World Fishing Network, Waypoint TV, Hunt Channel, MOTV, Discover Florida Network & Carbon TV. Bass Pro-Outdoor Pro & Outdoor & Travel Writer. Founder of "A Reel Future" non-profit devoted to teaching the passion of fishing & conservation to foster children, over 3,500 children & counting.**

# KIDS ARE AN IMPORTANT FISHING COMMODITY

by Captain George Hastick

**L**ets face it, kids are the future of this great sport we call fishing. They can have a great impact on this hobby and this hobby can have a great impact on them.



Hey, look at me, I am fishing for a living and I love passing my knowledge on to kids (and everyone) to try and get them involved at a young age, like I was when introduced to it by my Uncle Frank at 4½ years old. It stuck!

This sport can keep kids away from bad things growing up, let them appreciate the outdoors and put the game controllers down for a while. They can also develop better family bonds with family and friends.

I recently had the privilege to attend a kids fishing clinic at Picnic Island Park that Captain Sergio

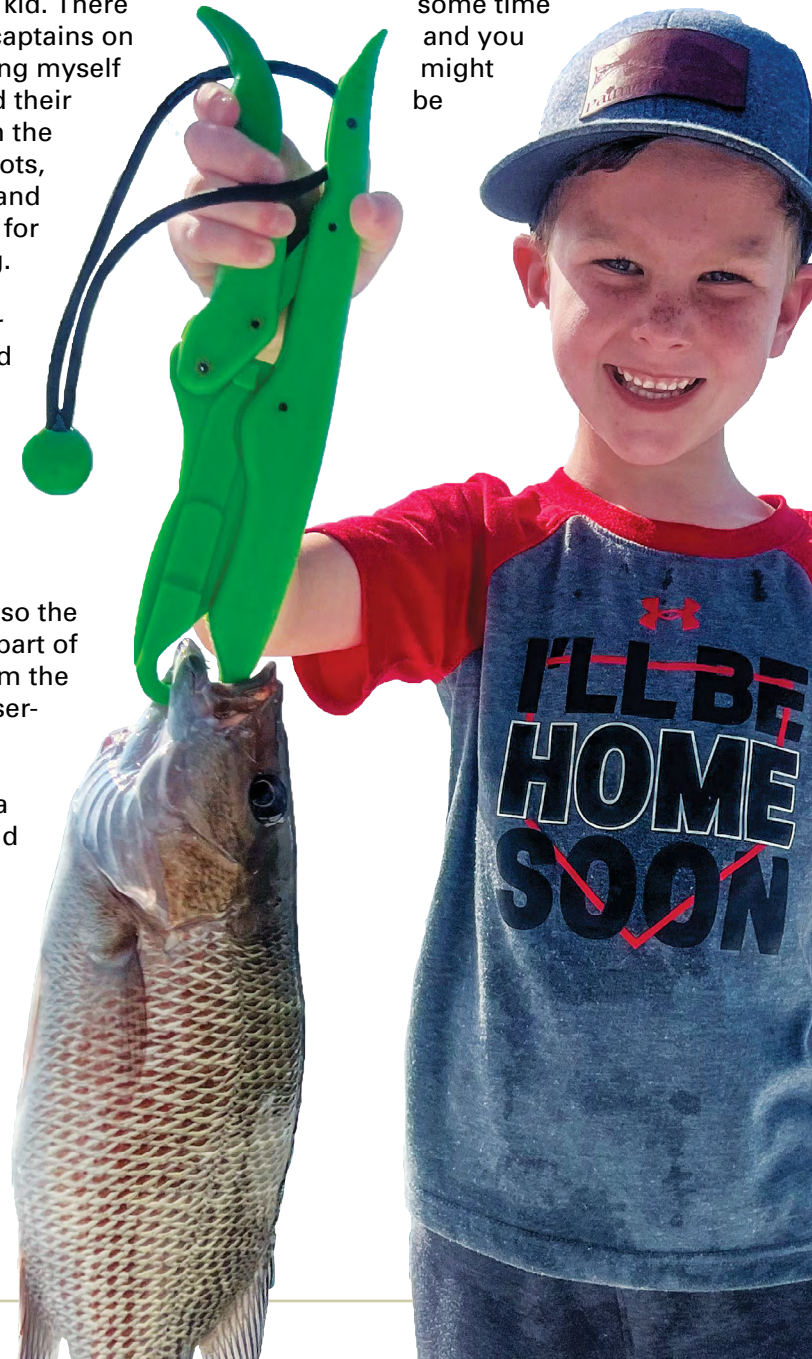
Atanes organized and put together with over 100 kids & parents signed up. The fishing community really responded to this cause to get kids involved with fishing and because of this there was a free fishing pole for every kid, food for everyone and a great grab bag of fishing goodies for every kid. There were many captains on hand including myself who donated their time to teach the kids to tie knots, how to cast and what to look for when fishing. There were too many for me to list and I didn't want to leave anyone excluded from the list.

There was also the educational part of the clinic from the Coastal Conservation Association with Captain Leiza Fitzgerald and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission with Gina Russo. They taught conservation, fish handling,

protecting our waterways along with the CCA STAR scholarship opportunities.

So, with such a positive turn out it shows that kids; both girls and boys are really interested in learning about fishing. All you have to do is invest

some time  
and you  
might  
be





So, lets get into some great ideas for a fishing adventure for our kids.

Fishing piers can hold a variety of fish, and they can just drop the line straight down next to the pilings where the fish hang out. Some of the smaller bridges that are easily accessible and have a sea wall you can fish from or even under the bridge to get out of the hot sun will also hold a variety of fish.

One thing you can do is get a bucket and a small aerator to keep bait Shrimp alive. Everything eats Shrimp,

surprised of the rewards and memories you get in return. When a kid learns to respect the outdoors and nature, they tend to grow up to be respectful in all parts of their life.

One thing great about young kids and fishing they do not care usually what they are catching, as long as something is pulling on that line! This makes it easier for the parents to help them have a good time and enjoy fishing. It can be freshwater or salt-water; they do not care.



from Pinfish to Tarpon. I would use medium-sized Shrimp on a 1/0 hook and 3-feet of 25 lb. leader with a 15# mainline. Depending on where you are fishing there could be Mangrove Snapper, Sheepshead, Black Drum, Redfish, Snook, Trout, Pinfish, Silver Trout and more.

So don't waste time, because it goes by fast! Grab your kid and go wet a line! 🎣

**Captain George Hastick of "Fish Hunter Fishing Charters" in St. Petersburg has been fishing the waters of Tampa Bay for over 35 years & guiding over 20 years. From novice to professional; Capt. George will make you feel as if you have been fishing buddies for years. Contact 727-525-1005, [www.FishTampa.com](http://www.FishTampa.com) or [CaptGeorge@TampaBay.rr.com](mailto:CaptGeorge@TampaBay.rr.com).**

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# A SUMMER NIGHT ADVENTURE

by Captain Sergio Atanes

**S**ummer storms are upon us, temperatures are rising and nighttime fishing is hot. Tampa residents are in for a treat because night fishing has its rewards with cool breezes, clear nights and tight lines.

Summer brings an influx of game fish into upper Tampa Bay; a short drive for Tampa residents. Tarpon, Snook, Trout, Redfish and Black Drum just to name a few. Shore anglers can fish from the Northwest side of Gandy Bridge and Picnic Island Pier. Boat anglers can target Howard Franklin, Gandy Bridge and the Courtney Campbell Causeway; both the large and smaller bridge.

July and August are prime months for catching large Reds (*sciaenops ocellatus*). A close relative of Black Drum, this hard fighting gamester has the pulling power of a small freight train on the loose. Redfish can range from 1 pound to a world record of 94 pounds. This time of year, large Redfish ranging in

size from 8 to 10-pounds can be caught using their favorite meal; a tasty blue crab!



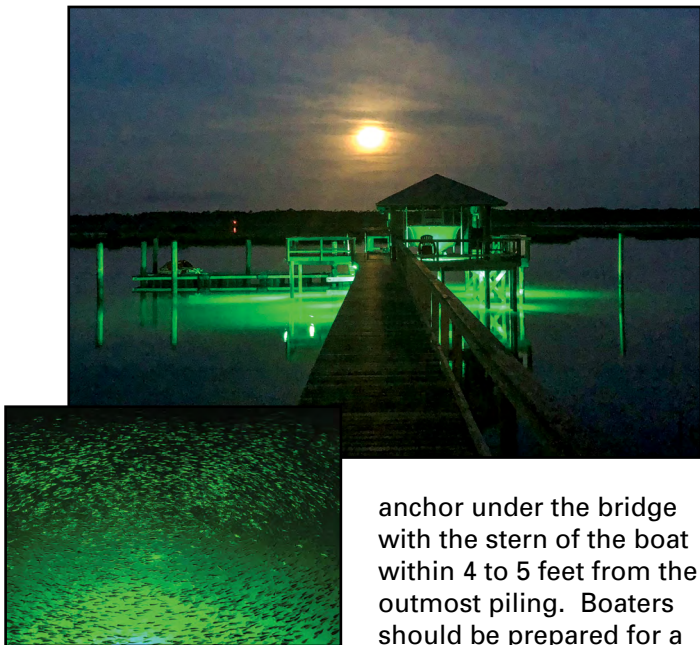
Medium/Heavy tackle is recommended, so I use my standard SRT rig of a 7-foot OKUMA Medium/Heavy action rod, OKUMA Azores 50 reel and 40-pound FINS braided line with double swive. Add 1 to 2 ounce sinker with 4-foot of 40-pound test Fluoro-carbon leader tied to a sharp 4/0 circle hook.

Large redfish hang out around most bridge pilings; I find those that are closer to shore to be the most productive. Call any of the local bait shops a few days ahead and reserve a dozen medium Blue Crabs. A crab can be cut in half and used as two baits. Remove the top cap, cut the legs off, and insert the hook through one leg socket and out the other. The other baits I recommend would be large, live Shrimp or silver dollar sized Pinfish, but Blue Crab will always be my first choice.

Another new entry over the years is underwater lighting for boats. They do work as I have a pair of Shadow Caster multicolor lights on my boat and it has increased my nighttime fishing by 50%. They are LED, so electrical consumption is almost nothing and I can run them for hours and my battery stays at the same voltage.

Bridge anglers can drop their line straight down alongside the piling and hang on. Boaters have a more difficult task. You need to





anchor under the bridge with the stern of the boat within 4 to 5 feet from the outmost piling. Boaters should be prepared for a quick release of their anchor

when a large fish is hooked. A common tool used is a fender or float tied above the water line to the anchor line. When a large fish is hooked, the anchor line is released. The current will drift the boat away from the bridge allowing the angler to fight his catch. When finished, return to the fender or float and re-tie.

Nighttime fishing has many rewards so don't be surprised if you hook a Tarpon, Snook or a Black Drum while fishing for Redfish around the bridges.

The slot size for Redfish is 18 to 27 inches and only one per angler, per day, so please obey the rules.

**BOAT RAMPS:** Salty Sol on Gandy Boulevard; one mile west of West Shore Boulevard.

**BAIT SHOPS:** Gandy Bait & Tackle and Trapmans Bait & Tackle both located on Gandy Boulevard.

Remember, docks with underwater lights are magnets for Trout, Snook and Flounder. A 1/4oz jighead with a live shrimp hooked through the tail can do magic on Flounder and even some nice, tasty, Mangrove Snapper! 🍷

**Captain Sergio Atanes is host of Florida West Coast Fishing Report on Facebook and YouTube every Monday night 7-8 p.m. live. He is also host to Aventuras De Pesca USA on national TV and Radio Show. Email the captain at: atanes@msn.com, call 813-973-7132 or visit: reelfishing.com.**

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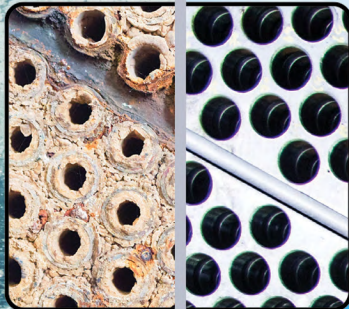
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# TAME YOUR RAW WATER SYSTEMS

## WITH NEW MARINE DESCALING FLUID

New Marine Descaling Fluid by Star brite safely and quickly **busts through scale, salt, and calcium deposits** in raw water-cooled systems, **maximizing power** at a fraction of the cost of similar products.

When your raw water system is barnacled with deposits, it can cause your engine to run hot or result in AC system inefficiencies by restricting water flow. A simple recirculation of Marine Descaling Fluid can **remedy these unseen overheating issues** without a costly repair. Plus, it won't damage seals, gaskets, or rubber impellers.

**Find this perfect DIY solution in stores nationwide. Available in concentrate and ready-to-use.**

**Visit [www.STARBRITE.com](http://www.STARBRITE.com) to learn more.**

