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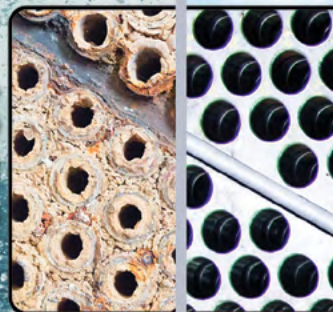
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BOATER TRAINING???

I see a lot of people sharing our waterways that really need a little boater education. I'm not even talking about boater safety class; it goes without saying that everyone on the water should have taken this at some time. I'm talking about getting a basic understanding of the way that powerboats work.

To help those who have not yet had the opportunity to learn some of these basics, I provide my top ten tips for operating a powerboat. For those of you who are experienced boaters I'm sorry if I am wasting your time.

#10 – Water is wet. If you do not want to get wet it is wise to avoid proximity to water. Wearing a body condom really does not help much.

#9 – Laying a rope loosely around a cleat is not tying up your boat securely. Tightly wrapping, knotting, binding and otherwise generally tangling up 10 feet of rope all around a cleat so that Houdini couldn't get it off is also not the way to tie a boat up properly. Use a little common sense when attaching your ropes to cleats. Keep in mind that it is also important to attach the anchor to the boat in a secure manner, before throwing it overboard. Some of our boat rental customers forget this step and get to buy a new anchor for me.

#8 – Know what the tide is doing while you are boating. Going for a nice walk on the beach and coming back to find your boat 50 feet up on dry land does not make for a fun afternoon!

#7 – If your boat has a kill switch then it will not start without the switch and lanyard properly in place. THAT IS WHY IT'S CALLED A KILL SWITCH!!!

#6 – If your boat is in gear (forward or reverse) the motor will not start. Make sure it is in neutral BEFORE YOU CALL SEA TOW! If you don't do this they will laugh at you and call you silly names.

#5 – If you are docking and the boat is not quite going where you want it to, giving it a lot of throttle will not fix the problem. When docking even the best captains occasionally get screwed up by wind or current and wind up bumping the dock. Boats do not have brakes, pushing on the floor with your foot will not keep you from hitting the dock, that is what reverse is for, if used properly. If you are going to hit something, hit it slowly, idle is your friend!!!!

#4 – Jet Skis are an exception to #3; they do not steer without some throttle, however with too much throttle they may jump over the dock. It is just best to avoid these entirely.

#3 – When launching your boat at the ramp, it is important to insert the drain plug first. The drain is not a one-way hole; it will let water in too. It is much easier if you put the plug in before putting the boat in the water, the launch ramp is not a nice place for a swim! It is really better to just store your boat in a nice dry stack marina, perhaps somewhere like Belle Harbour Marina in Tarpon Springs.

#2 – It is not a good idea to attempt to boat where birds are walking, this usually does not end well for you or the birds.

#1 – Alcohol and driving a boat do not mix. In a best case scenario, you can wind up looking really silly stuck on an oyster bar in Fernandina, waiting for the tide and in a worst case scenario, you can do serious damage to your boat and possibly even serious bodily injury to yourself or others.

If you follow these tips you are sure to have more fun and fewer problems on the water.

Merle and Flip the Bird can be reached at Belle Harbour Marina in Tarpon Springs by calling 727.943.8489 or by email: merle@shoredev.com.



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ON THE COVER: Misty Wells from "Let's Take It Outside" with a beautiful "Over 40" Club" Snook caught on a recent trip. Read more by casting over to her article on page 28 of this issue!

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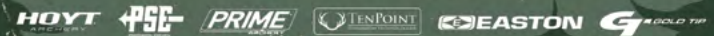
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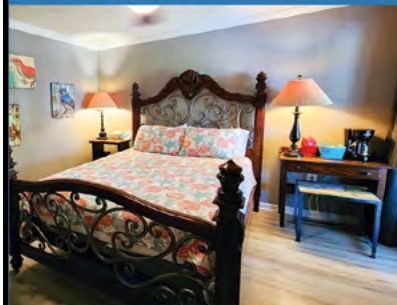
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THE SNOOK OF SUMMER

by Anthony Gomez

Summertime is my favorite time of year to fish. The days are extremely hot but there are always lots of fish to be caught. One of my favorite fish to catch in the Summer is Snook. Snook fishing in the Summer is a ton of fun and produces some really big fish. Snook school up in big pods and go out towards the beaches and inlets to spawn. That is the main reason Snook season is closed during the Summer. Many big female fish will spawn and release thousands of eggs throughout the course of the season. Even though it's all catch and release fishing, it can be a blast to hook-up and fight these big over-slot Snook.

But, finding these pods of Snook can be difficult at times. Usually, the inlets will have a solid school of fish that stage up in different areas depending on conditions. Other times, the beach can hold a good number of fish, but they travel in smaller groups of 2 to 4 fish. Occasionally these fish will be in big pods off the beach. The best way to find out if the fish are in the area is to look for a good supply of baitfish.



In my region, we get big schools of glass minnows or small whitebait all throughout the Summer and Snook can get fired up on these schools of bait. On the beach, we get the same schools of bait and big schools of Croaker. Croakers are a big bait that Snook love to eat. Snook also like to eat them because the Croakers feed

on Snook eggs. That means that Snook will attack the Croakers even when they aren't hungry.



Live baits are best for catching the bigger fish. Croakers, Pilchards, Sand Perch, Mullet and Pinfish are all great bait options, but depending on the area, certain baits work better. Artificial baits can sometimes entice these Snook, but the water is usually clear and can be hard get them to bite. Artificial work best at nighttime using big swimbaits and Flairhawk lures can entice a big Snook in the dark. Smaller presentations like little Paddletails and Shrimp imitation lures can get tight on a big fish, as well. Even though the artificial baits work, live bait is the main ticket for these big breeder snook.

The gear I like to use varies depending on my baits and location. When I'm using big live baits like Croakers and Pinfish, I usually fish a 5000-8000 size reel. A stiffer action rod helps to fight these big fish and land them fast. A 3-foot piece of 40-80 lb. monofilament or fluorocarbon

is great for a leader to make sure the bait seems as natural as possible. I would also use this gear when fishing in heavy structure when you must pull these snook out of rocks and pilings. For my smaller lures and little live baits, a 2500-4000 size reel is perfect for casting. A rod with a light action tip also helps. I usually run a 30 or 40 lb. fluorocarbon or monofilament leader. It's on the lighter side but it can still land those big fish. This setup is also great for fishing the beach and areas with less structure.

Snook fishing in the Summer can prove to be super fun, but can also be very frustrating. These fish are very smart and do not eat the entire day. Focus around the tide changes seems to produce the most bites. With the right gear and right baits, you can entice a big breeder snook to bite! 🎣

Anthony Gomez



JULY MEANS SPANISH MACKEREL!

by Captain George Hastick

July is an excellent month to target Spanish Mackerel. They will be following the bait schools; anything from Glass Minnows, Cigar Minnows, Scaled Sardines and Threadfin Herring. They will be on the beaches, but they will also move up into Tampa Bay targeting any structure that holds bait.

The structure can be any of the traditional things you might think of which would be your bridges like the Skyway, Gandy and the Howard Franklin. The Howard Franklin might not hold them good now due to the construction, but the others definitely will. Also, your artificial reefs and good rocky, hard bottom areas will also attract them.

Other areas to look at will be your range and channel markers that are holding large schools of Threadfin Herring. Some of the overlooked spots for mackerel are the drop-offs along the grass flats where it goes from 5-6 feet down to 8-10 feet or deeper. They will cruise the edges of these drop-offs during moving currents and ambush baits from the deep. Shoals with good hard bottoms in the middle of deeper water are another good spot to check through out the Summer for these drag screaming toothy critters. Passes during good tidal movement will stack up the bait which in turn will attract a variety of species but especially mackerel this time of year.

There are times when you can go out and look for birds working the bait schools and many times it will be the mackerel pushing the bait to the surface. At times you will see the mackerel coming out of the water free jumping after baits. Now if you do not see surface hits that does not mean the mackerel are not there. They can be feeding down lower in the water column, so it is always worth it to cast a bait or spoon out and work the bait school. There are many artificial baits that mackerel love such as spoons that shine in the water from the sun along with jigs and bucktails. If you are using a bucktail I find that if it has white as the dominate color or all white, you get more strikes. When working the artificial baits for the mackerel do a countdown on your sink and try deferent depths

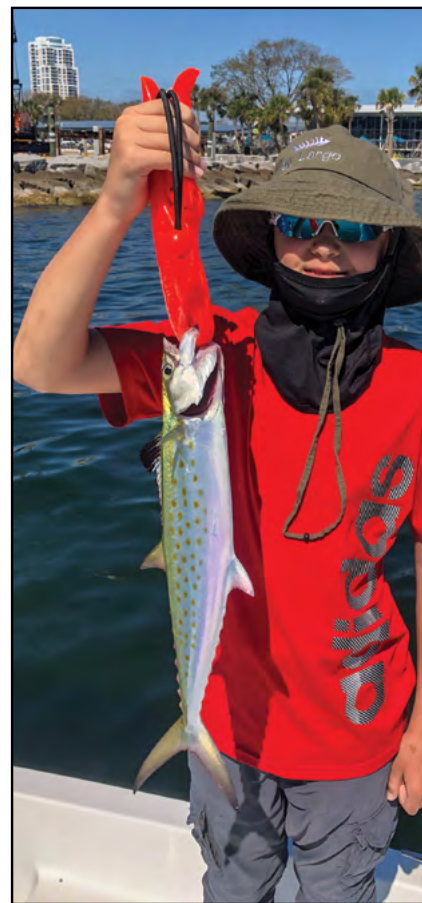
and speeds until you start getting some strikes.



When rigging up for mackerel using live bait I like about 3-4 feet of 30# test Seaguar Fluorocarbon leader, but many times a regular mono leader will work fine. I like to use that with a long shank #1 or 1/0 hook to get away from getting bit off too much. If you are getting cut off, a short piece of #2 or #3 wire about 8 inches long will fix the problem. I usually always use wire when throwing lures because I do not want to lose too many. I like to use a medium action rod, 8-17# with a fast taper for good casting and a flexible tip so the hook doesn't pull out on the blazing, drag screaming runs the mackerel are

known for. Good luck and happy Mackerel hunting! 🎣

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 or CaptGeorge@TampaBay.rr.com.



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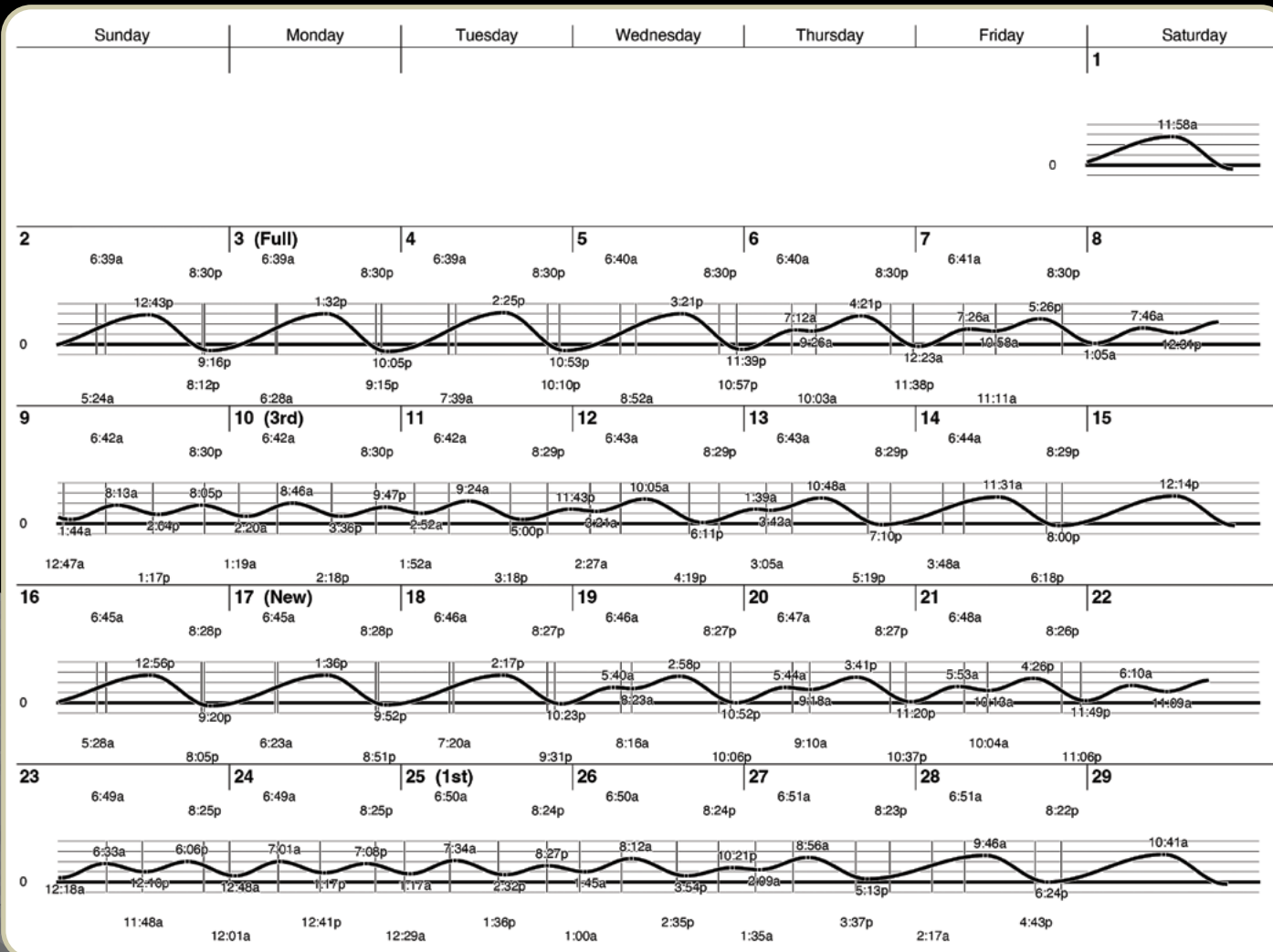
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Conversions for Clearwater Beach Area			Conversions for St. Marks River Area		
High	Low		High	Low	
-0:02	-0:10	Dunedin, St. Joseph Sound	+0:23	+1:18	Everglades City
-0:05	-0:15	Anclote Key, South End	-1:17	-1:03	Cape Romano
+0:42	+0:42	Tarpon Springs, Anclote River	-1:04	-1:08	Marco Island
-0:07	-0:03	North Anclote Key	-1:59	-2:04	Naples
+0:41	+0:39	Old Port Tampa	-0:46	-0:09	Indian Bay
+0:33	+0:53	Gulf Harbors	-0:59	-0:42	Bayport
+0:42	+1:05	Hwy 19 Bridge, Pithlachascotee River	-0:25	+0:23	Withlacoochee River
+0:50	+1:35	New Port Richey, Pithlachascotee River			
+0:36	+0:43	Hudson, Hudson Creek			

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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ROLLIN' ON THE **WHITE RIVER**

by Merle Seamon

I was fortunate to get to, once again, visit the White River in Arkansas for some world class trout fishing. This is a trip that I have done every year for the last 40 years, with the exception of 2020, due to Covid.

I am joined on this pilgrimage by 20 or so of my oldest and dearest friends and a few acquaintances. I have known one of them since before he was born (it's too long a story to explain here) and several of the others since we started first grade together at Hardin Bale Elementary in Little Rock. Back in the days when we were young and crazy, we would be on the river from dawn to dusk in a quest to catch as many trout as humanly possible. When we had to get off the river, we would adjourn to our cottages at the "Y Cabins" in Salesville, Arkansas for a night of drinking adult beverages, eating as much as humanly possible, perhaps playing some poker and definitely speaking of many things that are probably better left to your imagination.

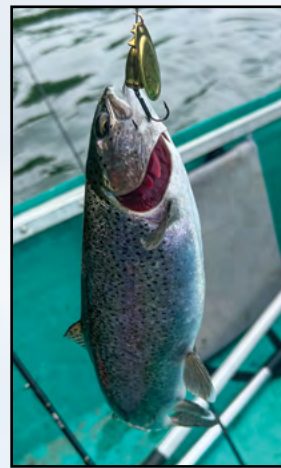
Today the trip is a bit lower key than it was back then, although the old dogs can still howl a bit, the howling simply does not last as long. The fishing also has become

less of a competition to catch the largest quantity of or the biggest trout ever and more of an experience to be shared and savored. Things like watching a woodchuck on the bank or seeing lots of other wildlife, have become more important than catching every single fish in a 5-mile radius.

The most important part of the trip today has become spending some quality time just really annoying the crap out of some of your oldest and best friends. If you can't really seriously annoy your friends, who else can you annoy?

This year, the fishing gods blessed us with pretty good water conditions, so the fish really were biting all day every day. The White and Norfolk Rivers are both tailwaters fishing below two big Corps of Engineers Lakes. Electric generation and flood control are the primary goals of the impoundments and unfortunately that means that the needs and wants of anglers often don't mean much to them. For the last few years, we have had relatively high flows when we were there so the water was dirty and a bit hard to fish. This year the flow was manageable, and the water was relatively clear so the fishing was good.

Within our little group of anglers, there are two schools of thought regarding fishing methods.



A few of us, myself included, prefer to use small lures and spinners like countdown ralphas, crawfish crank baits and roostertails to catch our fish, while others prefer the lazy method, which involves just dragging a bait on a hook down the river. For the lazy/bait method, Berkley Power Eggs and real shrimp work well. I was pleased that, this time, the artificial bait method seemed to be working better and I was able to catch lots of fish on my preferred baits.

For tackle, the typical rig includes ultra-light spinning tackle with 4 to six pound mono line. Typically the water is very clear, so really light line is a must. While most of the fish are small (read bait to us salt-water types) there are some really huge brown trout in these waters. For years the world record was held by a brown trout that came from these waters. The record fish was a monster Brown over 38 pounds caught by Mike Manley and it was caught on just 6-pound test line.

This year, everything that we caught was relatively small (up to 2 or 3 pounds) but there is always that chance to get a monster fish. Two years ago, Jay Richards, who organizes this annual trip, was fortunate enough to get the largest brown trout that any of our group has ever caught. The trophy fish would certainly have weighed between 15 and 20 pounds, had he

brought it to the dock to weigh it, but he did not want to take a chance of killing the beautiful fish, so it was quickly released after the picture was taken. No one was so lucky this year, but we still caught a few nice rainbows and lots of the smaller ones. For more serious trophy and fly fishermen, there are some exclusive trophy areas on both rivers. These areas require single barbless hooks and are strictly catch and release.



We always fish in rented 20' fiberglass Jon boats with 10 to 15 hp outboards. I have not seen similar boats anywhere else that I have fished. They are long and skinny and very shallow draft with extremely low sides. They are not terribly stable, as evidenced by the fact that someone often winds up falling in the water. This year was no exception.

The water here can be very shallow, with periodic shoals that can be difficult to





done a great job of seeing that we are all well fed, we have added even more good food in recent years. For Thursday night, Richard Rea, one of our group from Oklahoma City who owns Earls Rib Palace, brings a delectable assortment of barbeque with all of the fixins. For Fridays dinner, I ship 20 pounds of the biggest Key West Pink Shrimp that I can find and we do a first rate shrimp boil. To complete our odyssey of overeating, Jay prepares an exceptional fish fry for dinner Saturday night.

navigate during low water periods and the boats are designed accordingly. Typically, you run up river for a while and then float back down, while either pulling the bait behind with the current, or casting your artificial baits as you drift. This method of fishing provides you with the opportunity to enjoy some exceptional scenery and wildlife while you float. A significant part of the experience is the natural beauty that can only be fully appreciated from the water.

Another part of the annual trip that has become even more important in recent years is the food. While Jay has always

To add even further to our weight gain, Jay sees to it that we are also fed a big breakfast every morning, as well as, providing sandwiches and snacks just in case we haven't already eaten enough. Needless to say, we all come home several pounds heavier.

In the end, the real point of it all is a bunch of great fellowship with a lot of dear old friends. I can't believe how old that they have all gotten and I'm glad that I have aged so much more gracefully. I already am looking forward to next year. ☑

Merle



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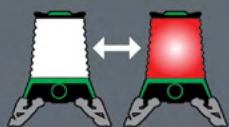
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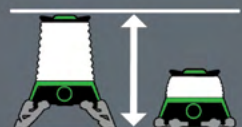
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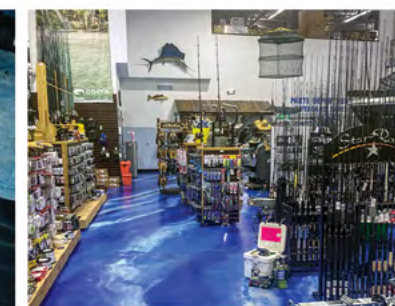


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CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN THE MANATEE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Discover How Conservation Efforts in the Crystal River Area Impact Fish, Wildlife and More!
by Josh Johnson

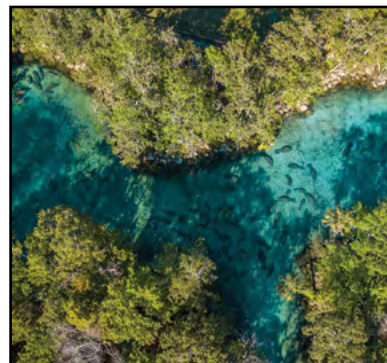
As the Manatee Capital of the World, Crystal River takes great pride in being at the forefront of manatee and local ecosystem conservation. These continued efforts help ensure these gentle giants have adequate food sources and a safe refuge yearly from November to early April.

Healthy ecosystems in the Crystal River area greatly benefit us all. Here are two ways you can help take part.



Practice Responsible Boating

A recent study by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission shows that only 4% of observed adult manatees show no sign of watercraft-related scars. As you can tell by this staggering statistic, boats pose one of the single largest dangers to manatees' health and safety.



When posted regulations and signage are not followed, this can physically harm both manatees and their feeding

grounds. For these reasons, it's essential to follow all posted signs and listed regulations and ensure responsible boating is practiced at all times.

Other responsible boating practices include wearing polarized sunglasses during boat operations and observing all manatee speed zones and caution areas.

So whether you're enjoying a sunny day on the water or hunting for your next catch before the sun rises, please remember to practice your manatee manners!

Catch and Release

Unsustainable fishing practices threaten local ecosystems and their resiliency in a few ways. Primarily this happens through overfishing and, in turn, habitat de-

struction. Habitat destruction not only impacts the quality of fishing but also directly impacts manatees and their ability to thrive here.

Groups in the Crystal River area, like Save Crystal River, have spent time and resources breathing new life into the local ecosystem by planting fresh eelgrass and combating harmful invasive species. And because of this, habitats in the area continue to grow and thrive! Now it's up to all of us to keep them that way.

Besides curbing potential habitat destruction, catch-and-release fishing also improves native fish populations. How? Because it ensures that more fish remain and reproduce in the ecosystem. This practice allows anglers to enjoy the bounty of fish in the Crystal River area while increasing their chances of successfully catching fish.

Practicing catch and release of native fish also ensures that the opportunity to enjoy this national pastime and recreational opportunity will be around for many years!

Conservation in the Crystal River Area

As you can see, there are many ways for you to engage in conservation efforts. If you're interested in discovering more about the continued progress being made by conservationists and eco-tourists alike, we have created a Conservation Hub filled with more information. Topics include how to be involved, from the comfort of your home to a deep dive into the invasive aquatic species that threaten the local ecosystem. There's a wealth of knowledge ready for you! [📄](#)

Learn more at DiscoverCrystalRiverFL.com/Manatee-Conservation.



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As the manatee capital of the world we take conservation seriously. Learn how you can play an active role in our efforts at DiscoverCrystalRiverFL.com/Manatee-Conservation.



Captain Sergio Atanes

July starts the dog days of summer with plenty of hot and muggy weather and those afternoon thunderstorms, so bridge fishing becomes a popular destination for black drum, red drum (redfish,) mangrove snapper and pompano. Live shrimp on a banana jig is great for pompano while fresh live blue crabs are ideal bait for black drum and the big redfish hanging around the bridge pilings. Small pinfish are excellent bait for that cobia making its rounds around looking for bait under the shad of the bridge.

ABOUT THE CAPTAINS

Captain Sergio and Captain George Hastick fish the Florida waters, specializing in and around the West Coast of Florida and Tampa Bay. Their show, Fishing Adventures Florida, is about two captains sharing their knowledge and experience of the local waters. Encouraging others to share in their love of what the outdoors has to offer. Their goal is to educate, entertain and share the experience of fishing opportunities the state has to offer.



Captain George Hastick

July can be an exciting month for fishing with a wide range of species to target from Spanish Mackerel to Tarpon and many in between. Tarpon will be on the beaches usually on the edges of the drop offs around 12-15 feet of water. They will also be in the passes especially on the outgoing tides during the full and new moon times. They will feed on the bait fish and crabs that get flushed out on the stronger outgoing tides. Snook will be spawning so the larger females will be in passes and on some of the artificial reefs.

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You are allowed 6 traps for personnel to use, not only catching some for bait but also for Sunday dinner. Please follow the rules for your area and good luck fishing.

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SUMMERTIME SLAM

by Misty Wells

Summertime is a great time to set your sights on chasing that "Inshore Slam" while targeting a diverse range of species. In our area of Tampa Bay, we consider the "Slam" to consist of Snook, Redfish & Trout. Of course, the likelihood of catching all three of these species depends on quite a few factors and you have to fish for each species a little differently.



First, take a look at the tides and then of course you need to check the weather and the winds to create your plan of action and the time of day you are going to launch. An incoming or rising tide is one of the best fishing tide times to start your day as you want to launch and be in your first location before the optimum time so, don't sleep in. A lot of new anglers will ask "why is an incoming tidewater better?" Incoming waters that enter the bay from the ocean can have a lower temperature, better water clarity and a good food source, so the fish are much hungrier and more active during this time than slack tide.

The next key to chasing your "Inshore Slam" is to decide which species you are going to target first. Most of the time each species has different locations throughout the bay where you have to provide different bait presentations and change

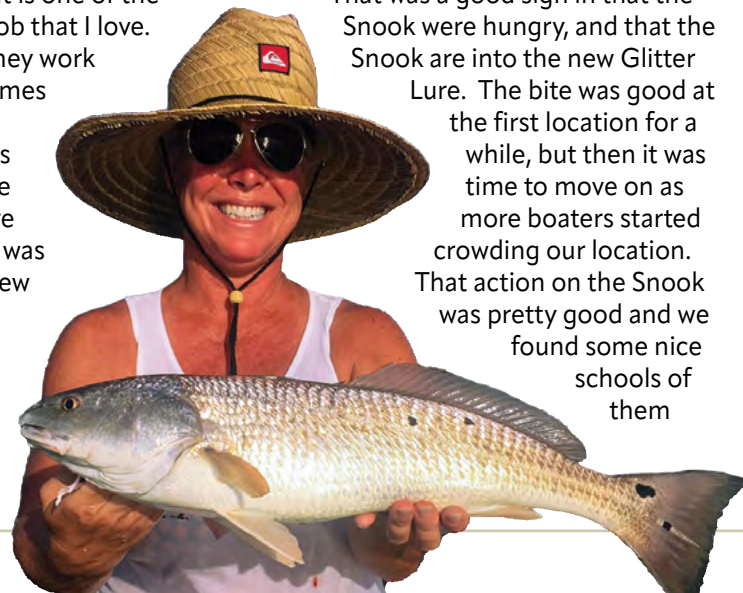
your methods of fishing for each species. I always like to start with the hardest of these three species, the Snook. Anglers come from all over the World to our area to fish for Snook and try and gain access to the elite club "Over 40 Club". What that means is you have successfully landed a Snook over 40 inches and hopefully have the photo to prove it. I am proud to say I am in that club, but it took me some time to get inducted as a member. Snook are ambush predators; they lie in wait under mangroves, in potholes and on the edges where the current is flowing to surprise their targets and gain an easy meal. Snook have a prominent lateral line which allows them to be very sensitive to vibration and they are very sensitive to water temperature; they like it warm. They bite hard and fight harder than almost any other fish and are smarter than most. Once hooked they will take you into the mangroves, under roots, around the piers, under the dock and do everything they can to break you off.

I have used live bait a lot for Snook because it is harder to land them on artificial lures, but today we proved it can be done. Quite often I get sent new products to try out and give feedback, that is one of the perks of the job that I love. Sometimes they work great, sometimes they fall flat, but it is always exciting to see how things are going to go. I was given some new lures to test called Glitter Lures, so we planned a trip with

Captain Chris Wiggins to put it to the test. The Glitter Lure was created by Dan Graf, an avid angler, that is from Ohio but travels wherever the bite will take him. Over a period of time Dan studied how fish identify and eat their prey. "Once a fish finds its meal, they slam into the body of their prey knocking off its scales." "As it brings the smaller fish into its mouth, the predator will move it around to remove some of the scales which are discarded out of its gills", hence the Glitter Lure. This design is a hard bait that flaunts a chamber of glitter suspended in liquid and as you crank your reel its life-like swimming action triggers the glitter flow in the chamber, catching sunlight reflection and imitating falling scales on a fish. Makes sense to me, but the proof is in the "catching" so we headed out into the bay to put it to the test.

Our first stop was a nice patch of mangroves right off a somewhat deeper ledge where the water flow was good and we could see some Snook as we eased up and dropped the Power Poles. We started with both live bait and the Glitter Lure to see what might get the bite going faster, as Todd and I both got hooked up pretty much at the same time.

That was a good sign in that the Snook were hungry, and that the Snook are into the new Glitter Lure. The bite was good at the first location for a while, but then it was time to move on as more boaters started crowding our location. That action on the Snook was pretty good and we found some nice schools of them



throughout the day. Of course, we saved the best hookup for last with that 42-inch Snook on the cover.



We had our fill of Snook, now it was time to turn our attention to catching some Redfish and Trout as we were intent on getting that Slam. For the Redfish we headed to some oyster beds and some potholes around the edges of some Islands in the bay. The Redfish will lie in wait and when they are hungry, they will eat almost anything from live bait, chunk bait and lures. Look for schools of Mullet for

Redfish and as the saying goes, "find the Mullet, you will find the Redfish!" They love to follow behind a school for an easy meal. We started off good and caught a few healthy Reds on our spots, with all three baits: chunk, live and the lure. So, once again the Glitter Lure was keeping up. As the day was moving on, we needed to target some Trout, so we moved over to the grass flats to see if we could count on some Trout to round out our Slam for the day. I started with a live bait on a cork and Todd and Chris were throwing lures. It was fun to see what was going to hit first. Todd landed a Trout pretty quick on the lure and shortly thereafter Chris and I both got hooked up. When using a live bait and fishing the grass flats you really do need a cork setup, otherwise your bait is going to swim down and hide in the grass and there is a chance you may not get a bite. Tip: Make sure to check your leader length if you are not getting a bite quick you may need to shorten the leader. When fishing for Trout I personally like using a cork, I seem to have better luck whereas fishing for Snook and Reds I like to freeline my bait if I am using live.

It was a great day out on the water, as always, with Captain Chris Wiggins. He never disappoints and to be honest I am impressed with the Glitter Lure as it performed well. I know it is hard nowadays when you walk into a tackle shop because there are so many choices in lures; some tried and true and some brand new. For Inshore fishing, I am going to give a "thumbs up" on the Glitter Lure; it performed well, held up, attracted the species we were targeting and landed us a monster Snook right at the end of the day. If you are interested in trying the Glitter Lure for free go to my "Let's Take it Outside" Facebook page, like it and comment on the Glitter Lure Snook photo that's on the cover of Onshore-Offshore Magazine to enter to win a Glitter Lure-5 Lure Giveaway. We are going to choose 5 winners to win five lures, so what do you have to lose? "Let's Take it Outside" Like, Comment and Win, it's that easy. I will announce the winners in mid-July and post it on my page. If you can't wait to try it, go to glitterlure.com and grab a few online. ☑

Misty Wells Producer & Host of "Let's Take It Outside" TV show airing to 374 million on Discovery Channel, Bally Sun Sports, Waypoint TV, World Fishing Network, Hunt Channel, MOTV, TCT, 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 3,800 children & counting.

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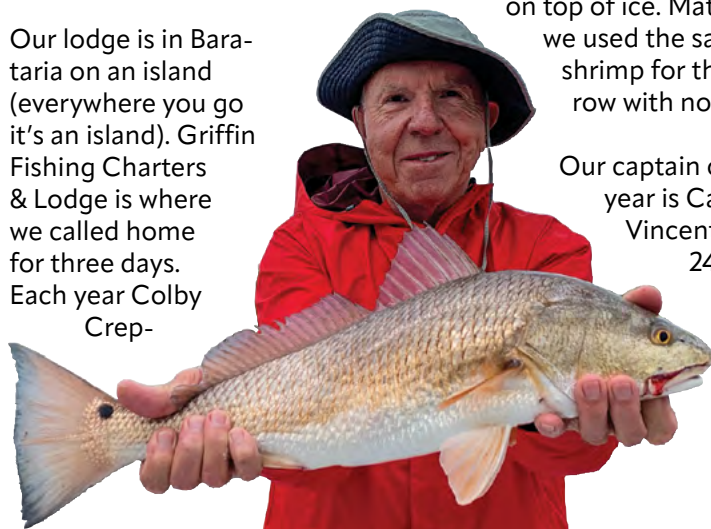
by Captain Sergio Atanes

Every year we make our way to Louisiana to fish for Redfish. But, not just anywhere, we like to do our filming in what I consider the real Louisiana, not the popular areas that everybody goes to fish. We love the Barataria area for its history and culture.



Barataria Bay, Louisiana was used in the early 19th century as the base of pirates and smugglers led by the pirate, Jean Lafitte. The bay is a notable source of Shrimp, as well as Muskrat fur, Natural Gas, and Petroleum. Located just outside New Orleans close to the airport and just about a 10-hour drive from Tampa, Florida, their daily bag limit is five Redfish per day and twenty-five Speckled Trout per day. This is why Louisiana is truly called a sportsman paradise!

Our lodge is in Barataria on an island (everywhere you go it's an island). Griffin Fishing Charters & Lodge is where we called home for three days. Each year Colby Crep-



pel, the GM and part owner oversees the operation and is also a guide himself. Your stay includes breakfast, lunch, dinner, guides, tackle and lodging. They have some of the best captains in the area and call this place home. All you need to bring is a cooler to take your fish home and purchase a fishing license for under \$20. Before crossing the bridge into Barataria you pass the small town of Jean Lafitte named after the pirate himself; a nice place to walk with friendly people, some small shops, and a quaint museum with some of the local history.

Here is where our adventure starts. On our first trip I was surprised to see nothing but dead Shrimp onboard; thinking the area is loaded with live Shrimp, why dead? Our guide said, "simply put, you don't need any when dead shrimp works great and its no hassle trying to keep them alive." They are kept in a cooler sitting on top of ice. Matter of fact, we used the same left-over shrimp for three days in a row with no problem.

Our captain of choice each year is Captain Gage Vincent running a 2400 Pathfinder boat rigged for bayou fishing. Our daily run to Lake

vador, Rigolets, Bayou DuPont, Three Bayou Bay, Little Lake, and Myrtle Grove takes anywhere from 20 to 35 minutes, and I can tell you from experience its nonstop fishing for six hours. Our average day for the two of us is anywhere from 30 to 50 Redfish per trip with some Trout, Sheepshead, and "Puppy Drum" thrown in for fun.



Three ways to catch these redfish.

One: Dead baits using the favorite cork of choice from the guides and locals, the 4-Horsemen popping cork with a short leader about 30 inches long with a 3/0 circle hook and one nice big dead Shrimp. We simply cast along the grassy shoreline popping the cork making plenty of noise to get the Redfish's attention. Nothing more exciting than watching the cork disappear and your drag singing its tune...fish on, as she runs for her live.

Two: Using artificial baits, the part I enjoy the most; getting the big, beautiful Redfish convinced to eat something that is not natural to them, making them think artificial



is something they want to eat. It's not easy and takes patience but the reward is knowing you did it your way. We use our favorite artificial bait, a Saltwater Assassin Shrimp on a 1/8 oz jig head; color doesn't matter as its mostly to add some weight to the bait.

Another variation of this method is replacing the dead Shrimp with a Saltwater Assassin under a popping cork. I tried the same method here in the Tampa Bay area using the popping cork and artificials with success but to my surprise the Trout went wild on the flats. It also increased my Flounder catch or maybe it was luck

and the two times I tried it they were just ready to eat.

Three: Combo using a 4-Horsemen cork with 30-pound Fluorocarbon leader; length should about 6 inches shorter than the depth of water. The idea is to drift an area popping the cork once wait a few seconds and do it again. Once you get a strike, drop your Power Poles and work all around the boat start another drift when the bite quits. ▣



Captain Sergio Atanes is a native resident of Tampa and has been fishing the water of Tampa Bay and Boca Grande for over 45 years. He is owner and operator of "S & I Charters" which is one of the largest charter booking services in the West Coast of Florida with 55 professional captains on staff. Capt. Sergio Atanes can be reached at (813) 973-7132 or www.reelfishy.com.





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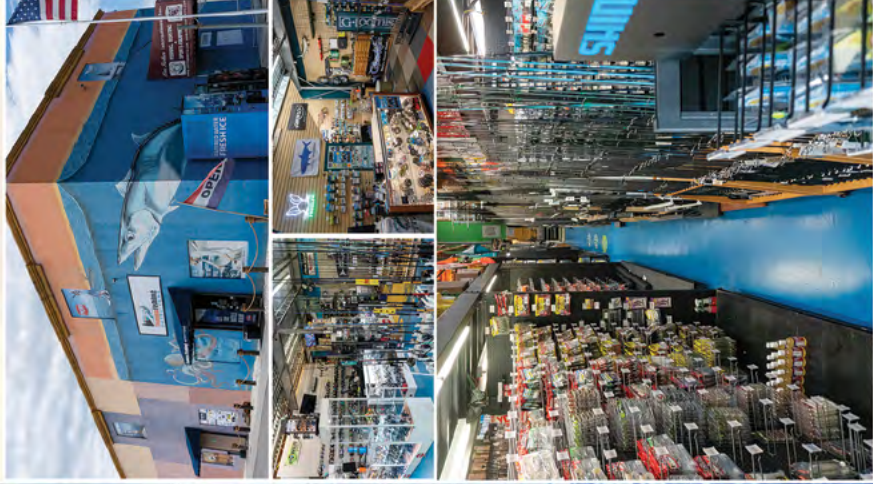


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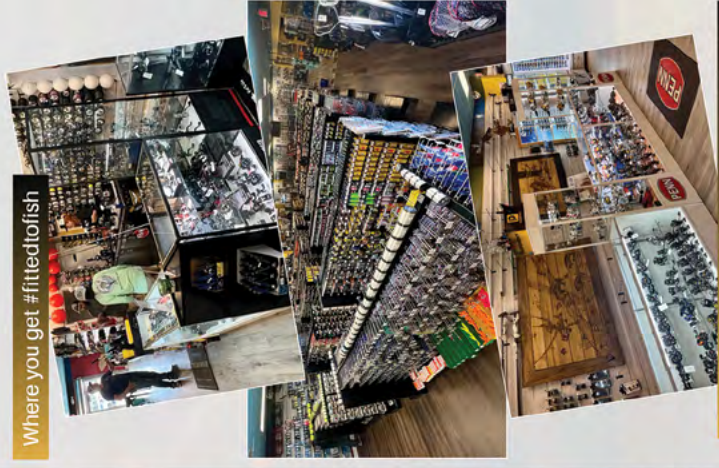
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