

FLORIDA'S COASTAL PRIMARY SPORTSMAN'S PUBLICATION

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Magazine

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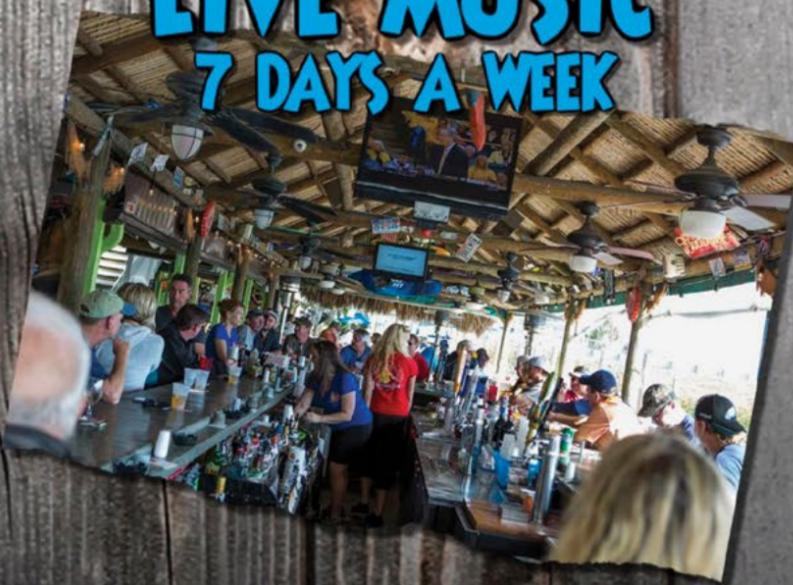
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FUN THINGS TO DO WHILE IT'S TOO HOT TO FISH!

I'm still not entirely sure what I think of Global Warming, but DAMN IT'S HOT!! Every year it seems to me that the dog days of summer are longer and are even doggier. I don't see how this could have to do with the fact that I'm getting older and less tolerant of the heat, it must really be hotter.

It has been so damn hot that I don't even want to try going fishing. I guess that I just need to try a nice cool trip to fish in Alaska, Siberia or someplace like that. My last trip offshore was over a month ago and I'm not going back until things begin to cool a little. On the day that I went, it was dead calm without a hint of a breeze and the humidity was so high that you could almost drown just by breathing the air. It didn't take long before we decided that the pleasure just was not worth the pain and we went home to the pool and air conditioning.

It is so hot at the marina that I find myself drawn to the ice machine. It can be really refreshing to sit inside for a few minutes and it is particularly fun to frighten the customers when they open the box to get ice. If I sit real still, they think that someone stuck a corpse in there. Good times!

There are many other ways you can have fun and also beat this nasty heat...

Here are my top 10 suggestions:

1. Stick a nicely chilled watermelon under your shirt and tell your friends that you are pregnant. This is funnier if you are a big hairy guy.
2. Dress in a white coat and carry a clipboard to any restaurant kitchen and they will let you stand in the freezer or go anywhere else you want. If they question you just say that you are the Health Inspector.
3. Fill your swimming pool with ice and conduct a meeting of the Southern Polar Bear Club.
4. Put popsicles in your underwear for cool and fruity fun.
5. To cool off and prepare your dinner at the same time, stick frozen dinners in your underwear to defrost more quickly.
6. Set up your pup tent in the beer cave at 7-11 and stay until October.
7. Fill your whole boat with ice (just the fish wells aren't enough) and make sure to be back to the dock before it all melts.
8. Convince the community theater to reenact the Titanic story, make sure you get to be the iceberg.
9. Move to Alaska, this place is way too "peopley" anyway.
10. Be cryogenically frozen with plans to return when the next ice age begins.

I hope that these suggestions are as helpful to you as they are to me. Hopefully the heat will break soon and we can all enjoy some great fall fishing.

Come by Belle Harbour Marina in Tarpon Springs if you want to join Flip the Bird and me in the ice machine, it's a bit cozy, but it is refreshing.

Merle & Flip



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ON THE COVER:

A happy young angler with a nice Redfish caught on a recent outing with Captain Hastick. October is the time to hunt for "pumpkin patches" of Reds roaming the inshore flats, so get out there and hook up!

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Publisher & CEO
Sal Liggieri
727.359.3471
sal@onshoreoffshore.com

Design & Layout
FISHBONE
CREATIVE
Bryan R. Hudson
616.250.0522
fishbonecreate@icloud.com
www.fishbonecreates.com

Cover Photographer
Onshore-Offshore Magazine

Contributing Writers
Captain George Hastick
Captain Sergio Atanes
Captain Justin Searcy
Dave Labell
Brad Kenyon
Misty Wells
David Mallory
Merle Seamon

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RED OCTOBER IS HERE

by Captain George Hastick

Towards the end of the year October has been well known in the Tampa Bay area as one of the best months to target schooling Redfish. Years ago, it was nothing to see multiple schools of 100 to 300 or more Redfish in a school.

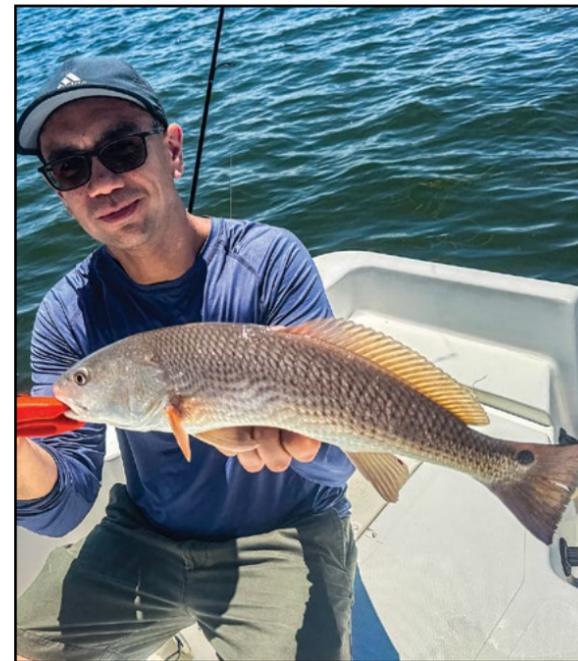


Places like Double Branch, Weedon Island, Picnic Island, Tierra Verde, Fort DeSoto, Tarpon Key, The Clam Bar, Rattlesnake Key, South Shore and Cockroach Bay to mention a few areas. It was nothing to go out and find your own school of

reds or join the many boats fishing a well-known school of Redfish. With the schools being so large back then, they would actually turn the water color a reddish hue, that could be seen from a good distance away, especially if you were wearing copper or amber colored polarized fishing glasses.

At the present time many of those areas I mentioned still get their share of Redfish and some still get decent size schools but sometimes it is just smaller schools of 8-15 fish these days; it just depends on what area you are fishing in and how noisy you are. Many times, the redfish will wait at low tide at the edge of a flat waiting for the tide to come in so they can get to a feeding zone.

Feeding zones can be many different types of structures, from passes, bridges and



reefs to grass flats, oyster mounds, islands and mangroves to name a few. Fishing in Tampa Bay on the flats I like to look for good grass that is holding plenty of bait. Bait can be finger Mullet, Scaled Sardines, Pinfish, Shrimp and more.

Now on the flats if you can find an area alive with bait or schools of Mullet with structure you are heading in the right direction. If you can find an area that combines multiple Redfish attracting



structures, it will up your odds of finding them. So, if you find mangroves on an island with an oyster mound off the point of the island which will usually have a deep hole, from the current, there is a good chance that redfish will visit a spot like that. This would combine several different things at once that all attract reds.

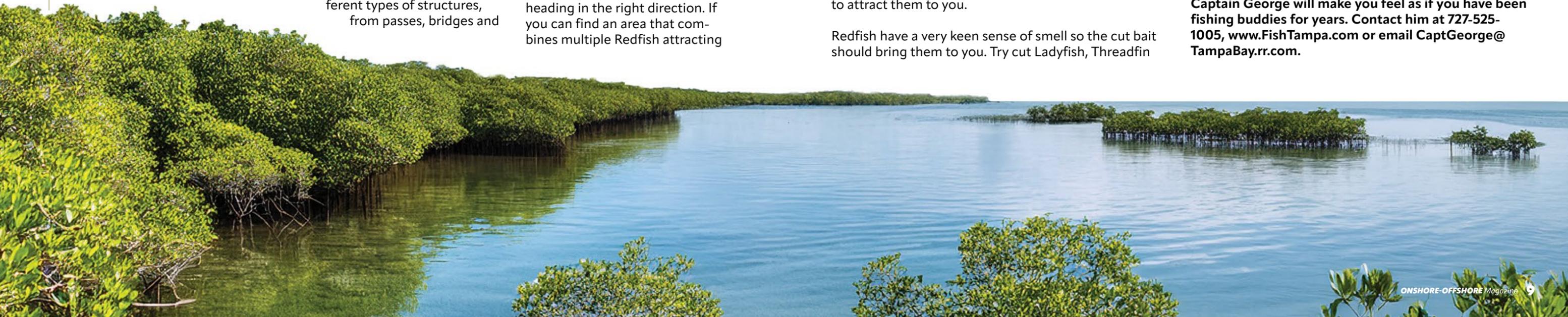
And many times, in places just like this, Redfish will follow the tide in as it comes up. If you can get to the spot and set up before they get there, they will be most complacent and happy to eat your offerings. The worst thing you can do is chase the school of reds, it will give them lockjaw. If you spot a school, get in their pathway, anchor down and let them come to you. Start throwing out live chum and cut bait to get the water by your boat to attract them to you.

Redfish have a very keen sense of smell so the cut bait should bring them to you. Try cut Ladyfish, Threadfin



Herring, Pinfish or anything oily. Fish with both live and cut baits in the rod holders for best success. ☑

Captain George Hastick of "Fish Hunter Fishing Charters" in St. Petersburg has been fishing the waters of Tampa for over 35 years. From novice to professional; Captain George will make you feel as if you have been fishing buddies for years. Contact him at 727-525-1005, www.FishTampa.com or email CaptGeorge@TampaBay.rr.com.



FALL BITES & FAMILY ADVENTURES

by Captain Justin Searcy

October marks one of the most exciting times of year for anglers along Florida's Gulf Coast. As the first hints of cool air push south, our inshore and offshore fisheries begin to light up, offering opportunities for both seasoned anglers and families looking to make memories on the water.

TROPHY ENCOUNTERS IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

This season kicked off with a real adrenaline rush; a trophy Florida alligator. For many outdoorsmen, gator hunting is as much a part of our culture as fishing. Landing one of these prehistoric giants is no small feat, and it's a reminder of the wild, untamed beauty that still exists in our amazing state's backwaters.

As water temperatures begin to drop, Grouper fishing offshore becomes more productive by



the day. Red Grouper have been holding strong on hard bottom and ledges, and October is prime time to put a few in the box. With steady conditions and calmer seas, families and crews alike are

enjoying both the run out and the rewards back at the dock.

INSHORE: FAST ACTION ON THE FLATS

For anglers staying closer to



shore, Spanish Mackerel and other pelagics are pushing into the bays and passes, feeding heavily ahead of winter. These fish provide non-stop action, making them perfect for anglers who enjoy light tackle and sight-casting opportunities. Whether drifting a live bait or throwing spoons and jigs, it's hard to beat the drag-screaming runs of a fall mackerel.

Perhaps the best part of this time of year is how it brings families together on the water. From kids proudly hoisting their first keeper grouper to adults chasing a dream catch offshore, October fishing has something for everyone. These trips aren't just about the fish — they're about memories that last a lifetime, and teaching the next generation to respect and enjoy Florida's coastal waters.

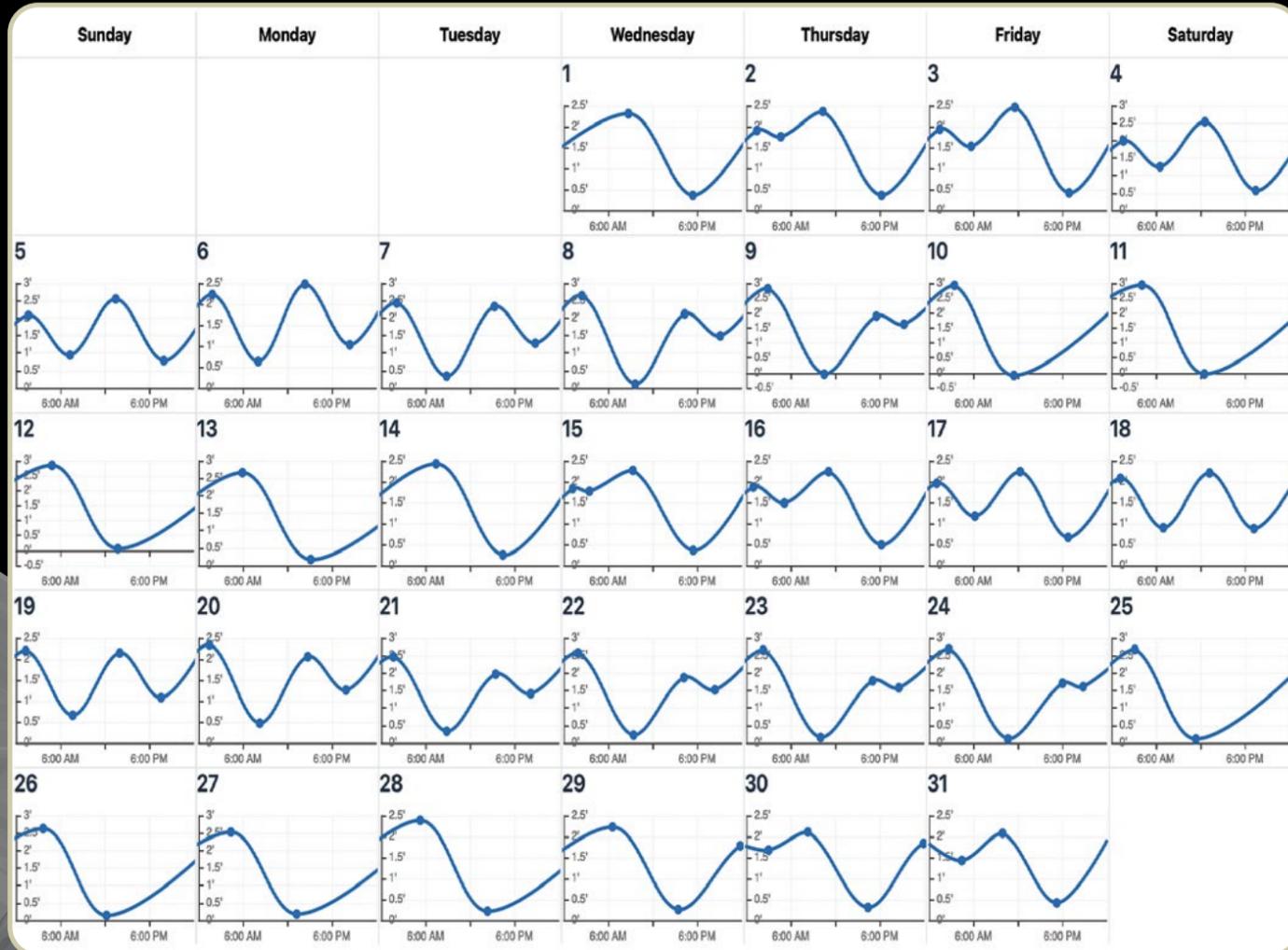
CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY

As always, we encourage responsible harvesting and respect for our natural resources. Keeping what you'll eat, releasing quality breeders, and supporting conser-

vation-minded organizations like "Captains for Clean Water" ensures that future Octobers will be just as exciting as this one. ☑

Captain Justin Searcy
Tarpon Springs, Florida





Conversions are based off of the St. Petersburg Pier. They are published strictly for reference and are not designed for navigational aid. Onshore-Offshore assumes no responsibility for their accuracy.

Conversions for Clearwater Beach Area

High	Low	Location
-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	Location
+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	Location
+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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TRIPLETAIL & STONE CRAB SEASON

by Misty Wells

Yes, I know, it's Stone Crab season but along with that comes excellent Tripletail fishing. Tripletail are known to cruise Stone Crab buoys for coverage and baitfish to try and score an easy meal. Tripletail are also known for a bit of a strange behavior of floating almost on top of the water on their side in camouflage to mimic a leaf or debris. They are extremely skittish and smart along with the fact they can change colors between light and dark, which makes them a very sought after species. So, if you have ever seen a Tripletail, I am sure you noticed that they appear to have three tails; hence the name Tripletail.



On average, Tripletail grow fastest in its first year and will average about 2.2 pounds and up to 15 pounds if you're lucky. A Tripletail is a coastal tropical fish, known as the *Lobotes Surinamensis*, but we don't have to be that fancy. The fish is named for the way its large, rounded anal and dorsal fins resemble a tail, giving the appearance of three tails. They are solitary fish that use a unique floating behavior to camouflage themselves as leaves or debris, which also helps them

ambush prey like I mentioned before. Tripletail has firm, white, flaky meat with a mild, slightly sweet, and rich flavor that many compare to red snapper and grouper. I describe it as buttery and clean-tasting without being fishy. Its delicate taste does not require strong seasoning and it can be cooked in various ways. So, if you are out fishing or checking your crab traps, be on the lookout for this awesome tasting fish; they are great to eat and fun to catch.

Let's talk about Stone Crab season here on the West Coast of Florida that hits the ground running with the season opening on October 15th. There are a lot of newcomers to Florida and I have found that many of them don't know much about Stone Crab season and how it works. One of the things that is most unique about Stone Crab and harvesting claws is that it is a sustainable fishery; you are only "popping claws", you are not killing the crabs.

So, there are two legal ways of Stone Crabbing, one is recreational, and the other is commercial. If you have a valid Florida Fishing License you can legally have 5 Stone Crab traps for the season, a lot of folks don't know that. It is easy to become a Stone Crabber, you can go to your local tackle shop and buy traps that are already made, or you can buy the kits and make them yourself. My local "go to" in Pinellas County is Fishermen's Ideal Supply House located in right off Madeira



Beach on Welch Causeway in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Once you get your traps built you will need to bait them up and get ready to drop them offshore, I have found having them in about 40 feet of water works quite well. Pigs feet are the go-to bait for me, it stays in the trap longer and the crabs seem to like it the best. **Tip: Make sure whatever bait you are using is not sticking out of the trap, if so, the crabs will just grab that bait and pull it out and not enter the trap.**

Now here is the fun part, you need to mark where you dropped your traps and let them soak for about a week to 10 days depending on weather, if a cold front is coming pull right before or after. If you are a



recreational crabber, you most likely will be hand pulling your traps, it's not really that hard as you are only pulling few and it's a nice work out. You will now need to know how to measure your crabs' claws, remember you are only taking the claws if they are the correct size, if they are small the crabs go right back into the water.

You need to carefully grab the crabs by their back legs then fold in the arms to their bodies, take the measuring tool and make sure that the knuckle of the to the tip of the claw and it must be 2-7/8 inches, which is an 1/8-inch increase than previous years. When catching stone crabs both claws can be removed if they both measure correctly, also keep in mind that recreation harvesters who are 16 and older are required to complete an online, no-cost recreational stone crab registration then follow the instructions. Commercial fishermen are able to have hundreds or thousands of traps as long as they purchase the tags to on the traps and have all the proper licenses.



One of the great things about stone crab claws is not only do they taste delicious they are the only renewable resource from our waters. The stone crab's ability to regenerate lost limbs makes it possible to harvest the tasty claws without killing the crab. Claws must be removed carefully, at just the right spot on the arm in order for the regeneration to take place. Another unique thing about stone crabs is once a claw is harvested, they will grow back on average about 20% bigger than the claw taken in the previous year. Stone crab claws need to be cooked immediately after harvest in order to prevent the meat sticking to the shell. Commercial fishermen usually cook their claws dockside as soon as they unload the bounty. You will need to boil some water, drop the claws in until they are cooked then put them in an ice-water bath to cool off. Stone crab claws are usually served in the shell some folks like them cold

and some folks like them hot, I like both. There are quite a few ways you can feast on these amazing claws even if you are not inclined to harvest them yourself, local fresh fish market like Nachman's Seafood Market on Reddington Shores, locally owned restaurants with their own fleet of crabbers like Salt Rock, Frenchy's and Island Way Grill.

If you are feeling adventurous and want a fun way to spend a few hours on your boat with the family, buy a few traps, bait them up and find a good place to soak them. It's makes for a great day on the water out pulling traps and an even better evening crackin' claws together. So, get to fishing and pulling and I'll see you on the water! ☑

Misty Wells Producer & Host of Award Winning "Let's Take It Outside" TV show airing to 220 million on Discovery & Discovery GO & Plus & 17 other networks. Bass Pro-Outdoor Pro & Outdoor & Outdoor, Travel Writer. Founder of "A Reel Future" non-profit devoted to teaching the passion of fishing & conservation to foster children, over 4,000 children & counting. Watch at www.mistywells.com.

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EXPEDITION TO THE GALAPAGOS

by Brad Kenyon



Imagine leaving England in 1831 for an around the world expedition to map out the world and discover new territories. That is what Charles Darwin did. In 1835 he landed in the Galapagos Islands aboard HMS Beagle, discovering various unique plants, Animals and Tortoises. He survived years of confinement on a Ship with shore excursions leading to many great discoveries.

Imagine what it was like in a 90' Wooden sailing vessel with no Electronics or even a map. During this expedition Darwin noted the differences in plants and animals that were similar but developed different traits that fit the environment they lived in.

This led to his theory of evolution.

Fast Forward to 2020. I met IGFA Captain Pete Santini in Boston fishing for Blue Fin Tuna. He told an interesting tale of Marlin Fishing on the Galapagos island of San Christo'bol. He started to talk us into a trip. One bend of the arm and we were making reservations. Captain Pete has "Sportfishing Galapagos" and his boat is the F/V Vertigo II. The boat is a 37' Custom Sportfish and it is powered by Twin 300 HP Outboards. All of the boats there are Outboard powered. They have really caught on to the Outboard Craze. No Stinky Diesel smell or noise. The boat performed spectacularly and the captain and crew are most professional and best of all they really know how to fish.

Captain Pete also has a Tackle shop outside of Boston called Fishing Finatics. He keeps the boat well stocked with all the right stuff. They offer Nice Rods and Reels plenty of lures and Ballyhoo.

The island is one of the geologically older islands in the Galapagos Archipelago. With a Population of only around 7000 it is not crowded and has the feel of Island Life. Lots of natural life abounds; Sea Lions and Iguanas roam the streets and docks. Frigate birds circle high and the Boobies are down lower over the harbor. Hotels, Shops and restaurants line the quaint streets. Our hotel was small but nice and clean. It had a cool pool and ice-cold A/C.

The Food there was good. We ate a lot of Seafood that we also helped supply. There is also one really good Italian Restaurant there that Captain Pete consulted with to get the Pizza Dough just right and boy did they get it right!! There are lots of things to do on the Island. Scuba Diving, Snorkeling, Surfing, Mountain Biking, seeing nature and more activities abound.



But all of that other good stuff is not what we came down for. We were going to be catching Marlin. On a typical day, we would meet in the hotel restaurant @ 6AM for Breakfast, Board the Boat by 7:00 AM and arrive on the fishing grounds 20 miles away by 8:00. Soon after that, we would be hooked up to a Marlin. A nice hot lunch was served, although someone usually had to wait because they were fighting a fish. Fishing was over @ 3:30 and we returned to the dock by 4:30 exhausted and ready for dip in the cool pool.





The Galapagos is very intent on keeping the island and fisheries sustainable and as pristine as possible. You are not allowed to take any natural items in or out. The boat has a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) and a government observer to make sure that we did not kill any Marlin. They do not promote sport fishing and tend to keep it quiet. Even the Jet was disinfected as we landed so as not to allow any invasive insects.

As a result of all this, the fishery is spectacular. Marlin fishing is not like Sailfishing where you boat large numbers of fish. Reeling in a Marlin takes some time, lots of stamina and willpower. We averaged 20 plus Marlin bites a day with 6 or 7 fish landed. Remember Marlin are not easy to catch, they jump, run and hooks pull. The initial run nearly spools the reels. Captain Pete noted that when the full spread was out, we averaged a Marlin bite every 15 minutes. We landed and released Marlin from 125 lbs. to 500 lbs.

Up high in the air are several Frigate Birds keeping an eye on a giant bait pod. As soon as the Marlin would raise the bait, the Frigates would dive. This was instantly spotted by the Flock of Dive-bombing Boobies.

Shortly behind that would be Sea Lions and Porpoise. In the midst of all this would be Marlin slashing baitfish. At one point I spotted 30 Marlin around the boat. On this trip everyone on the boat caught both Blue Marlin and Striped Marlin. We did not see a Black Marlin, but the week prior they landed a "grander".

Other fish we encountered were Mahi, Wahoo, Shark, Grouper, Jack and the unique Bump-head Wrasse. (Cousin to the Hogfish) We only spent a couple of hours fishing for other species to bring the restaurants some fresh fish to cook for us. We used nothing but jigs for the bottom fish and all caught plenty, but as Captain Pete said, we were here for the Marlin and off we went. They do also have a fantastic Yellow Fin Tuna Fishery and we saw some but did not pursue them.

Our last day there was a free day, so we did the Galapagos tour seeing the Tortoises and rest of the island. We snorkeled at both of the Beaches, swimming with Sea Lions and Turtles as well as lots of fish. 🐠

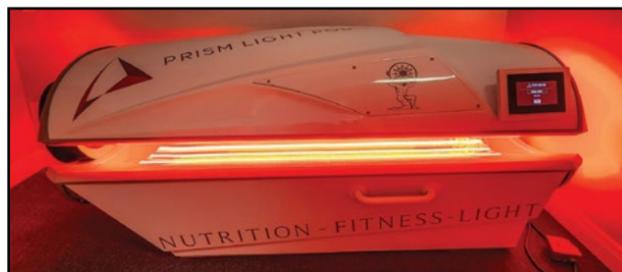
If you desire to test your abilities on Marlin, Captain Pete Santina can be reached at:

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TALES FROM THE OLD GUY

by David Mallory

Oh what a beautiful morning, oh what a beautiful day. I have this wonderful feeling, fish will be coming our way. And they did!

Captain George Hastick, the most talked about fishing guide in Pinellas County, picked us up to try our best to bring a few of those swimming fish of the deep to our dinner table. Before he picked us up, he went out early, as he always does, to catch our bait, white bait and other appealing bait, and do a little scouting for us. As usual, his scouting paid off immediately.

The area we stopped at, a reef full of hungry fish, fighting to get our bait. To start off, Pauline, getting in on the action, caught a trout, a snook and a redfish, what we call an "inshore slam". I didn't! Although we couldn't keep these for our dinner table, she had a great time bringing them in for catch and release. Not to be outdone though, I caught two nice fun fighting fish, Spanish Mackerel. We don't care to eat these as they have a strong oily taste, but they are really fun to catch as they pull out a lot of line.

Pauline caught her slam early, but I needed a redfish to join the party. As the day went on, we were both catching a lot of fish, but I didn't have a slam yet!! The redfish is considered by many, to be the toughest one to get. I would have agreed with that on that day! I didn't catch a slam right away, but Pauline had her slam and I was hoping to join her. I had a really nice snook on my line, but he thought that he didn't like the hook and with a big jump, shook free. That is why he was so big!

We both caught a few big Catfish; we don't save them, but they give a great fight. The trout were everywhere that day. They are the easiest of the slam fish to catch, and good to eat; however, we had enough fish for our planned fish dinner. We like to save enough to eat and maybe one frozen meal, but we don't like to freeze fish for a long



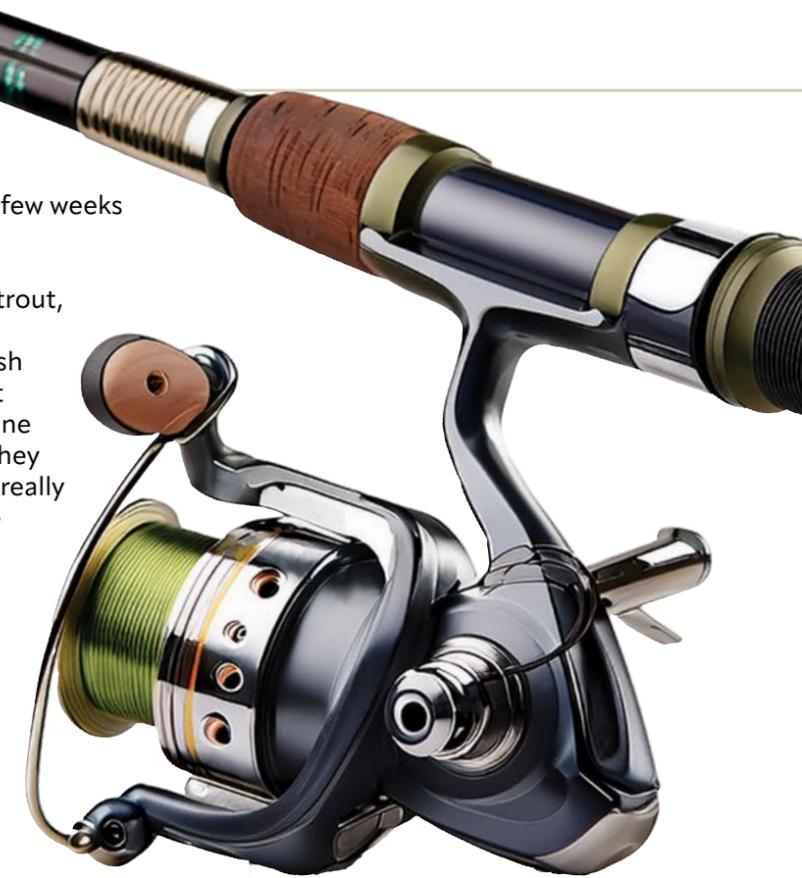
period of time. We feel they are not as flavorful after a few weeks in the freezer, so we only keep enough for dinner.

As the day wore on, we were catching a lot of fun fish: trout, catfish, lady fish, snook, mackerel, mangrove snapper and even a jack! Jacks give a great fight but are not a fish to eat, at least for us. Our Captain said this was the last stop, so the pressure was on if I was to get a slam. Pauline caught three fish earlier before I had a line ready, but they weren't anything to brag about. I caught a catfish! You really think you have a good fish on the line until you see the line jumping. That tells you what it is! We both caught another fish, but not the right kind.

The captain said "Last cast". We got our lines out and hoped. She had a bite, but she lost it. I had a good bite. George yelled, "Keep your pole up, it's a redfish!" I got my slam! What a great way to end a wonderful day of fishing and not letting my wife outdo me!

"Last Cast Dave" came through again! ☑

- David Mallory



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With daily temperatures starting to drop, the water quality goes up and fish will be more than ready to bite. I prefer using lighter lines like 10-pound test braid with longer fluorocarbon leaders. As water clears up, I go down in size to 15 to 20 pound test fluorocarbon to increase the bites.

Live shrimp starts to take over as the preferred bait for good action with Sheepshead and Flounder and some big Speckled Trout around the potholes or old bomb holes in the Fort Desoto area flats.

ABOUT THE CAPTAIN

Captain Sergio Atanes fishes the Florida waters, specializing in and around the West Coast of Florida and Tampa Bay. His 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 in the area.

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LET'S TAKE IT OUTSIDE: SEASON 6

by Misty Wells

Big Announcement Onshore Offshore readers! Misty Wells here, letting you know that "Let's Take it Outside" Season 6 presented by "Live Wildy" launched recently on Discovery Channel on August 24.



Join me as I visit the State of Alaska for the first time, landing in Sitka, Alaska at the Wild Strawberry Lodge on the hunt for my first Halibut and Wild Koho Salmon. I take you all the way up North America to Niagara County where my daughter, Hudson, and I fish Lake Ontario for huge King Salmon and join in the annual "Smelt Festival."

If you are looking for a warmer location, my cost host Steve and I head back to the "World Famous" Crocodile Bay, Costa Rica and attempt to chase down my first Marlin and anything else that will bite. For the first time ever, I am teaming up with Batson Custom Rods and putting them to the test as I fish 100 miles offshore with Captain Tommy Laronge and the Batson team putting those rods to the test on some huge Yellowfin Tuna.

My son Brennan and I find a hidden gem in the State of Arkansas, Hot Springs where we catch our first Striper and go on the hunt for hidden gems in the local mines.



Of course, don't worry we will be hitting a lot of great locations in the State of Florida showing you some great destinations to "take it outside" for fishing and outdoor adventures.



I am proud to say "Let's Take it Outside" is airing on over 17 networks worldwide to over 220 million viewers. You can view my show in many different ways from standard TV to a number of digital channels for free and on demand. Look for all the seasons of "Let's Take it Outside" on Discovery Channel, Discovery GO & Plus, Waypoint TV, Carbon TV, Canada's Wild TV, Colorado's Mountain TV, Flow TV

in the Caribbean, Heartland TV, Discover Florida, and TCT network just to name a few.

Make sure to subscribe to my YouTube channel where you will get all the episodes for free and bonus videos throughout the year.

Thank you for being part of the "Let's Take it Outside" family of viewers, reach out directly to me if you have great ideas for my next season!

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TAMPA BAY REDS

by Captain Sergio Atanes

October is a great month for catching large redfish in Tampa Bay; although redfish are year long residents of the bay the large breeders prefer the mangrove shoreline. October water temperatures are a welcome relief after the long sizzling summer months and a turn on for the big bruisers.

A short trip to catch bait at my secret spot and from there it was off to Weedon Island, one of my favorite spots for large redfish this time of year. Once we reached the no motor zone, I lowered the trolling motor and with the push of a button 112 pounds of thrust from my JL Marine Power Move came to life propelling my 25 ft West End Bay boat in the direction of Weedon Island. In Tampa Bay's protected areas, use a trolling motor or push pole and follow FWC regulations.

We slowly worked our way to the southeast point of the key and here we anchored and waited for

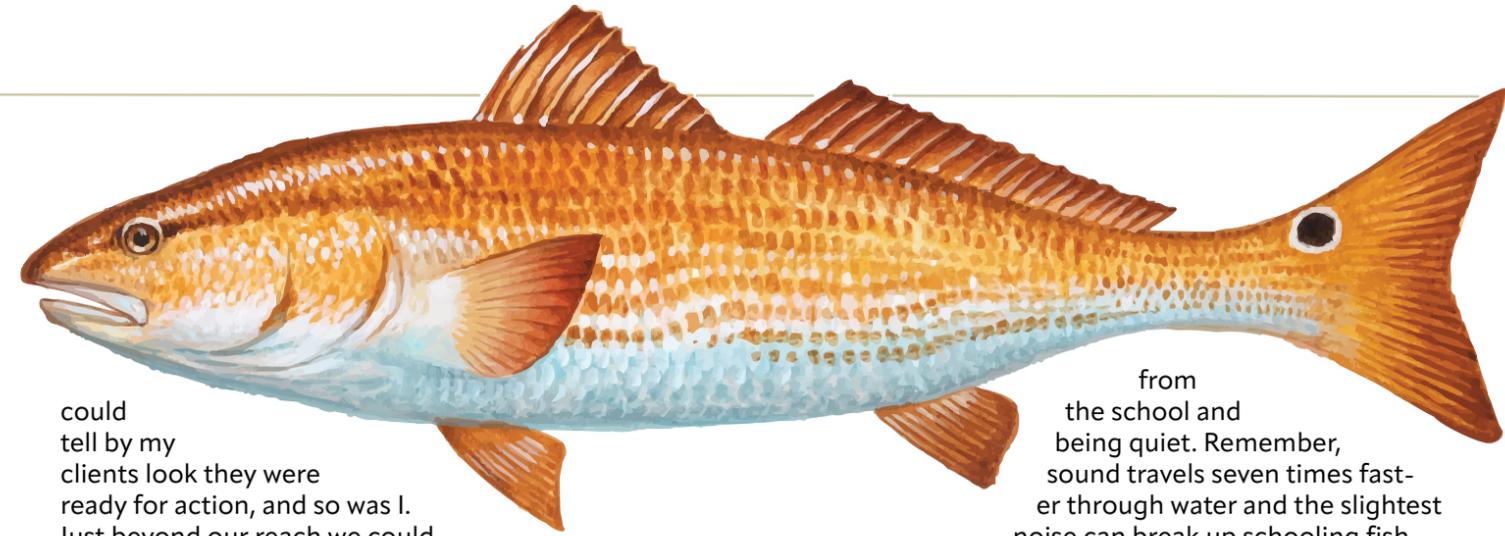


the school to appear. Patience is important since school can appear in a moment's notice.

We were prepared for action; one rod with live pinfish suspended just below the surface of the water using float the other one with greenbacks free lined just beyond

our float and one with cut pinfish using a small split shot to keep the cut bait on the bottom.

The sun's rays were slowly breaking into the clear water, and you could see movements of small pinfish darting in and out of the grass and mullet starting to jump. I



could tell by my clients look they were ready for action, and so was I. Just beyond our reach we could see a small wake as if a small boat had buzzed by. We looked at each other and without a word prepared for an attack. The reds were coming; Alice drew first blood and within a split second mine was next. Three hook ups and no one around to see it. We had them all ourselves for over 2 hours. We engaged in combat with the Reds, achieving victories in some encounters while facing defeats in others.

Large schools of redfish gather around mangrove islands; some schools are so large they create a visible wave as they move through the shallow waters of the flats. My favorite baits for these large bruisers are 3-5-inch pinfish, cut fresh dead pinfish and dollar size pass crabs. Casting distance is necessary and medium tackle works best. I prefer to use a 15 pound test FINS braided line, 7.6 medium-fast taper rod and 3000 to 3500 reels for best casting distance.

Reds in shallow water will spook easily and the stealthy system works best; this means keeping a safe distance

from the school and being quiet. Remember, sound travels seven times faster through water and the slightest noise can break up schooling fish.

I like to fish for reds at the beginning of an outgoing tide since they get concentrated in cuts and potholes around the mangrove island, creating a prime casting spot for my clients.

First, get there early ahead of the tide change. I sat and waited for an hour for the fish to move in and it was well worth it. While other boats are trying to follow the fish, let the fish come to you. Never cast into a school of fish. Always cast ahead of them and let

them come toward your bait. On days with strong currents, I will use a float and let the current drift my bait towards the fish. My clients had a wonderful day and one they will never forget.

For more information you can visit FISHING ADVENTURES FLORIDA on YouTube with weekly local fishing information and our how-to segment Capt. Sergio Fishing Academy teaching new techniques and tackle to help you catch more fish. Good fishing & tight lines. 🎣

Captain Sergio Atanes is the host of Fishing Adventures Florida and Captain Sergio Fishing Chronicles on YouTube, Waypoint TV, Carbon TV, Outdoor Action TV and Angling TV. For info call 813-973-7132 or email: atanes@msn.com.





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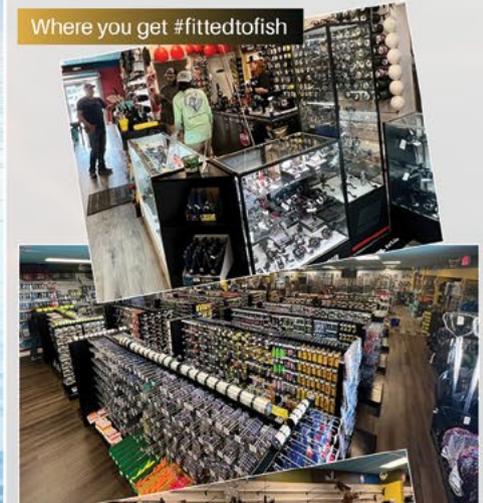
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