The Acute Angler

July, 2019
Volume 52, Number 3

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

July Hot Shot

Ed and the Cobia of a Lifetime

Submit your photos on http://www.gofc.us/wp/photos/photo-submission/

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President's Corner

By Glenn Acomb, GOFC President

Well GOFC, we just held our annual Fish Fry at the facilities Gary's Tackle Box/L&S Upholstery and I hope you were able to attend. It was a lot of fun to see everyone sharing fishing stories and good food - fish, of course! A big thankyou to our sponsors Gary's Tackle Box and L&S, our chefs Virgil and Tim, and the many companies that provided door prizes. We had so many prizes that almost everyone won something!

Our Club's desire is to give back as much as possible to our membership. Certainly, we are a club of people that like to fish and learn more about fishing. We hold

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So many hushpuppies! So little time!
(At the GOFC Fish Fry)

President's Corner
(Continued from page 1)

informative meetings, tournaments and funaments. And once you have paid your membership dues, all these events free of charge. That's right - all for FREE. There isn't a club I know that holds tournaments and socials that are all FREE and with FREE food. If you were to add it all up, membership value is really at least two or three times our dues!

Another one is coming up this month, the July Social. It will be held on July 23rd from 6:30 - 8:30 PM at Ballyhoo Grill on University Avenue. Please try to attend and join us for good times. The more you get involved in GOFC, the more you will get out of the club.

Visit our GOFC website (www.gofc.org) to learn more about other coming meetings, tournaments and items of interest and check out our Facebook page! Tight lines!

Upcoming Events

Social at Ballyhoo Grill:

Tuesday, July 23, 2019
6:30pm - 8:30pm
3700 West University Avenue

Instead of our normal monthly meeting, we will be hosting a social at Ballyhoo Grill. The club will purchase appetizers for all to share. All members are invited.

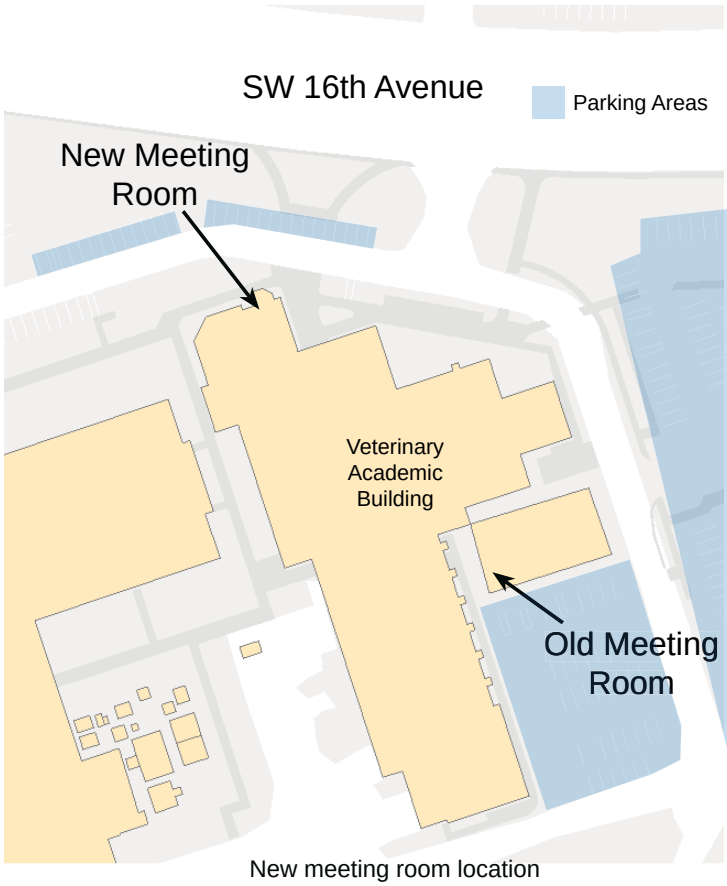
Next Meeting:

Tuesday, August 27th, 2019

Fellowship starts at 7:00 PM
Meeting proper starts at 7:30

Speaker: Captain Tommy Derringer

UF Vet School
Lecture Hall A (New Room)



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Offshore Top Water Fishing

By Mark Haberman

Many anglers do not consider using surface baits offshore over deeper water - huge oversight in my opinion! Just like inshore fishing, there is nothing more thrilling than watching an aggressive fish slam a top water bait.

Amberjack are especially easy to entice on a surface lure. They seem to be very curious fish and are quickly drawn to noise. As a diver, quite often the first thing I see are AJ's, drawn to me by my splash into the water.

To fish surface baits offshore, I like to use a 7 foot, 20-40 lbs. class spinning rod with a 6000 size reel. I spool it with 80# braid. If you are fishing over AJ structure such as The Barge (N29.0.476 W83.31.533) or The White City Bridge (N29.10.104 W83.38.977), you will need to use a lot of drag and turn the fish before it gets into structure and cuts you off. My go to surface lure is a 5-inch Tsunami popper, model # TSP5F. This lure is inexpensive, easy to cast long distances, and easy to fish (consider upgrading the hooks and split rings). Simply cast the lure as far as you can, hold the rod level and

Continued on page 11...

WHEN YOU'RE ENJOYING THAT FREE PIZZA AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS, REMEMBER IT'S COMPLIMENTS OF FREDDIE WEHBE AND ALL THE LOCAL DOMINO'S STORES.

THANK YOU, FREDDIE!

The mission of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club is

to promote and support recreational saltwater fishing in the Big Bend area;

to provide educational and recreational experiences for its members of all ages;

and to promote responsible conservation of saltwater resources.

Featured Recipe

Blackened Scallop Pasta with red pepper cream

From HomeCheff.com

Prep & Cook Time: 25-35 minutes

Ingredients

- 1/4 oz. Parsley
- 4 fl. oz Light Cream
- 1/4 tsp Red Pepper Flakes
- 5 oz. Roasted Red Peppers
- 8 oz. Scallops
- 1 Lemon
- 2 Garlic Cloves
- 1 tsp. Cajun Seasoning
- 5 oz. Angel Hair Pasta
- Olive oil
- Salt & Pepper

Instructions

1. Cook the Pasta: Bring 8 Cups water and tsp. salt to a boil in a medium pot. Add pasta and cook until *al dente*, 3-5 minutes. Reserve 1/4 cup of the pasta cooking water and don't clean the pot. Drain and rinse pasta.

2. Prepare the Ingredients: Zest and quarter lemon. Finely chop roasted red peppers. Mince parsely and garlic. Pat scallops dry, and season with Cagun seasoning.

3. Make the Sauce: Return the pot used to cook pasta to medium heat and add 2 tsp. olive oil. Add garlic to hot pot and stir until aromatic, 30-45 seconds. Stir in roasted red peppers, the 1/4 cup of pasta cooking water, cream, and 1/4 tsp. salt. Bring to a boil and cook until slightly thickened, 1-2 minutes. Remove from heat.

4. Cook the Scallops: Place a medium non-stick pan over medium-high heat and add 2 tsp olive oil. Add scallops and cook 1-2 minutes per side. Minimum internal temperature should be 145 degrees.

5. Return pot with sauce to medium heat. Stir pasta into sauce and cook until heated through, 1-2 minutes. Remove from burner. Stir in parsley, 1 tsp. lemon zest, red pepper flakes (to taste), and a pinch of pepper. Plate pasta and top with scallops. Squeeze lemon wedge over scallops to taste.

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Recent Catches

Angler	Species	Weight	Date Caught	Location	Lure/Bait
Ryan Wagner	Spanish Mackeral	2 lbs 4 oz	4/24/2019	Cedar Key	Jig
Reid Wagner	Spanish Mackeral	1 lb 10 oz	4/25/2019	Cedar Key	Jig
Christopher Green	Flounder	0.7 lbs	5/4/2019	Fisherman's rest	Shrimp
Ken Knopf	Cobia	15.73 lbs	5/10/2019	Cedar Key	Pinfish
Virgil Cooper	Spanish Mackeral	4.22 lbs	5/11/2019	Keaton Beach	Lure
Tim Pedersen	King Mackeral	4.03 lbs	5/11/2019	Keaton Beach	Lure
Virgil Cooper	Spanish Mackeral	4.22 lbs	5/11/2019	Keaton Beach	Lure
Russ Roy	Bluefish	1.2 lbs	5/15/2019	Cedar Key, Sea-horse Reef	trolling jig
Tim Peaders	King Mackeral	5.9 lbs	5/15/2019	Steinhatchee	Whitebait
Christopher Green	King Mackeral	8.65 lbs	5/15/2019	Steinhatchee	Whitebait

Angler	Species	Weight	Date Caught	Location	Lure/Bait
Ross McElroy	Spanish Mackeral	5.2 lbs	5/15/2019	Cedar Key	jig
Ken Knopf	Greater Amberjack	36 inches	5/16/2019	Cedar Key	Popper
Ed Ellett	Cobia	53.17 lbs	5/16/2019	Seahorse Reef	live shiner
Ed Ellett	King Mackeral	16 lbs	5/16/2019	Cedar Key, 30'	casting jig
Ed Ellett	Greater Amberjack	36"	5/16/2019	Cedar Key, 80'+	live boat
Ken Knopf	Belted sandfish	.03 lbs	5/20/2019	Steinhatchee	Sabiki
Ken Knopf	Vermillion snapper	2.31 lbs	5/20/2019	Cedar Key	Cut bait
Melvina Cutright	Seatrout	2 lbs 8 oz	5/21/2019	Cedar Key	jig
John Richard	Seatrout	2 lbs 9oz	5/28/2019	Cedar Key, Seahorse Reef	Jig
Ken Knopf	Bluefish	2.62 lbs	5/28/2019	Crystal River	Spoon
Tim Pedersen	Grouper - Gag	8.49 lbs	6/1/2019	Cedar key	Pinfish
Ross McElroy	Cobia	30 lbs 13 oz	6/4/2019	Cedar key	pinfish

Angler	Species	Weight	Date Caught	Location	Lure/Bait
Christopher Green	Flounder	0.79 lbs	6/7/2019	Fisherman's rest	Shrimp
Mark Rustemier	Red Snapper	4.75 lbs	6/15/2019	Cedar Key, 50'	thread fin
Mark Rustemier	Flounder	1.75 lbs	6/15/2019	Cedar Key, 45'	squid
Michael Rosato	Red Snapper	6.86 lbs	6/15/2019	Cedar Key, 40 Miles Offshore	Bonita Free Lined
Tim Pedersen	Greater Amberjack	34”	6/15/2019	Horseshoe Beach	Bait
Ed Ellett	Bluefish	2 lbs 11 oz	6/22/2019	Cedar Key, Snake Key	jig/plastic tail
Ed Ellett	Flounder	l lbs l oz	6/29/2019	Cedar Key	jig head/gulp
Marcia Ellett	Flounder	1 lbs 15 oz.	6/29/2019	Cedar Key, inshore	Gulp
Ed Ellett	Redfish	4 lbs 10 oz	6/30/2019	Homosassa	cut bait
Jerry Rose	Bluefish	3.08 lbs	6/30/2019	Crystal River	Mirrodine
Ken Knopf	Grouper - Scamp	1.95 lbs	7/4/2019	Cedar Key, middle grounds	Cigar minnow
Debby Knopf	Grouper - Gag	8.05 lbs	7/4/2019	Cedar Key	Pinfish
Debby Knopf	Greater Amberjack	34 inches	7/4/2019	Cedar Key	Pinfish
Ed Ellett	Flounder	2lbs 6oz	7/11/2019	Steinhatchee, a creek	Jig/plastic tail
Marcia Ellett	Bluefish	2.60 lbs	7/12/2019	Steinhatchee, 9 mile bank	Jig with gulp

Did you know that the food at the GOFC Banquet, Fish Fry, and Oyster Roast is prepared by volunteers from the club?

Thanks to all those who worked hard to make this year’s fish fry a success, especially

Virgil and Tim!

FWC Updates

Blue Crab Trap Closure Ending Early

The southwest Florida recreational and commercial blue crab trap closure previously scheduled for July 10-19 will end early because efforts to remove lost and abandoned traps in this region will have been completed. Starting July 15, blue crab traps may be placed back in state waters from the Palm Beach-Broward county line to the Pasco-Hernando county line.

FWC Approves Gulf Greater Amberjack/Gray Triggerfish Early Season Closures

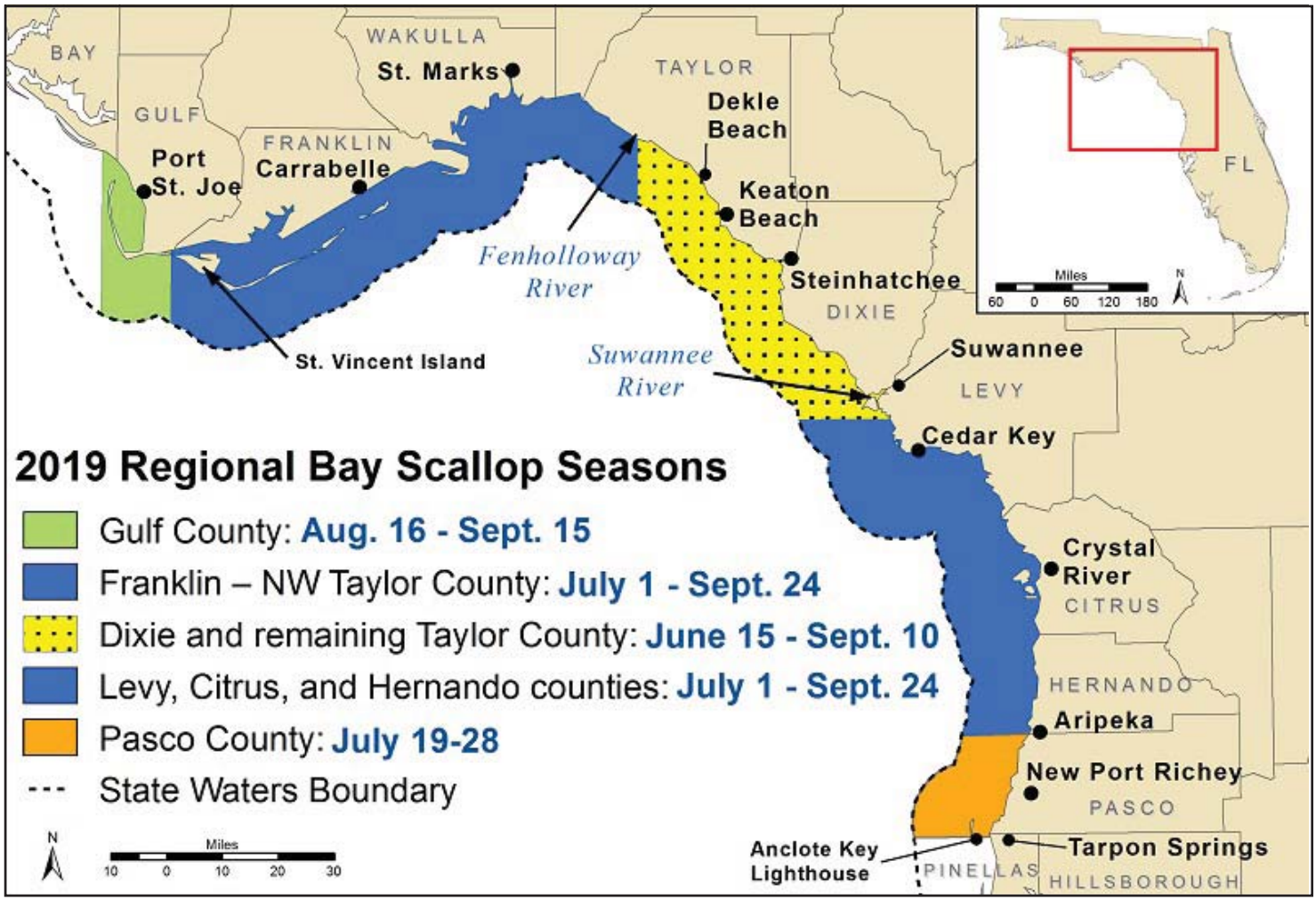
At its May meeting near Tallahassee, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved early season closures for recreationally-caught greater amberjack and gray triggerfish in Gulf state waters.

The greater amberjack and gray triggerfish recreational closures are consistent with recent federal actions.

Greater amberjack will close May 3 to recreational harvest in Gulf state waters and will remain closed in both Gulf state and federal waters through July 31, reopening for the fall Aug. 1 through Oct. 31 season.

Gray triggerfish will close to recreational harvest May 11 in Gulf state and federal waters and will remain closed until the federal season reopens

2019 Bay Scallop Seasons

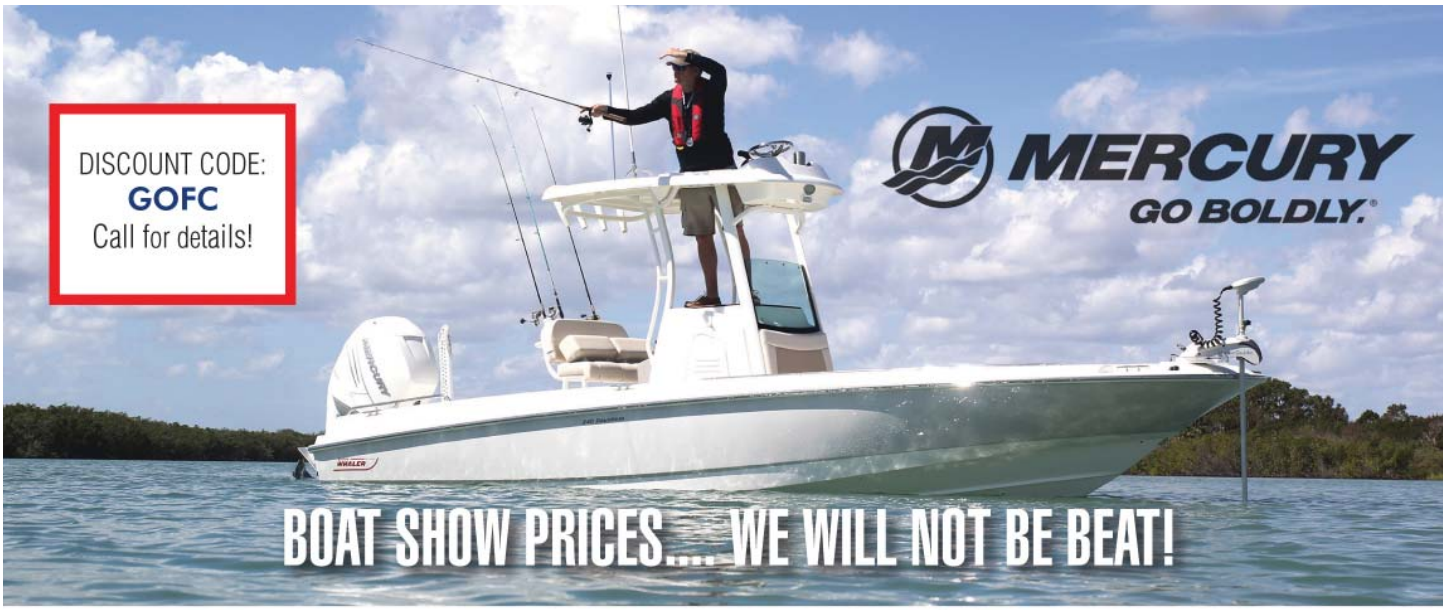


Offshore Top Water
(Continued from page 4)

perpendicular to your line. If you hold the rod tip to high the lure will fly out of the water, to low and the lure will dive. Snap the rod tip back 2-3 feet, reel the slack line and repeat. Do not let the lure sit to long, you want near constant movement. Make as much noise as you can, you want to see a nice big noisy splash each time you rip the rod. Once you get one AJ excited, the whole school will turn on and they'll eat anything that hits the water. After one or two AJs, I'm usually worn out. If I still want to play, I always keep a popper with the hooks removed. I can watch hit after hit but not go through the agony of reeling one to the boat.

AJs are not the only target. I have caught kingfish, jack crevalle, bonita, and barracuda on surface lures. Once, while fishing The White City Bridge, a barracuda hit my popper, jumped 15-20 feet into the air, instantly severed my 80# line, and continued to jump several times around the boat for the next 5 minutes. My popper could be seen hanging from its jaw every time it came out of the water.

If you have never tried it, put it on your to do list next time you are offshore. Fair warning though, it is very addictive!!!



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Saltwater Highlights - July 18, 2019

By Gary Simpson

Most years, when the brutal Florida summer has lessened the appeal of hook-and-line fishing, outdoor sports fans have great bonuses to fall back on.

Bay scallop season has been going for a while now on our nearest, clearest gulf grass flats. Soon, a large contingent of locals will head south for the Spiny Lobster Season that opens with the two-day mini season July 24 and 25. The regular lobster season follows, starting August 6.

And, while there is no opening day for it, North Florida sportsfolk know that another favorite seafood-collecting opportunity usually cranks up in July. This would be the annual run of saltwater shrimp up the St. John's River. Heading south (upriver) from Jacksonville, the shrimp increase in size while

Continued on page 14...

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Saltwater Highlights
(Continued from page 13)
they remain in the river. When conditions are ideal, St. John's shrimping can be excellent all the way to Thanksgiving or so. On the other hand, if a major rain event comes, the river's salinity drops and the run can end before it really starts.

Most Gainesville-area residents do their shrimping out of Palatka, the river port nearest home, where they take advantage of good boat ramps and well-known cast-netting hotspots. Those who have thrown their nets near Palatka this month say the crustaceans are, indeed, present. But "eating-size" shrimp don't seem to have made it so far upriver.

However, last week, tales of 5-gallon limits reached us from Doctor's Lake, well north of Green Cove Springs. And these were reportedly good-sized shrimp.

Tuesday I phoned Jimmy at Messer's Bait and Tackle in Palatka. The Messer's crew keeps track of the St. John's shrimping situation as closely as anyone. And Jimmy's report was quite promising. "I threw my net six times on Sunday, a little north of Memorial Bridge", he said. "In those six throws I caught about twelve dozen shrimp. They were small, though …. only a couple inches long". He went on, "It's still early, but we expect this to be a good run. We usually have a real good one every three years, and we're due this year". Just keep those wet tropical systems away.

Somehow this year, the summer heat has pretty much failed to ruin the fishing. Week after week, reports of fine catches continue to come from fresh and saltwaters.

July gulf fishing remains surprisingly good. The month-long red snapper season is now finished, most saltwater stories this week came from the grass flats and shorelines.

Sunday, Lotus Campbell and Tate Workman fished Cedar Key. Drifting grass flats with nice clarity while casting live shrimp and Gulp! baits, the Gainesville anglers caught speckled trout steadily for five hours. The best was a nice 23-incher. Three flounder and two redfish also fell for their offerings.

Capt. Hunter Brasington fished Sunday out of Cedar Key with Capt. Trey Mikell. The young ace anglers arrived mid-afternoon as the tide was falling. They ran past Corrigan's Reef looking for tidal creeks with clearer water. Upon finally locating a better-looking cove, they soon saw a tailing redfish. As Hunter poled stealthily toward the feeding fish, they could see that there were more reds in the pocket ---- lots more. Casting a fly, Trey quickly hooked up. This would be a 32-inch fish. The next one measured 33.5-inches. By the time the second fish was in the boat, the water in the creek was lower and the redfish school had moved on. Hunter said, "We're pretty sure every fish in that big school was way too big to keep".

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(http://www.gofc.us/wp/join-now/)

Then fill out the form online and pay using PayPal.