The Acute Angler

May, 2022
Volume 55, Number 5

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

May Hot Shot

Is This The Biggest Kingfish?

After three postponements due to high wind advisories, the annual Cobiathon/ Mack Attach tournament was held Sunday, May 1 at Cedar Key. Angler Chic Hinton entered this 37.63" kingfish. Chic caught this one trolling a blue runner at the Kingfish Hole fishing from the "First Appearance" boat.

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President's Corner

By Ross McElroy

GOFC President

Well. we finally got the Oyster roast scheduled on a good weather date. After three unsuccessful attempts we got it right. Hope everyone will join me in thanking Ed and Shelia Crapo for hosting this wonderful event. The work on their yard is finished and looks great. The weather was great. The lake and the view of the sunset were beautiful. And no bugs. Thanks also to Virgil and Timmy who did all the cooking, the board members who helped with the set up and clean up after, and everyone who brought food to share. It was a gorgeous evening and well worth the delays.

After three weather postponements we also got the Cobia-Mack Attack tournament accomplished at Cedar Key on May 1. The winners will be announced at the May 24 Speaker Meeting. Weather and the fishing were good not great but we all had a good time and enjoyed the food after at Robinson's Seafood. Thanks to Carl for hosting our weigh in.

Our April general meeting was very informative, especially the details about what has happened with snook in our area over the last few years. Our speaker was Mike Allen. I was surprised to learn we now have a sustainable population of snook in the Cedar Key/ Suwannee River area.

Looking forward to seeing you at the upcoming all species Spring tournament scheduled for June 4 out of Cedar Key. Additional details will be sent out in email announcements. Also plan for a another informative speaker at our general meeting on May 24 at the Vet School . Marrio Castello, a very popular guide out of Crystal River, will tell us how to catch all of our ten species. Come, and learn all the secrets that will help you win the Spring Tournament. Be safe.

Ross McElroy

President, GOFC

From the Editor

By Jeff Gartland

GOFC Editor

We need your help! If you have a business, please consider sponsoring the GOFC through advertising in the Acute Angler and on our website. If you have a business you recommend, please ask them to consider the same. Our newsletter is emailed to 185 contacts.. We publish 12 issues/year. The majority of our members are homeowners and boat owners in need of many business services. Advertising rates are shown on page 3.

Sadly, several of our locally owned, full page sponsors/ advertisers have been purchased by out of state owners whose new budgets no longer include GOFC advertising.

It is through the generosity of our sponsors that we can keep our annual membership dues at $50. That includes 5 tournaments with a minimum of $300 in cash prizes per tournament and 3 seafood feasts: January oyster roast, February Awards banquet and the November Ellett Auction/shrimp boil. Let's also include the monthly Speakers meetings, knowledge sharing and newsletter articles. Nowhere else does your $50 go this far.

Also, Allen Turner, four time Ellett contest winner and past GOFC President has an excellent article on redfish catching (P 8-12). Allen shares his experience on where and how to catch redfish. You'll want to read this, probably more than once!

Other ways to help your club

There are so many ways to help out, just of which are:

- **Write an article** for the Acute Angler newsletter. A day of saltwater fishing is a lot more challenging than writing about something you know. Like getting back to port after a long day on the water, seeing your article published feels pretty good. newsletter@gofc.us
- **Help manage the website**. If you have skills in websites building/management we have a continuous need to keep the GOFC website fresh GOFC website
- **Help out at tournaments**, members only banquets and general meetings.
- **Submit your favorite fishing photos** (see next paragraph).

Please feel free to contact newsletter@gofc.us if you have any questions.

And as always:
All members are encouraged to submit photos to the GOFC website. Here's the link: Photo Submission Form. Submitted photos will be displayed on our Hot Shots page: GOFC Hot Shots. If you want to show off a catch, a new boat, capture a fun trip, or just get your fishing buddy or family on the website here's your chance.
Please don't hesitate because you think it's "not good enough". If you like it, that's all that matters.

Hot Shot photos are automatically entered in the year end photo contest. Prizes are 1st Place $100, 2nd Place $75, 3rd Place $50.
The winners of the 2021 Photo Contest are featured in the February issue. Look it over. Maybe you'll win 2022. Worst case, you'll be sharing a memory.

I look forward to hearing from you (newsletter@gofc.us) and sharing the tremendous depth of knowledge and experience within the GOFC membership.

Jeff Gartland

GOFC Editor

Support Your Club—GOFC Advertising Rates

Advertising Rates and Information

Consider advertising with the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club (GOFC) and get your product information to interested boaters and fishermen. We offer several advertising options; including our monthly publications, website or a combination of both.

Newsletter Advertising

Your ad will appear in a monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club. Advertisers can reach about 130 member families.

The GOFC Newsletter, *The Acute Angler*, is about 20 pages in length and published monthly. The Acute Angler is an electronic PDF format color publication. As an added bonus, ads include a "logo" ad with internet link on our GOFC website (https://gofc.us/sponsors/) SPONSORS PAGE at no extra charge. Check out the website, you will not be disappointed!

Website Advertising

Advertisers can also choose web site advertising only; either as a link on our website "Useful Links" page; or as a banner ad. Our webmaster can provide current website specifics upon request at webmaster@gofc.us.

Advertising rates:

NEWSLETTER RATES: ***(includes free "logo" ad with link on our website sponsor page)***

- Full page ad — $60.00 per issue
- 1/2 page ad — $45.00 per issue
- 1/4 page ad — $37.50 per issue
- 1/8 page ad (Business card size) — $30.00 per issue

WEBSITE RATES:

Home Page Banner Ad	$60.00 per month full banner (60 x 468) $30.00 per month half banner (60 x 234)
Non Home Page Banner Ad	$40.00 per month full banner (60 x 468) $20.00 per month half banner (60 x 234)
Useful Links Page Ad	$15.00 per month

Terms of Payment: Payments due quarterly.

Ad Specifications: 300dpi resolution, black and white, TIFF or JPG format, on disc or Email attachment.

Contacts: For further information or to place an advertisement:

- Advertising: Mark Haberman mhaberman68@gmail.com or 352-215-5295
- Webmaster: Ryan Kremser webmaster@gofc.us
- Treasurer: Debby Knopf treasurer@gofc.us

Upcoming Events

May 24, 2022— Speakers meeting. Marrio Castello, Crystal River guide, Tall Tales Charters. See email announcements.

June 4, 2022 - Spring Big 10 Species Tournament/ Cedar Key. See email announcements.

October 22, 2022 - Fall Big 10 Species tournament/ Cedar Key

November 17,2022—Ellett Auction at ED and Marcia Ellett's home.

December 3, 2022 - Redfish/Trout Roundup Tournament/Steinhatchee

Monthly Meetings—Upcoming meetings will be announced by email. Typically we meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Veterinary Academic Building .Fellowship begins at 7:00 pm and the meeting proper begins at 7:30.

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Upcoming Events

May Meeting
Tuesday, May 24, 2022

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

Speaker: Marrio Castello, Crystal River guide, Tall Tales Charters. Captain Marrio focuses on the in-shore waters of Crystal River from his 23' Carolina skiff. He can run in both the shallow waters of the back country and up to 15 miles offshore with no problem. Come to hear how to fish the Crystal River area and ask Marrio your questions about the same.

Location: UF Vet School -
VAB Auditorium
937 SW 16th Ave Gainesville, FL

Look for the GOFC signs

New name tags at May meeting

Be sure to get a name tag as you enter the April 26 Speakers meeting. Your name tag will have a number that makes you eligible for our main door prize.

Director Chic Hinton and Vice President Ryan Kremser are making up the name tags to help members get to know each other and encourage conversation.

From 7:00—7:30 is free pizza and a chance to mingle and meet, so plan to be there before the General meeting start at 7:30 PM.

10 Species Tournament—June 4, 2022

GOFC Annual Spring Tournament 2022

Location: Cedar Key

Date: Saturday June 4th, 2022

(Weather Dates – June 5, June 11, and June 12)

GOFC MEMBERS ONLY — Members must be in good standing at the time of the tournament. Guests may ride in boats but cannot register fish.

SIGN UP:
Participants must register prior to start of the tournament.
Click here to sign up: https://gofc.us/tourney-stats/tournament-registration/

START:
Fishing begins at "safe light" on the day of tournament. – Boaters should exercise caution if low light or fog limits visibility.

WEIGH IN LOCATION:

Robinson Seafood: 6991 SW State Road 24, Cedar Key, FL 32625

Scales will open at 4:00 PM. All members with fish to be weighed must be in line at the scales no later than 5:00 PM, Winners will be announced at the next club meeting.

COMPETITION:

Any of the "Big 10" that are in season may be entered including Redfish, Spanish Mackerel, Cobia, Spotted Sea Trout, Gag Grouper, Sheepshead, Flounder, King Mackerel, Bluefish. Amberjack will be out of season but may be entered by length with photographic evidence. Prizes will be awarded to the three anglers who accumulate the most points according the Ellett Scoring System.

1st Place Prize: $150
2nd Place Prize: $125
3rd Place Prize: $100

- Fish must be caught in club waters and in accordance with the official club rules to be eligible for entry. See official club rules for additional details (https://gofc.us/rules/).

- To enter a released King Mackerel or Amberjack, the member must bring a photo of the fish pressed against a tape measure to the weigh-in before 5:00 pm. The photo must clearly show the entire fish and its length. Note that King Mackerel must still be weighed to be eligible as a club record. Fish that our out of season are not eligible for club records.

WEATHER:
The GO or NO GO decision will be sent out by email at approximately 7:00 PM on the night before the tournament.

LIABILITY:
ALL ANGLERS AND INDIVIDUALS PARTICIPATE AT THEIR OWN RISK and must have a current Waiver of Liability on file with GOFC.

Interpretation of the tournament rules shall be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Chairman.

During the event, tune to VHF channel 68 for tournament chatter.

Chic's "Nothing but the Truth" Fishing Report

by Chic Hinton

Holy Mackerel!

They are everywhere and you can catch them on the reef and on the flats. They are fun to catch and good to eat. You might think that they have a thin skin and no scales but a close look will reveal a lot of very small scales. Most people prefer to remove the skin and while you're at it you might as well remove the small strip of bones riding along the lateral line of the filet.

Mackerel can be smoked and make a good fish dip by mixing the meat with equal parts of mayonnaise and soft cream cheese and season to taste.

The mackerel can also be used to make a gumbo by boiling 2 pounds of fillets and 2 quarts of chicken broth. Then add a package of Publix vegetable gumbo and some Louisiana gumbo base for a low calorie meal.

It was discovered several years ago that there were a lot of shrimp in the Cedar Key area and you could catch a bucket full of them easily with a cast net. Shortly thereafter the locals were told it was illegal nearshore because it was the breeding grounds. Effective May 1 is now legal to cast net a 2 gallon bucket of heads on shrimp per person or 5 gallons per boat. For more information on how and where to catch shrimp in Cedar Key contact Virgil at the next GOFC meeting.

May 1 also began the one month opening of amberjack season. Jeff Gartland and I each iced a legal size AJ on a recent trip with Tom Jaworski to 60 feet of water. For bait we first trolled Seahorse Reef with spoons and bucktail jigs to catch blue runners, otherwise known as Amberjack candy. After getting a few in the live well, we anchored at the "Hook" at Seahorse, and dropped Sabikis to the bottom for pinfish, another amberjack favorite. Amberjacks are a very mild and good eating fish, fried, grilled or smoked.

Want some extra cash? Florida Fish and wildlife commission biologists are paying $50 for the carcass of a cobia. See flyer in this newsletter for additional information.

If you are a new member or are not aware of the clubs annual fishing awards contact any of the club directors at the next meeting and they will be happy to explain the awards and how you can win one. We also have contest information on the website. Here is good contest overview. Ellett contest information is also summarized on page 12.

The next GOFC fishing tournament will be held at Cedar Key on June 4. Any of the GOFC 10 species can be entered and prizes will be awarded based on Elliot points. The 10 species are: inshore-bluefish, flounder, redfish, sheepshead, and trout and offshore-cobia, grouper, spanish mackerel and (by length) for amberjack and king mackerel.

If you have suggestions for club activities or meetings please email newsletter@gofc.us.

See you on the water!

Chic

May is not too late to renew your GOFC Membership!

If you have not paid by now you have been dropped from the membership.

To reinstate just go to the "Join now!" tab on the GOFC website.

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

Then fill out the form online and pay using PayPal.

One Fish, Two Fish, Redfish My Go-To Fish

By Allen Turner, 4 time Ellett contest winner and past GOFC President

What's not to like about redfish. They grow large, they put up a great fight, they taste great, they can be caught within a few feet of shore and they can be caught year round. I also like redfish because I consistently catch more fish, bigger fish and better fish than when I target other species. Further, our Big Bend grassy shallows and tidal creeks usually allow you to find locations, no matter the weather, where wind shadows can provide calm fishing conditions. Targeting redfish allows you to have a lot of great action, enjoy the beautiful Big Bend scenery, and have a great meal all while having a comfortable day on the water. What's not to like!

I'd like to start by telling you a bit about myself and the sort of fishing experiences that I've had. I'll then talk about how I got into fishing for redfish, when and where to find redfish along with some tactics and strategies. I'll also provide some rules of thumb that I use while redfishing.

Me with a 25 lb red

When I moved to Florida, and bought a boat, my only significant salt water experience had been as a kid on the Chesapeake Bay. There we targeted striped bass while occasionally catching perch and toadfish. In Florida, I didn't even know the species of fish I'd find and I had no previous experience with redfish. Initially I expected to mainly fish freshwater and only go out in saltwater occasionally. But, I never had a great fishing day in freshwater.

Things changed when my wife's boss, who had a place in Horseshoe Beach, offered to show me the ropes there. That was the first time I took my boat out in salt water. We caught spotted sea trout, ladyfish and catfish. We kept some sea trout and for a while Horseshoe Beach became my go-to destination. We did catch one redfish right around the corner from his house but it was by accident rather than by design. He seemed very excited about it.

I heard about the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club so I contacted them, started attending meetings, going to learnaments and my fishing horizons quickly expanded. A learnament in Suwannee introduced me to ramps there, Hedemon Reef, Spotty Bottom, the East Pass and a number of tidal creeks. Suwannee provided a wide variety of fishing opportunities, including easily accessible tidal creeks where you could hide from wind driven waves. It quickly replaced Horseshoe Beach as my go to destination.

While attending club meetings I learned about a yearlong tournament, The Ellett Contest, where members targeted 8 species (now 10 species) of fish with the winner having caught the largest combination of fish. The members who caught the largest of each species were honored but the grand prize was for the largest combination of 8 species. I never thought I could compete for that prize but that all changed one day when I went Sheepshead fishing.

I went to the Steel Tower at the end of Seahorse Reef off of Cedar Key where I heard Sheepshead would congregate in the spring while spawning. I hit the jackpot…I caught sheepshead on nearly every cast including the 9.6 pounder that's still my largest ever. With a limit of sheepshead I decided to try for grouper so I went to a nearby reef and caught my first keeper gag.

That day gave me a great start for the Ellett Contest with 2 of the eight species. The race was on to see if I could catch the other 6 species and be competitive. I managed to catch most of the remaining species on my own but I didn't have a clue about how to target redfish. Once again my wife came to the rescue. She had a friend at work, Rick Rudd, a former, semi-pro bass fisherman, who had switched to specialize in redfish. He offered to teach me how.

Redfish My Go-To Fish (cont'd)

I had been reluctant to target redfish because I was always very conservative when fishing in shallow waters and redfish are shallow water fish. I didn't want to ding up my new boat or run aground so I hadn't tempted fate…I stayed away from shallow waters. Rick showed me how to work within the limitations of my boat by showing me how redfish would move along shorelines and oyster bars; two shallow areas where baitfish and crabs hang out. We needed to get close enough to those areas to put a bait where the redfish were and the tides would dictate when that was possible.

Rule #1

After many years of targeting redfish my rule of thumb is that the tides need to be 2 ft or higher in order to safely go where the redfish are.

Me with a 22# Red

With 2 ft of tide I can take either of my boats to within a few feet of most shorelines, or along tidal creeks, while only occasionally needing to maneuver around some rocks or oysters. My trolling motor usually runs aground first and this serves to let me know when I need to maneuver. This happens when the boat is moving slowly so it's generally not a big deal. I may need to move to a different position in the boat to shift the balance in order get freed up so that I can then use the trolling motor to move around the shallow area. This requires only a few seconds. Not a big deal.

Rule #2

Make it easy for the fish to find your bait by making noise.

Redfish will take a wide variety of baits…natural, artificial, along the bottom, under a bobber and on the surface. I've had excellent luck with Gulp and other soft plastics, some days a gold spoon is the ticket but my best redfish days have been when I use live shrimp…usually under a bobber; a splashy bobber.

There are a lot of bobbers available today that duplicate the clicking clacking sound of a Cajun Thunder or Paradise Popper. For the most part those bobbers have a rounded float about the size of a large egg. Those bobbers work well but I've found that bobbers of the same general design but with a cupped top can provide all those sounds and add a substantial splashing sound.

The splashing of the bobber resembles the sounds that baitfish make when they're being chased. The splashing is the redfish equivalent of a dinner bell. It tells them that food is about and they head in that direction to check it out. It seems that I catch the most redfish when I work really hard to make as big a splash as possible, as often as possible.

I had one memorable day with a club member where we were fishing with otherwise identical rigs but I had a splashy bobber and he did not. I was catching redfish on almost every cast and he wasn't catching any. This went on long enough that he became very tormented. I lent him one of my splashy bobbers and he began catching redfish on nearly every cast as well.

Making sounds brings the redfish where your bait is which makes it easier for them to find your bait.

Rule #3

Make it easier for the redfish to find your bait by providing a scent.

Redfish can be found in water with a wide range of clarity and sometimes the water is so murky that their sense of smell becomes essential in helping them find their meals.

Knowing this you can take advantage by providing baits that leave a scent in the water. I've had great luck with several scented artificial baits. Gulp provides a wide range of scented plastics…there was a time that I used Gulp almost exclusively and some of our club members started calling me Allen "Gulp" Turner. I've since branched out some and have successfully used a

Redfish My Go-To Fish (cont'd)

number of scented artificial baits but more recently I've gone back to live baits. There, I'll pinch off the tail of a shrimp before I place it on a hook so as to leave a stronger scent trail when the shrimp is in the water.

Anything you do to make your bait easier to find will provide you with positive benefits and, likely, more Redfish landed.

Rule #4

Make it easy for the fish to find your bait by casting your bait to where the fish are likely to be and set up the cast so that your bait will pass through similar locations throughout the retrieve.

Redfish move up and down shorelines looking for food. If I'm fishing a shoreline I'll position my boat as close to the shoreline as possible…usually only a few feet away. I'll then use my trolling motor to move down the shoreline and I cast out in front of the boat aiming to place my bobber only a few feet from shore. By a few I mean less than 4 or 5 feet.

I then retrieve the line, splashing with the bobber, keeping the bait near the shoreline throughout the retrieve. I move the boat along the shoreline casting, retrieving and, hopefully, catching redfish along the way. I also have a power pole anchor that I use in conjunction with the trolling motor to hold the boat in a stationary position either when it appears that several casts would be warranted, or, if I have a fish on and want to focus on fighting the fish rather than navigating.

I fish oyster bars in a similar way. A good example of this is Lone Cabbage Reef whose northern extreme begins about a mile from the point where the East Pass of the Suwannee River enters the Gulf of Mexico. It is several miles long extending south most of the way to Cedar Key. I've caught my largest trout (5.6 lbs.), redfish (25 lbs.) and tarpon (a gazillion lbs) along Lone Cabbage Reef. The reef is shallow enough to be exposed at low tides and it provides some excellent habitat for a variety of species. Once again I'll use the combination of the trolling motor and power pole to move and position my boat close, and parallel to, the oyster bars. Casting out in front of the boat and retrieving so as to keep the bait close to the peaks of the bars works best.

Rule #5

Make it hard for a fish to steal your bait.

This rule is easily accomplished with most artificial baits but not so with live baits. Live shrimp, in particular, are very fragile and aren't well designed to stay on a hook. Their bodies are so soft that a fish tugging on almost any part of a shrimp could pull the entire shrimp off the hook without also pulling the hook into the fish's mouth. Because of this I go to great lengths to thread a shrimp onto the hook while passing the hook through the shell as many times as possible. The expectation here is to make the shrimp, which is going into the fish's mouth, pull the hook along with it. This doesn't always work but it increases the likelihood of a hookup. I use much the same procedure with sheepshead which are annoyingly effective at stealing your bait. Redfish aren't that good but they're good enough to make it worthwhile to make stealing your bait as hard as possible.

Ed Ellett on my boat with an over slot Red

Rule #6

Work your bait hard.

More splashing, more scent, more area covered will all increase the likelihood of either attracting or getting your bait close to a Redfish. When I go with other people I tend to catch more than they do. I try my best to help them catch as many fish as they can. I show them when and where to cast, how to retrieve and how to bait their hooks. I can also tell them to tug hard on their line to

Redfish My Go-To Fish (cont'd)

make a big splash but most people just don't work as hard as I do. I'll tell my wife to pull hard and the resulting splash may cover half a foot. When I work the bait the splashes go 1.5 to 2 feet. A larger splash implies more baitfish so it makes it more worthwhile for a redfish to come investigate. I consistently out fish my wife 19 times out of 20. I cast more often, cast further and work the popping cork more aggressively. I keep my bait close to the shoreline or oyster bars and I try to minimize the slack in my line.

My wife and I in my shallow water redfishing boat.

Using these techniques, and following these rules, I've caught hundreds and hundreds of redfish. I've had 5 or more days where I've caught 35 to 40. Most are not large enough to be keepers but there are usually enough keepers for us to have plenty of redfish dinners. I've had days where I've caught several over slot reds. I've had 3 casts in a row catching 6.5 pounders. All of these served to make a great day on the water.

One final Rule

Have fun and enjoy the special character of the Gulf's Big Bend!

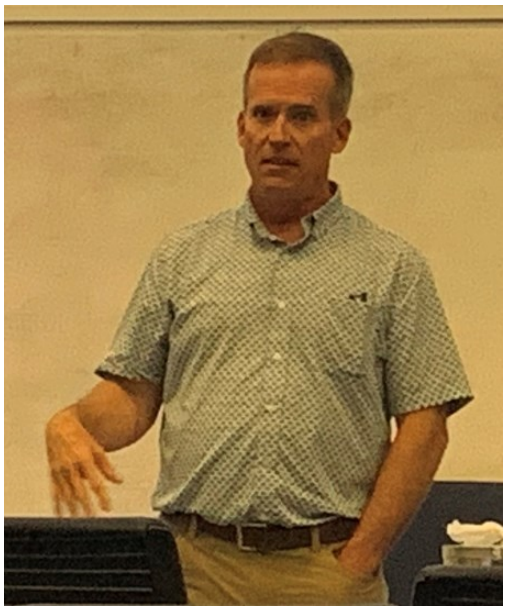
We took one of my son's friends fishing when he was probably in about 5th or 6th grade. It was the first time his friend had gone fishing in saltwater. When I launch the boat I'm usually so focused on getting everyone and everything on board that I seldom pause to take in the wonder about us. On the way to the ramp we had told him a number of things about our fishing trip but he surprised me shortly after we launched. This little kid did take the time to look about and he said "You didn't tell me how beautiful it would be here". Out of the mouths of babes….

FYI, I did end up winning the Ellett grand prize that year… I caught my redfish entry at Lone Cabbage Reef and I also won for largest sheepshead. I've since managed to win the Ellett 3 more times…I've been retired to the Elite division to allow others to compete.

Photos from the April 15 Oyster Roast at Ed and Sheila Crapo's Micanopy home.

Photos from the April 26 Speaker's Meeting

Speaker Mike Allen, IFAS/snook research project, Cedar Key, Fl



Mile Allen, IFAS/Cedar Key Biological station

Mile Allen first presented his snook research to GOFC in 2019. Among his recent findings are that snook have taken up permanent residence in our club waters and they are spawning here.

Maybe you can teach old dogs.

This group of members paid close attention to Mike Allen's presentation on snook mating and migratory patterns. At the same time, they could probably give Mike Allen a lesson on catching snook.

Photos from the May 1, Cobiathon/Mack Attack Tournament weigh-in at Robinson Seafood.

Winner of the $125 heaviest kingfish prize will be announced at the Tuesday, May 24, GOFC Speaker's meeting. Will it be Tim Pedersen, Phil Horn or Chic Hinton.

Either Dawn Cross or Debby Knopf are the alleged winner of the $125 heaviest Spanish mackerel.

Tom and Ed discuss "the one that got away".

Understanding the Ellett Contest

With credit to Brian Kiel

Understanding the John Ellett Contest

The John Ellett contest is a club contest that runs one year long and pits club members against each other in a friendly fishing contest encompassing three categories: Men's, Women's and Elite. A simplified formula awards points on a relative basis based on the heaviest fish of each species, with the exception of amberjack and kingfish which are based on length. Each species category has a maximum of 25 points and points are totaled to give an overall Ellett standing. For example, if the heaviest trout entered was a 6 lb. trout, this trout would receive the maximum 25 points, while a trout weighing half of that weight (3 lb.) would receive half of the 25 points (12.5 pts.). A 1.5 lb. trout would receive 6.25 pts. Current Ellett standings are printed in the club's Acute Angler newsletter, magazine, and on the GOFC website (Ellett standings).

It's easy to participate in the contest. All that's required is that you submit a weigh slip of any or all of the ten species the club fishes for: spotted seatrout, redfish, flounder, sheepshead, cobia, kingfish, Spanish mackerel, greater amberjack, bluefish, and grouper. Any scale can be used to estimate the fish weight, however, when a fish exceeds the maximum weight for a particular species (see bottom of weigh slip under Heavy Catches), that fish must be weighed on a State certified scale like those found in commercial establishments that use a scale to determine the value of an item sold to the public. A fish house like Northwest Seafood in Gainesville will usually weigh fish, if asked nicely. The weight should be noted on a receipt or store weigh slip, signed by the individual weighing the fish, and attached to the GOFC weigh slip to be turned into the club. The club Weighmaster keeps a certified club scale at home for members to use (contact the GOFC Weighmaster/Record Keeper, weighslip@gofc.us).

To win the contest you don't have to catch the largest fish, just catch as many of the 10 species as you can (hopefully a couple will be heavy fish). Participation in club events also helps as points are awarded for participation in club Tournaments (2 pts.) and Funaments (1 pt.). Writing an article for the Acute Angler is worth 3 points.

Awards are given to three places with the top male & female angler receiving a coveted inscribed pewter plate from the Ellett family, who happen to have sponsored this contest since its inception. The Ellett contest dates run from January 1st to December 31st with awards given out during the March Awards Banquet.

In addition to the Ellett awards, the club also gives awards and recognition for the heaviest three fish of each species. The club also maintains a list of GOFC Record Catches that include 109 species, so keep any species that is either not noted or exceeds the record. You can also submit a weigh slip for one of the "Other Two" species (dolphin and tripletail) to be computed for a separate award following the same guidelines for Special Category

GAINESVILLE OFFSHORE FISHING CLUB

Ellett Contest Standings as of 05/08/2022

Men's

GOFC Ellett - 2022 : MENS

GOFC member	Amberjack	points	Bluefish	points	Cobia	points	Flounder	points	Grouper	points	King Mack	points	Redfish	points	Sheepshead	points	Span Mack	points	Trout	points	Bonus	TOTALS
Pedersen, Tim	34.50	25.00	2.53	25.00		0.00	1.08	19.27		0.00	37.00	24.58	6.00	23.89	4.32	20.07	3.11	25.00	6.07	25.00	4	191.81
Ellett, Ed		0.00		0.00		0.00	1.76	20.18		0.00		0.00	0.40	22.86	5.36	25.00	3.06	24.60	2.04	12.10		104.74
Hinton, Chic	34.50	25.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	37.03	25.00		0.00	3.75	17.43	2.00	21.62	2.25	9.26	4	102.31
Jaworski, Tom		0.00	1.19	11.76		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	3.31	15.38	2.04	23.63	3.24	13.34	6	70.11
Horn, Phil		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	7.00	25.00	5.27	24.49		0.00	3.86	15.89	2	67.38
Vining, Carl		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.16	25.00		0.00		0.00	5.04	18.00	2.38	11.06		0.00	2.06	8.48	2	64.54
Jeff Gartland	34.00	24.64	1.20	11.86		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.30	18.49		0.00	2	56.98
DeGraff, Stephen		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	5.04	21.20	1.00	4.65		0.00	4.00	19.30	2	47.15
Byatt, John		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.00	22.94		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	4.40	18.11		41.05
Peacock, Jay		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	5.01	21.11		0.00		0.00	4.02	19.02		40.12
Reed, Dale		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	4.35	15.54	3.40	16.08		0.00		0.00	4	35.61
Daniel Czyz		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.84	13.20		0.00		0.00	2	15.20
Greco, Dominic		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	3.24	13.34		13.34
Mike Wohl		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.00	9.71		0.00		0.00	2	11.71
Matt Green		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	1.92	8.92		0.00		0.00	2	10.92
Tristan Woodrome		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	1.68	7.81		0.00		0.00		7.81
Rustemier, Mark		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	1.50	6.17		6.17

Women's

GOFC Ellett - 2022 : WOMEN

GOFC member	Amberjack	points	Bluefish	points	Cobia	points	Flounder	points	Grouper	points	King Mack	points	Redfish	points	Sheepshead	points	Span Mack	points	Trout	points	Bonus	TOTALS
Sanders, Staci		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	5.12	25.00	3.00	25.00		0.00	1.80	25.00	2	77.00
Dawn Cross		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.74	22.83		0.00		0.00	4	26.83
Stephanie Green		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.70	22.50		0.00		0.00	0	22.50
Charlotte Pedersen		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.43	20.25		0.00		0.00	2	22.25
Turner, Elaine		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	1.59	22.08	0	22.08

Elite

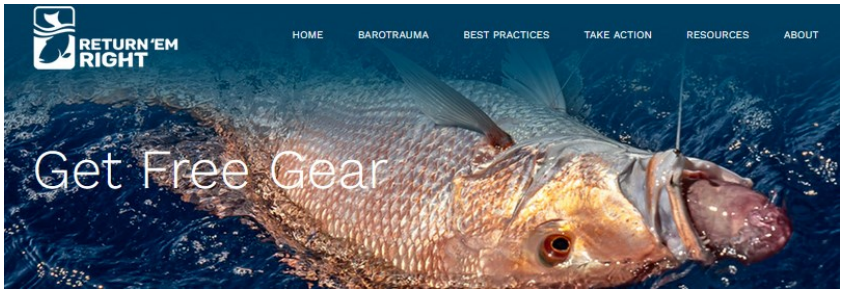
GOFC Ellett - 2022 : Elite

GOFC member	Amberjack	points	Bluefish	points	Cobia	points	Flounder	points	Grouper	points	King Mack	points	Redfish	points	Sheepshead	points	Span Mack	points	Trout	points	Bonus	TOTALS
Cooper, Virgil		0.00	2.28	25.00		0.00	2.07	25.00		0.00	35.25	25.00	7.01	22.30	5.96	25.00	3.27	25.00	6.62	25.00	4	176.30
Knopf, Ken		0.00		0.00		0.00	1.58	19.08		0.00		0.00	7.05	22.42	3.53	14.81		0.00	3.67	13.86	4	74.17
Knopf, Debby		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	7.86	25.00	3.65	16.15		0.00	2.13	8.04	4	53.19
Patrick, John		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	7.63	24.27		0.00		0.00		0.00		24.27
Turner, Allen		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	5.44	22.82		0.00		0.00		22.82

Items of Interest—Free Descending Device

"Return' Em Right" offers free descending devices

Most of us have reeled up a fish from depth with the stomach forced outside by an expanding bladder. We have also experienced the heartache of watching it float away on surface unable to dive after being released because it is undersize or out of season.



It's now a legal requirement (the DESCEND act) for anyone bottom fishing in the federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico to have a venting tool or descending device.

To educate anglers in responsible release practices the Return "Em Right program was started. Anglers can register for a 15 minute online review of best practices. Upon completion Return 'Em Right will send free of charge a kit with two descending devices, lead and all the tools you'll need. This is a $100 value and the right thing for anglers to do.

Recent Catches

New Entries from April 1—May 8, 2022

Angler	Species	Weight or Leng	Date caught	Location	Bait or Lure
Tom Jaworski	Redfish	3.11 lbs	4/19/2022	Cedar key	Shrimp
Chic Hinton	King Mackeral	37.625"	5/2/2022	CK	Duster
Chic Hinton	Spanish Mack	2.69 lbs	5/2/2022	Ck	Spoon
Chic Hinton	King Mackeral	14.37 lbs	5/2/2022	KF hole	Duster
Chic Hinton	Greater Ambe	34.5"	5/4/2022	60' west of CK	Live bait
Jeff Gartland	Greater Ambe	34"	5/11/2022	Barge	Live pinfish
Tom Jaworski	Spanish Mack	2.94 lbs	5/1/2022	Seahorse	Trolling
Tom Jaworski	Bluefish	1.19 lbs	5/1/2022	Seahorse	Trolling
Jeff Gartland	Spanish Mack	2.3 lbs	5/8/2022	Seahorse Ree	White bucktai
Jeff Gartland	Bluefish	1.2 lbs	5/1/2022	Seahorse Ree	Bucktail jig
Virgil Cooper	Flounder	2.07 lbs	5/5/2022	Cedar Key	Bait
Tim Pedersen	Greater Ambe	34.5"	5/5/2022	Cedar Key	Bait
Ed Ellett	Spanish Mack	3.06 lbs	5/4/2022	Seahorse Ree	Jig
Virgil Cooper	Spanish Mack	3.27 lbs	5/1/2022	Cedar Key	Lure
Virgil Cooper	King Mackeral	35.25"	4/26/2022	Keaton beach	Lure
Staci Sanders	Seatrout	1.8 lbs	5/1/2022	Waccasassa E	Bait
Carl Vining	King Mackeral	11.3 lbs	4/23/2022	Keaton Beach	Lure
Carl Vining	Flounder	2.18 lbs	4/21/2022	Keaton Beach	Lure
Tim Pedersen	King Mackeral	37 "	4/22/2022	Keaton beach	Lure
Tim Pedersen	Spanish Mack	3.11 lbs	4/22/2022	King beach	Lure
John Byatt	Seatrout	4.44 lbs	4/10/2022	Sink Creek	Mirrodine

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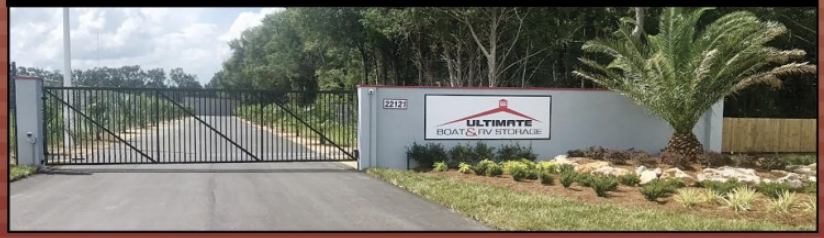

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Help FWC Cobia Research (and earn some cash!)

FWC has received funding to study cobia migratory patterns and reproductive status. As the flyer says they are offering $50 for your cobia carcass. All you have to do is:
- Turn over the carcass within 24 hours
- Call 727-685-7354. This phone number will ring an FWC employee at the Cedar Key Field Lab 24/7
- The main thing is to keep the organs intact after filleting the fish.

"We will experiment with the best approach at intercepting carcasses as the season progresses. We may keep a cooler there right at the Cedar Key boat ramp, we may arrange for the angler to drop it off as they leave the island, or we may have staff meet anglers in person at the dock. Getting the carcass from an angler after they have returned to Gainesville is also an option. Our aim is to remain flexible. We will be doing this over a period of three years, so we are open to feedback." Phillip Stevens

Letter from Phillip Stevens, PhD, FWC Fish Biology

Dear Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club,

I wanted to let you know about an opportunity to help FWC with cobia research (see attached flyer). We received a research grant to investigate the Gulf Stock of cobia, which includes cobia in SE Florida, around the Keys, and along Florida's Gulf coast. Specifically, we are interested in cobia movement patterns and reproductive status as they pass coastlines along their migratory route. We are trying to obtain the carcasses that are left after recreational anglers have filleted their legal catch. If the gonads are left intact, and we can obtain the carcass within 24 hours, we can learn a lot about the reproductive status in addition to collecting genetic information. The grant I mentioned allows us to pay a monetary award for your participation. We will have a person hired at the FWC Cedar Key Field Lab shortly to help with the project. So, anglers fishing out of Cedar Key should be able to drop their cobia carcass off at the lab on their way out. If fishing elsewhere, we should still be within range to meet the angler within 24 hours even if the carcass is brought back to Gainesville.

We would be happy to provide more information to the club over a video chat or in person at your next meeting.

I've copied Dr. Robert Ellis who is leading our Florida Gulf coast effort.

Philip Stevens, PhD
Research Scientist – Fish Biology
FWC – Fish and Wildlife Research Institute
100 8th Ave Southeast
St Petersburg, FL 33701
Phone: 727-896-8626

FWC News—Red Snapper and Greater Amberjack Seasons Announced

News

2022 Gulf Recreational Red Snapper

- Florida's 2022 recreational red snapper season will open June 17 and run consecutively through July 31.
- The season will reopen in the fall for the following weekends:
Oct. 8-9 (Sat. & Sun)
Oct. 15-16 (Sat. & Sun)
Oct. 22-23 (Sat. & Sun)
Nov. 11-13 (Fri., Sat. & Sun - Veterans Day weekend)
Nov. 25-27 (Fri., Sat. & Sun - Thanksgiving weekend)
- This season applys to recreational anglers fishing from private vessels in Florida Gulf state and federal waters. For-hire operations that do not have a federal reef fish permit may also participate in the season but are limited to fishing for red snapper in Florida Gulf state waters only.
- Florida was required to reduced the 2022 quota by 13% to payback 2021 overages. The current 2022 quota is 1,167,163 lbs.

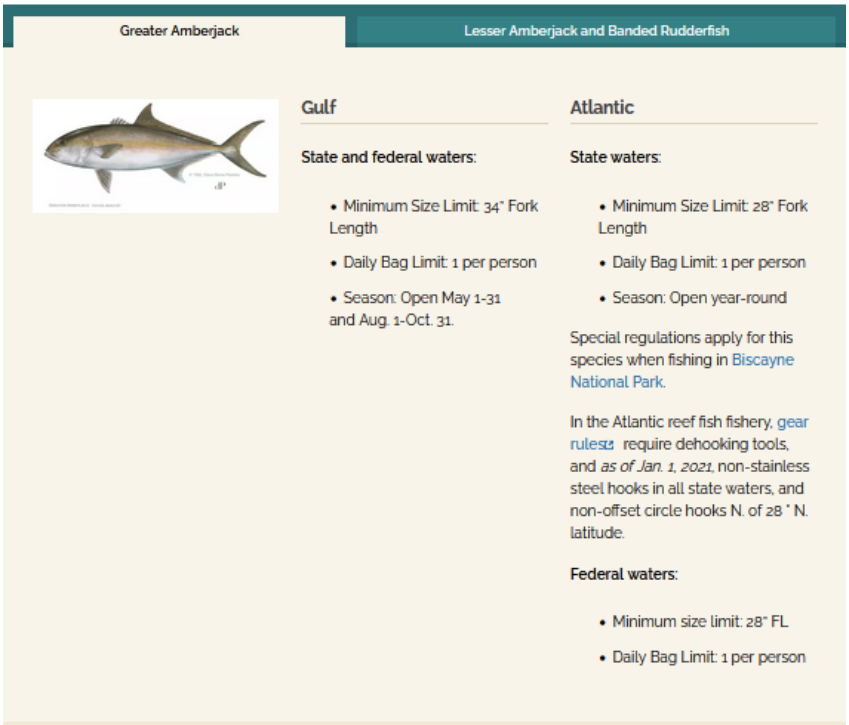
Snapper are managed differently in the Gulf versus the Atlantic and in state versus federal waters.

Gulf state waters are from shore to 9 nautical miles.

Atlantic state waters are from shore to 3 nautical miles.

Scroll down for regulations by coast and by species.

Greater Amberjack Season Opening May 1-May 31, Aug 1—Oct 31



Greater Amberjack | Lesser Amberjack and Banded Rudderfish

Gulf

State and federal waters:

- Minimum Size Limit: 34" Fork Length
- Daily Bag Limit: 1 per person
- Season: Open May 1-31 and Aug. 1-Oct. 31.

Atlantic

State waters:

- Minimum Size Limit: 28" Fork Length
- Daily Bag Limit: 1 per person
- Season: Open year-round

Special regulations apply for this species when fishing in Biscayne National Park.

In the Atlantic reef fish fishery, gear rules require dehooking tools, and *as of Jan. 1, 2021*, non-stainless steel hooks in all state waters, and non-offset circle hooks N. of 28 ° N. latitude.

Federal waters:

- Minimum size limit: 28" FL
- Daily Bag Limit: 1 per person

FWC News—Proposed new redfish rules for state waters

FWC approves proposed redfish rule changes for state waters

At its May meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved proposed management regions and regulation changes for redfish in state waters.

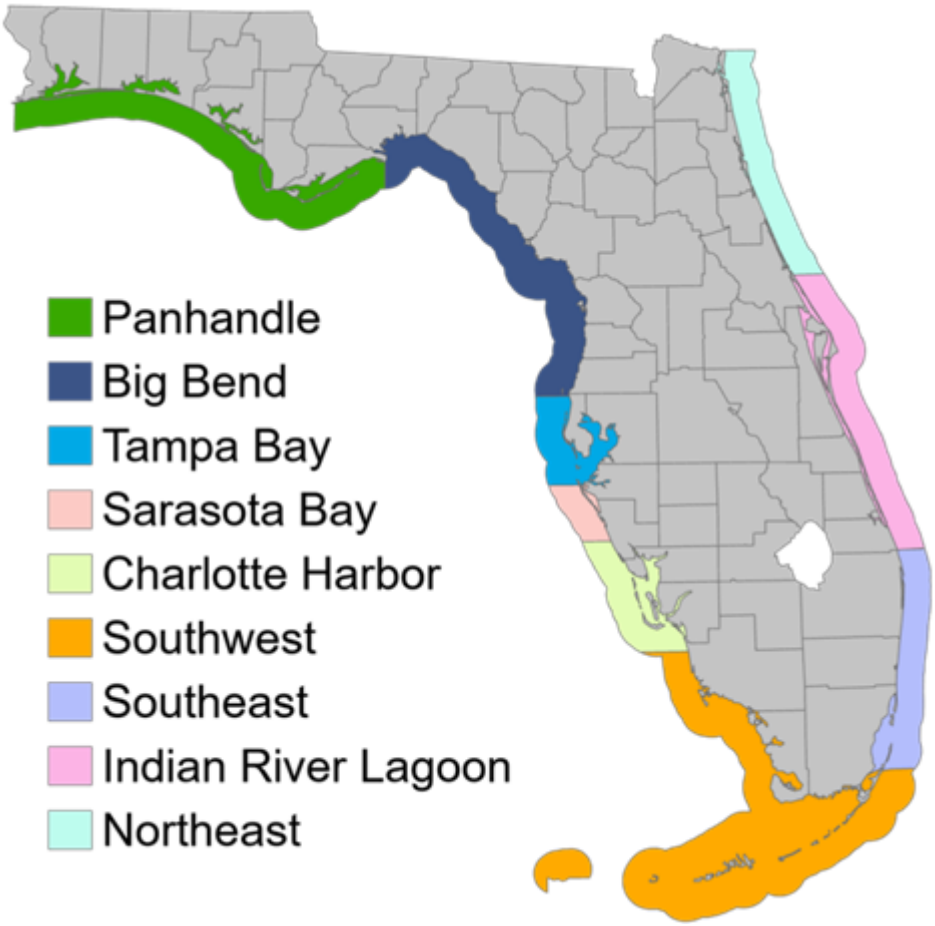
The proposed rule changes would:

- Modify the redfish management regions. (See figure 1)
- Prohibit captain and crew from retaining a bag limit when on a for-hire trip.
- Reduce the off-the-water transport limit from six to four fish per person.
- Increase the bag limit for the Big Bend region from one to two fish per person
- Reduce the eight-fish vessel limit in each of the proposed management regions:
    - Panhandle, Big Bend, Northeast: four fish.
    - Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Southwest, Southeast: two fish.
- Allow only catch-and-release fishing for redfish in the Indian River Lagoon region.

"With this new management approach, this agency is committed to continuing to work with our partners and stakeholders in finding solutions for redfish" said **FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto.**

Staff plans to continue to gather input on the proposed rules and will return to the Commission for a Final Rule Hearing later this year.

The modification of redfish management regions and regulations, as part of the new management approach, will better capture regional differences and improve angler satisfaction.



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There has been a change to the GOFC official rules relating to King Mackerel (Kingfish)

To all GOFC Members. Please be aware of the following changes:

These changes were made and approved in January's GOFC Board meeting on 1/11/2022.

Change #1 = GOFC Webpage - https://gofc.us/rules/

Last bullet item in the section titled - *"Fish Entry Conditions" Now states:*

"Amberjack **and King Mackerel** can be entered all year long regardless of closed seasons with the requirement that they be released unharmed if caught during a closed season. Amberjack **and King Mackerel** will be entered and scored based on overall length measured from the tip of the jaw or tip of the snout with closed mouth to the center of the fork in the tail. **Entries must include a photo with the complete length of the fish**. Amberjack **and King Mackerel** can still be entered by weight for club record purposes as long as the fish was caught during an open season."

Change #2 = GOFC Webpage - https://gofc.us/about-tournaments-and-contests/

Sections 3 and 5

First bullet item in section 3 titled - ***"Ellett Angler of the Year (Official Contest Weigh Slip)" Now states:***

• A year-long contest in which points are awarded (based on weight) for bluefish, cobia, flounder, grouper, redfish, sheepshead, spanish mackerel, trout and (by length) for amberjack and king mackerel

First bullet item in section 5 titled - ***"Top Offshore Angler of the Year (Official Weigh Slip)" Now states:***

• A year-long contest in which points are awarded (by weight) for cobia, grouper, spanish mackerel and (by length) for amberjack and king mackerel