The Acute Angler

August, 2022
Volume 55, Number 8

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

In this Edition

Upcoming Events P3

Charlies Kitchen P6

Chic's Fishing Report "Nothing but the Truth" P7

Yakking with a Peacock By Stephen DeGraff P9-11

Suwannee Shrimp Learnament Photos P12

"You Ask, We Answer" P15

Ellett Tournament and Recent catches P17-18

August Hot Shot

Cobia Time!

Carl Vining caught this 19.52 # cobia fishing with Tim Pederson. First order of business was cast netting some of the giant prawn size shrimp that are spawning at Cedar Key. See page 12 for photos from the July 23 Suwannee Shrimp Learnament.

Carl was also paid $50 for the cobia carcass by FWC. See how can get paid to catch cobia too on page 15.

President's Corner

By Ross McElroy

GOFC President

Damn, its hot out there! How hot is it? Well, at the last Board meeting it was announced that our email list had melted causing lot's of folks to not receive timely announcements. We hope to have everything up and running again soon. If you are not receiving club announcements, or know of a member who isn't, let us know at newsletter@gofc.us

And, Chic Hinton went to Orange Lake to scout around in preparation for the start of Alligator season and the sun was so hot it melted his starter. He had to call his good buddy Sammy Royal to come tow him back to the boat ramp. Now that's getting hot. Two days before this his honor Tom told me the heat melted all his gulp shrimps and plastic popping corks and he did not have any way to continue fishing while out on Seahorse Reef and he and Jeff Gartland had to come in early. Both stories sound hot to me. Hopefully, it will get a bit cooler by the end of next month.

Our speakers for the September 27th general meeting, Jim and Jimbo Keith of Salt Water Assassins' Charters, will tell us how to catch fish at Cedar Key even if it's still hot. By the time we get to the last two tournaments of the year October22 at Cedar Key, and December 3, at Steinhatchee we will probably be complaining about the cold weather but the fishing should be good.

See all of you at the **Social and Bar-B-Q at Ultimate Boat and RV Storage this Friday evening at 6 pm.** If Chic and Tom continue to tell these outlandish stories we always have the pressure washer to cool them down.

Next event is the **St John's River Shrimp Learnament Saturday, August 27, out of the Crystal Cove Marina, Palatka**. Charlie Courtney is leading this one and he has identified several good spots. See page 5 and your email for details.

Be safe! Take plenty of ice and water and stay hydrated

Ross McElroy

President, GOFC

From the Editor

By Jeff Gartland

GOFC Editor

Let's Get Together and Do It Again! Shrimping, that is.

Now that we've lifted our castnetting skills to a new level after the July 23, Suwannee River Shrimp Learnament, it's time to head over to Palatka for the **St John's River Shrimp Learnament on Saturday, August 27**. Charlie Courtney will be our guide. Charlie has made several trips to scout out the best locations so grab your castnet, a 5 gallon bucket and let's go! Maybe even join us for an overnight stay at the Crystal Cove Resort motel. **See trip details on page 5.**

Also, this **Friday, August 12 is the Summer Social and Bar-B-Q at Ultimate Boat and RV Storage**. See the announcement on page 4 and check your emails.

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 $150, 2nd Place $100, 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 at **newsletter@gofc.us** and sharing the tremendous depth of knowledge and experience within the GOFC membership.

Jeff Gartland

GOFC Editor

Upcoming Events

July & August—No General/Speaker Meeting

August 12 —Friday evening social at Ultimate Boat and RV Storage. Comradery starts at 6:00 followed by dinner by Cowboyz Bar B-V through the generosity of Ultimate Boat and RV Storage. Soft drinks and beer will be available at no charge. Look for email announcements.

August 27– Shrimp Learnament on the St John's River. See page 5 for details.

September 26 Meeting—Jim and Jimbo Keith of Saltwater Assassins/Cedar Key Guides

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

October 25 Meeting—Sammy Royal/ Sea Tow

November 12, 2022 Shallow Water Grouper Learnament, Crystal. Another favorite is back. Details to follow.

November 18, 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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GOFC Social at Ultimate Boat & RV Storage Friday, August 12, 6:00 PM.

Please RSVP your attendance plus family members to "newsletter@gofc.us"

Make plans to attend a fantastic club social to be held at Ultimate Boat and RV Storage in Newberry, Friday, August 12, at 6 pm with dinner to follow. We will set up under Ultimate's spacious outdoor covered shelters.

Once again, our friends a Ultimate Boat and RV Storage, are sponsoring dinner by Cowboyz Bar B Q and Catering. Non-alcoholic beverages and beer will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share and raffle money.

Come with your family and enjoy the food, friendship and a chance to win prizes!

Look for RSVP information in upcoming emails.

Ultimate is located at 22211 W Newberry Rd, Newberry, FL 32669. Visit their website to see their location and facilities -- https://www.ultimateboatrvstorage.com

FREE to club members and family!

GOFC Annual St John's River Shrimp Learnament Saturday, August 27

This event is open to all members. If you have never castnetted for shrimp this is your chance to learn. If you are planning on going and have an extra spot or two on your boat contact Charlie Courtney by Thursday afternoon, he may a few folks interested in learning the fine art of shrimping who need a ride.

When:

Saturday, August 27, 2022. Have your boat in the water and ready for a 9:00 AM departure from Crystal Cove Marina, Palatka. We suggest you be there to launch to later than 8:30 AM.

Where:

St. John's River – Crystal Cove Marina, Palatka
Drive to Palatka using either the northern (via Melrose) or southern (via Hawthorne) route. As you come into Palatka, turn left onto State Road 19 and follow it until it ends at a stoplight on US Highway 17. Turn left at the light and get into the right lane as soon as you can. Within 1/4 to 1/2 mile, turn right at the first paved right turn lane onto Comfort Road, cross the railroad tracks, and drive straight on through the masonry gateway into Crystal Cove just as Comfort Road makes a hard left turn. The marina is the first right, the motel and resort is the second right.

Contact:

Please RSVP to Charlie Courtney (352-222-3708 or courtneych@mac.com) if you plan to attend. Call or e-mail if you have pre-trip questions too.

What to Bring:

- Shrimping castnet (webbing on perimeter (helps it open on way down)
- Gloves – pulling long, wet line can be rough on the hands
- Button-less shirt – amazing how a cast net can find/tangle with a button at the least opportune time!
- Five gallon bucket to measure a boat limit, towel to cover, extra ice to keep shrimp cool as accumulate
- Laundry baskets/plastic washtub to flush net of shrimp after throws
- Saltwater fishing license/all boat safety gear current
- Cold drinks and appropriate warm weather clothing, including an extra shirt – yes, it will be hot!
- Sometimes, extra rope to tie to/extend your cast net rope.

Trip Plan:

We will leave the marina at 9:00 AM and shrimp at 2-3 known, good spots. We will break around 11:30 and dock our boats at Corky Bell's Seafood restaurant for a delicious lunch. After lunch you have the option to continue shrimping at some exploratory spots that will be provided.

Lodging:

Connected to the marina is the Crystal Cove Resort with rooms available the weekend of August 27. Bring the family and make a weekend of it. Dining, bar and pool are all available. Charlie Courtney, our guide, will be there at least Friday night. And don't forget that the St John's River is a top bass fishing location!
http://www.crystalcoveresortfl.com/index.html

Event Duration:

The duration is the decision of each boat captain, usually based on the abundance of shrimp and tiredness of the participants.

The “Summer of Shrimp” Continues!

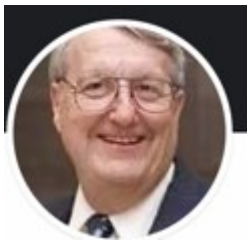
Our July 23 **Shrimp-a-thon/Learn-a-ment at Suwannee Marina** was a big success. Let’s do it again only this time we’ll do our traditional **St John’s River Shrimp learnament Saturday, August 27.** Charlie Courtney will take the lead on this one.

Please see the previous page for details.

Regardless of where the event is held **Charlie’s Kitchen** is still open and he’s sending in some of his favorite, flavor tested recipes for fresh caught local shrimp.

Charlie’s Kitchen

by Charlie Courtney



St. Johns River Shrimp Scampi

Olive oil

Butter

Sherry

Lemon juice

Salt

Garlic (powder and/or salt)

Celery salt

Old Bay

Parsley flakes

Chopped peppers, sweet or hot (optional)

St. John’s River shrimp, peeled and deveined

In a 12 inch skillet, heat oil and butter until bubbling

Sauté peppers, if using

Add all the seasonings to taste except sherry and cook about 1 minute

Dry shrimp with a paper towel and add to skillet

Add sherry once shrimp are half cooked.

Serve over buttered pasta as soon as shrimp are done, making sure to drizzle the pasta with the reduced buttery sherry/ seasonings mixture

Chic's "Nothing but the Truth" Fishing Report

by Chic Hinton

Everyone has their favorite month to fish. Mine is October. The weather is a little cooler, the grouper start moving in close, the mackerel start moving through Seahorse Reef, cobia begin moving south, redfish and trout are active on oyster bars and grass flats.

I can't wait for October to get here, but now it's August, my least favorite month to fish. It's hot and even hotter when there's no wind. And the fish are hard to find. I was hoping August would provide some good productive shrimping in our Gulf waters, but the shrimp appear to have left the area also. I talked to several members that got a limit of shrimp on July 28 and 29th and those same members could not find a single shrimp on July 31. I'm hoping they will reappear soon.

We do know that there are plenty of shrimp in the St John's River and August is typically the month to go after them. GOFC will be holding it's traditional **St John's River Shrimp Learnament Saturday, August 27, out of the Crystal Cove Marina, Palatka**. Charlie Courtney is leading this one and he has identified several good spots. See page 5 and you email for details.

John Patrick will be leading a group of eight GOFC boats on **November 12 on a shallow water grouper learnament.** We will be going south of Crystal River to an area of large rocks and catching grouper in 5 to 10 feet of water using live bait and casting plugs.

On a recent trip to Orange lake, scouting for alligator season, my outboard quit in the middle of the lake. I called Sea Tow and Sammy Royal loaded his boat on a trailer in Horseshoe Beach and had me hooked up and towed back to the ramp in less than 3 hours. If you're not a Sea Tow member I recommend that you join.

GOFC members get a $10 discount when they join.

Remember to keep your rod tip up and your line tight!

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

See you on the water!
Chic

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Yakking with a Peacock
By Stephen DeGraff

A past board member got me into kayak fishing about 4 years ago or so. His name is Jay Peacock.

Jay Peacock – Sept. 2021

Most everyone probably has heard of him or has been one of the fortunate members to have fished with him. He is a super guy, and one of the many GOFC unsung heroes.

Did you know?

- Jay has been a GOFC member for over 20 years
- Was GOFC President in 2007
- Held the GOFC Secretary position for 9 years
- Was a board member for 18 years
- Was awarded a Life Membership by the board in 2021 for his service to the club
- Achieved the Outstanding Angler award and Top Offshore Angler award

Jay and I have been friends for quite a long time now; since the early 2000's. We have shared some great times fishing Florida's lakes, rivers, oceans.

2004 or 2005 GOFC Jensen Beach Getaway - Jay and Stephen with a large Cuda.

And some great times off the water as well...

Jay took this picture while we were celebrating my son's birthday in 2005. Austin is ready for presents! I think he was pretending to be Spidey.

When Jay first talked me into fishing from a kayak, I was a little skeptical. I thought why would I want to fish from a yak when I already have a perfectly serviceable Carolina Skiff that can cover the same water? Well, I must admit he knew something I didn't. *Jay, I admit you were right.* There, I said it and we should just move along. Let us not linger here any longer than absolutely necessary.

Now that we have that behind us…

It didn't take Jay long to prove to me the benefits and versatility of that type of watercraft. A few benefits are cost, stealth, and access to areas not available to other watercraft, especially on negative tides.

Did you know you can get within feet of a fish in crystal clear water; lightly toss a bait to it and it absolutely destroy it? Well I can, and on numerous occasions did. I can neither confirm nor deny that maybe Jay can as well. *(Disregard the above picture, that is not him catching a redfish doing that exact thing.)*

Who can say they can do that with any other watercraft?

We have kayak fished from Mason's Creek in Homosassa up to Keaton Beach, which is a good amount of our coastal club waters. We have also fished Lake Rousseau, Orange Lake, Cross Creek and Steinhatchee River.

This last year we have had great luck in both saltwater and freshwater. I am not going to go into detail about where we fish as our club waters are so diverse and widespread. And I believe they are some of the best fishing waters in Florida.

One of the many creeks in our club waters that hold water on a negative tide.

I will not deny that sometimes we planned our trips based on the intel from our fellow GOFC members and friends. I will not name names but I do want to throw that plug out there.

Here are some helpful tips and tools for the current and future yakkers out there.

1. Be SAFE and VISIBLE. You will at some point likely be traversing in low visible areas where there are bigger and faster vessels ripping about. Think about the following.
    a. Flags
    b. Lights
    c. Whistle\horn
    d. Handheld radio
    e. Personal Location Beacon (Handheld EPIRB)
    f. Flotation device
    g. Use an app like Gaia GPS if you don't have a chart plotter on your yak.
2. Ask GOFC members for their experiences with the area you are planning to fish.
    a. I don't ask for spots but I do ask what they think of the area.
    b. And many times, they have even shared their experiences, both recent and past.
3. Use satellite imagery. We have found so many great fishing spots just sitting at a computer. (Google Earth, Gaia GPS, etc.)
4. Decide on species and techniques you are going to target and use. But be versatile for both.
5. And lastly, **know your tides and weather**. Don't take risks that could leave you stranded on a negative tide 2 or more miles from your ramp while a storm is getting close or worse get pushed out to sea without the strength to get back or ability to call for help.

Gulf of Mexico - Jay walking Kayak on a Negative tide.

These last couple months, our fishing has focused mainly on early morning or late afternoon as the dog days of summer are upon us and a good number of the trips have begun pre-dawn or ended post dusk. This has worked well for us.

A couple of the lures we tend to use are weedless spoons, jigs, Carolina rigs, and weedless paddle tails on top.

Here is a great fact. Trolling a weedless paddle tail while peddling\paddling has produced on almost every trip for us. On one of those trips this year, this technique produced my PB trout – 4.69 lbs!

You should always think about ways to maximize your time while on the water since there is only one guarantee in fishing. And that is, you will not catch a fish if you do not have a lure in the water! Bank on it.

We mainly target creek mouths and nearby points and structure. While you are fishing your targeted areas, don't just think about the area. Think about the water column as well. For this reason, we will always have 3 rods rigged up. One for top water, one swimming\suspending and one bottom rig. **This is one of our main rules of fishing.**

Another is based on the target fish's habits and how they feed throughout the day. We modify the speed and tempo we present the lure. What do we mean by speed\tempo? Well we mean presentation really and many times we base it on the species we are targeting.

- Is the species mainly a bottom feeder or does it like to ambush?
- Is the species particular to a chromatic color like silver, gold or copper?
- Does it like to hit baits presented in a certain way - like suspended, slow lift, twitching or steady retrieve? And know that it may change throughout the day.
- Be observant.
    - What baitfish are in the area you are fishing. Mimic them.
    - Watch for birds, mullet and/or bait. When you find them, fish the area hard.
- Pay attention.
    - Sometimes you might get lucky and the fish tells you this by kindly throwing up glass minnows or a pinfish while you are taking the hook out.
- If you are sight fishing,
    - are the fish you are seeing on the move or just sitting on the bottom.
- If the bait you are using is catching fish, but the bite is very slow don't be afraid to present it differently or even changing it.

Enough with my rambling. I hope you take heed and enjoyed this article. I won't apologize for being all over the place with it as I am not a writer, even though I try to be sometimes.

Y 'all get out there and explore, fish, make some memories!

P.S.

If you have an adventure or story you would like to share, let our editor - Jeff Gartland know, I am sure he would love to publish them in our monthly newsletter. And our club members would love to read about it as well!

If you know of a business interested in advertising with us, let a board member know and we will be happy to assist in getting them added to our website and newsletter.

Suwannee Shrimp Learnament Photos
July 23, 2022

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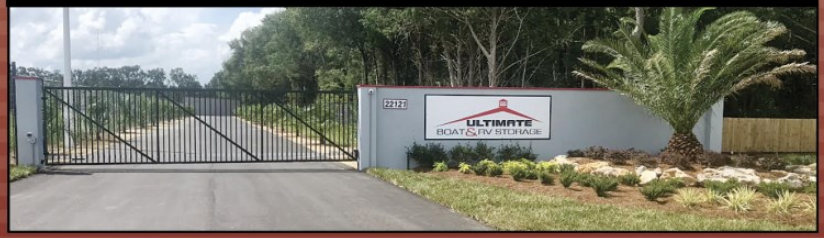

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You Ask, We Answer!

We've started this column to respond to your questions and suggestions. A number of members have written in asking for information on fishing other than Cedar Key. Here are a some suggestions for nearby artificial reefs first printed in the GOFC Fall 2015 Big Bend Angler.

Artificial Reefs in Taylor County

Artificial Reefs in Taylor County/ Florida Sea Grant

Reprinted from the Fall, 2015 Big Bend Angler – the official magazine of the GOFC

Taylor County has supported construction of public artificial reefs since 1965, when the first reef was permitted and constructed west of the mouth of the Steinhatchee River. The reef program remains active today, with the help of a volunteer reef team and many contributors including the University of Florida-IFAS, Taylor County Board of Commissioners, and other local government partners including Dixie and Wakulla Counties. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission has supported reef construction and related monitoring from State (saltwater fishing license revenue) and Federal funds (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sport Fish Restoration Program).

Steinhatchee Reef has a mixture of prefabricated concrete materials and metal scrap including iron pipes, steel ductwork and various parts from industrial machinery. This is a very popular dive and fishing location due to its close proximity to port, located within State waters. Winter sheepshead and gulf flounder fishing can be very productive, when these species aggregate on hard bottom to spawn. The most recent addition to this reef placed 112 concrete cubes with large 24" central cavities. The cube location lists the end of one of two parallel lines of reef patches running NE to SW approximately 500 feet apart. **Andree Reefs** were originally called the Taylor Big Bend Regional Reef, part of a five-county reef building effort in 1995. The reef design and materials are a modification of the Suwannee Regional Reef System arrays, which were built at varying patch size and distance between patches off Levy and Dixie Counties in the early 1990s. Andree Reef #1 has 6 reef patches, each consisting of 4 concrete cubes (24 total) arranged in a hexagon with approximately 164 ft between patches (50m). Andree Reef #2 has the same pattern of patches and spacing but was built with 16 concrete cubes per patch (96 total). This site is located in Federal waters and attracts a variety of marine life including gag, Goliath grouper and several species of marine turtles.

The Steinhatchee Fisheries Management Area is permitted to University of Florida, providing research and public Reefs on access over a large area artificial reef site (LAARS). The permitted area ranges in depth from 30-50 feet, and encompasses a triangular area of 100 NM2, centered off the mouth of the Steinhatchee River. The public fishing reefs deployed in summer 2007 are found at depths of 35-40 ft. Three of these sites were enhanced with more cubes in July 2012, with an additional 4 sites established. Each location has either 16, 24 or 40 concrete cube modules. These sites hold a variety of reef fish with white grunt, black sea bass, gag, and hogfish in abundance, with seasonal winter visits by schools of large red drum.

Buckeye Reef is the deepest artificial reef site currently permitted by Taylor County, re-issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in January 2011. This site has been a popular diving and fishing destination for more than a decade, and now is permitted to receive additional materials through 2020. There are two material types- scrap metal and prefabricated concrete tetrahedrons of several sizes. Hogfish, white grunt, black sea bass, gag, Atlantic spadefish, gray snapper and Goliath grouper are common on the 1 NM2 area. The September 2012 deployment was placed within swimming distance (about 200') from the existing steel pile to speed colonization by reef fishes.

GPS numbers for the Steinhatchee Reef array are given above. Numbers for the remaining reefs mentioned above can be found on the web at https://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/taylorco/2017/11/03/artificial-reefs-taylor-county/

The GOFC recently helped fund an addition to the Buckeye Reef, the numbers of which are not given at the above web site. The numbers for the new addition are:

29-38.808 N 83-54.250

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

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 07/15/2022

Men's

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	18.71	12.45	12.87	1.08	19.27	5.80	15.09	37.00	20.56	0.00	23.89	4.32	20.07	5.10	24.16	0.07	25.00	4	208.61
Ellett, Ed		0.00	1.00	12.28	24.10	25.00	1.70	20.18	0.01	25.00		0.00	0.40	22.86	5.38	25.00	4.54	21.25	2.04	12.10		163.67
Vining, Carl		0.00	3.38	25.00	19.52	20.17	2.16	25.00		0.00	30.00	20.00	5.04	18.00	2.38	11.06	3.50	16.39	2.06	8.48	2	146.10
Jaworski, Tom		0.00	1.10	8.80		0.00	1.50	18.23	7.31	19.02		0.00	3.14	11.21	3.31	15.38	4.60	21.96	3.24	13.34	8	115.94
Horn, Phil		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	36.75	20.42	7.00	25.00	5.27	24.49	5.34	25.00	3.86	15.89	2	112.79
Hinton, Chic	34.50	25.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	37.03	20.91		0.00	3.75	17.43	4.00	18.73	2.25	9.26	6	97.32
DeGraff, Stephen		0.00	2.24	16.57		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	5.04	21.20	1.00	4.65	4.32	20.22	4.00	19.30	4	85.95
Jeff Gartland	34.00	24.64	1.20	8.88		0.00		0.00		0.00	45.00	25.00		0.00		0.00	2.30	10.77		0.00	2	71.28
Reed, Dale		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	7.55	19.64		0.00	4.35	15.54	3.40	16.08	2.76	12.92		0.00	6	70.18
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
Mark Rustemier		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.62	13.20		0.00	2	15.20

Women's

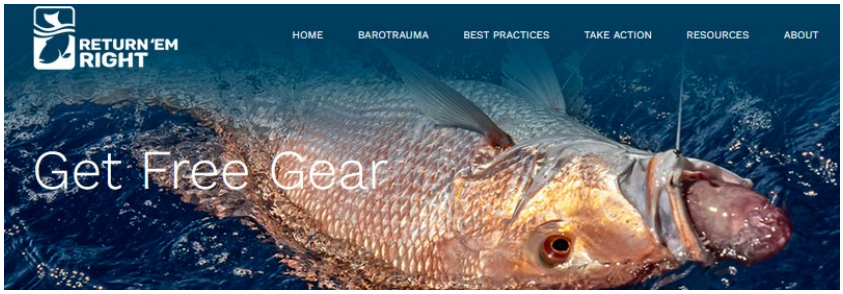
GOFC member	Amberjacl	points	Bluefish	points	Cobia	points	Flounder	points	Grouper	points	King Mack	points	Redfish	points	Sheepshea	points	Span Mack	points	Trout	points	Bonus	TOTALS
Sanders, Staci		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.13	25.00		0.00		0.00	0.13	25.00	3.00	25.00	2.60	25.00	1.60	14.38	2	116.38
Mundt, Mary		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.06	19.81	1.31	10.46	0	30.27
Cross, Dawn		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	2.74	22.83		0.00		0.00	0	28.83
Horn, Rhonda		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	3.13	25.00	0	25.00
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

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	11.61	25.00	35.25	25.00	7.01	22.30	5.00	25.00	3.27	19.46	0.62	25.00	4	195.76
Knopf, Ken		0.00		0.00		0.00	1.56	19.08	11.75	24.87		0.00	7.05	22.42	3.53	14.81	4.20	25.00	3.67	13.86	6	126.05
Knopf, Debby		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	7.66	25.00	3.85	16.15	3.73	22.20	2.13	8.04	6	77.40
Ellett, Marcia		0.00		0.00		0.00	1.06	12.80		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	1.56	9.29	1.48	5.59		27.68
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.

Ellett Contest Recent Catches
New Entries from July 15—August 8, 2022

Angler	Species	Weight or length	Date caught	Location	Bait or Lure
Carl Vining	Cobia	19.52	7/28/2022	Cedar Key	Bait
Marcia Ellett	Flounder	1 Lb. 1 oz.	7/15/2022	Steinhatchee	Gulp

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.

2022 Gulf Gag Grouper

	Recreational		Commercial
Season	Open June 1 – December 31. If landings reach the recreational ACL, harvest will be prohibited for the remainder of the fishing year.	Season	Gag grouper is managed under an individual fishing quota (IFQ) program. Anyone commercially fishing for gag grouper must possess allocation and follow established protocols.
Minimum Size Limit	24 inches total length	Minimum Size Limit	24 inches total length
Bag Limit	2 per person within the 4 grouper aggregate bag limit which includes gag, red grouper, black grouper, scamp, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper, yellowedge grouper, snowy grouper, speckled hind, and warsaw grouper. No grouper may be retained by the captain or crew of a vessel operating as a charter vessel or headboat.	Trip Limit	none
Permit	State issued recreational license/angler registry, federal angler registry or Federal charter/headboat permit for reef fish	Permit	Commercial vessel permit for reef fish is required. Additionally, an eastern Gulf reef fish bottom longline endorsement required to use bottom longline for Gulf reef fish in the federal waters east of 85°30′ longitude.
	Non-stainless steel circle hooks are required		Non-stainless steel circle hooks are required when fishing with natural

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[2] 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

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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