The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

In this Edition

Upcoming Events P2
From the Editor P3
Steinhatchee report P3
Captain's Log P4
Charlie's Kitchen P6
Crystal River report P8
Tournament results P9
Kayak Corner P11
Florida Friendly Angler P11
What's in season P13
GOFC Merchandise P16

President's Message

Well, it's a wrap! 2025 for our club is in the books and we certainly have had a wonderful time, and I hope you have as well. The last tournament of the year, the redfish roundup was well attended, thanks to the committee for organizing it and to Betts Big T for hosted us for the weigh-in. Especially enjoyed seeing the Weiler "boys" getting to fish with member Ed Ellett. We are sure Ed did his best to impart lots of fishing "how-to" wisdom and I know the boys enjoyed the day with him.

As we look forward to 2026, we invite any interested members to consider joining the board, fun group, get opportunities to fish with some successful and experienced anglers, and a free cool shirt! All kidding aside, we really look forward to having some fresh ideas and support on the board so if you are interested, please let me know at president@GOFC.US. Our first board meeting is this Tuesday at Northwest Grill off 39th.

Speaking of 2026, our first event is right around the corner! The annual Oyster Roast at Tim and Linda's boat barn will be held January 17th starting at 3:00 pm. This is being held on a Saturday afternoon, and I especially look forward to seeing folks who have moved away but make the trip each year to rekindle friendships and swap fishing lies! I know Tim and Virgil are hard at work sourcing the best oysters for shucking both raw and steamed and for frying up! In addition, we will be frying fish and shrimp and offering hamburgers and hotdogs as well. Please bring a side or desert if you can, a favorite glove and shucking knife, and enjoy our first social event of the year! This event is free to all members in good standing so now is a great time to follow the links to renew your membership for the year and invite that friend to do so as well!

Our first general meeting of the year will follow our traditional format of an in-depth review of the year long Ellett contest with master and elite angers from the club giving talks on specific seasons and tactics for our targeted species, as well as planning and strategy. This is a very well received format, and we all have a chance to learn something new from each other.

February we will resume our outside speaker format with a focus on charter captains, industry experts, and fisheries scientists. If you have a recommendation or request, please reach out to me and we can discuss your ideas.

Hope to see you at some of our events and on the water! So, until then, tight lines and following seas to all.

John Ebbs — 2025 to 2026 GOFC President

352-213-4350

The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

Upcoming Events

Oyster Roast – Saturday Jan. 17th Starting at 3:00 pm at Pedersen's Farm (16251 42nd Court, Trenton, FL). The Annual GOFC Oyster Roast is a great opportunity to spend a fun evening roasting oysters over an open fire while swapping fishing stories with your fellow GOFC members. In addition to the delicious roasted oysters, there will be fried oysters, hamburgers, hotdogs, sodas, water, and all the fixin's provided by the club. Bring a side dish or desert for sharing.

January Meeting – Tuesday Jan. 20th The speakers will be GOFC master anglers dispensing tips on catching the club's big 10 species. Location will be Best Restoration meeting room, 7230 W. University Ave., Gainesville, FL 32607 (just off Tower Rd., behind Home Depot). Pizza and drinks are provided with raffle and door prizes.

Now's a good time to renew your GOFC Membership for 2026!

It's as easy than ever!

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, or you can pay Debby at the monthly meetings!

Edward C. Ellett, CPCU, CIC, CLU
King Insurance
643 SW 4th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32601
352-415-8244
352-317-8601 fax
www.king-insurance.com
ed.ellett@king-insurance.com

KING INSURANCE

- Life Insurance for dying too soon.
- Annuities for preserving what you have.
- Long Term Care Insurance when longevity becomes challenging.
- Home, Auto, Boat, Umbrella, Disability and Business Insurance for the challenges in between.

Auto-Owners INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

From the Editor

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year, light winds and calm seas for 2026. If you're wondering about renewing your membership and need convincing, see the article by Joe Richard as to why being part of a fishing club is good for the psyche and general well-being! On a more personal note, I can say this is definitely the case. Since joining GOFC almost 20 years ago I've fished with dozens of different club members and for sure some of my best days on the water and memorable trips have been with folks that I'd not have met if not for the club. On New Year's Day, Ryan Kremser invited me to go fishing with him and Brent Lira out of Keaton Beach. While we didn't exactly tear 'em up, we ended the day with two nice mid-slot redfish and a valuable lesson on where not to try and enter Fish Creek on low tide. However, Ryan saved the day, sending up a drone to scope out the deeper water entrance, which is not where I thought it was…

With the start of the new year the annual John Ellett fishing contest starts over with a clean slate for everyone and the possibility, no matter how remote, that this year will be the year to win top honors. There is a strategy to catching a decent specimen of all ten species. For some, like sheepshead, although they can be caught all year long, the best chance of a quality fish is during the annual spawning season. For sea trout the 'gators' are more likely to be found during the cooler months. While pelagic species (like Spanish, king mackerel and cobia) are only present during warmer months, or during short periods when the fish are migrating through our waters. For the first meeting of the year, we have several of our most experienced members talking about the strategies and techniques they use to catch all ten species. Even if you're not going to compete in the Ellett contest there will be some useful tips and pointers for catching your favorite species.

The first general meeting of the year is also the perfect opportunity to catch up with folks after the holidays and renew your membership. Also, if you have a friend or neighbor that you think might be interested in joining GOFC, invite them to attend one of the monthly meetings. And, don't forget to bring in your scales to the January or February meeting have them calibrated.

John Byatt (GOFC newsletter editor)

Email: jcbyatt@gmail.com

STEAM CLEAN
POWERFUL STEAM MACHINE FOR CARPET, UPHOLSTERY, TILE & GROUT
CUSTOMIZED
HOUSE CLEANING
PRESSURE WASHING
WINDOW CLEANING
10% OFF
ANY SPECIALTY SERVICE
(EXCLUDING HOUSE CLEANING)
RUB A DUB DUB
352.336.8570
www.rubadubcleaning.com

Steinhatchee Report: Capt. Bobbi Brady

Steinhatchee fishing has been steady with cooler mornings and warming afternoon tides.

Redfish are cruising shallow grass and oyster edges, responding well to weedless paddletails and gold spoons worked slow. Trout are holding in slightly deeper grass flats and creek mouths, eating soft plastics and twitch baits with a pause. Flounder are tucked along sandy drop-offs and cuts, bouncing jigs and shrimp-style artificials. Moving water has been key, so plan trips around tide changes. Clean water and light winds have made sight fishing possible on the right days. Winter patterns are settling in, and the bite should continue improving.

Florida Saltwater Flats Fishing Charters:
352-318-8429

The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

Captain's Log

By Joe Richard

Guy Time

According to the book *Bowling Alone* by Robert Putnam, there is now far less socializing in our local communities. People are more isolated these days; there are fewer rotary clubs and church attendance is down. Same with Lion's Clubs and Elk's Lodges. Cell phones have replaced human contact. Social media is rampant with folks constantly studying their phones in restaurants and traffic. Story-telling around campfires, a tradition for thousands of years, now struggles to survive. Fishing stories are one of our favorite pastimes, stories of success and misadventure.

It's true that hunting provides story-telling respite for the guys, but the season doesn't last all year. When I'd been married only a year I was invited on a deer lease, where we sat around the campfire. When it was pointed out that few deer had been seen on the lease, one guy said, "I don't care; I just need a break from my old lady." That was my first introduction to guys actually needing guy time. His statement seemed odd, because Amy and I fished together and even won tournaments. I was going to say that ours is probably a rarity with married couples, but we may as well delete the word "probably." With that said, over the years I have come to appreciate guy time, though it's less about needing a break from the wife and more about enjoying camaraderie with guys who share a passion for the outdoors.

One form of socializing I enjoy are year 'round fishing clubs. I'm currently a member of GOFC and also the Eastside Garden Club in Gainesville. GOFC members are already familiar with the year's programs, which include coastal tournaments, the used tackle auction and dinner, winter clam roast, annual awards banquet for best anglers both male and female, and the monthly lectures from fishing guides and fishery scientists. With lots of pizza.

As a new member of the tournament committee, several of us will be pushing for a pause in harvesting several offshore species (cobia, kings and amberjack) that are not doing well. Gulf Coast biologists I've interviewed are plainly worried but won't go on record about their concerns without doing serious research of cause and effect. They can't even tag these fish, because there are not enough left to find. It seems logical to replace these troubled species for a couple of years with others that are presumably doing better. The club was started in 1969 when fish stocks were way different from today. We could substitute with tripletail, snook, black drum or pompano, reachable with smaller boats. Our serious offshore guys with big boats sometimes return to port sometimes without a single rod-caught keeper in-season fish, after burning more gallons of fuel than I use in a year. The entire club caught four or five kingfish and cobia this past year. Anyone can catch and release a 30-pound black drum around Cedar Key in a canoe during summer, you can see their tails sticking out of the water. Snook are now said to be plentiful.

My other fishing club is Eastside Garden Club, made up of what I affectionally call "grumpy old men" where the average age was at least 70 when I joined. They stick with freshwater, which is closer to home and not nearly so tiring to fish. They often quit the lakes by 9:30 a.m. in warm weather, but fish more often than GOFC members. Since 2020 we've had 14 members pass away from various causes; several guys were World War II veterans. The club goes back to 1950 or so, named after Four Roses, a popular beverage in those days. Back then the guys were much younger, fished hard and held a fish fry every Thursday.

Some no doubt suffered from war trauma. Today they've been replaced somewhat by Vietnam veterans who still fish. We had two game wardens, though one recently passed. Perhaps half our members are too old or stove-up to fish. However, they still show up every month for our outdoor meetings at the clubhouse at Powers Park on Newnan's Lake for our typical meal of fried crappie, hush puppies and cheese grits, after an hour of visiting. They're always eager to hear the latest fish report. We constantly hold crappie tournaments with cash awards on area lakes, plus a redfish/trout/mackerel tournament every October at Cedar Key.

These guys have shown me their techniques on five different lakes. Younger members in their 40s are gradually replacing them. Above our covered picnic table are names and birth/passing years on plaques for deceased mem-

Continued on p. 6

STATE-OF-THE-ART SECURE STORAGE
NO MOVE-IN FEES OR DEPOSITS
CONVENIENT ROUTE TO I-75
ACCESS ANYTIME
24/7

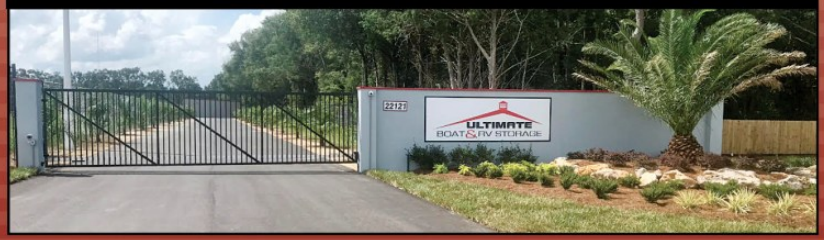
ULTIMATE BOAT & RV STORAGE

When you're not out enjoying your big toys, store them safely with us!

WHERE BOYS STORE THEIR TOYS

Discounts available! Ask for specials!

COVERED, ENCLOSED OR OPEN PARKING
Month-to-Month leases • Pre-pay discounts



- Hurricane-Resistant Steel Canopy Covers
- 24-Hour Self Service Check-In
- Automated Security Flood Lights
- Covered Wash Station
- Air Station for Tire Inflation (90*/120psi)
- Sanitary Dump Station
- Self-Service Ice Machine
- Security Access Keypads
- 24/7 Recorded Security Cameras
- High Security Fencing
- Electric Service (15, 30 & 50 amp)
- Facility Fire Extinguisher Stations

Easy Online Account Management & Payments

Call or visit our website today for more information

UltimateBoatRVStorage.com

22211 WEST NEWBERRY RD. • NEWBERRY, FLORIDA 32669 • 352-472-3337

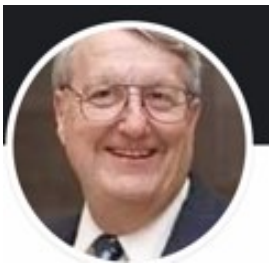
The Captain's Log — Continued from p. 4

bers, about 80 of them. Most of the group still uses jonboats, so I fit right in. This is a guys-only club, so we can sit around and guy-talk to our heart's content. I was coaxed into becoming club treasurer, so I manage our $40 membership fees, raffle ticket earnings, $5 lunches, tourney entries and winnings. I've learned a lot, fishing with these guys.

Now, cast your mind back to 1969 or so, when huge Toledo Bend reservoir was opened to fishing in East Texas. The guys in our local high school didn't know shinola about the new lake. The YMCA had started a boys fishing club and with considerable enthusiasm, we boarded the bus with camping gear on a warm Spring weekend. They hauled us north, finally driving down a (fortunately) dry dirt road to Green Acres, a lake campground with boat rentals. Next day we eagerly paddled to the next cove. In those days there were crappie around every tree and brush top, no limits either, and we caught heavy stringers while using small, hair jigs. On the dock they had a device like a clothes dryer that would spin a load of fish, discharging a torrent of scales into the water.

That initial trip with the club exploring new waters quickly turned into more adventures. With new driver's licenses we drove back to Green Acres and filled more stringers. We would *never* have known about that area without being club members. And there were subsequent trips in family cars. Trying to reach that campground, we slid off the muddy road in a huge station wagon and had to wait hours for a tow. On another trip, returning after dark, and distracted by a rabbit (we road-hunted rabbits at night), a sharp curve on wet pavement had us skid into the woods, hitting a big tree with Marvin Cichowski's dad's red t-bird car. Our styrofoam coolers didn't hold up and crappie flew, even landing on the dashboard. It was a short hike into town to make the call, and Marvin's school teacher dad (who soon had much to say) drove 92 miles to retrieve us on a Sunday night. We were hard on family cars for the next several years.

So, we need more fishing clubs. And members. How else are you going to learn new areas, techniques and recent catches, talking to tight-lipped strangers at the dock? Maybe lurking on Facebook? Good luck with that. Just today, GOFC members John Byatt and Jay Peacock called to report catching 20 trout from 16-22 inches. They're going back soon and want me to go, as soon as Santa Claus leaves town. If we go on January 1, we will score early tournament points.



Charlie's Kitchen
By Charlie Courtney

Green Beans

Green beans are often served as a side dish at seafood restaurants and with home cooked seafood. I thought it would be a good idea to discuss them here since they are a culinary "team player," offering the perfect texture, taste, and a healthy foundation needed to complement the main course of seafood.

Fresh green beans are found in two different forms: a straight, round bean and a flat, Italian style bean. There is little difference between the taste and texture of the two different style beans, because they are the same species, *Phaseolus vulgaris*. Indeed, there is more variation in taste and texture between different varieties of round beans than between the round and flat bean types.

Green beans are sometimes referred to as "string beans," because older varieties had a fibrous string along the edges of the bean that had to be removed before cooking. However, modern varieties have been bred to eliminate this string, and they will be stringless unless they are allowed to become over mature. Green beans are sometimes called "snap beans," because they are often "snapped" into two or more shorter pieces before cooking. That said, they are usually left almost whole, with just the very stem end snipped off, when crispy cooked.

Green beans may be cooked as a stand alone side dish or included in dishes like soups, stews, casseroles, and

Continued on p. 7

salads. As a side dish, they are generally cooked in two very different ways. Soft-cooked green beans are typically snapped into inch long pieces and simmered for a long time until they take on a darker green color and are "melt-in-your-mouth" tender. In contrast, crispy or crisp-tender green beans usually just have their ends snipped and are either sautéed in a skillet for a short period, or oven roasted, until they are bright green and still have a slight crunch. The main difference lies in the desired texture, with the former focusing on a fully cooked, soft state and the latter on a firmer, crisp-tender result. Soft-cooked beans are found in traditional Southern-style green beans simmered with smokey pork where a very soft texture is desired. Crisp-tender beans are often used in salads and as stand alone side dishes where a firmer texture is preferred.

Recipes

Southern Soft and Savory Green Beans

This is the green bean recipe that I was raised on in South Carolina and is similar to that offered at most seafood and barbecue restaurants here in North Central Florida and throughout the South. The long, slow simmer in a smokey, savory liquid generates soft, flavorful beans that practically melt in your mouth. I prefer flat beans for this recipe because that was the type of bean I grew up eating, but round beans work just as well. Whichever type of bean you prefer, make sure that they are not over mature and thus stringy and fibrous.

Ingredients:
3-4 cups green beans, snapped
1 slice smoked bacon
1 chicken boullion cube
1 tablespoon chopped sweet onion
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon Lowry's Seasoned Salt
1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
Sufficient water to cover

Instructions:
Add all ingredients, cover with water, and bring to a full boil. Then reduce the heat to a strong simmer and let cook for approximately one hour. Serve and enjoy!

Notes:
Member's Mark Hickory Smoked Bacon from Sam's Club-works particularly well in this recipe. Other smokey, fatty types of pork can be used in place of the bacon.

If your bacon or other source of pork fat does not have much of a smokey flavor, simply add a drop or two of "liquid smoke" to the pot.

If you are into home canning, this recipe can be modified slightly for canning as follows. For pint jars, add all of the ingredients except the snapped beans to the bottom of the jar in the quantities listed above, although some people may prefer to use only 1/2 slice of bacon per pint. Then pack the snapped beans on top until the jar is full to the bottom of the threaded section, packing tightly. Fill the jar with hot water to cover the beans (within 3/4 inch of the top), install the lids and rings (finger tight), and can at 10 pounds pressure for 45 minutes. For quarts, double the recipe except use only a single slice of bacon and can for 1 hour at 10 pounds pressure. This recipe is not safe for boiling water bath canning, because the food is not acidic, so only preserve this recipe by pressure canning. To use your canned beans, simply dump the contents of the jar into a pot, bring to a boil, then reduce the heat and let simmer for 10-15 minutes before serving.

Northern Crispy Seared Beans

This was the style of green beans most often served in homes and local restaurants when I lived in Ohio, and the beans seemed like a totally different vegetable from the green beans I was raised on. It is not uncommon for gardeners to snack on the occasional raw green bean in the garden while harvesting, showing that it is not necessary to cook your green beans into oblivion to enjoy them.

From Cooking Ray at Allrecipes: (https://www.allrecipes.com/recipe/244868/sauteed-garden-fresh-green-beans/)

You can prepare this dish of fresh green beans quickly and easily, taking only about ten minutes from start to finish. For an enhanced taste, consider adding ingredients such as sautéed mushrooms, onions, or fresh garlic; the possibilities for personalization are endless. A skillet is used to cook the beans until they are a vibrant green and perfectly crisp-tender.

Ingredients:
1 ½ tablespoons olive oil
¾ pound fresh green beans, stem ends trimmed
½ teaspoon onion salt or to taste
½ teaspoon garlic salt or to taste
½ teaspoon garlic powder or to taste
freshly ground pepper to taste

Instructions:
Start by heating olive oil in a skillet set to medium temperature. Once hot, add the green beans along with the seasonings: onion salt, garlic salt, garlic powder, and black pepper. Cook the beans, stirring occasionally, until they reach your preferred level of tenderness, which typically takes five to ten minutes. If desired, you can finish the dish with a generous squeeze of fresh lemon juice (the acidity cuts through the richness of the accompanying fish) and a sprinkle of fresh parsley or dill. Optionally, you can toss in some toasted slivered almonds for added crunch. However you cook it, dish it up while it's hot for the best flavor.

Notes:
It is imperative that the beans be fresh, young, and tender. They should snap crisply when bent, not bend like they were made of rubber. Old or over mature beans will not cook properly for this recipe.

Continued on p. 9

The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

Fishing Report Crystal River, FL:

By Capt. Andrew Meyer

Happy New Year Everybody! I hope your holiday season has been a good one.

The new year is being ushered in with a cold front, although by the weekend we will be reminded once again that we are in Florida, as highs will reach the low 70's. Overnight lows will remain cool, allowing for a gradual warming in water temperatures. As we have discussed before, water temps are the biggest single key to determining the location and pattern. We have been through a few of these fronts, albeit slightly milder. If you have been paying attention to what the fish are doing during these temperature fluctuations, you should have a pretty good idea how they will respond at different points in this cycle, as well as similar future cycles.

Before we jump into each species, let's take a quick minute to talk about adjustments in presentation that can help up your catch rate on winter fish. I'm sure if you have been out recently, you are noticing the water is extremely clear in most places. This means it is time to downsize leaders and hooks as much as possible. With shrimp, fiddler crabs, or mud minnows, there is no need to run larger than a 1/0-2/0 hook in most situations. On small baits you may even want to go down to a #1 or #2. We're usually slowing presentations down in the winter. Combine this with low/clear water, and that means they are going to inspect the bait much more before taking it. You don't want anything that sets off alarm bells. Run long/light fluorocarbon leaders and small hooks. I never run heavier than 20lb flouro, unless I'm catch and release fishing large snook in the river. Often 15# or even 12# is necessary to maximize strikes. Leader length is very important as well. I prefer 5-7ft of leader when using braided main line. If it gets down to less than 4ft it's best to re-tie. If you need weight use as light a split shot or jighead as possible to keep your bait on the bottom. It is often the little things that really help up your odds in colder conditions, especially when we are on high pressure systems, which happen so often this time of year.

The sudden drop in water temp has stacked the trout back up in the deeper sections of the creeks and rivers. Expect the fish that are holding in the larger river systems to hold only for a few days until the water warms a bit, while fish in the salt creeks should hold longer. Live shrimp worked slowly near or in the bottom is the best presentation. Jigs, jerk baits, and MirrOdines are also productive. Finding the right cadence is the key with artificials. Be willing to slow down the presentation until you get bit. The "correct" speed in winter is often slower than one would imagine it to be.

Reds have been pushed back deeper into their creek holes. While some fish had made it back out front of the creeks when the water reached the 75-76 degree mark, most all of these fish have moved back deeper into the nearby creeks. The coldest nights will concentrate many of these fish into systems that have connection to warm water head springs, either from a river or a tributary of some sort. Hard bottom has been key for reds as of late. Oysters and limestone retain heat and allow reds to warm their bellies. Fish are tending to be either on or near such structure. Live shrimp and mud minnows are the baits of choice. Small artificial presentations like paddletails, lil jons, Q-8 super bait, MirrOdines, and gold spoons can also be effective.

As a rule of thumb on colder days, the bite will usually begin picking up mid-late morning once the sun has gotten up a bit and things have begun warming.

Sheepshead are in their typical polarized winter pattern. While the bulk of fish are in the creeks and rivers at the moment, we are starting to see some fish offshore a bit on the rocks in 10-15ft as well. The fish that are in the creeks and rivers have moved very deep into these systems. In the smaller creeks this is primarily a mud boat/airboat fishery. Sheepshead that are holed up in the backwater can be easy pickings using live shrimp or fiddler crabs, especially on low water. In the larger rivers the bulk of the fish are getting up close to or in the springs, and tend to be much more responsive to crabs than shrimp. The offshore sheepshead will continue to improve over the next several months, as fish begin moving toward their deeper water spawning grounds. Right now, it's about rock hopping. Some rocks are holding, but many are not yet. It's pick a fish, or a couple, and move on to find more. Live shrimp on a 1/4 - 1/2 ounce jighead or a drop-shot rig works best.

Black drum are in the river and creek systems, especially from Crystal River north. Hard shell and oyster bottom is the key. Use a light jighead or split shot to keep your crab or shrimp on the bottom and be slow on the hook-set. These fish tend to take baits in softly and slowly.

Hard cold fronts are the best time to target trophy catch and release snook in the rivers. These extremely temperature sensitive fish congregate in and near major springs and spring feeds during fronts. Early morning is especially good, as these fish will be stacked up near their warm water sources from the cold night, and are ready to feed. Top baits include small ladyfish, finger mullet, pinfish, large mud minnows, swim baits, plugs, and topwaters. Target docks, troughs, and hard bottom points/current breaks.

Looks like more beautiful weather and good fishing ahead!

For those who would like to book a charter you can call me direct at 352-601-8786 and check out our website https://www.tailwalkercharter.com/, or Facebook https://www.facebook.com/share/1BcBTVcvvj/?mibextid=wwXIfr . Also don't forget prime sheepshead season is right around the corner (February - March). I have some availability this month still, as well as Feb/March, but dates are booking fast so get your spot locked up asap.

Good luck on the water everyone and be safe out there!

The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

Charlie's Kitchen — Continued from p. 7

Adding an equal amount of butter to the olive oil further enhances flavor.

A tablespoon of water can be added if the beans start to dry out before the desired degree of tenderness is reached.

This recipe works well with round beans. I have not heard of it being done with flat beans, nor have I tried it that way.

Fresh Green Bean Salad

This recipe uses lightly parboiled beans mixed with fresh basil, parmesan, and a balsamic vinaigrette to make a crispy, bright green salad. Like with crispy cooked beans, the key here is to use very fresh and young beans.

From Elise Bauer at Simply Recipes (https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/green_bean_salad_with_basil_balsamic_and_parmesan/)

Ingredients:

1 1/2 pounds round green beans, ends trimmed and cut to 2 to 3 inch long pieces
Kosher salt
1/2 cup finely chopped red onion (or shallots)
2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
4 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
3/4 cup chopped fresh basil leaves
3/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese (about 1 1/2 ounces)
Freshly ground black pepper

Instructions:

Soak the chopped onions in a bowl of water so that their stronger taste will not overwhelm the other flavors in this dish. Blanch the beans for two minutes in a pot of boiling, salted water (1 tbsp salt per quart of water). After 2 minutes, immediately transfer the beans to a bowl of ice water to halt the cooking process. Drain and combine both the beans and the onions. Mix in the chopped basil and toss with olive oil to coat. Add the parmesan and balsamic vinaigrette and toss again. Keep chilled until served. Salt and pepper to taste after serving.

Notes:

You may need to parboil the beans for a longer time if they are not very fresh and tender.

Chopped pecans, walnuts, or slivered almonds can be added to enhance the the flavor and texture of this dish. Other possible toppings include crumbled feta cheese, cherry tomatoes, and chopped hard boiled eggs.

Redfish, Trout & Flounder Roundup

The last club tournament of the year was held on the make-up date (December 13th). This close to the holidays there were a number of folks who already had plans, so turnout was a little lighter than usual. Six boats entered and four crews turned up at Bett's Big T at the end of the day, to weigh fish, tell lies and have a have a good meal at the diner.

Although no trophy trout or redfish were weighed in there were plenty of smaller fish caught. And, although flounder was one of the target species, none were landed that were more than the 14" minimum.

Results are below, with Tim and Gene taking top honors again.

Redfish:

Tim Pedersen	4.15 lb
Virgil Cooper	3.55 lb
John Byatt	3.45 lb

Trout:

Gene Hales	2.85 lb
Virgil Cooper	2.25 lb
Tim Pedersen	2.05 lb
Tom Bacsik	2.00 lb
Sam Weiler	1.40 lb

Also entered: Ed Ellett, Gus Weiler, Jack Weiler, Larry Smith, John Ebbs, Peter Gallogly, Chic Hinton

Above: It was good to see Virgil back on the water again and thanks to John Patrick and Miriam Tavares for officiating at the weigh-in.

POLARIS
OF GAINESVILLE
North Florida's #1 Family-Owned
Marine & Powersports Dealer & Service Center!
EXPLORE THE
Outdoors!
SAVE
TODAY!
POLARIS
Kawasaki
SLINGSHOT
TRACKER boats
Sun TRACKER
NITRO
PERFORMANCE FISHING BOATS
MAKO
Ranger BOATS
TAHOE
KEY WEST
YAMAHA
CALL/TEXT:
386-418-4244
12556 NW US Hwy 441
Alachua, FL 32615
www.polarisofgainesville.com

The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

Kayak Corner

By Al Clements

With the colder water temp the trout are close to the banks in the grass. The big boys have come in and so have the reds. Using artificial shrimp lures on small plastic bait has been the ticket. Let it hit the bottom and slowly retrieve with a bounce once in a while.

With the Holidays I have been limited in my fishing. I try and get out at least once a week but I have to admit, this holiday season has kept me off the water. Nothing I can report except fish slow and fish small baits. This time of year, you have to match the hatch.

I will be going more often now that the holidays are over. Work has also kept me from enjoying the time on the water that I desire.

For Christmas I received nothing in the way of fishing gear. When you have every lure, rod, reel, boat, and all the accessories, the greatest gift is the time to use them. I trust you all had a wonderful Christmas and I pray for you all to have a great new year.

If you own or would be interested in kayak fishing let me know. This year I plan on spending more time instructing and helping anglers who want to experience the thrill of kayak fishing. Get in touch with me at alclements1@cox.net or contact me at one of our meetings.

The sport is growing and the fish are shallow. Skinny water does not affect us kayak anglers. In order to fish with me in your kayak a hand-held marine radio is required. Being inches off the water changes everything. Safety is our number one concern so the radio keeps us in contact. Cell phones are convenient off the water but in Steinhatchee there are dead zones. Also, the radios are waterproof. Cell phones don't like salt water and the slime from fish is hard to get off the screen.

Have a wonderful New Year and Tight Lines.

AFL
ALACHUA FARM & LUMBER
EST.1984

- Complete Feed Store
- Hardware
- Farm & Fencing Supplies
- Fishing Tackle & Supplies
- Archery & Gun Pro Shop
- Boots & Apparel

14101 NW 145th Ave.
P.O. Box 2290
Alachua, FL 32616-2290

(386) 462-3003
FAX: (386) 462-7923

Become A Florida Friendly Angler!

https://www.flseagrant.org/fisheries/florida-friendly-angler-certification-program/

Florida Friendly Angler (FFA) is a free, online, do-at-your-own pace educational program designed for any angler who wants to learn more about sustainable fishing and boating practices while interacting with Florida's aquatic environments.

Florida is the fishing capital of the world with **over 4 million unique fishing license holders!** Annually, recreational, and commercial fisheries provide our state with a combined $17 billion of economic impact and support tens-of-thousands of jobs. With all this pressure, and significance fishing has on this state's economy, environment, and culture, **it's up to all of us** to educate both Floridians and visitors to make sure we're able to enjoy our natural resources and environment for years to come!

Florida Friendly Angler (FFA) is a free, narrated, online, short, do-at your-own-pace educational program that informs users about our state's aquatic environments, best practices when fishing and the inner workings of fisheries management. By teaching the how and why behind topics that anglers encounter while fishing in Florida, the program reinforces practices that can reduce our impact while fishing, ensuring the creation of great future fishing stories!

The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

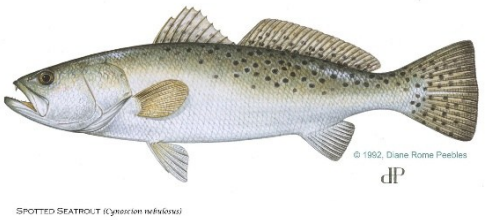
The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

What's in season, size and bag limits

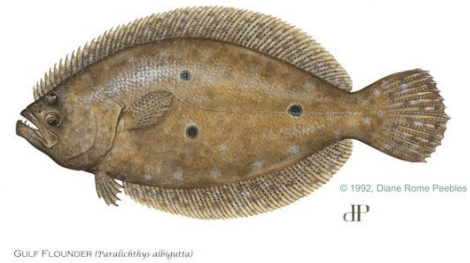


Seatrout (Big Bend Area)

Slot size - Not less than 15" or greater than 19" total length. May possess one over 19 inches per vessel or, if fishing from shore, one over 19 inches per person, included in the bag limit.
Bag limit - 5 per person
Season - Open year-round

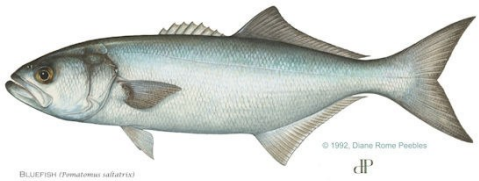
Redfish

Slot size - 18 to 27 inches total length
Bag Limit - 1 fish per person, with a 4-fish vessel limit.
Season - Open year-round



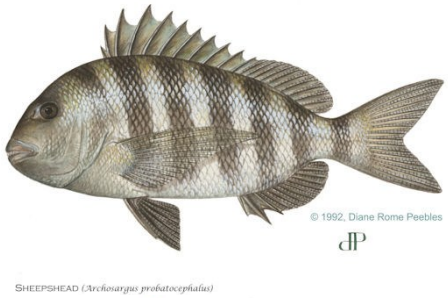
Flounder

Minimum Size - 14 inches total length
Bag Limit - 5 fish per person, daily
Season - Closed October 15 – November 30
Applies To - Gulf, Southern, Summer, and Fringed Flounder.



Bluefish

Minimum Size - 12 inches, fork length
Bag Limit - 3 per person
Season - Open year-round



Sheepshead

Minimum Size - 12 inches total length
Bag Limit - 8 fish per person, daily
Vessel Limit (March & April) - 50 fish per vessel
Season - Open year-round in Gulf state waters.

Red Grouper

Minimum Size – 20 inches total length
Daily Bag Limit - 2 per person within the 4 grouper aggregate
Season - **State:** Open year-round
Federal: Closed Feb. 1-March 31 seaward of 120 feet

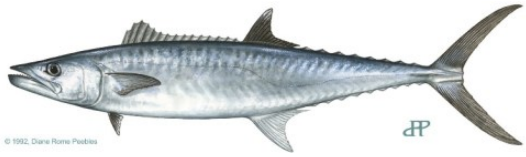
The Acute Angler

January 2026
Volume 59, Number 1

The monthly newsletter of the Gainesville Offshore Fishing Club

Spanish Mackerel

Minimum Size - 12 inches, fork length
Bag Limit - 15 per person
Season - Open year-round
Gear Restrictions - No multiple hooks (e.g., treble hooks) when using live or dead natural bait



King Mackerel

Minimum Size – 24 inches, fork length
Bag Limit - 3 per person
Season - Open year-round

Cobia

Minimum Size - 36 inches, fork length
Bag/Vessel Limit -1 cobia per person, or 2 per vessel (whichever is less)
Season - Open year-round
Waters - These rules apply in both Florida State waters and Federal waters in the Gulf.

Gag Grouper

Minimum Size – 24 inches total length (assuming no change from 2025)
Daily Bag Limit - 2 per person within the 4 grouper aggregate (assuming no change from 2025)
Season - **State:** TBD but definitely closed in January 2026
Federal: TBD but definitely closed in January 2026

Greater Amberjack

Minimum Size – 34 inches fork length
Daily Bag Limit - 1 per person per day
Season - The Gulf season remains closed through August 31, 2026. Beyond that TBD

Black Sea Bass

Minimum Size - 10 inches total length
Bag Limit - 100 pounds per person, per day
Season - Open year-round

Hogfish

Minimum Size - 14 inches fork length
Bag Limit – 5 per person, per day
Season - Open year-round

Mangrove Snapper

Minimum Size - State: 10 inches total length**. Federal:** 12 inches total length.
Daily Bag Limit - State: 5 per person within the 10 snapper aggregate bag limit**. Federal:** 10 per person within 10 snapper aggregate bag limit
Season - Open year-round

Gray Triggerfish

Minimum Size - 15-inch minimum fork length
Bag Limit - 1 per person
Season - Likely rules for 2026: Opens March 1, closes May 31; reopens Aug 1, closes Dec 31.

B&S Trailer Manufacturing

Boats
Jet skis
Kayaks
Airboats
Pontoons
Any Watercraft!

We design and manufacture custom aluminum trailers to perfectly fit your boat, your tow vehicle, and your lifestyle.

Now offering Waterjet Cutting!

Trade-ins are welcome • We repair any trailer
Mobile repair service now available! Let us come to you!

(352) 591-2161 • Reddick, FL

www.bstrailer.com

Shirts and Hats are Here!

It has been since before the pandemic that the club has offered shirts and hats with our logo on it. Well the wait is over! At our General meetings we will be offering long sleeve performance hoodies, heavy weight hoodies, long and short sleeve cotton shirts, vented and canvas backed hats for sale at a reasonable cost. We will have Medium, Large, and X-Large shirts. If you pre-ordered a small, or XXXL shirt please see Mark Rustemier or John Ebbs at the meeting.

Also don't forget we have window stickers available, ask Dawn for them at the meeting, 1 for $2 or 3 for $5 to help cover our costs to provide them.