

Fwd: July Newsletter!

Property Logic <property_logic@yahoo.com>

Thu 7/11/2024 12:11 PM

To:Chet Jasak <chet_jasak@hotmail.com>;Fish-On Fishing Club <fish-on-fishingclub1@hotmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: Fish On Club <fish-on-fishingclub1@80249862.mailchimpapp.com>
Date: Jul 7, 2024 at 8:43 AM
To: property_logic <property_logic@yahoo.com>
Subject: July Newsletter!



July Newsletter!

The next general membership meeting is Tuesday, July 9th. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00.



A question was asked...

At our last meeting about reef fishing permits: Yes, everybody who goes inshore/offshore should have one. They're free (unless you want a credit-card type copy - \$5) and easy to get: Just [click on the button below](#), create an account, and it's a step-by-step guided tour of what's necessary to get one. And, once again, it's very easy by just following the steps. So just go for it. Even Hulk Hogan could do it!

And remember -- they're free!

Unless, of course, you want a feel happy, be happy, credit card sized memento to show anyone who asks if you have one. Then it's a \$5 fee.

Get reef fishing permit here

If your computer's demons are hounding you, enter 'florida reef permit' in any search engine and you'll probably find *gooutdoorsflorida.com*; be guided as above.



From the FWC this month:

As a reminder...

FWC approves Pasco Zone bay scallop season change

At its February meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved a change to the bay scallop season for the Pasco Zone management region. This regulation change, which goes into effect this year, sets a 40-day season for the Pasco Zone that starts on July 10 and will run through Aug. 18 annually. The long-term season dates were informed by the 2023 post-season monitoring results by FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute as well as input received from stakeholders at virtual public workshops, in-person meetings and public comments.

“Along with moving away from the Independence Day holiday, the longer season will increase both the public's safety and access to one of our state's most fun family resources,” said FWC Commissioner Preston Farrior. “There will be many positive impacts for the local communities.”

The Pasco Zone bay scallop region includes all state waters between the Hernando – Pasco county line and the Anclote Key Lighthouse in northern Pinellas County, and includes all waters of the Anclote River.



July 2, 2024



FWC: New fishing license card designs feature youth artwork from Florida Fish Art Contest

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is eager to announce the two new license hard card designs featuring student artwork from this year’s Florida State Fish Art Contest. Grace Wang’s depiction of a Florida bass and Emma Nemes’ representation of a snook were selected as the new freshwater and saltwater designs. The FWC is proud to showcase the wonderful artwork submitted by young artists around the state and to celebrate their talent by highlighting two of them through this special initiative. Congratulations to Grace and Emma!

“We are excited to feature the incredible artwork of Florida’s youth on the new fishing license designs,” said **Roger Young, Executive Director of the FWC**. “This initiative celebrates the creativity of the next generation of anglers and gives everyone the opportunity to proudly support conservation and our world-renowned fisheries by purchasing a license.”

These lucky artists were selected from among hundreds of students who submitted artwork, from any grade bracket, to have their artwork available as a hard card selection for Florida hunting or fishing licenses. Hard cards are available to purchase, at an additional fee, by anyone who obtains or already holds a fishing or hunting license, including Lifetime licenses, from the [Go Outdoors Florida](#) licensing system. A physical hard card license is a collectible, credit-card style document that is an alternative to an electronic or paper license.

Florida will be hosting the contest again next year. Stay tuned for more information. Learn more

Issue 37

July - September 2024



Our Purpose: To identify excellent Florida freshwater fishing opportunities and to provide anglers with relevant information that will enhance the quality of their outdoor experience.

[TrophyCatch Tracker](#)



Harry Linsinbigler IV caught the first pink-tagged bass of this season in Lake Rochelle in the Northwest Winter Haven Chain of Lakes.

Pink tags are the big news for TrophyCatch as this quarter begins! Harry Linsinbigler IV caught a prized, pink-tagged bass in Lake Rochelle, one of the Northwest Winter Haven Chain of Lakes. He will receive \$1,000 to [AFTCO Fishing Apparel & Tackle](#), a \$1,000 check from TrophyCatch Pink Tag sponsor, [888-BOAT-LAW](#), and a \$500 gift card to [Bass Pro Shops](#).



Second out of the starting gate was Bruce Doolittle Sr. with the first pink-tagged bass from Porter Lake.

Bruce Doolittle Sr. caught the second tag of this trophy bass fishing promotion and the first from Porter Lake while fishing with his son. "It was pretty exciting for me, you know 68 years old, finally broke the double-digit mark. I've only been a resident of Florida for probably three years, and I've been trying hard," said Doolittle. "And the great thing about it to me is that [Porter Lake] is where my son caught his first double-digit fish and that's where I caught mine! There is nothing like Florida fishing!" Since this bass was the first pink-tagged fish from this waterbody, Doolittle will also receive \$1,000 to AFTCO Fishing Apparel & Tackle, a \$1,000 check from TrophyCatch's Pink Tag sponsor, 888-BOAT-LAW, and \$500 gift card to Bass Pro Shops.

There are still pink tags swimming in four locations across the state, some of which have multiple prized bass in their waters. The locations include Lake Lochloosa, Lake Beauclair, Lake Okeechobee and the Northwest Winter Haven Chain of Lakes (includes Lake Jessie, Lake Idylwild, Lake Hartridge, Lake Conine, Lake Rochelle, Lake Haines, Lake Smart and Lake Fannie).



Could you be the next lucky angler to catch a pink-tagged bass? The 12th season of TrophyCatch pink tag promotion ends on Sept. 30. There are also other prizes available for fishing these special waterbodies and any 'Pink-Tag Chaser' who submits an approved TrophyCatch from any of the designated pink-tag waters could win a pair of [Bajjo Sunglasses](#). Learn more on [TrophyCatch.com](#).

Regular TrophyCatch submissions have continue to roll in as well, and the current program numbers are:

- 12,139 Lunker Club (8-9.9 lbs.)
- 3,049 Trophy Club (10-12.9 lbs.)
- 152 Hall of Fame (13+ lbs.)
- **15,340 TOTAL approved submissions to date**

[Register for TrophyCatch](#) or view approved angler catches to help plan your next fishing trip at [TrophyCatch.com](#). Follow [TrophyCatch Facebook](#) for featured big bass, program updates and partner highlights. For more news and freshwater information follow us on the [FishReelFlorida Instagram](#).

[Featured Fish: Spotted Sunfish](#)



Size: The [spotted sunfish](#) state record is 0.83 pounds, but most catches of this diminutive sportfish will average closer to a quarter pound. The Big Catch minimum qualifying sizes are 0.5 pounds or 7 inches for adults, and 0.4 lbs or 5 inches for youth (see [BigCatchFlorida.com](#)).

Appearance: The spotted sunfish is relatively nondescript. As the name suggests, however, its most characteristic feature is the distinct, even rows of small spots along the body. These dots are usually dark, but may be red. In overall coloration, the fish ranges from olive to brown. In general form, this small sunfish also appears somewhat “chunkier” or plumper than other sunfishes.

Range & Habitat: Spotted sunfish are found throughout Florida but are deliberately targeted most by stream anglers in the northern part of our state. Some specific sites to try, include the Choctawhatchee River, Holmes Creek and Lake Panasoffkee.

Sporting Quality: The spotted sunfish is often caught incidentally by anglers targeting its larger relatives, the bluegill and redear sunfish. Called a “stumpknocker” because of its affinity for submerged timber, this fish is sometimes deliberately sought after by north Florida stream anglers as mentioned above. Don't let this fish's small size fool you—they are very aggressive in defending their bed during the spawning season. The spotted sunfish will take most small lures and baits and puts up a good fight. Its small size makes it ideal for ultralight tackle. A flyrod also works well, and this fish is particularly susceptible to tiny nymphs. Excellent baits include grass shrimp, live worms, and crickets—standard bream fare. While quite edible, most anglers will likely deem only larger representatives of this species to be big enough for the frying pan.

Fish illustration by Duane Raver, Jr.

[Fishing Techniques: Double your fishing fun!](#)



FWC fisheries biologist John Cimbaro combining his love of fishing and birding. This particular kayaking trek provided not only fish, but wood ducks, mottled ducks, bobwhite quail, eastern meadowlarks, sandhill cranes, and a bevy of heron species.

I'm a fisheries biologist today because a family friend introduced me to birding when I was 12. She led us along a park boardwalk, spotting herons, anhingas and the prize of the trip, a purple gallinule. I had a good time, but it was my younger brother who really caught the birding bug. I was planning to be an astronaut, but without many astronaut activities for pre-teens, I ended up tagging along with my brother. It turned out that everything he was doing was more interesting than what I was doing! Birding was a gateway to the outdoors from which we progressed together to fishing (my future career), insect collecting, camping, hiking and boating. Amidst all these different activities, whether hiking, camping, or boating, we were also usually fishing and birding, too.

Places that are good for fishing are naturally great for other types of outdoor fun. Birding is actually one of the most popular activities among recreational anglers. Many [Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail](#) (GFBWT) sites include lakes, ponds and rivers teeming with one thing that attracts both birds and people—fish! In fact, some of Florida's best-known bass fishing waters—Lake Okeechobee, Lake Istokpoga, and Lake Kissimmee to name a few—also have sites on the Birding Trail.



Have you seen any of these birds while fishing? You might already be a birder! Great egret (top left), great blue heron (top right), osprey (middle left), snowy egret (bottom left), black crowned night heron (bottom middle), and belted kingfisher (bottom right).

If you've ever wondered what kind of bird that was with a fish in its beak, it's time to give birding a try! Even if the fishing is slow, you'll almost always have a successful day seeing many good birds along the way. If you're new to birding—just like my brother and I were several decades ago—everything you need to get started is at the GFBWT [Birding 101 page](#). If you're an outdoorsperson, chances are good that you already own a pair of binoculars. A compact pair will fit easily in a tackle bag or backpack. Beyond that, all you really need is a bird identification book or app. A local or county bird checklist is also very helpful in focusing your identification efforts on only those species that occur in your area.

Be patient with yourself as you get started birding. It won't take you long to start learning the most common local species. Browsing through your bird book while home will familiarize you with what you might see once outdoors. One of the best ways to learn quickly is to join local birding field trips where experienced birders can show you how to spot and identify birds. Visiting different habitats—the beach, forests, fields, and marshes—will increase the variety of different species you can add to your life list. Slip a pair of binoculars into your tackle bag and add a whole new dimension to your next fishing trip!



Slip a pair of compact binoculars into your tackle box or gear bag to double your fun on your next fishing trip!

[Featured Site: Lake Talquin and lower Ochlockonee River striped bass fishery](#)



A FWC biologist cradles a Gulf striped bass.

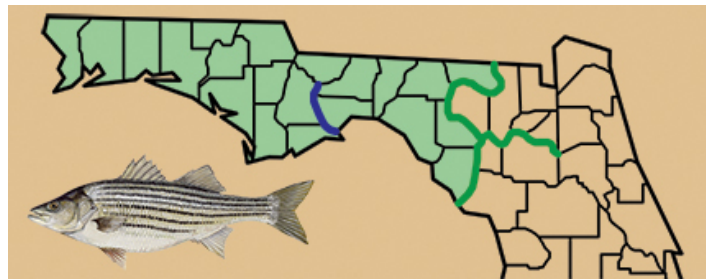
Location: Leon and Gadsden counties

Description: Gulf striped bass, a species of Greatest Conservation Need in Florida, are native to the [Ochlockonee River](#) drainage in Florida. [Lake Talquin](#), located in Leon and Gadsden counties, and the lower Ochlockonee River serve as an

important source of adult broodfish used in stocking efforts to achieve the Gulf Striped Bass Management Plan's partnership goal. The goal of the plan is to conserve Gulf striped bass throughout their native range. The partnership between FWC, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been ongoing for four decades.

Lake Talquin and the lower Ochlockonee River provide a popular striped bass fishery and serve as an important broodfish repository for an ongoing multi-state partnership effort to conserve Gulf striped bass throughout their native range. Female striped bass twenty-four inches and larger are required for spawning, since Gulf striped bass are unable to successfully spawn in the wild due to altered and impounded panhandle rivers. Recent studies investigating angler harvest, age structure, and habitat availability for striped bass in this system indicated that management actions should be taken to conserve this population and reduce angling harvest.

As a result, the striped bass regulation for the lower Ochlockonee River was changed in 2023 to provide more protection to the limited number of large fish. The new regulation allows anglers to harvest three striped bass per day with only one fish greater than twenty-four inches. A second study is being conducted in 2024 to investigate how harvest rates have changed since the new regulation has been put into place. An angler creel survey is also being implemented to better understand total striped bass angling effort and harvest in order to best manage this important recreational fishery.



- In the lower Ochlockonee River (downstream of the Jackson Bluff dam to Ochlockonee Bay)(**blue line**): the bag limit for striped bass is 3, with no minimum length limit and only one of which may be 24 inches or longer in total length (20 fish combined bag limit of striped bass, white bass, and sunshine bass).
- In the Suwannee River, areas north and west of the Suwannee River, and in any tributary, creek or stream of the Suwannee River (**green shading and line**): the bag limit for striped bass is 3, each of which must be at least 18 inches in total length (20 fish combined bag limit of striped bass, white bass, and sunshine bass).

[Fisheries Biology: What fish see](#)

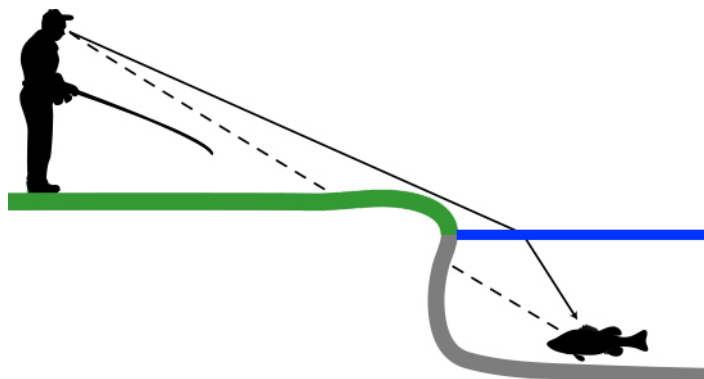


Photo by Glen Lau

Living underwater has many consequences for fish. Not only do fish need to be able to breathe and move and feed underwater, but this denser-than-air medium also has a large impact on how fish see their surroundings.

One of the most important aspects of light as far as anglers are concerned is how it behaves when passing between air and water. When a person looks at a tree, or a bass looks at a minnow, light behaves in much the same way for each. However, if the person looks down into the water at the minnow—or the bass looks up at the tree—the situation suddenly changes. When light travels through the air and suddenly strikes the water, it is bent (or **refracts**) and now moves at an angle to its original path. This refraction can be easily observed by placing your rod tip underwater: suddenly the rod no longer appears straight but appears to be bent at the point where it enters the water.

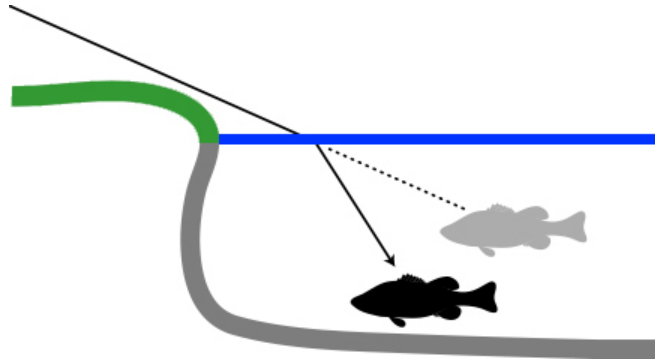
The same principle applies to an angler and a bass warily keeping an eye on each other at the local fishing hole. Because of the refraction of light, the angler can actually see over the edge of the bank and spot the bass (solid line in illustration below), even though without refraction the bank would actually block his straight-line-of-sight to the bass (dashed line below). Similarly, the bass can also see the angler along the same angle of refracting light, even though without refraction the bank would also block the fish's view of the angler.



Due to refraction, this angler can see the bass over the edge of the bank even though it would otherwise be blocked from his direct line-of-sight. The bass

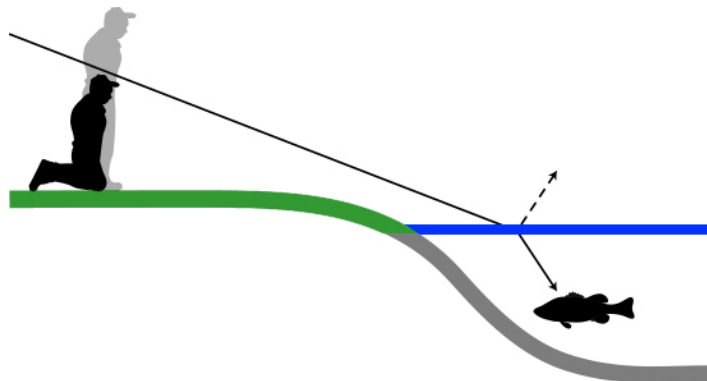
can see him too!

Even though the light is being bent, it doesn't look bent to the angler. Without a little knowledge of physics, the angler would assume that he is looking in a straight line directly at the fish. But the fish is actually closer than it appears! For this reason, if an angler is trying to present a bait or a lure directly in front of a fish, he should cast slightly short of what appears to be the intended target.

***Objects in water are closer than they appear due to refraction!***

There is an exception to this general rule. If an angler is looking straight down on a fish (from a bridge or pier for example), then that fish is exactly where it appears to be. The light from the fish is striking the surface of the water at a right angle and perpendicular (\perp) to the water's surface, and under these conditions, it penetrates straight down into the water with no refraction at all.

By a similar line of thought, if you move far enough away from that same fish there is another point at which light is not refracted down into the water and to the fish, but instead is **reflected** off the surface of the water. This point varies with water conditions and the direction of the light but is illustrated below. In this simplified example, the standing angler is visible to the fish because light above the theoretical dividing line is refracted and enters the water. However, the crouching angler is not visible, because light below the line strikes the water at such a sharp angle that it is reflected off the surface of the water and away from the fish.

***Stay low to remain hidden from fish!***

The precise point where light is reflected from the water rather than penetrating would be difficult to calculate in the field, but the basic principle remains that staying

low will reduce your chances of being seen. Of course, if the fish cannot see the angler, then the angler cannot see the fish either.

Choppy water or waves makes it more difficult for anglers or fish to see from air into water or vice-versa. Other factors, such as direct sunlight versus cloudy weather and direction of available light, also play a role in how much an angler can see of a fish, and how much a fish can see of the angler.



July 1, 2024

FWC celebrates 25 years serving the people and wildlife of Florida

Today, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) celebrates its silver anniversary in conserving the wildlife and habitats of Florida and providing diverse recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

The FWC became operational July 1, 1999, after Florida voters elected to replace the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, the Marine Fisheries Commission and parts of the Department of Environmental Protection with a new agency.

"I'm proud to say that over the past 25 years, we've made outstanding strides in our mission to manage Florida's fish and wildlife resources for their long-term well-being and the benefit of people," said **FWC Executive Director Roger Young**. "Our dedicated team has worked tirelessly through many changes, and because of their unwavering commitment and passion, we've accomplished so much."

Many of those accomplishments include enhancing and increasing our recreation opportunities including:

- The FWC and partners have grown the [Wildlife Management Area](#) system to include more than 6 million acres of public land.
- The [Great Florida Birding and Wildlife Trail](#) has more than 500 premier wildlife viewing sites across the state that were selected based on their unique wildlife viewing opportunities and ecological significance, educational opportunities, access for the public and resilience to recreational use.
- [Catch a Florida Memory](#) is a saltwater angler recognition program that rewards anglers for their fishing efforts while encouraging them to target diverse species.
- [TrophyCatch](#) is a citizen science program that collects valuable data and helps encourage fishing and conservation.
- The [State Reef Fish Survey](#) helps improve recreational data for several reef fish species such as snapper, grouper and hogfish.

Other major accomplishments over the past 25 years include:

- Restoring the [wild turkey](#) population in Holmes County that had virtually disappeared by the 1990s.
- Developing the world-renowned [Python Challenge](#), an innovative competition created to increase awareness about invasive species and the threats they pose to Florida's ecology.
- Building the [Florida Youth Conservation Center Network](#), a statewide group whose massive growth can be attributed to a thriving partnership with the non-profit Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida, a robust network of partners, and families' need to get kids outdoors and away from devices.
- Establishing the [Vessel Turn-In Program](#), which allows vessel owners whose vessels are at risk of becoming derelict to voluntarily surrender their unwanted vessel to the FWC. Surrendered vessels are removed from Florida waters and destroyed at no cost to the vessel owner.

The FWC and its staff would like to thank all its partners, stakeholders, volunteers and others who have helped make it one of the foremost conservation agencies in the country. We look forward to making the next 25 years even more outstanding!



Wanna make an FOC fashion statement?

Check it out...



Lots of members have our club logo embroidered on shirts and hats. If you'd like to have your own, here's where to get it done:



**LOGOS EMBROIDERY
& SHIRT PRINTING**
ADD YOUR LOGO TO UNIFORMS, HATS, SHIRTS ETC.
ON YOURS OR OURS

Laszlo & Dora Balla
727-848-3313
Monday to Friday
10 am - 6 pm
logosinthemall@gmail.com
www.logosinthemall.com

NEW LOCATION

Established
2005

Bealls Plaza
7205 State Rd. 54
New Port Richey, FL 34653

They have the FOC logo in their computer. You can bring in your own shirt or hat or check out their inventory. Just tell them where you want it and your wardrobe will look much better! They do a great job there!





Butch Kaelin (R) and Tom Saska (L) show off their winnings from the 50/50 and Tarpon Fishing Outfitter gift certificate drawings at our June meeting.



General Membership Meeting Minutes – June 11, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Chet Jasak at 7:00pm.

The last social until September was held at the Olive Garden in Port Richey. Those who attended said they did a very nice job there.

Since the May Board of Directors meeting was cancelled, the amendment to the By-laws is still being reviewed prior to it be presented to the membership for adoption.

Wish to Fish update – there was a Fish on Club sponsored charter on the Miss Virginia on May 31 for 25 Girl Scouts and 5 leaders. Thanks to club volunteers Xavier Vera, Carl Mogavero, Dick Arndt, Dave Gullickson, Dave Taylor, Butch Kaelin, Mike Spanhel and Terry and Mary Reelitz. Tom Saska encouraged other members to join in the next Wish to Fish charter as it was a very rewarding experience.

Fishing reports: Members told of their fishing adventures. It was also noted that FOC friend Captain Dencil Powell is back out on the water and doing much better.

Tournaments: None until September.

The next general membership meeting will be July 9th.

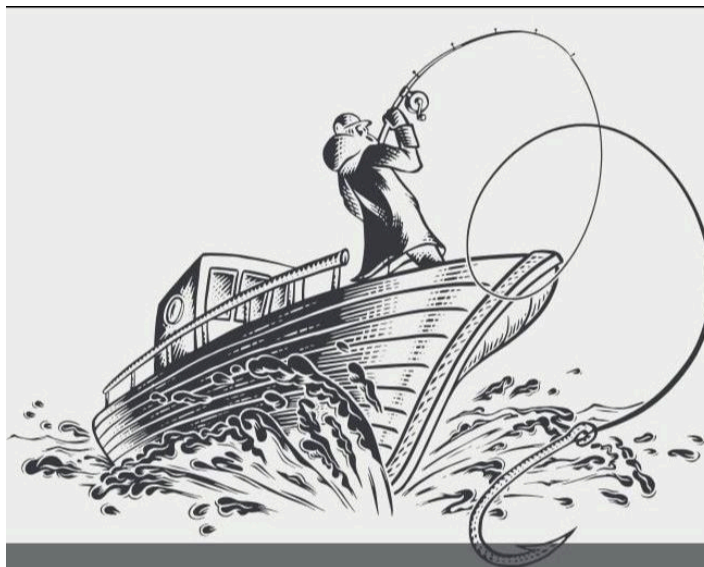
The 50/50 winner was Butch Kaelin- \$55; the gift certificate for Tarpon Fishing Outfitters was won by Tom Saska.

(The guest speaker could not attend the meeting – so it was a short one.)

Meeting adjourned at 7:30.

Respectfully submitted,

John Grieder



**I DON'T HAVE A
FISHING PROBLEM; I
HAVE A 'NOT FISHING
ENOUGH' PROBLEM.**

thnx and a tip o'the hat to fb



See you all at the meeting!

Tight lines!!

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