

Outlook

June 2025 Newsletter!

From Fish On Club <fish-on-fishingclub1@80249862.mailchimpapp.com>

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To fishonclubnpr@gmail.com <fishonclubnpr@gmail.com>



June 2025 Newsletter!

The next general membership meeting is Tuesday, June 10th. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Captain Carlos Bastos of Bottoms Up Fishing

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General Membership Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Morningstar at 7:00pm.

Unfortunately our guest speaker couldn't attend our meeting. Instead, our vice president, Bruce Archambault, presented an excellent YouTube video of fishing in the northern Minnesota wilderness. It was made by his grandsons about a fishing trip they took several years ago and it showed what a grand time they had catching tons of northern pike and smallmouth bass. It showed what typically happens on a small boat. Including a lure hooked into a boot and plenty of bird's nests. It was very entertaining.

Next month's speaker will be Captain Carlos Bastos of Bottoms Up Fishing.

Our Wish to Fish subsidiary has a trip scheduled for June 3 with the Girl Scouts and volunteers are needed with helping to tie knots, fishing instructions, etc. If interested contact Mike Spanhel.

Socials: The next social dinner will be 5:30 Wednesday, May 14 at Whiskey River on the Water. Our June social will be held at Gulf Harbors Yacht Club on June 18.

The Rusty Bucket is having their fifth annual kids fishing tournament on May 31. If interested in volunteering contact Mark Morningstar.

Winners for this month's tournament for grouper are: 1st place – Bob Sherley; 2nd place – Terry Freeman; 3rd place – Mike Kaplan.

The next general membership meeting will be June 10.

The 50/50 winner was Mike Spanhel - \$85.

Tarpon Fishing Outfitters gift certificate winner was Frank Bellizio.

Number of members and guests in attendance – 27.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,

John Grieder

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**From the FWC**



May 12, 2025



*Tarpon photo courtesy of Dr. Aaron Adams.*

**Tarpon fishing this season? Make sure to follow these best fishing practices to keep silver kings reigning**

**Tarpon season is in full swing and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is reminding anglers to use these best fishing practices to keep silver kings reigning for generations to come. These best fishing practices were developed to help anglers quickly reel in tarpon and be set up for a successful release. From gear selection and handling techniques to proper release and shark awareness, here are the key practices every angler should know.**

### **Gear**

**Set up for success with these gear recommendations to catch tarpon quickly and minimize fight time.**

#### ***Spin or Conventional***

- **Use tackle heavy enough by matching tackle to conditions and targeted fish size.**
  - **Example: If targeting large tarpon, consider using medium to extra heavy spinning rods with 5,000 to 10,000 series spinner reels and at least 12 pounds of drag, 50- to 60-pound braid, and at least 60- to 80-**

**pound monofilament or fluorocarbon leader, depending upon the selected crimp or knot system. Use 6/0-10/0 circle hooks depending on brand and bait type.**

- **When using bait, use non-stainless, non-offset, barbless circle hooks.**
- **Use single-hook rigs.**
- **Have a fighting belt or chair available for additional support during the fight.**
- **Have a long-handled dehooking tool to quickly and easily remove hooks.**

### ***Fly***

- **Use tackle heavy enough by matching tackle to conditions and targeted fish size.**
  - **Example: If targeting large tarpon, use 10- to 12-weight class rods and line with a break section of 15- to 25-pound test in the leader.**
- **Use a break section in your leader in case sharks show up. The break section is a portion of your leader that is weaker than the rest of your leader and the core of the fly line.**
- **Crimp barbs down on flies.**
- **Have a long-handled dehooking tool to quickly and easily remove hooks.**

### **Fighting**

**Aim to minimize fight time of tarpon and use these fighting techniques to reduce stress on the fish.**

- **If the tarpon jumps, bow your rod toward the fish and drop the rod tip down while reeling in so that the tarpon does not throw the hook.**
- **Counter the tarpon's run by using the backbone of the rod to pull low and hard in the opposite direction the fish is swimming and use short turns of the reel to bring line in.**
- **Put the butt end of the rod into your hip or use a fighting belt or chair to get leverage for the fight.**
- **Make sure your drag is tight enough to sufficiently wear down the tarpon as quickly as possible.**
- **If the fish tries to go under or around the boat, move to the front of the boat to prevent the line from breaking or becoming entangled.**
- **If you need to break the line, point your rod at the tarpon and hold the spool or reel. Pull straight back to break the leader and free the tarpon.**

### **Handling**

**Keep handling to a minimum and be sure to work quickly to allow for a successful release.**

- Tarpon over 40 inches **MUST** remain in the water by rule, unless in pursuit of a state or world record using a tarpon tag purchased before fishing begins.
- Tarpon smaller than 40 inches should only be handled with wet hands and be supported horizontally under the belly, if removed from the water.
- Keep the gills of tarpon in the water to minimize air exposure.
- Keep fingers away from the gills and eyes.
- Avoid dragging tarpon over the gunnel of a boat or over rocks or railings.
- Avoid delaying release by having a camera ready if you're planning to take a quick picture.

## **Release**

**Catch and release tarpon as quickly as possible to reduce stress on the fish.**

- Aim for a no-touch release by either using a long-handled dehooking tool to remove the hook or cut the line as close as possible to the hook.
- If the tarpon is gut hooked or the hook is lodged in the throat, cut the line as close to the hook as possible.
- Revive a lethargic tarpon by holding it horizontally in the water to allow it to pump water through its gills.
- Shorten future fight times if tarpon appear lethargic during release.

## **Sharks**

**Help give tarpon the chance to escape predators when released.**

- Sharks are known to prey upon tarpon during the fight. If a shark shows up, help the tarpon survive by quickly bringing the fish to the boat and cutting the line as close to the hook as possible.
- Move to another fishing location if sharks are in the area.

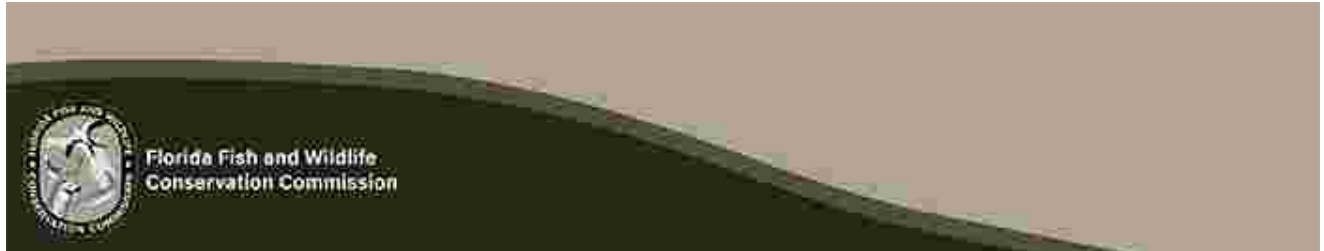
**Additionally, it is also recommended to avoid fishing for tarpon from bridges or piers. Only tarpon under 40 inches may be removed from the water, so if you did hook up to a large tarpon from a bridge or pier, you would have to cut the line and leave a long line trailing behind the fish, leading to entanglements and reducing survivability.**

## **Fishing for tarpon in Boca Grande Pass?**

**Be sure to review the regulations specific to this area. Bottom-weighted jigs are prohibited year-round. This includes fishing with gear that has a weight attached to a hook, artificial fly or lure in such a way that the weight hangs lower than the hook when the line or leader is suspended vertically from the rod. Any jig that allows the attached weight to slip down the shank so that it hangs lower than the hook while the line or leader is suspended vertically from the rod is also prohibited. Any gear or jig that can be described as such, may not be attached to**

**any rod, line or leader and must be stowed when traveling through the Pass. Additionally, from April 1 through June 30, no more than three fishing lines may be deployed from a vessel and breakaway gear is prohibited.**

**It is important to remember that these restrictions apply to fishing for all species within the Pass.**



**May 14, 2025**

**FWC marks 5 years of the State Reef Fish Survey, advancing sustainable fisheries through data-driven efforts**

**The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) continues its commitment to the sustainability of Florida's recreational reef fishery through the State Reef Fish Survey. Now in its fifth year, SRFS provides high-quality, timely data essential for evaluating and managing important reef fish stocks across the state.**

**Originally launched as the Gulf Reef Fish Survey, this initiative was developed to improve understanding of recreational fishing for reef species along Florida's Gulf Coast. Collaboration with state, federal and academic partners led to a proven framework for recreational data collection. In July 2020, the survey was renamed the State Reef Fish Survey to reflect its broader coverage, including Monroe County and Florida's Atlantic coast.**

**Now, with five years of consistent data in hand, the SRFS is more valuable than ever. Each angler response builds on this robust foundation, helping create one of the most comprehensive assessments of Florida's reef fish populations to date.**

**"Consistent, high-quality data from SRFS allows us to track trends, detect changes, and make science-based decisions that protect Florida's reef fish populations," said Gil McRae, Director of the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute. "Every angler's participation helps strengthen our dataset to provide a clearer picture of the health of the reef fish stocks and ensure long-term sustainability."**

Participation from anglers is key. It is because of angler participation that SRFS is now considered the best science available for a variety of important fisheries, including Gulf gag and red grouper, mutton snapper, and yellowtail snapper. SRFS collects information through two primary methods: a monthly mail survey and in-person dockside interviews. Anglers designated as State Reef Fish Anglers — required for those targeting or harvesting specific [reef species](#) — are randomly selected to participate in the mail survey monthly. Together, these surveys provide precise estimates of the number of recreational reef fish trips taken and the total number of fish that are harvested and released each month from Florida.

FWC biologists also conduct dockside interviews with anglers returning from reef fishing trips, collecting valuable data on catch composition, size, weight and age of harvested fish. In some cases, FWC staff also join trips aboard for-hire vessels to observe released fish, helping scientists understand post-release survival rates and forecast future fish availability.

Continued angler participation is more important than ever. By responding to surveys and engaging in dockside interviews, you can play a vital role in the conservation of the future of Florida's marine resources.

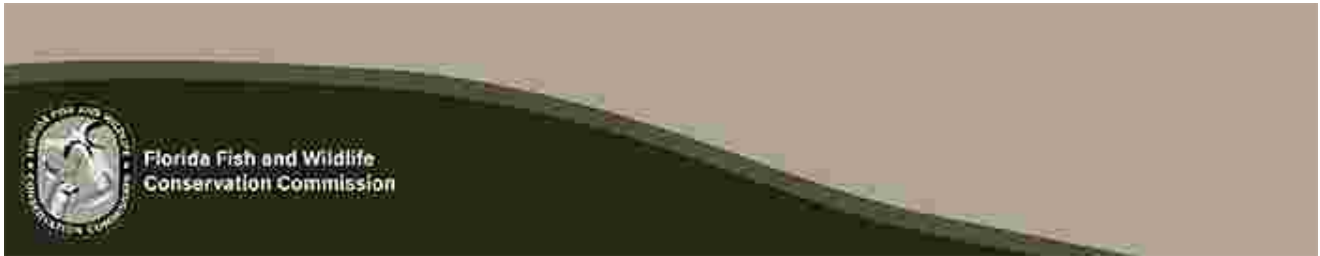
Anglers can add the State Reef Fish Angler designation, free of cost, to their lifetime license or during their annual renewal at [GoOutdoorsFlorida](#) or anywhere you can purchase a Florida fishing license. Auto-renew is now available so you don't have to worry about renewing your SRFS designation each year. For more information about the State Reef Fish Survey visit: [MyFWC.com/SRFS](#).



May 30, 2025

**Recreational harvest of gray triggerfish closes in Gulf state waters June 1**

The recreational harvest of gray triggerfish in Gulf of America state and federal waters closes June 1 and will remain closed through July 31. Seasonal harvest closures help conserve Florida's valuable fisheries for the future.



**May 23, 2025**

**FWC reminds anglers: Florida's 2025 private recreational Gulf red snapper season opens Saturday, May 24, for Memorial Day Weekend**

**Florida's 2025 Gulf private recreational red snapper season is open to those fishing from private recreational vessels or charter vessels that do not have a federal reef fish permit. Charter vessels without a federal reef fish permit will be limited to harvesting in Florida Gulf state waters only.**

**Charter vessels with a federal Gulf reef fish permit have a separate season (June 1–Sept. 15) that is set annually by NOAA Fisheries and may only fish for red snapper when the recreational federal for-hire season is open.**

**The private recreational season will include the following dates:**

- **May 24-26 (Memorial Day weekend)**
- **June 1-July 31**
- **Sept. 1-14**
- **Sept. 19-21**
- **Sept. 26-28**
- **Oct. 3-5**
- **Oct. 10-12**
- **Oct. 17-19**
- **Oct. 24-26**
- **Oct. 31-Nov. 2**
- **Nov. 7-9, 11 (Veterans Day)**
- **Nov. 14-16,**
- **Nov. 21-23**
- **Nov. 27-30 (Thanksgiving weekend)**
- **Dec. 5-7**
- **Dec. 12-14**
- **Dec. 19-21**
- **Dec. 25-28 (Christmas weekend)**

**Florida's ability to offer this extended season is made possible with the data collected in collaboration with anglers through Florida's State Reef Fish Survey.**

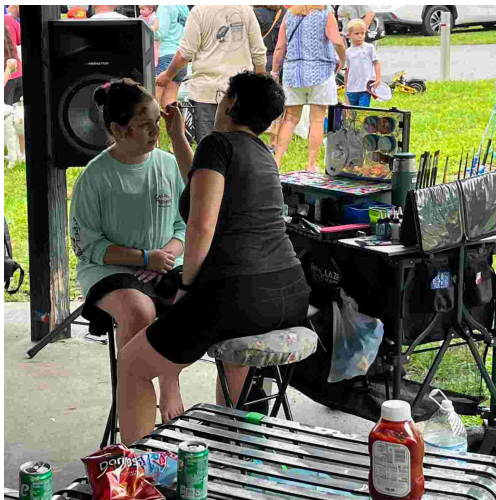
**Anyone fishing for red snapper from a private recreational vessel — in state or federal waters — must be registered as a State Reef Fish Angler (with annual renewal), even if exempt from fishing license requirements.**

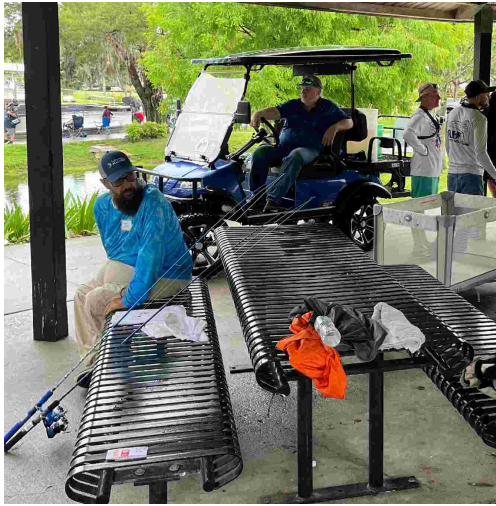


### **Rusty Bucket Baithouse Kid's Fishing Day**

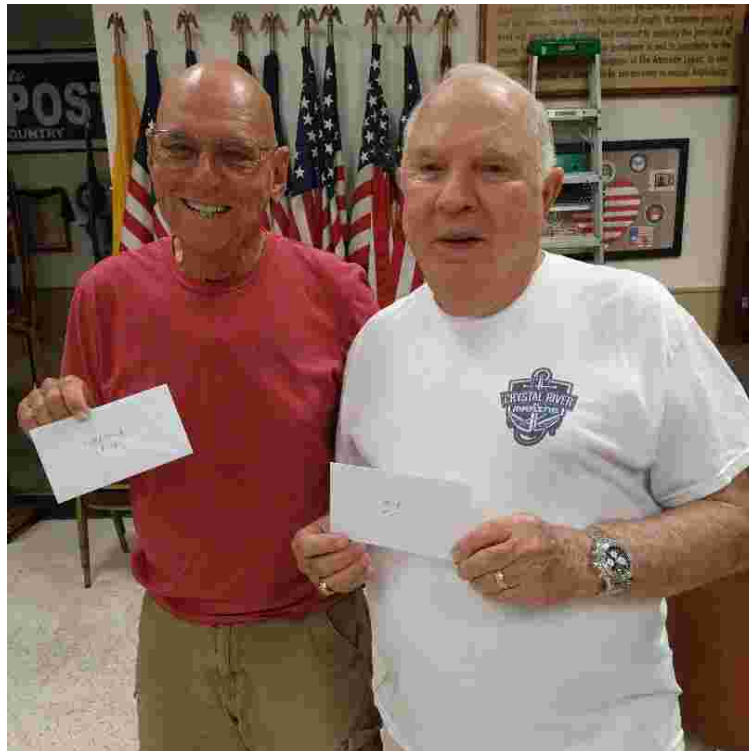
**Was the happening event on May 31st at Sims Park in New Port Richey.**

**And it was a "First class show as always!" as stated by club Vice President Bruce Archambault who volunteered with the kids. Club members Tom Saska, Joe and Laura Neri and Terry and Mary Reelitz were also on hand to help out with festivities for the 80 kids who attended.**





**From the May meeting...**



**May grouper tournament winners Bob Sherley (L) - 1st place; Mike Kaplan (R) - 3rd place**



**May 50/50 winner Mike Spanhel (L) and Tarpon Fishing Outfitters gift certificate winner Frank Bellizio (R)**



**Tales from the hood...**

**Close encounters of the alligator kind.**

**After doing a little yard work, I thought I'd take a quick break and see if the fish were biting in the pond behind my house.**

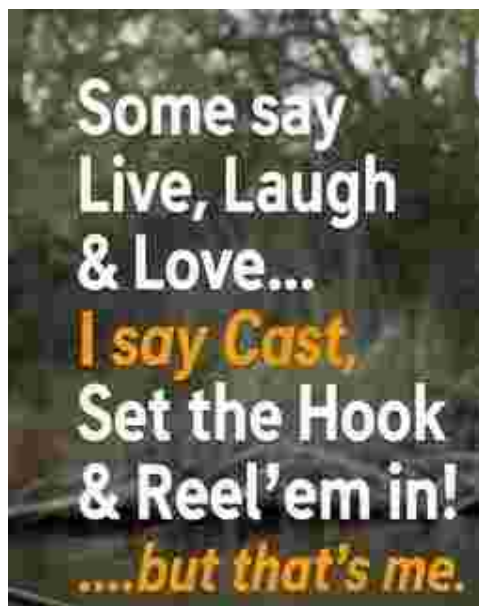
**While trying my luck with a jitterbug (a topwater lure) I attracted the attention of a good sized (6 foot) alligator who approached stealthily and came to a stop to check out what was causing the disturbance on the surface in front of him. Since he was giving me the hairy eyeball I moved down along the bank of the pond, which, since there hadn't been a lot of rain, was about a foot or two below normal with somewhat of a small flat area that tapered back to the water. I wasn't having much luck with the jitterbug so I had switched up to a gold minnow crankbait.**

**Right about then I called to my wife, who was sitting out on the lanai, to tell her Mr. Alligator was watching me. She came to the edge of the lanai and as I was reeling in the minnow I said, "Now watch this, I'll probably get a bite right now."**

**And sure enough I did! And he was a good sized one, too! So I'm reeling this**

**My wife was trying to get the action on her phone but only succeeded with a short video of the alligator being pissed off after I had told the fish to beware of his presence in the future.**





*thnx and a tip o'the hat to Frank Bellizio x2*

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**See you all at the meeting!**

***Tight lines!!***

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