
2025 07 July Newsletter

From Fish-On Fishing Club <fish-on-fishingclub1@hotmail.com>

Date Fri 8/15/2025 5:53 PM

To Fish-On Fishing Club <fish-on-fishingclub1@hotmail.com>



July 2025 Newsletter!

The next general membership meeting is Tuesday, July 8th. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be Sergeant Downey, an educational speaker from the Pasco County Sheriff's Marine Unit



General Membership Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2025

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

Once again, our guest speaker couldn't attend our meeting. Instead we saw a great video of tarpon fishing in Islamorada, Florida.

Our Wish to Fish subsidiary had a charter trip with the Girl Scouts on June 3. Chaperons, club volunteers and all the girls had a great time. And they caught a ton of grunts!

Socials: The next social dinner will be 5:30 Wednesday, will be held at Gulf

Harbors Yacht Club on June 18.

**The next general membership meeting will be July 8.
The 50/50 winner was Bill Herr - \$68.**

Number of members and guests in attendance – 27.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,

John Grieder



**Sock this one away for the future: A one day tournament scheduled for
November 1.**

Fish On Club

1 Day Tournament

November 1, 2025

This tournament is open to all members with and without boats. The purpose of this tournament is to acquaint the members of the Fish On Club with one another, hopefully learn a few tricks or different techniques. A small entry fee of \$10.00 gets you into the tournament. Seventy-five percent of the entry fee will go to the tournament winner. The balance will pay for the Hot Dogs or go to the club treasury

Longest Trout

Anglers will be assigned randomly to Captains who are willing to take a fellow club member fishing

Name _____

Phone number _____ e-mail _____

Do you have a boat Y or N

If yes, are you willing to take a random member fishing Y or N

How many members can you take

If no boat, are you willing to help pay for gas, ice, bait Y or N

Tournament Hours Lines in - 6:30 am on November 1

Lines out - 3:30 pm

Winners Party (Weigh in) 5:00 pm Mike Spanhel's house

Just bring a photo of the fish and tell us the length. We'll take your word on the length. Photo does not have to be on a ruler.



From the FWC



June 27, 2025

FWC preparing to implement new law to improve vessel accountability and reduce derelict vessels

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is preparing to implement a new law aimed at strengthening vessel accountability and enhancing protections for Florida’s waterways. Senate Bill 164, signed into law by Governor Ron DeSantis on June 19, will go into effect on July 1, 2025.

This legislation is designed to help reduce the number of at-risk and derelict vessels across the state and improve enforcement tools for FWC officers and partner agencies. Key provisions of the new law include:

- **Clarified Ownership Standards:** The definition of “vessel owner” is clarified, and a valid vessel title will now serve as prima facie (presumed) evidence of ownership.
- **Stronger Requirements for At-Risk Vessels:** Vessel owners must now complete an Effective Means of Propulsion (EMP) evaluation upon request by law enforcement. If an officer has reason to believe the vessel lacks an effective means of propulsion and the owner is present, the evaluation must be conducted immediately or within 48 hours if notified otherwise.
- **Public Nuisance Vessel Designation:** A vessel may now be declared a public nuisance — subject to removal like a derelict vessel — if the owner receives three citations related to any at-risk conditions within a 24-month period, including unpaid citations or failures to appear in court.
- **Expanded Noncriminal Infractions:** Violations such as expired registration and long-term anchoring may now be addressed through mailed noncriminal citations from law enforcement.
- **More Flexible Use of Removal Funds:** Derelict Vessel removal funding may now be used not only for removing DVs but also for preventive removals under the Vessel Turn-In Program and for public nuisance vessels.
- **Harsher Penalties for Repeat DV Offenders:**
 - **First offense:** First-degree misdemeanor
 - **Second offense:** Third-degree felony
 - **Third offense:** Second-degree felony
- **No Liveaboard on Derelict Vessels:** It is now a first-degree misdemeanor to live aboard a vessel that has been declared derelict by the court or the owner has not requested an administrative hearing.

Additional requirements, including an annual electronic permit issued by FWC for vessels anchoring long-term, will go into effect on July 1, 2026. The penalty for unauthorized long-term anchoring will consist of fines ranging from \$100 for the first offense, \$250 for the second offense, and \$500 for the third or subsequent offense. If a vessel owner receives three violations within a 2-year period, the vessel may be declared a public nuisance and removed as if it were derelict. Some exemptions apply and include vessels that are government-operated,

construction vessels, actively engaged in commercial or recreational fishing, docked at a public or private facility, or moored at permitted moorings.

“We have seen increasing success in our efforts to combat the ongoing derelict vessel problem in Florida’s waters,” said Capt. Travis Franklin, leader of the FWC Derelict Vessel Removal and Prevention Program. “This new legislation enhances our efforts to not only remove derelict vessels but also prevent at-risk vessels from becoming derelict.”

Derelict vessels remain a priority for the FWC, and the multi-year initiative to reduce the number of derelict vessels on Florida’s waterways is ongoing. These vessels pose serious risks to seagrass beds, marine life, navigation, public safety and property. The Boating and Waterways Section is leading this statewide effort in partnership with local governments and law enforcement.

Leaving a vessel in a derelict condition is a crime. Derelict vessels, including those that are sinking, grounded, stripped or lacking vital systems, threaten both people and Florida’s natural resources.

For more [information on derelict or vessels at risk of becoming derelict](#), visit MyFWC.com/Boating and select “Waterway Management” followed by “Derelict Vessel Removal Program.”

The FWC has removed nearly 200 vessels through the Vessel Turn-In Program and is actively taking applications from at-risk vessel owners. Vessel owners can call VTIP specialists at the FWC for more information on the program at 850-488-5600 or [visit the VTIP website](#) at MyFWC.com/boating and click on “Vessel Turn-In Program” on the second slider at the top of the page.



[TrophyCatch Tracker](#)



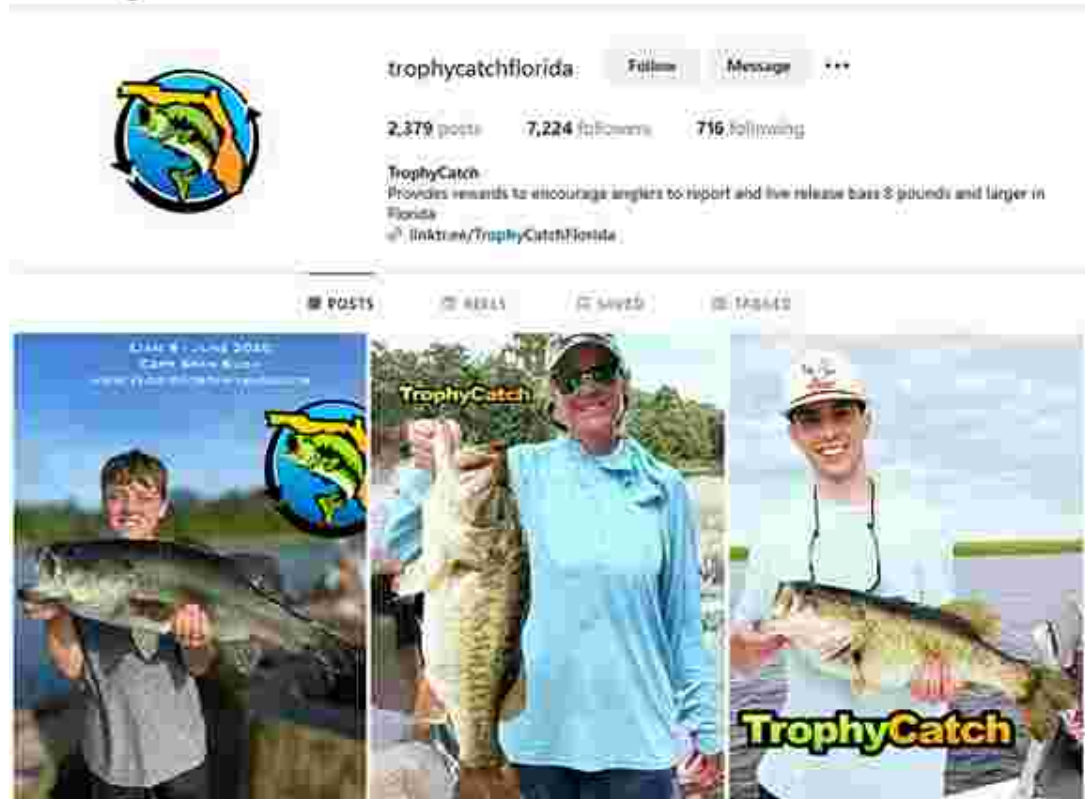
Eric Bourne got his new personal best during an Xtreme Bass Series tournament on Johns Lake.

We are now entering the final quarter of Season 13. TrophyCatch data attests that there are still plenty of trophies to be caught even during the warm summer months, so keep the sunblock and sports drinks handy and keep fishing! Good luck and tight lines as the season end nears, and if you have any unsubmitted catches, make sure you get them in. Each submission adds an extra 10 chances to win a [Phoenix bass boat](#)! The current season stats as of this quarter are below:

- 12,965 Lunker Club (8-9.9 lbs.)
- 3,279 Trophy Club (10-12.9 lbs.)
- 165 Hall of Fame (13+ lbs.)
- **16,409 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 also follow us on the [TrophyCatch Instagram](#).

Instagram

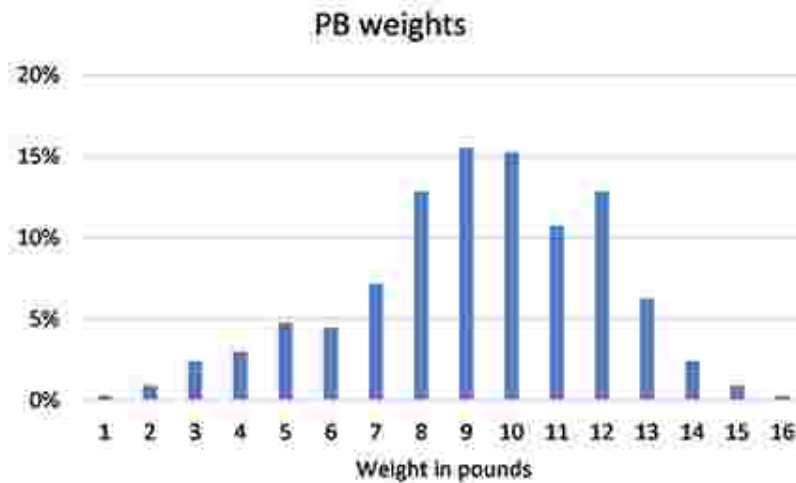


The Division of Freshwater Fisheries Management Instagram page, @FishReelFlorida, changes its name to @TrophyCatchFlorida! The [TrophyCatch Instagram](#) focuses on all things bass fishing including *your* trophy catches, bass management, research, and partner news. Be sure to visit and follow the page for even more big bass news! If you were already following the original Instagram then you have been automatically migrated to the renamed page. Tag us in your big bass photos!

[Research Updates on Personal Best Bass Catches](#)

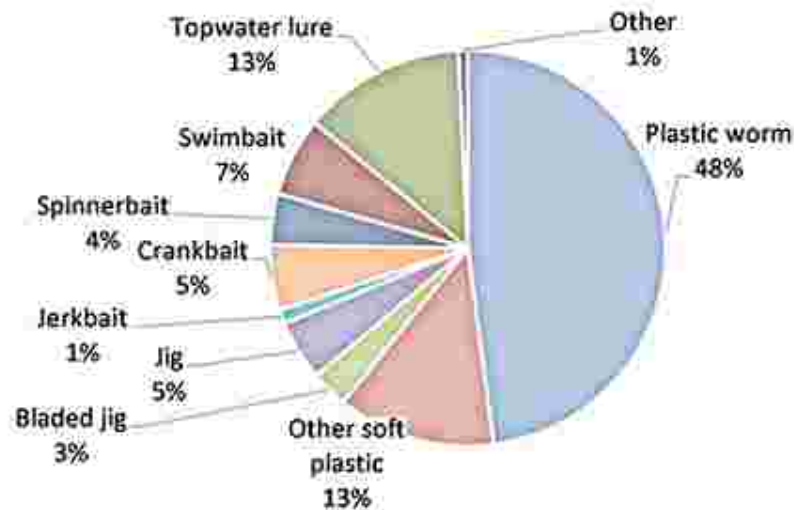
Did you participate in the recent **Personal Best (PB) Survey** that TrophyCatch conducted? Here are some very interesting facts gleaned from that study. If you responded to the survey, we thank you! For everyone, we hope that this information will point to your *next* personal best!

First, if your PB isn't the minimum 8 pounds required for TrophyCatch, don't be discouraged. You're in the right state and just need to keep casting! Reported PBs ranged from 1.1 lbs. (*your* first PB may have been about this size!) up to 16.6 lbs. **The average PB weight was 9.6 lbs.**, and 77% of all PBs weighed 8 lbs. or heavier.



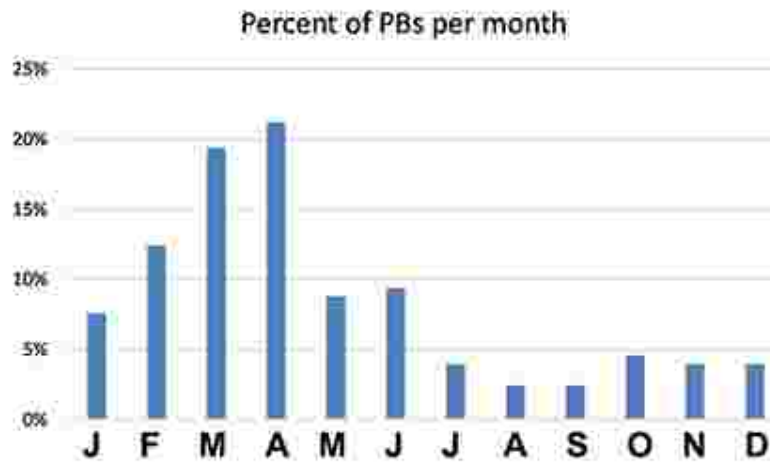
Reported Personal Bests (PB) ranged from 1.1 lbs. to 16.6 lbs.

What's the best lure to throw at a trophy bass? Out of dozens of lure types, there was a single dominant winner: the **plastic worm**. Accounting for nearly half of all PBs at a whopping 48%, the venerable plastic worm remains the top bass lure. At the other end of the scale, if you're just getting started fishing there's no better lure to draw the attention of a passing bass. Following at a tie for distant second were topwater lures and other soft plastics at 13% each.



The plastic worm is hands-down the top lure to try for a new personal best.

When's the best month to chase a new personal best? Survey respondents reported the most PB catches from **March and April**. This differed a little from TrophyCatch which has most approved submissions from **February and March**. What is certain is that bass are heavier and more catchable during the spawn, and any of these three months is an ideal time to go bass fishing. Also note that PBs were reported for every month of the year. While the spawn is important, big bass live in Florida year-round and Florida anglers are never out of the game!



Most PBs were caught in March and April, although TrophyCatch submissions peak for February and March. All three months are an excellent time to try for a trophy!

We hope you found these facts as interesting as our biologists did. Follow [TrophyCatch Facebook](#) for more PB facts coming soon!

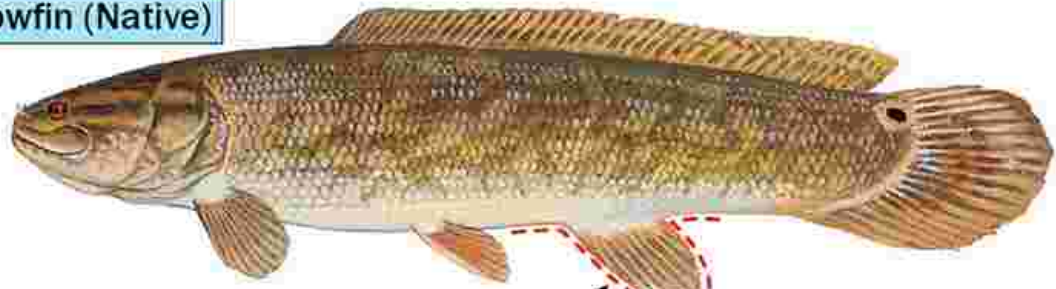
Featured Fish: Bowfin

Size: The [State Record](#) rests at 19.00 pounds. The Big Catch minimum qualifying sizes are 8 pounds or 28 inches for adults, and 6 pounds or 21 inches for youth (see [BigCatchFlorida.com](#)).

Identification and similar species: The [bowfin](#) is also known as "cypress trout" or, much less glamorously, "mudfish". This species has a long, stout body; big mouth with small, sharp teeth; long dorsal fin and rounded tail fin. Males have a dark spot with a bright orange halo on the tail fin. The spot is absent or inconspicuous on females. In south Florida this fish is sometimes mistaken for the [goldline \(bullseye\) snakehead](#), but can easily be told apart by the bowfin's short anal fin.



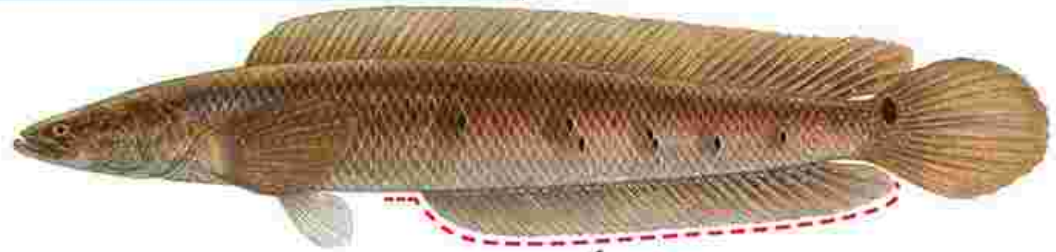
Bowfin (Native)



Short anal fin

Both species may have a spot and ring on the tail

Goldline Snakehead (Nonnative)



Extended anal fin

The bowfin can be differentiated from the goldline (bullseye) snakehead by the much shorter anal fin on the underside of the body.

Angling qualities: Most bowfin are landed by anglers trying to catch something else! Bass anglers are often surprised to find a bowfin has taken their lure — but may be equally surprised to discover that the lowly "mudfish" can put up a good fight. But don't lip this fish when landing it! Remember that its mouth is loaded with sharp teeth. Bowfin will strike topwater and minnow-imitating lures but are most often caught on live bait such as shiners. Food quality is considered poor; the flesh is quite soft, but can be prepared smoked, fried as patties or stewed. In Louisiana the fish has been harvested commercially for caviar.

Where to catch them: Bowfin are common in freshwater marshes or backwaters of lowland streams throughout Florida, as well as south Florida's canal systems. They can survive well in warm, poorly oxygenated waters; the bowfin has an airbladder that functions like a lung and the fish can sometimes be seen gulping air.

Interesting facts: Males clear a nest among heavy vegetation. Eggs are laid at night and males guard them. Larvae use an adhesive organ to anchor themselves to plants or the bottom.

Fish images by Duane Raver, Jr. and Diane Rome Peebles

Braided Line Basics Part 2

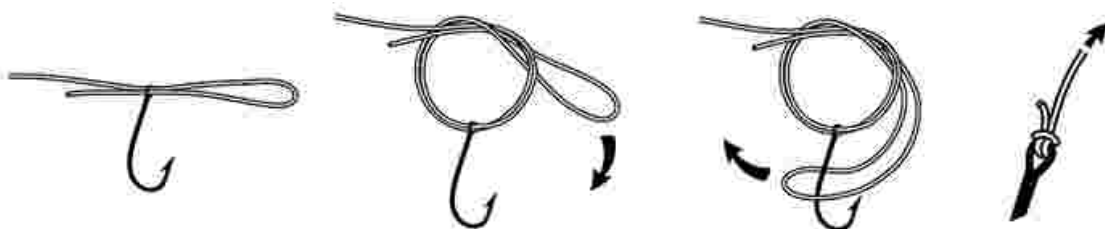


Modern braids combine a light-tackle feel with brush-busting authority.

In [Issue 40](#) we highlighted modern braided lines. Incredibly thin and strong compared to monofilament, braids like PowerPro and other brands are a fishing game-changer! We continue our look in this issue.

Despite its limpness, an advantage of braid in most situations is the fact that it has almost no stretch. Monofilament is quite stretchy, evident to any angler who's ever had to break a mono line off a submerged stump. Braid, on the other hand, is tight as a wire — great for strike detection and solid hook-sets. With no stretch, however, braid can be less forgiving when fighting a big fish compared to monofilament, though the extra strength of braid helps offset that potential disadvantage.

If you are new to braid, know that none of your old monofilament line knots will work. Make sure you check that little folded paper that falls out of the box when you open your new line to see which knots the manufacturer recommends for its brand — they can vary. Fortunately, one of the easiest knots, the **Palomar**, works pretty universally among the various brands of braid. It does waste a bit more line compared to the improved clinch knot, though you will probably not need to re-tie nearly as often when using abrasion-resistant braids than you do with mono. Note that as soon as your knot or line shows fraying, it's time for a re-tie.



The Palomar knot is easy to tie and works with nearly all braided lines.

Spin fisherman in particular will appreciate the benefits of thin but strong braided lines. For baitcasting gear, some of the features of braided lines such as limpness and small diameter make less of a difference, despite the fact that many of the earlier superbraids were designed (and advertised) with baitcasting in mind. However, most of what's written here will apply equally to both gear types, and most modern braids work well with both spinning and baitcasting rigs.

Know that these new braids are tough, and you will need to invest a few dollars in a small pair of scissors or clippers designed especially to cut braided lines to toss in the bottom of your tackle box.



And speaking of cutting, one thing to be cautious of is the fact that these super-slick braids can cut your hands much more readily than softer monofilament. If you snag a submerged stump, don't try to pull your lure free or break the line off with your hand! Wind some of the line around something like a net handle for heavy pulling. Try to keep this in mind during the excitement of landing a large fish, as well — don't grab the braid or wrap it around your hand.

One of the few disadvantages of braid is that it is not transparent like monofilament, although most anglers don't notice a drop in strikes when switching between the two. Those that want to offset this disadvantage of braid usually add a monofilament or fluorocarbon leader. The leader is usually at least two to three feet, longer for ultra-clear water or especially wary fish. Mono is cheaper and works, but fluorocarbon is another modern wonder material that's practically invisible underwater and has outstanding abrasion resistance. The chief disadvantage of fluorocarbon is cost — more than that of most premium braids — but not as hard on the wallet if you're only buying a small spool for leader material.

So that's the skinny on braid. Monofilament will probably still have a place on your rod rack, but for heavyweight fishing on gear that still casts and feels light in your hands, braid can't be beat!

[Featured Site: Little Orange Lake](#)



Location: Hawthorne, Alachua County

Size: 576 acres

Description: **Little Orange Lake** (northeast of the larger [Orange Lake](#)) is located in Hawthorne, which is 17 miles southeast of Gainesville. This small lake is part of the Ocklawaha River drainage basin. **To access the lake, you will have to launch at Holden Pond boat ramp then cross Holden Pond into a small, shallow canal on the northeast side that opens into Little Orange Lake on its southern shoreline.** Dense mats of smart weed dominate the shorelines around the lake with spatterdock (water lilies) clumped together in areas that are around 5 to 6 feet in depth. The lake has a maximum depth of 15 feet. While you won't be able to access the shoreline in the majority of the lake due to dense mats of smartweed, the water is typically 4-6 feet deep under the smartweed.



Some sport fish species you may typically find in this lake are Florida bass, black crappie (specks), bluegill, and redear sunfish (shellcrackers). Most of the fishing will be targeting fish along the aquatic vegetation either by smartweed or spatterdock since there is very little offshore structure at which to target fish. The docks on the southeast portion of the lake hold bass and crappie as well, which can provide some different options of areas to try and target fish. During this time of year when the water is very warm you can find bass underneath the edges of the spatterdock or dense mats of smartweed where it extends out to the cooler deeper water. Anglers should try fishing with artificials such as spinnerbaits, lipless crankbaits, soft plastics, and topwater lures along the edges where smartweed meets the spatterdock. You can also try live lining shiners underneath the smartweed for bass or small minnows out in the deeper water by the spatterdock for crappie. This past spring, FWC biologists conducted electrofishing surveys on Little Orange Lake for bass, finding the population in good health and good numbers. In addition to healthy populations of fish, the large amounts of undeveloped land surrounding the lake supports many other types of wildlife, allowing Little Orange Lake to support other popular recreational activities like alligator hunting and bird watching.



This hidden fishery has produced quality bass with 57 approved TrophyCatch entries. Of those 57 entries, 22 of them are double digit fish in the Trophy Club category (10+ pounds) with the biggest fish being 12 lbs. 6 oz. caught in 2020. The lake has the potential to grow bass into the Hall of Fame category (13+ pounds), due to its quality habitat and abundance of baitfish observed while doing electrofishing surveys for bass.

Fisheries Biology: Common Fish Kill Causes

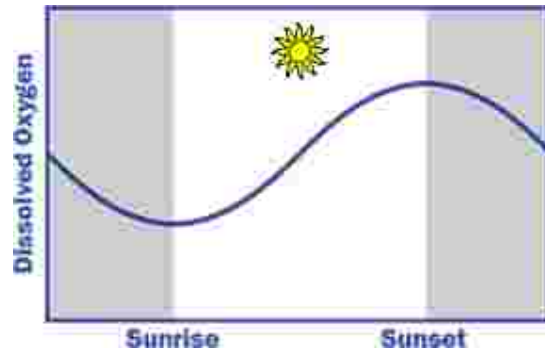
The sudden appearance of dead fish in a lake or canal causes considerable concern for most people. **However, most fish kills result from natural causes. Too little oxygen in the water is the primary cause of fish kills in Florida.** Cold weather also results in kills of nonnative tropical fish that have become established here. Although a fish kill in any particular water is usually a rare event, a number of fish kills do occur across Florida each year, and summer is the time that most of them happen.

Low Dissolved Oxygen Fish Kills

Fish, like people, need oxygen to survive. Most **dissolved oxygen (DO)** in the water is produced by aquatic plants through photosynthesis, using sunlight energy to produce oxygen. At the same time, however, oxygen is being removed from the water by the respiration (breathing) of fish, plants, and other underwater inhabitants. Decomposition of plant and animal matter in the water also consumes oxygen.

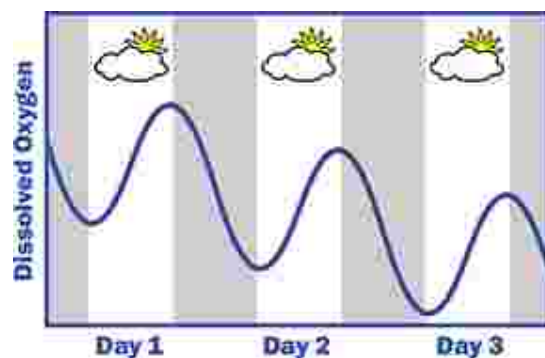
Each water body usually undergoes a daily oxygen cycle. Under normal conditions, the DO in a water body is lowest in the morning just before the sun rises. As the sun comes up and aquatic plants begin to photosynthesize, the oxygen level rises

steadily and continues to do so until the sun sets. Then the DO level drops continuously until the sun rises again.



The normal daily cycle of dissolved oxygen production. Production starts when the sun rises and stops when it sets.

During cloudy weather with less available sunlight for photosynthesis, the DO may not return to the previous day's high level. The next morning starts with a lower-than-normal oxygen level. If more cloudy days occur, the amount of oxygen can drop even lower.



Several continuous days of cloudy weather can repeatedly drop the oxygen level lower and lower.

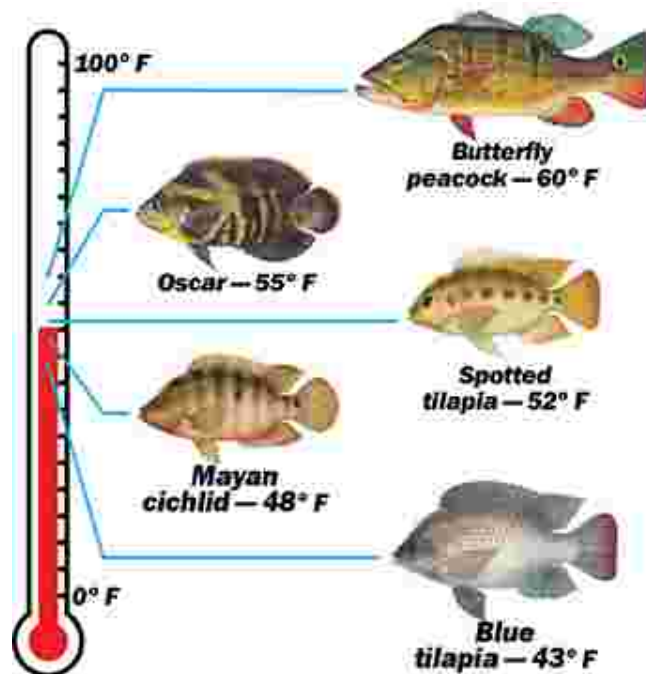
Several other factors can contribute to low DO. The rains associated with south Florida's summer weather can wash large amounts of organic material (such as grass clippings and lawn fertilizer) into the water. Their decomposition will use up even more oxygen. **In addition, warm summer water cannot hold as much dissolved oxygen as cooler water can.** The combined result can be a fish kill, and this is more likely to occur during Florida's cloudy and rainy summer weather.



Many of Florida's fish kills occur during the summer rainy season. (Data from South Florida Water Management District.)

Cold Weather Fish Kills

Native freshwater Florida fish are rarely killed by cold. However, more than 30 freshwater nonnative fishes (fishes from other countries) are reproducing in Florida. Most of these species come from warm tropical climates and are less adapted to live here. During cold weather, water temperature may drop low enough to cause a fish kill. These kills are characterized by dead fish of only one to a few kinds of nonnative species. These kills occur during Florida's cooler months. Cold weather fish kills and low oxygen fish kills account for the majority of fish kills that occur in the state throughout the year.



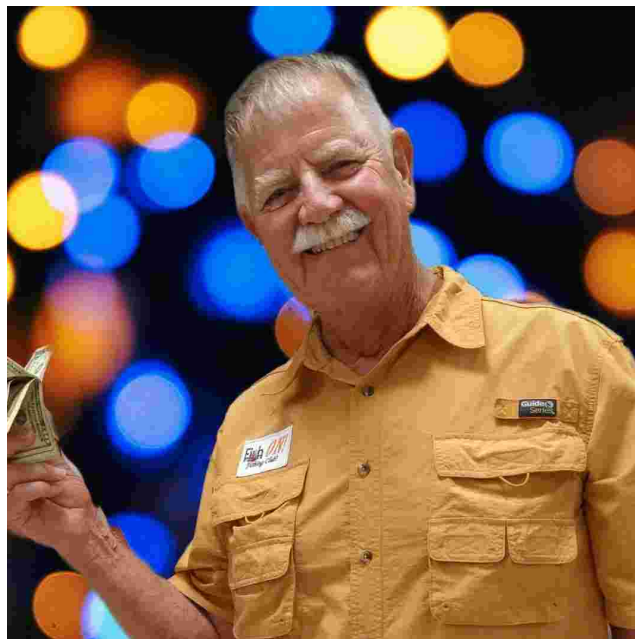
Different nonnative fishes have different lower lethal temperatures. (Fish illustrations by Diane Peebles and Duane Raver, Jr.)

Preventing Fish Kills

An aeration system can help prevent low oxygen fish kills. However, due to cost most lake owners (whether individuals or homeowner associations) may wish to wait to see if a kill was a one-time event before investing in such a system. Unfortunately, not much can be done to prevent cold-weather-related fish kills except preventing the illegal release of nonnative fishes.

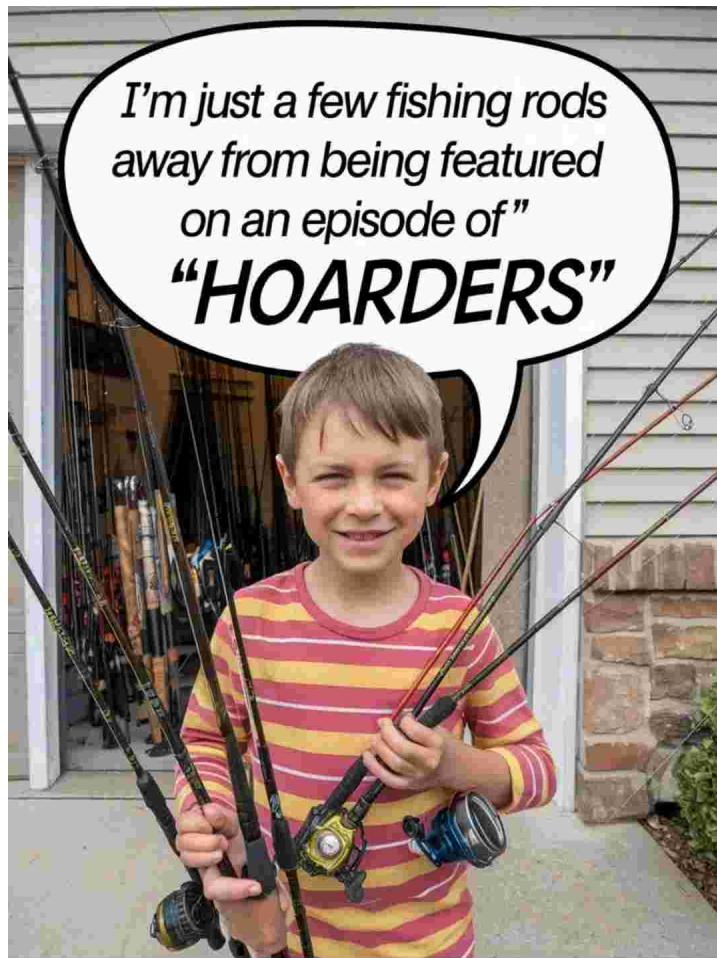
Report fish kills

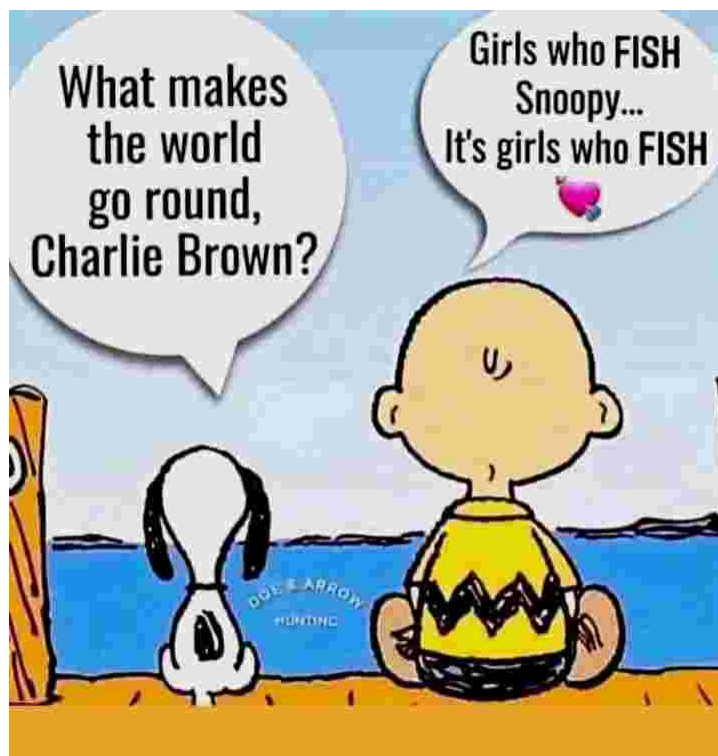
If you witness a fish kill, you can report it at the **FWC Fish Kill Hotline (1-800-636-0511)**. You can also obtain more information about fish kills at the [FWC Fish Kill website](#).



June meeting 50/50 winner Bill Herr with \$68!







thnx and a tip o'the hat to FB, LG and sil TN

////////////////////

See you all at the meeting!

Tight lines!!

FISH ON! FISHING CLUB OFFICERS

President - Mark Morningstar::727-515-9908::mark_morningstar145@yahoo.com

Vice President - Bruce Archambault::573-855-1459::brucearchambault60@gmail.com

Treasurer - Mike Spanhel::727-2203-1209::spanhel@verizon.net

Secretary - John Grieder ::973-557-3054:: property_logic@yahoo.com

Sergeant at Arms - Stu Johnson::305-855-3156::stuartj286@gmail.com

Member at Large - Richard Robinson::813-326-1243::ricksrk02@gmail.com

Past President :: Jack Hexter 813-235-3358::j.hexter@verizon.net

Newsletter Editor - John Grieder

Copyright © 2017 Fish On Club

Our E-mail Address is:

fish-on-fishingclub1@hotmail.com

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can update your preferences **or** unsubscribe from this list.



This email was sent to Chet_Jasak@Hotmail.com

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Fish On Fishing Club of New Port Richey · 1146 Almondwood Dr · Trinity, FL 34655-7001 · USA

