

May 2026 Newsletter!

1 message

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Sun, May 10, 2026 at 11:40 AM



Your May2026 Newsletter!

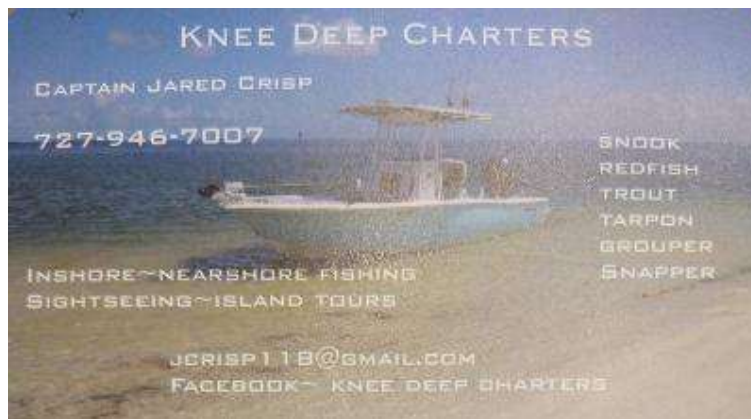
The next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, May 12. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00. Our guest speaker for the evening will be **Captain Dustin Bush of Fish N Crazy Charters.**



The guest speaker at our April meeting was Captain Jared Crisp of Knee Deep Charters. He led an informative discussion on where to find specific species of fish and the gear he uses to get them in the boat.

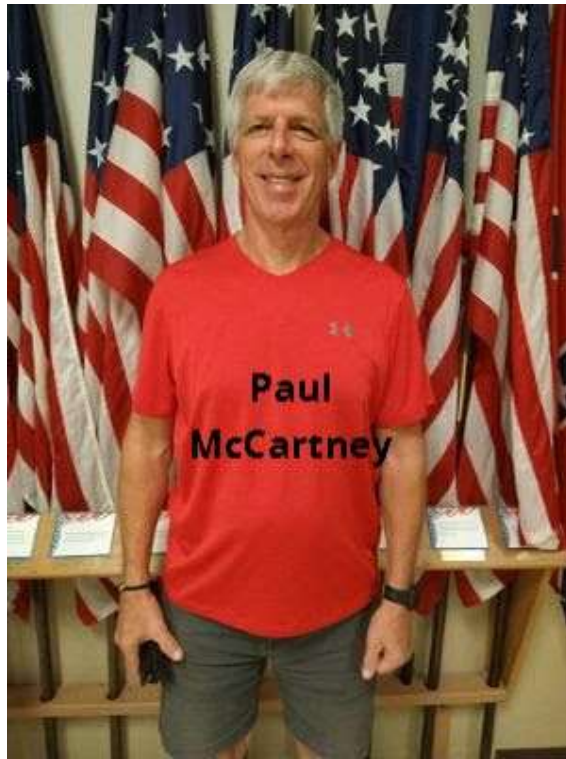


Captain Jared Crisp



Please welcome three new members this month...





Welcome to the club guys!



General Membership Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2026

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

We had three guests in attendance all of whom joined the club: Ron Aldrich, Jeff Smith and Paul McCartney (no, not the aged Beatle!)

Our guest speaker for the evening was Captain Jared Crisp of Knee Deep Charters. He gave us lots of hints as to gear, line strength, leader size, hook sizes, different baits and where he's finding various species of fish. He also said he gets powdered aquarium fish food and mixes it with water into a paste that he spreads around the areas while fishing and it works great! He ended by following up with a great question-and-answer period.

The next social dinner will be on April 22nd at the Gulf Harbors Yacht Club. Our May social dinner will be on May 19th at Sea Fire Grill.

Tournaments – the current free-to-play tournament is for trout and ends on April

30th. Another one upcoming on May 30th is the Rusty Bucket Fishing tournament.

Our Wish to Fish subsidiary has charters scheduled on April 28 and May 9. A new member asked Mark what WTF was all about and Mike Spanhel gave a history of how it started and what they do for various kids' groups like Hope Children's Home and Scouting America.

It was announced that our fall picnic will be tentatively set for November 14th.

Members told about their recent fishing activities.

Mark advised us that member Joe Stand had passed away.

The 50/50 winner was Alan Chase - \$70.

Number of members and guests in attendance – 28.

The next general membership meeting will be May 12.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted,

John Grieder



From the FWC



April 28, 2026

Recreational harvest of snook for Florida's west coast will close May 1

The recreational harvest of snook in the Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor and Southwest management regions will close May 1. The recreational harvest season will reopen Sept. 1, in the Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay management regions. The recreational harvest season will reopen Oct. 1, in the Charlotte Harbor and Southwest management regions. Each region includes all Florida state and inland waters as well as adjacent federal waters.

These regions and regulations are part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) holistic management approach for Florida's most popular inshore fisheries. Through this approach, seven metrics are used to evaluate the fishery by region, adding a holistic perspective to management decisions and allowing the FWC to be more responsive to regional concerns. To learn more, visit MyFWC.com/Snook.

Panhandle

Open season: March 1–April 30 and Sept. 1–Nov. 30

Closed season: Dec. 1–end of February and May 1–Aug. 31

Bag limit: One fish per person per day

Slot limit: 28–33 inches total length

Boundaries: The western boundary is the Florida-Alabama border and the region extends to the eastern coastal boundary at 84°20.800' west longitude in Franklin County near Alligator Point. The management region extends inland, as shown on the map, and into adjacent federal waters. Does not include all waters of the Ochlockonee Bay, the Ochlockonee River and its tributaries.

Big Bend

Open season: March 1–April 30 and Sept. 1–Nov. 30

Closed season: Dec. 1 – end of February and May 1–Aug. 31

Bag limit: One fish per person per day

Slot limit: 28–33 inches total length

Boundaries: The western coastal boundary is 84°20.800' west longitude in Franklin County near Alligator Point. The region extends east and south to Fred Howard Park, near the border of Pasco and Pinellas counties. Includes all waters of the Ochlockonee, Withlacoochee and Anclote rivers and their tributaries. The management region extends inland, as shown on the map, and into adjacent federal waters.

Tampa Bay

Open season: March 1–April 30 and Sept. 1–Nov. 30

Closed season: Dec. 1–end of February and May 1–Aug. 31

Bag limit: One fish per person per day

Slot limit: 28–33 inches total length

Boundaries: The northern coastal boundary is Fred Howard Park, near the border of Pasco and Pinellas counties and the region extends south to State Road 64 in Manatee County. The management region extends inland, as shown on the map, and into adjacent federal waters. Includes all waters of the Alafia, Braden, Manatee and Hillsborough rivers and their tributaries. Does not include the waters of Palma Sola Bay and all waters of the Anclote River and its tributaries.

Sarasota Bay

Open season: March 1–April 30 and Sept. 1–Nov. 30

Closed season: Dec. 1–end of February and May 1–Aug. 31

Bag limit: One fish per person per day

Slot limit: 28–33 inches total length

Boundaries: The northern coastal boundary is State Road 64 in Manatee County and the region extends south to 27°04.727' north latitude, near the Venice Municipal Airport. Includes all waters of Palma Sola Bay, Phillippi Creek, Cow Pen Slough Canal and Curry Creek. Does not include the waters of the Braden and Manatee rivers. The management region extends inland, as shown on the map, and into adjacent federal waters.

Charlotte Harbor

Open season: March 1–April 30 and Oct. 1–Nov. 30

Closed season: Dec. 1–end of February and May 1–Sept. 30

Bag limit: One fish per person per day

Slot limit: 28–33 inches total length

Boundaries: The northern coastal boundary is 27°04.727' north latitude, near the Venice Municipal Airport, and the region extends south to 26°15.227' north latitude, near Vanderbilt Beach Road in Collier County. The management region extends inland, as shown on the map, and into adjacent federal waters. Includes all waters of the Caloosahatchee, Myakka and Peace rivers and their tributaries. Does not include Lake Okeechobee.

Southwest

Open season: March 1–April 30 and Oct. 1–Nov. 30

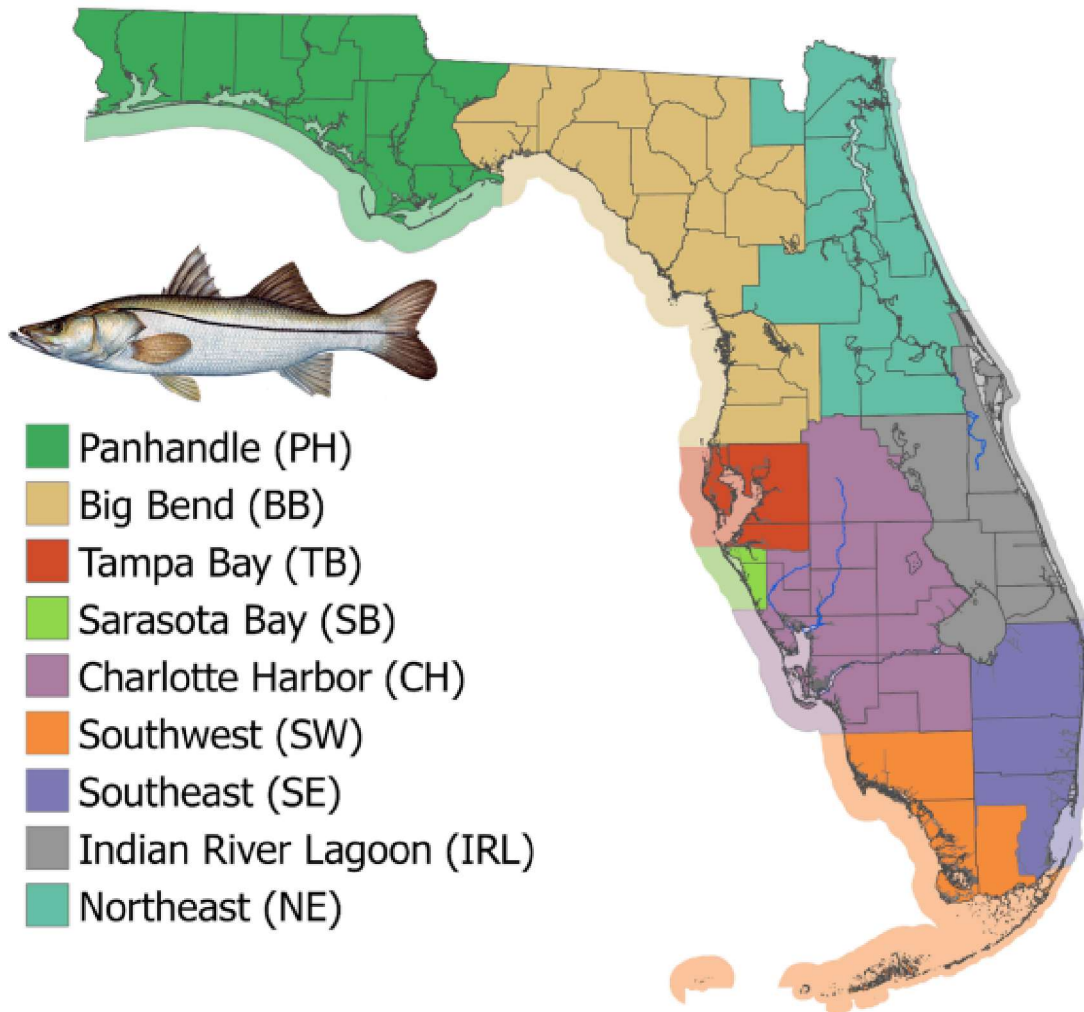
Closed season: Dec. 1–end of February and May 1–Sept. 30

Bag limit: One fish per person per day

Slot limit: 28–33 inches total length

Boundaries: The northern boundary is 26°15.227' north latitude, near Vanderbilt Beach Road in Collier County, and the region extends through the Florida Keys to the Monroe/Miami-Dade county line. The management region extends inland, as shown on the map, and into adjacent federal waters. Includes all waters of Everglades National Park.

For more information on recreational snook regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Snook. This webpage includes the snook annual reviews, which provide summaries of key findings from the annual evaluation of management metrics for each region.





Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission



2026 FWC Lionfish Challenge expands with new categories and prize opportunities

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) 2026 Lionfish Challenge will kick off May 22 and run through Sept. 14. The challenge will feature several exciting new competition categories designed to recognize a wider range of participants and prize packages.

The previous Recreational and Commercial Champion titles have been replaced with the following awards:

Lionfish King: Top male participant in the recreational division.

Lionfish Queen: Top female participant in the recreational division.

Commercial Champion: Top participant in the commercial division.

Junior Harvester: Top recreational participant younger than age 18.

Veteran Champion: Top active-duty service member or military veteran in the recreational division.

The FWC Lionfish Challenge will also recognize its Top Supporter and Top FWC Lionfish Checkpoint Participant.

For more information on how to participate in the 2026 FWC Lionfish Challenge visit ReefRangers.MyFWC.com/Lionfish-Challenge and to keep up with FWC lionfish program news, follow the FWC Reef Rangers at Facebook.com/FWCReefRangers.

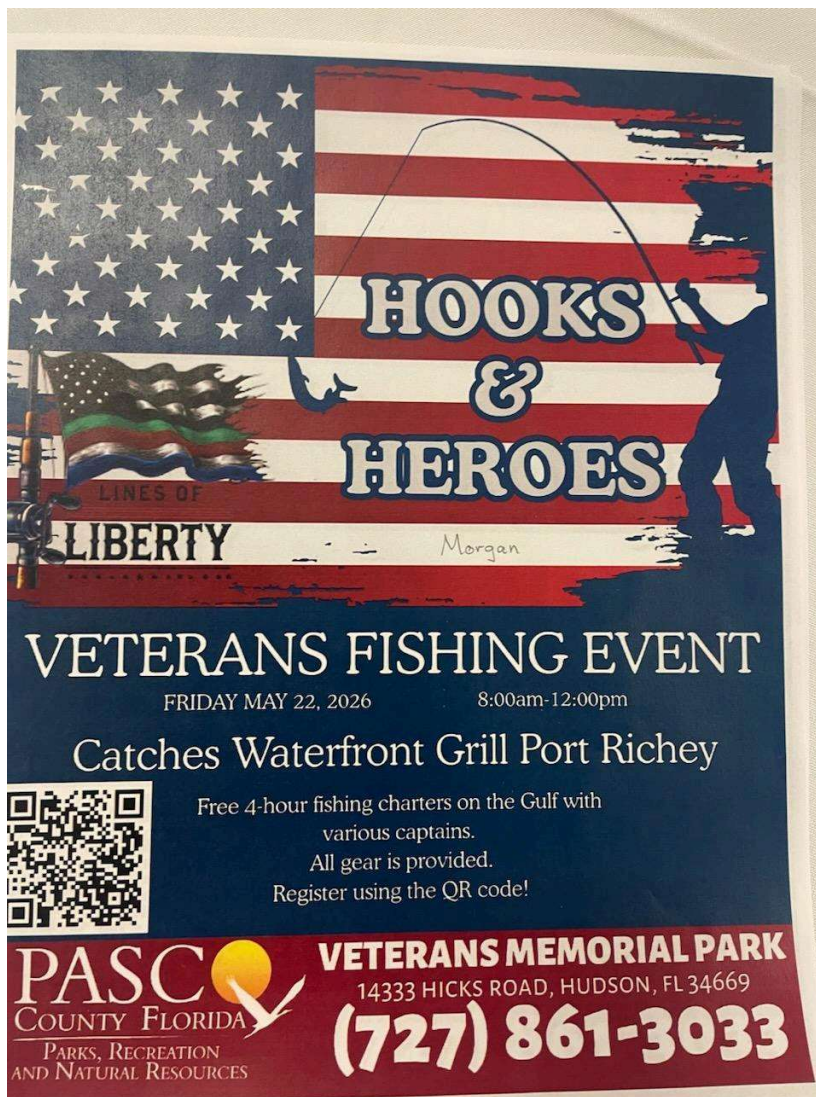
“Lionfish derbies and the FWC Lionfish Challenge are a great way to help reduce lionfish numbers on coral reefs,” said Tony Hart, FWC Lionfish Outreach Coordinator. “Divers who participate are supporting conservation and doing their part to protect the vital marine resources in and around Florida’s waters.”

Lionfish are an invasive species with the potential to negatively impact native wildlife and habitats. A single female lionfish can release as many as 30,000 eggs every four days, enabling lionfish populations to grow rapidly, and outcompete native species for food and habitat. FWC encourages divers, anglers and commercial harvesters to remove lionfish in Florida waters to limit negative impacts to native marine life and ecosystems. To learn more about lionfish, visit [MyFWC.com /Lionfish](https://MyFWC.com/Lionfish).



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Attention veterans: This may be worth checking out...



If you go, please tell a board member how it was!



Tournament Board

2026 Tournaments

Fishing tournaments are easy and fun and there's nothing to sign up for -- these are all free to play for all members! Just make a catch, follow the guidelines posted below and you're in!

These tournaments are **Free-to-Play** for all members!

Our current tournament is:

May 1 to July 31 - Snapper and Ladyfish

(Please note changes to guidelines (#6) below) -- Also note there will be one additional species added for each future tournament.

For the February 1 to April 30 Trout tournament here are the winners:

1st place - Frank Poggio - 18")
2nd place - Mike Spanhel - 15") *Congrats to all!!!*
3rd place - John Grieder - 14")

Upcoming tournaments include:

August 1 to October 31 - Snook

November 1 to December 31 - Mackerel

There **may** also be a ONE DAY tournament in November. (Details to follow)

AND...also a \$ prize (besides bragging rights) for the longest fish caught for 2026 (not including sharks).

All guidelines below must be followed for all tournaments

Guidelines:

- 1 - Catch fish (!)
- 2 - Measure fish
- 3 - Take a picture of your catch
- 4 - You **MUST** post a fishing report on the club website*
- 5 - Only species for each tournament posted will be count. (Ex: if you catch a trout when mackerel tournament is running, it won't count)
- 6 - Fish caught on individually owned boats/kayaks/rentals/headboats or from the shore are ok. Starting on a trial basis effective May 1, 2026 and until

further notice, fish caught on charters **WILL** count.

7 - Sit back (and/or keep fishing) and wait for the results which will be announced at the first general membership meeting after tournament closes

Winners circle: 1st place - \$25; 2nd place - \$15; 3rd place - \$10

*Entering a fishing report on the club website is easy. Go to the club website (fishonclub.us), click on 'fishing reports', then 'submit report', and enter your information along with pix. Just give it a try and you'll find the process intuitive. If you have a problem with making your report just contact any board member below for assistance.

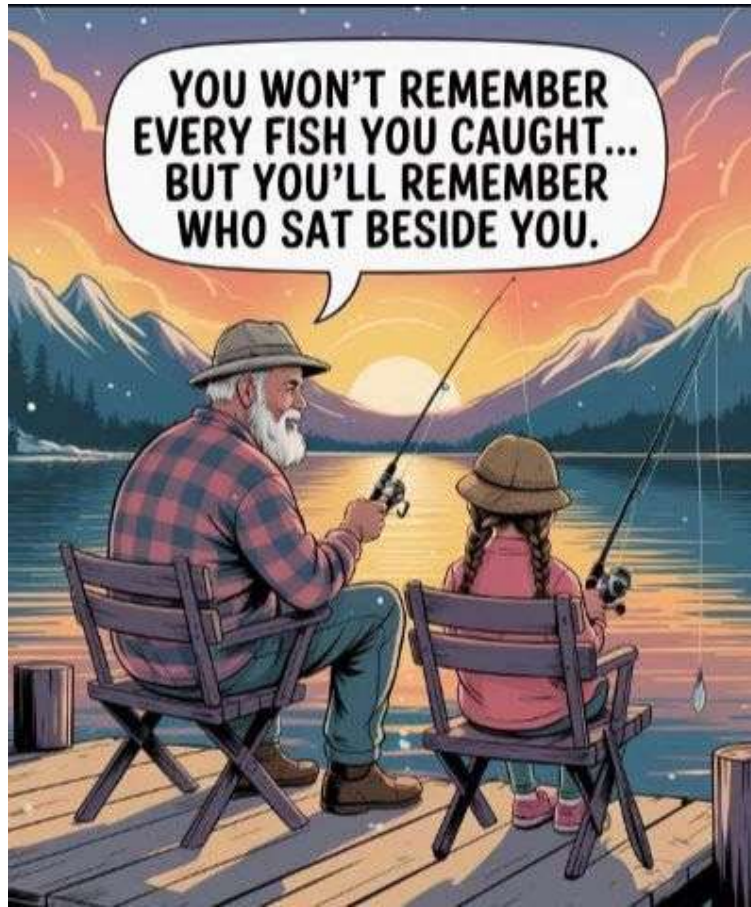


Our next **Social dinner** is all set for May 19 at Sea Fire Grill - the fun starts at 5:30



April 50/50 winner Alan Chase





See you all at the meeting!

Tight lines!!

FISH ON! FISHING CLUB OFFICERS

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Vice President -

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