August 2026 Newsletter!

1 message

Fish On Club <fish-on-fishingclub1@80249862.mailchimpapp.com> Sun, Aug 9, 2026 at 12:00 PM
Reply-To: fish-on-fishingclub1@hotmail.com
To: fishonclubnpr@gmail.com

New Port Richey
FishON! Fishing Club
www.FishOnClub.us
Fishing – Socializing - Community Service

Your August 2026 Newsletter!

The next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, August 11. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Captain Dave Ulgenalp aka "Wader Dave".

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The guest speaker at our July meeting was Bruce Archambault who gave an excellent slide and video presentation on fishing for spoonbill in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri

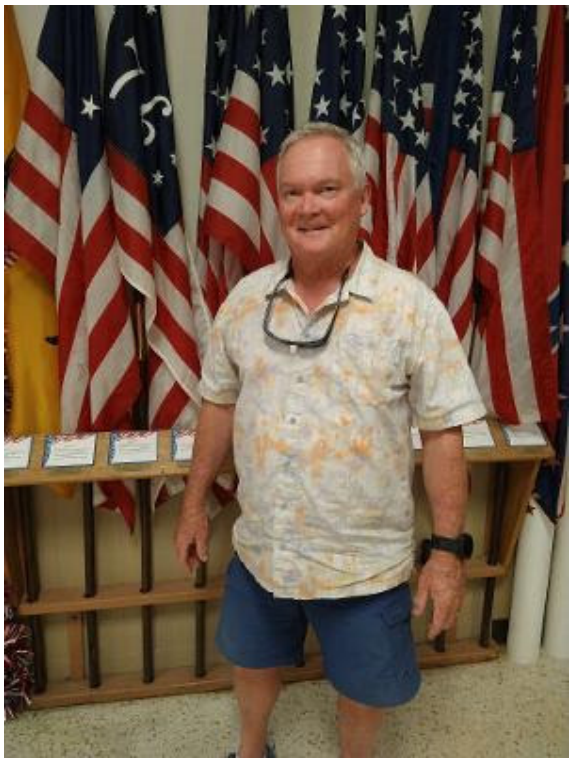


Bruce Archambault

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Please welcome new member this month...

Bruce Melnick



Welcome to the club, Bruce!

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General Membership Meeting Minutes – July 14 2026

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Morningstar at 7:03pm.

We had two guests tonight and one joined the club – Bruce Melnick

Mark started the meeting by offering condolences to the families of Jack Hexter, Debbie Dunne and Jim Soper all of whom have had recent passings.

Our guest speaker for the evening was our own Bruce Archambault who gave a very knowledgeable presentation on fishing for spoonbill in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. Bruce told us all about the spoonbill fish, how they actually predate dinosaurs (and look the part, too), how they feed (on 100% plankton), and how they're caught (mostly by trolling with GPS). He also mentioned that spoonbill caviar poaching was a big deal in the area and that their local Fish and Wildlife personnel were always on the lookout for it. During his discussion, Bruce used plenty of slides and then followed up with a great 20 minute video that not only showed the lake but also fishermen doing their thing by catching all different

sized spoonbill. It was an informative and very interesting evening.

It was noted that our Wish to Fish subsidiary will have their next charter on September 7th with the foster kids.

The current club tournament which is free-to-play for all members is for both snapper and ladyfish. And it was reemphasized that to be eligible you must submit a fishing report on the club website.

November 14th is the date of our fall picnic to be held at RL Anderson Park on Lake Tarpon.

Several members told us about their recent fishing activities.
The 50/50 winner was Mike Spanhel- $50.

The next general membership meeting will be August 11.

There were 23 members and guests in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,

John Grieder

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It's almost that time of year again for our SOCIAL DINNERS to resume!

Our next 'social' will be on September 16th, 5:00pm, at the Leaning Tower of Pizza, 5209 Grand Blvd., New Port Richey. There will be a signup sheet at Tuesday's meeting but mark your calendar now so you won't forget!

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From the FWC

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

August 6, 2026

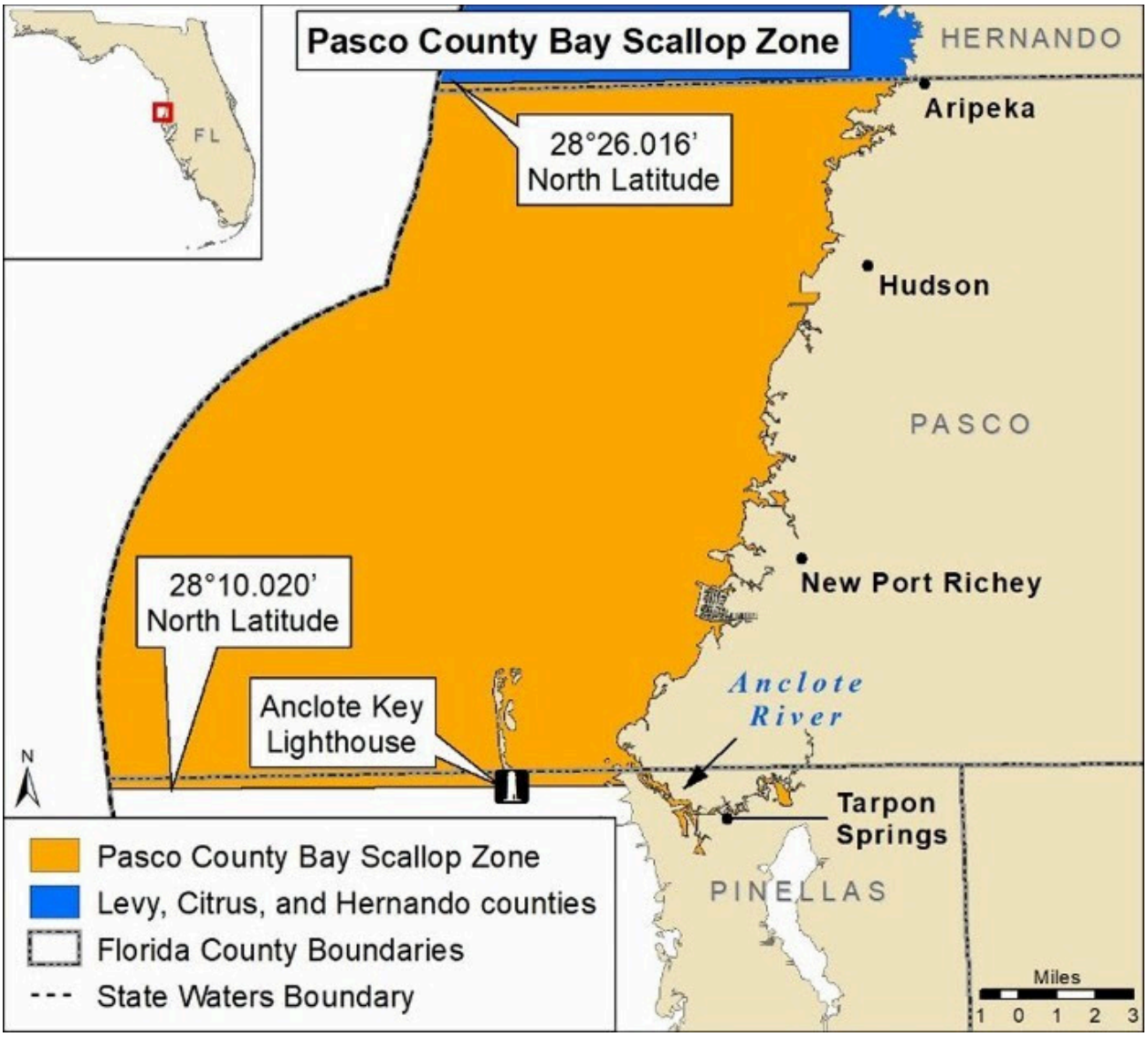
Temporary closure of Pasco Zone for 2026 regional bay scallop season

Today, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) announced a temporary closure of recreational bay scallop harvest in the Pasco Zone. This area includes all state waters south of the Hernando-Pasco county line and north of the Anclote Key Lighthouse in northern Pinellas County, encompassing the Anclote River.

The FWC is tasked with proactively testing and acting to keep residents and visitors safe. This temporary measure is due to the detection of *Pyrodinium bahamense* at levels exceeding the safety thresholds established by the National Shellfish Sanitation Program. The Pasco Zone may reopen for scallop harvesting once tests show levels have decreased to safe limits.

In the Pasco Zone, scallop harvesting is currently suspended. However, the area is still open for other recreational activities, including fishing, boating, and swimming.

For more information and updates, visit MyFWC.com/BayScallops**. Additional details on *Pyrodinium* can be found at** MyFWC.com/PyrodiniumBahamense-factsheet.pdf



Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Recreational gag grouper season will open Sept. 1-30 in Gulf state waters

At its August meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) issued an executive order to modify the 2026 recreational season for gag grouper in state waters of the Gulf of America, excluding all state waters off Monroe County, to Sept. 1 through Sept. 30. The 2026 recreational season will close at 12:01 a.m. on Oct. 1.

This season is consistent with NOAA's recently announced season in adjacent federal waters. Maintaining consistent state and federal recreational seasons for Gulf gag grouper

will help prevent exceeding the recreational quota and reduce the likelihood of a quota payback in 2027.

If you plan to fish for gag grouper or other specific reef fish species from a private recreational vessel, you must sign up for the State Reef Fish Angler Designation (annual renewal is required). As a State Reef Fish Angler, you could be selected to receive a mail survey component of the State Reef Fish Survey.

Data from the State Reef Fish Survey is now being used for Gulf gag grouper management, and by participating in the survey, you are improving recreational data that is used to provide recreational fishing opportunities in Florida.

To learn more about the State Reef Fish Survey, visit MyFWC.com/SRFS.



Recreational greater amberjack season will open Sept. 1 – Oct. 13 in Gulf state waters

At its August meeting in Panama City, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) issued an executive order to modify the 2026 recreational season for greater amberjack in state waters of the Gulf of America. The recreational season will be open Sept. 1 through Oct. 13 and will close at 12:01 a.m. on Oct. 14.

This season is consistent with NOAA's recently announced season in adjacent federal waters. Maintaining consistent state and federal recreational seasons for Gulf greater amberjack is intended to prevent quota overages and help ensure the stock continues to rebuild.

If you plan to fish for greater amberjack or other specific reef fish species from a private recreational vessel, you must sign up for the State Reef Fish Angler Designation (annual renewal is required). As a State Reef Fish Angler, you could be selected to receive a mail survey component of the State Reef Fish Survey.

Data from the State Reef Fish Survey is now being used for greater amberjack management, and through your participation, the data collected will be used to improve management and increased recreational fishing opportunities in Florida.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Spiny lobster sport season begins tomorrow!

The 2026 Florida spiny lobster season kicks off with the two-day recreational sport season on July 29-30, followed by the spiny lobster regular season beginning Aug. 6, continuing through March 31, 2027.

Before heading out, be sure you have a valid Florida saltwater fishing license, spiny lobster permit, and are familiar with current lobster harvest regulations.

During the two-day spiny lobster sport season:

- **Recreational harvesters may take up to six lobsters per person per day in Monroe County and Biscayne National Park waters.**
- **In all other Florida waters, recreational harvesters may take up to 12 lobsters per person per day.**

Harvesters must follow these requirements:

- **Lobsters must have a carapace length larger than three inches, measured in the water, and a measuring device must be carried at all times.**
- **Egg-bearing female lobsters may not be harvested.**
- **Lobsters must remain whole; separating tails from the body is prohibited.**
- **It is unlawful to use devices that puncture, penetrate, or crush the lobster shell.**

Bag limits apply only to properly licensed individuals or those exempt from licensing who are actively harvesting. Non-harvesters may not be counted toward another person's limit.

If you're bully netting this season, please be respectful of waterfront residents by keeping lights directed toward the water, avoiding shining them at homes or people, and minimizing noise whenever possible.

For more information on spiny lobster regulations, visit MyFWC.com/Fishing and click on "Saltwater Fishing," "Recreational Regulations," "Crabs, Lobster and other Shellfish" and "Lobster."

If you're participating in the 2026 Lionfish Challenge, you may be eligible to harvest one additional lobster per day during the two-day sport season. To qualify, recreational participants must harvest and report at least 25 lionfish, while commercial participants must harvest at least 50 pounds of lionfish. Be sure to carry your 2026 FWC-issued challenge coin with you while lobstering to keep your additional lobster. Check out the Lionfish challenge MyFWC.com/LionfishChallenge.

Safety should always come first. Wear a life jacket while your boat is underway, never operate a vessel under the influence of alcohol, and always follow divers-down flag regulations. Divers must stay within 300 feet of a properly displayed flag in open water and within 100 feet when diving near an inlet or navigation channel. Boaters approaching a divers-down flag must slow to idle speed within those distances.

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Our *just finished tournament* for ladyfish and snapper has concluded and the winners are...

(There were only two entries for each tournament)

Ladyfish



1st Place - Carl Mogavero 18"



2nd Place - Frank Bellizio 15"

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Snapper



1st Place - Bob Sherley 30.5"



2nd Place - Chet Jasak

Nice job, guys and congratulations too all!

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:

August 1 - October 31 - Snook and Trout

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

Upcoming tournaments include:

November 1 to December 31 - Mackerel and...

Winners circle

May 1 to July 31 Ladyfish and Snapper tournament:

Ladyfish:
1st place - Carl Mogavero - 18"
2nd place - Frank Bellizio - 15"

Snapper:
1st place - Bob Sherley - 30.5"
2nd place - Chet Jasak - 12.5"

February 1 to April 30 Trout tournament:

1st place - Frank Poggio - 18"
2nd place - Mike Spanhel - 15"
3rd place - John Grieder - 14"

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 an *automatic entry* to all tournaments

Guidelines:

1 - Catch fish (!)

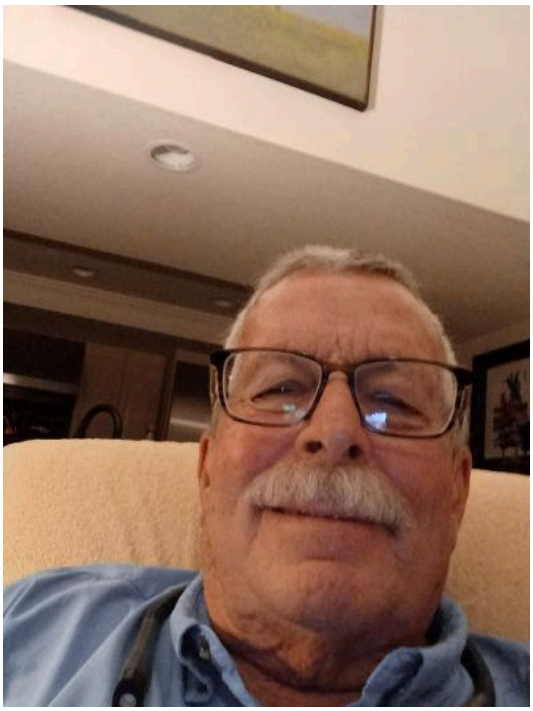
2 - Measure fish
3 - Take a picture of your catch
4 - You MUST post a fishing report on the club website*
5 - Only species for each tournament posted will count. (Ex: if you catch a trout when mackerel tournament is running, it won't count)
6 - Fish caught on individually owned boats/kayaks/rentals/headboats 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.**

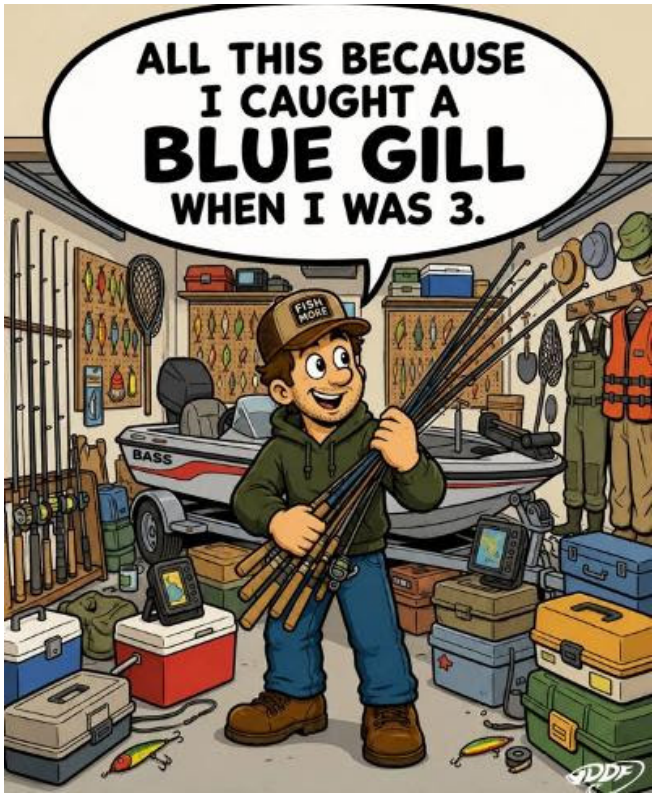
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June 50/50 winner Mike Spanhel



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thnx and a tip o'the hat to sil-TN

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See you all at the meeting!

Tight lines!!

FISH ON! FISHING CLUB OFFICERS

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