September 2026 Newsletter Update

1 message

Fish On Club <fish-on-fishingclub1@80249862.mailchimpapp.com> Sun, Sep 6, 2026 at 2:45 PM
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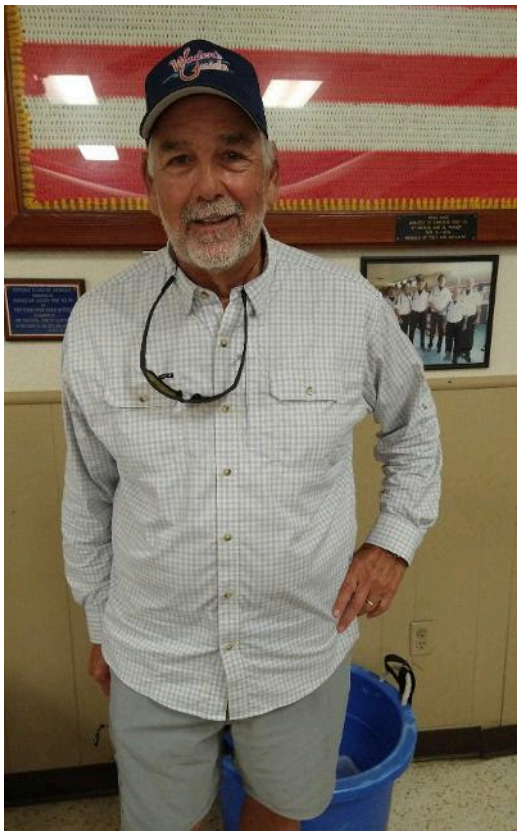
New Port Richey
Fish ON! Fishing Club
www.FishOnClub.us
Fishing – Socializing - Community Service

September 2026 Newsletter (Update)

The next general membership meeting will be Tuesday, September 8. Doors open at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:00. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Captain Gene Hammond.

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The guest speaker at the August meeting was 'Wader Dave' who gave an excellent presentation on wade fishing all around our area from Hurricane Pass to Anclote Key.



Wader Dave

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General Membership Meeting Minutes –August 11, 2026

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

Mark announced to the club that long time club member and Sergeant at Arms, Stu Johnson had passed away.

The next 'social dinner' (and first one of 'the season') will be September 16 at the Leaning Tower of Pizza.

Our guest speaker was Captain Dave Ulgenalp better known as 'Wader Dave' who has 45 years of fishing experience and 10 years as a guide for 'wade' fishing. An excellent and well prepared speaker, Captain Dave told us all about catching fish while wading. He went in to extreme detail on where to look, what to use and how to catch all kinds of fish. His discussion was very interesting and all members are encouraged to come out and join in the discussion and learn new things about what we love to do. You can check out his website at wadersguide.com.

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 snook and trout. And it was once again emphasized that to be eligible you must submit a fishing report on the club website.

We are still looking for a chairman to host our fall picnic on November 14th to be held at RL Anderson Park on Lake Tarpon.

Several members told us about their recent fishing activities.

The 50/50 winners were our guests who attended the meeting. (They didn't join the club. Yet.)

The next general membership meeting will be September 8.

There were 26 members and guests in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13.

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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If you're wondering where to get club apparel - here's the place!



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This was orchestrated by long time member and Past President Frank Bellizio:

Right now this is being offered to the general public for mid-week discount boat rentals at Belle Harbour Marina. But it was initially set up by Frank. You MUST tell Belle Harbour that you are a member of the Fish on Fishing Club. If they see our members take advantage of this offer they may decide to stop offering it to the general public and make it exclusive to US!



So team up with some member buds, rent a boat, do some fishing (don't forget about our free-to-play tournaments) and have some fun!

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Here's a boat for sale...



2019 21'9" Family Sportsman KEYWEST

$39,900 -- For more info call Robbie Robinson -- 304-224-3358

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Here's an excellent article about filing a 'float plan' and who should be doing it. Just click the link below.

https://shorturl.at/lqF1k

thnx and a tip o'the hat to Frank Bellizio

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From the FWC

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Snook recreational harvest in all east coast and most west coast management regions opens Sept. 1

The recreational harvest season for snook starts Sept. 1 in all east coast (Southeast, Indian River Lagoon and Northeast) and most west coast (Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay) management regions. This includes all state and inland waters within each management region.

The management regions are part of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) holistic approach for managing Florida's most popular inshore fisheries. This approach uses seven metrics to evaluate the fishery by region, allowing the FWC to be more responsive to local concerns.

The harvest season in the Panhandle, Big Bend, Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay management regions will remain open through Nov. 30, with a bag limit of one fish per person per day and a slot limit of 28–33 inches total length.

Panhandle 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. Does not include the Ochlockonee Bay or the Ochlockonee River and its tributaries.

Big Bend 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.

Tampa Bay 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. Includes all waters of the Alafia, Braden, Manatee, and Hillsborough rivers and their tributaries. Does not include Palma Sola Bay or the Anclote River and its tributaries.

Sarasota Bay 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 Braden and Manatee rivers.

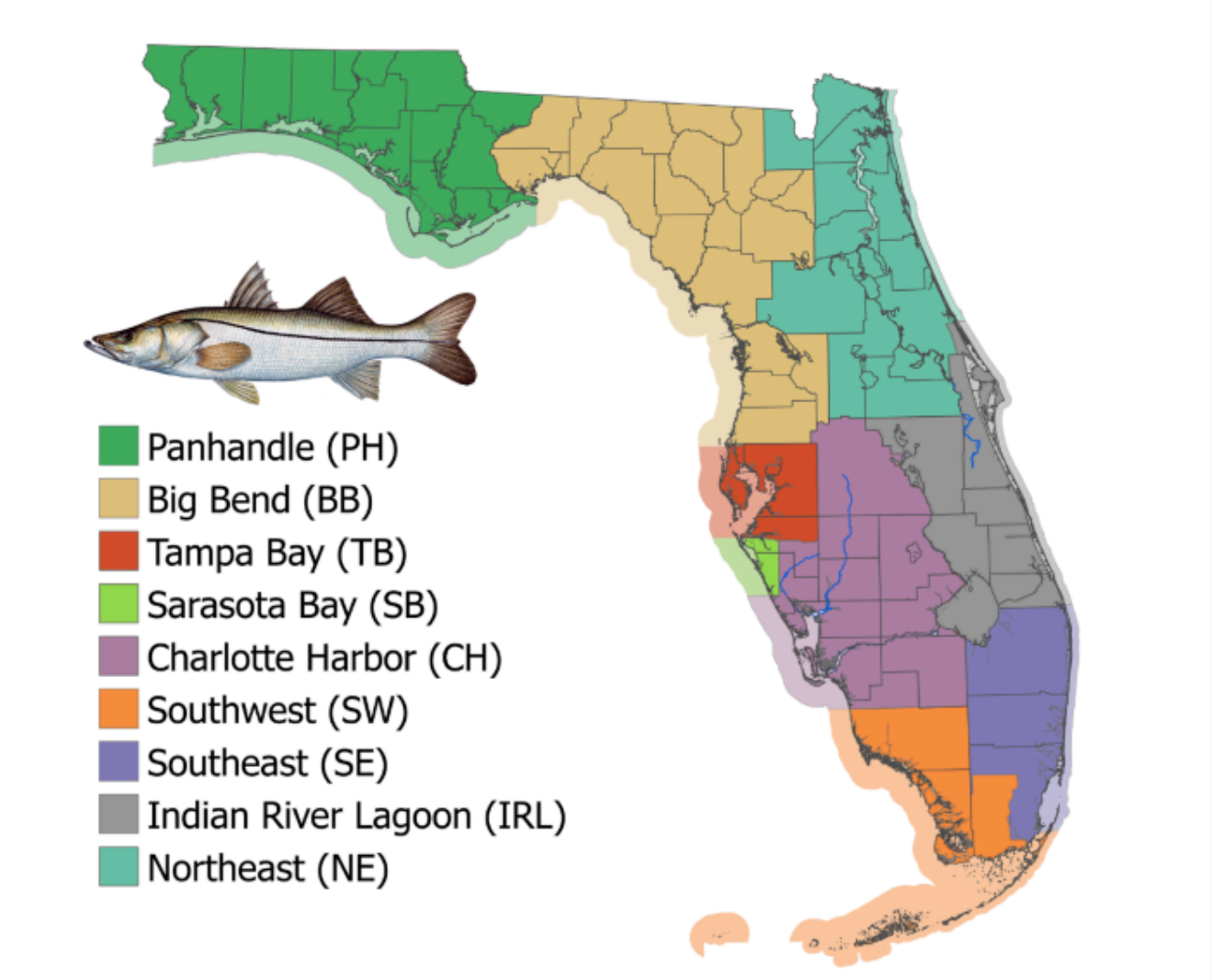
The harvest season in the Southeast, Indian River Lagoon and Northeast management regions will remain open through Dec. 14, with a bag limit of one fish per person per day and a slot limit of 28–32 inches total length.

Southeast Boundaries: The northern boundary is the Martin-Palm Beach county line and the region extends south to the Miami-Dade/Monroe county line. Includes all waters of Hillsboro Canal, Miami Canal, North New River Canal, and West Palm Beach Canal, and the Loxahatchee River and its tributaries. Does not include Lake Okeechobee and Everglades National Park.

Indian River Lagoon Boundaries: The northern coastal boundary is located at Lytle Avenue/South Causeway in New Smyrna Beach and the region extends south to the Martin-Palm Beach county line. Includes all waters of the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee. Does not include the Loxahatchee or St. Johns rivers and their tributaries.

Northeast Boundaries: The northern coastal boundary is located at the Florida-Georgia border and the region extends south to the Lytle Avenue/South Causeway in New Smyrna Beach. Includes all waters of the St. Johns River and its tributaries. Does not include the Withlacoochee or Kissimmee rivers, Cypress Lake, and lakes Hatchineha and Kissimmee.

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





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.



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.



FWC brings Aquaculture in the Classroom with partners Duke Energy Florida, Coastal Conservation Association, and Mote Marine Laboratory

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's (FWC) Aquaculture in the Classroom program is preparing for another year of bringing hands-on marine science education to students across Florida.

For more than two decades, FWC's Marine Stock Enhancement Research and Division of Marine Fisheries Management has worked with teachers and school administrators to introduce students to aquaculture and Stock Enhancement Research (SER). Designed for students from fifth grade through college, the program introduces the basic principles of aquaculture and marine research and explains how stock enhancement supports Florida's marine fisheries.

FWC biologists work with educators by providing technical advice, information on system designs, and curriculum support that aligns with Florida Sunshine State Standards. Students gain hands-on experience by designing and maintaining aquaculture systems, performing daily animal husbandry, and developing scientific skills by creating research projects, collecting data, and making observations.

The program's success is made possible through strong partnerships with Duke Energy Mariculture Center in Crystal River and the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Florida, who provided hatchery-reared red drum fingerlings, and Mote Marine Laboratory who provided hatchery-reared snook to participating schools. Through these integral partnerships, Aquaculture in the Classroom celebrated a banner 2025-2026 School Year,

providing over 3,000 hatchery-reared red drum and snook fingerlings to 23 schools across the state.

FWC is now preparing for the 2026-2027 School Year and encourages educators interested in Aquaculture in the Classroom to explore the program. Teachers and administrators are encouraged to visit MyFWC.com/AIC and download the FWC Aquaculture in the Classroom Guide to learn more about program expectations and determine whether the program is a good fit for their school. Educators interested in participating or learning more can also email Gina.Russo@MyFWC.com.

The Duke Energy Mariculture Center in Crystal River is a multispecies hatchery that has cultivated and released nearly 5.3 million fish and crustaceans since 1991. The center is designed to help protect and responsibly manage natural resources, and contribute to the vitality of local communities. Each year, the center raises up to 100,000 redfish and spotted seatrout and releases them into Florida waters to support year-round fishing.

The Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) Florida is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving Florida's marine fisheries and coastal resources through advocacy, education, and habitat restoration. Representing more than 18,000 members statewide, including recreational anglers, conservationists, and outdoor enthusiasts, CCA Florida works to protect, enhance, and ensure the long-term sustainability of the state's marine ecosystems for current and future generations.

The Mote Marine Laboratory Aquaculture Research program was established in 2001 and is located 20 miles from the coast in Sarasota County. This 200-acre campus leverages innovative land-based recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) technology to supply sustainable seafood and bolster recreational fisheries.



FWC - Photo Credit: Partners from CCA and Duke Energy Florida work together to deliver hatchery-reared red drum fingerlings to the Energy and Marine Center in Port Richey, FL.



Wade Thomas - Photo Credit: Students view common snook reared at Mote Aquaculture Park (MAP) as part of Mote's Fisheries Stock Enhancement Program.



FWC - Photo Credit: Sickles High School students design a Recirculating Aquaculture System (RAS) to rear hatchery red drum provided by Duke Energy and CCA.



FWC - Photo Credit: A student at Ocoee High School rears both freshwater and saltwater fish onsite as part of the Aquaculture in the Classroom program.

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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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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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