



July 2005
Volume 1, Number 4
Upperkeysfishingclub.com

Upper Keys Fishing Club
P.O. Box 370484
Key Largo, FL 33037
Founded February 16 2005

Dock Talk

The Upper Keys Fishing Club Newsletter

- Next meetings** – Wednesday July 6, 7:00 PM, Yellow Bait House,
Mini-seminar – the Australian braid,
Capt. Denis Doome
Wednesday July 20 7:00 PM, Yellow Bait House,
Mini-seminar – lobstering
Sally Stribling
- Other happenings** - Bragging rights fishing tournament July 2 and 3
with barbecue at Rob Stewart's home to follow
on July 3 at 7:00 PM.
Capt. Doug will be teaching a yellowtail seminar
at Boaters World on the 20th of July at 5:00 P.M.
No cost with door prizes.

President's message

Well the weather has been great and the dolphin have arrived what more can we ask for. I would like to put out a request for all members to forward their fish photos and stories to the club for the web site. This is one of the things that keeps us all connected while we are all scattered up and down the east coast. OK, begging and pleading will not work so how about this: For the best fish story and the best fish picture I will offer a yellowtail trip and I will be the mate, I will bait the hook, I will take the fish off the hook and I will fetch drinks. You have to clean your own fish. I will only sink so low for a couple pictures and photos. To further sweeten the deal for each photo and story submitted, I will give you one raffle ticket, and at the end of the year we will draw from the accumulated tickets for the third spot on the fishing trip. For your chance to win send photos to Capt. Doug's fishing contest care of the fishing club. There are no limits on how many photos and stories you can submit.

Our membership is still growing in the next few weeks we should be singing up our 100th member. I am happy with the direction we are going. To all of you that are working so hard I would like to take this opportunity to say thank. A huge thanks goes out to Capt Ed Stell our web master and to Capt Tom Frankovich who has the toughest job of all keeping me on track. Thanks again Tom and Ed.

I hope to see all of you at this weekend's, bragging rights only fishing tournament and at the weenie roast after the fishing. This will be a good time to start your 365 days of bragging. Have a great weekend hope to see you at the meeting on the 6th. Capt. Doug

KEYS DAYDREAMING Vice-President's report, Mike MacDonald

I was fighting this huge monster fish, smoke was coming off my reel, it was hot and I was tired, suddenly it happened, my line broke and that FISH swam away with my best BILLY BAIT hanging out of his mouth. Of course, I then woke up and here I am "KEYS DAYDREAMING" in northern Michigan. I have to keep reminding myself how lucky we all are being able to spend any amount of time in PARADISE---THE KEYS.

I was talking to Capt Doug a while ago and of course he told me about catching more yellowtail in one hour than I've caught in my lifetime. Now I'm not doubting Capt Doug in any way, however as they say in Missouri---'SHOW ME'. Capt Doug I'm coming south soon. The flashing RED LIGHTS will be on---show me some TAILS.

until next time,

MikeMacDonald

Rebuttal, Capt Doug Jeffrey

I will be happy to show Mike all the yellowtail balled up behind the boat that he wants to see, but being his angling skills are probably rusty from lack of use since last winter, I cannot guarantee that any fish will wind up in the boat.

more KEYS DAYDREAMING



There is no need to daydream when you are catching nice stripers. Recently captained Bette Mead celebrated by catching a linesider near the Mead summer home in Montauk, Long Island. Congratulations Bette! See you in the fall.

Offshore Fishing Report, by Capt Doug Jeffrey

Well the big news is the dolphin. The bigger news is that they keep giving everyone the slip. Last week they were 9 to 15 miles offshore. This weekend they were thirty miles offshore. So it takes a little looking, if you have a little patience you will be rewarded. There are still a few wahoo around but they are a little on the small side and getting a little hard to find. Some nice Blackfin tuna are being found, most are coming close in about 500 feet of water. I have yet to hear of any yellowfin, but I keep hoping.

Reef Fishing Report, by Capt Doug Jeffrey

There have been some monster mangrove snapper being caught. I have seen mangroves that have approached 8 pounds. Most of them have been caught on live pilchards in 40 to 60 feet of water. The yellowtails are still on fire, there are some real nice 3 pound tails out there if you are willing to look for them. While on a recent yellowtail trip I was able to bag 5 muttuns. There are more muttuns starting to be caught. The best of them have been caught on ballyhoo plugs in about 100 feet of water. The grouper are still around the just take a lot of work to find them. Live pinfish are the ticket for the last of these holdout grouper.

Back-country Fishing Report, by Capt Doug Jeffrey

There are a few tarpon around most of them are being caught under the bridges or around the creek mouths during the falling tide. There are a few more bones being found on the flats for those that choose to hunt the grey ghosts. The redfish have been doing real well on the flats the best bait seems to be a small silver dollar crab.

Upper Keys Fishing Club News

At our our June 1 meeting, members were asked to check with the Yellow Bait House prior to meeting days with inclement weather. With the summer T-boomers, Capt Doug will notify the Yellow Bait House if the meeting is to be canceled or moved to a secure location (who knows Dick Cheney may even be there). The first Tortugas fishing trip is being planned for December 2 – 5. Please email Doug at captDougj@terranova.net if you plan to attend and for more details.

Bragging Rights Fishing Tournament

A bragging rights only fishing tournament will be held on July 2 and 3. The largest dolphin, wahoo, blackfin tuna, mutton snapper, mangrove snapper, and yellowtail will be acknowledged. Fish must be weighed in at the Yellow Bait House. A barbecue will follow at 7:00 PM July 3 at Rob Stewart's home in Key Largo. If you have any questions, call him at 305-853-1173. Directions will be emailed to club members. Club will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and condiments. Members are asked to bring a side-dish and drinks.

www.upperkeysfishingclub.com

Capt. Ed has kept us up to date on the Upper Keys Fishing Club website. Tournament entry forms, newsletters and important weather and fishing links are available. Member contributions to the website are welcome. Please email Capt. Ed at ejstell@a-zwww.com with your pictures and any other contributions. Also, check out some nice catches from where it is nice and cool. Ed shows us some nice catches of steelhead and lakers from Lake Michigan. If any of our presently out-of-state members have some summer photos, please share them with us.

UKFC Fishing Tournament by Capt John Ohlsson

The UKFC summer fishing tournament is just getting going. As of June 29, only yellowtail have been weighed in. Remember the three summer tournament species are yellowtail snapper, dolphin, and mangrove snapper. Awards go to the angler catching the largest fish in four divisions – Open, ladies, light tackle (12# test and under), and junior angler (under 16). That leaves the mangrove snapper and dolphin wide open.

Present standings

Yellowtail –	Open -	Capt. Doug Jeffrey -	4# 3 oz. – 5/27
	Light tackle -	Capt. Doug Jeffrey -	4# 3 oz. – 5/27
	Ladies -	Beverly Rowe -	3# 2 oz. – 6/22
Dolphin –	Open -	Sally Stribling -	24#5 oz. – 6/18
	Ladies -	Sally Stribling -	24#5 oz. – 6/18

Mangrove snapper – No entries

Keep those weigh-in slips coming in and remember all fish must be weighed in at the Yellow Bait House and turned in at the next meeting.

**Catches of the month – Yellowtail Snapper – Beverly Rowe
Dolphin – Sally Stribling**



Beverly Rowe caught this 3# 2oz. tournament leading yellowtail while sand-balling with husband John Rowe and Capt Doug Jeffrey aboard Beverly and John's boat the Winter Dream.



Sally's story - Went out on Memorial Day with my friend Trish from West Palm. We netted up some large pilchards in the morning in Largo Sound. That live bait really

has done the trick lately. We caught this fish. We also stopped on a patch on the way back in and used the rest of the Livies to bag some nice Mangroves. We could not get it to weigh in at Yellow Bait because the traffic was un-doable due to the closure of Card Sound Road Monday evening due to the fires. We weighed it at home and it weighed in at only 18 pounds. It was a cow and in hindsight I am lamenting the fact that I did not cast something out to the big bull that was circling her as we got here closer to the boat. I was trying to avoid a complete snootyburry. I weighed one in on Saturday at Yellow that was 24.5 . I am still looking to catch the granddaddy. Now I know I have to really work hard as new club member Sharon Delfante is sure to give me some troubles in the competition going forward.

Sal

Fish of the month – Mangrove snapper- *Lutjanus griseus*

The mangrove snapper like all snappers of the *Lutjanidae* family are distinguished by 1 - 2 enlarged canine teeth. As suggested by its species name, *griseus*, the mangrove snapper is also known as the gray snapper. Juvenile mangrove snapper are particularly abundant within mangrove prop roots in the back-country. Rarely do these back-country fish exceed 12 inches. It is at that size, that juvenile mangrove snapper leave the estuaries and head offshore to reefs or deep water structure. When this happens, their coloration changes from a rusty red to a duller gray. During June and July, adult mangrove snapper aggregate on the offshore reefs to spawn. This is one of the best times to catch them. Mangrove snapper commonly exceed five pounds and can reach 15+ on deeper wrecks and reefs. Individual mangrove snapper are quite shy to take a bait and often inspect a bait thoroughly before taking a bite. With a little current, when they have less time to inspect a possible meal, and with some competition from other mangrove snappers, their competitive instincts take over and some of their caution is thrown to the wind (or should we say - current). When these fish are excited during a feeding frenzy, the dark line from the snout and through the eyes darkens. Try throwing an unhooked piece of bait to an individual dock snapper and see what happens when others show up. What also often happens when a school of mangrove snapper are cautiously inspecting a bait, a grouper will bust in and say "I'm just going to inhale this bait if all you snapper are just going to look at it".

In the back-country, pink shrimp make up the bulk of the mangrove snapper diet. Offshore, their diet changes to match the availability of prey. They feed predominantly at night. Along the reefs, cigar minnows are preferred baits. For a treatise on snapper fishing see the relatively new book "Snapper and Grouper" put out by Florida Sportsman magazine.

Bait of the month – Cigar minnow (Round scad) – *Decapterus punctatus*

Cigar minnows are one of the small jacks (Family *Carangidae*) known as scads. Other common scads include goggle-eyes (*Selar crumenophthalmus*) and speedos (*Decapterus tabl*), both of which are larger than cigar minnows. Among other characteristics, cigar minnows are distinguished from speedos, goggle-eyes and other scads by the presence of small black spots along the front half of the lateral line. The species name *punctatus* is Latin for spotted. All of the jacks are characterized by deeply forked caudal (tail) fins that taper down to a slender strengthened base (the peduncle). It is this strengthened peduncle from which the cigar minnow gets its other common name the “hardtail”.

Cigar minnows are often present in large schools hanging at various depths in nearshore oceanic waters. Cigar minnows are best caught using the Sabiki or quill rig. Bring a few extra of these rigs with you because kingfish often slash through a loaded sabiki on the way up. Cigar minnows are excellent snapper baits fished whole either live or dead.

Trash Talk

A certain club member who is hosting the club barbecue this July 3rd states that he is a 5 : 1 favorite to take the first place dolphin honors at the bragging rights tournament. I currently put the odds at 2 : 3 that Rob gets beat by all of the women anglers as well as the junior anglers and the handicapped division. I’m thinking of entering my niece. She’s got a good shot at beating RS but I am not sure she’s big enough to see over the gunnels.

Fish Feast – Recipes from the Deep

Ceviche

Prepare a couple of cups of chunked trigger fish or cobia, then soak the fish in a mixture of ½ cup of lime juice and ½ cup of vinegar. Let the fish soak for one or two hours. Drain the liquid off of the fish then squeeze all the liquid out of the fish that you can. Now add to the drained fish chopped white onions, fresh chopped tomatoes, chopped green onions, garlic, chopped cilantro, and 1/8 cup of lime juice, and 2 tsp of vinegar. Stir and refrigerate. Serve with crackers and good company.

Mrs. Capt Doug’s fried fish recipe

Mix a ½ a cup of corn meal with ½ a cup of all purpose flour. Take you fish filets (hopefully boneless) and salt and pepper them to taste. Dip them in to the flour mixture. Then dip into a beaten egg then roll in Japanese bread crumbs drop into the hot oil (400-425 degrees) until golden brown. Enjoy with some southern cheese grits.

For Sale

Boats 22' Grady White Tournament with fly bridge	\$17,500
24" Proline	\$17,000

Contact Bob Brodtkin at 305-852-8284

For Rent

Buttonwood Bay condo – 2 Bedroom/ 1.5 Bath, available year-round or seasonal.
Contact Dick and Bette Mead for prices and details at thegoaweigh@juno.com or 631-734-6787

If any club members have items for sale that would be of interest to fellow anglers, we are seeking item descriptions. Please send these to frankovich@virginia.edu for future inclusion.

Tip Corner

This month's tip is provided by Darrell Primrose of Ballyhood "Top Gun" Lures

Some helpful trolling tips:

Normal trolling speeds are between 6 and 8 knots depending on sea conditions. The general rule of thumb is to keep the lures as close to the boat as possible **without them flying out of the water!** Blackfin tuna fishing is an exception, then the feathers and lures should be run very far from the boat. The lures are best when they are running along the face of the wave. When the lures are running properly, you will notice a pattern or rhythm to them. Lure head shape is important in setting up your spread. Bullet nose lures are run closest to the boat as they run the smoothest. Jet heads or any concave heads (bubblers) are run further back in calmer water well outside of the prop wash. Birds, Daisy chains or other attractors are run the furthest back. If the sea is calm or the bite is slow, increasing boat speed may improve the fishing. Just keep in mind that whenever the boat speed is changed, the lure position will have to be adjusted.

Special Thanks to our members and friends that have supported our activities

Ballyhood Top Gun Lures www.ballyhood.com

Kallis Ford 207-338-1300

MacDonald Marine 1-800-482-7910

Yellow Bait House 305-451-0921
Capt. Chan's Gulfstream 305-451-9788
Ludington Charter Service 1-877-272-0688
Ice Group 1-800-605-3545
First State Bank 305-451-3033



Kallis Ford

