

June 2006  
Volume 2, Number 6  
Upperkeysfishingclub.com



Upper Keys Fishing Club  
P.O. Box 370484  
Key Largo, FL 33037  
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## Dock Talk

### The Upper Keys Fishing Club Newsletter

**Next meeting** – Wednesday June 7, 7:00 PM, Lighthouse Boat Center  
Mini-seminar – Fishing the Indian River Lagoon, special  
guest Captain Gus Brugger  
June event - Fish Fry, 7:00 Sat. June 17, Sally Stribling's  
home, 12 Bass Ave., Key Largo



### "Banner Day!"

**Catches of the month** - **Rob "Soul Train" Stewart, Tom Mulligan and John Pieklo** with a 38#, 24#, and 26# dolphin caught on Rob's "Sea Vee Chi" on 5/20. John caught the big one on 12# test line!

## **President's message** by Capt Doug Jeffrey

With all of the winter residents safely back up north the club have been holding its own. At the last meeting it was standing room only due to all the chairs being full. When Mike purchased the chairs he was wondering if we would be able to fill them during the season, and never figured we could fill them in the summer. It is good to see the membership participating during the meetings and at the club functions. The dinner at Whale Harbor had 18 members attending with several last minute cancellations due to a long day of fishing and too much sun. I will be leaving town for the Midwest and will be gone until the 24<sup>th</sup> of June, I hope back in time to make the club fish fry on the night of the 24<sup>th</sup> check the news letter for more details. The June meeting will be held at the Lighthouse Boat Center on June the 7<sup>th</sup>, Tom and Whit will be running the meeting. The club is doing well we are still picking up new members at a steady pace of 1 or 2 a month. Some of the original members are still sending in renewal money, so if you have not sent in your 2006 dues please send it in. Have a great month I will see you when I get back the end of June.

## **Offshore Fishing Report, Capt. Doug**

Well it's about time the slammer dolphins have finally arrived. As you can see by the photos even Rob Soul-train Stewart was able to drag one over the gunnels. John Pieklo and Tom Mulligan went along to provide Rob some company and were able to hook up as well. Reports of scattered wahoo are still coming in as well as some nice blackfins in the 20lb range. Capt. Tom caught a Sailfish and a cooler full of schoolies. Plenty of members are catching fish now lets see them on the club web site. When you catch those bragging fish do not forget to sent a copy of the photo to either Capt Tom or to Capt Ed Stell the Webmaster. This is the time of the year when things are happening so load up that boat and go in search of big fish, if Rob can do it so can you.



Larry Ruggiero  
27# Blackfin tuna

## Reef Fishing Report, Capt. Doug



Benny Nelson  
9# Black grouper

There is plenty of action of action on the reef. The yellowtails are biting in 90-140 feet of water. There are also a few 20 pound mutttons being caught. The grouper are still biting but seem to have slowed down. The king fish that just vanished have returned to the reef last week Capt. Chan boated 12 of them in a day. This action should remain constant until the water starts to get hot then it will be lobster time anyway so get out there while the fish are a biting.

## Special seminar "Fishing the Indian River Lagoon", Capt. Gus Brugger

Wednesday June 7, 7:00 PM, Lighthouse Boat Center

At our upcoming June meeting, we will have a special guest seminar speaker, Capt. Gus Brugger. Gus will be talking about fishing for snook, tarpon, redfish, and gator seatrout (to 12#!) in the Indian River Lagoon. Capt. Gus has been a full-time captain and Indian River guide since 1991. Check out Pattern Setter Charters at [www.sebastianfishingguides.com](http://www.sebastianfishingguides.com). Prior to 1991, Gus also captained the "Captain Kidd" an offshore bottom-fishing boat out of Captain Hiram's in Sebastian. He specializes in light tackle and fly-fishing but also ventures outside of Sebastian Inlet to tangle with kingfish, cobia, and large jack crevalle to 35#+. Gus also writes for Florida Outdoor Monthly ("The Marlin" restaurant gets it) where he covers action on the central Florida east coast. After Gus's seminar, we will gather and find a local watering hole for some wings and beer. Hope to see you there.

## Upper Keys Fishing Club News, Whit Van Cott

The May 3 rd. meeting at the Light House Boat Center began with a discussion on what club members were catching , where , and with what . The dolphin had slowed down except for those caught in 900 plus feet . Capt. Doug indicated he had a good day with over 50 nice yellow tail . There were also some reports on grouper and mutttons.

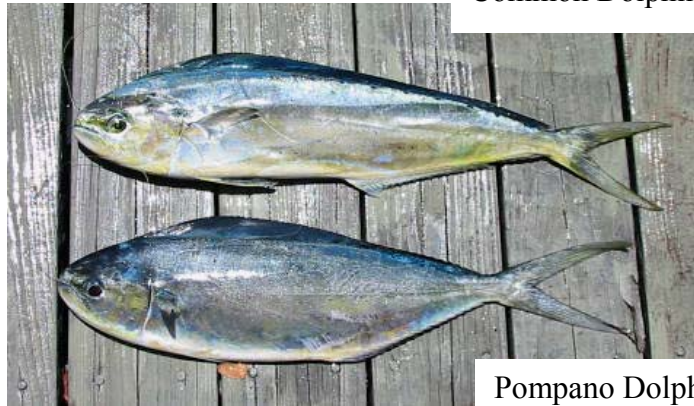
Sally Stribling looked into getting our new club logo embroidered on shirts and hats. The decision was made that club members would provide the shirts and hats at a club meeting and for 8 dollars each we would have the embroidery done .

Our next meeting was the all you could eat buffet at Whale Harbor on May 20th. About 20 members attended and feasted on Dungeness crabs, shrimp, beer and plus dessert. All went home a few pounds heavier. The June 7 th. meeting will be at the Light House Boat Center at 7 pm. with the topic being the double hooking of ballyhoo . There is also a cook out scheduled for June 24 th. at Sally Stribling's , dish to pass , and BYOB .

Capt. Doug provided a demonstration on doing a single pin rig for ballyhoo . He also showed everyone how to rig the ballyhoo with a mono leader , which he felt was a better set up when fishing for dolphin.

### **Fish of the month – Pompano dolphin - *Coryphaena equisetus***

Common Dolphin (cow)



Pompano Dolphin

Back in last year's May issue of Dock Talk, we featured our familiar dolphin. We also mentioned the sister species - the pompano dolphin. At that time, we did not have a photo to illustrate the morphological differences between the species. Small cow dolphin of the common variety are easily confused with the pompano dolphin. Pictured above are the two species side by side. Pompano dolphin grow to a maximum of only 30" or five pounds. Both sexes of the pompano dolphin are similar. Male pompano dolphin have sloping heads just like the females. The best distinguishing character for pompano dolphin is the deeper body profile with a more rounded belly (like a jack). This contrasts with the straight belly of the regular dolphin. Pompano dolphin are also a little paler yellow in color and have smaller spots than the more familiar dolphin. Many anglers have never heard of pompano dolphin, even though young pompano dolphin are often more abundant than the young of the common dolphin. You probably have caught some, but just overlooked them assuming they were small cows of the regular variety. So on your next dolphin trip, keep an eye out for the pompano dolphin.

## **Bait of the month - Flyingfish - Family *Exocoetidae***

Some of you may have known about the 2 species of dolphin, but how about flyingfish? There are actually 12, yes twelve, species of flyingfish in our waters. Flying fish belong to the same family as ballyhoo (i.e., *Exocoetidae*) and both are characterized by single dorsal and anal fins that are positioned far back next to the caudal fin or tail. This adaptation, along with wing-like pectoral and pelvic fins, allows them to glide in the air. Flyingfish come in 2 varieties - monoplanes and biplanes. The monoplane variety have long pectoral fins and **short** pelvic fins. The biplane variety have both long pectoral fins and **long** pelvic fins. In our waters, 2 species are most common, both are of the biplane variety. These are: the Margined flyingfish (*Cypselurus cyanopterus*) and the Atlantic flyingfish (*Cypselurus melanurus*). Flying fish are trolled baits, but most trollers use artificials with blue and white skirts or blue and white feathers to imitate these baitfish.

## **Hotspot of the month - The Elbow Wreck - 25 07.649, 80 14.073**

What is known as the "Elbow Wreck" lies in about 190 feet of water and is about a mile and a half southeast of the light on Elbow Reef. The wreck is also known as the Northern Light Wreck. The Northern Light was a 300 ft. schooner barge carrying a load of phosphate rock when it went down in a storm in 1930. The Elbow wreck is known for good bottom fishing. African pompano also school above it, as Anthony Tramontano recently found out while trying to get a ballyhoo down to the bottom for some grouper.



Anthony Tramontano  
African Pompano

## **Keys Daydreaming - Mike MacDonald**

AAAHH- Florida Keys dolphin. I've heard rumors of some nice catches. One fish is rumored to have a head bigger than one of our leaders. Normally the length or weight is measured, but I've never heard of a head measurement. Must be something wrong with the dolphin. However I am impressed (not really). I'm going to go out on a limb- it doesn't take much of a captain to catch dolphin when the "BITE IS ON". You could troll a clothespin and probably hook-up. Now out onto limb #2- it's us snowbirds that have to search 10,000 square miles of rough ocean to find one schoolie or if luck is with us- hook a

gaffer. Now I must admit I'd like to catch a boatload as fast as I could reel them in and then "BRAG"- but of course I'm a humble man and would simply go quietly about my business.

As I sit here "KEY'S DAYDREAMING" I'm a little jealous of a certain Captain that lives bayside near Key Largo. What the heck- go ahead and "BRAG". This will only make me more determined to out fish you this winter when you truly have to fish to catch-em. Until then I'm "KEY'S DAYDREAMING".

Mike MacDonald- Board member at large

### **Tip Corner – Schoolie dolphin rig holder - Sharon Spangler**



Back in last year's June issue of Dock Talk, we discussed a tip from Capt. Joe Herzog concerning making leader rigs for schoolie dolphin. Storing these rigs can be a bit cumbersome, though. Joe used a piece of cardboard, which became useless when wet. Capt. John Ohlson stored his rigs on a styrofoam "noodle" (when he wasn't not floating on the noodle on his canal, that is). Sharon presented her modification of a commercially available hook holder to club members at this last month's meeting. Her design is the best yet. The commercially available hook holder is only about 12" long and therefore much too short for the 24" leaders needed for the schoolies. Sharon recommends a simple solution: Cut the commercially available hook holder (Yellow Bait house has them) into two parts at the middle seam and splice in a 24" section of 3/4" PVC. Secure PVC to 2 halves of original hook holder using epoxy. Done. Pictured above is the one I made in 5 minutes after seeing Sharon's. Thanks Sharon!

### **Fishing with Intelligence, Capt. Doug**

What makes for a good fishing trip, prior planning. Before you leave the dock you should always plan the day, and that should start a couple of days in advance. Your first decision is what are you planning to fishing for. Once that is decided start to do some research what and where are the fish your are seeking being caught. How deep, what time, what bait. For us up here a real good guide is what happened in Islamorada yesterday. For the most part things will remain most of the time constant.

If they were catching fish in 800 feet of water the next day we should be seeing fish in 800 feet of water. Also check with local bait houses they do know what is going on and will tell you if you ask. If you know a local Captain give them a call these guys network and use teamwork to locate fish, try using it as well. Another good source is to ask friend that regularly fish they will have their own network as well and can provide some great heads ups when it comes to locating fish. When you have a plan, stick to it unless something concrete causes you to modify the plan. If you are fishing in 800 feet and are not catching fish but you see a lot of boats gathered up in 500 feet break the plan and check it out. Fishing with a plan will increase your fish and save a lot of time and gas running around trying to figure what to do next.

### **Fish Feast – Recipes from the Deep**



### **Huevos revueltos**



Egg-filled ovaries from a cow dolphin

Tired of eating dolphin (dorado) yet? We have a recipe for the adventuresome angler that wishes to experience some of the finer delicacies of tablefare. Yup, those are the ovaries of dolphin pictured above, and no "revueltos" is **not** Spanish for revolting!, but yes, dolphin eggs are good to eat (but probably high in cholesterol - have to check that out in *Joy of Cooking*). Dolphin eggs can even be found for sale at Key Largo Fisheries. "Huevos revueltos" is Spanish for scrambled eggs. In fact, some say scrambled dolphin eggs taste similar to chicken eggs (but then again, everything tastes like chicken). The ovaries can be broken apart with a fork, sauteed with a little butter, dashed with hot sauce and then spread onto some Cuban bread for a scrambled fish egg sandwich.

Giv'em a taste, if you got the guts (dolphins guts, that is!).

## Florida Fishing Regulations

Dolphin - 20" fork length, 10 per person per day (That's a lot of meat!)

## Subject index for all issues of Dock Talk

Looking for some info. not in this month's Dock Talk? Check the following index. All previous issues of Dock Talk are available at [www.upperkeysfishingclub.com](http://www.upperkeysfishingclub.com).

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