



September 2005
Volume 1, Number 6
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 meeting – Wednesday September 7, 7:00 PM, Yellow Bait House,
Mini-seminar – bead-chain rig, Rob Stewart

Upcoming events - Tortugas fishing trips – Dec. 9 –11, Jan. 16-18
Reservations and deposit required. See Club News.

President's message

Well friends, another month has flown by. There a lot of things going on and a lot that will be starting soon. The Tortugas trip is coming together real nice. Anyone who is planning on going please contact Tom Frankovich (frankovich@virginia.edu, 305-852-2668) to reserve a seat.

To all of you that call and email me I will be away from my phone and email from Labor Day until the 18th of October, I am going to the Philippines on a diving and fishing trip. I will take lots of photos and be only too happy to share them with anyone that will look at them. The big Yellowfins should be running and I hope to catch my share. I hope to catch a stray Wahoo as well and will try to keep everyone posted.

Tom and I are going to try to keep in touch via e-mail so I can keep you all posted on the fishing.

The fishing club received some very sad news, one of our first members passed away. Frank Kolek was one of the individuals that was instrumental in the formation of the Upper Keys Fishing Club. When we were in our first days he never missed a meeting and was always willing to offer a solution to a problem. Many times when I felt I was in over my head Frank would tell me I was doing a good job, and to keep it up and we would have a great club. Well my friends it is members like Frank and all of you that make us great and it hurts to lose even one member. Frank will be missed and I wish to offer our condolences to all of Frank's family and friends. Frank we bid you fair winds and following seas, we will miss you.

Capt. Doug and the entire membership

I would like for our club members to set an example on the water. If someone has a question about rules or laws please feel free to ask me, and if I do not know the answer, I will find the answer for you. I want this to be fair warning, to those of

you that I have happened upon these past couple of weekends I kept my promise and kept you out of Dock Talk. However you are now fair game and have been warned. If I see any underage grandchildren or children without life jackets or bow-riding not only will I put it in the newsletter but I will include a photo. It would break my heart to have to respond to a call about an injured child. I know that children do not like to wear life jackets, well if that is the case blame it on me and tell the grandkids Capt. Doug is a jerk and will throw you in jail if he catches you without their lifejackets on. I would rather healthy kids' think I am mean, than injured children think I am nice.

Capt. Doug

Frank L. Kolek

July 11, 1924



July 27, 2005



“A Final Salute”

We are deeply saddened to report the passing of one of our founding members, Frank Kolek, who passed away this July. Frank preserved our freedoms in this great country by serving in both World War II and Korea, and for this we are forever indebted and thankful. As many of you know, Frank was an avid hunter and fisherman and hunted and fished in many of the great places on this Earth including Colorado, Montana, Mexico and Africa. I am sure many of you warmly remember

Frank. He was a regular at the Yellow Bait House seminars and often sat up in front on the left hand side. He was instrumental in setting up the Upper Keys Fishing Club. He made a lasting contribution to the club by making sure that the interests of the wintertime resident club members were explicitly represented by a required wintertime resident club officer. We remember Frank and his daughter Marilyn on the March yellowtail trip aboard the Gulfstream. Frank was too ill to fish, but he sailed with us anyway because he wanted to be with us just the same; he knew what was important. It was the being with friends and exchanging stories; the fishing was secondary. There is a lot of Frank in all of us and we will miss him greatly. I know he will be with us and watching over us on our Tortugas trips. God bless you Frank, Tight lines in heaven.

Offshore Fishing Report, by Capt Doug Jeffrey

While the dolphins have been a little slow, there have been some real nice wahoo around. There have been some real nice schools of kingfish set up on the reefs in 180 to 200 feet of water. If this gets you excited, try trolling live bait between Davis Reef and Alligator light in 180 to 200 feet of water. The tuna are on the real small side and are not really worth the trouble. As the water starts to cool, the tuna and dolphin should return, and there should be more wahoo's and kings to be had.

Reef Fishing Report, by Capt Doug Jeffrey

Well the past few weeks it seems that the reef has shut down. The water is just so hot that the fish do not seem interested in the baits, well unless you are a blue runner. There are still a few grouper coming from the deeper water. The mutttons have almost shut down but fire back up when the water starts to cool in October.

Back-country Fishing Report, by Capt Doug Jeffrey

Well the redfish are as thick as fleas; the snook are easy to find and catch, and the smaller tarpon are so plentiful they can be a pest. The bonefish are in the deeper water and are a little hard to get on a fly but fall victim to a shrimp or crab. Speaking of shrimp and crabs they will also account for their share of permit.

KEYS DAYDREAMING Vice-President's report, Mike MacDonald

MAINE LOBSTERS & CHICKENS

On August 5-12 Carolyn and myself had the pleasure of visiting Scott & Sara Kallis in Belfast Maine. They have a beautiful home overlooking Belfast Bay, complete with 10 foot tides, seals (big fat ones), and of course CHICKENS. One of my goals was to eat lobster (7 big guys, 5 lbs of clams, lobster rolls, haddock, plus a lot of other great items like fresh wild Maine blueberries). Scott & Sara took us

sightseeing for several days and lunch every day at some funky waterside restaurant (very similar to some Keys places). We also had a loner car courtesy of Kallis Auto Group which Carolyn & I used to tour Acadia National Park.

Now about the chickens - our own Scott Kallis is a chicken rancher. He purchased 6 hens, however by my count there were 3 hens and 3 roosters. These chickens have feet the size of snowshoes (mostly feathers) and when Scott calls his precious chickens (or girls as he calls them), those chickens come running heads held high like they are leading the band. This trip happened because of the fishing club. Without it we would have never met. By the way Scott and Sara are infected with "KEYS DAYDREAMING". To our hosts thanks for a great time.

Mike MacDonald

Upper Keys Fishing Club News – UKFC reaches 100!

This past month, the Upper Keys Fishing Club enlisted its 100th member. Congratulations Gerda Fletcher you have won a brand new used car (white station wagon, smells like bait) and you can pick it up at Capt. Doug's house (keys are in it under the floor mat, best to pick it up before dawn). Club members have been keeping it real with a summertime skeleton crew. We all look forward to the cooler fall and winter months when our friends return and the winter fishing turns on for kings, wahoo and sails.

On August 17, a club meeting was held at the Yellow Bait House. The Tortugas fishing trips were discussed. Two trips are planned – Friday thru Sunday December 9 – 11 and Monday thru Wednesday January 16 – 18. Costs are \$425 per person. A \$225 deposit is required to reserve a space on one of the boats. Spots are limited to 18 persons per trip. We are accepting deposits and reservations for members only until September 3 for the December trip, after which we will open reservation to non-member guests. The short time frame for this first trip was necessary because of the need to reserve the boats prior to Capt. Doug's departure to the Phillipines. Please send an email to me at frankovich@virginia.edu if you have any questions. Requests for a reservation and deposits can be sent to the club address listed on the letterhead (page 1). Please send me an email so I can expect them.

Recall the 6 P's described in the May newsletter (UKFC 1: 2) – Proper preparation prevents p*!# poor performance. Well, Capt. Doug gave a mini-seminar this last month on lobster season preparation and net maintenance and how to replace the netting in your lobster nets (see below). Sally Stribling provided some nets that, mysteriously, were not doing a good job of entangling lobster.



BEFORE

AFTER

Enough said?

On Saturday, August 18, a surf and turf barbecue was held at John and Barbara Pieklo's Home. About 20 members and guests attended and were treated to grilled lobster (see Recipe of the Month) and steak. We ate like royalty and drank from the king's own chalice (actually it was John Ohlsson's flask of scotch) and then retired to John Pieklo's chikee with the Dolphins game on the TV. Thanks to John and Barbara for the hospitality, to Sally Stribling for catching and providing the lobster, to Paul Andrews for donating the ice and to John Pieklo and Tom Mulligan for manning the grill and to everyone else who brought food.

www.upperkeysfishingclub.com

Besides Capt. Ed Stell, the Upper Keys Fishing Club website is dependent upon you. In order to keep things fresh and new, Ed needs stories and pictures to keep the site interesting. Unfortunately we are still showing pictures from the spring. If this sounds identical to last month's website update, that's because it is. We need your input. Capt. Ed is doing a great job posting our newsletter, membership forms and tournament entry forms, but he needs help from all of us. Please email Capt. Ed at ejstell@a-zwww.com with your pictures and any other contributions.

UKFC Fishing Tournament by Capt John Ohlsson

The UKFC summer fishing tournament is soon coming to a close (Sept. 30). The standings as of August 25 are listed below. 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). Only 30 more days to weigh-in fish for the summer tourney. Let's get that light tackle dolphin and mangrove snapper on the board!

Present UKFC Fishing Tournament 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
	Light tackle -	Open	
	Ladies -	Sally Stribling	24#5 oz. – 6/18
Mangrove snapper –	Open -	Gary Stills	7#5 oz. – 7/6
	Light tackle –	Open	
	Ladies -	Open	

Junior angler – all categories open

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.

Catch of the month – Yellowtail – Dave Hartwell

Dave caught a very respectable yellowtail (3# 15 oz.) that was only 4 ounces off the mark for the lead in the summer tournament. Dave was fishing with Capt. Chan on the Gulfstream. Keep up the hard work Dave!, you just might steal the lead from the current leader.

Fish of the month – Common Snook- *Centropomus undecimalis*

Being that September 1 is the reopening of the snook season, we chose to feature this champion inshore gamefish for the month of September. Snooks are lie-and-wait predators that arguably provide the most exciting and challenging top-water action. They often strike a walked Zara Spook with reckless abandon and when they feel the pressure of the rod, they head right towards the mangrove prop roots or any structure unseen to the angler. The angler must use all of his or her skills to keep these fish away from the structure that almost always means freedom to the snook.

Snooks, AKA linesiders, are the saltwater equivalent of the freshwater pikes and pickerels. They are estuarine fish most often found in brackish waters (a mixture of fresh and salt waters). This is likely a reflection of their evolutionary origins from freshwater. Snooks are present in the tropical waters of Florida, approximately from Tampa Bay south on the west coast and from a little further north on the east coast because of the warming influence of the Gulfstream during wintertime. Snooks prefer

water temperature above 70°F. Temperatures in the 60's and below can be lethal, so quick moving wintertime cold fronts can cause massive snook kills in shallow waters. The wintertime closure of the snook season aims to prevent the easy overharvesting of temperature-stunned snook during these events. The summertime closure protects the large gathering of breeding fish that stage in the inlets prior to the spawn.

There are four snook species in South Florida. As the name implies, the common snook is the one most often caught by Florida anglers and is also the species reaching the largest sizes (50+ pounds is possible). The three other snook species often fail to meet the minimum size (i.e., 26 inches) of the common snook, so almost all legal snook catches are common snook. The Fat Snook (*Centropomas parallelus*) will reach 24 inches and is the largest of the lesser species. It is distinguished from the common snook by the deep body, making it appear fatter from the dorsal (top) surface to the ventral (belly) surface. The Swordspine Snook (*Centropomas ensiferus*) only grows to about 12 inches and is characterized by an anal fin spine that is much longer than the other snook species. The Tarpon Snook (*Centropomas pectinatus*, to 20 inches) is easy to recognize by its upturned mouth, similar to that of the tarpon. A close cousin from down under (Australia and New Guinea) is the world-renowned barramundi with the paddle-shaped tail.

Bait of the month – Pilchard (Scaled sardine) – *Harengula jaguana*

The baitfish locally known as pilchards (Scaled sardines – *Harengula jaguana*) are one of the most common baitfish in the backcountry and nearshore waters of the Florida Keys and are a commonly-used live bait for snook. Along the Florida west coast, they are known as whitebait. They are also aptly known as sawbellies because of the sharp ventral scutes along the ventral margin that are common to all members of the Herring (*Clupeidae*) family. Similar, though less common species, include the Redear Sardine (*Harengula humeralis*) and the False Pilchard (*Harengula clupeola*), both of which are distinguished from the Scaled Sardine by an orange spot “ear mark” on the gill cover. Look for schools of these baitfish under birds. They can also be gathered by chumming and then caught with the cast-net.

Fish Feast – Recipes from the Deep

Grilled Split-tail Lobster – provided by Sally Stribling

This month we move up to the real lobster, not the poor-man's type featured in last month's newsletter (UKFC 1: 5). This was how the lobster was prepared at the recent UKFC Surf and Turf at the Pieklo home.

Blanch lobster tails in boiling water for 2- 3 minutes. Remove from water, spit the lobster tails down the middle using shears to produce two half tails per lobster. Place tail halves (shell side down) on grill on medium heat. Drizzle melted butter with

minced garlic over tail meat. Grill for no longer than 5 minutes. Remove from grill and enjoy.

For Sale

9' 12- weight Penn International Fly Rod with Penn International Reel, rod tube, reel case, backing and line. - \$400

9' 8-weight Penn International Fly Rod with Readington Reel, backing, line, rod tube, reel case. - \$250

Contact Tom at frankovich@virginia.edu or 305-852-2668.

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 Tom at frankovich@virginia.edu for future inclusion.

Tip Corner – Weed Solutions – Capt. Doug Jeffrey

Recall how many scattered weeds were present offshore last month?, and do you remember constantly clearing your lines? If so, this month's tip might help you out a bit when the weeds are scattered and abundant. One way to keep your ballyhoo free from weeds a little longer is to put some clothes on that naked ballyhoo, and because all ballyhoo are either female, cross-dressers, or Scottish, they like to wear skirts. Most of you probably already knew that, but did you know that you can keep your swivel clear from collecting too much weed by also using a skirt. To do this, get some of those small four-inch octopus skirts and position one of these just above your swivel. If you are trolling for tuna or dolphin, there is little worry of a cut-off, but if wahoo are around, you may have to weigh the possibility of a possible wahoo strike.

Florida Fishing Regulations

September 1 is the opening of snook season. Regulations permit one snook per person 26 – 34 inches in length. Good Luck.

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

- Kallis Ford 207-338-1300
- MacDonald Marine 1-800-482-7910
- Ludington Charter Service 1-877-272-0688
- Ice Group 1-800-605-3545

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