



BIG Bragger

"Because Everybody's Got A Fishing Story To Tell!"

FREE

SHOW OFF YOUR BEST FISHING PICTURES!

DECEMBER 2020
Space Coast

HUGE SWORD!

50 GREAT PHOTOS!

Florida Captain Monica Flesher flaunts this daytime broadbill after patiently working the bottom for hours and it paid off with this 330-pound, behemoth Atlantic swordfish!



BIG BRAGGER AWARD!
See inside why this guy won our prestigious monthly award on page 23.



BAHAMIAN BRAGGER
Check out page 30 and see what this crazy guy is up to!

Inside:

Your best fishing pictures of the month from saltwater to freshwater. Remember, there's nothing wrong with bragging!

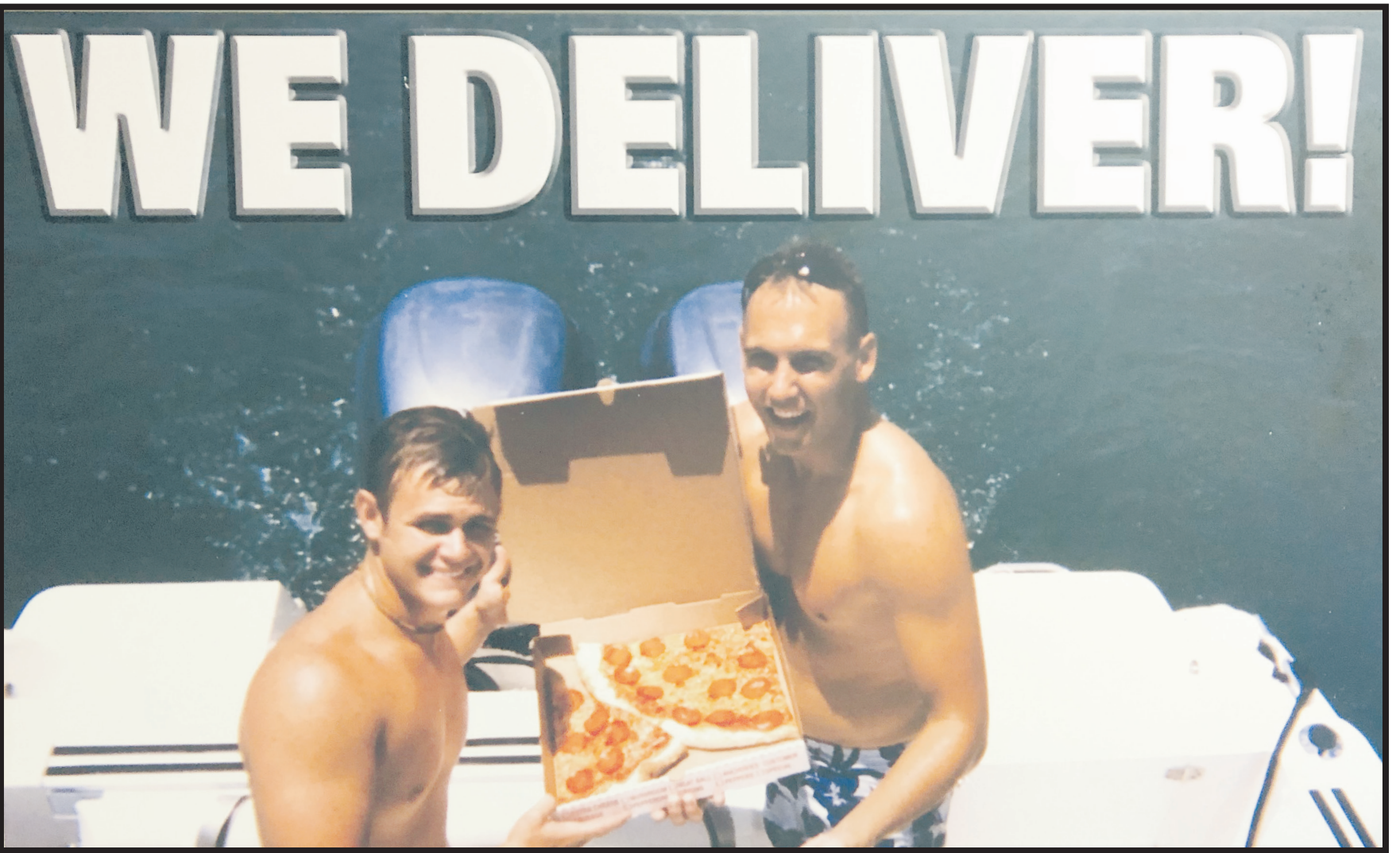


SCAN ME



**Everything
you need
on and off
the water!**





BY CRAIG
KRAUS

GOOD LUCK TO BIG BRAGGER!

Almost 16 years ago my son Andy Kraus, his University of Florida roommate Kyle Passkiewicz and I were cruising a couple hundred yards offshore from Sebastian Inlet to Port Canaveral.

At the time, I owned a 29' Wellcraft Coastal that I ventured to Walkers Cay and everywhere in between. This day just happened to be a beer and Doritos run with the college boys up the coast.

Right about the time my stomach was growling for something with a little more substance, I noticed we were approaching the Indialantic boardwalk area.

I could see tons of people on the beach and remembered that there was a great pizza place nestled in the plaza at the north end of the boardwalk.

I don't know why, but in an instant I grabbed the throttles and quickly slammed into neutral bringing the boat to a pretty quick stop considering we were cruising about 30 MPH.

Well, one of the guys yelled, "What The X?!X#!" as I started to reach in my pocket for some cash.

"Okay gentlemen, let's test your manhood and dedication to solving my hunger problem," I explained. "Swim to shore and get 3 pepperoni slices."

Well, I thought they would throw a fit and tell me where to stick it. However, these are seniors at UF who've been dared to do much greater feats during a beer-pong game. Andy snatched the cash out of my hand and Kyle was

already in the water. They both swam toward shore - let's say it was about 100 yards - as I laughed thinking they will just turn around and surrender the task.

As the Indialantic lifeguard was screaming and blowing her whistle for me to move away from the 'Swimmers Zone' I began to make a big circle. By the time I looked out the boys were sprinting up the beach high-fiving and making their way to pizza heaven.

Sure enough, 10 minutes later here they come walking down the beach entering the surf.

I thought to myself, this will be interesting.

As they began to get waist and then shoulder-deep, Kyle at 6'4" took control of the pizza box for the next 10 yards. Then they took turns holding the box out of the water over their heads as they swam all the way to the boat!

And I have a tell you, as God as my witness, there was not a drop of water on those slices. I was more proud of those guys completing the dare than if they'd gotten straight A's their senior year.

As we opened the box and devoured our slices I said, "Great job boys! You made it happen but where's my change?" I think Andy handed me a couple of soggy one dollar bills and we all laughed almost all the way to Port Canaveral.

The next week, I blew up the above photo of the dynamic duo holding the pie and the headline: 'We Deliver!' I brought it to Gainesville where they proudly displayed

it behind their make-shift bar in their apartment for all their friends to see. Talk about a conversation piece!

Well, little did I know that Andy would grow up to be a successful advertising executive and television personality and start this Big Bragger publication. And now, in a way, he's still "Delivering" but this time to avid fishermen up and down the Space Coast.

As for me, just yesterday he handed me a twenty dollar bill at the office and sent me to fetch his lunch as he was busy preparing Big Bragger's first edition. Fortunately, I drove and didn't have to swim.

Paybacks are hell.



Over time we gave up pizza and became pretty good offshore fishermen!



FREE

"Because Everybody's Got A Fishing Story To Tell"
BIG Bragger
SHOW OFF YOUR BEST FISHING PICTURES!

Big Bragger is a monthly publication serving the Space Coast in Brevard County, Florida. Residents are encouraged to email their great fishing pictures to andykraus@live.com to be considered for publication.



For Advertising Information
Call (321) 750-1059



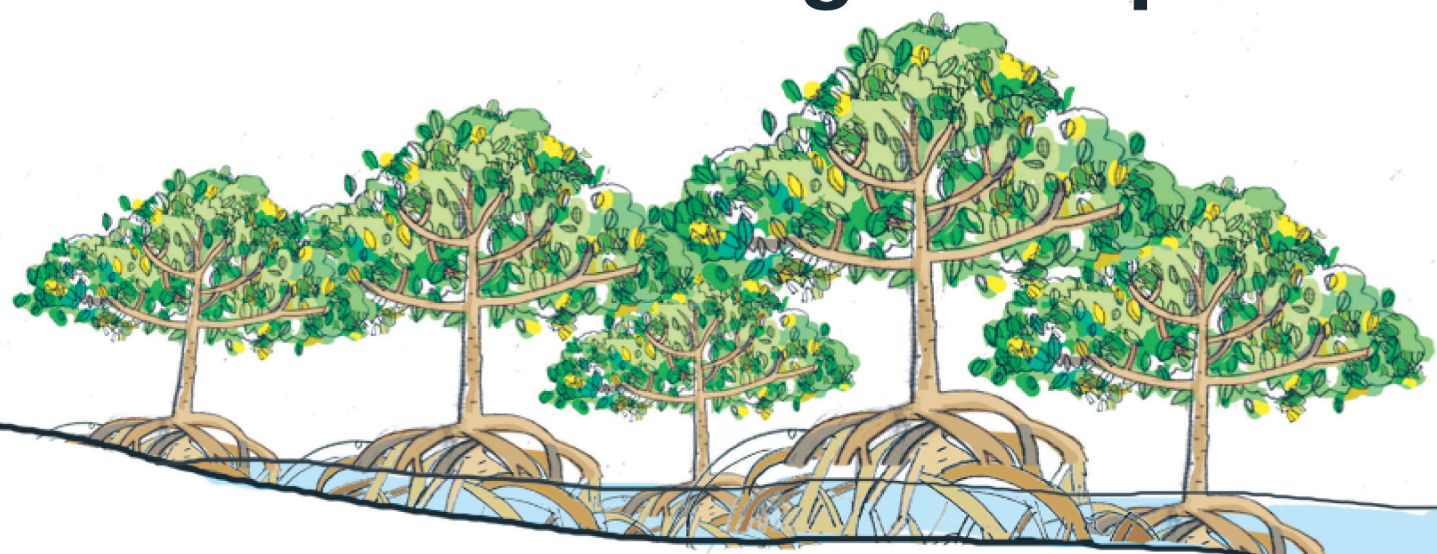
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Indian River Lagoon Update



MRC

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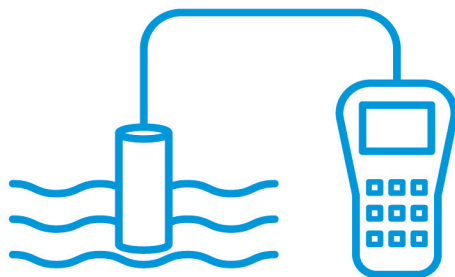
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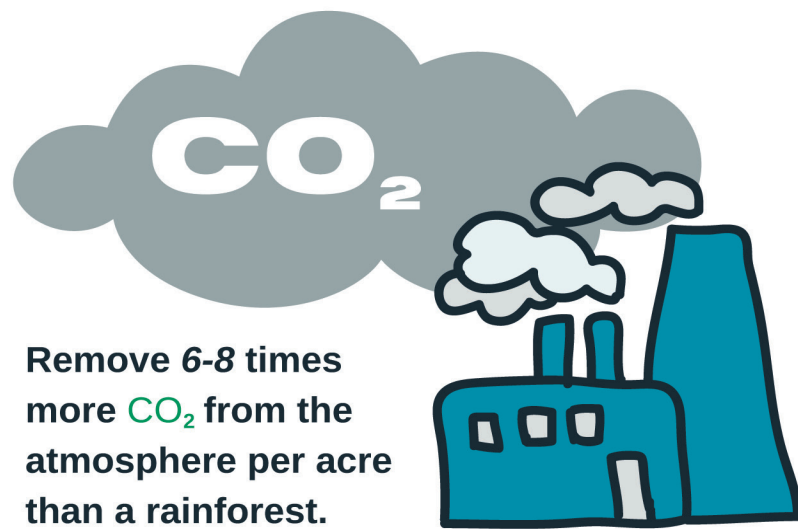
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80%

-MANGROVES, due to shoreline development and human activity. These aquatic trees are a vital component in the fight to restore the health of the Indian River Lagoon. Mangroves are hardy and can thrive in polluted, low oxygen, & salinity fluctuating waters. The trees absorb vast amounts of harmful pollutants, nitrogen and phosphorus, while providing essential habitat for our fisheries and bird populations.

***The Marine Resources Council needs your help to grow and plant mangroves today. Please become a member, subscribe, & donate at SaveTheIRL.org. The MRC only succeeds through your love of the lagoon.**



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Blackfin Friday

Mike Benton of Palm Shores hauled in this nice blackfin tuna at dawn in October trolling a weedline in 125 feet out of Sebastian Inlet. It blasted the shotgun rod before the crew could even get the rest of the lines in the water.

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FLORIDA



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Ryan Pell, Bob DiMeo and Captain Eric Metcalf, owner of Attitude Adjustment Fishing Charters. These snook were caught outside the Sebastian Inlet State Park pier.



The Longdogger Boys Strike Again!
L/R Corey Davis, Bob DiMeo and Al Steingiga display this beautiful Red!



Get Snookie With It!

1 SKIN IT!
1. Break off beak and go tip-to-tip.
2. Roll it on.
3. Cover your 'hoof'

2 STICK IT!
1. Align pin rig and hook with 'hoof'.
2. Stick pin through underside of 'hoof' and bring hook to side.

3 SCREW IT!
1. Thread coil of pin rig onto pin.
2. Screw coil tightly onto head.
Dredge Rig will look like this.

HAPPY ENDING!

4 NAKED!
Chain weight secured by rubber band.



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Blood Bath!

Andy Kraus of Viera gaffs a nice 20lb bull in mid October. His crew on the *Bull Lur'em* 25' SeaHunt landed this dolphin on the edge of the stream out of Sebastian Inlet. As you know, sometimes they bleed, and sometimes they don't. It's all in the art of the gaff.



What a great day! Eleven nice-size dolphin in the box and this is the result. ☺



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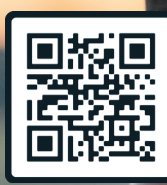
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Casey Cohen of Rockledge hauls in a big sailfish on a family trip to Los Sueños, Costa Rica.

All Aboard!



Brian Hanson & Robert Fenwick of Castaway Marine are here with a large Wahoo caught out of Sebastian Inlet. Fenwick is notorious for his BIG tuna hauls at the old 120-buoy out of Canaveral. His Contender(s) always makes it an easy ride.

Here's How We Hoo!

Castaway Marine



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CONTENDER

"PERFORMANCE THROUGH INNOVATION"



Brad Swindel of Viera ventured way offshore and sent bait down to the depths to snag this impressive tilefish. He and the crew will be eating good for days!

**GO
Deep!**



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Friends Ryan Tolman and Brevard County SWAT Team member Zach Brown (right) landed this **MONSTER** hammerhead shark while night fishing in Satellite Beach. They paddled a stingray out on a kayak to lure this beast from the darkness. When it comes to hammer time, you can't touch this!



Hammer Time

BIG Bragger First Responder of the Month Award
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Red Lobster

Redhead Logan Benton proudly displays his twin buddies he tickled from the crevices of Wabasso.



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Red Beauty

Shelly Richard of Melbourne landed this "extinct" red snapper out of Sebastian Inlet earlier this year.



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The Big Tuna!



Tom Buist of Melbourne lured this yellowfin tuna off an oil rig off the coast of Louisiana aboard the *VooDoo* fishing charter. This whopper topped out at 140.4 pounds! Always bring your bean bag!



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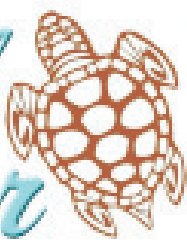


For My Next Trick!



Space Coast's Bruce Bonafiglia gives the thumbs up to his new buddy. Bruce and Dave Cohen of Satellite Beach were on their way back in from releasing a 150-lb striped marlin in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. The seal wanted a snack out of the open bait well.

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HOLLY KONA!

Indian Harbour Beach's Craig Kraus recently traveled to Kona, Hawaii and landed this 450lb blue marlin aboard the *Bite Me Six* with Captain Deneen Wargo and her mate, Nate!



Kraus mounted this 12-foot marlin in a newly constructed family room just so he could brag about it!



***If you can't find it here,
we both have problems!***



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Tarpon- ized!

Former Satellite Beach resident Rob Pittman ventured to the 7-mile bridge in the Florida Keys. This 100+ pound tarpon crushed a live horse mullet and the fight was on!

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GOULD



Eric Kleinschnitz of Melbourne caught this bull red on live bait off one of the buoys at Port Canaveral. He estimated this fish weighed approximately 13lbs. Great day for Eric just this last summer.



It's an early start for *Holy Schnitz* headed out of Port Canaveral

RUSH!



Nautical Construction is a fully licensed and insured Florida general contractor that installs seawalls and docks. We have over 50 years combined experience in the construction industry and wanted to bring a better experience to the marine construction customer.

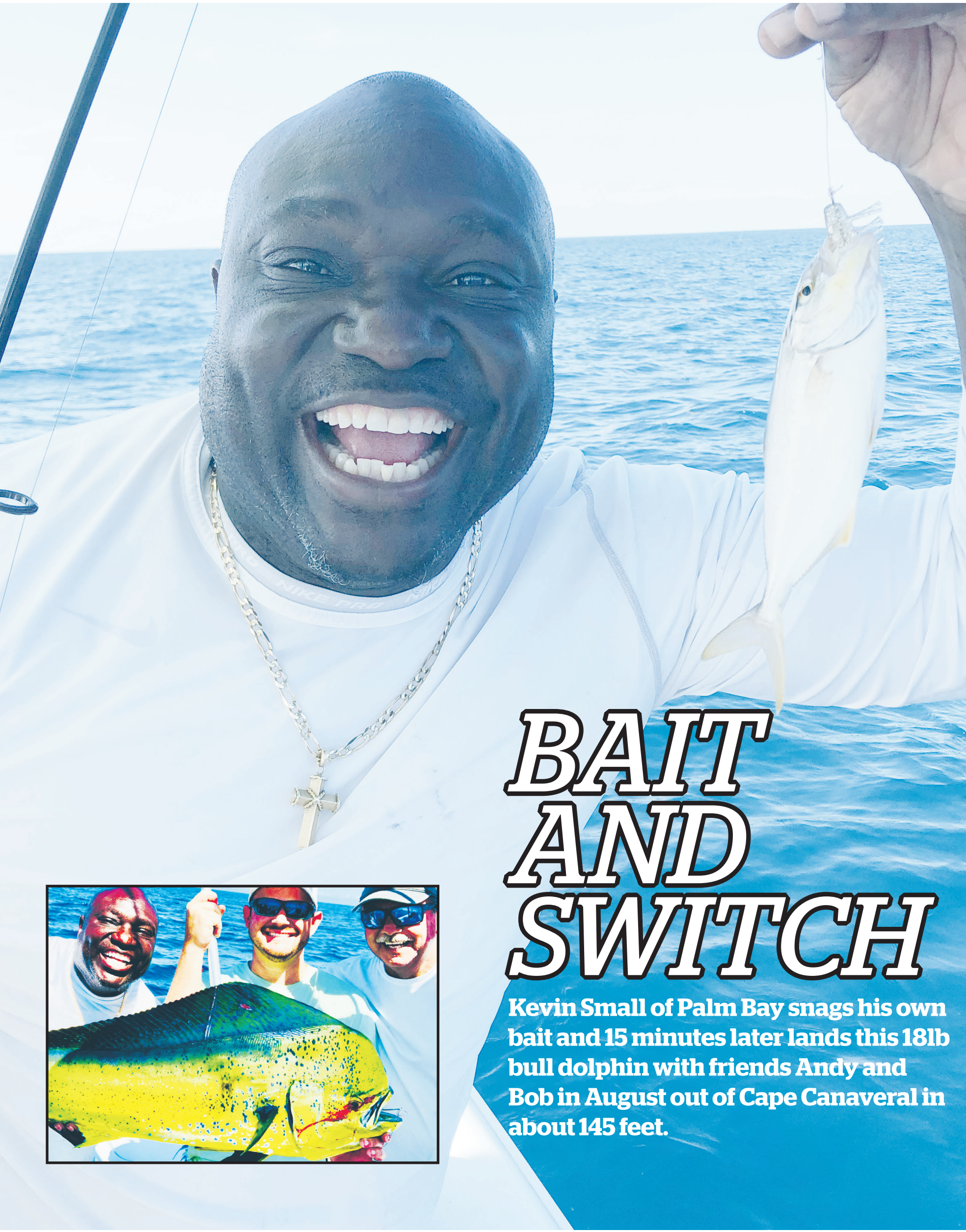


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BAIT AND SWITCH

Kevin Small of Palm Bay snags his own bait and 15 minutes later lands this 18lb bull dolphin with friends Andy and Bob in August out of Cape Canaveral in about 145 feet.



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Rigg's Outpost of downtown Melbourne is a fast growing local bait & tackle shop. We offer bait, tackle, rentals, tours, and snacks! We're a one-stop shop for all your needs. So swing by today with family and friends and get everything you need for a great day!



Luis Lindstedt and Chad Richard from Melbourne caught this 10-plus pound bass earlier this month. When asked where they caught it - "Somewhere between Jacksonville and Key West."

Big Bass ASSASSINS!



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BIG Bragger of the Month!



Not the biggest wahoo by any means but it sure brought a smile to Glen Tischner of Satellite Beach. This little beauty was caught out of Sebastian Inlet in mid-October.

If you look at this picture and the two inset photos, you'll understand why we have awarded him the 'BIG Bragger of the Month Award.'



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James Roemer

Max Ferrara of Satellite Beach is so proud of his sheephead caught with a sandflea on the beach with his dad Mike. Both are avid inshore anglers.



Mike Ferrara



Little Bragger

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The Sky's The Limit

Mason Boylan of Melbourne hits a grand slam in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes with some HUGE bass!



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Keep 'em in Line

Cody and Hailey Kleinschnitz landed this beautiful snook while fishing Sebatian Inlet. The fastest way to a great brother/sister relationship is a straight line!



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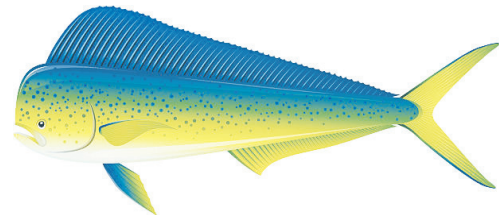


From Cast To Cast Iron



BIG Bragger Mahi Recipe

- First, purchase at lease a \$100,000 boat
- Gently stir in \$500 worth of fuel
- Pour in portions of bait, ice, and food on to your boat
- Whisk offshore 20-50 miles in the Atlantic
- Mince through weeds and troll until a mahi of your choice is landed
- Mix Jack Daniels with coke, drink and fillet fish
- Cook the fish
- Add more Jack & Coke to taste





Matt King, a guest on the 25' *Bull Lur'em* experienced all he could handle with this HUGE sailfish. This monster actually crash-landed in the back transom of the boat and snapped one of the fuel hoses. I think we can all agree this is a big sail for the Atlantic. Quite a surprise out of Sebastian.

“Incoming!”

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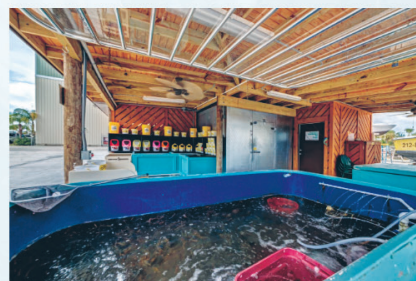
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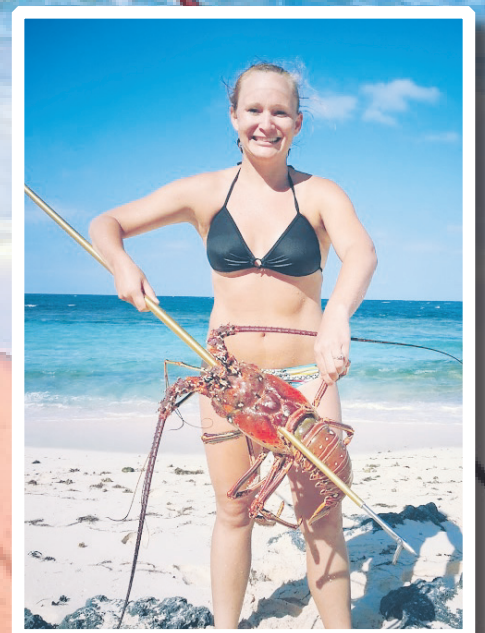
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Who Caught Who?



Fortunately for Joe Reese, this monster lobster was deceased before he started to brag Bahama style! Looks like the 'Mrs.' did all the hard work.



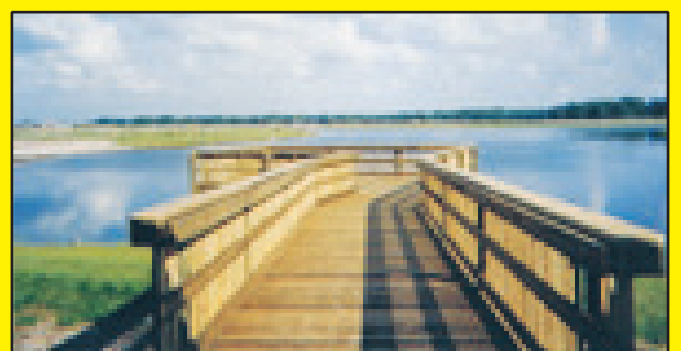
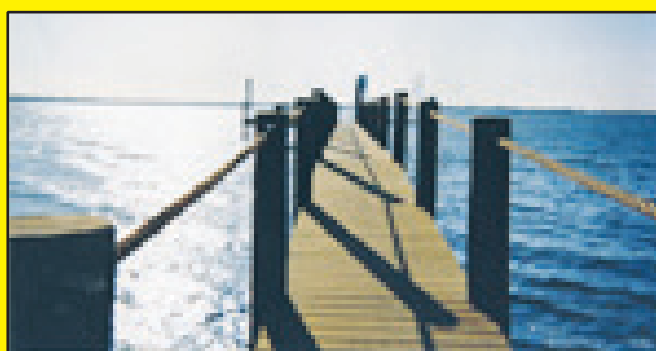
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Running of the Bulls

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Here's a blast from the past...
Bodie Cohen of Satellite Beach
goes head-to-toe with a HUGE
wahoo, caught in Grand Cay
Bahamas several years back. The
fish weighed 60 pounds, almost
as big as Bodie (age 10 at the time).
Caught on his dad's boat *Reef Raider*.

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