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Inside:

COVER:
Angler Allison Renn shows off two red snapper caught in the middle of ARS season.

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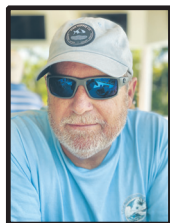


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BY
CRAIG KRAUS

It's Murphy's Law Out There So You Better Be Prepared

Our Day Of Pleasure Quickly Took A Turn For The Worse As *Swallow The Leader* Slowly Began To Capsize.

It's like a car wreck. You never think it can happen to you until in an instant, your world can come unravelled. Well, I am talking about capsizing at sea, something most boaters will never experience. But if you do, it will change your thought process on boat safety and/or fishing offshore forever.

Thus was the case in May 2002, when I convinced my son Andy and his fellow Eau Gallie High School classmate James Roemer (Rome-Dog as I called him then and now) to take advantage of senior skip day and go offshore fishing.

Everything seemed normal as we ran to about 120 feet out of Sebastian. The weather was outstanding, the boat was running great and the fishing forecast was extremely positive.

And positive it was as we ran up on a large weedline by 7:45 am. As quick as we got our lines out, the dolphin started to attack. After landing a 15-pound dolphin, I suggested we run out for bigger game. The guys agreed, but decided they'd take an early nap for the next 30 minutes to the stream or beyond.



James Roemer of Melbourne starts bailing as the *Swallow The Leader* takes on water.

The boat was instantly up on plane, 32 MPH (very flat day) and we were off to the Gulf Stream! After 20 minutes I looked down at my feet and noticed water on the deck. I thought maybe I took some water in the back transom. I throttled down and went to neutral for a quick inspection and to wake up the crew at the front of the boat. Oh, might help now to describe the vessel. We were on our 27' Pro-Line CC with twin 200 Mercurys. We called it *Swallow The Leader*.

As I walked up the port side to wake the seniors, I stopped and opened up the head. I knew in an instant it wasn't good. The head was floating with all the other gear stored in the compartment. We had water in the entire hull and it was rising quickly above the deck.

"Guys, get your asses up. We are sinking," I shouted. Not the words you want to hear on senior skip day or any time really.

It was a scramble. James was a high school linebacker so I gave him a 5 gallon bucket at the aft and told him to start bailing. I grabbed a fillet knife, cut the top of the largest fender, handed it to Andy and instructed him to bail as well.



After abandoning ship, the boat capsized within minutes as witnessed from the Coast Guard vessel.

I tried to run the water out the back by putting the boat in gear but both engines then stalled because they were leaning back in the water as the bow started to rise. I looked over the side and the boat was not bailing water as the bulge pumps were not working. Turned out, Pro-Line had an issue with bilge pumps shorting out. My job then became simple. Get help to the boat. But as all the commotion broke out I was baffled as to how we took on so much water so quickly? How could we run 32 MPH on plane with all that water in the hull? A real mystery even to this day.

Say hello to Murphy's Law (if it can happen it eventually will) and it did. On a beautiful May morning with two teenagers onboard. No raft, no EPERB, just a VHF radio with a 7-10 mile range.

I clicked on the red DISTRESS button on the VHF and called for the Coast Guard on Channel 16. The boys were now shin-deep in water. I got through to the Coast Guard at Cape Canaveral and they quickly dispatched a rescue vessel. We could hear them hailing all boats in the area to render assistance. Problem was, the only boat in the area had its radio turned off.

As 45 minutes to an hour went by, Andy and James became the heroes keeping the boat afloat, bailing as much water as was entering. However, now they were knee-deep in water in the rear of the boat.

So let me clarify, the seas were calm, there was plenty of daylight, it was now around 11 am. It wasn't like we were strapped to the side of a capsized boat in 13-foot waves for hours or days. However, the first time experience was enough to get all of our attention.

We certainly didn't want to capsize and go in the water, especially since I had the boys start chucking everything overboard that didn't float except for fishing tackle and the dolphin we caught earlier. They threw all our bait and chum in the water which yes, of course, attracted sharks.

Murphy's Law got even more Murphy's Law when the Coast Guard couldn't find us and sent a Navy aircraft to locate us. The Coast Guard patched me through directly to the Navy pilot - not something you get to do often. I coached the plane in our direction and it buzzed us and then proceeded to a fishing boat several miles away, the

one that did not have its radio on. This boat got equally buzzed by the Navy plane, realized what was happening and tuned in for instructions. The local fishing boat reached us in 10 minutes. The boys jumped off and swam 10 yards to their boat. I asked them to pull up to my boat because "I don't want to get wet today!" I yelled jokingly.

They obliged, and I handed them all our rods and reels and then of course our one dolphin. It was only 3-4 minutes before our boat capsized as the boys and I were safe on theirs. Ten minutes later, the Coast Guard reached us and we boarded for a smooth ride back to Port Canaveral.

We thanked the rescue crew from the center console and rewarded them with our only dolphin catch. Great guys from Melbourne. Forgot their boat name and their names, but never-the-less, we've always appreciated the rescue.

After an hour-plus ride with the Coast Guard, we arrived at Port Canaveral and every news media outlet from Orlando was waiting as if we were stranded at sea for days. It was comical. The birth of fake news.

A savage vessel towed our capsized boat all the way back to Port Canaveral. Of course, the pressure from being upside down and towing that far blew out all the gauges and hatches on the boat.

I went back to the port the next day and they were trying to upright the boat. The salvage crew said it was a leaking live baitwell gasket that caused the boat to fill up. To this day I don't believe that theory. Too much water too quickly was our problem. Didn't see a crack in the hull, but I do remember slamming hard out the inlet that morning and a spreader light breaking from the impact.

And YES, the plug was in!



After a 40-mile trip being towed upside down, the salvage crew flipped the boat at the Port and unveiled enough damage to total the vessel.

My insurance company totaled the boat. However a local marina purchased the boat, pickled the engines and fixed all the other damage. The boat was then sold to an individual from Orlando. He had some Murphy's Law of his own as the boat was stolen two months after he purchased it. To say this boat was unlucky was an understatement.

Well, we dodged a big bullet, our egos were bruised, but we were safe. That's all that matters. What I took away from the experience is that you don't have to hit anything out there or have a major malfunction in order to capsize. Sometimes it just happens. So be prepared and always have the necessary equipment on board to survive your ordeal. Hopefully it won't happen to you.

Unless, of course, it's Murphy's Law.



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Captain Lukas Brickweg Dominates the Surf!

Left: Jack Maessner with a trophy permit. Fish was caught in Indialantic on a sand flea and pompano rig.



Beautiful black-tip shark caught by Captain Lukas and his fiancé Lauren of Cocoa Beach Surf Fishing Charter. Caught in Satellite Beach.



Snook fishing at the beach! This gorgeous snook was caught near Indian Harbour Beach by fishing guide Eric Newton with Cocoa Beach Surf Fishing Charters and his client Anthony.

Monster at The Beach!

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What Do You Like To Collect?

Retired Lt. Col. and licensed Coast Guard Captain, Ken Verderame of Indialantic, grips one of his many trophy size tuna. This one was caught on the *Royal Polaris* out of San Diego on an 18-day trip for yellowfin & wahoo. The tuna took about 45 minutes to get to the boat.

The *Royal Polaris* is 115' long with a 35' beam and the deck is a good 6' above the water. According to Vanderame, the deckhands used 10' cane gaffs to get the fish in the boat. For tuna that are 100+ pounds, they open one of the railings to haul the fish in. The number of gaffs required usually tells how big. This was a '2 gaffer' so likely a 200 pounder which came in on the scale at 204 lbs.



Ken's jacket is running out of room to display tuna patches.

"Some guys collect bowling trophies... I collect tuna patches. I ran out of room for the 100-lb club patches so every patch on my jacket actually represents two 100-pounders," explains Verderame.

Every year, Verderame heads to San Diego to meet with other tuna enthusiasts. To get invited, you have to have caught at least one 100-lb yellowfin during the previous season.



It was a 45-minute fight before the crew could gaff and drag the tuna inside the boat.



Ken's tuna caught aboard the *Royal Polaris* out of San Diego.

Ahi Time!



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Paul Gagnon

Inlet Treat!

'Tis The Snook Season

(Left) Melbourne Beach resident and owner of Sea Level Construction, Paul Gagnon caught this nice snook at the mouth of Sebastian Inlet aboard a private charter boat. See page 28 and read about Jensen, Paul's son's fishing activities offshore.



(Above) David McKay of Merritt Island holds a snook caught in the Indian River Lagoon.



Peyton Giovannini

Quick Release!



(Above and Left) Peyton Giovannini netted some croakers and went 3 for 3 fishing in Satellite Beach. The fish to the left measured out at 37" and was released. Above, is a before-school snook. Nice start to the day!



(Above) Tony Gebhardt and JC Counsman, both of Longdoggers Grill & Brew, show off two nice snook caught near Sebastian Inlet.



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Scallops Anyone?



Mike and Jaime Ferrara and sons Felipe and Max, make their annual trip to Steinhatchee, Florida in search of delicious scallops. The family enjoys staying and docking at the Sea Hag Marina. Most of their scalloping takes place north of Deadman's Bay, and if the kids are helping, they have no problem

getting their daily limit. On the fishing side, Mike takes the family's 1900cc May-Craft north of the river close to the grass flats.

"We've gone now four years in a row and we look forward to it every year because it's so relaxing," Mike boasts.



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Pink Tarpon!

Sometimes Brevard's beautiful sunsets work their magic. This time, it put a beautiful pink hue on Dalton Saitta's and Chris Marconi's tarpon landed from the beach!





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THE TEN-DAY CHALLENGE!



**It
Started
With A
Marlin!**

Avid Brevard angler, Nick Caplanis, completed the ten-day Facebook fishing picture challenge and posted his favorite fishing photos ten days in a row. Here's a look at all ten...



Barbados Style!



This is Riley Logue of Satellite Beach with a nice wahoo on a recent trip to Barbados.

Little St. Simons Island Style!



Jill Laudick of Indian Harbour Beach, along with fishing guide Nate, are all smiles after landing this 40-pound shark while on vacation.



Key West Style!

DJ Lamb of Palm Bay caught this grouper, along with several nice yellowtail snapper, while fishing in Key West with his dad and friends!

SKIN IT!

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

STICK IT!

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

SCREW IT!

1. Thread coil of pin rig onto pin.
2. Screw coil tightly onto head.

Dredge Rig will look like this.

HAPPY ENDING!

NAKED!

Chain weight secured by rubber band.



NEW VERSION, WATCH THE VIDEO! CHECK OUT SKINIT 4.0!
Weedless Design! Keep the lines in the water to get MORE fish in the boat!



L/R: Gordon Newman and Larry Lamee strike a classic pose as their gigantic jewfish hang on a swing set and lay dormant on the ground almost 60 years ago. Classic white t-shirts and straw hats were the dress of the day. (And short shorts!)

Classic Old Photos Help Us Remember The Good Ol' Days Of Fishing Florida's Coast

(Local resident Laurie Lintereur recently shared this experience of her father's classic weekend fishing excursion.)

Gordon Newman is now 92-years old, but remembers the days almost 60 years ago when you could actually catch, fillet and eat gigantic jewfish.

Newman experienced the fishing weekend of his life in New Smyrna Beach just outside Ponce Inlet when he and fellow anglers, Larry Lamee and Emil Janda caught over 1,000 pounds of jewfish on a Saturday and Sunday.

It began with Lamee landing a 160-pounder on Saturday after a

45-minute fight. He rushed home to show his friends and neighbors and within an hour was back on the water with Janda and Newman. The result, an even bigger jewfish at 187-pounds.

They were back at it again Sunday and the three of them caught four more giants between 180 and 200 pounds. The above photo appeared in the local paper and the three became instant celebrities.

According to reports it took ten people to help fillet, freeze and or smoke them. Residents said it had been 25 years since jewfish this large had been caught in New Smyrna Beach.



Now, harvest and possession have been prohibited in both state and federal waters off Florida since 1990. Fish must be immediately returned to the water free, alive and unharmed. Photographs can be taken, but only during the active act of release. Large goliath groupers should be left in the water during release.

It's A Meat Wagon!

Captain Steven Sharp, aboard the *Meat Wagon*, yanks this monster swordfish for a pose. He caught this in 1600 feet of water, along with Chris Lacey, on a bonita belly strip bait. Both anglers took turns working the electric reel for dual bragging rights during the hour-long fight.



The *Meat Wagon* strikes again as Chris Lacey whacks a couple of tile fish deep out of Port Canaveral.



George Birkhead hauls in a nice dolphin aboard the *Meat Wagon* out of Cape Marina. And below, George boasts a nice yellowfin.



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Family Time!

(Top Left) George Birkhead, aka Captain Airborne of Port Canaveral, displays his twin pomfret that were caught with Chris Lacey and Captain Steven Sharp out of Port Canaveral in 1500+ feet of water.

(Bottom Left) George brags about his 77-year-old mother, Eugenia, who is still fishing after all these years! She caught this snook on George's boat *Sails Call*.



Mini Red

Carley Birkhead is all smiles while holding her red snapper aboard the *Reel Insane* out of Cape Canaveral.



Twin Cobias

George does it again with two fat cobias dockside at Sunrise Marina. Both caught on *The Ambush* with Captain Zach.



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If you love being on the water and love to fish, but don't want to go all-in for a \$125,000 center console boat, then a fishing/touring paddleboard might be perfect for you.

Featured here is a 12' 6" BruFish model, now available from the Paddleboard House in Indialantic. It's designed to glide through the water and carry lots of gear. Because there is no motor, you can sneak back into those great no-motor zones where the big fish are.

There are many configurations to this BruFish, when it's fully rigged for fishing, you'll be ready for just about anything.



Boardhead Jim, as he's famously known at the Paddleboard House, starts the set up process. You can add as many rod holders as you like.

The BruFish 12'6" can carry a standard size cooler, fishing chair, rods and reels, umbrella, and much more - stored under bungee straps at the front and rear. And best of all, it still has room to stand up and paddle.

You can easily carry this board down the steps at the beach, quickly launch, and start looking for tarpon, reds, snook and even sharks! And, it's perfect for the canals, rivers and lakes. Easy in, easy out, the BruFish 12'6" can do it all!



Boardhead Jim shows how easy the BruFish converts to a fishing machine!

The base price for this BruFish board is \$1,399 and can easily be outfitted as shown, for just under a hundred dollars.

This fishing/touring paddleboard has a very stable platform with a 33" width and weighs only 36 pounds.



There are many BruFish models on display at the Paddleboard House. Jim also shows another brand, NSP. The store carries many touring and cruising boards that can easily be outfitted for fishing.



It's stable!



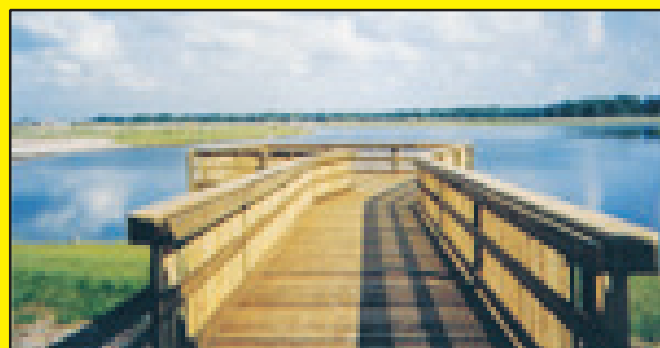
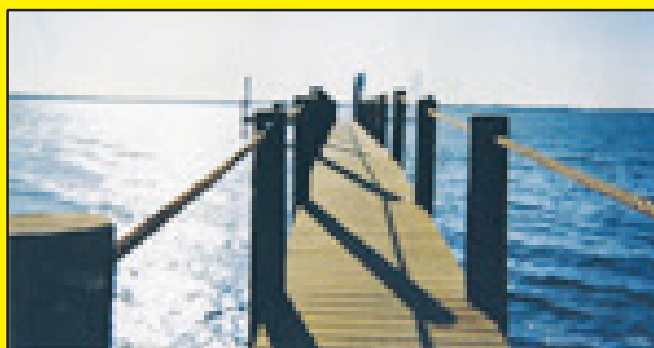
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Blast From The Past!

It was almost 45 years ago, on Ascension Island, that now retired Lt. Col. Robert Pittman landed this whopper wahoo!

Robert was stationed on Ascension as station commander, but often had time to enjoy some of the recreational benefits of island living.

Currently, Robert resides in Indian Harbour Beach with his wife, Dean. His interests have now shifted from fins to skins.

Over the years, Robert has stayed active playing golf as much as possible primarily at Patrick Air Force Base Golf Club. He is most proud of shooting his age on several occasions!



The fishing bug that Robert developed on Ascension was passed down to his son, Robert Jr., shown above holding a nice amberjack.



Then, grandson Andy Kraus (and Robert Jr.'s nephew) got the fishing bug at three years old. Here, he's with friend Mike Benton with their own wahoo.



Now a fourth-generation is still yielding nice catches! Here, Andy's daughter Ava (Robert Pittman's great grandchild) caught her first fish several years ago.

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January Tide Chart

TIDES FOR CANOVA BEACH, FLORIDA FOR JAN 2021

1-Jan	2:48 A.M. EST	Low
1-Jan	9:16 A.M. EST	High
1-Jan	3:18 P.M. EST	Low
1-Jan	9:22 P.M. EST	High
2-Jan	3:31 A.M. EST	Low
2-Jan	9:58 A.M. EST	High
2-Jan	4:03 P.M. EST	Low
2-Jan	10:09 P.M. EST	High
3-Jan	4:18 A.M. EST	Low
3-Jan	10:42 A.M. EST	High
3-Jan	4:52 P.M. EST	Low
3-Jan	11:01 P.M. EST	High
4-Jan	5:10 A.M. EST	Low
4-Jan	11:28 A.M. EST	High
4-Jan	5:45 P.M. EST	Low
4-Jan	11:57 P.M. EST	High
5-Jan	6:08 A.M. EST	Low
5-Jan	12:19 P.M. EST	High
5-Jan	6:44 P.M. EST	Low
6-Jan	12:58 A.M. EST	High
6-Jan	7:11 A.M. EST	Low
6-Jan	1:14 P.M. EST	High
6-Jan	7:45 P.M. EST	Low
7-Jan	2:03 A.M. EST	High
7-Jan	8:17 A.M. EST	Low
7-Jan	2:14 P.M. EST	High
7-Jan	8:48 P.M. EST	Low
8-Jan	3:10 A.M. EST	High
8-Jan	9:22 A.M. EST	Low
8-Jan	3:17 P.M. EST	High
8-Jan	9:49 P.M. EST	Low
9-Jan	4:15 A.M. EST	High
9-Jan	10:24 A.M. EST	Low
9-Jan	4:20 P.M. EST	High
9-Jan	10:47 P.M. EST	Low
10-Jan	5:15 A.M. EST	High
10-Jan	11:21 A.M. EST	Low
10-Jan	5:19 P.M. EST	High
10-Jan	11:43 P.M. EST	Low
11-Jan	6:10 A.M. EST	High
11-Jan	12:15 P.M. EST	Low
11-Jan	6:15 P.M. EST	High
12-Jan	12:36 A.M. EST	Low
12-Jan	7:01 A.M. EST	High
12-Jan	1:07 P.M. EST	Low
12-Jan	7:08 P.M. EST	High
13-Jan	1:26 A.M. EST	Low
13-Jan	7:49 A.M. EST	High
13-Jan	1:57 P.M. EST	Low
13-Jan	7:57 P.M. EST	High
14-Jan	2:15 A.M. EST	Low
14-Jan	8:35 A.M. EST	High
14-Jan	2:45 P.M. EST	Low
14-Jan	8:45 P.M. EST	High
15-Jan	3:03 A.M. EST	Low
15-Jan	9:18 A.M. EST	High
15-Jan	3:32 P.M. EST	Low
15-Jan	9:31 P.M. EST	High

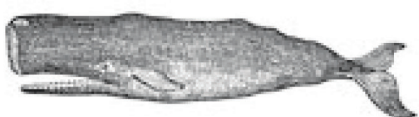
Whoa,



Brevard resident, Jeremy Johnstone returns from Texas after catching this giant black drum.

The fish was caught in Galveston on a giant (like 7-8 inch) live shrimp with 20lb braid on a 7-foot St. Croix Premier rod and 4500 Penn Slammer.

I guess they do grow 'em bigger in Texas!



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Dude!

BIG Bragger of the Month!

January Tide Chart

Continued from page 18

16-Jan 3:49 A.M. EST	Low
16-Jan 10:00 A.M. EST	High
16-Jan 4:19 P.M. EST	Low
16-Jan 10:16 P.M. EST	High
17-Jan 4:36 A.M. EST	Low
17-Jan 10:41 A.M. EST	High
17-Jan 5:05 P.M. EST	Low
17-Jan 11:02 P.M. EST	High
18-Jan 5:23 A.M. EST	Low
18-Jan 11:21 A.M. EST	High
18-Jan 5:52 P.M. EST	Low
18-Jan 11:48 P.M. EST	High
19-Jan 6:12 A.M. EST	Low
19-Jan 12:03 P.M. EST	High
19-Jan 6:41 P.M. EST	Low
20-Jan 12:38 A.M. EST	High
20-Jan 7:04 A.M. EST	Low
20-Jan 12:47 P.M. EST	High
20-Jan 7:32 P.M. EST	Low
21-Jan 1:31 A.M. EST	High
21-Jan 7:59 A.M. EST	Low
21-Jan 1:35 P.M. EST	High
21-Jan 8:25 P.M. EST	Low
22-Jan 2:29 A.M. EST	High
22-Jan 8:55 A.M. EST	Low
22-Jan 2:29 P.M. EST	High
22-Jan 9:17 P.M. EST	Low
23-Jan 3:27 A.M. EST	High
23-Jan 9:49 A.M. EST	Low
23-Jan 3:27 P.M. EST	High
23-Jan 10:08 P.M. EST	Low
24-Jan 4:24 A.M. EST	High
24-Jan 10:40 A.M. EST	Low
24-Jan 4:23 P.M. EST	High
24-Jan 10:56 P.M. EST	Low
25-Jan 5:16 A.M. EST	High
25-Jan 11:28 A.M. EST	Low
25-Jan 5:16 P.M. EST	High
25-Jan 11:41 P.M. EST	Low
26-Jan 6:03 A.M. EST	High
26-Jan 12:12 P.M. EST	Low
26-Jan 6:04 P.M. EST	High
27-Jan 12:25 A.M. EST	Low
27-Jan 6:48 A.M. EST	High
27-Jan 12:54 P.M. EST	Low
27-Jan 6:51 P.M. EST	High
28-Jan 1:07 A.M. EST	Low
28-Jan 7:31 A.M. EST	High
28-Jan 1:36 P.M. EST	Low
28-Jan 7:36 P.M. EST	High
29-Jan 1:49 A.M. EST	Low
29-Jan 8:13 A.M. EST	High
29-Jan 2:17 P.M. EST	Low
29-Jan 8:21 P.M. EST	High
30-Jan 2:32 A.M. EST	Low
30-Jan 8:54 A.M. EST	High
30-Jan 3:00 P.M. EST	Low
30-Jan 9:07 P.M. EST	High

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Morning Red!

Fifteen-year-old Sam Melfi of Indianlantic caught this beautiful redfish off the Sebastian Inlet pier.

Sam hooked this 43" red at 7:42 AM and estimated the fish weighed 30 pounds, his biggest one to date! Sam and his dad Harvey left the house around 4:30 AM to get an early start.

Sam is the proud grandson of Harvey and Nancy Melfi who reside in Indian Harbour Beach.

Featured Species of the Month:



REDFISH

The red drum, also known as redfish, channel bass, puppy drum, spottail bass, or simply red, is a game fish found in the Atlantic Ocean from Massachusetts to Florida and in the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to northern Mexico. It is the only species in the genus Sciaenops.

The red drum is related to the black drum (*Pogonias cromis*), and the two species are often found near to each other; they can interbreed and form a robust hybrid, and younger fish are often indistinguishable in flavor. Source: Wikipedia

Reds Around Town...



Jude!



Marleah!



Luis!



Chad!



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



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Mahalo & Rock On!



Bill Keech, Tyler Walker and Rick Therien got super excited when they boated this beautiful wahoo caught between Sebastian Inlet and Fort Pierce. The *acanthocybium solandri* killed a ballyhoo and put up a great fight!

Drummin' Up Lunch!



This Titusville gator had a nice delicacy for lunch as it chomped on a redfish. Photo supplied by Captain Roy's Bait and Tackle on US 1 in Port St. John.

The Early Man Gets the Mullet

This angler is working it early at 6 AM in Satellite Beach. This cast netted 12 nice-sized mullet.



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Julia Kraus

Little Braggers!



Ava Kraus

Sisters Ava and Julia Kraus love to be around fish of all kinds.

Above, Julia catches her very first fish from a small pond in Viera. What a thrill!

Ava's seen here collecting mullet for her dad's next cast in the surf. Look at the smile on her face!

Remember to send us pictures of your little bragger's first catch.

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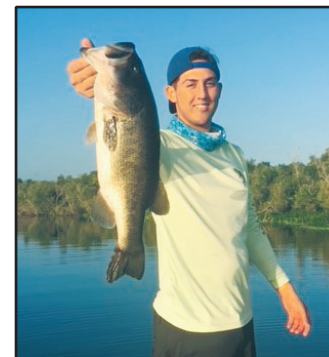


FLY FISHING FILM TOUR
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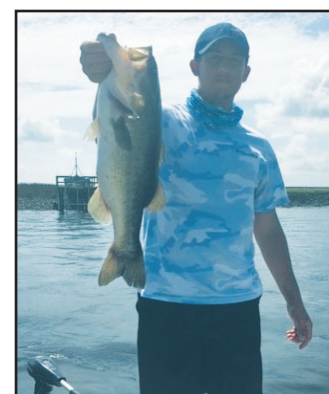
No Bass Left Uncast!

Jayden Drinkwater Knows How to Find Them!

Jayden Drinkwater of Rockledge is like a detective when it comes to locating the evasive, most-wanted bass! No bucketmouth is safe when Drinkwater is on the hunt.



Using an arsenal of skills and tactics, Drinkwater scours the shorelines, lily pads, fallen trees, stumps and other ambush spots, carefully pitching, skipping, popping and cranking; whatever is required to lure the elusive lunkers from their hiding spots.



After he's detained them, a quick photo is required for bragging rights. Luckily for the largemouth, he's all about catch-and-release.

98.5 FM

The
Beach
WSBH

Brachan Wright of Melbourne Scores!

Brachan Wright from Melbourne recently ventured to the Dry Tortugas and slayed it big-time on a charter boat!

Brachan was accompanied by his father Jim. They were aboard the *Allison Jane*, a 3-day charter excursion through the Dry Tortugas.



Here's a breakdown on their haul:

- 43 golden tiles
- 65 yellowtails
- 9 muttons
- 6 red grouper
- 2 30 lb wahoos
- A few dolphin
- A catch-and-release blue marlin



Great job guys!

Dry Tortuga Style!



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Dimitrios Mitsakos of Port St. John spotted this big bull free-swimming under a weedline out of Port Canaveral in 140 feet. He pitched a bucktail jig and the fish inhaled it! Something to really brag about!

Raggin' Bull!

Key West Shrimp Martini

By Jilly's Kitchen



Sauté peeled shrimp in butter & a dash of Old Bay
Chill for an hour

Sassy Salsa

- Diced pineapple, kiwi, sweet onion, jalapeño & poblano peppers (remove seeds & ribs)
- Chopped cilantro
- Dash (or 3) cayenne
- Lots of freshly squeezed lime juice
- Teaspoon EVOO
- One shot of Teremana Reposado tequila
- Mix together and chill for an hour

Presentation

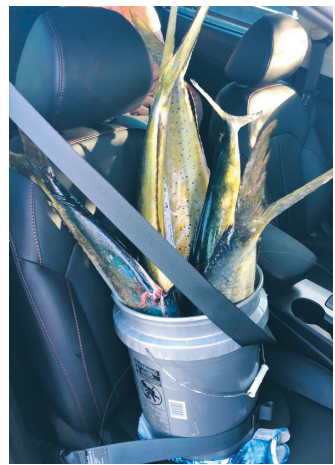
- Scoop salsa into martini glasses
- Place shrimp around the rims
- Add a splash of tequila



Pour yourself a shot of Teremana. Enjoy!

PSA: BUCKLE UP!

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Jensen Gagnon Offshore!

Jensen Gagnon of Melbourne Beach loves to go offshore any chance he gets. Whether it's in his 26' Sea Cat, the *Stray Cat* or on his friend Max Williams' 26' Pursuit... If the conditions are good, they are going fishing!



(Above) Jensen and friend Max Williams made the 70-mile trip offshore for tuna on Max's 26' Pursuit, *Plenty*. (And yes, that's two y's) Jensen's holding two of eight tuna they landed.



(Above) Jensen landed this 150 pound striped marlin 80 miles offshore the same day he caught the tuna above. The fight was only 20 minutes and they released the fish. But he and friends also caught a bigger blue marlin in 150 feet on the *Stray Cat* trolling ballyhoo for dolphin. Jensen got the leader to the boat making it an official catch. The marlin took a little over three hours to get boat-side using a spinning rod. He estimates the fish to be 300 to 350 pounds. That marlin was also released.



No trip is complete without a nice dolphin!



Jensen releases a monster tarpon caught during a mullet run just south of the Sebastian Inlet. He was trolling a large mullet and this 100-pounder crushed it and the 30-minute fight was on!

What a Fight!

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2021

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Lit Up!

The colors are perfect on this dolphin caught by Bob Mello of Indian Harbour Beach. There's nothing like a blue and white lure to fool a dolphin

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Brevard County's 72-mile long coastline is a critical habitat for marine turtles. STPS' efforts help sea turtles in need, organizes beach cleanups, and raises awareness of the threats sea turtles face today.

The purpose of the organization is to educate the public about marine turtles. STPS reaches thousands of people each year through lecture presentations, exhibits at area events, and turtle watches during sea turtle nesting season.

You can make a difference.

When you choose to donate, you'll join hundreds of others whose compassionate and generous support enables us to help sea turtles survive.



Donation options include:

- Adopt a symbolic hatchling, nest, or stranding
- Adoptions include certificate and sea turtle fact sheet
- General or Memorial Donations
- Gift Donations

Log on to: seaturtlespacecoast.org. Thank you for your support!



Mason Mirador hoists two solid bass he caught from a pond in West Melbourne. He was throwing a crank bait, swim jig and frog. These bass weighed five and six pounds respectively.

Picture Perfect Bass!

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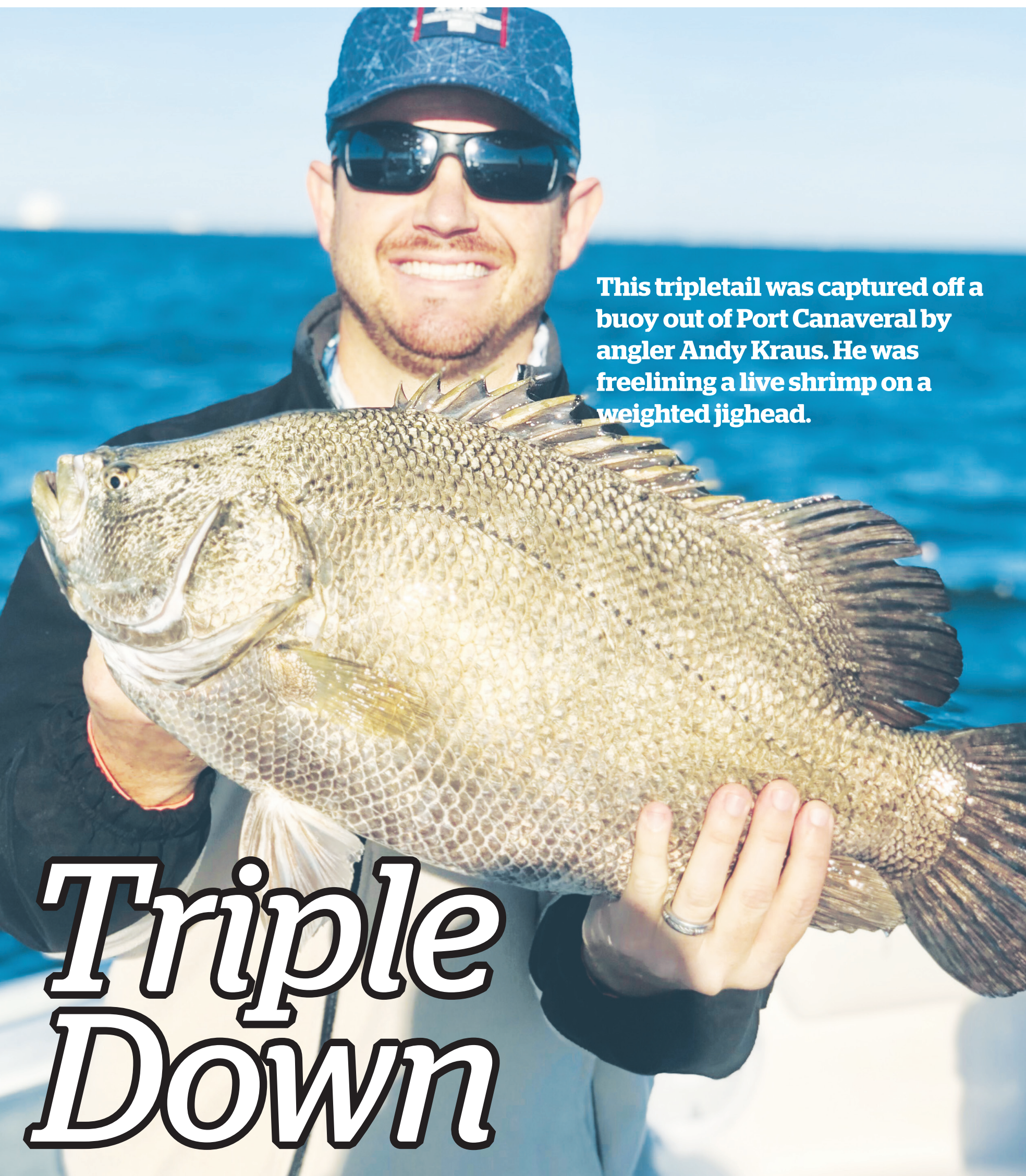


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This tripletail was captured off a buoy out of Port Canaveral by angler Andy Kraus. He was freelining a live shrimp on a weighted jighead.

Triple Down

OUR TOP 5 REASONS WHY BOATERS RETURNING TO THE RAMP ARE ANGRY AND IN A HURRY:

5. You went offshore fishing and got a sabiki hook embedded in your middle finger and had to leave it in all day!
4. You decided that this was the day to bring your six and eight year old on the boat for the perfect family outing. (Need we say more?)
3. It's 98 degrees, you're out of beer, your friend forgot to grab the cooler with the food, and you listened to channel 68 all day as everybody and their brother had 8-9 dolphin in the box and you didn't even get a knock-down.
2. Your favorite NFL team, which is 6-0, is playing in 15 minutes and it's at least a 30 minute drive home.
1. BEST REASON: Your wife or girlfriend has *refused* to go tinkle in a bucket or in the water and she wants OFF THE BOAT NOW!

2020 Indian River Lagoon Health Update



IRL #3
Report Card

Seagrasses & Habitat

IN PERIL!

photo credit: Bill Klein



Please Donate to Help at SaveTheIRL.org

We Need To Do More To Protect & Improve Water Quality!
Tourism, Real Estate Values, Our Quality Of Life, & Health Are At Stake.

Indian River Lagoon Seagrass Scores

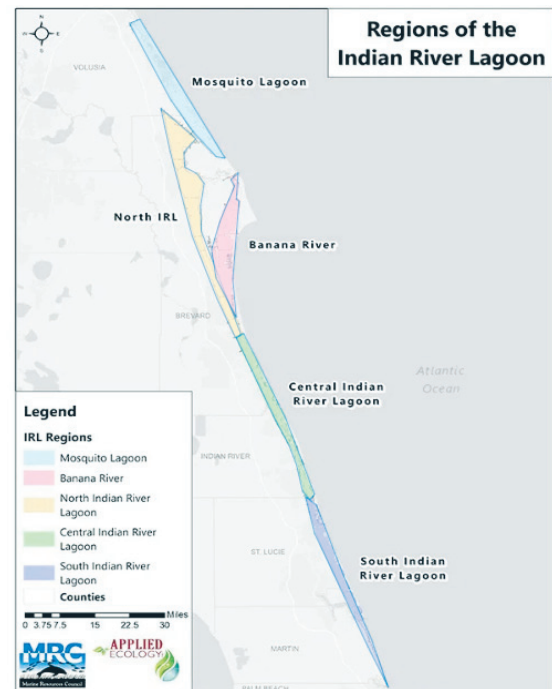
Year	Mosquito Lagoon - North	Mosquito Lagoon - Central	Mosquito Lagoon - South	Banana River	North IRL	Central IRL - North	Central IRL - South	South IRL - North	South IRL - Central	South IRL - South
1994	*	67	70	60	58	70	66	57	54	72
1995	*	67	70	62	59	68	66	59	*	*
1996	*	67	86	67	59	72	68	57	53	73
1997	*	64	80	71	60	73	74	58	52	73
1998	*	66	84	74	65	75	73	59	52	73
1999	*	68	84	73	68	74	68	59	49	74
2000	*	65	80	75	68	73	73	59	36	73
2001	*	62	80	68	65	75	73	58	51	78
2002	*	62	82	71	65	69	68	56	53	80
2003	*	57	84	70	66	69	72	57	52	78
2004	*	58	94	71	65	73	77	60	53	80
2005	*	57	82	70	62	73	69	54	52	78
2006	*	58	81	80	68	78	72	58	55	77
2007	*	60	86	87	71	82	70	61	56	78
2008	*	66	98	93	70	84	77	59	53	79
2009	*	66	86	79	71	76	75	62	53	78
2010	*	68	99	77	71	79	75	61	55	78
2011	*	67	93	61	61	56	57	61	61	79
2012	*	62	80	26	59	9	47	59	59	78
2013	*	62	78	50	61	37	50	57	62	77
2014	*	66	79	56	64	50	57	58	55	77
2015	*	61	78	58	63	50	59	59	56	72
2016	*	40	74	11	43	37	56	51	0	69
2017	*	53	74	31	32	29	59	51	0	69
2018	*	59	75	0	40	21	60	27	0	53
2019	*	57	75	0	39	30	61	46	4	66

- 0 ~ Is Awful
- 100 ~ Is Excellent

*The Score of 80 is the minimum acceptable health target set by the state.

Lagoon Areas of Concern

- Volusia County
- Brevard County
- Indian River County
- Port St. Lucie County
- Martin County



*Insufficient or No Data

Call To Action: Major Change Is Needed

~ Stormwater is overwhelming the lagoon with pollution. Please help MRC advocate for our local leaders to implement Low Impact Development (LID) as a better alternative than conventional stormwater management. LID delivers rainwater into the ground instead of funneling it into storm drains and canals that empty directly into the lagoon without treatment.

~ The lagoon's state is a human health issue. MRC is calling for the sustained monitoring of Bacteria lagoon wide. Please contact your local and state representatives to help.

~ Advocate to stop using pesticides & herbicides in waterways and implement mechanical aquatic weed removal instead. Contact your local and state representatives to help.

~ Stop applying chemicals (pesticides, herbicides, & fertilizers) on your yard.

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