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May 2021  
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# She's A Beauty!

Allison Renn is back on the cover again. This time with a nice snapper caught last year during season.

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# The Big One That Got Away



BY ANDY KRAUS,  
PUBLISHER

I've been fishing offshore for over 20 years and had never encountered a marlin. Every once in a while, I'd hear on the radio that someone hooked one and think, "Yeah right."

Well, last year while fishing offshore out of Sebastian, I had a go with a blue marlin.

After running around in the morning looking for fishy water, we put lines in on a pencil-thin weedline running east and west in about 425 feet of water. The first hit was an undersized mahi that tangled some lines and created more havoc than it was worth. After getting the lines untangled and redeployed, I noticed birds diving behind us. They were about 200 yards off the weedline so we u-turned and headed to intercept them.

I had a great feeling and remember telling the crew, "Bring your A-game!"

Just before entering the strike zone (before we got real close to the birds), the shotgun

rod bends in half and starts screaming like we've never heard before. Immediately, I'm thinking it's a big wahoo. As I turn around and grab the rod, I see a huge splash. So now I'm thinking - big dolphin. Then, in what seemed like slow motion, a bill comes out of the water so I call out, "Sailfish!" Nope.

As it's massive head clears the water, we all get a look at it. Then my dad says, "That's a marlin!" And a big one too - likely in the 400-450lb range.

At this point, the fish realized it was hooked and made another big run. Not to say it would be impossible, but we hooked him on a TLD 25 and it would take some luck to land this fish. Ideally we would clear all the lines and get to the bow to chase him down. But before we could even begin that process, he jumped and broke the line, then proceeded to jump another seven times trying to shake the pink/white flander from his mouth. I continued to reel like crazy hoping the fish had just put a lot of slack in the line but he was gone. It was an awesome experience

that left us thinking, "Did that really just happen?" The whole fight lasted no more than 30 seconds, but it was an awesome experience! We worked the area for a while but the birds flew off and we didn't catch anything else there.

If you fish long enough, you're bound to have stories like this. It could be that you're under-gear'd like in my case. It could be bad line, bent hooks, pulled hooks, broken knots, tangles, structure break offs - the list goes on. Sometimes you don't even get to see the fish but you know it's BIG! It's the painful part of fishing and it's one of the many reasons that keeps us coming back.

It only took a few days after that trip for me to purchase a bigger rod/reel combo for the shotgun. Not that a marlin always hits that rod in the spread, but if it did, at least we'd have a better chance. In all the times we've been out since, I'm still looking for that marlin.

My marlin. The one that got away.



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# 609 POUNDS!

**Evan Dickinson celebrates his swordfish catch in Puerto Rico where he is now retired and fishes frequently.**

**For more information about the catch, go to [subscribepage.com/x2w6w9](http://subscribepage.com/x2w6w9)**



**Falcon Boats of Titusville built a custom Ice Blue Falcon 22' Offshore Edition for Evan Dickinson who transported the boat to Puerto Rico after retiring from the U.S. military and making his home there. Last month, Evan caught this 609-pound swordfish after a four hour epic battle in which the fish dove to over 2,900 feet. Evan was able to secure the sword portside and tow it back to the harbor in his new 22' Falcon.**

**It sounds like the 22' Falcon lived up to all of Evan's expectations and continues to perform well.**

**For more information about the 22' Falcon, go to [falconboatsusa.com](http://falconboatsusa.com)**



# Crankie Frankie Scores!

Chris Delaney with a 36-lb dolphin and Chris Pashos caught his first wahoo fishing on Nacho's boat, *The Crankie Frankie*, out of the Port.



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PROUD!**

Evan McNamara and his gang caught this sailfish on a recent charter out of Port Canaveral.



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**(Say that ten times in a row  
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# Hooked For Life!



## Congrats to Bob and Donna!

**Bob Anderson of Satellite has been fishing in Brevard County for almost 50 years.**

**Under the Pineda for red and drum. The Patrick Survival Area for trout, snook and reds. Ponds and lakes for monster bass...You name it, water has always called Bob for a cast or two.**

**Last month, Bob got married to Donna Farina, another long-time Satellite Beach resident. (No stranger to Brevard's waterways since her family owned the Old Fisherman's Wharf in Cocoa Beach along the Banana River).**

**Like a smart newlywed, Bob took Donna fishing only one week after getting married and Donna showed Bob she is 100% fit for the challenge of keeping up with his number one hobby.**

**Since they started dating, the two have been fishing from the surf and kayaks in the canals. This time it was the surf and Donna was in for a fight.**

**As you can see from this photo, Donna proudly holds a monster 38" snook caught at where locals call Magellan Beach (Small park on the Southside of Satellite Beach.)**

**The snook hit a live shrimp just past high tide around noon. Bob first thought it was a shark because of the amount of line it started to take.**

**Although the Anderson's were rigged with light tackle, Donna managed to finally beach the snook. Bob said it took almost five minutes to retrieve and release the fish as it was exhausted.**

**What a great memory to the start a new marriage.**



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Anderson



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Curt Woodruff and his daughter Erin holding a pair of snook that they caught with mullet on the Banana River!

# Family Time!

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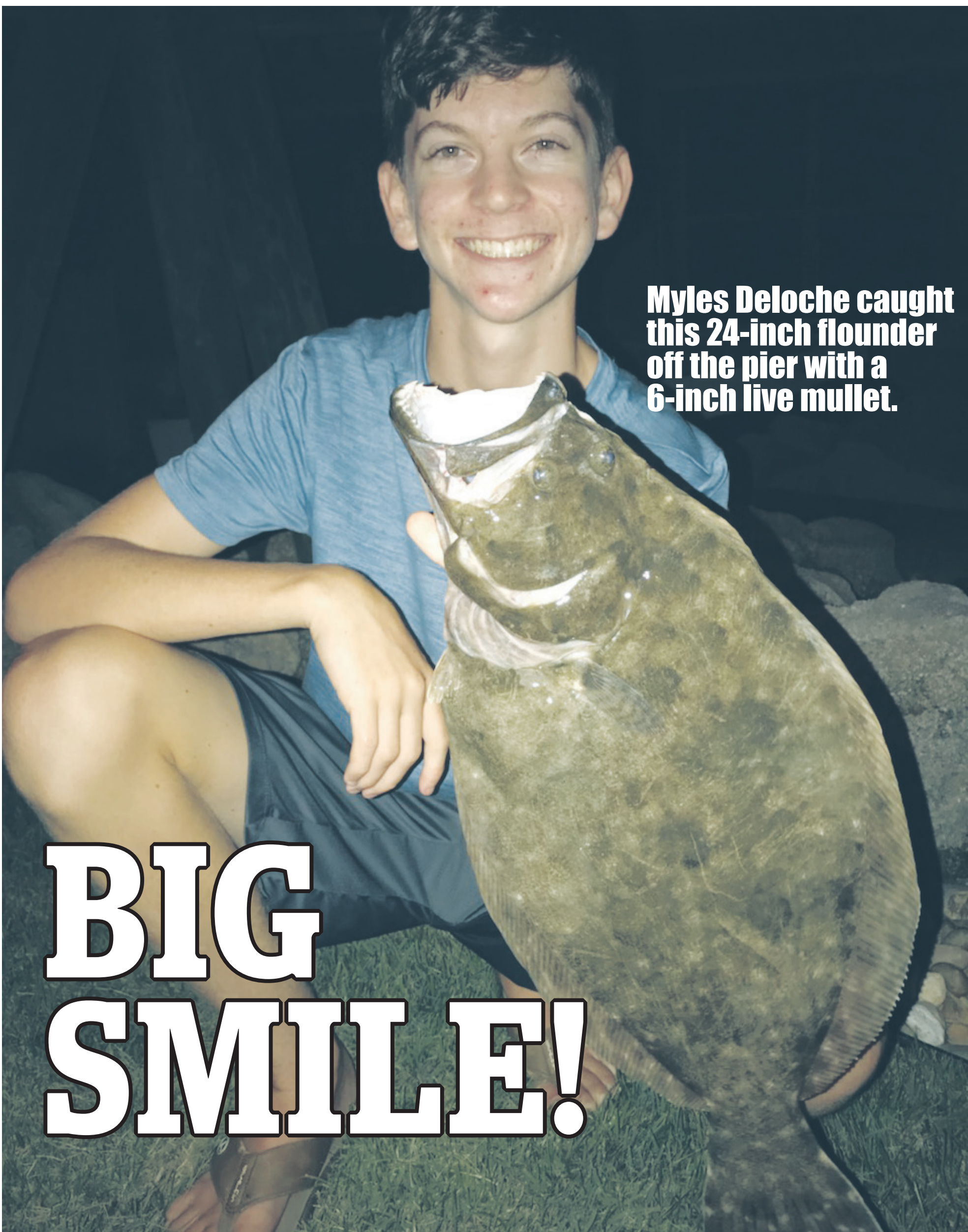
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**Myles Deloche caught this 24-inch flounder off the pier with a 6-inch live mullet.**

# BIG SMILE!



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**Patrick Scott lights up the night sky with this beautiful snook!**



**Ron Levi Rockin' The Red!**

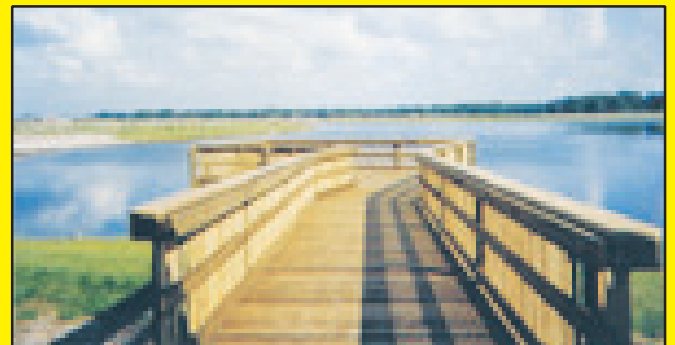
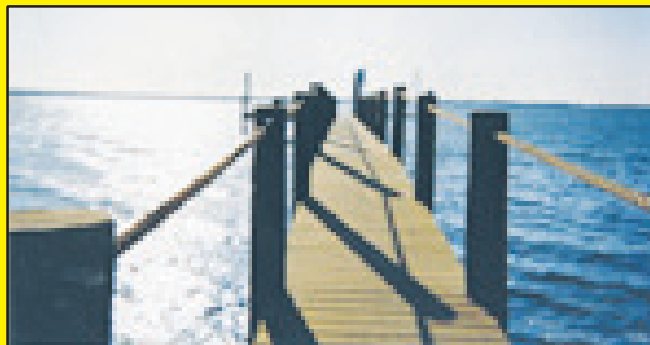
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# Tarzan!

## WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

By Tarzan Miller

Whats up guys? Tarzan here. There has been a lot a fish around inshore, offshore, and on the beach! I have had a lot of luck using a white fishbites paddle tail with a red 1/8oz jig head for snook. Livebait, like mullet or shrimp have been working well too! The snook have been on the flats, around the docks and hugged up to the mangroves.

The trout have been in the deeper water around 5 to 10 feet and some on the flats. I've been fishing canals for trout lately and it's paid off.

The offshore fishing has been great too! I've caught lots of mahi trolling in 250 to 300 feet of water. Make sure you find a weedline and you'll be on them. Naked ballyhoos have been the key bait for me.

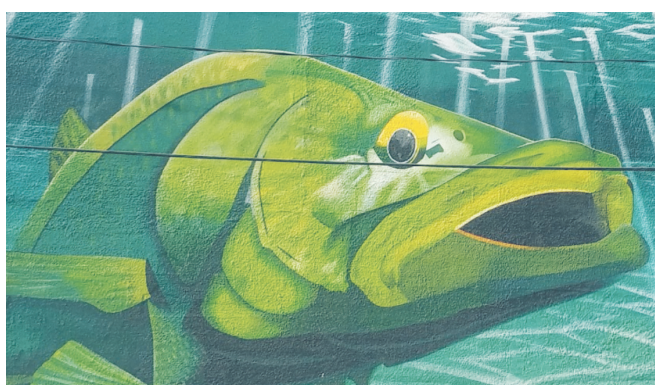
Last but not least, we have the beach! There have been a ton of whitening and some pompano. The poms are definitely running north to get in the colder water. There are also mackerel and lady fish! The sharks are pushing them into the trough. Make sure you reel your fish in fast before the sharks get to it. If you want to catch sharks, now is the time to go! Be on the lookout for glass minnows! Tarpon and snook will be thick off the beach soon!

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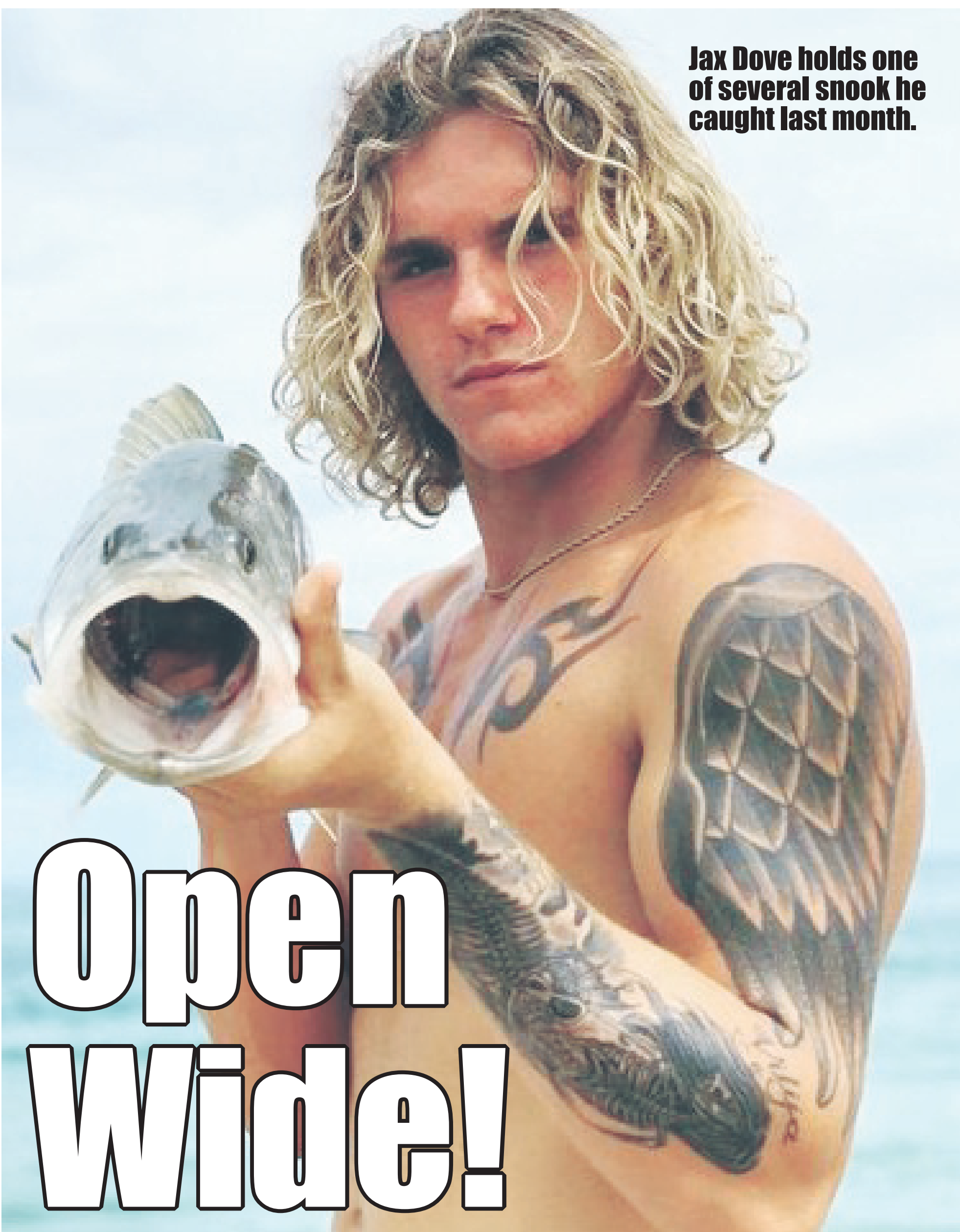
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**Jax Dove holds one of several snook he caught last month.**



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**Cassie and her niece Allison Delaney show off their yellowedge grouper and tilefish in front of the *Head Hunter*!**



**FSFA Officer Debby Bogle with a nice-sized dolphin at the Port!**

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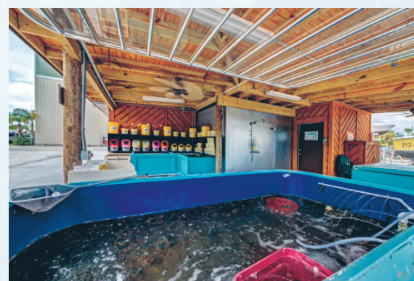
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# Say Hello To Florida Man!



Self-imposed Florida Man, William Hinds, nails a nice red.



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# Junior Angler Of The Year!

## Alex Krenn Impresses FSFA

Alex Krenn, 15 years old, from Merritt Island, has been fishing Brevard County waters for most of his life and has racked up some pretty impressive credentials so far, on and off the water.

Alex was the *Junior Angler of The Year* for the Florida Sports Fishing Association (FSFA) last season. He also is a two-time award winner of the 5K CCA Florida STAR tournament.

Off the water, Alex won the *Linda Goode for Outstanding Marine Stewardship Award* from Anglers for Conservation for his involvement in youth fishing education. He also won his science fair for measuring the salinity and pH differences between the inlets in Brevard County.

Alex enjoys fishing with his father, Mike who are both well known for their experience along the intracoastal waterways.



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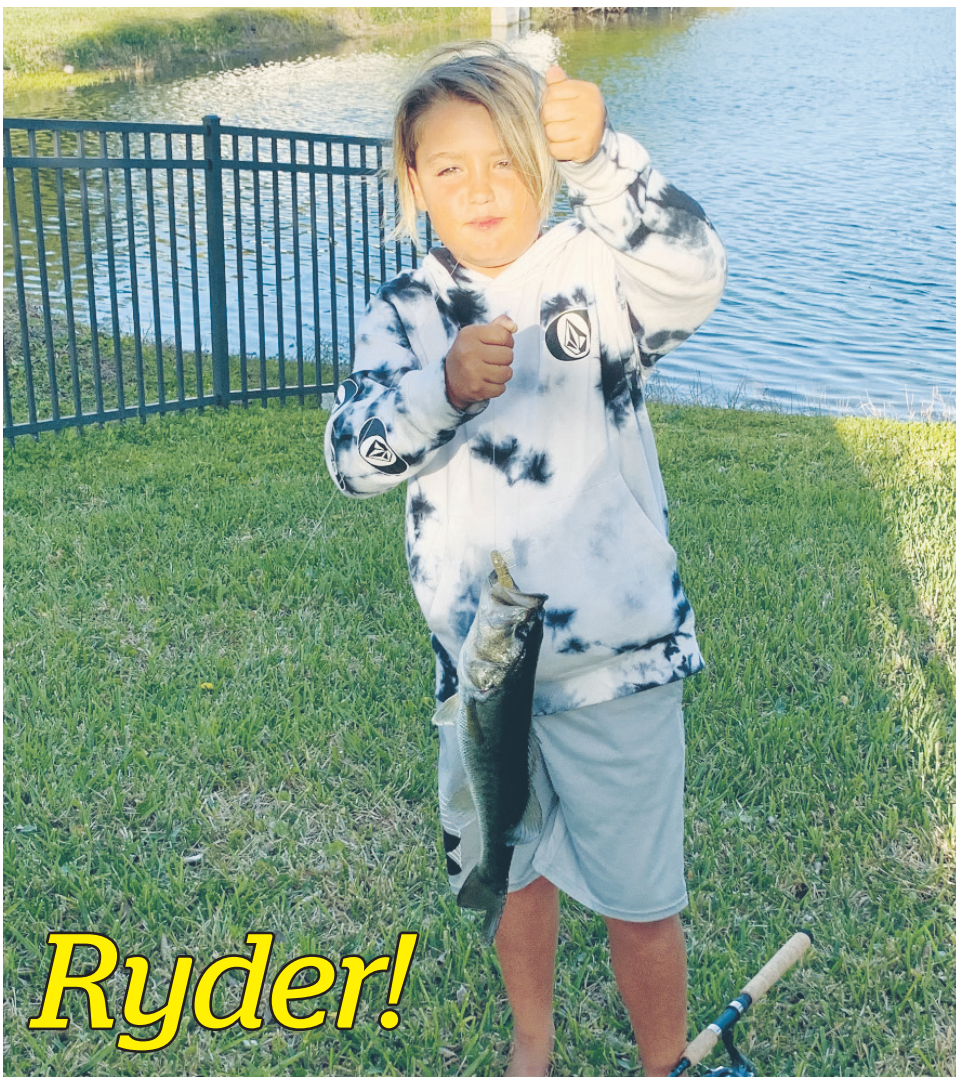


James Roemer



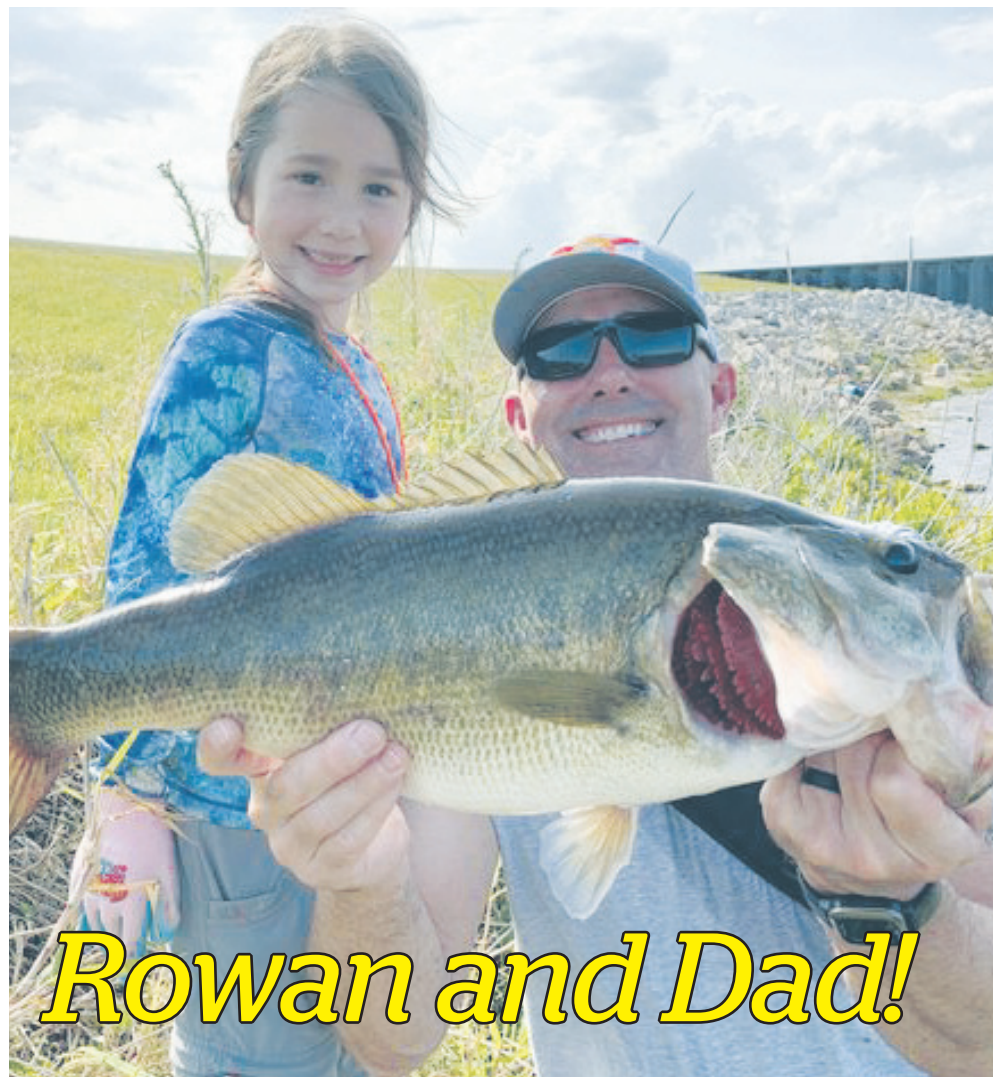


# Around the Waterways!



**Ryder!**

Ryder Koos with his first bass ever caught on an artificial shrimp.



**Rowan and Dad!**

John Pope and his daughter, Rowan, with a 23-inch, 7-pound bass she caught.



**Zachary!**

Zachary caught this largemouth bass on a residential pond in Cocoa.



**Dave!**

Dave Williams with a pompano caught on a sandflea in Melbourne Beach.

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# Hangin' Around The Keys!

**Will Batten  
with his recent  
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# Solid Day!

**Coleman Wehrly holds the biggest mahi of the day during a trip out of Sebastian to the other side that ended up yielding 22 gaffers!**







## Lagoon Earns Failing Health Score of 58 (F+)

The Marine Resources Council of East Florida will be presenting on this lagoon health update, Thurs., May 20. The presentation will be an in-person event and also streamed online. For more information and to RSVP, please visit [SaveTheIRL.org](http://SaveTheIRL.org).

**Cleaning up the lagoon means confronting stormwater pollution.** Stormwater is the primary contributor of pollution to the lagoon. After rain hits the ground, it is channeled down the street like a river carrying with it all of the litter, animal waste, oil and grease, tire and brake residue, fertilizers, and pesticides that it encounters. This toxic sludge of polluted water is delivered through the storm drain directly to the closest body of water, where it accumulates as muck, concentrates toxins, fuels algae blooms, poisons animals, and kills seagrass. The lagoon will never be healthy as long as polluted stormwater is being dumped into it with every rainfall. A better way to handle rain is to let it soak into the ground, as nature intended.

MRC is advocating for local implementation of a proven stormwater management solution that has been used in other parts of Florida - Low Impact Development (LID). Low Impact Development is a comprehensive site planning and engineering strategy that uses the existing landscape and vegetation to manage stormwater naturally. LID techniques have been implemented for decades and contributed to Tampa Bay's recovery. Florida counties like Pinellas, Alachua, and Escambia have implemented Low Impact Development by modifying their stormwater rules, land development regulations, and landscape ordinances. We are calling on every county and city in the lagoon watershed to do the same.

MRC will be coordinating a special assembly on Low Impact Development to unite the lagoon communities in this goal. We will need your help to make it happen. For more information on LID, please visit [SaveTheIRL.org](http://SaveTheIRL.org).

**Act Now at**  
**SaveTheIRL.org!**

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# Far Out!

**Don Robinson with a nice tuna caught on the other side out of Port Canaveral about 95 miles!**

**The conditions were rough until late afternoon. The trip ended well for the crew including Josh Overton, Don Robinson, Rich Brosseau, Jeff Bragg, John Werling and Kevin Decker aboard *Southern Cross*.**

**BELOW: Josh Overton and Jeff Bragg with a pair of nice bull dolphin!**



## COBIA Featured Species of the Month



The cobia (*Rachycentron canadum*) is a species of carangiform marine fish, the only representative of the genus *Rachycentron* and the family *Rachycentridae*. Other common names include black kingfish, black salmon, ling, lemonfish, crab eater, prodigal son and black bonito.

The cobia is normally solitary except for annual spawning aggregations, and it sometimes congregates at reefs, wrecks, harbours, buoys, and other structural oases. It is pelagic, but it may enter estuaries and mangroves in search of prey.

It is found in warm-temperate to tropical waters of the West and East Atlantic Ocean, throughout the Caribbean, and in the Indian Ocean off the coast of India, Australia, and off the Pacific coast of Japan.

The cobia feeds primarily on crabs, squid, and fish. It follows larger animals such as sharks, turtles, and manta rays to scavenge. It is a very curious fish, showing little fear of boats.

The cobia is a pelagic spawner, releasing many tiny, buoyant eggs into the water, where they become part of the plankton. The eggs float freely with the currents until hatching. The larvae are also planktonic, being more or less helpless during their first week until the eyes and mouths develop. The male matures at two years and the female at three years. Both sexes lead moderately long lives of 15 years or more. Breeding activity takes place diurnally from April to September in large offshore congregations, where the female is capable of spawning up to 30 times during the season.

The cobia makes seasonal migrations. It winters in the Gulf of Mexico, then moves north as far as Massachusetts for the summer, passing Florida around March.

Courtesy Wikipedia



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# You can tune a piano...



# But you can't TUNA fish!

Mark Wilson, FSFA Grand Master, with two large (130lb & 160lb) tuna landed off Venice, LA last month.



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# CCA Florida STAR Tournament Set for May 29th

CCA Florida STAR presented by Yamaha, boasts amazing prizes, is the largest family-friendly saltwater fishing competition in Florida and begins May 29.

A unique combination of conservation, data collection and education, plus prizes and scholarships valued at over \$500,000, makes CCA Florida STAR the state's not-to-miss-summer-long fishing competition. No other fishing tournament in Florida has the ability to engage participants of all ages and experience levels, and even non-anglers can win, just by collecting trash and debris.



CCA Florida STAR launched in 2015, with a focus on technology and conservation. STAR uses the social media-based event to educate the public on the importance of protecting Florida's marine resources.

Recognized as a 'catch, photo and release' competition, STAR's smart phone app eliminates the requirement for anglers to harvest or capture and transport fish and constantly promotes the proper handling of all species in the competition. To date, STAR has awarded over one million dollars in prizes, with \$500,000 allocated to college scholarships, and non-angling participants have gathered more than 4,000 five-gallon buckets of garbage.

For 2021, the more than 100-day, family friendly angling competition offers \$500,000 in prizes in 17 divisions including tagged, non-tagged, inshore and offshore species. For a fee of only \$75 (includes a one year membership in CCA) or \$40 for current CCA members, anglers have their shot at prizes from brand new boat, motor and trailer packages, cash, marine electronics, Yamaha motors, tackle, scholarships and much more. STAR is Free for youth (ages 6-17) who become a CCA New Tide member for just \$10.

Most divisions have six (6) winning places and are determined by a random

drawing of all photo entries of fish on the official West Marine STAR measuring device, it is not the biggest fish that wins, a format that encourages participants of all ages to protect and conserve Florida's fisheries for future generations.



With so many ways to win amazing prizes and help protect our marine resources, now is the time to get registered and make fishing in Florida more rewarding this summer.

For more information on STAR, become a member and register, call 844-387-7827 or visit our Facebook page and ccaflstar.com.

\*Reprinted courtesy of CCA Florida STAR.

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