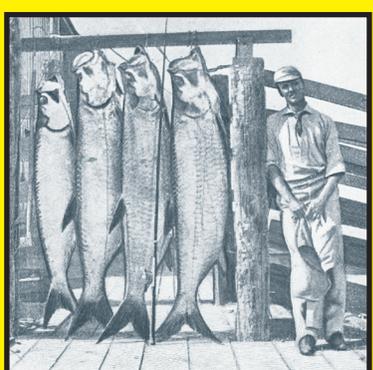


"Because Everybody's Got A Fishing Story To Tell!"

BIG Bragger

SHOW OFF YOUR BEST FISHING PICTURES!



**Grab One
It's FREE!**

July/August 2021
Space Coast

**Allison Renn
celebrates the
holiday with
a nice red!**



**Seas The Day
Wins FSFA Tourney! (6)**



**See Why Brantley
Is Smiling! (11)**

**GREAT
FISHING
PHOTOS
INSIDE!**

**STARS AND
STRIPES FOREVER!**



Remember, There's Nothing Wrong With Bragging!

AUGUST 14 • NANCE PARK • INDIALANTIC

LONG DOGGERS BEACHSIDE BASH 2021



FEATURING

parmalee

with Special Guest **SOUTHERLAND**

Performing their #1 PLATINUM SINGLE
"JUST THE WAY"



LIVE MUSIC • LOCAL VENDORS • VIP AREA • FOOD TRUCKS • DRINKS
TICKETS \$21 GA/\$41 VIP • KIDS 12 AND UNDER FREE!

GATES OPEN AT 5PM



FOR TICKETS
Eventbrite
LONGDOGGERS.COM

THE RIGHT GEAR GETS IT DONE!



Penn • Shimano • Okuma • Diawa • Quantum • And More • New and Used Gear • Buy and Sell!

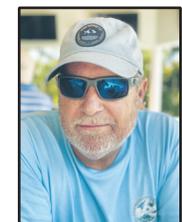
LOWEST PRICES!!!

COME PUT US TO THE TEST



**Located at Renniger's
 Flea & Farmers Market
 Row K - Last Entrance South
 Booth #KS08 • (321) 327-2396**

My Very First Catch



BY CRAIG KRAUS,
CO-PUBLISHER

I can vividly remember the first fish I ever caught. The sad thing is, I don't have a picture of it.

However, I have a clear memory of it and this fish story might just be the most unequalled you've ever heard...picture or not.

When I was in second grade, my father, a Lt. Col. in the Air Force, got orders to transfer to Hickam Air Force Base in Honolulu, Hawaii. Quite a big move from Falls Church, Virginia and the Pentagon where he was stationed. And of course, my brother and sister at the time probably never heard the word "Hawaii" or where it was either.

The year was 1964, and there I stood in my backyard on Hickam Air Force Base. This wasn't any backyard, this yard fronted Pearl Harbor. That's right, our backyard was Pearl Harbor. We moved into brand new officers' housing at 13A Julian Avenue. (Google it and you will see, the Krauses lived on Pearl Harbor.)

What a sight to see some of the largest destroyers, submarines and aircraft carriers cruise right by your house with wakes so big, they would splatter the grass in our yard.

Now my Dad was very busy at Hickam helping stage the operations in what was starting to be known as the Vietnam War. There wasn't a lot of time for him to teach his boys how to fish, so I had to make my own plans. (He was excellent about playing catch and getting me ready for T-ball.)

Three houses down was Stevie Wagners. My new best buddy in Hawaii. Stevie convinced

me one day early-on to climb out on the rocks that lined the canal shoreline in our backyard and go fishing.

Stevie had two cane poles and some bread and off we went on the rocks. As he was showing me how to squeeze the small piece of bread and put it on a hook, I remember looking down on those "rocks" and noticing they weren't rocks at all. Turns out they were parts of the sides of buildings that were dumped there after the attack at Pearl Harbor in 1941. Steve paused from baiting our hooks at started to tell me that all the holes in the concrete were bullet holes from Japanese aircraft that fired at base headquarters at Hickam and Naval Base Pearl Harbor.

Of course, I stood there wondering...1941? Japanese attack? Bullet holes? What in the world was Stevie making up? Is my new best friend a big liar? Remember, I was only seven years old at the time with no world history under my belt. Stevie had lived there for two years, so he had more lay of the land. I didn't realize at the time the significance of where I was standing.

"Yeah yeah Stevie...let's fish," I requested! Well, Stevie handed me my cane pole and we both tossed our breaded hooks into the water. Right when our lines hit the water, I looked up and there was this wall of water speeding at us just 20-30 yards away. Yes, a gigantic wake from not just any vessel, but it was the USS Enterprise, the largest aircraft carrier in the world, steaming from the main harbor heading out to sea. Just a second before impact (the gigantic wake of water) my cane pole bends in my hands. "I got one Stevie," I screamed.

Then one second later, Stevie and I were both flat on our backsides, drenched in water. Luckily, we were unscathed from having that much water pound us onto the concrete. As the water receded from the shoreline, I looked down and saw my first fish flopping around on the wet concrete. It was some type of angel fish. Blue and yellow as I recall, maybe all of 6 inches.

There were no high fives back in 1964, so Stevie and I just kind of gave each other a nod of approval like we just survived our first tsunami.

Meanwhile, I hear my mom yelling from the grassy area of our yard "Craig. Andrew. Kraus. Have you lost your mind?"

I thought, NO, but this would have made one hell of a picture! Or at least 30 years later, a great video on America's Funniest Videos!

Yes, my first fish ever wasn't trophy-sized, but what a memory.

Seven years old, standing on Japanese bullet-riddled, collapsed walls from what was the start of World War II and having the largest naval ship in the world's wake knock you on your ass, and then look up and see your first catch ever... Now that's a fish story!

Only thing missing? The photo.

In an ironic twist, I would return to Kauai, Hawaii 52 years later and catch the biggest fish of my life- a 450-pound blue marlin. You can bet I have plenty of pictures of that one!



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. BIG Bragger/Andrew Kraus LLC not responsible for typographical errors or omissions. Reproduction of any materials in this publication without written approval from the publisher is prohibited.



For Advertising Information
Call (321) 750-1059



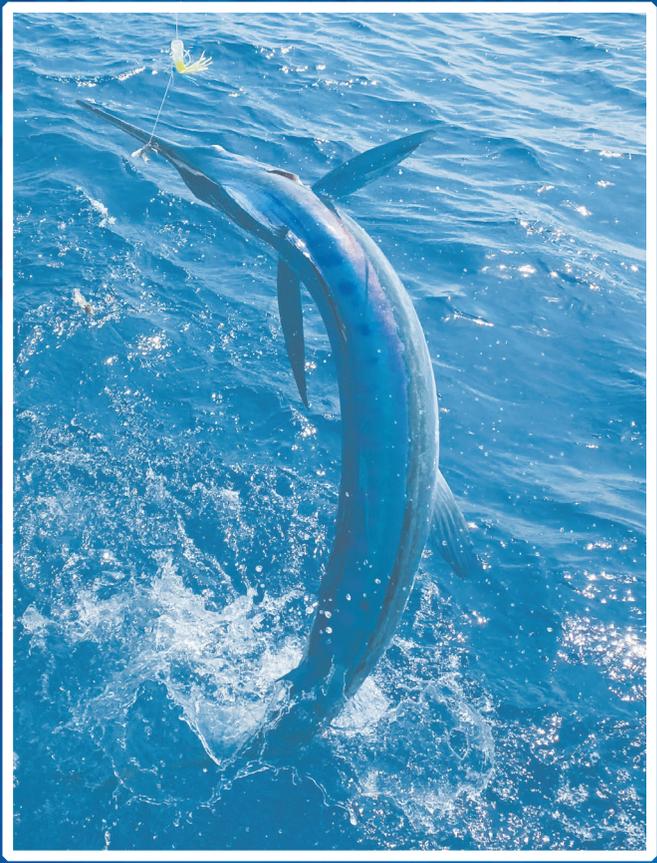
Published By
Andrew Kraus, LLC
Published in Brevard County, FL
All Rights Reserved

Reef Raider Release!



Dave Cohen of Satellite Beach and his crew aboard the *Reef Raider*, released a striped marlin during a tournament in the Bahamas in May.

Cohen said this marlin was caught about 20 miles north of Walker's Cay on the Bahama Bank.



IT'S A WINNER!

Seas The Day takes first place during the FSFA Tournament on June 5th. This grouper was the largest fish overall for the day and paid the crew \$5,000!





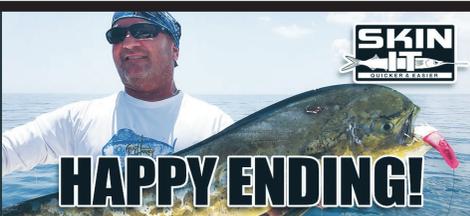

SKIN IT!
1. Break off break and go tip-to-tip.
2. Roll it on.
3. Cover your 'hoo!




STICK IT!
1. Align pin rig and hook with 'hoo'.
2. Stick pin through underside of 'hoo' 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!
Chin 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!

SkinitLLC.com  @SkinitFishing11  @Skinit11

On Fire!

Warren Cox said the bite was on fire after catching several large trout, mangrove snapper, and black drum. He also caught this large red in the Melbourne area of the Indian River directly after first light.



Twin brothers score twin fish!

Uriah and Jonah of Indian Harbour Beach caught these nice bass from the pond at the Satellite Beach library.

10% OFF

YOUR SUMMER ORDER!

OUTDOOR LIVING



FIRE PITS



DRIVEWAYS



STAMPED CONCRETE



OUTDOOR KITCHENS



POOL DECKS



Residential & Commercial Paver Solutions

**Dependable - Reliable -
Professional**

Are you ready to have the modern outdoor living space of your dreams?

With Atlantic Outdoor Designs, *design+build approach*, your Visions can come true! Our methods fully incorporate you into the design process so that the final result fulfills your vision. We use cutting-edge technology to ensure that your design is as smart and eco-friendly as possible.

**Be The Envy of Your
Neighborhood**

Atlantic Outdoor Designs works with a wide variety of natural stone to create the most exquisite structures imaginable. From Pavers to Stamped Concrete, lit walkways to summer kitchens, we will create your dream outdoor living space. Our team has the expertise you need to create a custom outdoor living space that you and your family are sure to love for years to come. If you can dream it, We can build it!



**SERVING ALL OF
BREVARD COUNTY!**
Call Scott Loveridge
(321) 302-0763

Livin' On The Edge!

**Ronnie looks
real serious
with his
37 pound
yellowedge
grouper!**



**Kaytlyn is all smiles with her 20 pound
yellowedge aboard the *Reef Affliction*!**



Salt STRONG

THE #1 REDFISH LURE IN THE WORLD?



Claim Your Free Pack Here - www.slamshady.com

PREMIUM EYEWEAR

BORN FROM THE SEA



RETAIL REPUBLIC

RedtailRepublic.com



Brantley is also smiling over his recent catch aboard the *Reef Affliction*.

Happy Days!



WALK-ON'S
SPORTS BISTREAUX

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



Open camera. Scan code.
Tap link.

Open Wide!

Lawrence Blunk ventured to the Windermere Chain of Lakes and caught this 9 pound bass on a Strike King Hybrid Hunter lure.



GRILLS
Seafood Deck
TIKI BAR

Port Canaveral
Melbourne
Orlando
GrillsSeafood.com





Rick Cofer holds this winning 39.2 pound dolphin during the 2021 Central Florida Shootout. With Rick is boat owner, Kevin Decker.

First Place!



Decker's crew celebrates a big haul of dolphin during the Central Florida Shootout!

(L/R) Bryce Turner, Kevin Decker, Matt Turner, Rick Cofer, Nick Moon and Chris Cofer.

FERGUSON'S
AUTOMOTIVE & MARINE SUPPLY
 SINCE 1954

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



321-723-5425

Trailer orders and repair experts!

1315 West New Haven • Melbourne

 A man in a blue shirt is working on a trailer tire. The trailer is white and has a spare tire mounted on it.


The Other Side!



Bridget Thurston went to the other side of the stream and brought back four nice yellowfin tuna, a big skipjack tuna and a nice dolphin. Long day but well worth it!

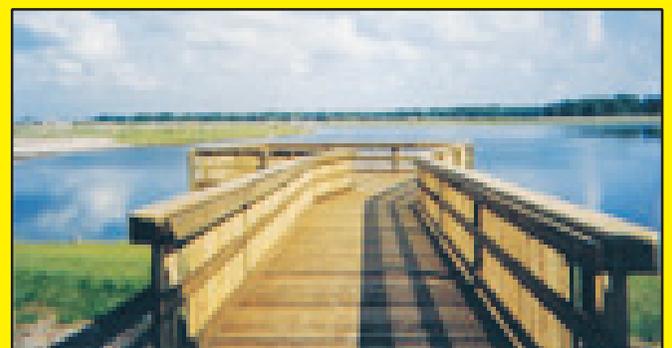
DREAM DOCKS

A Division of Reese Enterprises Inc.

All Phases of Marine Construction
321-253-DOCK (3625)

LIC# 009550649

WE ARE YOUR BREVARD COUNTY DOCK BUILDERS, DOCK REPAIR AND SEAWALL BUILDERS SINCE 1976!



Larry English of West Melbourne took this gag off the 90-foot ledge out of Sebastian. The fish weighed 43 pounds gutted.

Off The Ledge!

A full-service outfitter for inshore, offshore and fly fishing.

1231 East New Haven Ave
Melbourne
321-723-4751



HARRY GOODE'S
OUTDOOR SHOP
"A Florida tradition since 1906"

FLY FISHING
FILM TOUR
FEB 26TH
TICKETS SOLD
HERE



FSFA member, Cassie Delaney, sets a new record for the *Headhunter* with this 43-lb 11-oz yellowedge out of Port Canaveral.

**Record
Catch!**

HATTS DIVING HEADQUARTERS
SINCE 1954

If it has to do with diving... Hatt's is the place since 1954.

2006 Front St. • Melbourne

HattsDiving.com

321-723-5932



Hatts has been family-owned and operated in Brevard county for over 66 years. Whether you are new to the underwater world or you have been a veteran for years we are your one-stop shop for all your diving, snorkeling and spearfishing needs. We have the largest selection on the Space Coast of diving & spearfishing accessories.



Top Secret!

Erica Speedon of Satellite Beach returns to her secret spot on the river for this giant snook!



YOUR PAINTING PROS!

321-693-9365

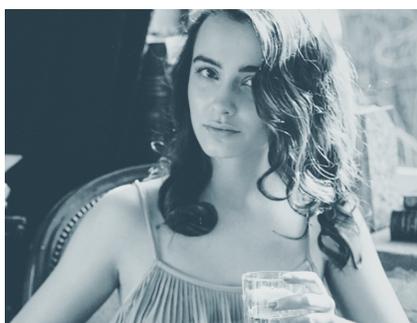
LIC 18-PT-CT-0010

Serving All of Brevard County





BananaManWhiskey.com





**Trophy
Size!**

Kevin Aquinas and John Kaminski hold this 40+ pound bull caught out of Sebastian this spring. A trophy size by anyone's standards!



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.



**SEAWALL
AND DOCK
CONSTRUCTION**

**5585 Schenck Ave.
Rockledge**

321-802-8300

LIC# CGC1526997



Fishing Father and Son Style!

Dad, Brian Ruiz and son Jordan had a great day at the PSJ boat ramp. Jordan landed this monster 38" black drum on a live shrimp and was successfully released. Dad is holding a nice-sized trout!



Boat Storage



Tackle & Gift Shop



Bait Station



Fish Hang

505 Glen Cheek Drive
Cape Canaveral
321-783-9535
SunriseMarina.com

It All Happens At SUNRISE!



Around the Waterways!



Hogfish!

Derek McQuaig holds a hogfish shot on opening day in the Keys!



Amberjack!

Tom Rice of Melbourne holds a giant amberjack during opening day of grouper season!



Snook!

Landon Riley (11 years old) of Satellite Beach caught a snook on the first cast with his new rod!



Mahi!

Robert and Sadie Human of Satellite Beach pulled in a few schoolie dolphin.

KAYAKS BY BO



10% OFF

All accessories with the purchase of a kayak

3405 S. Washington Ave, Titusville • (321) 474-9365 • KayaksByBo.com

Feelin' The Vibe!

**Fisher Freeman
lands his
personal best
kingfish during
a recent
tournament.**



**Contact James Roemer for all of your
residential and commercial needs!**

321-292-1172
RoemerRealEstate@gmail.com

“Done Deal!”

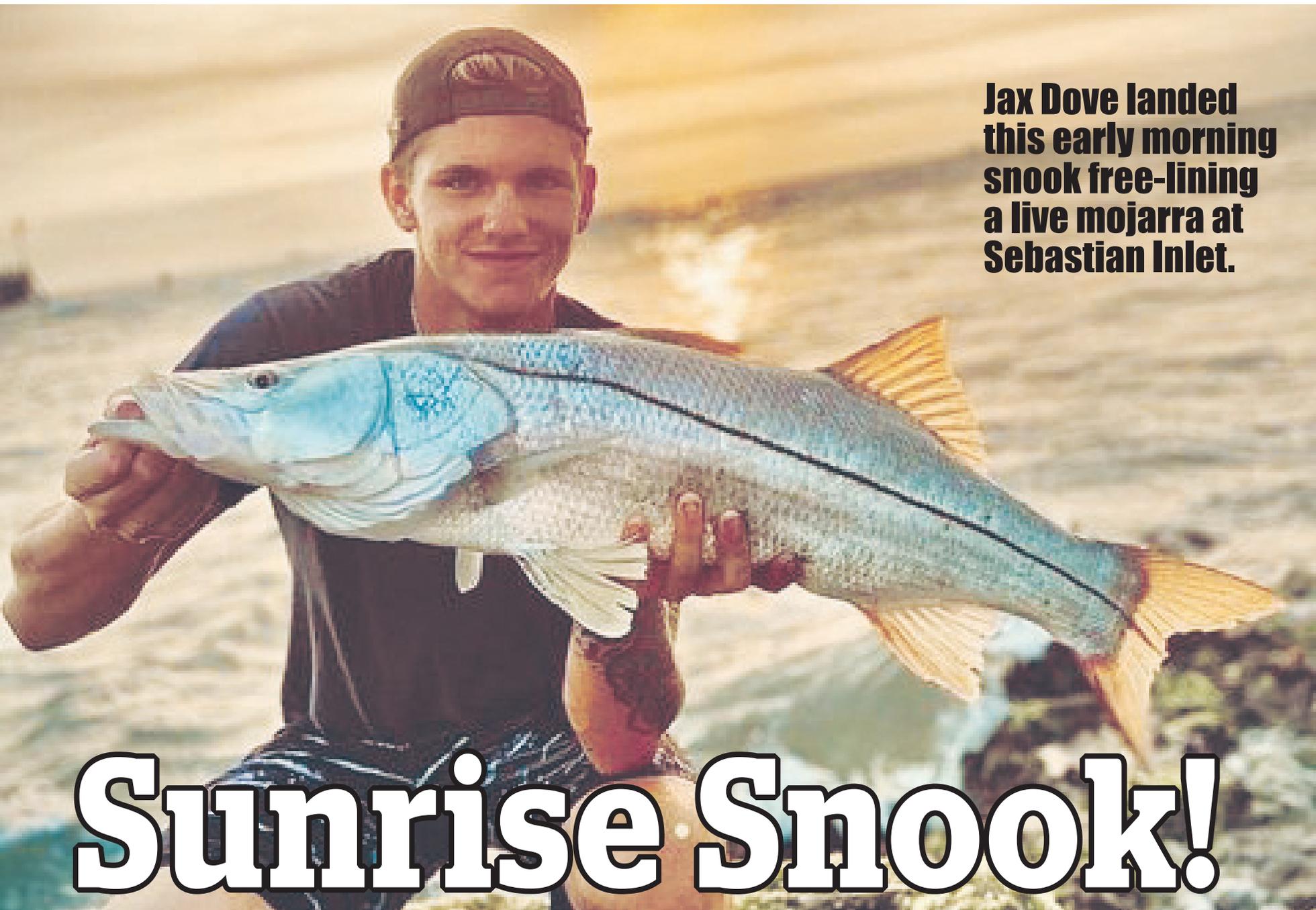


**WATERMAN
REAL ESTATE**

LIC # 3342108



James Roemer

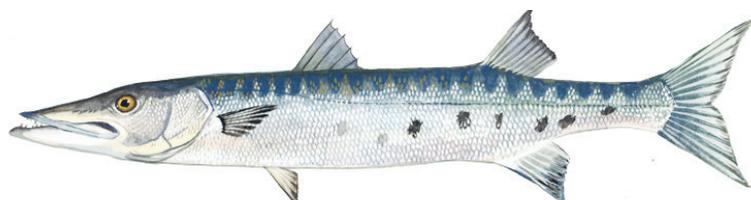


Jax Dove landed this early morning snook free-lining a live mojarra at Sebastian Inlet.

Sunrise Snook!

Featured Species of the Month

BARRACUDA



A barracuda, or cuda for short, is a large, predatory, ray-finned fish known for its fearsome appearance and ferocious behavior. It is a saltwater fish of the genus *Sphyrna*, the only genus in the family Sphyrnidae. It is found in tropical and subtropical oceans worldwide ranging from the eastern border of the Atlantic Ocean to the Red Sea, on its western border the Caribbean Sea, and in tropical areas of the Pacific Ocean. Barracudas reside near the top of the water and near coral reefs and sea grasses. They are targeted by sport-fishing enthusiasts.

DESCRIPTION

Barracuda are snake-like in appearance, with prominent, sharp-edged, fang-like teeth, much like piranha, all of different sizes, set in sockets of their large jaws. They have large, pointed heads with an underbite in many species. Their gill covers have no spines and are covered with small scales. Their two dorsal fins are widely separated, with the anterior fin having five spines, and the posterior fin having one spine and 9 soft rays. The posterior dorsal fin is similar in size to the anal fin and is situated above it. The lateral line is prominent and extends from head to tail. The spinous dorsal fin is above the pelvic fins and is normally retracted in a groove. The caudal fin is moderately forked with its posterior edged double-curved and is set at the end of a stout peduncle. The pectoral fins are placed low on the sides.

In most cases, barracuda are dark gray, dark green, white, or blue on the upper body, with silvery sides and a chalky-white belly. For some, irregular black spots or a row of darker cross-bars occur on each side. Their fins may be yellowish or dusky. Barracudas live primarily in oceans, but certain species, such as the great barracuda, live in brackish water.

Some species grow quite large (up to 65 inches in length), such as *Sphyrna sphyraena*, found in the Mediterranean Sea and eastern Atlantic; *Sphyrna picudilla*, ranging on the Atlantic coast of tropical America from North Carolina to Brazil and reaching Bermuda. Other barracuda species are found around the world. Examples are *Sphyrna argentea*, found from Puget Sound southwards to Cabo San Lucas; *Sphyrna jello*, from the seas of India and the Malay Peninsula and Archipelago.

BEHAVIOR AND DIET

Barracudas are ferocious, opportunistic predators, relying on surprise and short bursts of speed, up to 27 mph, to overtake their prey. Adults of most species are more or less solitary, while young and half-grown fish frequently congregate. They prey primarily on fish (which may include some as large as themselves). They kill and consume larger prey by tearing chunks out of their prey. Barracuda species are often seen competing against mackerel, needle fish, and sometimes even dolphins for prey. Barracuda feed on an array of prey including fish such as jacks, grunts, groupers, snappers, small tunas, mullets, killifishes, herrings, and anchovies by simply biting them in half.

Barracudas are usually found swimming in saltwater searching for schools of plankton-feeding fish. Their silver and elongated bodies make them difficult for prey to detect. They depend heavily on their eyesight when they are hunting. When hunting, they tend to notice everything that has an unusual color, reflection, or movement. Once a barracuda targets an intended victim, its long tail and matching anal and dorsal fins enable it to move with swift bursts of speed to attack its prey before it can escape. They generally attack schools of fish, speeding at them

head first and biting at them with their jaws. When barracudas age, they tend to swim alone. However, there are times where they tend to stay with the pack. In this case, they can relocate schools of fish into compact areas or lead them into shallow water to more easily feed on them.

AS FOOD

Barracudas are popular both as food and game fish. They are most often eaten as fillets or steaks. West Africans smoke them for use in soups and sauces. Smoking protects the soft flesh from disintegrating in the broth and gives it a smoky flavor.

IN POPULAR CULTURE

The barracuda prominently appeared in the 2003 Disney/Pixar animated film *Finding Nemo*, in the beginning of the film, when it attacks Marlin and Coral and their eggs. Before the main titles in the film and in the 3D release, the barracuda closes its teeth and the bottom lip is shown in the film.

The barracuda also appeared as an Easter egg in the 2019 Disney/Pixar animated film *Toy Story 4*. It was stuffed and mounted in display in the Second Chances antique store.

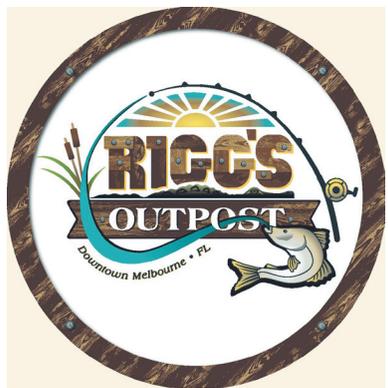
"Barracuda" is the title of a 1977 hit song by the band Heart.

The Pokemon Arrokuda and its evolution Baraskewda (both introduced to the franchise in *Pokemon Sword and Shield*) are based on the barracuda.

The *Plymouth Barracuda* is a two-door pony car that was manufactured by Plymouth from 1964 to 1974.

Courtesy of Wikipedia

**Alyssa Swan of Palm Bay
caught a nice bass
while visiting
Hobe Sound.**



990 E Melbourne Ave
Melbourne
(321) 676-8030
RiggsOutpost.com

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

Blast From The Past!

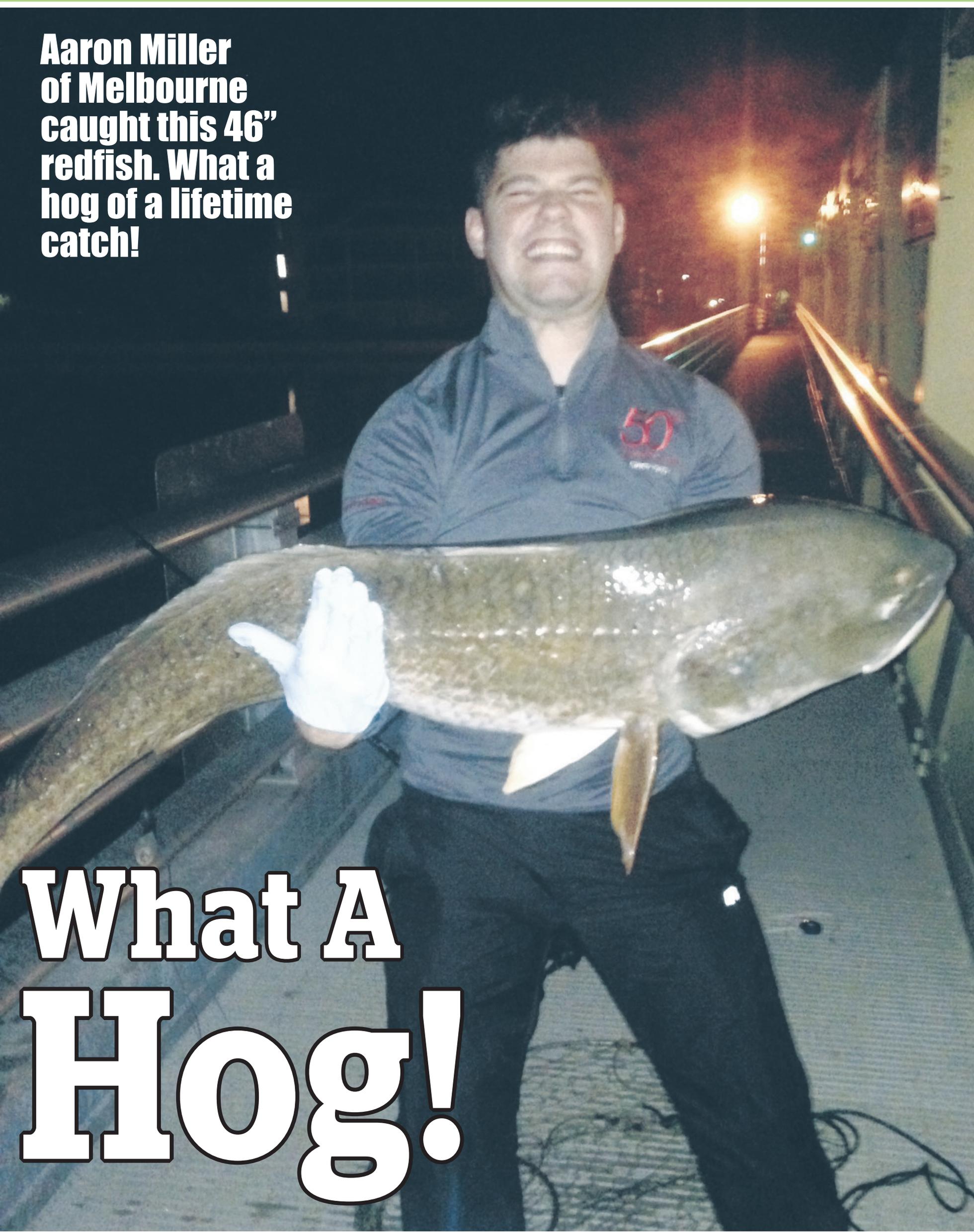
Dave Peltz of Melbourne had a big day with a cobia, snapper and amberjack.



Mike Schnider with a beautiful sunlit tarpon!



**Aaron Miller
of Melbourne
caught this 46”
redfish. What a
hog of a lifetime
catch!**



**What A
Hog!**



**Everything You Need
For The Water!**

321-956-1160

2771 West New Haven Avenue • Melbourne



HOOTERS Makes You **HAPPY**



Order Online or Dine In!

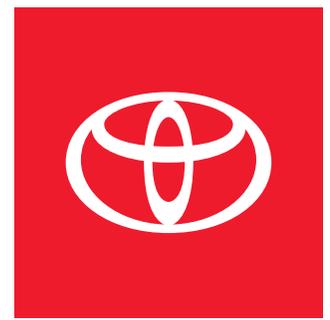


877 South Babcock Street, Melbourne

(321) 725-7409 • HOOTERS.COM



“Bro, We’re Gonna Need A Tundra To Get This Home!”



TOYOTA

**STATE-WIDE HOTLINE
FOR TOYOTA TUNDRA DEALS**

[844] 242-3745

Daytona



451 North Nova Road
DaytonaToyota.com