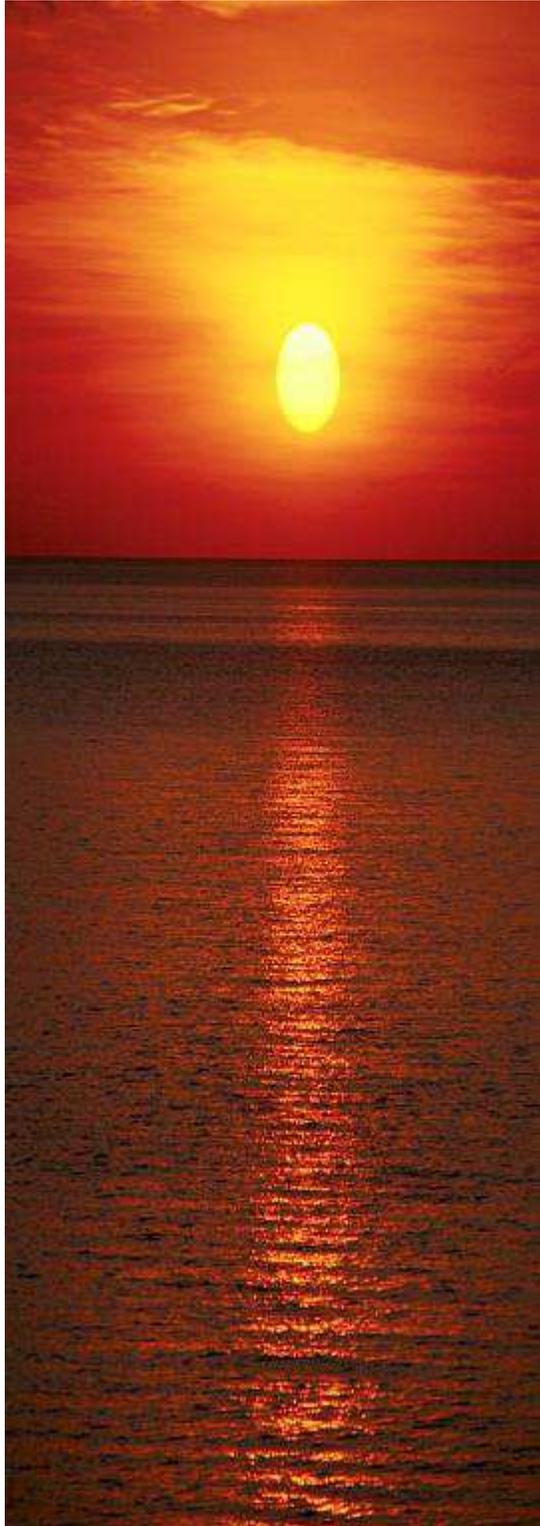


IFC ShortCast



Dear Members,

Thank you to all equity members who voted in this past election. Our current board members have been re-elected and they will continue to a great job for the club.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite All members to our annual Meeting on March 15th at 6pm This is an opportunity to meet your newly appointed officers, here the status of the club & have a brief overview of the past year.

Immediately following our annual meeting there will be a member appreciation party. This will be a members only event.

Now that it is high season, and with fewer dining choices available since the storm I would recommend that all members make Dinner reservations **at least 24 to 48 hours in advance**. Please remember that we have limited window tables available & they are filled on a first come first serve basis. With our incredibly gorgeous weather, I encourage you to try our outdoor patio. We will gratefully accept last minute reservations with time and space availability being considered.

Please be considerate to your fellow members & make sure to have your parking/name card on your dashboard when you come to the club and park 3 deep pulling all the way forward. If you need a new name tag to put on your dashboard, please see me.

Unfortunately we are no longer able to park at the Vernis & Bowling Property

Sincerely,

Vinnie

CAPTAINS CORNER

Hello Fishermen

It has been quite a winter across America with colder than normal weather. In the Keys, we have had several strong cold snaps so far, which have led to some outstanding winter time action. With the help of these cold fronts, the bait were quite plentiful and helped produce some awesome catches.

One of the coolest fish to target in the Keys during the winter months are the wahoo. These are known as one of the fastest fish in the ocean. It is not uncommon to see fisherman high-speed trolling in the early morning hours, hoping to connect with this great-eating pelagic fish. On the Contagious, we like to troll a three or four lure spread, with the flat line lures 100 ft back and using a 16-32 oz cigar lead to help them troll deeper. The one or two longshot rods can be used with or without a cigar lead, depending on the lure weight. The best speed for us seems to be 12-18 mph, depending on the sea condition. Yes, a wahoo will eat a lure going 18 mph! There are many lures on the market- the Tackle Center in Islamorada offers a wide variety of lures to help you get started. The advantage to high speed trolling for wahoo is that it allows you to cover a lot of water until you locate some fish. The best depths typically are from 120 - 250 ft. The bluer and clearer the water, the better! Like most pelagic fish, wahoo rely on their eyes to help effectively feed on their prey. My favorite way to catch wahoo is on lighter spinning gear with live bait. Usually a short piece of #5-wire will do the trick. The best baits seem to be live speedos, cigar minnows, blue runners, and pilchards. There is nothing more exciting than seeing a pack of wahoo attack your spread. Once you hook up, it is important to back off the drag and let the fish do its crazy, blistering runs. In December, we actually had a pack of over 25 wahoo behind the boat all at once, with the fish ranging from 30 - 60 lbs. Once they started feeding, they were like a pack of wolves! As fast as you could put a bait in the water, you got a bite. We hooked nearly 9 wahoos in one flurry, managing to land four of them on 12-20 lb spinning rods. It was quite a sight!

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Another fish that feeds in packs is the sailfish. This winter provided us with some great days to sailfish. The early cold fronts pushed a large amount of ballyhoo out to the reef. It didn't take long for the sailfish to find the bait, showering the ballyhoo on a regular basis. However, the most consistent way to catch sailfish this year was with using kites. With the windy winter conditons this year, the kite-fishing allowed us to be more effective. We had several cover ups this year. As a captain, it is really cool to see a wolfpack of sailfish fighting over your baits in the kite spread. The trick is to be able to try to connect with as many as you can, communicating with each other in the cockpit. For example, On the last day of the Cheeca Presidential Sailfish Tournament, anglers Dr. Travis Bennett, Tim Rahn, and Mark Mitchell got to see a total cover up. We had six baits out and all six baits gotten eaten by sailfish within three seconds. Talk about total craziness!!! We had three or four sails jumping all over each other at the same time. After things settled down, with only three anglers we managed to catch four of the six kite bites, while Mark managed to catch another on a spinning outfit several minutes after he released his first sail on the kite rod. It was probably one of the most chaotic and exciting ten minutes I have ever experienced while sailfishing. Catching those five sails helped us catapult into third place in the Gold Cup Sailfish Series for the year. We finished just behind Team Relentless and Team Mdala.

If pelagic fish are no your cup of tea, the bottom-fishing has been on fire this winter. Ever since Hurricane Irma, the snapper fishing has been exceptional. Up and down the Florida Keys, anglers are catching beautiful mutton snappers as well as a variety of other snappers. The trick to catching the large muttons is to use good live baits or even de-boned ballyhoo over the deep reefs or around the wrecks. We like to drift with long 30-50 lb. leaders and 3/0-5/0 circle hooks. The best baits this year seem to be live ballyhoo, pinfish, and cigar minnows. There have also been some monster red snapper, nice grouper, and amberjacks around the deep structures. Large muttons can be targeted on the patch reefs as well. The windier days making the water muddy work the best.

February is usually one of the colder months in South Florida, but this is not the case this year. With all the east wind, the air temperatures have already been in the upper 70's and low 80's. This means that we will start to see dolphin and tuna showing up a little earlier than normal this year. I have already heard of several boats coming in with nice boxes of dolphin as well as tuna in the past few weeks. We have even gotten in on the action a few times, finding some magical pieces of debris holding dolphin as well as nice triple tail.

Before long, it will be late spring and early summer- when the dolphin begin to show up in numbers. The key to early-season success is to keep your eyes on the lookout for working frigate birds. The springtime condition brings us a large number of flying fish with the strong gulfstream currents, and flying fish are what the dolphin and birds love to eat.

This time of year is also a great time of year to target cobia. Hopefully we will have a late push of these great-fighting fish. This year has been much slower than previous years, which may have something to do with our storm this past fall. With some luck, our cobia population will show back up soon. Our best luck catching cobia is to find them following the large sting rays along the Hawk's Channel area south of Islamorada. If you are lucky enough to find a ray, a large school of cobia are typically around them. The cobia are quite aggressive due to the competition factor. A large variety of baits will work, as well as artificial lures and even using a fly rod is possible.

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Appetizer

Scotch Egg

Hardboiled egg wrapped in sausage, mustard sauce

\$11.25

Entrée

Corned Beef & Cabbage

Slow Cooked Brisket, Cabbage & New Potatoes

\$17.95

Irish Sheppard's Pie

Spiced Stewed Lamb & Vegetables Topped with
Browned Mashed potato

\$16.95

Irish Cheese Cake

With Baileys & Mint Chantilly

\$8.25



INVITATION

"ALL MEMBERS"

You are cordially invited to a
Complimentary
Member Appreciation Party
To be held on

MARCH 15th 2018 6:30 PM

This is in appreciation for your continued
support of

"YOUR CLUB"

THE ISLAMORADA FISHING CLUB

RSVP BY MARCH 12

Open Seating

305-664-4735

{This is for members & Significant Others only}

No Guests Please

Member Dues and Food & Beverage Minimums

Member Annual Dues & Minimum amounts are billed automatically according to membership categories:

Resident Dues — \$1100.00 Annually **plus \$1100.00 Food & Beverage Minimum**

Non Resident Dues — \$750.00 Annually **plus \$750.00 Food & Beverage Minimum**

Spouse Privilege Dues — \$550.00 Annually **plus \$550.00 Food & Beverage Minimum**

Guides Dues — \$250.00 Annually **plus \$250.00 Food & Beverage Minimum**

Intermediate {21-35} Dues—\$375.00 Annually **plus \$375.00 Food & Beverage Minimum**

Corporate/Equity– Resident Dues— \$1900.00 **No Food & Beverage Minimum**

Corporate/Non Resident Dues— \$1900.00 **No Food & Beverage Minimum**

If the Food & Beverage minimum is not met upon renewal of your annual dues, the minimum left will be automatically charged to your account. Minimums do not include taxes or service charges.

Please be sure we have the most recent E-Mail, Home address, updated credit card information as well as a contact Telephone number on file at the club.

If you are not currently receiving E-mails from the club. It maybe that we need an update or that you need to check your "Spam Filter"

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 Happy Hour	3 Prime Rib
4	5	6 Jim Bokor Bonefish Redfish Kick-Off	7 Jim Bokor Bonefish Redfish Appetizers	8 Jim Bokor Bonefish Redfish Appetizers	9 Jim Bokor Bonefish Redfish Awards <hr/> Happy Hour	10 Prime Rib Night
11	12	13	14	15 Annual Meeting 6:00 pm <hr/> Member Appreciation Party Following	16 Happy Hour	17 Prime Rib Night St. Patrick's Day Specials
18	19	20	21 Bougainvillea Thank You Cocktail Reception	22	23 Happy Hour	24 Prime Rib Night
25	26	27	28 Purple Isle Art Guild Dinner	29	30 Happy Hour	31 Annual Seder Closed