



Fishing Post - April 2010

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

www.aswsc.org

Fishing Season Arrives! (Finally)

After a long and especially cold, wet winter, things are warming up and tackle all over the area is coming out of storage. Boat mechanics are backlogged performing annual maintenance (and lower unit repairs). Tackle stores, marinas, and fishing communities are gearing up for what looks to be a more profitable season than the last few. Meanwhile, our fisheries management agencies and the anti-recreational-fishing lobbying interests haven't quite yet figured out how to keep us from fishing altogether, so it's time to sharpen those hooks and re-spool those reels.

If you haven't already, also be sure your paperwork is in order: boat registration; fishing license(s); HMS permit; trailer tag; etc. Larger boats (approx 25 ft or longer) are also required to document their vessels with the Coast Guard (see *National Vessel Documentation* PDF on the club website's Links & Resources page.)

While you're at it, this is a good time of year to make sure that all of your safety gear is in good order. Nothing can ruin a fishing day (and every other day) faster than dying. Check PFDs and working components for signs of wear & tear; check the expiration date on your flares; make sure your VHF radio and antenna are working properly and in good shape; replace any expired or missing items in your first aid kit; check your fire extinguishers; test navigation lights, bilge pumps, horns, and other key electrical components. *Safety First* isn't just a slogan; it's a way of life for the experienced boater.

Hopefully, you were able to attend the March club meeting and participate in the excellent presentation by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Bruce Lindsey, Operations Officer for the 7th District, Division 2, along with several other officers and volunteers, gave us a comprehensive rundown on a variety of boating safety issues. Regardless of experience level, everyone at this meeting learned something new. These folks were awesome and we really appreciate them giving us so much of their valuable time. Keep up the good work!

For those of you who asked to learn more about DSC radio capabilities, there is more information available on the BoatUS website: www.boatus.com/mmsi



Coast Guard Auxiliary at March ASWSC Meeting

NOTES ON 2010 FISHING REGULATIONS:

- Grouper is open in the Gulf as of April 1st, opens in the Atlantic May 1st. 22" minimum on Black and Gag in the Gulf; 24" in the Atlantic.
- Amberjack reopened on January 1st. Minimum length is 30" in the Gulf (28" Atlantic). If the recreational quota numbers for 2009 are unfavorable, there could be a shortened season or additional closures for 2010.
- At this point, Red Snapper season in the Gulf will open June 1st and close approximately July 24th (depending on harvest); however, there is a proposed rule change which may allow for an expanded season if approved. Expect to hear more on this issue by early May.

We've got a great tournament line-up for this year, we have several new members worth getting to know, and the economy seems to be stabilizing. There's no way to know what the weather will do, or if the fish will cooperate, but until the Feds establish a No Fishing Zone that stretches from Cuba to Manitoba, let's get out there and enjoy our sport while we can.



Off The Hook

BRICKLAYER ACCIDENT REPORT

Dear Sir:

I am writing in response to your request for additional information in block 3 of the accident report form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. You asked for a fuller explanation and I trust the following details will be sufficient.

I am a bricklayer by trade. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the roof of a new six story building. When I completed my work, I found that I had some bricks left over which, when weighed later, were found to be slightly in excess of 500 lbs. Rather than carry the bricks down by hand, I decided to lower them in a barrel by using a pulley, which was attached to the side of the building on the sixth floor.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went up to the roof, swung the barrel out and loaded the bricks into it. Then I went down and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow descent of the bricks. You will note in block 11 of the accident report form that I weigh 135 lbs.

Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rapid rate up the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel which was now proceeding downward at an equally impressive speed. This explains the fractured skull, minor abrasions and the broken collar bone, as listed in section 3 of the accident report form.

Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately by this time I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope, in spite of beginning to experience a great deal of pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of bricks hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel.

Now devoid of the weight of the bricks, that barrel weighed approximately 50 lbs. I refer you again to my weight in block 11. As you can imagine, I began a rapid descent, down the side of the building. In the vicinity of the third floor, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, broken tooth and several lacerations of my legs and lower body.

Here my luck began to change slightly. The encounter with the barrel seemed to slow me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of bricks and fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, as I lay there on the pile of bricks, in pain, unable to move, I again lost my composure and presence of mind and let go of the rope and I lay there watching the empty barrel begin its journey back down onto me. This explains the two broken legs.

I hope this answers your inquiry.



Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

2010 Tournament & Fishing Events Schedule

JAN 13 - 16 West Palm Beach Sailfish Tournament

MAY 13 - 15 Apalachicola, FL Tournament

JUN 5 - 12 Abacos, Bahamas (week long) Tournament

JUN 20 - 22 Middle Grounds Charter (Event)

JUL 14 - 17 Orange Beach, AL Tournament

AUG 12 - 14 Pensacola, FL Tournament

SEP 2 - 5 Destin, FL Tournament

SEP 30 - Oct 2 Carrabelle, FL Tournament

Pub Date: 04-08-2010

(Tournament Schedule subject to revision by Tournament Committee.)

Is There A Future For Sportfishing?

I read an extremely good editorial by Doug Olander in the March issue of *Sport Fishing* magazine, entitled *We're Not the Enemy*. I had hoped to reprint it for you here, but was unable to get permission from the magazine in time. I encourage you to read it if you haven't already. In the article, Mr. Olander reacts to a letter sent in by a [reader] who accuses recreational fishermen of threatening to deprive U.S. consumers of seafood (via our conflicts with commercial fishing interests). Mr. Olander does a nice job of pointing out the errors in this [reader]'s logic and I applaud his well-thought-out response. However, what REALLY struck home with me was the attitude behind the letter to which he was responding (on page 10 of the same issue). This [gentleman], who is not an angler (who would have guessed?), has the impression that all saltwater anglers are super-wealthy (based on boat prices he's seen) and therefore a tiny segment of the population. Even worse, he has the notion that the only reason we go to the trouble and expense of fishing is to get something to eat and suggested that we purchase our seafood instead; he has NO clue as to what we are all about or why we do what we do. He views himself as part of a group (seafood consumers) whose interests are being attacked by recreational anglers. Preposterous, but as I thought about it, I realized that he's not alone. In fact, there are probably a LOT of people who are just as ignorant, including lawmakers and even key people in fisheries management agencies and important lobbies. These people may even comprise the majority! It seems to me that anglers have come a long way (in the wrong direction) from "Hooked on Fishing, not Drugs" to being portrayed as evil destroyers of sea life (and just how did commercial fishing interests end up being perceived as victims?) Recreational anglers (freshwater and saltwater) have been the pioneers of conservation; we have a vested interest in preserving the resource! Bottom line: our public image is a wreck and things are only going to get worse until we learn to stand up together and fight for our right to fish. I hope you're not just going to roll over and give up. Our children and future generations are counting on us. I don't know about you, but it's hard for me to imagine a future without fishing.

— JS, Editor

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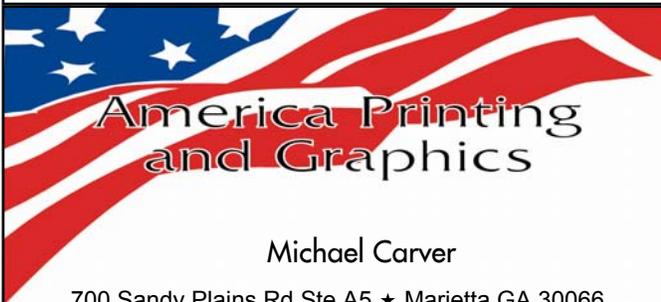
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CONSERVATION NEWS

Recreational and Commercial Fishing Interests to March on Washington - Feb 2010
http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/UnitedWeFish_121609.pdf

Amberjack Closed In Gulf - Oct 2009
http://myfwc.com/docs/RulesRegulations/saltwater_GreaterAmberjackClousure.pdf

South Atlantic Red Snapper Fishing Closed Indefinitely / RFA Files Suit to Overturn
http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/RedSnapper_120409.pdf

RFA Says 'Fatally Flawed' Science is Killing America's #1 Outdoor Pastime
http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/RFA_MRFSS.pdf

Gulf Management Council Contemplates Complete Closure for Gag Grouper in 2010
<http://www.newsherald.com/news/gag-75058-grouper-fishermen.html>

RFA calls for moratorium on recreational closures.
(see news release: http://joinrfa.org/Press/Moratorium_060509.pdf)

Visit www.aswsc.org for links to State and Federal Fisheries Management Agencies websites.

CONSERVATION SUPPORTERS



Protecting the interests of saltwater anglers and working to sustain our nation's fisheries.

www.joinrfa.org



Dedicated Solely to Conserving and Enhancing Billfish Populations Around the World.

www.billfish.org

Coastal Conservation Association



Committed to the preservation of marine resources.

www.ccaga.org



If you're not already a member, you should be! visit www.igfa.org for more information

The International Game Fish Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making and record keeping.

Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation



The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation funds inspired scientific research and innovative educational programs to encourage conservation and best management practices for sustainable marine environments.

www.guyharveyoceanfoundation.org

Get Involved!

It's up to anglers like us to preserve the future of sportfishing!

Upcoming Events, Reminders and Deadlines

NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, April 13th / 7PM

Winfield Hall 3890 Satellite Blvd, Duluth, GA 770.495.8088

Scheduled Speaker: Rodney Fann of Garmin

Rodney will give us the low-down on the latest high-tech additions to the Garmin lineup.

NEXT CLUB TOURNAMENTS / EVENTS:

Apalachicola, FL: May 13 - 15

Abacos, Bahamas: June 5 - 12

Middle Grounds Charter: June 20 - 22

Applications/info available on website:

<http://www.aswsc.org/tournaments>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We desperately need volunteers for planning 2010 Social Events and the 2010 Christmas Party. This was a really enjoyable experience for planners and participants last year. It's a great opportunity for both anglers and non-anglers to help the club while having fun. If you can donate even a little bit of your time, drop us a line with your contact info and someone will get in touch: info@aswsc.org

Share Your Knowledge

One of the great benefits of our club is the opportunity to become better anglers by pooling our knowledge. We need volunteers to man a 20-minute "How To" table during one of the upcoming club meetings. This can be about any fishing or boating related topic. You don't need props or a fancy presentation - and you don't need to be an expert. Just be willing to spend a few minutes sharing information with your fellow club members.

To volunteer, contact Tom Adrien or Tom Mauldin. Or email to: info@aswsc.org

Something Missing?

We welcome your input, photos, news items, and suggestions about the content of the ASWSC *Fishing Post* Newsletters. Forward your information or digital photos to: info@aswsc.org

For latest club information check out www.aswsc.org