

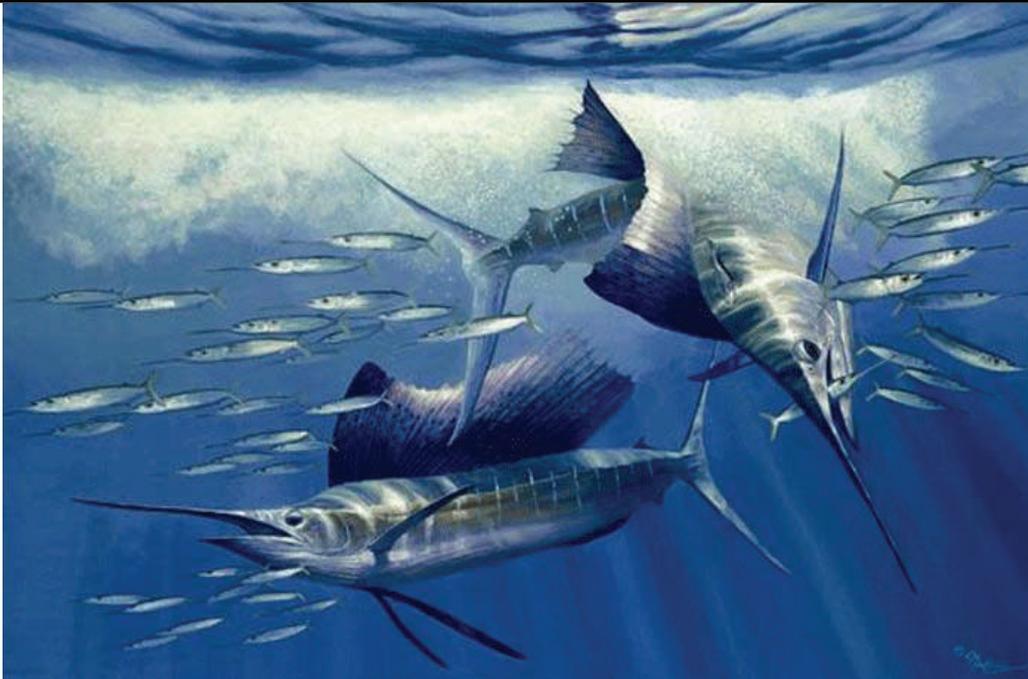


# *Fishing Post* - November 2011

## Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

[www.aswsc.org](http://www.aswsc.org)

### Kite Fishing For Sailfish

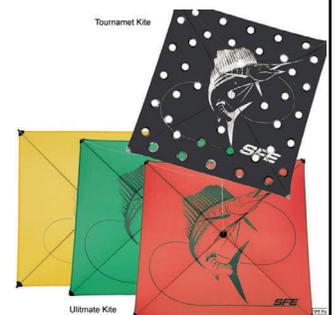


It is getting to be that time of year again when the weather gets colder and a steady line of cold fronts start making their way through. This means the Sailfish have started their southward migration to warmer water and will start showing up off the south coast of Florida. It also means it's time for the club's annual Sailfish Classic Tournament in West Palm Beach, FL. To get ready for this event here are some Sail fishing techniques with some helpful club member tips and tricks to get everyone tournament ready.

#### Kites

Usually two fishing kites are deployed at any one time, but beginners may want to stick with one and experts may fish three. Different colors are good for yelling out "Blue! Red! Yellow!" to help a crew member quickly locate the bite. There are different styles of kites designed for different wind velocities. It is good to carry a number of kites, low-wind and high wind versions. Balloons are also helpful for no wind and also kite retrieval if it happens to hit the water to keep it floating. Once a kite hits the water with no balloon it will sink and become difficult to retrieve against the waves and current and may even break off if pulled to hard. Once retrieved it must be rinsed with fresh water and dried or it will become heavy and unresponsive with the added salt crystals. In no wind conditions balloons will need to be filled with Helium so be sure to consider this need before leaving the dock. Kite altitude and direction can be fine-tuned by clamping on small weights in various places on the kite.

**Member Tip:** *"Look for black Afico kites; they've got an adjustable bridle and (best of all) they are waterproof. They're good for light-medium winds, but seem to work fine in heavy wind conditions. Unlike the conventional cloth kites, they are just about impossible to drop into the water."*



# Kite Fishing Gear

## Kites Cont.

Kite makers include SFE (another club favorite), Bob Lewis, Tigress, and Aftco. Which ever brand you use, bring at least two, in case one gets wet or damaged. When flying 2 kites you want to place a 3/8 oz. snap-shot or two on the top corner of the kite in the direction you want it to fly. Generally kites require a steady 8+ knot wind to fly comfortably. **VERY IMPORTANT:** If you want the kite to bank properly, you must move the kite bridle closer to the center of the kite. There are typically two marks; you want the bridle to be placed at the mark closest to the kite's center. The harder you bank the kite (in the right wind) the more water column you cover. Get the kites as far from each other as possible.



If there is not enough wind to get the kite out and you end up needing a helium balloon, you can rent a helium tank with balloon nozzle at a party store. They also sell the large balloons you will need. A medium tank will fill 3-4 balloons. Be careful not to overfill the kite balloon, it should not exceed the kite size,

30% larger than a beach ball is about perfect. Run a piece of mono or wax line (2 ft or so) through or around the balloon knot. Attach to the center of the kite. Take a long piece and tie to the top corners of the top of the kite and secure to balloon with tape. Or checkout a kite thong made for balloon mounting to kites as seen above.

## Kite Rods & Reels

A kit launching rod can be as basic as a Penn Senator 4/0 or 6/0 reel on any shorter rod (2-3 feet is preferred )or as high-tech as an electric reel with a special stubby one eye kite rod.

**Member Note:** "Use a heavy duty reel, a graphite spool or plastic frame will not hold up."

Level wind reels tend to work best and require less attention to

line bunching when retrieving the kite. Since your eyes are typically on the kite this is helpful. Basic setup for these reels would be 1/2 spool of inexpensive 60-80lb mono attached to 160-200 yards of 80lb Dacron or braided line top shot.



## Fishing Rod & Reels and Basic Setup

A 6'-7' medium heavy is preferable matched with a high retrieve, lightweight spinning or conventional reel. Spool this reel with 20-25lb high visibility line to help see the presentation at the long distances



typical in kite fishing but standard clear can also be used. The line from the reel is typically finished with a double line either a Bimini twist or spider hitch (see knot of the month). Insert a ring (ceramic or metal) over the double line followed by a cork. Insert the double line through small bead before finishing the knot to the snap swivel. A cat's paw knot can be used to attach the snap swivel. A sailfish release is constituted by a crewmember touching the leader. The leader should be 50-60lb mono or fluorocarbon, 10-15ft long.



Member Tip: *The longer the leader, the fewer crewmembers you lose overboard trying to grab it for the release.*

Opposite of the business end of the leader, make a small surgeons loop for attaching to the snap swivel. Tying on the circle hook, be sure to tie a loose loop, a perfection loop will work but some prefer a crimped loop.

**Drift Control**  
It's generally easiest to fish kite lines with your beam to the drift and drifting as slowly as possible. If your boat doesn't do this automatically with power off, a collapsible sea anchor tied to the bow or a mid-ship cleat can help. There are lots of 36- and 48-inch sea anchors on the market for under \$50. The Cadillac of sea anchors is the Para-Tech, selling for a couple of hundred dollars, but adding a greater level of drift control.



# Kite Fishing Gear Continued

## Releases

There are lots of release devices sold for outriggers and downriggers; the ones you want for kite fishing are the pin-style. There are kits that have everything. The nice thing about the kits is that you don't have to sort out which size swivel is needed for which clip. You just assemble the kite outfit and go fishing. A recent twist among kite pros is the use of rigging floss half-hitches to build up appropriately sized release clip-stoppers on the kite line. This eliminates the need for swivels and knotted connections, making it less likely that you'll break off a kite down the road.



**Member Tip:** Attach 2-3 release clips with appropriate swivels, Blacks Marine or Goldfinger (pin style) on the line with the pin facing inward, toward the kite rod. The kite clip swivels should be 60-70 feet apart. If you would like to add a third clip, you can use around a 1/8in. drill bit (depending on swivel size), and drill a hole through the clip that will allow a 3<sup>rd</sup> swivel to pass through. You can find 3 different swivel sizes rated for 50+ lbs (Spro makes the smallest) and drill one swivel to ensure the 2<sup>nd</sup> swivel passes through. You can purchase a pre-drilled Black Marine kite release clip kit that has 3 clips instead. [BlueMarlinChronicles.com](http://BlueMarlinChronicles.com) has all of these.



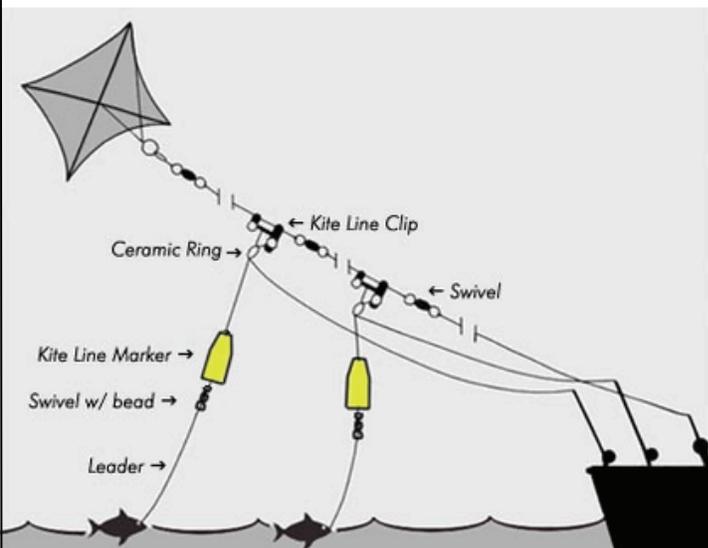
## Three-way rod holder

You need to have rod holders to kite fish, and it's best to have them very close together. For kite-fishing with two fishing lines, nothing beats a triad of rod holders in the same area—you can put the kite rod in one, and the two fishing rods right next to it, simplifying adjustments and keeping the boat clear of overhead lines. A Trident is one such three-way rod holder; it has a gimbal mount, turning a single gunnel-mount rod holder into an effective kite-fishing station.



## Hooks & Rigging

Thin, colored circle hooks have grown in popularity and are now required by most South Florida tournaments. They cause little damage to big fish, and many are even deliberately left in sailfish, using a pole with a line-cutting device at the end. Ceramic rings or hooks minimize chafing of the fishing line through the metal release clip. You thread one on the fishing line first, then add a fluorescent marker float, generally positioned cup-side down, followed by a swivel, then your leader. These marker floats, weighted or unweighted, help you identify your line when it's way out there under a kite. Cigar-shaped and popping cork styles are available; if you use the latter, make sure to position it cup-side



down for ease of retrieval. Some anglers dispense with the floats and use surveyors' tape tied above the leader instead. The hooks, whether circle or j-hook, are generally sewn into a live baitfish, using a long 4" rigging needle and short piece of Dacron line or a dental rub-

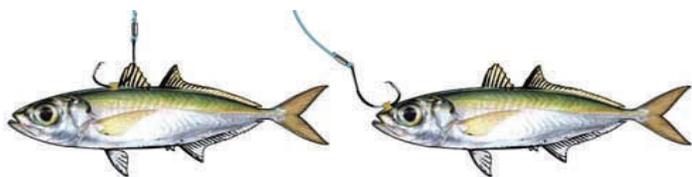


ber band 1". Pierce the baitfish through the shoulder, tie a loop and snug it around the hook's bend, leaving only line piercing the baitfish. This causes little damage and allows for great freedom of movement. Move the hook further forward for slow trolling with the kites in the air or flat lining baits with no kite.

# Kite Fishing Techniques

## Live baits

Kite fishing means using live bait, without exception. A couple dozen goggle-eyes work best, but you will pay for the convenience. They're silver and almost as tough as a blue runner on the hook, scampering all over the waves. They are typically only caught at night out on the offshore reefs, which is a serious hassle. Easier to catch in daylight hours are Spanish Sardines, Herring, Cigar Minnows, Pilchards, Pinfish and Blue Runners, and these are all proven kite baits. Buy a dozen varied packs of Sabiki rigs and watch for a cluster of boats (sometimes 30 or more) within sight of the beach, they're likely harvesting baitfish with those pesky many hook rigs.



## Presentation

The kite presentation is done properly when the bait is swimming just beneath the surface which means the angler must keep a sharp eye on his or her baits at all times. Many fish will strike bait suspended from a kite to injure the bait and come back for the remainder. This is where the angler has the advantage to get a visual of what's happening as opposed to getting an idea from simply keeping their finger on a spool to feel a fish running off with their bait. When sailfish are chasing bait on the surface, you will notice they often free jump in an attempt to injure baitfish that are schooling on the surface. Sailfish typically check out kite baits before the ambush and in most cases there are more



## Presentation Continued

than one sailfish shopping. Once they see what they like they will flush the baitfish down their throat. The angler should keep the line taught while gently feeding line through the clip. Once there is a smooth pull, begin reeling and don't stop until you're tight. Lately circle hooks have been the primary choice for those in search for sailfish whether they are trolling, drifting, kite fishing, or all three. The instruction we've been given not to "set" the hook when using circle hooks becomes a bit more complicated when there is line running through a kite clip. This is why the angler must keep their eyes on their baits at all times and try to get a visual of what is happening so they know how much slack to allow a fish to have for a good hook set. This is also why many instructions are sent from the captain to angler to relay what the sailfish is doing so the angler knows when to pop the clip reeling in the falling line as fast as possible. Some prefer to fish kites from a



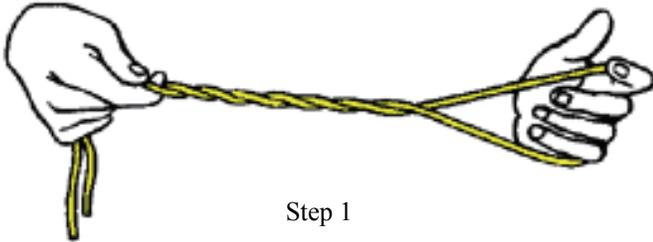
boat in gear "bow in" to the wind or behind a sea anchor deployed off the bow. Others prefer to use the length of a center console in a beam sea with a sea anchor deployed from the mid-cleat and a kite is fished in the front, one down the center, and one in the rear if not limited to the number of lines in the water. Some sailfish tournaments limit boats to a max of 6 lines. In this case, you can fly three kites with two lines or two kites with three lines. Hopefully this information will help make this a great sailfish season for our club members and crews. Remember that kite fishing can be applied to any type of migrating species, not just sailfish. Once you have the technique in place all you have to do is find the fish! Look for blue water and a north current. Good luck and tight lines.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR: **Dan Reese**

# Knot of the Month

## Bimini Twist

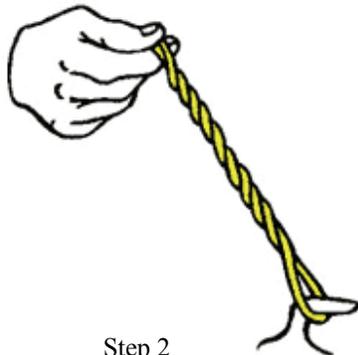
1) Begin by making a loop and twist the line at least 20 times. Depending on the length you wish to make the double, two people may be required.



Step 1

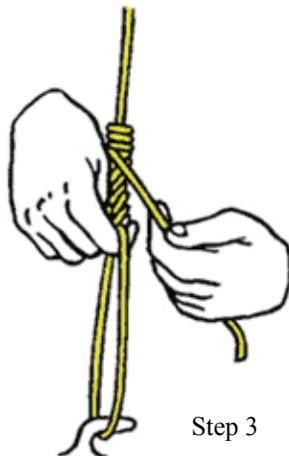
2) Alternately, you may attach the double to something (use a cleat or a rod in a holder and place the line over the rod butt) if another pair of hands is not available. In this case stand inside the loop facing away from the rod, and towards the knot. Be careful of line damage at the end of the double if you do use this method.

This example shows a short double being made. The double end can be placed around the knee or your foot for a double a bit longer. Apply steady tension so the twists come together. Ensure that tension is maintained at all times.



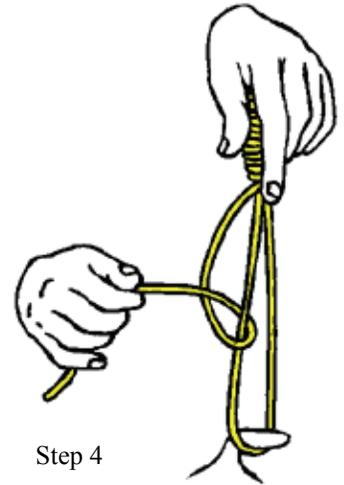
Step 2

3) Keeping tension on the standing end (line to the reel), relax slightly the tag end and let it run down over the original twist. This process can be assisted by placing a finger in the "v" at the bottom of the twist.



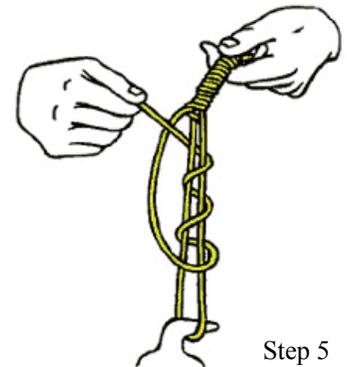
Step 3

4) When the twists are completely wrapped, make a half-hitch around the right leg of the loop and pull tight. This will prevent the knot unraveling temporarily and allow you to proceed to the next step.



Step 4

5) Complete the knot with a four turn locking hitch around both strands of the loop. Moisten the line with saliva and pull the tag end slowly. Use your thumb and forefinger to draw back the turns as you tighten them.



Step 5

6) Trim the tag end but leave enough line so the knot doesn't unravel, which may (unlikely if tied correctly) happen if it is constantly moving in and out of rod guides. The unraveling can be prevented by applying super glue to the knot or carefully heating the tag end with a lighter.



Step 6



Finished Knot

# Member Fall Trip

## Fort Lauderdale Boat Show Oct. 2011

The Lauderdale show was a fun time with lots to see. Myself and a former club member went down and checked out the show for three full days. It looks like on the electronics front that you could probably replace them every two years with some newer version if you wanted to spend the money and to my surprise rather than them getting more competitively priced they seem to gradually be creeping up and up. However I would say that if you take care of your electronics and they have been installed in the last five years they should last you 15 to 20. I had the opportunity to sea trial three Sea Vee's while at the show, a 34' with trip outboards, 39' with trip outboards, and a 39 with twin 425hp IPS Volvo diesels. The 34' cruised comfortably around 40knts, as well as both 39s. I would have to say the IPS boat's ride was far superior to the others. The joystick maneuvering for docking and the Sportfish mode out on the water while working a fish are unbelievable. The boat took a 3-5 ft head sea at 40 knots cruise burning an impressive almost 3 miles per gallon which is much better than the outboards and with out all of the pounding that we all know too well. So if money is not an option for some of you then you can own one for a meager \$390,000. "Nuttin to it". Overall the show was a blast and I would recommend it at least once to see how the other half lives. **By Richard Watkins**



## President's Message

I don't know about you but this year has just flown by and it seems like just yesterday that I was writing my first monthly ASWSC message. Our year for fishing was great and certainly in comparison to 2010 with the oil spill disaster behind us you might say things could have been a lot worse. And while we still struggle with the cumbersome fishing regulations our love of the sport has given us the determination to go out and make the very best of all of the restrictions placed upon us by federal regulators. None of us know what 2012 will deal us regarding regulations but one thing is for sure we will strive to make the best of it.

This time of the year is always special to me as we get ready for the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. I, for one, begin to watch food intake in anticipation of some of the good food and drink synonymous with Christmas and Thanksgiving. We are fortunate but there are many who are not. We have had a tradition of searching out food banks in our area and making sure we help to keep their shelves full. We have even gotten into the habit of doing the shopping and dropping off the food with our granddaughter of nine. What a great experience. If you have never done it, give it a try and see what a rewarding experience it can be.

Our Christmas party is shaping up nicely and we hope to see you there to enjoy a great social time and to greet our new executive committee.

Regards,

Frank

## November 2011 Member Profile: Norm Bowen



Norm has been a member of ASWSC since 1992 with an absence from the club between 2000 and 2006 connected with a job related move to central Florida. Norm and his wife Jo have one daughter and live on Lake Lanier where he and his wife enjoy boating on a regular basis. Norm is currently a Senior Manager with CBRE responsible for Sprint's commercial real estate operations in the southeast USA, Puerto Rico, and USVI. Norm finds it difficult to pick a single most favorite spot to fish as anywhere on a boat is a good place to be. When pressed he will admit to the northern Gulf of Mexico and in particular Destin or Orange Beach. Norm has been, as he puts it, fishing all his life. He was an avid fresh water fisherman until he discovered saltwater. He began his saltwater fishing off the piers and jetties of Panama City Beach in the 1980's.

As fish go, large is less important to Norm but instead he likes to look to the most memorable. At the top of the list is a White Marlin in the 100 pound range along with King Mackerel, Amberjack, Wahoo, Cobia and Tuna all in excess of 50 pounds. As far as targeting fish his first choice would be off shore trolling for blue water species, but big Kingfish on light spinning tackle is still a favorite. Norm has had the opportunity to be a team member on a number of club tournaments with a win. When asked about advice for club members Norm suggested that new members exert themselves in club activities and to help support club events. This participation will help members get to meet and interact with other members and quicken the pace to make the ASWSC a memorable experience. This is especially true for Norm as he will readily admit to having developed lifelong friendships. The club provides a great backdrop to meet others with similar interests. One of his favorite sayings is "good enough is not good enough". As far as food goes Norm is not bashful. He can be adventurous in that he is willing to try anything, especially when traveling to try the local cultural cuisine.

Norm was the club's first Rules Committee Chairman and was instrumental in developing our tournament point's matrix system, Boat of the Year, and Angler of the Year. Norm has also served on the Tournament Committee for many years and as Tournament Committee Chairman three times.

Please join me in Welcoming Norm as our November Featured Member.

- Member Profile by Frank Nicoletti

# Fort Morgan Explored

## Navy Cove Condo, Fort Morgan, Alabama Comments by Keith Mozena

I took the opportunity in early November to make one more fishing trip in the Gulf. I decided to stay at Navy Cove Condo approx 12 miles west of Gulf Shores on Hwy 180 out near Ft Morgan, Al.



Let me tell you, it is a great place to stay, boat, fish, and have fun. It is a completely different vibe than Gulf Shores, Orange Beach, Destin, or many of the “common” places we go to fish. I consider this a “old classic” Florida coastal, mellow vibe as you drive down Hwy 180 west to Ft Morgan with live oaks reaching out over the road and Spanish Moss hanging from the trees. Navy Cove is a private condo complex with 40+ 2 or 3 bedroom units with full kitchens built around a private, well protected marina with power, water, fish cleaning station, and a private boat ramp. Boat ramp is good for boats up to 30ft. For longer boats, Fort Morgan state park has two great long ramps which are free and only 5 miles down the road. Condo units are best sourced on VRBO.com directly from the owners. Rates drop in early Sept to around \$110/night which includes the boat slip. Fort Morgan marina is 2 miles west where bait, ice, and fuel are all available on your way to the Mobile Pass. There’s a Tacky Jacks right next to the marina where you can pull up in your boat and grab a drink or some casual food. The variety of fishing in Mobile Bay, near shore, and offshore is awesome. There is no other place on the Gulf with the complete package in a very affordable price. This is a great place to consider for your next fishing trip!



# Score Card

## Final 2011 Boat of the Year Standings

Boat	WPB	Apalach	Orange Beach #1	Orange Beach #2	Total
<i>Outlaw</i>		20		15	35
<i>Two Bills</i>		15		20	35
<i>Lured Away</i>		5	20	5	30
<i>Vannish</i>	20		5		25
<i>Easy Does It</i>	15				15
<i>Salt Rocker</i>			15		15
<i>Bad Buys</i>			10	3	13
<i>Where to Next?</i>	10				10
<i>Nikki Girl</i>		10			10
<i>The Last Bastian</i>				10	10
<i>Fifty Cent</i>		3			3

## Final AOY Standings

### Men's Division

ANGLER	POINTS
1ST Steve Guntner	250
2ND Mark Mieczko	150
3RD Tom Mauldin	125

### Ladies' Division

ANGLER	POINTS
1ST Lynn Carver	150

### Junior Angler Division

ANGLER	POINTS
1ST Kendall Spencer	225
2ND Jonathan Spencer	100

See Website for Complete Breakdown by Category

## Club Caps Still Available

If you'd like to buy one (\$16/each), call Jace Spencer at 404-931-2292 or send an email to [info@aswsc.org](mailto:info@aswsc.org).

100% of the proceeds go to the club.



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# FISHERIES MANAGEMENT NEWS

Latest newsletter from the Gulf Council

[http://www.gulfcouncil.org/news\\_resources/Newsletters/NEWSLTR08-2011.pdf](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/news_resources/Newsletters/NEWSLTR08-2011.pdf)

FL plans to close Gulf Gag on June 1; Fall season will be Sept 16 - Nov 15

[http://myfwc.com/media/1367589/HotSheet\\_MAY2011.pdf](http://myfwc.com/media/1367589/HotSheet_MAY2011.pdf)

2011 Gulf Red Snapper season set for June 1 - July 18 (see pg 1 of Regulations)

[http://www.gulfcouncil.org/fishing\\_regulations/regulations\\_matrix/Site/Regulations\\_Matrix.html](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/fishing_regulations/regulations_matrix/Site/Regulations_Matrix.html)

Gulf Amberjack officially closed during June/July 2011 (see pg 12 of Regulations)

[http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/rec\\_brochure\\_2011.pdf](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/rec_brochure_2011.pdf)

Gag Grouper closed in Gulf (federal waters) until June 1, 2011 (see pg 5 of Regulations)

[http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/rec\\_brochure\\_2011.pdf](http://www.gulfcouncil.org/Beta/GMFMCWeb/downloads/rec_brochure_2011.pdf)

South Atlantic Red Snapper Fishing Closed Indefinitely / RFA Files Suit to Overturn

[http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/RedSnapper\\_120409.pdf](http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/RedSnapper_120409.pdf)

Visit [www.aswsc.org](http://www.aswsc.org) for links to State and Federal Fisheries Management Agencies websites.

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*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](http://www.guyharveyoceanfoundation.org)

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# Atlanta Salt Water Sportsman's Club



## Christmas Party



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**Non Members \$15.00 Each**

Call Galen Forbes:

706-276-3366 or

404-625-4071

Tickets on sale at  
Oct 11th meeting

We have **DEADLINE** of:

Nov. 30th, for the  
**FINAL** head count

### Christmas Auction:

\$500.00 Gift Card to  
BASS PRO SHOP

**Tickets Go On Sale**  
Oct. 11th, Club Meeting  
\$10.00 Each—Limited Quantity  
Don't pass up this great deal

Contact: Steve Fritz  
404-702-5558



Year End Awards Given Out  
Loads of Great Raffle Items  
New Officers Introduced



# Upcoming Club Events, Reminders and Deadlines

## NEXT CLUB MEETING:

**Tuesday, Feb 14, 2012 / 7PM**

**Holiday Inn Gwinnett Place / 1948 Day Drive, Duluth / 770-814-2800**

See website for directions: [www.aswsc.org](http://www.aswsc.org)

**Scheduled Speaker: To be announced.**

## NEXT CLUB EVENT:

**Atlanta Boat Show**

**January 12-15, 2011**

**Georgia World Congress Center**

See link below for additional information:

<http://www.atlantaboatshow.com/>

The club will have a booth at the show.

If you can volunteer to man the booth, help setup or just want to come by and visit,  
Contact Keith [keithmoz@bellsouth.net](mailto:keithmoz@bellsouth.net) or 678-229-4049 for information.



## NEXT SOCIAL EVENT:

**Christmas Party**

**Saturday, Dec 3, 2011**

**Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place**

See previous page or website for additional information:

<http://www.aswsc.org/social-events/>

## NEXT TOURNAMENT:

**Annual Sailfish Classic in West Palm Beach, FL**

**January 11 - 14, 2012**

**([Click Here for Application and Tip Sheet](#))**

## 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](mailto:info@aswsc.org)

For latest club information, check out [www.aswsc.org](http://www.aswsc.org)