



# *Fishing Post* - June 2010

## Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

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

## Apalachicola Doesn't Disappoint

Tournament Report by Bill Rhodes

The 2010 Apalachicola fishing tournament was a huge success. Most of the boats participating caught a lot of fish and we had great participation, including several new members. Offshore, the "highly endangered" Red Snapper bit everything that hit the water, both on the bottom and on the surface. If you could get a bait or a lure past the Red Maruaders, other species such as Amberjack, Grey Snapper (locally called Black Snapper), Grouper, Cobia, and Kings were very cooperative. Inshore we had some great catches of Trout, Spanish mackerel, Redfish, and Flounder. We were blessed with great weather and mostly good seas. The first day, Friday, was a little rough with seas around three feet but on Sat-



urday the waves subsided to around a foot or so.

First Place went to *Outlaw*, (surprise, surprise) captained by Mike Springer. Mike caught a new club record 94.7 Lb. Amberjack (no, not a typo: 94.7 Lbs). Norman Bowen caught a 52.6 Amberjack and a 10.4 Lb. Gag Grouper, and other crew members added some other impressive fish - including a 25.5 Lb. Black fin Tuna also caught by Capt. Mike.

Second place was taken by *TwoBills*, captained by Bill Rhodes. Second place is getting to be a habit for Bill. He is threatening to change the boat name to *Second Place Bill*. Crew members and Bill caught a lot of fish including a 34.4 Lb Amberjack caught by Mike Rhodes, and a 31.2 Lb Amberjack by Ed Hahn. *TwoBills* limited on both Amberjack and Snapper both days.



Third Place was taken by *Glory Days*, captained by Ted DuBose They caught some nice fish, including four nice Black Snapper, a beautiful 26.2 Lb Black Fin Tuna, and a very impressive Grouper Head.

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## Apalachicola Doesn't Disappoint

(continued from Page 1)

Fourth Place went to Captain Jace Spencer on *Bad Buoy*s. Jace proved that you don't have to go offshore to place in a tournament. He and his crew caught lots of Trout, Flounder and other species as well.

Fifth place went to Captain Jim Mason on *Last Bastian*. Jim and crew caught a nice variety of fish, including King Mackerel, Black Snapper, Spanish Mackerel, AJs, and Trigger Fish.



Other notable catches were recorded by Captain Skip James with crew member Margaret Taylor aboard the *Salt Rocker*. Margaret caught a very impressive 20 Lb. Cobia, a 10.8 Lb. Gag Grouper, and a nice King. Captain Pat Thai on *Nikki Girl* did great as usual, with large catches of Black Snapper, Flounder, Redfish, and other species. Most of us stayed at The Water Street Hotel and Marina, and we were very pleased with the accommodations and boat slips. Papa Joe's did a bang-up job on the meals for both the Captains Meeting and the Awards Banquet. All in all, it was a great tournament. *Many Thanks!* to our local supporters, including Papa Joe's, Scipio Creek Marina, Bluewater Outriggers, Half Hitch Tackle, and Water Street Hotel/Marina.

### Tournament Results:

|           |              |               |          |
|-----------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| 1st Place | Outlaw       | Mike Springer | 1280 pts |
| 2nd Place | Two Bills    | Bill Rhodes   | 695 pts  |
| 3rd Place | Glory Days   | Ted DuBose    | 270 pts  |
| 4th Place | Bad Buoys    | Jace Spencer  | 245 pts  |
| 5th Place | Last Bastian | Jim Mason     | 230 pts  |

**REALITY CHECK:** During the Apalachicola tournament, several members of our club and other nearby boaters were stopped by FL FWC vessels. The officers, who were very professional and polite, performed safety checks, made sure licenses were up to date, checked boat registrations, and looked for illegally harvested fish. As we were reminded during the recent visit from our friends with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, it saves a lot of headaches (and cash) to make sure your paperwork is in order and all of your gear is up to code. The FWC inspection included a check for expired flares, for PFDs including a throw-able, and a check to be sure boaters possessed a horn or whistle.

**WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES:** The Angler of the Year program has been an exciting and rewarding addition to the club, but it has created some confusion about proper weigh-in procedures. The scoring for the Angler of the Year (AOY) program is cumulative over the season and completely separate from the tournament scoring, but all of the information is collected at the same time during weigh-ins. In order for a catch to qualify towards the AOY program, each eligible fish needs to be weighed. In years past (prior to the Angler of the Year program) it was not necessary to weigh fish that were obviously within the lowest weight range; however, the AOY program depends solely on weight, regardless of how small the fish is. Also, it is important to tell the weigh-in officials which angler caught each fish (which means it might be a good idea to keep track while you're fishing. Some crews use color-coded electrical ties or make notches in fins, etc). Note that it is **the responsibility of each captain** to make sure that the catch information for his/her boat is properly recorded during each weigh-in. Finally, in order for catches to be eligible for the AOY program, the angler must be a paid club member *before* catching the fish. Note that it is not required for crewmembers to be club members for the purposes of tournament scoring; only the captain is required to be a paid club member. Fish caught by non-member anglers are scored the same during tournaments as those by member anglers (towards tournament scores); however, only fish caught by paid members are eligible for the individual AOY awards program. Your fish will *not* count towards AOY if you sign up and pay for your membership after the fish is caught; only fish caught *after* you are a paid member will be eligible. If you have any questions, please send an email to [info@aswsc.org](mailto:info@aswsc.org).



## Off The Hook

### GROWING OLD GRACEFULLY

I have a lot of experience at getting older; I've been doing it all of my life. When I was very young, I was in a hurry to get older; back then, getting older was a *Good* thing. I'm not certain exactly when it stopped being a *Good* thing, but it was definitely many years ago. I'm reasonably sure it started being a *Bad* thing somewhere in my late thirties or early forties, but it started being a *Really Bad* thing right around the half-century mark. I suppose *Downright Rotten* is just around the corner, to be followed by *Oh Crap!*

It starts in small ways (like when you suddenly need glasses to see up close *and* far away), then other things gradually creep up on you. Like, when did the hairs that used to grow on top of my head change direction and start growing on my back and out my ears? And who stole the body I grew up with and left me with this decrepit old shell? I can't measure my body fat in percentages any more because percentages only go up to "100" (the only six-pack to be seen around my house these days is in the fridge). I'm not sure when I started finding myself in rooms with no recollection of why I came there in the first place (I can't remember) but that's proven to be very annoying. For most of my life, even people younger than myself referred to me as "young man"; now people who are older than me by 10 years call me "sir". I've lost the ability to estimate age; 30-year olds look like 16-year olds. When I go to the mall, groups of teenagers point at me and snicker. I can't break the habit of handing my credit card to the clerk instead of swiping it. When they ask, "debit or credit?" I just stare at them with a blank expression until they tell me what to do.

But growing older isn't all bad. I take comfort in the fact that I gain many advantages as I age. For instance, I rarely need an alarm clock any more (I'm already awake because my back hurts after lying down for more than a few hours at a time) and I'm able to keep a closer eye on the security of my home each night (I'm up several times going to the bathroom anyway). My body cools itself much more efficiently now (I start sweating immediately if I get more than 5 feet away from an air conditioning vent) and I've noticed a dramatic improvement in my lovemaking abilities over the last 5 years (not just once, but *both* times...no, wait, *faster* doesn't necessarily mean *better*. Never mind). I have a tremendous wealth of experience and knowledge I've gained throughout my life, which could dramatically improve the lives of my friends and loved ones (if only I could remember more of the details). I never fall asleep when driving any more (it's hard to nod off with everyone honking at me). My meals cost less (at all the restaurants I don't like) and I get all kinds of exciting 'senior' offers in the mail. I can't be turned down for insurance (according to at least a dozen advertisements) and I spend a lot less on personal products & clothing (at my age, no one cares what I look like).

I also think it's important not to let myself turn into a dinosaur, so I keep up with current trends and technology. I was the first person I know to get a cell phone; in fact, I'm still using the original phone (my wife keeps bugging me to replace it with a model that will fit in her purse and doesn't need a separate carrying-case for the 28" screw-on antenna, but why spend money to replace something that still works?) I'm familiar with all the latest social and music networks like *FaceNet*, *InterTube*, *YouTunes*, & *Tweetie*, and I surf the *interweb* like an experienced *techno-greek*. I can still type an impressive 40 words per minute (when my arthritis isn't acting up). By the way, does anyone know where I can get more ribbons for my typewriter?

# Score Card

## 2010 Boat of the Year Standings

| Boat         | WPB | Apalachicola | Abacos | Orange Beach | Pensacola | Destin | Carrabelle | Total |
|--------------|-----|--------------|--------|--------------|-----------|--------|------------|-------|
| Outlaw       | 10  | 20           |        |              |           |        |            | 30    |
| Easy Does It | 20  |              |        |              |           |        |            | 20    |
| Bo Kat       | 15  |              |        |              |           |        |            | 15    |
| Two Bills    |     | 15           |        |              |           |        |            | 15    |
| Glory Days   |     | 10           |        |              |           |        |            | 10    |
| Fish Dancer  | 5   |              |        |              |           |        |            | 5     |
| Bad Buoys    |     | 5            |        |              |           |        |            | 5     |
| Last Bastian |     | 3            |        |              |           |        |            | 3     |

## 2010 Angler of the Year Overall Standings

(After Apalachicola Tournament)

(See website for individual/category standings)

### Men's Division

1st Place: Mike Springer 250 pts  
2nd Place: Steve Fritz 175 pts  
3rd Place: Ken Barnhart 150 pts

### Ladies Division

1st Place: Margaret Taylor 300 pts  
2nd Place: Nancy Dunbar 50 pts

### Junior Angler Division

(no entries yet)

(see website for individual & category standings: <http://www.aswsc.org/scoreboard/>)

## Oil Spill Blues

Unless you've been in a coma or stranded in an ice cave somewhere in the Antarctic, you're aware of the ongoing situation with the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. The situation is constantly changing (the only thing that hasn't changed is that BP has been unable to plug the leak and has recently abandoned efforts to do so). The clean-up will take years, probably decades. The effect on recreational fishing and coastal conditions will be awful at best.

Coastal Louisiana, still recovering from Katrina, received the first landfall of oil. Losing these barrier islands and coastal wetlands, which act as a filter for the runoff from the Mississippi River, could have a potentially catastrophic long-term effect on the ecosystem of the entire Gulf.

Another major concern is that misguided agencies and environmental groups might seize on this disaster as an excuse to shut down fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, or at least a large portion of the Gulf, for an undefined period of time. As of this writing, the emergency federal no-fishing closure area covered over 88,000 square miles (not including state waters) and is getting bigger every few days; the closure area includes most of our prime offshore fishing spots off of the Alabama coast and the Florida panhandle and reaches to the Keys. There is no projection as to when this closure will be removed and no telling how far it will eventually extend. Meanwhile, anglers and officials are anxiously waiting to see the effects of oil moving through the Gulf Stream, which could impact the U.S. Eastern coast from FL to NC and far out into the Atlantic ocean.

It's too soon to know what's going to happen long term. I'm just hoping that recreational sportfishing will find a way to endure, along with the way of life that my friends, my children, and I have grown to love.

– JS, Editor

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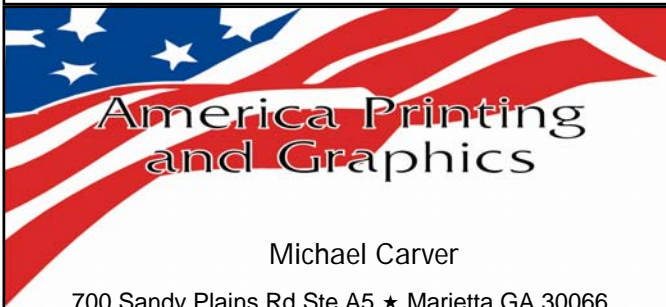
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# CONSERVATION NEWS

(see page 11 for links to Oil Spill news/info)

Recreational and Commercial Fishing Interests to March on Washington - Feb 2010

[http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/UnitedWeFish\\_121609.pdf](http://www.joinrfa.org/Press/UnitedWeFish_121609.pdf)

Amberjack Closed In Gulf - Oct 2009

[http://myfwc.com/docs/RulesRegulations/saltwater\\_GreaterAmberjackClousure.pdf](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](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](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>

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



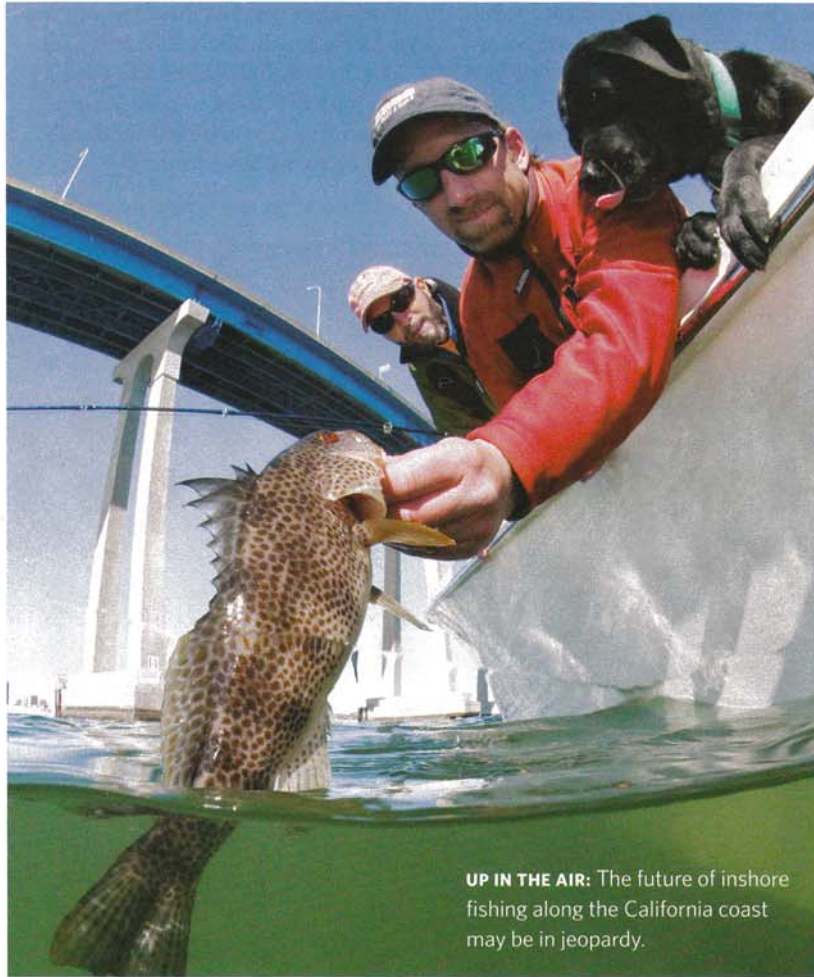
The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation funds inspired scientific research and innovative educational programs to encourage conservation and best management practices for sustainable marine environments.

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

**Get Involved!**

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





UP IN THE AIR: The future of inshore fishing along the California coast may be in jeopardy.

JOHN G. SHERMAN

# Creeping Protectionism?

Look out when the sum is greater than the parts.

BY RIP CUNNINGHAM

It is not that I like to be a naysayer. However, when a subject that keeps coming up keeps making me uneasy, I have to wonder why. There are two possible answers. One is that I don't understand the issue fully, and the other is that the issue has proven to be a real problem. The latter is certainly true with Marine Protected Areas. Admittedly, the former may be true as well.

When the subject of Marine Protected Areas came to the forefront many years ago, I have to say that I did not take them to be a big deal. When some in the environmental community seamlessly interchanged the term *marine reserve* with *MPA*, that got my

attention. As time has passed, there has been less attention on the whole subject along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts — not so on the Pacific Coast.

I was not concerned about MPAs in their early iteration because President Bill Clinton's executive order in May of 2000 was interpreted to mean that the government was going to simply "catalog" all the existing marine areas that offered any "lasting protection for part or all of the natural and cultural resources therein." OK, that seemed innocuous enough. It seemed like a national catalog of areas that had some level of protection and of how that protection was beneficial. Certainly, if one looked down the road, one would understand that the development pressures above, in and on the bottom of our oceans would only increase.

Then came the concern that MPAs simply would be turned into marine reserves where any consumptive uses would be banned. MPAs quickly morphed into the perceived vehicle to set aside an imagined 20 percent of the oceans as no-touch zones. No such event took place along most of our coasts, except in California, where somewhere in this process the state legislature passed the Marine Life Protection Act. It too in its primary form was viewed as fairly benign and held the possibility of actually benefiting the resources and users such as recreational fishermen. Much like a scalpel, which in some hands can be used to fix medical problems and in others is a deadly instrument, the MLPA could be helpful or harmful, and it became controlled by those who wanted to close off the California coast to recreational fishing. In Phase I, none of the recreational interests were accepted. For Phase II, the Partnership for Sustainable Oceans was formed by a coalition of recreational interests that included users and the industry they support. This partnership has kept its finger on the MLPA pulse and pushed for alternatives that are less restrictive

on recreational users. So far, it has not been able to get a lot of traction.

Those in power have their agenda, and it does not include recreational fishing. Yet, going back to the original Act, its language was much like that of the executive order: It simply states that “there is a need to re-examine and redesign California’s MPA system to



**NO EASY WAY:** Levels of protection and special regulations areas on the West Coast present a daunting image.

increase its coherence and its effectiveness at protecting the state’s marine life, habitat and ecosystems.” A little bit like apple pie, mom and the American flag.

By some estimates, as much as 80 percent of the productive California coastline will be off limits to recreational angling. The worst part is that no amount of reasoned debate seems to affect what looks like predetermined decisions.

Perhaps this California example is what causes the unease in the back of my mind, even though those in charge say that this type of thinking is an overreaction. Maybe it is, but it is not without

cause. What also brings about some unease is the fact that every time I attend another MPA Center update, there is something new added to the mix. At first, it was simply cataloging. Then came gap analysis after all the areas were analyzed. The concept of gap analysis seems to indicate that there is an unspoken objective that needs to be reached. Next came conservation impacts of the areas, not to mention a complete geographic information system for mapping, which appears redundant with the efforts being directed into the new Marine Spatial Planning initiative. None of these things individually would mean much, but together, like a snowball rolling downhill, they are gaining in size and momentum. Like much of our now massive federal bureaucracy, which started out small and focused, this effort is slowly taking on a life of its own.

The concerns with this whole process extend well beyond those of this writer. Since many of the areas that are eligible for designation are fisheries management closures, the Regional Fishery Management councils have some concerns about the management of these areas once they become part of the National Registry. Right now, the councils have been told they will retain the ability to modify the “lasting protection” for these areas and can simply request that an area be removed. Sounds reasonable, but remember back to the California example.

It is not my intent simply to be negative. In general, my feeling is that one should try to offer some sort of positive solution, but I cannot, and not because I don’t want to. In a nutshell, my concern is that the majority of all recreational angling takes place in about 1.5 percent of all our oceans. If there ultimately is a successful effort to restrict access to some portion of our marine resources, it would not take a lot to have a substantial negative impact on recreational fishing. I do not see this as a direct assault on recreational fishing but as the possibility of its death by a thousand closures. ~

# Upcoming Events, Reminders and Deadlines

## NEXT MEETING:

**Tuesday, June 8th / 7PM**

**Winfield Hall 3890 Satellite Blvd, Duluth, GA 770.495.8088**

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

## NEXT CLUB TOURNAMENTS / EVENTS:

**Abacos, Bahamas: June 5 - 12**

**Middle Grounds Charter: June 20 - 22**

Applications/info available on website:

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

## OIL SPILL NEWS LINKS

<http://jeffmiller.house.gov/deepwater/>

<http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/>

[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater\\_horizon\\_oil\\_spill.htm](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/deepwater_horizon_oil_spill.htm)

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>

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

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