

# FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

JANUARY 2016



*Educating, Restoring, Conserving through Fly Fishing*

# Shad Fishing the St Johns River With Mike Head

## FCFF Meeting

7<sup>PM</sup> January 4<sup>th</sup> 2016

Southpoint Marriott, Jacksonville, Florida

**H**appy New Year! It is the start of a new year and that means SHAD! The annual migration of the American Shad up the St Johns River has commenced. Early forecasts predict that the shad run will be in full swing by early January.

In anticipation of the annual shad migration, our guest speaker for the January 2016 meeting will be long-time member Mike Head. Mike, who is the Club's resident shad expert, will be discussing shad fishing on the St Johns River. Shad fishing is a rather unique fly fishing experience. If you have never fished for Shad, there is no better person to learn the basics from than Mike Head. For those of you who are veteran shad fisherman, Mike is likely to teach you a trick or two to make your day on the water more successful. Mike's discussion will include where and how to fish for shad. Additionally, Mike will be discussing the appropriate flies to use, including the Shad Dart, and how to tie them. If you plan to fish for shad this year you don't want to miss Mike's presentation.

The start of the new year also means it is time to renew your membership to the First Coast Fly Fishers as well as register for your annual banquet. At \$100 per year for a family membership, the First Coast Fly Fishers is still the best bargain in fly fishing. Your annual membership entitles you monthly meetings and outings; free casting instruction with local Certified Casting Instructors; free fly tying classes and seminars with the likes of Bob Clouser, Jon Cave and Mac Brown at no additional cost.

During the January 4th meeting we will be collecting 2016 membership dues as well as giving you a chance to sign up for the Club's annual banquet featuring Dr. Aaron Adams to be held on February 27th. More information about the banquet will be available at the January 4th meeting. Keep your eyes peeled for an upcoming email announcement.



**Mike Head finishing the Gate River Run**

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### On the Cover:

Shad-Master Bart Isaac with a nice shad from a few years back.

# Freshwater World Record

**D**uring a recent fishing trip in Guyana, South America, fly fishing angler Richard Hart has caught a giant 416 pound - 188.4 kilos arapaïama on fly tackle!

Richard Hart traveled for the first time to British Guyana's in 2014. There he went to the Esequibo river to chase new IGFA world records for the "wolf fish" aka trahira. During that previous expedition, he gave a shot as well as trying to capture an arapaïmai on the fly. Though he did not have the right flies, he succeeded by hooking into two of them, weighing respectively 70lb for the smallest, and 300lb for the biggest.

What he learned and experienced from that brief encounter with arapaïma made him wanting to return to Guyana, so he could challenge himself trying to achieve the near impossible task of hooking up, landing, and breaking the current 339 lb IGFA All Tackle world record for that fish, currently held by TV host Jakub Vagner.

In February 2015, at low water level time, Hart with set off deep into the mountain jungles of Guyana. It was the perfect time of the year as the rainy season has ended so the ponds left behind along the river hold the arapaïma gigas. A fish legally protected against hunting and harvesting by the government of Guyana, the local Rewa Amerindian tribe, and operators.

As they come up to breathe air, an accurate cast would have to be made in the direction they are travelling. Richard was well prepared to make a lot of casts, for days if necessary, in a very hot humid jungle, in order to hook up with these fish. He had been training for years, in the same kind of hot and tough conditions, in the wilderness of the jungles of Thailand, while fly fishing close to the Burmese border for the giant snakehead (channa micropeltes), with his close friend and jungle fishing ace, Capt. Jean-Francois Helias.

This time, Hart was going to fly fish the Rewa river, and up to and beyond Corona falls. A place so wild that

scientific groups are regularly going up and discovering new species of insect, amphibians, and other animal life.

The fly of choice for that ultimate challenge was a Rainy's Chuck and Duck, good baitfish colors, and a strong enough hook to handle such a large fish. In order to not only get the large fly out there often at over 50 feet, but also sometimes quickly, Hart used a wt 16 Sage SALT model rod size rod. A fast action rod for big flies, strong tip, with excellent forgiveness in the line direction for all the many imperfect false casts made. Another good reason to choose this size of Sage SALT fly rod, designed to handle large tarpon, sailfish, and marlin, was to tire the fish quicker when hooked so it would be a lot less stressed, and have an excellent chance at a good recovery. These fish can die if not handled properly, or played too long on light or inadequate equipment.

A Tibor Billy Pate Tarpon reel was Hart's reel choice, in order to have the drag capability, when applying pressure to the fish. It was loaded with RIO 100 lb. Dacron backing in case the fish went off on a long run. Arapaïma often run direct for submerged trees and wood, so it is important to keep them out of these snags.

A RIO 500 Grain Floating line enabled the fly to move quickly and easily to the intended spot.

The two boatmen, one who steers at the front, and one to guide from the back, and the fisherman have to be extremely quiet. Complete silence is needed in the boat, as the Arapaïma's long bodies, hence their long sensory lines, will detect your presence, get stressed and agitated. When this occurs they will come up quicker for air, and turn back on themselves, before going back down. So in this situation a cast is needed in the opposite direction to how they broke the surface. When they are really stressed they will slap their tail hard on the water's surface, as they turn back around





and go back down. This warns the other fish of the angler presence. When on the opposite the Arapaima is relaxed and unaware of your presence, they come up for air, and go down in a straight line to the depths of the pond. It is then you got to make a well-timed and accurate cast.

After several hot and humid days of fishing in the Guyana jungle, after hundreds and hundreds of casts with flies so big they are called “chucking a chicken” or “chuck and duck”, no takes or hits had occurred. But Richard still had faith. What he needed to achieve greatness was only one cast, done at the very right time, at the very right place. One afternoon, he finally got his shot. A large specimen was on a feeding frenzy chasing baitfish and peacock bass. One cast a few feet ahead, and a few feet to the left of where the Arapaima had broken the surface, and the weight of a hungry mega size fish pulled the RIO line tighter than expected.

Fish on! To decrease the playing time, the Sage SALT rod was pointed low, and at angle of about 10 degrees from directly at the fish. This gave maximum pressure. After the arapaima jumped, and went to swim away,

with the rod again pointed almost directly at the fish, Richard pulled down and back. This stopped the fish dead in its tracks and would turn it upside down. With the 100 lb. RIO monofilament saltwater Hard Alloy tip-pet, Hart definitely had the breaking strain capability. The fish would then be disoriented and try and jump right away again. The fish was tiring quicker with each jump. After the fourth aerial display, the Amerindians got into the water and caressed the Arapaima into a weighing sling. It took the angler only 20 minutes to land the fish.

The monster, weighed on Chatillon certified scales, was 416 lb, breaking by over 80 lb the Jakub Vagner’s 339 lb record. Richard Hart’s catch of a lifetime is currently pending homologation with the IGFA. A part of earning him (if homologated) the new IGFA All Tackle world record, the 416 lb arapaima qualifies for the largest freshwater fish ever caught to date on a fly rod.

*This article originally appeared on International Fishing News - <http://internationalfishingnews.blogspot.com/2015/03/guyana-caught-world-record-416-lb.html>*



# Southernmost Shad

By Jon Cave

**E**ach year, one of the most prolific yet little known runs of anadromous fish occurs during the winter months in east-central Florida as American shad migrate from the sea to spawn near the headwaters of the St. Johns River. After a 4 to 5 year absence, the fish are instinctively returning to their natal waters to produce a new generation. Florida has the southernmost migration, but there are other runs of American Shad in many rivers along the Atlantic Seaboard. Tags indicate the fish travel from as far away as Canada's Bay of Fundy.

The American, or white, shad is the largest of the herrings. In Florida, they average 2-3 pounds, and 5-pounders are caught with regularity. In rivers to the north, the average size is somewhat larger, mostly because some of the northern fish are repeat spawners. Those in the St. Johns die after reproducing – probably the result of making such an exhaustively long trip, but also because the warm southern river drains the fish of the energy necessary for a return to the Atlantic.

Shad begin to enter the river mouth at Jacksonville sometime in December when seasonal temperatures begin to cool the water. Male shad, or “bucks”, are the first to arrive, followed shortly thereafter by the larger female “roe” shad. Once the fish enter the river, they wind their way a distance of more than 200 miles to the uppermost reaches south, or upstream, of Lake Monroe where 80 percent of the river's fall occurs and currents

are the strongest. There, females release their eggs freely in the moving water while males swim alongside and disperse milt. The strong flow of water facilitates the fertilization process by mixing eggs and milt together and it prevents the eggs from settling in the bottom silt where they are likely to perish. The height of spawning activity occurs in January, February, and March when water temperatures hover in the mid-60's, but a very small number of shad may still be alive well into April.

The shad's preference for a location with a strong current should be the foremost consideration in selecting a productive fishing spot. Places with the swiftest flow include the main channel, the edges of steep banks, deep holes, the outside bank of sharp turns, and drop-offs. On occasion, the fish will even move into tributaries if the current is substantial enough. Among the locations with the best opportunities to flyfish for shad are those in the vicinity of Mullet Lake, Lemon Bluff, Highway 50, Lake Harney, Hatbill Park, and Puzzle Lake.

Shad are filter-feeders who nourish themselves by opening their mouth with gills flared to strain food, mostly plankton, from the water as they swim. However, studies by biologists indicate that shad, like many other anadromous fish, stop feeding once they enter the freshwater environs of their home river. Some skeptical anglers doubt that scientific research because they have witnessed shad pursuing minnows (a rather common occurrence) in spawning locations and mistake that behavior for feeding when, instead, the shad probably regard the smaller fish as egg-eating predators and are chasing them from the breeding area.

Despite the fact that they don't feed in freshwater, shad can be enticed to strike small flies if they are presented effectively. Flashy patterns tied on size 6 hooks and weighted with a set of bead-chain or extra-small dumbbell eyes are standard for the St. Johns



**American Shad**





River. The presentation needs to be made at either a 90 degree angle to the current or, preferably, just slightly downstream. To allow the fly sufficient time to sink, dead-drift it with an occasional mend until it is quartering down-current. Then simply strip the fly slow enough to feel it occasionally bump the bottom. That being said, there are occasions when shad inexplicably prefer a faster retrieve with the fly closer to the surface – so it pays to experiment a little to find the most successful technique at any particular time.

I normally opt to use 6-weight tackle for American shad, but going a weight lower or higher is just as effective. The river's water level largely determines which fly line density is appropriate. When the water level is high and currents are strong, a full-sinking line may be the best choice. On the other hand, a floating line is ideal when the water is low and in situations where the fish are near the surface. A sink-tip line is a good all-around choice as it will handle the widest variety of conditions. A tapered leader approximately 8' long is a good match with any line density and a tippet

size of 0X or larger will assure a good turnover with the weighted flies.

Like other anadromous fish that must withstand the rigors of a lengthy migration to reproduce, American shad are extremely strong and determined fighters that don't come easily to the net. When hooked, they become flashing, silvery missiles that repeatedly launch themselves from the water. These characteristics, as well as the fish's willingness to strike flies, have made them an increasingly favorite target among flyfishers in Florida where redfish, snook, tarpon, bonefish, spotted seatrout, and largemouth bass also vie for status as the most popular gamefish.

*Jon Cave is an author/photographer/lecturer and a USCG licensed guide. He has been a professional fly casting and fly tying instructor for over 25 years and is the founder of the longest established flyfishing school in the South. Jon has taught thousands of students and trained guides at various international locations.*  
<http://jonbcaveflyfishing.com/>



Capt Rich Santos with an American Shad



# It is time...

**T**o renew your annual membership to the First Coast Fly Fishers. Year after year the First Coast Fly Fishers promotes fly fishing throughout northeast Florida by providing our members with opportunities to learn and experience the joys of exploring nature with a fly rod in hand.

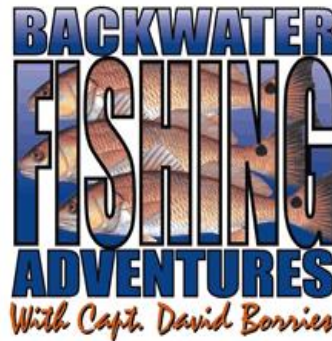
As a member-in-good standing you and your family are entitled to monthly meetings and outings; free casting instruction with local Certified Casting Instructors; free fly tying classes and seminars with the likes of Bob Clouser, Jon Cave and Mac Brown at no additional cost.



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**WWW.FCFF.ORG**

New       Renewal       Youth/Student

**Member Information** (If renewing, only complete the information that has changed)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Age) of Fly Fishing Children \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternative Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check this box if you do not use or have access to email.

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Information: \_\_\_\_\_

Blood Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

Current Medications? \_\_\_\_\_

Any Current Medical Conditions? \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Interests \_\_\_\_\_

Who or what influenced you most to take up fly fishing and/or join FCFF? \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Dues**

Annual Club Membership is \$100 and includes all family members. Please make checks payable to:  
*First Coast Fly fishers* *Please Return Application To:*

**Payment Type**

Check - Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

Cash

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**Fly Fishing Experience**

*Overall Fly Fishing Background*

Please rate your overall fly fishing experience by checking the appropriate boxes

Freshwater       Saltwater       Both Fresh/Saltwater  
 Beginner       Moderate       Advanced

*Casting Proficiency*

Please rate your casting proficiency

Beginner - Little or no experience, or would like to learn the basics of fly casting  
 Intermediate - Know the basic principals and would like to improve accuracy and/or distance  
 Advance - Able to accurately cast an 8-wight line 60-feet with relative ease.  
 Instructor - Professional fly casting instructor and/or guide.

*Fly Tying*

Fly tying is not a critical element of fly fishing; but, it is fun and rewarding. Rate your fly tying experience

Non-tyer       Beginner       Intermediate       Advanced or Professional Tyer



Boat

Please provide information regarding whether or not you own a boat, kayak or canoe

- Boat Owner  
Make \_\_\_\_\_ Type/Size \_\_\_\_\_
- I do not own a boat

Club Participation

FCCF is a not for profit club. Its success relies solely on its members who serve on the board; plan outings/events; and conducting special activities. Please indicate any areas of interest you are willing to provide assistance. Please be assured we are happy to have you as a member regardless of your level of participation.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter     | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Instruction      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fly Tying Instruction     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation/Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a new member fishing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banquet        | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership             | <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Table        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fund Raising   | <input type="checkbox"/> Casting Instruction    | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Outings           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Selling Ads    | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting Guests        |  |

Suggestions

We are always open to suggests on how to improve our club. Your suggestions are always welcomed.

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What suggests do you have for programs and monthly meetings (Topics and Speakers)?

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What suggests do you have for club outings (where to go, what to fish for)?

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If you are a renewing member, what could be done differently to better satisfy your fly fishing interests?

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**Application and Release (You must sign this release in order to become a member)**

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership or renewal in the First Coast Flyfishers (FCFF) Club of Jacksonville, Florida, Inc. I understand the inherent risk in participating in the activities of FCFF, including fishing trips of one day or longer. I further understand that I am solely responsible for all costs of medical treatment and transportation.

I, release, indemnify, and hold harmless, FCFF, its officers, directors and members against any and all claims for personal injury, disease, death and property damage or loss that may arise out of, or be connected in any way with, any FCFF activity. I assume the risk of undertaking all FCFF activities, including related to travel.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*If this is a youth membership, a parent or guardian must sign. If you are signing for a youth member:*

Print your full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Alternative Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

# Entanglement Theory

By Marshall Cutchin

In 2015, science added further evidence for atomic entanglement, where two electrons separated by physical distance exhibit synchrony in state and behavior. When one changes, the other does, even when, as in the case of the new research, they are almost a mile apart. This adds to other mind-taxing theories of quantum research that suggest, for example, that a particle can exist in more than one place until it is observed.

Perhaps you're wondering what all this has to do with fly fishing. Bear with me.

You are lucky to know one body of water well in your lifetime. When you look at the history of the great anglers, they all spent most of their time studying a single river, drainage, body of lakes or set of flats, all within driving distance of where they lived. This is because once you reach a certain stage of study about a body of water, you realize that you have only scratched the surface. There are too many variables that change over time to make a static set of knowledge useful, and what you begin to learn that is unique about a place is its dynamism, not the specific labels like whether it is a freestone river or a spring creek or mud covered marl flat with a high nematode population.

That dynamism is why when we talk about becoming experts at fly fishing we are really talking not about learning all the techniques and systems and responses that are necessary in a given a situation, but instead about being able to listen, perceive and learn at the moment. It's not a learn-this-then-do-that sport.

It's why, when you talk about the interaction between an angler and a guide, you're really talking about the conversation they are having, not the calculated sum of their collective skills. You could assume that the more skills and knowledge present, the more likely a good result. But that is not always true. If an angler and guide don't communicate well enough to simultaneously learn and share what is happening, all the skills in the world will simply not matter. And if you are too distracted to pay attention to the thing that is happening right in front of you at that moment, your perfect casting and fly choice makes no difference at all. Great guide-angler duos often think the same things at the same time, apprehending the same things at the

same time about a change happening in front of them. They leave that place and time with something new and something in common, between themselves and the water and the fish.

A wonderful thing happens when you truly learn a body of water and the behavior of the life that fills it. You become permanently connected to it, in part by understanding all the things you don't know and that are waiting to be learned. Once you reach that point, regardless of how far away it is in terms of distance or time, you feel that a part of you is still there and a part of it is within easy reach.

Does it extend in real, physical terms to our daily lives? Who knows? Does something I do related to the water I know so well, like tying a fly to fish there, change that place in some infinitesimal way? Does a change in that place mean a tiny change in me? Maybe, just maybe, something is happening in both places, at once. As a gas-technologist friend of mine who designed nuclear detection systems for submarine warfare says, "The human mind is severely limited in terms of what we perceive and what we can know about the world." Truth.

I do know that when I come back from a trip and unpack my rods and wipe the last bit of remnant salt dust or leaf pieces from my reel, I am changed. It may be only for a few minutes or an hour, and it may happen only when I pick up that particular rod or box of flies again several months on, but there's no doubting it: I feel an insoluble and present bond to that place. Molecular or not, fly fishing produces entanglement.

The clear trend in physics is toward accepting that things can be affected by more than their immediate environment, what Einstein disdainfully called "spooky action at a distance" and Carl Jung happily labeled "synchronicity." For us—for people who derive an often-unexplainable satisfaction from being on a river or in a boat or just getting to and from wild places—we can be even happier knowing that those connections don't necessarily vanish. They may, in fact, never leave us. Even in scientific terms.

*Marshall Cutchin is the editor and publisher of*  
[MidCurrent.com](http://MidCurrent.com)







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# 57-Inch Muskie Caught on a Fly

**O**n November 9, 2015, Robert Hawkins, landed a 57-inch muskellunge on a fly rod. With a 26.5-inch girth, the fish was estimated to weigh 52.5 pounds. Pending the submittal of the requisite paperwork, the fish is a candidate for the largest muskie caught on a fly.

Hawkins, the owner of Bob Mitchell's Fly Shop in Lake Elmo, MN, was fishing Mille Lacs Lake (about 90 miles north of Minneapolis) using a custom 10-foot, 13-weight, fly rod he build himself. He was using a 30-foot sink-tip line with a 40-pound wire leader. The fly was custom creation Robert tied himself consisting of two 6/0 hooks buried in white bucktail. After measuring the fish and capturing a couple pictures, the fish was returned to the lake.

Robert's first-hand account of his catch, printed below, was posted on the fly shop's website (<http://bobmitchellsflyshop.com/blogs/news/78702276-potential-world-record-muskie-on-the-fly>) in November.

## Potential World Record Muskie on the Fly!

My wife's grandfather (who lives in St. Cloud) starts all stories with, "We left St. Cloud..." meaning, always start at the beginning and don't miss a fact. So here we go. I left St. Paul...

This fish was the circumstance of a very cool culmination of life events. Gabe Schubert who had been chasing muskies on the fly for around 20 years, and Russ Gontarek who had been chasing them for about 4 years taught me the ways of muskie fly fishing. I met Russ about 6 years ago, through a friend of my wife's when they came to visit Montana. Russ called me a few years later and said I should look into buying a fly shop (THIS fly shop). I met Gabe through a combo of the purchase of the fly shop and the fact that he was a good friend of Russ'.

Gabe, Russ and I spent countless hours fishing the rivers and lakes of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and in my first three years of fly fishing for muskies, probably putting close to 100 days on the water, I had only boat-ed 8 fish. I had a year and a half drought where it just didn't happen at all. Plenty of follows and hook ups but my TROUT SET was killing me.



*Robert Hawkins Photograph*



*Kevin Becker Photograph*

Two years ago we decided to take the shop to the Saint Paul Muskie expo in the spring where we set up a fly booth right in the middle of the gear world. It was there that Ben Olsen, who had been guiding muskies on gear for around 10 years, stopped by our booth and chatted with us. He said he had been interested in chasing muskies on the fly and had even dabbled in it a little bit. Russ invited Ben out to show him how these flies can swim in the water a few weeks later, and Ben was in the shop getting set up with the right equipment a few weeks after that. I don't think Ben has thrown a gear rod on his personal fishing time since.

I have gotten to know Ben over the last few years with the common thread of muskies on the fly. We have been doing a little fishing together along with Gabe and Russ. I was starting to think I was the banana (bad luck) in the boat as every time we went out together we would not even see a



EST.  1978

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fish.

Ben invited Gabe and I up to Mille Lacs a few weeks ago, but at the last minute had to bag the plans due to some family stuff at home. Gabe and I went out that day on a different body of water and Gabe boated his personal best muskie in an amazing figure-eight boatside eat, a 51.5 inch monster. It was so cool to see this happen right before my eyes.

Later that week I got a text from Ben and said he had some room in the boat for the weekend of Nov 6th through the 9th. That Monday was looking like the only day I could join up, so I found someone to cover the shop for me and Russ and I were set to join Gabe and Ben and take turns casting in the boat as it's a bit difficult to cast more than two fly rods out a a boat at the same time. Russ had to back out Monday morning after being called into work, so I drove up in the dark and met Gabe and Ben at the boat ramp. It was just starting to get light and it was damn cold out.

Four hours into the day and Ben was casting out of the front of the boat, Gabe was manning the bow mount motor, keeping the boat on the right line at the spot Ben has seen some giant fish in past years, I was casting out of the back of the boat. She ate the fly about 20 feet out. I saw her eat but she ate coming straight at me. I somehow managed to strip set on her three times!!

Then she turned 90 degrees to the boat and I knew at that point she was an absolute GIANT fish. She came straight at the boat, I was stripping line as fast as I could (thanks to Gabe yelling "Strip Strip Strip!!"). She then made a 90 degree turn towards the front of the boat, and did a few giant head shakes out of the water.

Ben has probably seen at least a hundred muskies over 50 inches up to the boat and had boated a 57 X 26.5 the same size as my fish, on gear a few years back. When that fish was shaking its head up near the bow of the boat, and Ben was yelling "OH MY GOD" just before it went in the net, I knew it was even bigger than I thought. Ben said he got sick to his stomach when he saw the head out of the water and once it was in the net none of us even wanted to go look at the fish. Ben said repeatedly, "I don't even want to look in the bag!" All in all the fight only took 17 seconds from hook up to in the net. I am just so lucky she cooperated so well and we could get her in quick. We took a few quick pics, put her on the board and got the length and girth. None of us could believe she was 57, we were all in shock. We got her back in the 45 degree water and after just a minute or so and she swam back off into the depths. Another group came over and congratulated us and got to see her disappear into Mille Lacs.

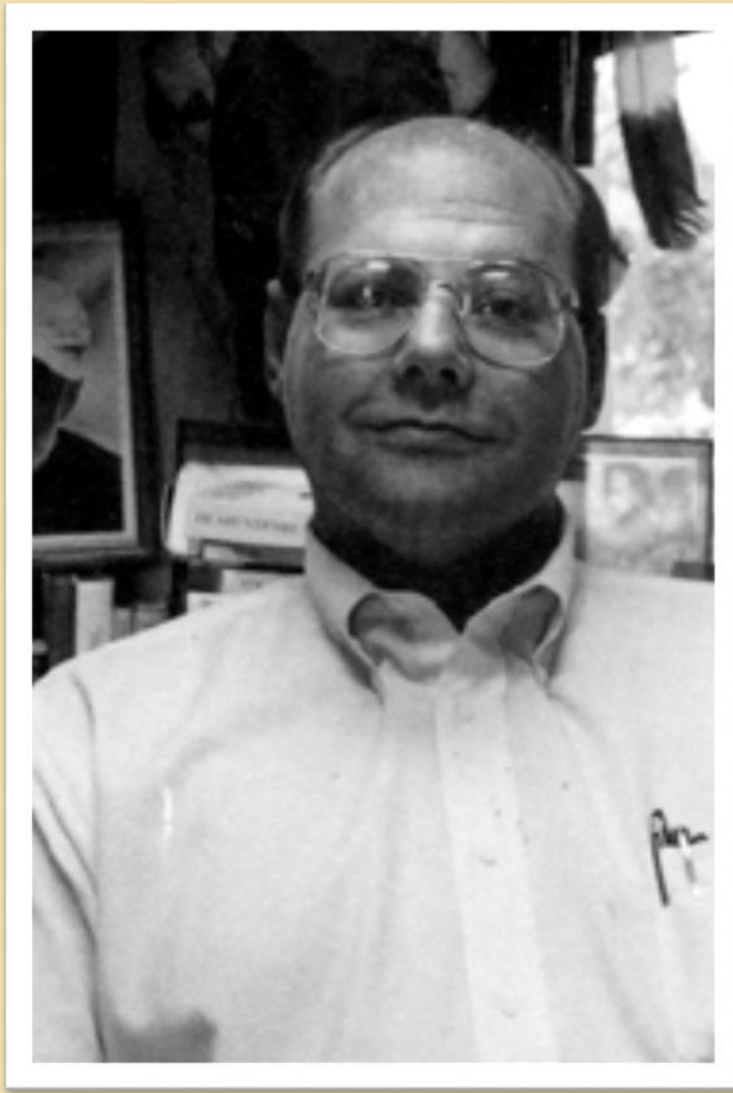
This fish would have never happened without Ben's amazing knowledge of fishing these giants in lakes and Gabe and Russ constantly instructing me on how it is all done.

One word of advice, if you ever stumble across a potential world record while out fishing, be sure not to party too hard that evening, believe me. That's it, that's all.

oOo

You can watch a video of Robert's record catch at <https://vimeo.com/145483311> or simply click the image below:





“Once on the flats it is easy to empty your head of everything but sense and instinct as the sun warms your skin, as the wind sends wrinkles of shadows over the surface of the blue-green water. The flats are a topography of motion. Everything moves, trembles, shutters, responds to the primordial rhythms of the tides, which seem the earth’s own measured pulse: each one, weather flooding or ebbing, brings on an inexorable pageant of beginnings and endings.”

-Harry Middleton  
*Rivers of Memory*



# FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS ANNUAL BANQUET FEATURING DR. AARON ADAMS FEBRUARY 27, 2016

**T**he First Coast Fly Fishers' annual banquet, featuring Dr. Aaron Adams, PhD, Director of Science and Conservation for the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust will be on Saturday, **February 27, 2016** at the Southpoint Marriott hotel.

Known at the "Flats Doctor" Dr. Adams is an avid fly fisherman and one of the world's leading authorities on tarpon and bonefish habitat and conservation. In his capacity with the Bonefish & Tarpon Trust he oversees collaborative efforts in research and conservation of bonefish, tarpon and permit habitat. He has written three excellent and insightful books on fly fishing and fly tying.

From 2 to 4 PM Saturday afternoon, Dr. Adams will be conducting a fly tying demonstration at the Marriott. As an accomplished fly tyer, Dr. Adams drew upon his background in fishery biology to develop several affective saltwater patterns. The fly tying seminar is free to all members in good standing.



The banquet will be held from 6 to 9 PM Saturday evening. Tickets for the banquet for members-in-good-standing will be **\$40 per person** and will include a buffet dinner and cash bar. For non-members, the price of the banquet will be \$100 plus \$40 per person and will include membership to the FCFF. Raffle tickets will be 8 for \$30.

Headlining the banquet will be Dr. Adams who will be speaking about *"The Future of Our Fisheries: Its All About the Habitats."*

The banquet will include several thousand dollars in raffle and silent auction items including: fly rods, fly tying gear, apparel, flies, guide trips and more. This year's Grand Prize is a Tibor Backcountry Wide CL fly reel.





**FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS  
2016 ANNUAL BANQUET  
FEATURING DR. AARON ADAMS  
6:00 PM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2016**

*Southpoint Marriott  
4670 Salisbury Road, Jacksonville, FL 32256*

The banquet will include a buffet dinner with chicken and fish, assorted sides and your choice of beverage along with a cash bar.

There will be several thousand dollars in raffle and silent auction items along with the chance to win a Tibor Backcountry Wide CL Fly Reel

FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND MAIL IT ALONG WITH  
YOUR PAYMENT TO:

*FCFF BANQUET  
PO BOX 16260  
JACKSONVILLE, FL32245-6260*

-----  
MEMBER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Quantity</b>		<b>Amount</b>
_____	Member Banquet Ticket \$40	\$ _____
_____	Non-Member Banquet Ticket \$140 (Includes \$100 annual membership)	\$ _____
_____	Raffle Tickets- \$5 per ticket or 8 for \$30	\$ _____
	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

Payment Method

Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_



# States Have Remedy for Red Snapper Mess

Posted on December 04, 2015 by Thad Altman and Frank Artiles, My View, Tallahassee Democrat

Henry Ford once said, “Don’t find fault; find a remedy.”

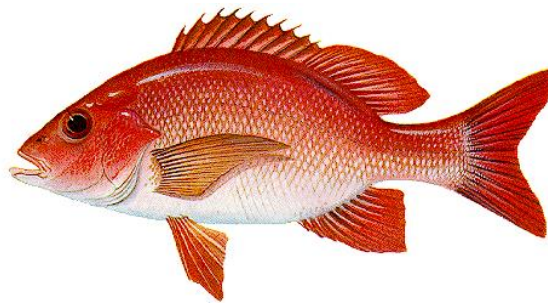
While it is easy to blame the rapid decline in recreational fishing opportunities for red snapper in the Gulf of Mexico on federal mismanagement, Nick Wiley, director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, and the other four Gulf states marine fisheries directors have agreed on a simple, proven remedy for the red snapper management debacle in the Gulf of Mexico – let the states manage it.

The Gulf States Red Snapper Management Authority Act (HR 3094) currently before Congress would allow the states to provide a much-needed solution for a failing system. Although there are some who want to make state-based management a controversial issue, they don’t know the states like we do.

If you’re a Florida coastal angler, ask yourself how many times you couldn’t fish for spotted sea trout because it was “overfished” and had to be closed? Or redfish, tarpon, flounder, sheepshead? How about inland species like large mouth bass or crappie in Lake Tohopekaliga, Okeechobee or Seminole?

The answer is “None.”

With that in mind, those who argue that state-based management of red snapper will be a “race to the bot-



tom” and the stock will once again be depleted are completely off-base. That’s never happened before in any other state-managed fishery, because there is absolutely no incentive for Director Wiley or for any of the other states to do anything but ensure the continued rebuilding of the red snapper fishery and improved access for all. Anything less would be a failure personally and professionally. And unlike in the federal fisheries management system, failures like that mean they would probably be out looking for a new job.

However it may seem, federal managers aren’t out to penalize the recreational sector. Their inability to effectively manage a mixed-sector fishery stems from the fact that their whole management system has evolved around managing only one component of a fishery – the commercial sector. Over the decades, the feds have developed models and found ways to collect hard data on commercial harvest. When it comes to the recreational sector, the federal program bases guesswork on guesswork, especially when it comes to red snapper.

The state approach is simply a better way to manage a fishery as a whole. State agencies put more stock in what a fish population actually looks like and how it’s responding to management in real time, rather than basing everything on estimates of what is caught.

On top of that, each state has demonstrated through their own programs that they can get better estimates than the federal angler data collection program. This allows them to respond more quickly when needed, keep the season open longer when appropriate, and allows a more accurate prediction on season length the following year.

The federal government has had decades to get red snapper management right. It’s time to let the states finally provide the remedy.

*Senator Thad Altman and Representative Frank Artiles are co-chairs of the Florida Legislative Sportsmen’s Caucus.*





CAPT. LARRY MINIARD  
GUIDE / ANGLER

Capt. Larry Miniard

(904) 285-7003

Or

(904) 708-0060

[captlim@comcast.net](mailto:captlim@comcast.net)  
[larryminiard@gmail.com](mailto:larryminiard@gmail.com)



1701 LAKESIDE AVE.  
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904-535-6323

[www.saltwaterflytyers.com](http://www.saltwaterflytyers.com)

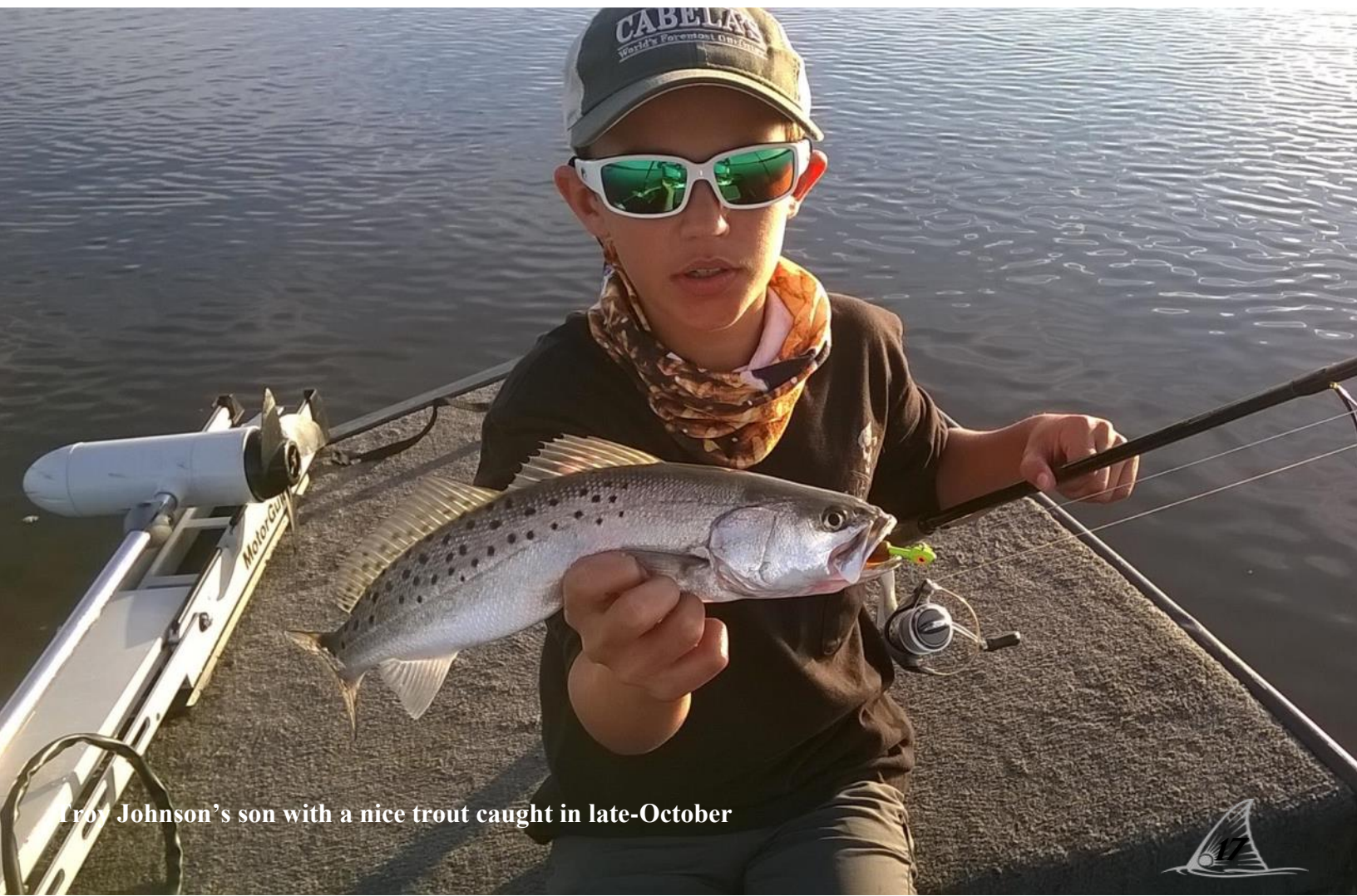


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Troy Johnson's son with a nice trout caught in late-October





## January 2016 Tides - Mayport, Florida (Bar Pilot Dock)

DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		DATE	TIME	HEIGHT		DATE	TIME	HEIGHT				
1/1/2016	Fri	1:16 AM	4.1	H	1/13/2016	Wed	10:52 AM	5	H	1/25/2016	Mon	9:50 PM	4.2	H
1/1/2016	Fri	7:22 AM	0.7	L	1/13/2016	Wed	4:42 PM	-0.6	L	1/26/2016	Tue	3:30 AM	-0.6	L
1/1/2016	Fri	1:26 PM	4.2	H	1/13/2016	Wed	11:18 PM	4.5	H	1/26/2016	Tue	10:08 AM	4.6	H
1/1/2016	Fri	7:44 PM	0.5	L	1/14/2016	Thu	4:55 AM	-0.5	L	1/26/2016	Tue	4:01 PM	-0.5	L
1/2/2016	Sat	2:07 AM	4.1	H	1/14/2016	Thu	11:41 AM	4.8	H	1/26/2016	Tue	10:29 PM	4.1	H
1/2/2016	Sat	8:18 AM	0.9	L	1/14/2016	Thu	5:35 PM	-0.6	L	1/27/2016	Wed	4:12 AM	-0.4	L
1/2/2016	Sat	2:15 PM	4.1	H	1/15/2016	Fri	12:12 AM	4.6	H	1/27/2016	Wed	10:45 AM	4.5	H
1/2/2016	Sat	8:31 PM	0.6	L	1/15/2016	Fri	5:57 AM	-0.3	L	1/27/2016	Wed	4:40 PM	-0.2	L
1/3/2016	Sun	3:01 AM	4.2	H	1/15/2016	Fri	12:34 PM	4.7	H	1/27/2016	Wed	11:08 PM	4.1	H
1/3/2016	Sun	9:12 AM	0.9	L	1/15/2016	Fri	6:33 PM	-0.5	L	1/28/2016	Thu	4:55 AM	0	L
1/3/2016	Sun	3:09 PM	4	H	1/16/2016	Sat	1:11 AM	4.6	H	1/28/2016	Thu	11:21 AM	4.3	H
1/3/2016	Sun	9:16 PM	0.5	L	1/16/2016	Sat	7:05 AM	-0.1	L	1/28/2016	Thu	5:19 PM	0	L
1/4/2016	Mon	3:57 AM	4.3	H	1/16/2016	Sat	1:33 PM	4.4	H	1/28/2016	Thu	11:47 PM	4.1	H
1/4/2016	Mon	10:04 AM	0.8	L	1/16/2016	Sat	7:34 PM	-0.4	L	1/29/2016	Fri	5:42 AM	0.3	L
1/4/2016	Mon	4:04 PM	4	H	1/17/2016	Sun	2:15 AM	4.6	H	1/29/2016	Fri	11:59 AM	4.2	H
1/4/2016	Mon	10:02 PM	0.4	L	1/17/2016	Sun	8:15 AM	0	L	1/29/2016	Fri	5:59 PM	0.2	L
1/5/2016	Tue	4:49 AM	4.4	H	1/17/2016	Sun	2:38 PM	4.3	H	1/30/2016	Sat	12:27 AM	4	H
1/5/2016	Tue	10:54 AM	0.7	L	1/17/2016	Sun	8:36 PM	-0.4	L	1/30/2016	Sat	6:32 AM	0.5	L
1/5/2016	Tue	4:57 PM	4	H	1/18/2016	Mon	3:24 AM	4.6	H	1/30/2016	Sat	12:39 PM	4	H
1/5/2016	Tue	10:47 PM	0.3	L	1/18/2016	Mon	9:22 AM	0	L	1/30/2016	Sat	6:41 PM	0.4	L
1/6/2016	Wed	5:38 AM	4.5	H	1/18/2016	Mon	3:47 PM	4.1	H	1/31/2016	Sun	1:12 AM	4	H
1/6/2016	Wed	11:42 AM	0.4	L	1/18/2016	Mon	9:37 PM	-0.5	L	1/31/2016	Sun	7:26 AM	0.7	L
1/6/2016	Wed	5:47 PM	4	H	1/19/2016	Tue	4:32 AM	4.7	H	1/31/2016	Sun	1:24 PM	3.9	H
1/6/2016	Wed	11:32 PM	0	L	1/19/2016	Tue	10:25 AM	-0.1	L	1/31/2016	Sun	7:27 PM	0.5	L
1/7/2016	Thu	6:24 AM	4.7	H	1/19/2016	Tue	4:53 PM	4.1	H					
1/7/2016	Thu	12:27 PM	0.2	L	1/19/2016	Tue	10:36 PM	-0.6	L					
1/7/2016	Thu	6:35 PM	4.1	H	1/20/2016	Wed	5:33 AM	4.9	H					
1/8/2016	Fri	12:16 AM	-0.3	L	1/20/2016	Wed	11:26 AM	-0.3	L					
1/8/2016	Fri	7:08 AM	4.8	H	1/20/2016	Wed	5:53 PM	4.2	H					
1/8/2016	Fri	1:09 PM	-0.1	L	1/20/2016	Wed	11:34 PM	-0.7	L					
1/8/2016	Fri	7:21 PM	4.2	H	1/21/2016	Thu	6:28 AM	5	H					
1/9/2016	Sat	12:59 AM	-0.5	L	1/21/2016	Thu	12:21 PM	-0.5	L					
1/9/2016	Sat	7:52 AM	5	H	1/21/2016	Thu	6:47 PM	4.2	H					
1/9/2016	Sat	1:49 PM	-0.3	L	1/22/2016	Fri	12:28 AM	-0.8	L					
1/9/2016	Sat	8:06 PM	4.3	H	1/22/2016	Fri	7:19 AM	5	H					
1/10/2016	Sun	1:42 AM	-0.7	L	1/22/2016	Fri	1:12 PM	-0.6	L					
1/10/2016	Sun	8:35 AM	5	H	1/22/2016	Fri	7:38 PM	4.2	H					
1/10/2016	Sun	2:29 PM	-0.5	L	1/23/2016	Sat	1:18 AM	-0.9	L					
1/10/2016	Sun	8:52 PM	4.3	H	1/23/2016	Sat	8:06 AM	5	H					
1/11/2016	Mon	2:25 AM	-0.8	L	1/23/2016	Sat	1:59 PM	-0.7	L					
1/11/2016	Mon	9:20 AM	5.1	H	1/23/2016	Sat	8:25 PM	4.2	H					
1/11/2016	Mon	3:10 PM	-0.6	L	1/24/2016	Sun	2:04 AM	-0.9	L					
1/11/2016	Mon	9:39 PM	4.4	H	1/24/2016	Sun	8:49 AM	4.9	H					
1/12/2016	Tue	3:11 AM	-0.8	L	1/24/2016	Sun	2:42 PM	-0.7	L					
1/12/2016	Tue	10:05 AM	5.1	H	1/24/2016	Sun	9:08 PM	4.2	H					
1/12/2016	Tue	3:54 PM	-0.7	L	1/25/2016	Mon	2:48 AM	-0.8	L					
1/12/2016	Tue	10:28 PM	4.5	H	1/25/2016	Mon	9:30 AM	4.8	H					
1/13/2016	Wed	4:00 AM	-0.7	L	1/25/2016	Mon	3:22 PM	-0.6	L					



**GO  
Steelers  
Stairway to Seven!**