

FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

DECEMBER 2017



Educating, Restoring, Conserving through Fly Fishing

FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS

RENDEZVOUS AT DEEP CREEK

FEATURING

JON CAVE

Come join FCFFers Saturday, February 3, as we celebrate 2018 by doing something completely different -- a fly-fishing education day and group feast and fest, capped by a spectacular mid-afternoon meal, giveaways, silent auction and raffle – all of it at Bobby Weed’s Deep Creek Fish Camp on Deep Creek, north of St. Augustine.

Leading the education day is Sage Flyrod Ambassador and fly casting great Jon Cave. We’ll learn new casts, distance casts, roll casts and more, but also, where to use these casts, how to look for and find fish, rigging, leaders and knots. Jon’s books on casting and fly fishing travel are perennial best sellers and his are the longest continuous running saltwater fly fishing schools in the world.

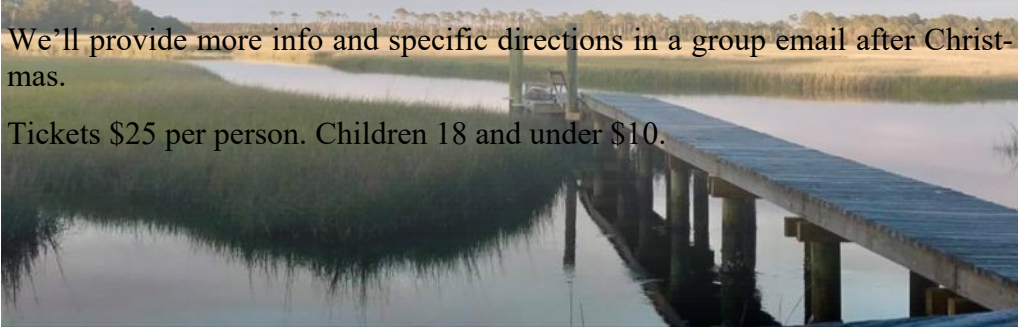
Weed’s Deep Creek Fish Camp is a little bit of old Florida nestled on several acres of salt marsh just west of Pine Island and within sight of the Intracoastal. The facility and grounds are designed by gold course design great Bobby Weed and his wife, Leslie. It has a large enclosed log building with big kitchens and dining both inside and out. Outside there’s plenty of room for casting and smaller clinics. Helping Jon with the instruction will be David Lambert, Dick Michaelson and Gavin Glover – so there will be plenty of instructors for everyone.

An extra treat – former FCFF president and life member Jimmy Ricks will provide the catering for the event. Jimmy has moved to Apalachicola where he is the official caterer for Yamaha Motors and Ranger Boats. He caters for groups of 1000s, literally, and for presidents and staff of some of the biggest names in the fishing industry. Jimmy promises a really special meal for his fellow FCFFers – fresh fried fish, his specialty cheese grits, and much more.

Come hungry. We’ll have coffee and donuts on site at 9 a.m. We’ll do some casting and learning until 2 p.m. The catered dinner, giveaways, raffles and silent auction begins at 2:30. This year we’ve got rods, reels, lines and much more useful stuff for the fly fisher. The day will wrap up around 4:30 in the afternoon.

We’ll provide more info and specific directions in a group email after Christmas.

Tickets \$25 per person. Children 18 and under \$10.



On the Cover:

Pablo Tower’s Entry for Jacksonville Beach’s *Deck The Chairs Winter Light Festival*

Photograph by Jason C. Sheasley

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Five Tips for Fishing Big Water

By Mike Hodge, TFO

Editors Note: There is no bigger water than the ocean and the acres of salt marsh around Jacksonville. While Mike's Tips are for river fishing, his basic concepts apply to fishing any large stretch of water, be it the ocean, lakes or grass flats.

Fly fishing is an endless series of learning curves. As soon as I mastered one concept, another emerged. So it was nearly 30 years ago for me in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. I cracked the code of small streams and spring creeks. At the wise old age of 28, I thought I had it all figured out.

Then one spring day, I fished the Jackson River with a friend of mine and long-rod mentor, Billy Kingsley. I remember staring at the rush of water for a good 10 minutes and wondering one single thing:

Where the hell are the fish? As it turned out, Billy caught dozens of fish; I never felt a single tug.

Needless to say, big water can be intimidating. With so much to cover, where do you start?

Decades later, I'm still no expert on fly fishing rivers, but here are a few tips to focus on:

Safety First

You need good boots. Don't go cheap. Find a comfortable pair that fit with good traction and support. Your ankles and knees will thank you.

Good footwear is a start, but it never hurts to have a wading staff. Depending on the size of the river, the force of the current can be deceptively strong. I got bowled over the first time I fished out West when I



was in charge of cleaning the camp dishes after dinner. All it took was one ill-advised step toward the middle and down I went.

Moral of the story: Go slow and be careful.

Think Small

When many newcomers first fish bigger water, it all looks the same, but it's not. Rivers are merely a bigger version of small streams with a series of pools, riffles and runs. Identify one of those sections of water, preferably one that you're comfortable with, and fish it.

Make sure to slow down. Fish each piece of water thoroughly. With small streams, you can cherry pick quickly. Rivers, because of their sheer scope, take more of a commitment. Imagine you're working on a puzzle. Probe each section of water one by one each trip. After a few outings, you'll have a much better clearer roadmap to the productive water.

Use a Drift Boat

When I learned to fish in the Southeast in the late '80s and early '90s, drift boats weren't in vogue. Almost everyone waded. It wasn't until I spent a summer out West that I learned how to fish out of — and row — a Clackacraft.

I wished I had had one sooner.

Drifting a river allows you to evaluate water from a macro perspective — from start to finish — depending on how much river you cover. And let's not forget the obvious: You can cover a lot more potential spots drifting than you can on foot.

Expand Your Skills

When I first started on small streams, I was a lousy caster. Of course, I thought I was good. I caught a ton fish with two basic presentations — high-stick nymphing along with a puddle cast. That's it.

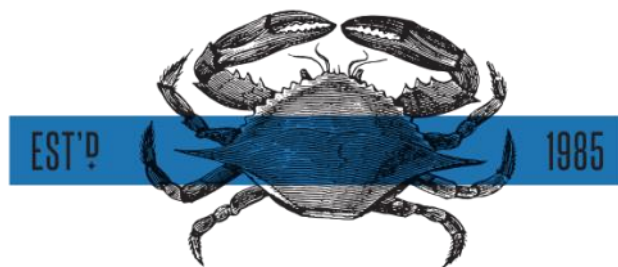
Bigger water demands more. If there's wind, you might need to double haul. A serviceable reach cast over multiple current seams and a curve cast to get under trees are also beneficial. Obviously, you can catch fish with limited skills, but you won't catch as many fish. Bigger water offers bigger rewards, but those fish demand more versatility.

The Equipment

You will generally need a bigger trout rod. I used a 3 and 4-weight on mountain streams, but stepped up to a 6-weight on rivers. Why? The fish are bigger. And the flies can be, but certainly that's not always the case. But the potential for bigger fish means you need a higher quality reel. TFO's Power series offers a variety of options. And if you catch the fish, you don't want to lose it because you're undergunned. As far as tippet, I don't hesitate to go up a size, unless the fish are feeding in calm, slow-moving water. In that scenario, I downsize accordingly.

Big water is challenging at first, but it doesn't have to be. Patience and perseverance will pay off as you ease out of your comfort level.

This article originally appeared on the Temple Fork Outfitters Blog: <https://tforods.com/five-tips-fly-fishing-big-water/>



FISHERMAN'S
SEAFOOD DOCK MARKET

FWC Appoints Eric Sutton as Executive Director

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) voted to appoint Eric Sutton, assistant executive director, to the position of executive director, effective Dec. 8. Nick Wiley, current executive director, retires later this month.

Commissioners touted Sutton's extensive experience with challenging conservation issues and his positive relationships with fellow FWC staff.

"We have received many accolades for the agency under the leadership of Chairman Brian Yablonski and Executive Director Nick Wiley. They have been at the tip of the spear, but it's the whole family who supports the conservation efforts," said Commissioner Bo Rivard. "As we continue to face changes and new challenges, it is important to have continuity. Eric has been filling roles lately due to Nick's national leadership positions and has proven himself capable of this important role."

Sutton has been the FWC assistant executive director since May 2013. He has worked in government and the private sector since the early 1990s in areas including acquisition and management of public lands, land use regulations, listed species policy, invasive species management and coastal management. He received both his bachelor's and master's degree in zoology from the University of South Florida. The emphasis of his work was on endangered species population biology.



Eric Sutton FWC Executive Director

"Eric does a great job. I see that he's got the confidence of his FWC family members, and how dedicated and concerned he is about the agency and people of Florida," said Commissioner Robert Spottswood.

"As a sportsman and ecologist, it is a tremendous honor to be able to accept this challenge and represent such a talented and dedicated team managing the tremendous fish and wildlife resources of Florida," said Eric Sutton.

Sutton's appointment as executive director will now go to the Florida Senate for confirmation.



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Permit, What's the Big Deal

By Capt. Vaughn Cochran

This month's website theme is all about our love for permit fishing with a fly rod, no, it's a passion, no, it's an really a sick addiction! Just ask some of the anglers who do this on a regular basis. Most estimates of how much their addiction costs are hidden from their spouses and denied by themselves. Some of us, although addicted, suffer in silence in our normal lives but search the internet for those who fish for us. Just because it's one of the most difficult fish to catch with a fly rod doesn't deter us, no, it actually is the thing that keeps our addiction boiling within us.

There are stories that have been told over time about an angler that showed up to fish at a remote lodge and hits the flats and catches a permit on his first cast, looks around at the guide and asks, "what's the big deal"? That actually happened to an angler that I guided in the Keys many years ago, as a matter of fact, it was his first time to even fish in saltwater. A school of about 50 permit rose up out of a channel in Jewfish Basin heading directly to us. A simple cast with a standard merkin in the general direction of the lead fish drew an instant eat and the party was on. The two of us who witnessed this crime against all that's holy about permit fishing nearly threw up. That's just not fair, it's not paying your dues.

If your using a spinning rod to catch a permit, you're playing a different game. In fact, it's so different that **Lefty Kreh** once said, "Throwing a crab to a permit is like rolling a wine bottle into a jail cell." It's not that it doesn't count, it's just not the same! I once speculated in another article how to grade the types of permit opportunities along the lines of difficulty, with a single permit tailing in very shallow water as the most difficult. That got a 10! Permit schooled up during the spawn in 60 to 90 feet of water being the easiest. That got a 1. All the others were in between and debatable as to the score they would receive. What it all essentially boils down to is that you caught a permit and it doesn't matter how big it was or how you caught it....but it counts more if it's on a fly!

Editors Note: This piece originally appeared on the Blackfly Blog on November 6, 2017, <http://www.flyfishingworldheadquarters.com/?p=1579>



Artwork by Vaughn Cochran



Vaughn Cochran
And
Black Fly Outfitters

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The Twelve Days of Fish-Flas

Compiled by Jason C. Sheasley, Editor

Once again we have assembled a list of fly fishing gift ideas to make holiday shopping a little easier. This year's list includes new and innovative items as well as old standbys. Whether you are shopping for someone else or dropping hints on what to get you this year, the First Coast Fly Fishers encourages you to shop local and support the local businesses and guides that support our Club year after year.

Thunderhead Submersible Duffle from Fishpond

www.fishpondusa.com

The perfect size bag for your next adventure whether it's on a flats boat or running whitewater. With its water-tight construction you can rest assured that your gear will be safe. The duffle comes in two sizes, 39 liter and 100 liters. Both bags feature:

- * 840D recycled nylon main body fabric
- * TPU welded fabric construction
- * TIZIP submersible main cargo zipper
- * YKK Aquaguard water resistant quick access exterior pocket
- * Braided climbing rope handles
- * Daisy chain webbing for rod tubes and attachment points
- * Carry-On Size Compatible

Gear straps not included

Price: \$399.95 for the 100L bag and \$299.95 for the 39 L bag.



G3 Guide Wading Pant from Simms

www.simmsfishing.com

From headwater boulder bouncing to casting from drift-boat decks - when the deep wade is a non-essential element, put a premium on comfort and slip into Simms' G3 Guide Pants. Pant advantages start with 25-percent more breathable 5-layer GORE-TEX® Pro Shell fabric, intuitively tailored to bolster mobility, breathability, and durability where it matters most. Patented front and back leg seams deliver an articulated fit for enhanced comfort and durability, while the new waistband construction features integrated loops housing a 2-inch elastic belt and accented with a Simms Trout buckle. Stash keys and wallets in the water-resistant zippered right hand pocket and seek convenient anytime-anywhere relief via a YKK® AQUASEAL® waterproof fly.

Price \$499.95

Stanley Adventure Happy Hour 2X System

www.stanley-pmi.com

Waterside cocktails, backcountry-slam martinis, and Sunday sours at home -- all made possible with the help of the Stanley Adventure Happy Hour 2x System. Just because you're hitting the trail doesn't mean you can't share a few fancy libations. This all-encompassing cocktail shaker set features a removable reamer to juice and strain directly into the jigger cap, 2 rocks glasses, or shaker. Make them doubles and raise a glass to adventure and mischief.

Price \$35.00



Fishing Pliers by Abel

www.abelreels.com

The award-winning Abel Pliers are famous for being the **first machined pliers** produced for the fishing market and setting the standard for quality when it comes to fly fishing tools. Newly redesigned, the Abel Pliers now feature a more ergonomic shape, which adds grip and keeps your hands away from curious fish. A new, machined-in loop-tightening hook has been added to help with rigging those hard-to-tie-knots.

A machined stainless pivot bushing that highlights the Abel® logo is new this year, reducing the number of parts and increasing resistance to both saltwater and all other elements. Abel's time proven replaceable jaws are remaining the same, still able to cut anything from braided line all the way down to the tiniest tippet. All pliers will also now be shipping with a full-leather custom fit sheath and coiled lanyard, making for a secure and long-lasting way to carry them.

Specifications

- * One size at 6.5 inches long, and weighing 4.5 ounces
- * Spring loaded handle opening
- * Handles are machined from 6061-T651 aluminum
- * Integrated steel bottle opener
- * User replaceable jaws, tested to make over 1,000+ cuts of 80lb mono wire and 250lb nylon-coated braided wire and retain ability to cut 7x mono
- * Jaw pattern also designed to tightly grip wire, mono and tippet to aid with rigging
- * 100% full-grain leather sheath included
- * Made in USA

Price \$300.00



Capt. Larry Miniard

(904) 285-7003

Or

(904) 708-0060

captlim@comcast.net
larryminiard@gmail.com

Boat 50/50 Fly Box by Plan D

www.plandfishing.com

The Plan D BOAT box provides the next level of storage. Whether you are packing for a longer trip or you simply want to bring enough selection to have all of your bases covered, the Plan D BOAT box offers enough storage capacity to get the job done. Comes in multiple interior configurations and is available with or without an external drying pad. 10 1/2" x 8 1/2" x 3 1/4". One side of this box is equipped with a patent pending design for holding up to 28 of your favorite articulated flies. The other side is good old fashioned slit foam. This box allows you to store a combination of articulated and standard flies to ensure you have all of your bases covered.

Price \$69.99



The Fishing Years 2nd Edition by Vaughn Cochran

www.blackflyoutfitters.com

This is the second edition of artist Vaughn Cochran's portfolio book, *The Fishing Years*. It was time to reflect visually on some of the best work Vaughn has accomplished over the past several years, then we added more! There have been many, many projects, paintings and drawings that are not represented in these pages and perhaps they will be seen in some future publication. For now, here is a look back to Vaughn's guiding days in Key West, glimpses of Blackfly Lodge, The Bright Series, a few ceramic pieces, some of the fish paintings and a few of the abstract/photo realism paintings. Some of the original paintings in the back pages are still available for sale and all other paintings are available as giclee prints.

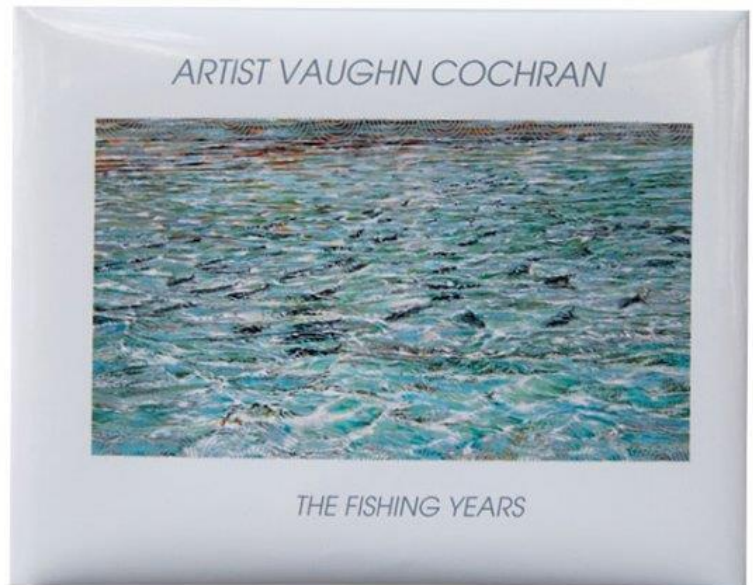
This is the perfect gift for the fly fisherman that has everything. This new version of *The Fishing Years* can be purchased with one of Vaughn's incredible watercolor or drawings on the front leaf of the opening page. This

**BACKWATER
FISHING
ADVENTURES**
With Capt. David Borries

Capt. David Borries'
Backwater Fishing
Adventures

904-708-8915

captdavidborries@comcast.net



makes a great gift to yourself or to a special business associate who has everything. Just pick your species and Vaughn will do the rest.

Price: \$65.00 or \$130.00 with custom watercolor drawing.



Limited Edition Johnny Cash Fly Reel by Abel

www.abelreels.com

Abel recently introduced the Limited Edition Johnny Cash fly reel. Johnny Cash, one of America's most beloved artists, becomes part of Abel's legendary hand painted, hand anodized graphic designs. The development project was part of a significant collaboration between Abel's design team and the Johnny Cash estate, bringing the first *HD* finishes to the market in a limited edition production run.

Every detail has been scrutinized, from Johnny Cash's favorite Martin® D-35 guitar silhouette to the black/satin black sunburst, Abel even developed a new proprietary metallurgical process to achieve different textures and color hues of black for this product. These limited edition fly reels are available in the [SUPER SERIES](#) model in two sizes, 5|6 and 7|8. Each reel is individually serialized 1 through 250.

My father and I spent years of my young life fishing together around the world. He taught me to fly fish, and I know he would be excited to associate his name with such a high quality product as Abel Reels.

- John Carter Cash

Super Series

Available since 1999 in a size for every fish that swims, the iconic Super Series proves itself time and again as the premier American-made fly reel, holding several IGFA world records. For 2017, Abel re-designed the original Super Series to be lighter and re-engineered it to have a quick change spool system.

Features

- * Limited Edition run, individually serialized 1 to 250
- * Hand-polished and hand-anodized in Abel's all new *HD* finish featuring a custom Johnny Cash graphic
- * Spool is finished in Abel's high-gloss black with a custom-machined platinum handle
- * Reel frame, spool, drag knob and foot made of 6061-T651 aerospace grade aluminum
- * Constructed with the patented "smooth as silk" cork drag system
- * User convertible retrieval system
- * Double pawl system on all sizes
- * Quick change spool
- * 100% Made in USA

Price \$1,355.00



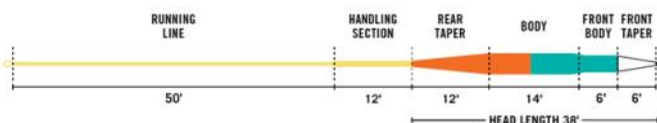
Directcore Flats Pro Stealthtip by Rio

RIO's new flagship saltwater fly line has been designed for anglers hitting tropical flats in search of bonefish, permit and tarpon. The line is built on RIO's new DirectCore, a proprietary low-memory, low-stretch monofilament core that retains its stiffness in tropical heat, yet lies straight on the water without curl or retraction. The core, which has 30% less stretch than regular tropical saltwater fly lines, ensures solid strip sets and shortened fight times.

The new core isn't the only technology advancement in this fly line. RIO's SureFire technology, which has been used in their freshwater fly lines in the past, is added to the DirectCore Flats Pro line. This triple color, distance-marking design takes the guesswork out of accuracy and distance control, allowing anglers to make higher percentage shots to cruising targets.

The DirectCore Flats Pro StealthTip line features a full-floating head with six feet of clear intermediate at the tip. This nearly invisible front section allows for shorter leaders and easier, more accurate casts, while the increased density provides greater wind penetration.

Price \$119.99





Capt. David Borries'
Backwater Fishing
Adventures

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Lunker Net 24" Handle by Rising
www.risingfish.net

Nothing quite compares to a good landing net. Rising's aluminum net is perfect for saltwater environments.

- * Made in our shop, with tooling we designed, using American Aluminum and Supplies
- * Anodized Aluminum Net
- * Knurled texture for grip
- * Large Imported Bag Available in Black or Clear (US made version coming as we increase sales)
- * Measurement indicators on hoop - 12", 16", 18", 19", 20", 21"
- * Custom acetal bolt to hold hoop to handle securely, while allowing easy dis-assembly and re-assembly for replacing bags or travel
- * Gasket sealed end-cap makes for water-proof storage in the handle. 24" holds 6 oz of liquid - Stream Side Flask!
- * Hoop is 21" Long, Width tapers from 13.5" - 9", Net Bag is 8.5" deep but stretches
- * 24" handle Net is 45" long - for wading (wading staff) or personal watercraft!
- * American Made
- * Unconditional Warranty - excluding the rubber bag in most instances

Price \$169

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Renzetti Saltwater Traveler 2200 / 2300 Cam Vises

www.renzetti.com

The Traveler Series vise was first introduced in 1988, since then it has become the most popular in the world. It offered the True Rotary feature Renzetti Inc is known for, as well as portability, unquestionable hook holding power and an affordable price.

The T2000 Traveler Series vise as it was called back then has gone thru some major changes. From a T2000 Traveler Non Cam Jaw to a C2000 Traveler Series with Cam jaw. It was not until almost 20 years later that the most dramatic change took place, when Renzetti introduced the Traveler 2200 Series Vises.

While it still offered the great features of a True Rotary Vise, the Traveler 2200 offered more comfort and longer lasting finish. Renzetti added a 7-inch stem to the base model, all aluminum parts were anodized, and a polyurethane jaw o-ring added longer wear to your tying need. Renzetti did not compromise in quality nor did they cut corners with this vise. Their goal was to continue to offer the beginner as well as the experience tyer a True Rotary vise that will challenge her or him as well as offer a long lasting piece of equipment.

For those that just want the latest Renzetti can offer, then The Traveler 2300 Series Vises will be the choice. Taking a cue from the many positive responses from tyers who love the look of their stylish Special Edition Master vise, Renzetti is now offering an all-black anodized 2300 Series Traveler vise. Like all Renzetti vises, its great looks are befitting its great performance. When you have to travel, this is the vise you want to tie on, and if anyone's watching you'll look good doing so.

2200 Features:

- * All anodized aluminum parts



- * Bobbin Cradle
- * Black Oxide finished patented jaws
- * Polyurethane o-ring
- * Rotary Tension screw
- * Black Powder coated base w/ 7" aluminum stem or black powder coated c-clamp w/ 8" stem

Price: \$234.95

Capt. John Bottko



(904) 757-5757 Or (904) 997-2220



First Coast Fly Fishing Unlimited

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Jacksonville-St. Augustine, FL
www.flyfishjax.com



Axiom II by Temple Fork Outfitters
www.tforods.com

Engineered to fit the angler (not the other way around), the Axiom II fly rod offers the optimization of the three-dimensional approach to casting a fly, hooking a fish and landing it.

The engineering and materials in the Axiom II rod satisfy the broadest range of casting styles and strokes. Whether short and powerful or long and smooth, the rod will accept the caster without the need to adapt stroke to rod action.

The A2 design is the most efficient energy delivery tool that our legendary Advisory Staff designers have tested to date. Easy to load, (bend) and quick in unloading, which also ensures accurate and true tracking. No bounce, shock and no wobble on the stop – A2 rods are smooth and efficient casting tools.

The last and possibly most gratifying job a rod has is to bring the fish to hand so you can capture the “Kodak,” moment for all times. Fly rods offer the angler a range of options based on the butt angle to the fish. At or near 90-degrees to the fish’s pull, a rod is a long shock absorber that helps protect lighter tippet. At 45-degrees, the effective lever shortens and the bottom half of the rod now has bend, has more power and allows you to put more pressure on a fish. Heavy tippet and big strong fish allow for fighting angles that are very slight – think 15 to 25-degrees. The bend or load is now down in the butt – in the most powerful part of the rod. The A2 design accommodates all three and lets you choose how and when to apply pressure.

All Axiom rods include a case.

Price \$339.95 for a 9’ 8-weight



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www.saltwaterflytyers.com

Be sure to stop by Oyster Creek Outfitters and check out the fabulous holiday deals on rods, reels tying supplies and much more.



Landmark Legislation to Benefit Saltwater Anglers Advances in U.S. House

House Natural Resources Committee Approves Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization Bill

Washington, D.C. – December 13, 2017 –Today the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources approved H.R. 200, a bill sponsored by Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska) that amends the 1976 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen. A coalition of organizations representing the saltwater recreational fishing and boating community endorsed H.R. 200 and highlighted the importance of incorporating saltwater recreational fishing management provisions into the nation’s primary law governing federal fisheries management.

On April 6, 2017, Congressman Garret Graves (R-La.), a leader on recreational fishing issues, introduced H.R. 2023, the Modern Fish Act, to address the challenges facing recreational fishermen in the federal fisheries management system. He was joined by a bipartisan list of 24 cosponsors. Original cosponsors include Congressmen Gene Green (D-Texas), Daniel Webster (R-Fla.) and Rob Wittman (R-Va.). The Modern Fish Act’s legislative language was ultimately included in H.R. 200.

“We owe great thanks to Chairman Rob Bishop, Congressman Don Young and Congressman Garret Graves for working together to bring meaningful change to recreational fisheries management through the reauthorization of the nation’s marine fisheries law,” said Jeff Angers, president of the Center for Sportfishing Policy. “This is a major step forward in implementing the vision set forth by the Morris-Deal Report for the future of saltwater recreational fishing. The importance of this legislation to the recreational fishing and boating community was made clear by tens of thousands of advocates who have made their voices heard by contacting their elected officials in recent months.”

Through years of hard work, the priorities of the recreational fishing and boating community were identified and presented to federal policy makers by the Commission on Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Management. This group is also referred to as the [Morris-Deal Commission](#), named for co-chairs Johnny Morris, founder and CEO of Bass Pro Shops, and Scott Deal, president of Maverick Boat Group. In 2014, the Morris-Deal

Commission released “A Vision for Managing America’s Saltwater Recreational Fisheries,” which included six key policy changes to produce the full range of saltwater recreational fishing’s social, economic and conservation benefits to the nation.

Many of the recommendations of the Morris-Deal Commission are addressed by the Modern Fish Act and now included in H.R. 200. This legislation addresses many of the challenges faced by recreational anglers, including allowing alternative management tools for recreational fishing, reexamining fisheries allocations and improving recreational data collection. The bill aims to benefit fishing access and conservation by incorporating modern management approaches, science and technology to guide decision-making.

On December 8, the coalition requested [in a letter to the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources](#) that the Modern Fish Act be included in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act and moved to the House floor for final passage.

Furthermore, [135 marine recreational fishing and boating industry executives signed a letter](#) to the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources on December 11, in support of the Modern Fish Act and its inclusion in the final reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. The saltwater fishing economy spans the entire United States not just the U.S. coastline, as demonstrated by the list of signatories.

“America’s 11 million saltwater anglers have a \$63 billion economic impact annually and generate 440,000 jobs,” said Mike Nussman, president and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association. “However, recreational fishing has been treated as an afterthought in the federal fisheries management system for decades. If enacted, H.R. 200 would finally give saltwater recreational fishing the attention it deserves in the Magnuson-Stevens Act.”

“The need to revise the one-size-fits-all approach of the Magnuson-Stevens Act has been abundantly clear in recent years as anglers face unreasonably limited access to public marine resources,” said Thom Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. “Stakeholders of the recreational boating industry, a uniquely American-made industry with an economic footprint of more than \$121 billion annually and more than 650,000 American jobs, are encouraged by the Committee’s action today, and we hope to see final passage by the House very soon.”

“We commend the U.S. House Committee on Natural

Landmark Legislation, cont.

Resources for taking the next step in reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act,” said Patrick Murray, president of Coastal Conservation Association. “The need to update our nation’s fisheries management system to ensure the conservation of our public marine resources and reasonable public access to those resources is abundantly clear. We look forward to the full House consideration of the bill.”

“The provisions of the Modern Fish Act included in H.R. 200 would provide parity for federally-managed recreational fisheries, while continuing to safeguard the conservation of our fisheries resources,” said Jeff Crane, president of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation. “In addition to Chairman Bishop, Congressman Young and Congressman Graves, a big thanks to the bipartisan House leadership of the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus for their co-sponsorship of these important measures on behalf of America’s anglers.”

“We thank Chairman Rob Bishop for expediting this Committee markup and moving the Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization bill forward,” said Jim Donofrio, president of the Recreational Fishing Alliance. “We also commend Congressman Don Young and Congressman Garret Graves for drafting this landmark legislation that will increase angler access while continuing to rebuild recreational fisheries.”

“Recreational fishing and commercial fishing are two fundamentally different activities needing distinctly different management tools,” said Angers. “Since 1976, recreational anglers have been shoehorned into a management regime that was never designed to manage recreational fishing. H.R. 200 would make critical changes to the Magnuson-Stevens Act to better manage recreational fisheries.”

Following today’s vote, the coalition encourages House leadership to quickly bring H.R. 200 to the floor for final passage. Marine recreational anglers and boaters are eager to see this landmark legislation move through the House and Senate and signed into law.



You Asked for Less Ethanol With Your Gas; EPA Adds More

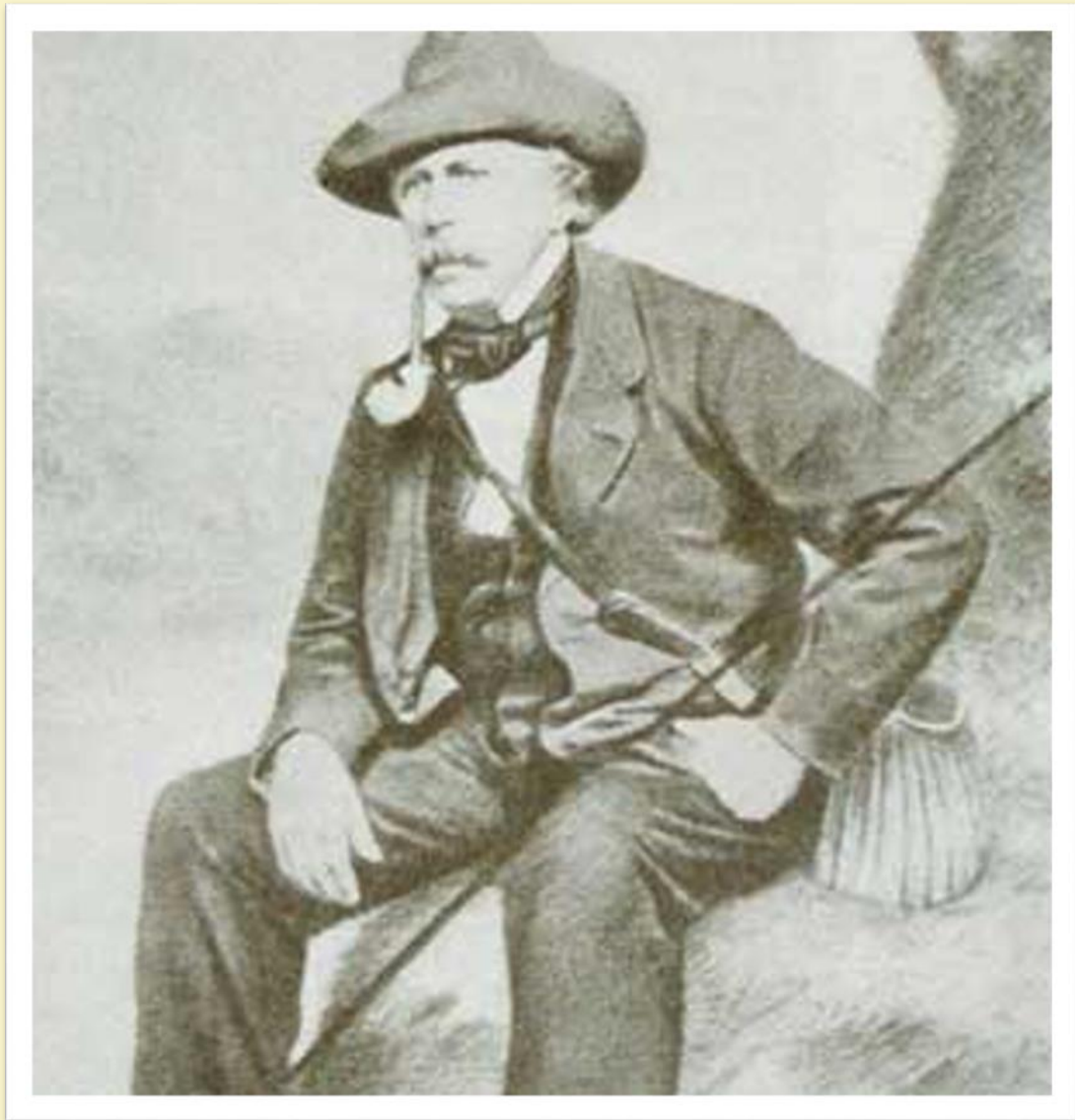
ALEXANDRIA, Va., – This summer, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asked the public how much ethanol it wanted to be added to the nation’s gasoline supply, and recreational boaters as well as many other owners of gasoline engines and vehicles spoke up against increasing ethanol volumes under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS). On Friday, EPA set the 2018 RFS at 19.29 billion gallons, a 0.05 percent increase over the 2017 standard. Signed into law in 2005, the RFS requires an increasing amount of biofuels, such as corn ethanol, to be blended into the gasoline supply.

“In August, EPA originally proposed a slight lowering of the overall ethanol mandate. However, bowing to pressure from the ethanol backers, the agency actually notched the mandate higher,” said BoatUS Government Affairs Manager David Kennedy. “We think the EPA’s decision unfairly supports the ethanol industry over protecting consumers, recreational boaters, and the environment. If ethanol is as good for America’s fuel supply as Big Ethanol would like you to believe, then why do we have a law that forces more ethanol each year into the market? The RFS no longer works for Americans.”

When it was written, RFS assumed that America’s use of gasoline would continue to grow. Since 2005, however, gasoline usage has not increased as forecasted, which today forces more ethanol into each gallon of gas. To keep up with the RFS mandate, in 2010 EPA granted a waiver to allow E15 (15 percent ethanol) into the marketplace. However, only fuels containing up to 10 percent ethanol (E10) are permitted for use in recreational boats. As higher blends enter the gas supply, the chance of misfueling increases.

“Ethanol has been demonstrated to cause harm to many gasoline engines at the present 10 percent ethanol level, especially legacy **outboard motors**, decreases fuel efficiency, increases fuel costs for consumers, and has questionable environmental benefits,” added Kennedy. “BoatUS will continue to fight on behalf of America’s recreational boaters to fix the RFS.”

Go to BoatUS.com/gov/rfs for more information on the Renewable Fuel Standard. BoatUS is a member of the **Smarter Fuel Future** coalition.



“May your thoughts be always peaceful, and your heart filled with gratitude to Him who made the country and the rivers; and may the east wind never blow when you go-a-fishing!”

- *Thaddeus Norris*
19th Century American Fishing Author

It is time...

To 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.

Save 10% on the annual membership fee if your memberships application and fee is received by the Club prior to the **January 8, 2018** meeting. If you submit your application in person, or have it delivered to the Post Office Box by January 8th your annual dues will be \$90. The Annual Membership fee go back up to \$100 after the January meeting.

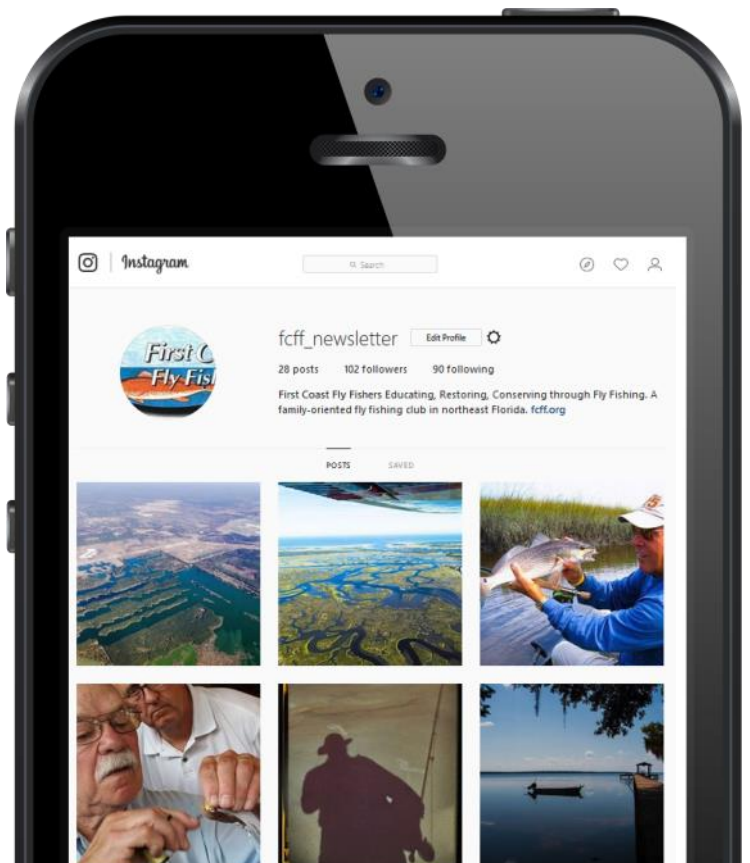


A redfish recently caught by Troy Johnson at Guana State Park

Be Social

Let's face it, social media is everywhere. It is practically unavoidable. And like a lot of things, it has a lot of good points and bad. It can be used as a tool to communicate and disseminate useful information to a wide population. At the same time, it can be used for much sinister purposes, such as taking someone who seemingly had no measurable talents beyond provocation and self aggrandizement and turning them into a media mogul.

The First Coast Fly Fishers is not to be one left at the dock. We too have "embraced" social media. However, we have elected to use this power for good, to spread news about the Club and fly fishing in northeast Florida. The Club's foray into social media will garner increased interest into the Club. For the last 2 years the Club has maintained a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/FirstCoastFlyFishers). Recently, the Club started an Instagram account (www.instagram.com/fcff_newsletter). So, if you are one of the 1.86 billion Facebook users or 700 million Instagram users, be sure to follow our feeds. For the rest of us, you can still view the Club's Facebook or Instagram pages; however, the content available for viewing will be limited.





_____(Year) **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**
FIRST COAST FLY FISHERS
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

First Coast Fly Fishers
 Membership Chariman
 PO Box 16260
 Jacksonville, FL 32245-6260

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

FFCF 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.

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

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

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

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: _____



Check out this and other great images at products at Robert Blanco's website
www.slackertide.com





Cajun Holiday



Kevin Becker recently returned from his annual trip to Louisiana. By all accounts the fish were happy to see him.



Loon Outdoors Compiles Collection of Fly Tying Videos

Loon Outdoors has assembled a collection of fly tying videos which are available on the company's website. The collection, which was put together with the assistance of various fly tying companies, includes both fresh and saltwater flies as well as tutorials on fly tying basics. Each of the innovative fly patterns make use of the various products offered by Loon. To access the video collection go to:

<https://loonoutdoors.com/fly-tying-videos/#all>

Since 2015 Loon has been presenting live on-line tying sessions the first and third Thursday of every month at 6 PM PST. The live tying sessions are being presented

through Livestream. The sessions feature various Loon fly tyers and cover a wide range of patterns and techniques. To check out an upcoming live session, or to check out previous sessions go to Livestream's web site:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/15230605>

Capt. Lawrence Piper
And
The Angler's Mark
(904) 557-1027



www.theanglersmark.com

DECEMBER 2017 TIDES JACKSONVILLE (MAYPORT BAR PILOT DOCK)

DATE		TIME	HEIGHT (FEET)		DATE		TIME	HEIGHT (FEET)		DATE		TIME	HEIGHT (FEET)	
12/1/2017	Fri	6:04 AM	5.5	H	12/14/2017	Thu	5:55 AM	5.1	H	12/27/2017	Wed	2:36 AM	4.5	H
12/1/2017	Fri	12:02 PM	0	L	12/14/2017	Thu	11:46 AM	0.3	L	12/27/2017	Wed	8:34 AM	0.6	L
12/1/2017	Fri	6:24 PM	5	H	12/14/2017	Thu	6:05 PM	4.5	H	12/27/2017	Wed	2:54 PM	4.4	H
12/2/2017	Sat	12:11 AM	-0.5	L	12/14/2017	Thu	11:51 PM	0.1	L	12/27/2017	Wed	8:57 PM	0	L
12/2/2017	Sat	6:57 AM	5.7	H	12/15/2017	Fri	6:40 AM	5.1	H	12/28/2017	Thu	3:39 AM	4.7	H
12/2/2017	Sat	12:57 PM	-0.3	L	12/15/2017	Fri	12:34 PM	0.2	L	12/28/2017	Thu	9:38 AM	0.3	L
12/2/2017	Sat	7:18 PM	5	H	12/15/2017	Fri	6:48 PM	4.4	H	12/28/2017	Thu	3:59 PM	4.3	H
12/3/2017	Sun	1:03 AM	-0.8	L	12/16/2017	Sat	12:34 AM	0	L	12/28/2017	Thu	9:54 PM	-0.3	L
12/3/2017	Sun	7:50 AM	5.9	H	12/16/2017	Sat	7:21 AM	5.1	H	12/29/2017	Fri	4:42 AM	4.9	H
12/3/2017	Sun	1:49 PM	-0.5	L	12/16/2017	Sat	1:18 PM	0.1	L	12/29/2017	Fri	10:42 AM	0.1	L
12/3/2017	Sun	8:13 PM	5	H	12/16/2017	Sat	7:29 PM	4.3	H	12/29/2017	Fri	5:02 PM	4.4	H
12/4/2017	Mon	1:53 AM	-0.9	L	12/17/2017	Sun	1:14 AM	0	L	12/29/2017	Fri	10:52 PM	-0.6	L
12/4/2017	Mon	8:44 AM	6	H	12/17/2017	Sun	8:00 AM	5	H	12/30/2017	Sat	5:42 AM	5.2	H
12/4/2017	Mon	2:41 PM	-0.6	L	12/17/2017	Sun	1:59 PM	0.1	L	12/30/2017	Sat	11:42 AM	-0.3	L
12/4/2017	Mon	9:08 PM	5	H	12/17/2017	Sun	8:08 PM	4.3	H	12/30/2017	Sat	6:03 PM	4.4	H
12/5/2017	Tue	2:45 AM	-0.9	L	12/18/2017	Mon	1:50 AM	0	L	12/30/2017	Sat	11:49 PM	-0.9	L
12/5/2017	Tue	9:38 AM	5.9	H	12/18/2017	Mon	8:37 AM	5	H	12/31/2017	Sun	6:40 AM	5.4	H
12/5/2017	Tue	3:33 PM	-0.6	L	12/18/2017	Mon	2:37 PM	0.1	L	12/31/2017	Sun	12:40 PM	-0.6	L
12/5/2017	Tue	10:04 PM	4.9	H	12/18/2017	Mon	8:47 PM	4.2	H	12/31/2017	Sun	7:01 PM	4.5	H
12/6/2017	Wed	3:39 AM	-0.7	L	12/19/2017	Tue	2:24 AM	0	L					
12/6/2017	Wed	10:33 AM	5.8	H	12/19/2017	Tue	9:12 AM	4.9	H					
12/6/2017	Wed	4:29 PM	-0.4	L	12/19/2017	Tue	3:12 PM	0.1	L					
12/6/2017	Wed	11:01 PM	4.9	H	12/19/2017	Tue	9:24 PM	4.2	H					
12/7/2017	Thu	4:37 AM	-0.4	L	12/20/2017	Wed	2:56 AM	0.1	L					
12/7/2017	Thu	11:29 AM	5.6	H	12/20/2017	Wed	9:47 AM	4.9	H					
12/7/2017	Thu	5:28 PM	-0.2	L	12/20/2017	Wed	3:46 PM	0.3	L					
12/7/2017	Thu	11:59 PM	4.8	H	12/20/2017	Wed	10:02 PM	4.2	H					
12/8/2017	Fri	5:41 AM	-0.1	L	12/21/2017	Thu	3:28 AM	0.2	L					
12/8/2017	Fri	12:25 PM	5.4	H	12/21/2017	Thu	10:22 AM	4.8	H					
12/8/2017	Fri	6:31 PM	0	L	12/21/2017	Thu	4:18 PM	0.4	L					
12/9/2017	Sat	1:00 AM	4.8	H	12/21/2017	Thu	10:40 PM	4.2	H					
12/9/2017	Sat	6:49 AM	0.2	L	12/22/2017	Fri	4:04 AM	0.3	L					
12/9/2017	Sat	1:24 PM	5.2	H	12/22/2017	Fri	10:58 AM	4.7	H					
12/9/2017	Sat	7:32 PM	0.1	L	12/22/2017	Fri	4:53 PM	0.5	L					
12/10/2017	Sun	2:04 AM	4.8	H	12/22/2017	Fri	11:20 PM	4.2	H					
12/10/2017	Sun	7:56 AM	0.4	L	12/23/2017	Sat	4:44 AM	0.5	L					
12/10/2017	Sun	2:25 PM	4.9	H	12/23/2017	Sat	11:36 AM	4.7	H					
12/10/2017	Sun	8:30 PM	0.1	L	12/23/2017	Sat	5:32 PM	0.5	L					
12/11/2017	Mon	3:09 AM	4.8	H	12/24/2017	Sun	12:01 AM	4.2	H					
12/11/2017	Mon	8:59 AM	0.5	L	12/24/2017	Sun	5:32 AM	0.6	L					
12/11/2017	Mon	3:27 PM	4.8	H	12/24/2017	Sun	12:16 PM	4.6	H					
12/11/2017	Mon	9:25 PM	0.2	L	12/24/2017	Sun	6:18 PM	0.5	L					
12/12/2017	Tue	4:10 AM	4.9	H	12/25/2017	Mon	12:47 AM	4.3	H					
12/12/2017	Tue	9:58 AM	0.5	L	12/25/2017	Mon	6:28 AM	0.7	L					
12/12/2017	Tue	4:24 PM	4.7	H	12/25/2017	Mon	1:02 PM	4.5	H					
12/12/2017	Tue	10:16 PM	0.2	L	12/25/2017	Mon	7:08 PM	0.4	L					
12/13/2017	Wed	5:06 AM	5	H	12/26/2017	Tue	1:38 AM	4.4	H					
12/13/2017	Wed	10:54 AM	0.4	L	12/26/2017	Tue	7:29 AM	0.7	L					
12/13/2017	Wed	5:17 PM	4.6	H	12/26/2017	Tue	1:54 PM	4.4	H					
12/13/2017	Wed	11:05 PM	0.1	L	12/26/2017	Tue	8:01 PM	0.3	L					



Merry Fish-Mas



From the First Coast Fly Fishers