



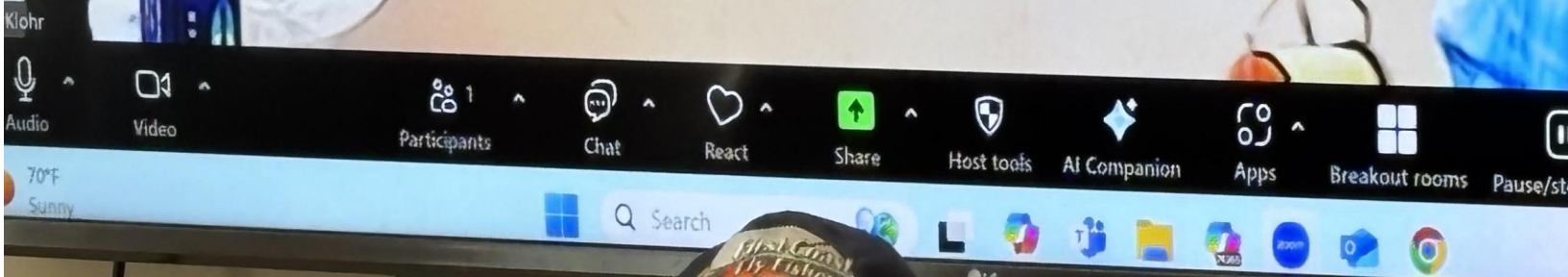
CHRONICLE BOB CLOUSER DAY

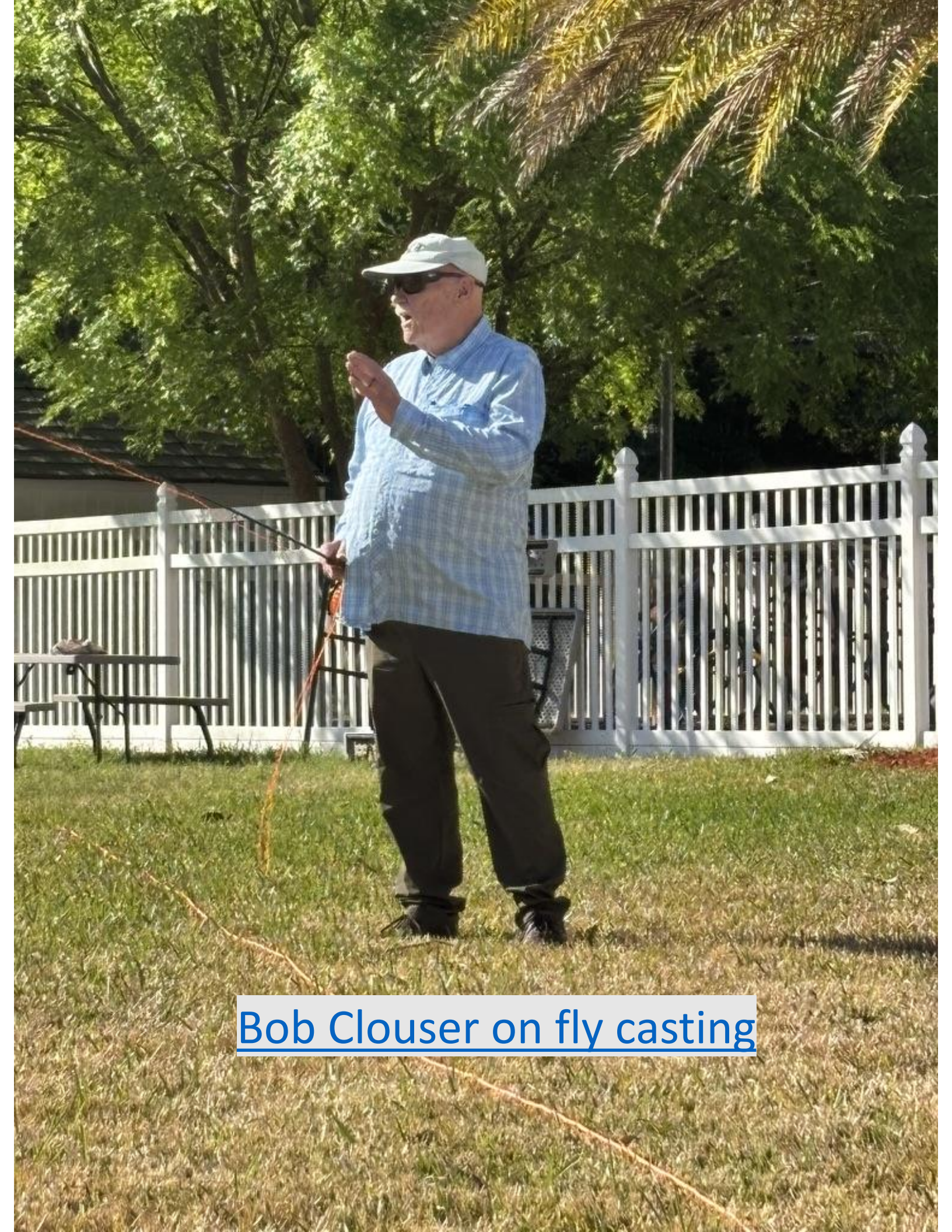
Bob Clouser Day

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Bob Clouser – The Man – The Minnow

Bob tying his famous [Clouser Minnow](#)

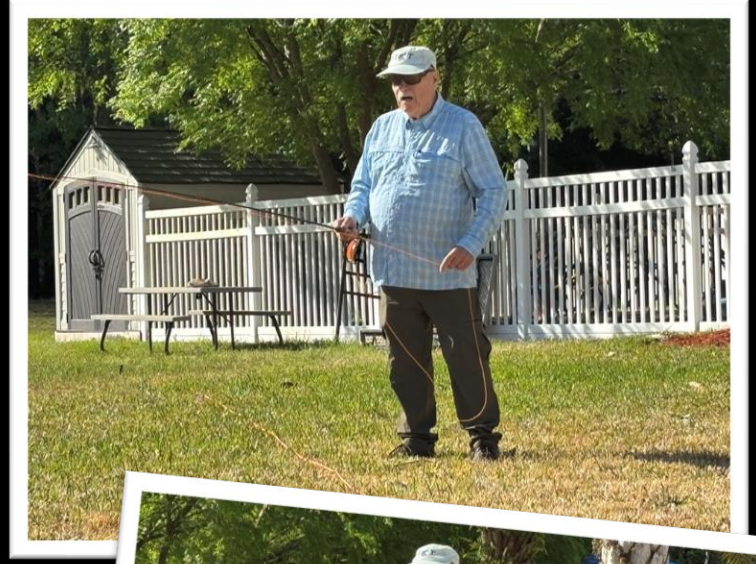




Bob Clouser on fly casting

Check out photos from Bob Clouser Day

Photos by Reagan Klohr and Richard Gragg



The Clouser Minnow

The Story Behind The Most Successful Fly Pattern in Modern History

Reviewed by Jason Sheasley

Clouser's Flies: Tying & Fishing the Fly Patterns of Bob Clouser

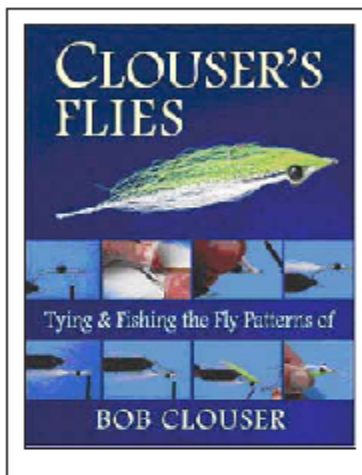
Published By Stackpole Books
January 2006; 184 Pages; ISBN
0811701484

My first fly-caught saltwater fish was a 36-inch red drum taken just north of the Guana Dam. Up to that point, it was the largest fish I had ever caught fly fishing. I attribute my anomalous success to a whole lot of luck and a chartreuse and white Clouser Deep Minnow. Prior to this introduction to saltwater fly fishing, I used the Clouser Minnow, to catch various species of freshwater fish in my home state of Pennsylvania. It is little wonder that this pattern heralded my entry into the world of saltwater fly fishing.

The Clouser Deep Minnow is unquestionably the most popular fly pattern to have been developed in the last two decades. In a 1989 article in *Fly Fisherman*, Lefty Kreh introduced the world to the Clouser Deep Minnow. Since that time both the fly and its inventor have become bellwethers for fly fishing. Lefty has reportedly caught more than eight-six species of fish using this pattern. Fly fishermen the world over have attested to the versatility and effectiveness of the Clouser Deep Minnow.

Bob Clouser's contributions to fly tying do not begin or end with the minnow pattern that bears his name. *Clouser's Flies* contains recipes for seventeen proven fly patterns that Bob has invented over the last twenty years. The majority of the flies were first designed to target smallmouth bass on Pennsylvania's Susquehanna River. However, more than two-thirds of the flies are also proven saltwater patterns. The seventeen fly patterns are divided into three groups - Baitfish (the Clouser Minnow and Variations), Subsurface Freshwater Foods, and Surface Flies. An entire chapter is dedicated to each of the fly pattern beginning with the Clouser Deep Minnow.

Each chapter begins with a narrative on the origins of the fly. The narrative provides the reader with glimpse into the thought process behind the fly's development as well as tips on how to tie and fish the fly. The chapters conclude with step-by-step



instructions on how to tie each fly. The instructions are accompanied by detailed photographs by Jay Nichols of each step.

The book contains chapters for such Clouser creations as the Half and Half, the Foxee Redd Minnow, Floating Minnow, Suspender and EZ Popper. It all begins with a chapter on the Original Clouser Deep Minnow. In this chapter, the reader will learn of the Minnow's humble beginnings, the correct way to tie the pattern, and the color combinations that work best in saltwater.

The popularity of the Clouser Deep Minnow may be attributed to the fact that it is simple to tie, readily adaptable to the prevailing fishing conditions and easy to fish. It is safe to say that most neophyte fly tiers cut their teeth on tying two fly patterns - the Woolly Bugger and the Clouser Deep Minnow. Like the Woolly Bugger, the Clouser pattern has transcended the realm of a fly pattern to become a fly tying style. Each of the patterns summarized in the book, share in the simplicity and versatility of the Clouser Deep Minnow.

Reading *Clouser's Flies* I couldn't help but think about the Bob's recent visit with the Club in early December 2006. Glancing through the recipes I was reminded of the jokes and anecdotes Bob told as he demonstrated how to tie his various patterns. In a time when complicated fly patterns tend to attract more fishermen than fish, it is refreshing to see a book that focuses on proven, simple to tie fly patterns. The patterns in this book are modest and unassuming, much like their inventor. However, each has a record or producing fish. What is the use of a difficult-to-tie pattern if it doesn't catch fish? After reading the book, I tied and fished several of Bob's other patterns with similar success as the Deep Minnow.

Clouser Flies is more than just a book on tying a few fly patterns. Bob Clouser has been tying flies since the age of fourteen. After 50-odd years as a fly fisherman, Bob has gained a wealth of knowledge and wisdom both on and off the water. His insights shine through on each page of the book. Regardless of whether you buy or tie your Clouser Deep Minnows, there is much to be learned from these pages.

FCFF and Bob Clouser

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?



Renew your FCFF Membership!

The new you is upon us. And along with breaking all of your New Year's Resolutions (except for the one to fish more), it is time to renew your membership to the First Coast Fly Fishers. Your membership dollars are what allow us to continue to bring great fly fishing programs to Northeast Florida.

Maybe you are one of those folks who has been lurking in the wings, reading bootleg copies of the newsletter, and never "officially" joined the Club. Now is the time to get in the game. Give us your money and we will teach you how to fly fish. In fact, we will even teach your wife (or husband) how to fly fish so you do not have to. Trust us, the Club is cheaper than a divorce lawyer.

All kidding aside, the First Coast Fly Fishers is the best value in fly fishing. For just \$100 a year, you and your whole *fan family* will be privy to free casing lessons, monthly outings, and great fly fishing programs each month. In addition, you can attend the First Coast Fly Fishers Rendezvous at Deep Creek scheduled for the first weekend in March.

What are you waiting for? Sign up today!

Bob Clouser Day Sunday, December 8th, 2013

On Sunday, December 8th the man behind the minnow will be stopping by to visit the First Coast Fly Fishers on his way home from the Renzetti Fly Fishing Fair. Bob has been a great friend of the Club for many years and we are proud to invite him to visit this year. If you have not attended *Clouser Day* in the past, this is your opportunity to meet and learn from one of the giants in the fly fishing industry. If you have attended in the past, this is a chance to reconnect with Bob and learn some new tying and casting tricks.

The details of the day long event, which is to be held at M&M Dairy, are still being worked out. The event will be free to members-in-good-standing with the FCFF and will include lunch. Bob will likely be offering fly tying and casting demonstrations. He will be sure to demonstrate how to tie several of this effective fresh and salt water patterns, including the *Clouser Minnow*. More Information at the November meeting.



Bob Clouser



Sunday, December



FCFF CREW FOR BOB CLOUSER'S CLINIC

Bob Clouser Day

Sunday, December 8th 2013

M&M Dairy

Come spend the day with the man behind the minnow (I am not talking about Gilligan) on Sunday, December 8th. Bob Clouser will be visiting the First Coast Fly Fishers as he makes his way home to Pennsylvania from the Renzetti Fly Fishing Fair. Bob has been a great friend of the Club for many years and we are proud to have him to visit once again this year.

If you haven't had the fortune of attending *Clouser Day* in the past, this is your opportunity to meet and learn from one of the giants in the fly fishing industry. If you have attended in the past, this is a chance to reconnect with Bob and learn some new tying and casting tricks sure to improve your success.

The event will kick-off around 9 am Sunday morning at M&M Dairy. Coffee and donuts will be provided by the Club. We will have morning and afternoon sessions in which Bob will be offering hands-on casting and fly tying lessons. Lunch will be provided by the Club.

The event is free to members-in-good-standing with the FCFF. We will need an accurate head-count to make provisions for breakfast and lunch. Therefore, there will be a sign-up sheet at the December 2nd meeting. 's If you are unable to attend Monday's meeting please email the Programs Chairman (programs@fcff.org) so that you can be accounted for. Members are asked to bring their own fly rods and fly tying materials to participate.



The Man



The Minnow



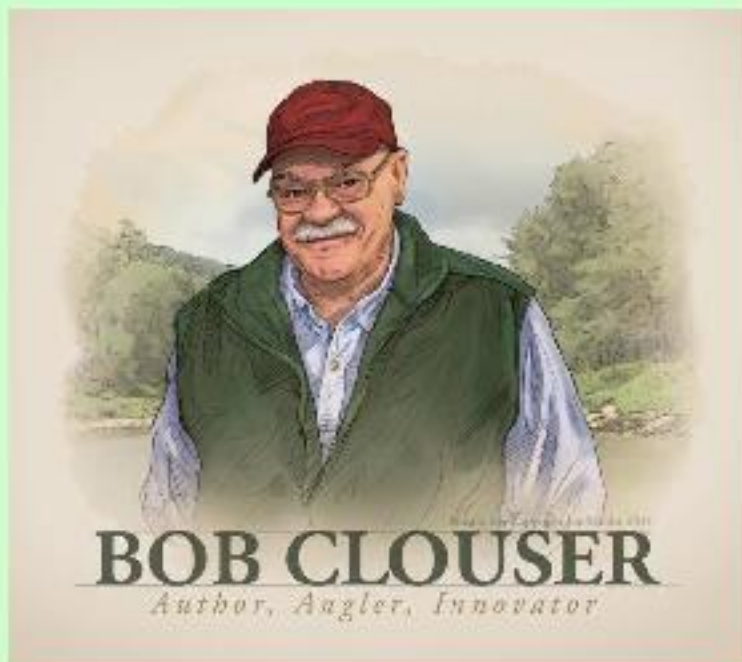
Sunday
October 12, 2014
Clouser
Day

Text and Photographs by Jason Sheasley

On Sunday October 12th, Bob Clouser paid a visit to the First Coast Fly Fishers. He was making his way back to Pennsylvania after spending several days in Crystal River headlining the IFFF Expo.

Bob began the day with several fly tying demonstrations. He explained the history behind the ubiquitous Clouser Deep Minnow and proceeded to demonstrate variations of his namesake fly using different materials.

It should come as not surprise that Bob spends a lot of time on the water. One thing that he has noticed over the last couple of years has been that popular modern fly patterns once effective seem to no longer be productive even when used with a near-perfect presentation. At a loss to explain the phenomenon, Bob and his colleagues began experimenting with older fly patterns that were once popular 50 to 75 years ago. In a side-by-side comparison the older fly patterns seemed to out perform the



modern-day patterns. Could it be that the fish are becoming familiar with the patterns made popular in recent years? Are they able to sense the artificial materials used to tie modern-day patterns? It is really hard to say. However, the take-home message is this: it may be worth the effort to experiment with the tried and true patterns of days gone past, especially when nothing else seems to be working.

Spending time with Bob Clouser would not be complete without one-on-one fly casting instruction. Bob spent the afternoon demonstrating and teaching techniques for improving casting large, heavy flies. He also brought along a couple prototype rods he has been developing with Lefty Kreh and Temple Fork Outfitters.

If you missed Bob Clouser Day, you squandered an opportunity to learn from one of the true legends of the sport.



First Coast Fly Fisher

January 2007

www.fcff.org

Jacksonville, FL



Bob Clouser Day in North Florida

Nearly 50 members of FCFF and NFFF of Gainesville Attended the Annual Bob Clouser Day at Doug and Teresa Moore's M & M Dairy in December. Bob never fails to entertain and enlighten. Here he asks for a showing of left hands to determine the level of dyslexia in the crowd.

MEETING & SPEAKER

FCFF Meeting: Tuesday, January 9 – Speaker Capt John Bottko of the Salty Feather Fly Shop on St. Johns Bluff Rd. John is a charter member of FCFF and a past president. His topic is 'Year 'Round Fishing In North Florida.' John was instrumental in popularizing saltwater fly fishing in North Florida.

Also, free raffle * **Orvis T-3 Rod and Mach 4 Reel** * for members with dues paid by Jan. 8. See pg. 5

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, Jan. 20 – Bass and Bream Outing to Golden Pond. Come join other FCFFers at one of the better phosphate ponds in the area – Ernie Frey's Golden Pond, near Live Oak and White Springs. This is a small boat fishery, canoes and small jon boats or kayak. More information at the January meeting or call Mike Head.

Saturday, Jan. 27 – FFF Florida Mini-Fly Show and Conclave, Dania Florida -- Free admission, top fly casters and fly tyers. More information on page 5.

Saturday and Sunday Feb 3 & 4 – Annual FCFF Banquet Weekend. Free half day clinic for all dues paid members, 9:30 Saturday with International Fly Fisher Writer and Casting Instructor Jennifer Olsson.

Saturday night, 6 p.m. FCFF Annual Banquet at the UNF Conference Center. Lots of raffle items and silent auction goodies. Olsson is our guest speaker.

Sunday Feb 4 Intensive Casting and Tying Day with Jennifer Olsson. Contact David Lambert to sign up for this 16 person event. We still have some slots left, so contact David Lambert to sign up -- 904-241-4163 or email to dlambert@onwatermedia.com. More about this on page 2

FCFF and Bob Clouser



Why TFO's Bob Clouser Loves Fishing for Carp

By Mike Hodge

Author's Note: I met Bob Clouser at a fly-fishing show several years ago in Crystal River, Fla. I wanted to write a story on him, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to write about. Fortunately, Bob has ample patience and the feature turned out well. Enjoy.

Bob Clouser has a confession. He's a carpaholic.

A battle with a bonefish? A tango with a tarpon? Perhaps. But the truth is one of angling's most famous fly tyers would just as soon match wits with a carp.

"It's another species of fish that teaches you something," Clouser said. "There isn't one species of fish out there that is the same. Each one you fish for you learn new things. I found out that carp will make your heart beat, get you all excited and pull like a freight train when you get them on a fly."

The carp has delivered a life lesson or two for Clouser, who has thrown a fly since he was 14.

"I've learned that they're pretty sly," Clouser said. "They're pretty sensitive to their environment. They've got more self-preservation (skills) than (most fish) I've ever fished for."

In terms of fly-fishing popularity, the carp ranks well behind the three main species of trout — rainbow, brown and brook — and although the grass-eating fish may lack sex appeal, it wins its fair share of admirers with brains.

"People have certain things they like," Clouser said. "They like pretty. They fall for prettiness. I fall for smartness — hard to catch."

Fish for carp and you learn to strategize, to scheme, to outwit a thinking-man's fish.

"There's always something that you can do to break their habit up and find a good way to capture them,"

Clouser said. "It's all by sight, learning his moves when he takes your fly. I've never met a carp, on purpose, that will take your fly and run with it. I've caught them like that by bringing a streamer fly back. What I'm finding out is they hit that streamer when I was fishing it slow. When it stopped and hit the bottom, one of them went over and sucked it up. I was just lucky enough to tighten up at the same time he did that."

Clouser chuckles. It's akin, he said, to fishing for bones. You have to feed the fish.

"Every time they find something, they get pretty excited, the tail shakes, the mouth comes open and they push their head down and trap the bait between their mouth and the bottom, and they suck it in," Clouser said. "They take your fly the same way."

Although Clouser is known for inventing the Clouser Minnow and the Half and Half, he spent as much time on the back of the boat guiding as he did at his vise — and that's where he learned how to fish.

"Here's the difference between fishing and guiding: You learn by observing," said Clouser, who lives in Middletown, Pa., a single haul away from the Susquehanna River. "Every species you fish, you learn more if you don't fish for them. I learned by standing up there and holding that boat, watching the fly and watching the fish and watching the guys and how they fish them."

A smallmouth, for instance, often will rely on carp to stir up forage and use its superior speed to grab an easy meal.

Stocked trout, Clouser noted, grab their prey from behind because they have teeth. The toothless bass, meanwhile, sucks in its quarry from the bottom.

"He's spent a long time looking at fish," said David Lambert, a master casting instructor from Jacksonville, Fla. and the author of *Smart Casts*. "That's the reason





his fly is so exceptional. He's a hell of a fisherman, who approaches things scientifically."

It's this level of perseverance and passion for detail that led Clouser to invent the Clouser Minnow, one of the most popular patterns of all time. The impetus behind the fly was the darting movement of a jig.

Initially, Clouser used split shot, bucktail and Christmas tree tinsel on a long-shank hook. He said it wasn't until the first lead eyes were developed in the early 1980s that the modern version of the fly was born.

"It took years of things falling together," Clouser said.

A foxtail Clouser is his favorite smallmouth fly. His second favorite is a crayfish imitation.

Even in his 70s, Clouser still continues to tinker at his tying table while trying to come up with new patterns or making a classic fly better. His advice: Prepare for a lot of trial and error.

"If you're developing flies, you better have a trash can next to your vise," Clouser said.

And if you're on the water, pay attention.

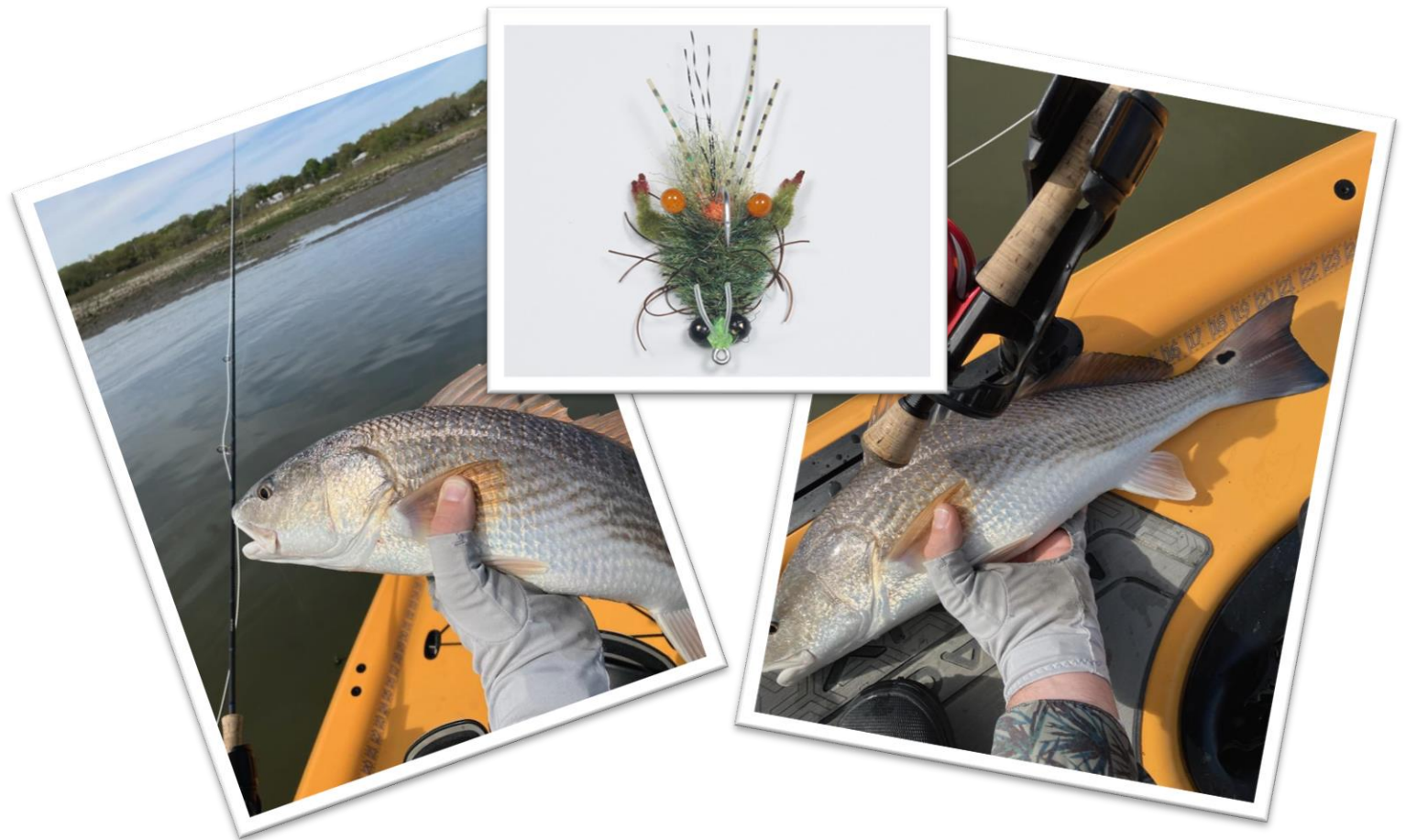
"Every day is different," Clouser said. "Watch the fish. Let the fish tell you what to do."

Advice that any angler could use.

Foxtail Clouser



Members Pictures



Michael Dudley at Shore Drive using Enrico's Tarantula Crab

FCFF March 8th 2025 Outing Recap

Cedar Point Low Tide

Greetings and salutations anglers,

The March outing is in the books and with it, the beginning of our year long "Angler of the Year" tournament. Out of the gate we have Mr. Bill Loffer leading the way with two trouts, 13 and 13.5 inches, landed and photographed. Congratulations, Bill, on what was a slim pickings kind of day on the water for most of us.

The day started out with a beautiful sunrise observed by the early bird arrivals. The forecast was suppose to be mostly sunny with fair winds but the meteorological forecasters dropped the ball. Mostly cloudy with intermittent sprinkles was the course for the day. Oh well, we can't control the weather, yet.

We had a good turnout of ten participants, which included four boats and three kayaks. Thanks to Captain Richard Palazini, Bob Hornbuckle, Captain Guy Sanders, Captain Scott Shober, Andy Hopkins, Captain Bill Loffer and his son Nick, and the three "yakkers," George Fleszar, Scott Pesci and myself. My new title for the day is muckraker for getting temporarily snared by the "muck monster" at low tide. That muck is quite the twenty-minute upper body workout.

With more rain coming in the area and the lack of fish gracing us with their presence, most of us packed it in a bit earlier than planned and reconvened at Bono's for lunch to lick our wounds and partake of some tasty BBQ. Which, beside the gorgeous sunrise, was the best part of the day!

Our next scheduled fly fishing outing is Saturday April 19th and will be held at Palm Valley/Nocatee and will be a low tide event. Info to follow in the next outing announcement letter. However, the club does have a day with Bob Clouser planned on March 22nd. Info with more details should be available as well. Also, the Tamiami/ Everglades trip is scheduled for April 25th thru 27th and is headed by Guy Sanders. I also heard, from a reliable source, that the lake at Camp Weed is producing very good results of late. Something to look forward to for May's planned outing.

Everyone stay safe out there and happy angling!

Richard Gragg

Outings Coordinator

[Listen to Dr. Aaron Adams on:](#)

Fisheries Conservation

Aaron J. Adams, Ph.D.

Director of Science and Conservation

Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

A banner featuring a school of bonefish swimming in clear, shallow water. The text "Bonefish & Tarpon Trust" is overlaid on the left side of the banner.

- Science-based conservation organization
- Founded in 1998 by recreational fishers and guides
- Focus on the recreational flats fishery
 - Economically and culturally important



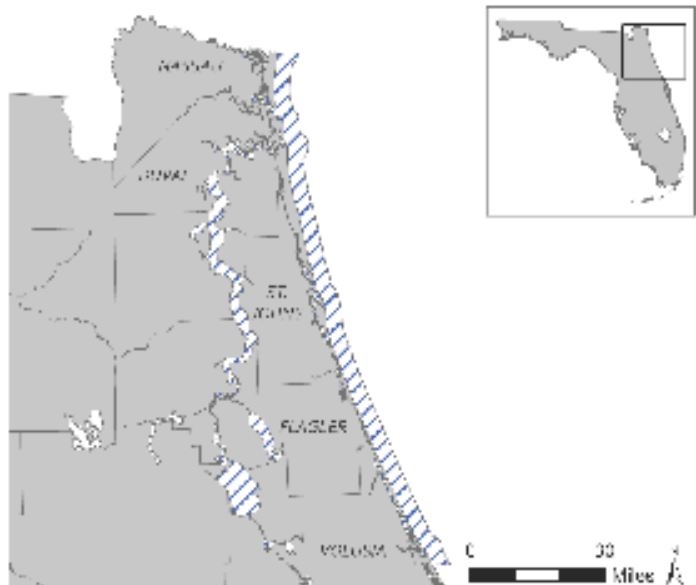


2024 Annual Review of Redfish Management Metrics



NORTHEAST REDFISH MANAGEMENT REGION

REGION BOUNDARIES



ESCAPEMENT

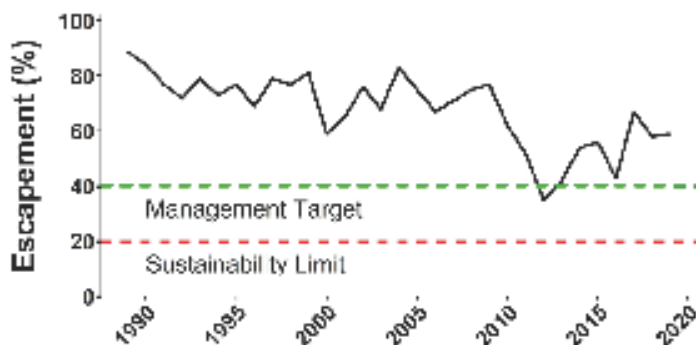


Figure 1. Estimated redfish escapement rates for a portion of the Northeast management region.

Source: FWC 2020 Redfish Stock Assessment.

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

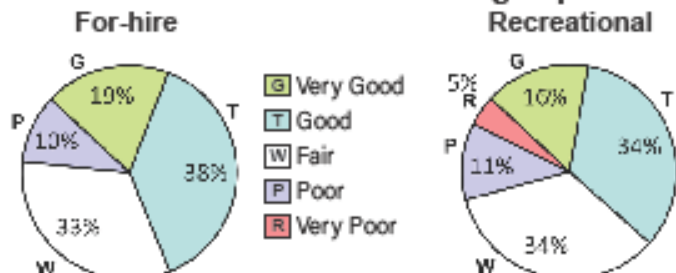
Likelihood of fish kills	Frequency	Average duration (months)	2023 Duration (months)
Possible	1 out of 20 years (5%)	3	0
Probable	1 out of 20 years (5%)	2	0

Table 1. Frequency and duration of red tide where fish kills were possible or probable within the region over the previous 20 years.

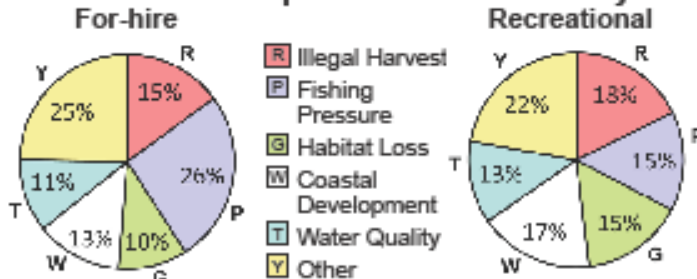
Source: Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, Harmful Algal Bloom Group.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Satisfaction with recent fishing experience



Perceived top threats to the fishery



Source: FWC 2024 Redfish Angler Survey. Responses were based on the angler's experience during the previous 12 months of fishing.

FISHING EFFORT AND LANDINGS

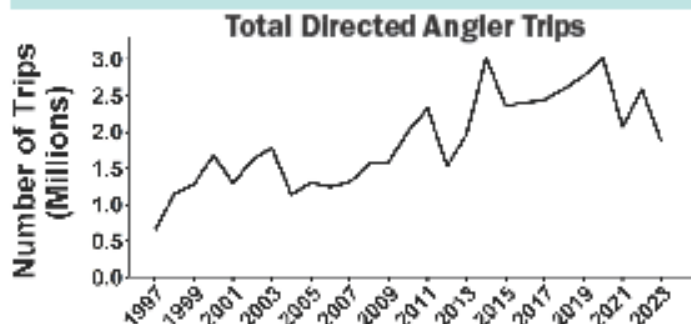


Figure 2. Estimates of angler trips targeting redfish each year through 2023.

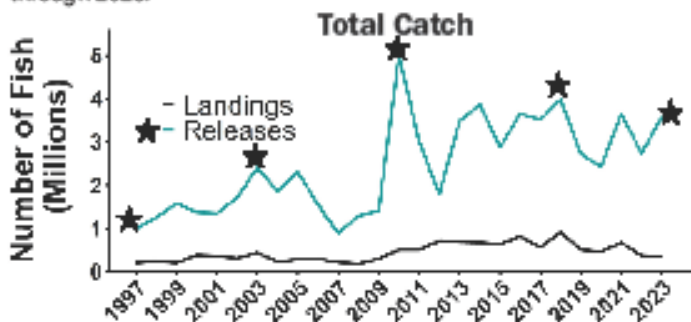


Figure 3. Estimates of annual redfish catch (landings and releases) through 2023.

Source: NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP).

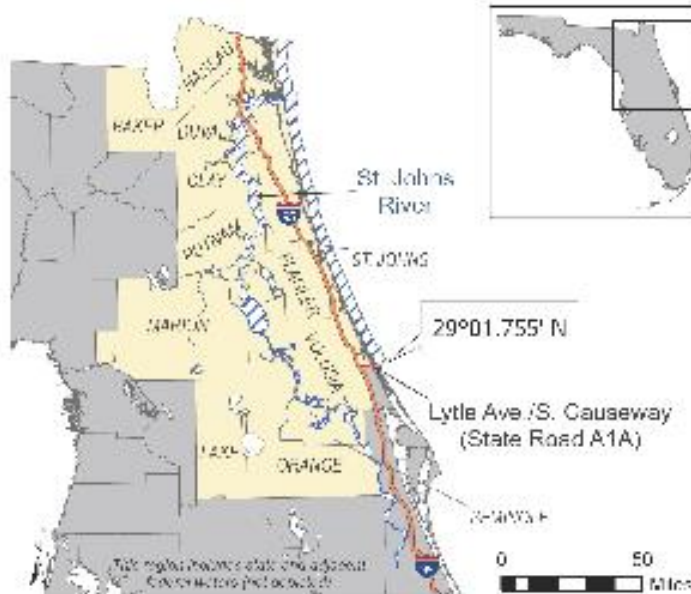


2024 Annual Review of Snook Management Metrics



NORTHEAST SNOOK MANAGEMENT REGION

REGION BOUNDARIES



SPAWNING POTENTIAL RATIO

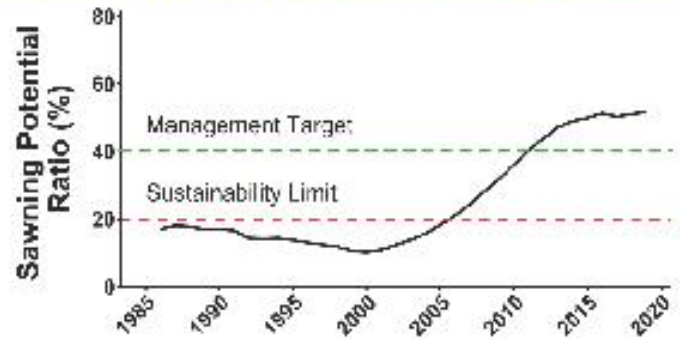


Figure 1. Estimated spawning potential ratio (SPR) for snook on the Atlantic coast compared to limit and target.

Source: FWC 2020 Snook Stock Assessment

HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Likelihood of fish kills	Frequency	Average duration (months)	2023 duration (months)
Possible	1 out of 20 years (5%)	4	0
Probable	1 out of 20 years (5%)	4	0

Table 1. Frequency and duration of red tide where fish kills were possible or probable within the region over the previous 20 years.

Source: FWC FWRI, Harmful Algal Bloom Group

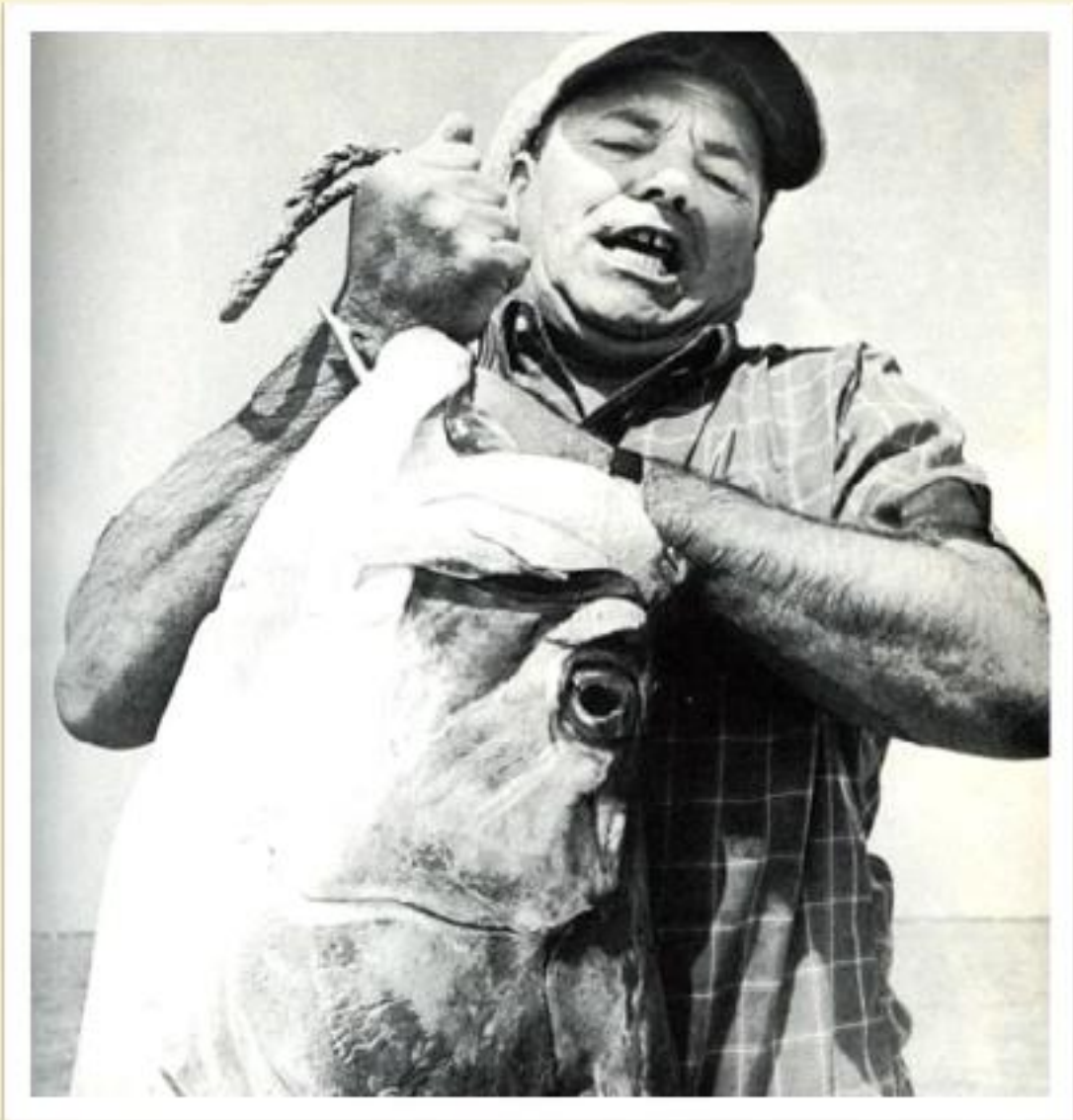


FISHING EFFORT AND LANDINGS



Figure 2. Estimates of annual angler trips targeting snook (gray bars), landings (orange line), and releases (blue line).

Source: NOAA Fisheries Marine Recreational Information Program (MRIP)



“There is more BS in fly fishing than there is in a Kansas feedlot.”

Lefty Kreh
Fly Fisherman