

The Florida Keys & Key West offer the greatest variety of fishing in the world. Whether you want to prowl the reefs and wrecks after yellowtail and grouper, stalk the backcountry in search of elusive bonefish, tarpon or permit, or troll the blue waters for dolphin and sailfish, there's a tournament to fit the bill.

Twelve months a year in The Florida Keys you can compete for prizes, cash, trophies or just personal satisfaction.

This is your guide to the greatest number and variety of tournaments ever assembled in one area. It will tell you everything you need to know. Except how to win.

Of course, while not a month goes by that there isn't a fishing tournament in The Florida Keys, nobody can compete with the day-to-day angling opportunities we offer. From the remote backcountry creeks of the Everglades to the cobalt-blue waters of the Gulfstream, no one has more ways to wet a line.

One of the simplest ways to fish the Keys is to hop aboard a party boat and head offshore for a morning, afternoon or evening. From grouper to mutton snapper

to kingfish to dolphin, the possibilities truly are endless. For something more personalized, try one of our renowned charter captains for a true deep-sea adventure. Possible encounters include sailfish, marlin, tuna, wahoo, sharks, cobia, amberjack and yellowtail, to name a few.

If your preference is light-tackle angling, hire one of our accomplished inshore or backcountry guides and stalk some of the most elusive creatures that swim. Flats fishing combines the skills of hunting and fishing as you pursue wily gamesters such as bonefish, tarpon, snook, redfish and the cagey permit. Flats fishing also requires stealth, patience and, more than anything, keen eyesight. So don't forget your polarized sunglasses.

Of course, hiring a guide or charter boat is only one way to fish the Keys. Feel free to bring your own boat, or simply try your luck along one of our designated fishing bridges.

To learn more about charters, tournaments and fishing in general, visit us at flakeys.com/fishing or email us at fishumbrella@aol.com.

The Florida Keys Fishing Tournament Guide



Spanish Fly

**SPORT
FISHING**
THE MAGAZINE OF SALT WATER FISHING

The
Florida Keys
& Key West
...come as you are®



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fla-keys.com

JANUARY

Key Largo Sailfish Challenge

Director: Tammie Gurgiolo (305) 852-9337 Location: Key Largo

Islamorada Bartender's Sailfish Open

Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 852-2102 Location: Islamorada

Captain Al Flutie Over the Hill Rip-Off

Director: Gordon Ross (305) 852-7703 Location: Islamorada

Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament

Director: Liz Hill (305) 451-5094 Location: Islamorada

Key West Harbour King Mackerel Tournament

Director: Lee Murray (305) 296-0364 Location: Key West

20th Annual Swamp Guides Fishing Tournaments

Director: Terry & Rusty Albury (305) 664-3864 Location: Islamorada

Islamorada Fishing Club Sailfish Tournament

Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 664-4735 Location: Islamorada

The Sailfish Open @ Hawks Cay

Director: Laura Emmole (305) 395-3474 Location: Duck Key

FEBRUARY

Backcountry Fly Championship

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio csun@aol.com Location: Islamorada

MARCH

12th Annual Capt. Leon Shell Memorial Billfish Tournament

Director: Terry Fisher (305) 289-1310 Location: Key Colony Beach

Backbone Lures "Fish 'Til You Lose It"

Director: Paul Tejera at (305) 393-2156 Location: Islamorada

Key West Fishing Tournament

Director: Doris Harris (305) 295-6601 Location: Key West

APRIL

7 Mile Marina Marathon Sharkathon

Director: Dan Rudacile (305) 395-0546 Location: Marathon

Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament

Director: Tammie Gurgiolo (305) 852-9337 Location: Islamorada

World Sailfish Championship

Director: Mike Weinhofer (305) 395-3474 Location: Key West

Redbone at Large Hawks Cay Sunrise/Sunset Tarpon Celebrity Tournament

Director: Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Duck Key

24th Annual Faro Blanco Invitational Tarpon Tournament

Director: Robert Traa (609) 645-1840 ext 115 Location: Marathon

MAY

6th Annual Tarponian Tournament

Director: David Breznicky (215) 542-1492 Location: Key West

44th Annual Marathon International Tarpon Tournament

Director: Donna VanKirk (305) 289-2248 Location: Marathon

Mother's Day Dolphin Tournament

Director: Michael Kiraly (305) 743-4449 Location: Marathon

24th Annual Coconuts Dolphin Tournament

Director: Charles Mountain (561) 741-1124 Location: Key Largo

34th Annual Ladies Tarpon Tournament

Director: Donna VanKirk (305) 289-2248 Location: Marathon

16th Annual Golden Fly Invitational Tarpon Tournament

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

Yamaha Dolphin Masters Invitational

Director: John Stuempfig (305) 304-7674 Location: Key West

IGFA Inshore Championship Tournament

Director: Mike Myatt (954) 927-2628 Location: Islamorada

JUNE

Islamorada Dolphin Tournament

Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 852-2102 Location: Islamorada

Islamorada Fishing Club Captain's Cup Dolphin Tournament

Director: Theresa Reinman (305) 664-4735 Location: Islamorada

35th Annual Don Hawley Invitational Tarpon Tournament

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

33rd Annual Women's Fly Series

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

Ladies Invitational Tarpon Fly Tournament

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

Big Pine & Lower Keys Dolphin Tournament

Director: Lower Keys Chamber (305) 872-2411 Location: Big Pine Key

Island Grill Blue Water Dolphin Tournament

Director: Jack McCormick (305) 664-8400 Location: Islamorada

Gold Cup Tarpon Tournament

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

Key West Gator Club Dolphin Derby

Director: John Stuempfig (305) 304-7674 Location: Key West

Burdines Waterfront 10th Annual Dolphin & Black Fin Tuna Fun Fishing Tournament

Director: Brenda Duff (305) 743-5317 Location: Marathon

JULY

Conch Republic Ladies' Dolphin Tournament

Director: John Stuempfig (305) 304-7674 Location: Key West

Del Brown Invitational Permit Tournament

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Key West

Key West Marlin Tournament

Director: Scott Greene (305) 292-2710 Location: Key West

Islamorada Fishing Club Redghost Stalk

Director: Jim & Sherri Trice (305) 664-3864 Location: Islamorada

Hawks Cay Mahi (Redbone @ Large Series)

Director: Tammie Gurgiolo (305) 852-9337 Location: Duck Key

AUGUST

Islamorada Swordfish Tournament

Director: Richard Peebles (305) 282-1006 Location: Islamorada

SEPTEMBER

Mercury Celebrity S.L.A.M.

Director: Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Key West

Islamorada Inv. Fall Fly Bonefish Tournament

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

Ladies, Let's Go Fishing Islamorada

Director: Betty Bauman (954) 475-9068 Location: Islamorada

Hernane Lucerne Memorial Tournament

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Key Largo

Marathon International Bonefish Tournament

Director: Lindsay Rabito-Leonard (305) 743-9424 Location: Marathon

Take Stock in Children Backcountry Challenge

Director: Sue Finney (305) 451-2467 Location: Key Largo

OCTOBER

Baybone Celebrity Tournament

Director: Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Key Largo

Mercury Outboards Bonefishing World Championship Islamorada

All-Tackle Bonefish

Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

NOVEMBER

Mercury Redbone Celebrity

Director: Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Islamorada

Islamorada Fishing Club Junior Derby

Director: Jim & Sherri Trice (305) 664-3864 Location: Islamorada

DECEMBER

Islamorada Sailfish Tournament

Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 852-2102 Location: Islamorada

Florida Key Gold Cup Sailfish Championship

Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 852-2102 Location: Islamorada

Islamorada Fishing Club Captain's Cup Sailfish Tournament

Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 664-4735 Location: Islamorada

Don Gurgiolo Sailfish Classic

Director: Tammie Gurgiolo (305) 852-9337 Location: Islamorada

Islamorada Junior Sailfish Tournament

Director: Tammie Gurgiolo (305) 852-9337 Location: Islamorada

TIPS FOR BOATERS & FISHERMEN

Dumping trash at sea is illegal; plastic bags & other debris can injure or kill marine animals. Retrieve fishing gear & equipment, especially monofilament line. Accidental boat groundings damage the reef. Prop damage destroys shallow seagrass beds. Consult tide and navigational charts & steer clear of shallow areas. Remember, "Brown, brown, run aground. Blue, blue, sail on through." Use reef mooring buoys or anchor in sandy areas away from coral & seagrasses so you do not damage the coral or seagrass beds. Use sewage pump-out facilities, biodegradable bilge cleaner and never discharge sewage or bilgewater at the reef. Maintain safe distances from fishermen. Observe size & catch limits; release all fish you can't eat. Avoid wildlife disturbance; stay 200 feet or more offshore; keep speed, noise & wakes to a minimum near mangroves.