

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



big game
FISHING JOURNAL

**SPORT
FISHING**

Spanish Fly

The Florida Keys
& Key West
come as you are



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER
©2009 Monroe County Commission,
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. MCTFU-3449 • 2K • 1/09

fla-keys.com

JAN Florida Keys Gold Cup Sailfish Championship
Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 852-2102 Location: Islamorada

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

Bartender's Sailfish Open
Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 664-4735 Location: Islamorada

Captain Al Flutie Over the Hill Rip-Off
Director: Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Islamorada

Islamorada Fishing Club Sailfish Tournament
Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 664-4735 Location: Islamorada

Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament
Director: Liz Hill (305) 451-5094 Location: Islamorada

Hog's Breath King Mackerel Tournament
Director: Lee Murray (305) 797-1117 Location: Key West

Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association Swamp Guides Ball
Director: Terry Albury (305) 664-5142 Location: Islamorada

FEB Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament
Director: Tammie Gurgiolo (305) 852-9337 Location: Islamorada

Poor Girls Sailfish Tournament
Director: Mark Mills (305) 852-9085 Location: Key Largo and Islamorada

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

Captain Leon Shell Memorial Billfish Tournament
Director: Chris Johnson (305) 743-5305 Location: Key Colony Beach

MAR Backbone Lures "Fish 'Til You Lose It."
Director: Paul Tejera (305) 393-2156 Location: Islamorada

Key West Fishing Tournament
Director: Doris Harris at (800) 970-9056 or (305) 295-6601 Location: Key West

Islamorada All-Tackle Spring Bonefish Tournament
Director: Jim Bokor (305) 852-1694 Location: Islamorada

APR World Sailfish Championship
Director: Mike Weinhofer (305) 395-3474 or (727) 631-0072 Location: Key West

Big Boys Off-Shore Charity Fishing Tournament
Director: Kevin Clark (305) 852-9337 Location: Key Largo

Redbone at Large Hawks Cay Sunrise/Sunset Tarpon Celebrity Tournament
Director: Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Marathon

22nd Annual Faro Blanco Invitational Tarpon Tournament
Director: Robert Traa (609) 645-1840 Location: Marathon

43rd Annual Marathon International Tarpon Tournament
Director: Dave Navarro (305) 743-6139 Location: Marathon

MAY Tarponian Tournament
Director: David Breznicky (215) 542-1492 Location: Marathon

Mother's Day Dolphin Tournament
Director: Michael Kiraly (305) 743-4449 Location: Marathon

33rd Annual Ladies Tarpon Tournament
Director: Dave Navarro (305) 743-6139 Location: Marathon

Lower Keys & Key West Reef Shootout
Director: Mike Weinhofer (305) 395-3474 Location: Big Pine & Lower Keys

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

15th 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

JUN Don Hawley Invitational Tarpon Tournament
Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

Islamorada Fishing Club Captain's Cup Dolphin Tournament
Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 664-4735 Location: Islamorada

Women's Fly Series - Tarpon
Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

Big Pine & Lower Keys Dolphin Tournament
Director: The Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce (305) 872-2411 or (800) 872-3722 Location: Big Pine Key

Gold Cup Tarpon Tournament
Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

Island Grill Blue Water Dolphin Tournament
Director: Jack McCormick (305) 664-8400 Location: Islamorada

Father's Day Dolphin Derby
Director: Debbie Struyf (305) 481-8379 Location: Marathon

Key West Gator Club Dolphin Derby
Director: John Stuempfig (305) 304-7674 Location: Key West

Burdines Waterfront Dolphin & Blackfin Fun Fishing Tournament
Director: Sherry Burdine at (305) 743-5317 Location: Marathon

JUL Dolphin Flashover
Director: Andrea Sutherland (305) 942-7223 Location: Little Torch Key

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

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

Islamorada Fishing Club Red Ghost Stalk
Director: Jim and Sherri Trice (305) 664-3864 Location: Islamorada

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

SEPT SLAM (Southernmost Light-Tackle Anglers Masters) Celebrity Tournament
Director: Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Key West

Herman Lucerne Memorial Tournament
Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Key Largo

Islamorada Invitational Fall Fly Bonefish Tournament
Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

50th Annual Marathon International Bonefish Tournament
Director: Lindsay Rabito-Leonard (305) 481-4571 or (305) 743-9424 Location: Marathon

OCT Baybone Celebrity Tournament
Director: Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Key Largo

Mercury Outboards Bonefishing World Championship/ Islamorada All-Tackle Bonefish Tournament
Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444 Location: Islamorada

Women's Fall Fly Classic - Multiple Species
Director: Charlotte Ambrogio (305) 664-2444

Take Stock in Children Backcountry Challenge
Director: Sue Finney (305) 451-2467 Location: Key Largo

NOV Redbone Celebrity Tournament
Director: Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Islamorada

Islamorada Fishing Club Junior Derby
Director: Jim and Sherri Trice (305) 664-3864 Location: Islamorada

Ladies, Let's Go Fishing
Director: Betty Bauman (954) 475-9068 Location: Islamorada

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

Islamorada Fishing Club Captain's Cup Sailfish Tournament
Director: Dianne Harbaugh (305) 664-4735 Location: Islamorada

10th Annual Captain 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.