

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®



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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

23rd Annual Holiday Isle Sailfish Tournament

Director: Ed Kinkelaar (305) 664-2321, ext 655 Location: Islamorada

Bartender's Sailfish Open

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

Outdoor Channel Offshore Classic

Director: Sue Vermillion (808) 325-9896 Location: Islamorada

Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament

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

Boomer Esiason Foundation Captain Al Flutie Over the Hill Rip-Off

Director: Bill Kelly (305) 394-5333 or Gary Ellis (305) 664-2002 Location: Islamorada

Islamorada Fishing Club Sailfish Tournament

Director: Claire Williams (305) 664-4735 Location: Islamorada

Florida Keys Fishing Guides Association Swamp Guides Ball

Director: Terry Albury (305) 664-5142 Location: Islamorada

Hog's Breath King Mackerel Tournament

Director: Lee Murray (305) 797-117 Location: Key West

FEB**Islamorada Women's Sailfish Tournament**

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

Poor Girls Sailfish Tournament

Director: Sharon Mahoney (305) 664-2012 Location: Key Largo and Islamorada

Backcountry Fly Championship

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

Backbone Lures "Fish 'Til You Lose It"

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

Captain Leon Shell Memorial Billfish Tournament

Director: Chris Johnson (305) 743-5305 Location: Key Colony Beach

MAR**Key West Fishing Tournament**

Director: Doris Harris (305) 295-6601 or (800) 970-9056 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 Offshore Charity Fishing Tournament

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

MAY**42nd Annual Marathon International Tarpon Tournament**

Director: Dave Navarro (305) 743-6139 Location: Marathon

32nd Annual Ladies Tarpon Tournament

Director: Dave Navarro (305) 743-6139 Location: Marathon

Coconuts Dolphin Tournament

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

21st Annual Faro Blanco Invitational Tarpon Tournament

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

14th Annual Golden Fly Invitational Tarpon Tournament

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

Yamaha Dolphin Masters Invitational

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

42nd Annual Marathon International Tarpon Tournament

Director: Dave Navarro (305) 743-6139 Location: Marathon

32nd Annual Ladies Tarpon Tournament

Director: Dave Navarro (305) 743-6139 Location: Marathon

Coconuts Dolphin Tournament

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

21st Annual Faro Blanco Invitational Tarpon Tournament

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

14th Annual Golden Fly Invitational Tarpon Tournament

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

Yamaha Dolphin Masters Invitational

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

Lower Keys & Key West Reef Shootout

Director: Mike Weinhofer (305) 395-3474 Location: The Lower Keys & 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: Claire Williams (305) 664-4735 Location: Islamorada

Florida Keys Community Classic Dolphin TournamentDirector: Captain Bill Sampsell (305) 731-9059
or Captain Mary Sampsell (305) 942-1825 Location: Marathon**Big Pine & Lower Keys Dolphin Tournament**Director: The Lower Keys Chamber of Commerce (305) 872-2411
or (800) 872-3722 Location: Big Pine Key**Ladies Invitational Tarpon Fly Tournament**

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

Father's Day Dolphin Derby

Director: Debbie Struyf (305) 481-8379 Location: Marathon

Island Grill Blue Water Dolphin Tournament

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

Southernmost Swordfish Tournament

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

Gold Cup Tarpon Tournament

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

Key West Golf Club Dolphin Derby

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

IGFA Inshore World Championship Tournament

Director: Mike Myatt (954) 927-2628 Location: The Florida Keys & Key West

Burdines Waterfront 8th Annual Dolphin & Black Fin Tuna Fun Fishing Tournament

Director: Sherry Burdine (214) 403-9950 Location: Marathon

JUL**Conch Republic Ladies' Dolphin Tournament**

Director: John Stuemphig (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

Holiday Isle/ Caribee Boat Sales Dolphin Tournament

Director: Ed Kinkelaar (305) 664-2321, ext 655 Location: Islamorada

Dolphin Flashover

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

AUG**Ghost Hunt Tournament**

Director: Jamie Esterline (305) 852-6200 Location: Key Largo

Islamorada Swordfish Tournament

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

**Mercury SLAM (Southernmost Light-Tackle Anglers Masters)
Celebrity Tournament**

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

Islamorada Invitational Fall Fly Bonefish Tournament

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

Ladies, Let's Go Fishing

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

Marathon International Bonefish TournamentDirector: Lindsay Rabito (305) 743-7368, (305) 481-4571 or (305) 743-9424
Location: Marathon**SEPT****Mercury Baybone Celebrity Tournament**

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

Take Stock in Children Backcountry Challenge

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

OCT**Mercury Outboards Bonefishing World Championship/
Islamorada All-Tackle Bonefish Tournament**

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

Casting for Cs Women's Backcountry Tournament

Director: Sharon Mahoney (305) 664-2012 Location: Islamorada

NOV**Mercury/Cheeca 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

DEC**Islamorada Sailfish Tournament**

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

Ninth Annual Captain Don Gurgiolo Sailfish Classic

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

Islamorada Fishing Club Captain's Cup Sailfish Tournament

Director: Claire Williams (305) 664-4735 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.