



Aquatic WILD & Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs



Learning Objectives

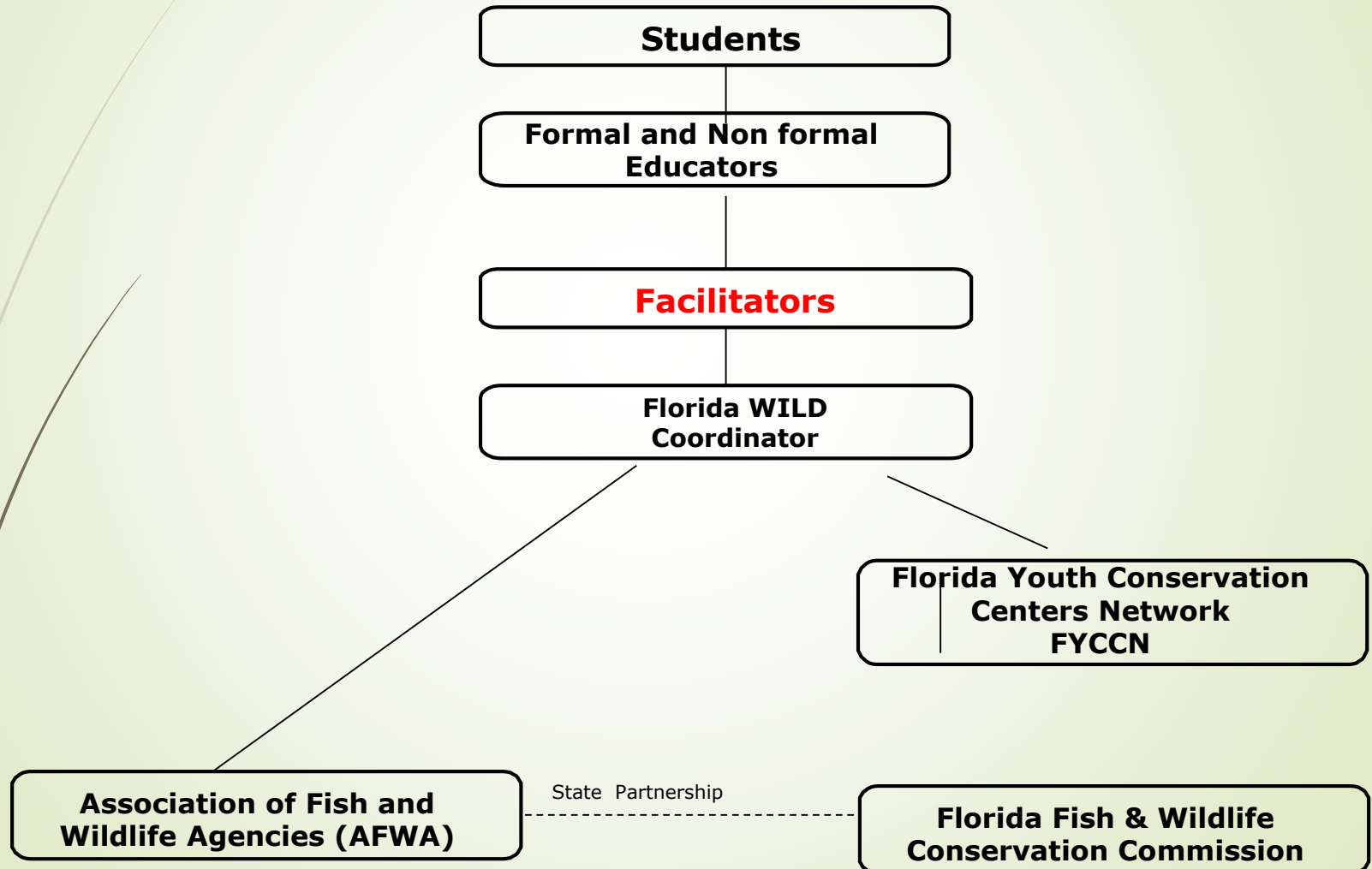
1. Experience hands-on aquatic wildlife related lessons.
2. Develop knowledge, skills, and confidence to use the lessons.
3. Actively participate in a sample lesson of the Hooked-on Fishing Not on Drugs youth program.





...**Education plays a vital role in conservation of Florida's wildlife and other natural resources.** The goal of conservation education is to lead individuals from simple awareness to beneficial action and behavioral changes. Many residents know little about Florida's natural resources and do not realize how their individual actions collectively contribute to the threats of these resources. **The future health of Florida's natural resources will depend on continuous and comprehensive educational efforts** designed to promote ecological literacy and the balance between natural resources, wildlife conservation, economic productivity and development....

Florida Project WILD Network



Get WILD

Project **WILD**



"I want WILD!"



Each Activity contains

- Recommended Grade Levels
- Subject/Content Areas
- Method
- Materials
- Duration, Group Size, Setting, etc.
- Key Terms



Project **WILD**
FLORIDA



Get WILD

Project **WILD**



"I want WILD!"

Each Activity Contains continued...

- Objectives
- Background
- Procedures
- Extensions
- Evaluations
- WILD Work
- In Step with STEM
- Copy pages



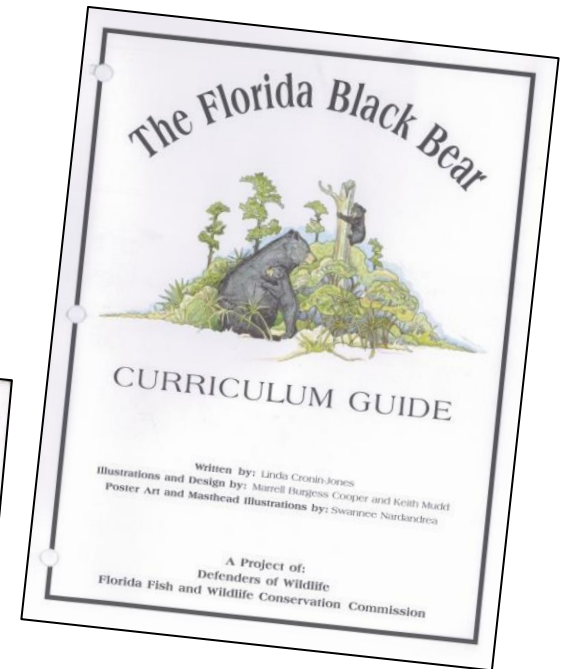
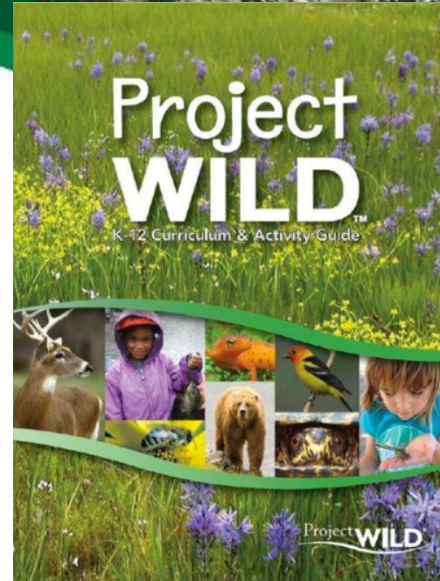
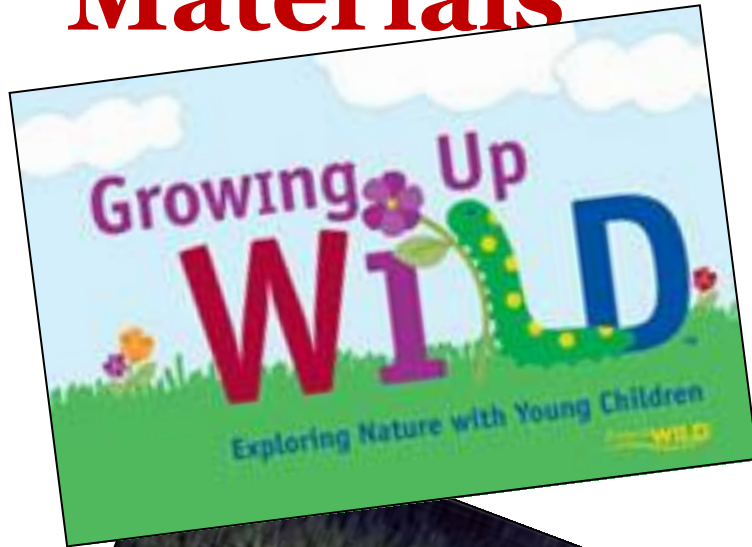
Project **WILD**
FLORIDA



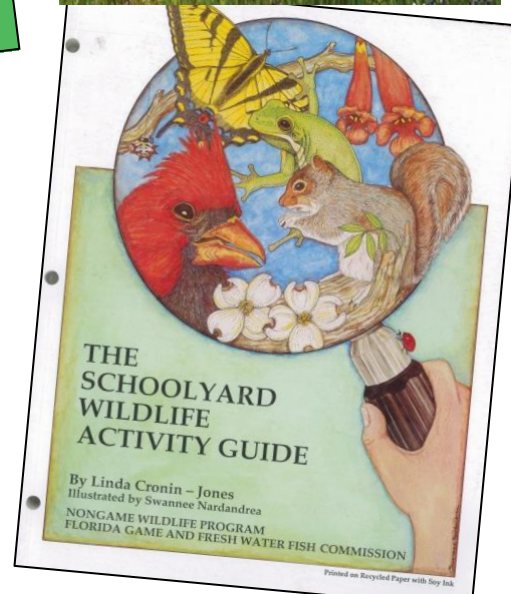
Get WILD

Additional Materials

Project **WILD**



Spanish WILD



Marine Programs

- Youth Fishing Camps
 - Kid's Fishing Clinics
- Women's Fishing Clinics
 - Adult Fishing Clinics



Youth Saltwater Fishing Camp

- Single or multi-day programs that provide basic hands-on instruction about saltwater fishing.
- For youth ages 8-15
- Train partners throughout the state of Florida
- Provide camp equipment to partners to host camps



Kids' Fishing Clinic Program

- Partnership between FWC and local coordinators
- Designed to teach kids the basics of fishing, ethical angling and conservation
- Fishing rods provided by Fish Florida and local groups
- Allows kids to practice the new skills they have learned
- Catch and release only
- Stations: Knot Tying, Tackle Good Angler, Habitat Tank, Casting



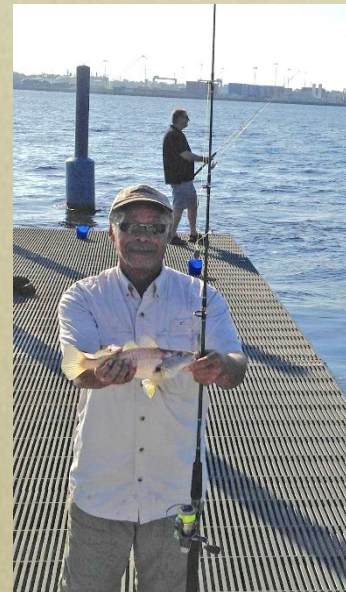
Women's Saltwater Fishing Clinic

- A free, one day, shore based event offered to women ages 18 and older to introduce them to saltwater fishing and to educate participants on how to be responsible, ethical stewards of Florida's marine resources
- Host sites include: Panama City, Crystal River, Jacksonville, Apollo Beach, Cedar Key, Pensacola, St. Augustine, Sebastian Inlet, Ft. Pierce, St. George Island, Ocala, Tallahassee, and several others
- Topics covered: Inshore fishing, tackle, casting, cast netting, knot tying, fisheries conservation and more!
- FWC is interested in finding partners to conduct these clinics



Adult Saltwater Fishing Clinic

- A free, one day, shore based event offered to women and men ages 18 and older to introduce them to saltwater fishing and to educate participants on how to be responsible, ethical stewards of Florida's marine resources
- Host sites include: Panama City, Jacksonville, Apollo Beach, Cedar Key, St. Augustine, Ft. Pierce, Tallahassee, and several others
- Topics covered: Inshore fishing, tackle, casting, cast netting, knot tying, fisheries conservation and more!
- FWC is interested in finding partners to conduct these clinics



Freshwater Programs

(that FWC provides instructor trainings for)

- Instructional Fishing Clinics (youth or families)
- Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs® or HOFNOD (youth)
- Fishing & Basic Boating Skills Camps (youth or families)



Instructional Fishing Clinics

- A 2-hour instructor training that qualifies adults to conduct an approximately two-hour instructional fishing clinic
- The training provides the basics of fishing; the aquatic food chain, keep your fishing spot clean, how do I rig my pole, casting techniques, fish identification, be an ethical angler, and keeping a fishing journal
- The training doesn't supply enough information for an instructor to conduct multiple sessions with the same individuals
- Groups often begin with the Instructional Fishing Clinic instructor training and move ahead with either the HOFNOD instructor training or the camp program



Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs® (HOFNOD)

- An 8-hour instructor training for adults who then work with students through multiple contacts that adds up to about 30 to 40 hours of instruction
- This is a long-term and mentor-based program that teaches children and adults about angling skills, conservation, stewardship, aquatic ecology, and other related topics
- Additional emphasis is placed on positive life skills; such as, decision-making, goal-setting, and making positive choices
- Besides teaching adults how to teach fishing, the workshop covers many aspects such as involving the community, partnerships and where to find additional resources



Fishing & Basic Boating Skills Camps

- This instructor training provides camp directors and staff everything they need to offer a week-long program for youth or a weekend program for families
- FWC helps new camp locations to acquire start up equipment
- The 12-hour instructor training covers all of the hands-on skills needed to successfully conduct one of these camps
- The camp focuses on creating self sufficient anglers, teaching basic boating skills and increasing environmental stewardship of participants.



Fish Scale Tale(Ice-breaker) Activity

1. Draw a dot to mark your birth in the center of the paper
2. Draw one ring for each year of your life
3. Label the “thicker rings” of your life by year and event



Fish Scale Tale Activity

Scaly Facts:

- Most fish are born without scales
- Fish scales begin to form immediately after hatching
- Once formed, a fish has the same amount of scales throughout its life
- Fish scales will grow until a fish dies



Fish Scale Tale Activity

More Scaly Facts:

- Each scale will form multiple rings (circuli) per year for the entire life of the fish
- Slow growth periods (winter time in the north) will produce little space between rings and faster growth periods (summer time) will produce more space between rings



Fish Scale Tale Activity

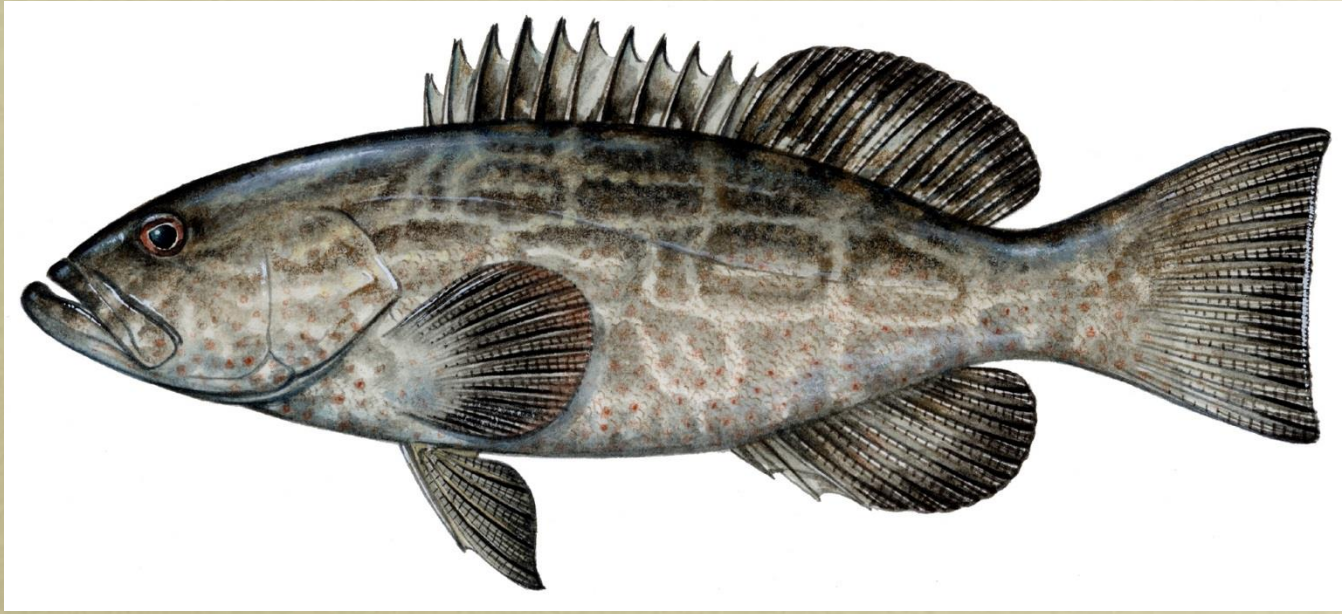
- What conditions would cause a fish to have “thinner” rings? “thicker” rings?
- What are some influences of your environment on your growth?
- What conditions would cause a person to have “thinner” rings? “thicker” rings?
- How can we help to prevent “thin” years in a fish in our local habitat?



Anatomy of Fishes



Body Shapes



Fusiform

Streamlined and football shaped; can swim very fast and for long distances

Body Shapes



Depressed

Flattened from top to bottom like a pancake



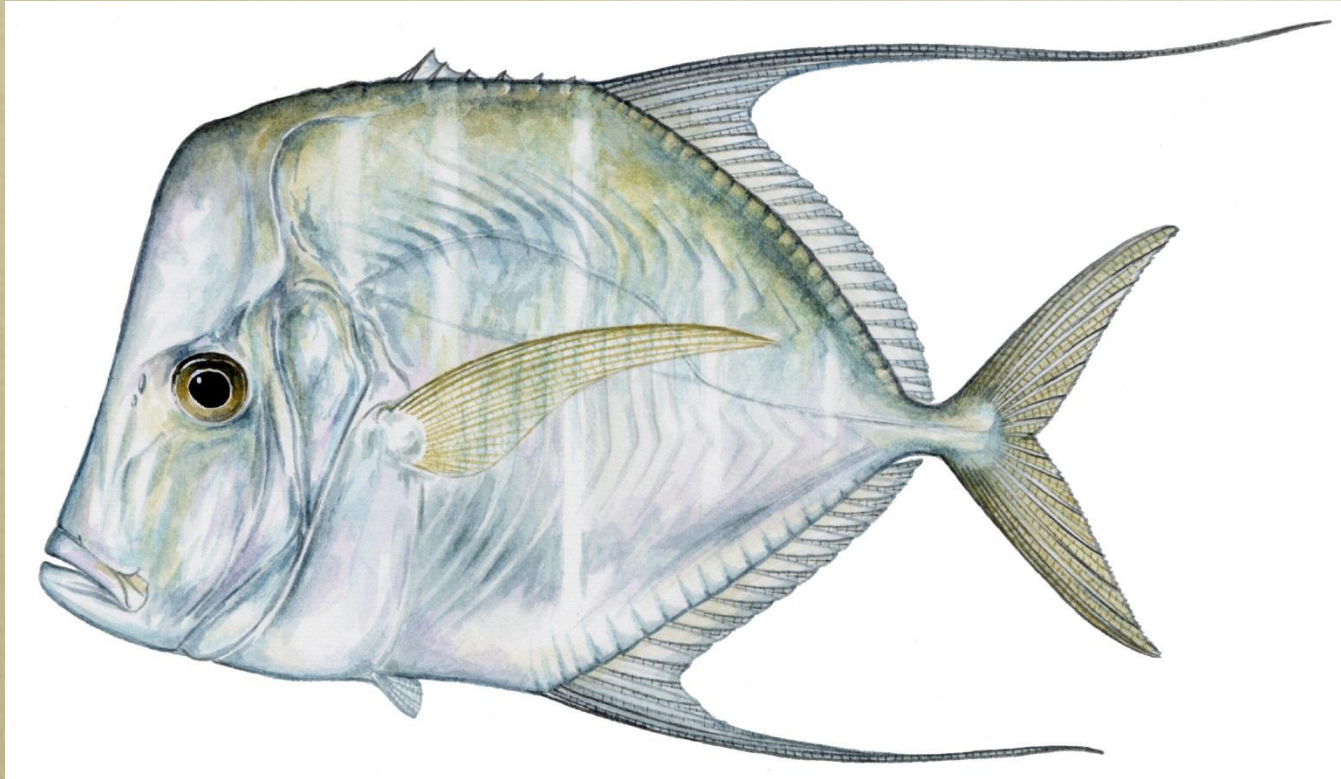
Body Shapes



Spherical

Rounded like a ball; very slow swimmers

Body Shapes



Compressed
Flattened side to side

Body Shapes

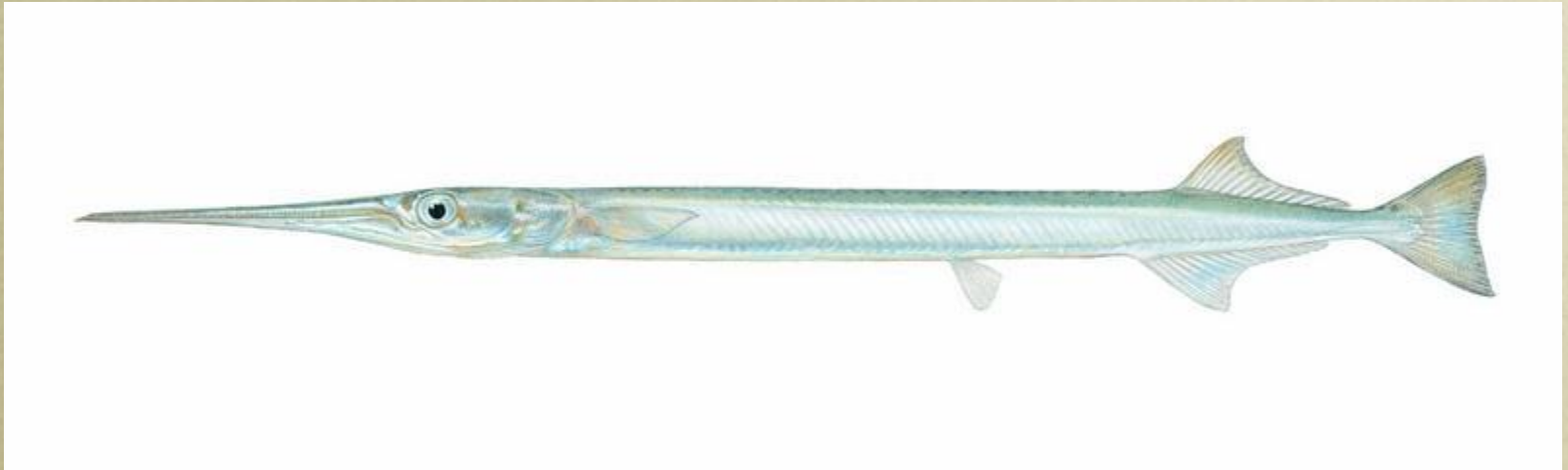


Photo Credit: Joseph R. Tomelleri

Ribbon-like

Long and thin like a snake

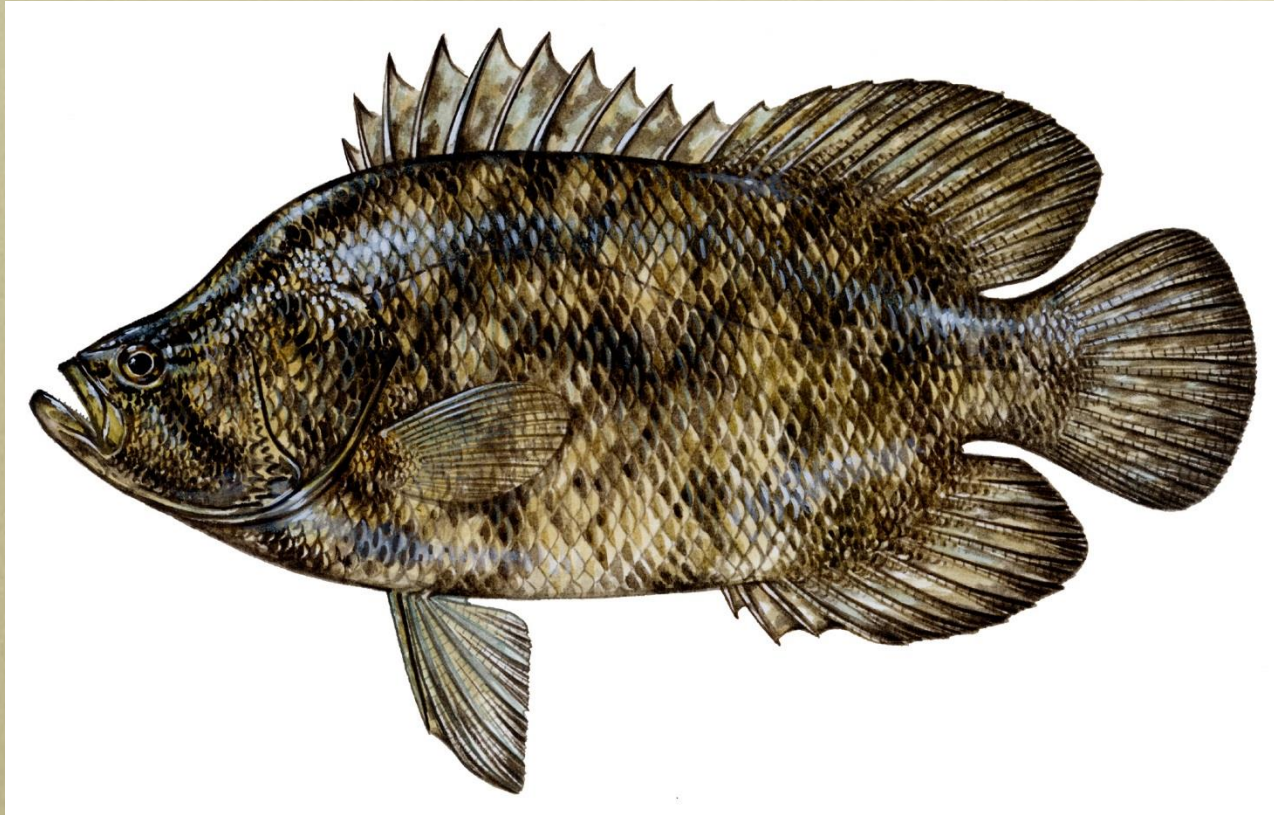


Tail Shapes



Tapered
Slow swimmers

Tail Shapes

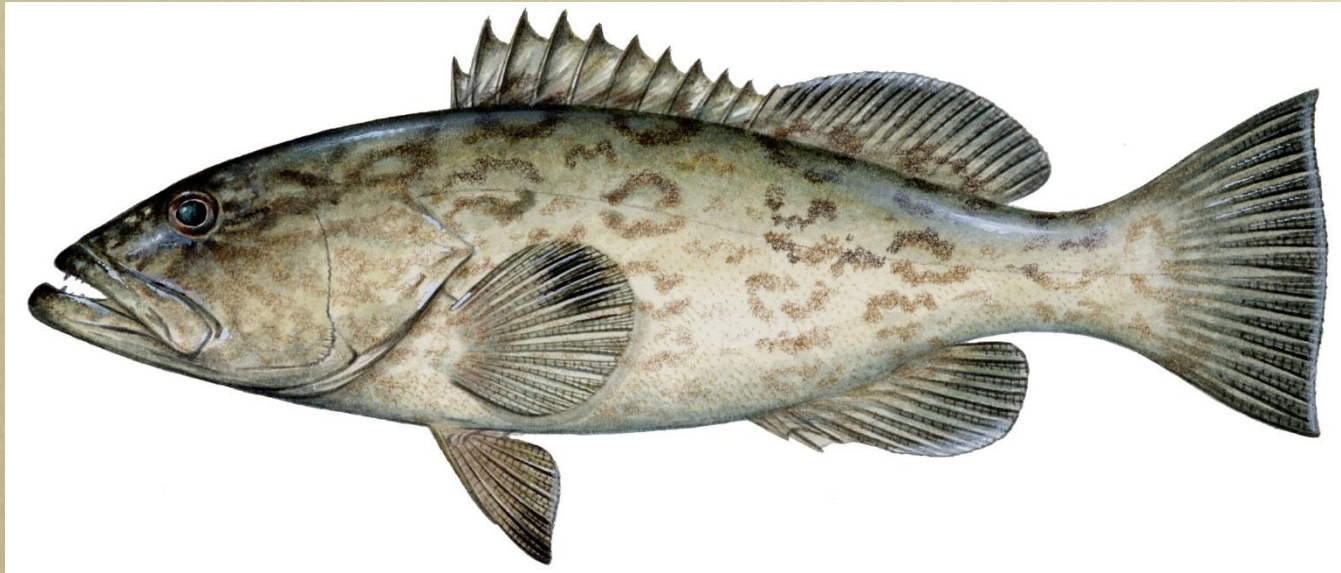


Rounded

Capable of short bursts of speed



Tail Shapes

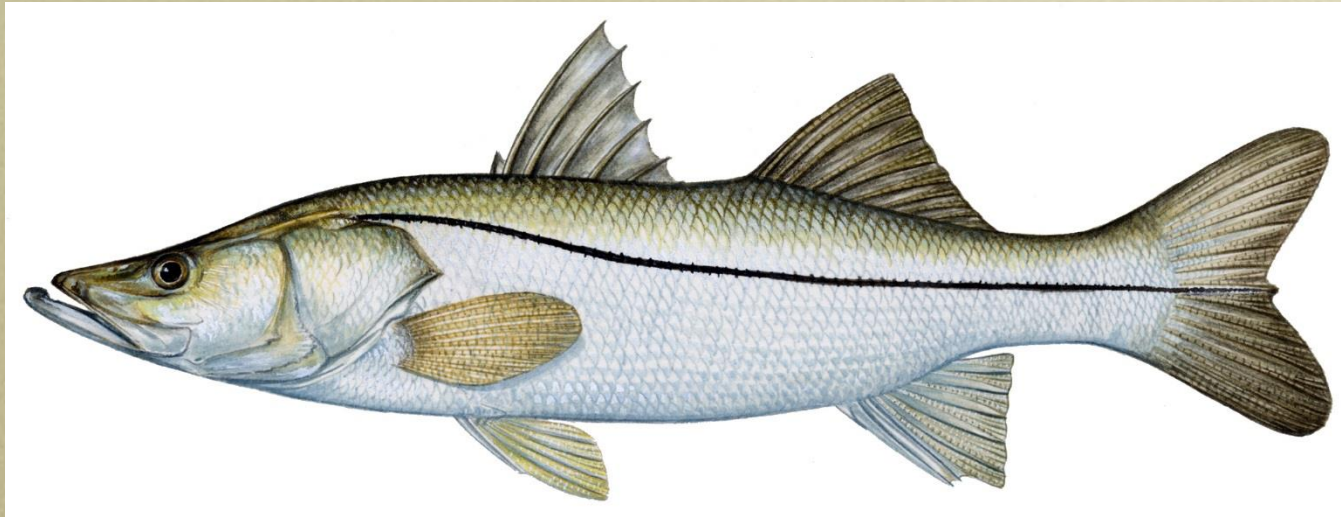


Squared

Capable of short bursts of speed



Tail Shapes

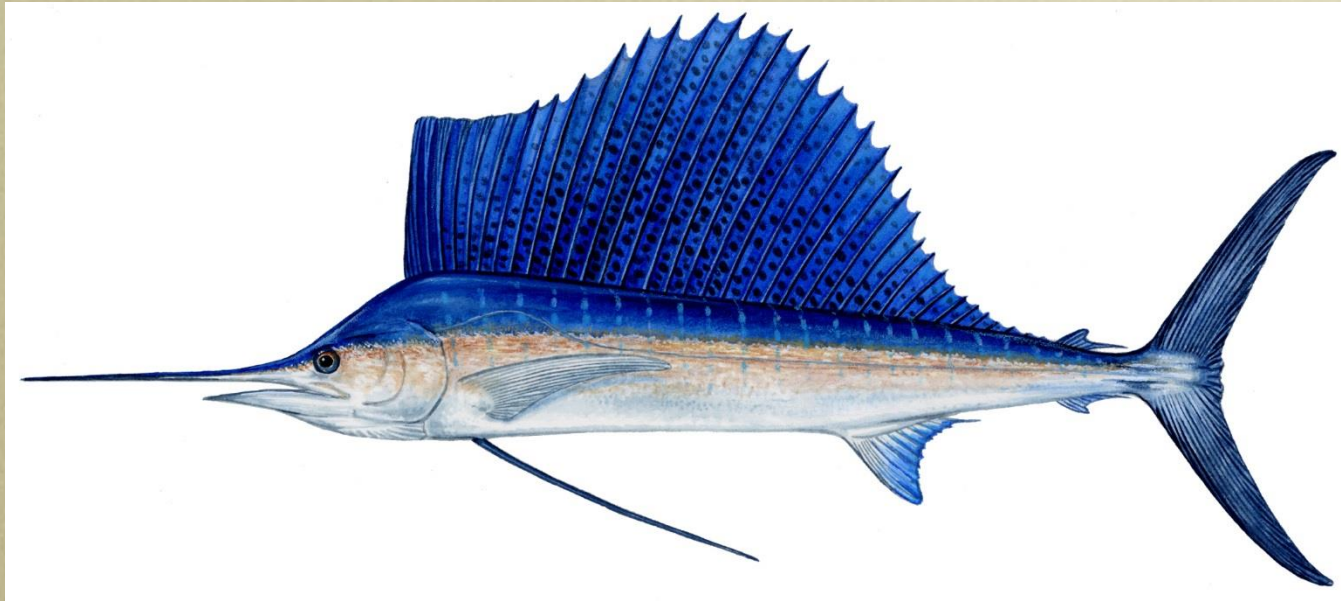


Forked

Fast swimmers for short bursts



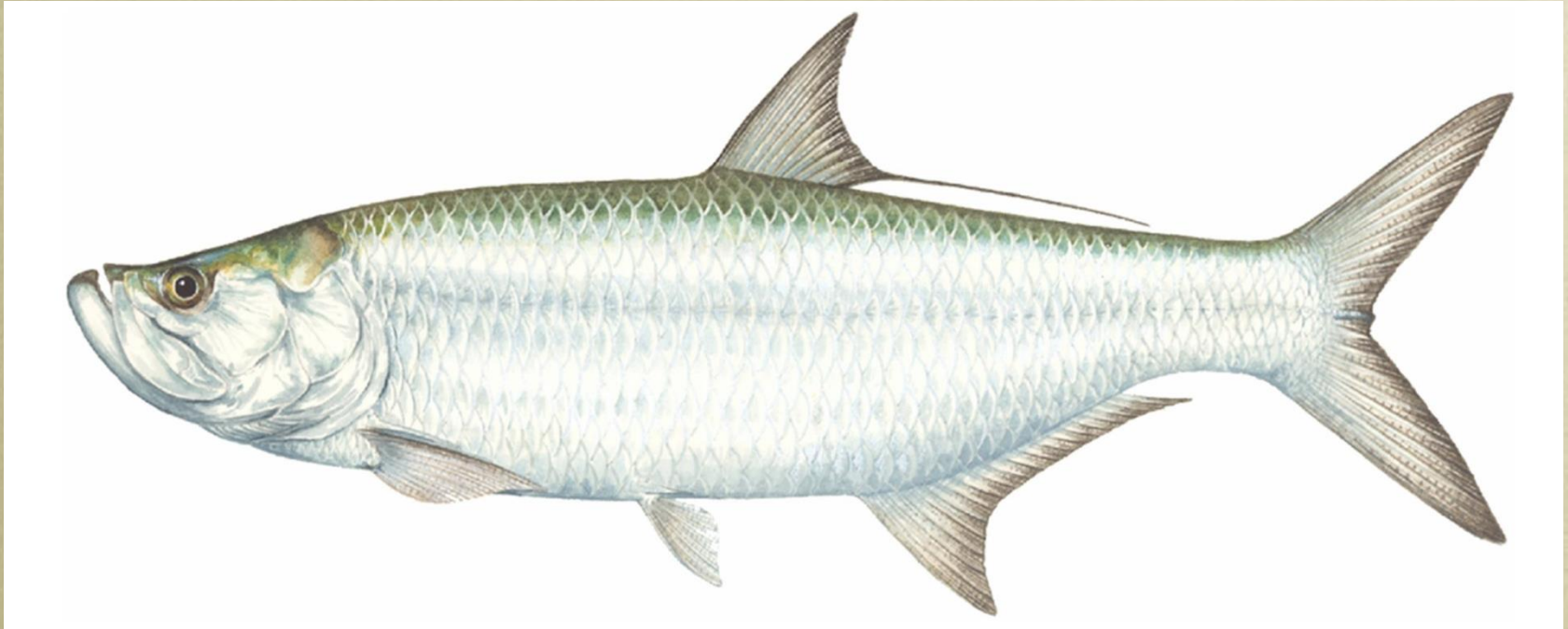
Tail Shapes



Lunate

Very fast swimmers for long distances

Mouth Orientation

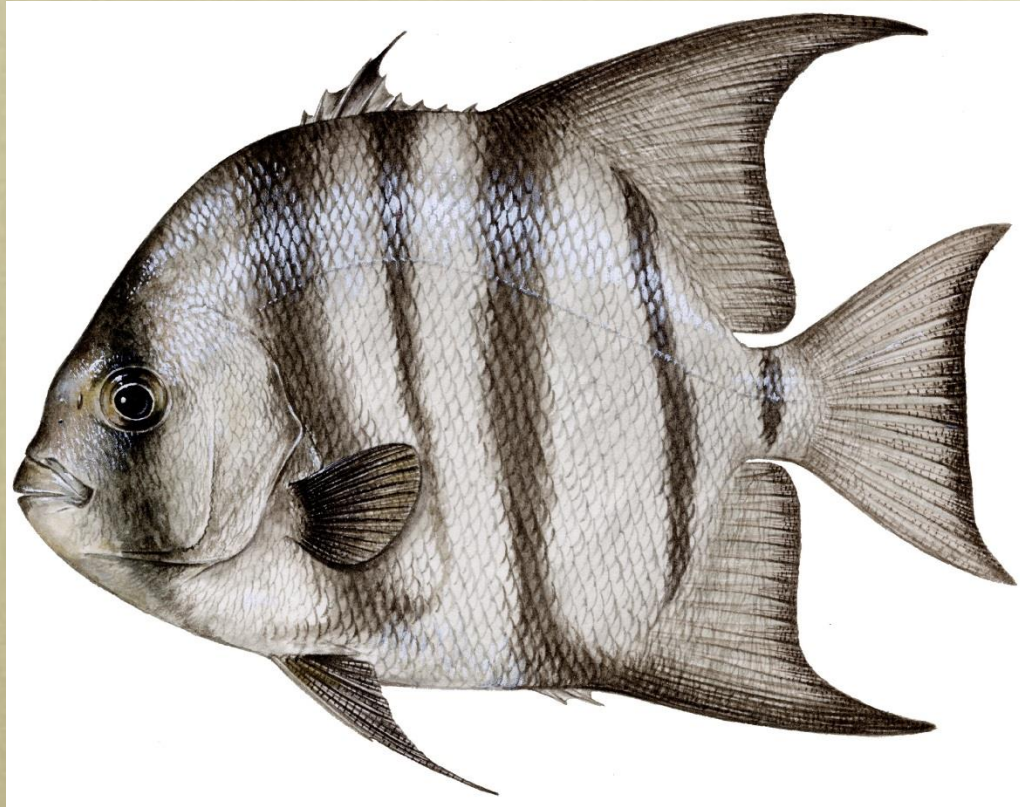


Superior

Points upward to eat from the surface



Mouth Orientation

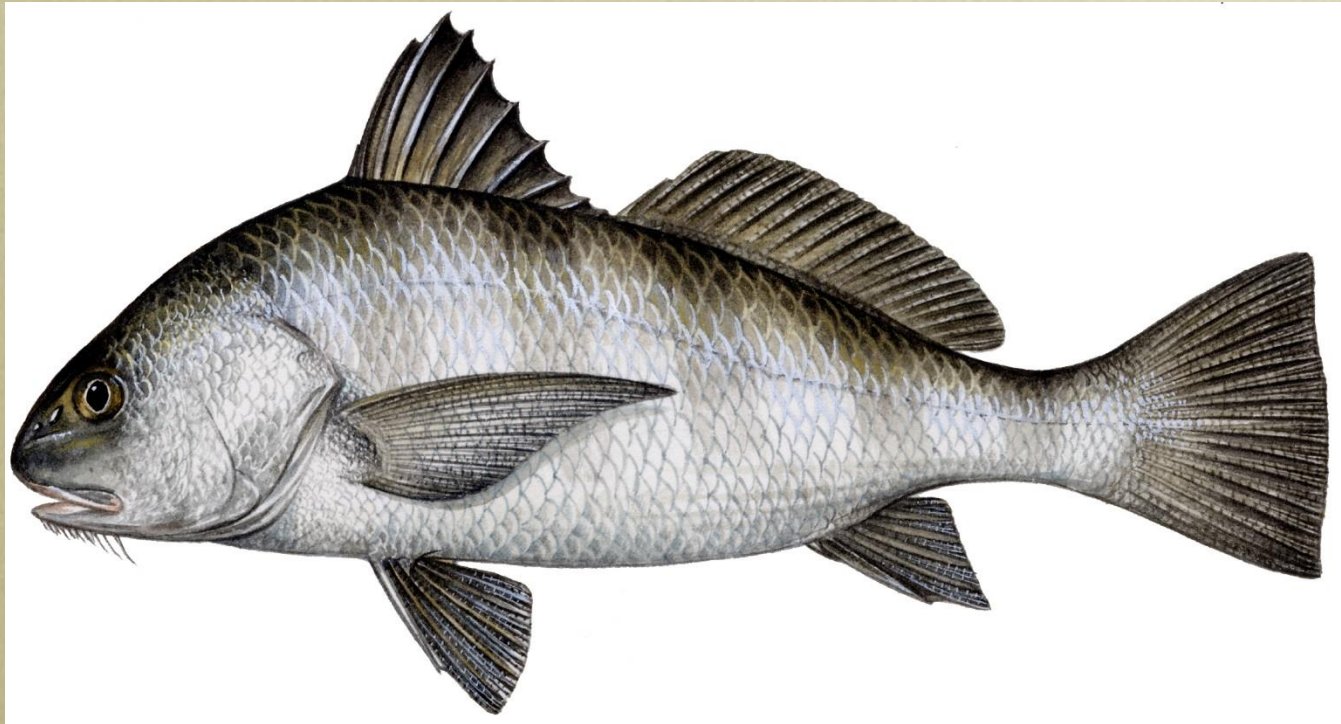


Terminal

Points straight forward to feed anywhere in front of them



Mouth Orientation



Inferior

Points downward to eat from the bottom



Body Color



Disruptive

Spots and stripes diffuse the fish's outline



Body Color



Camouflage

Matches surroundings to blend in and hide



Body Color

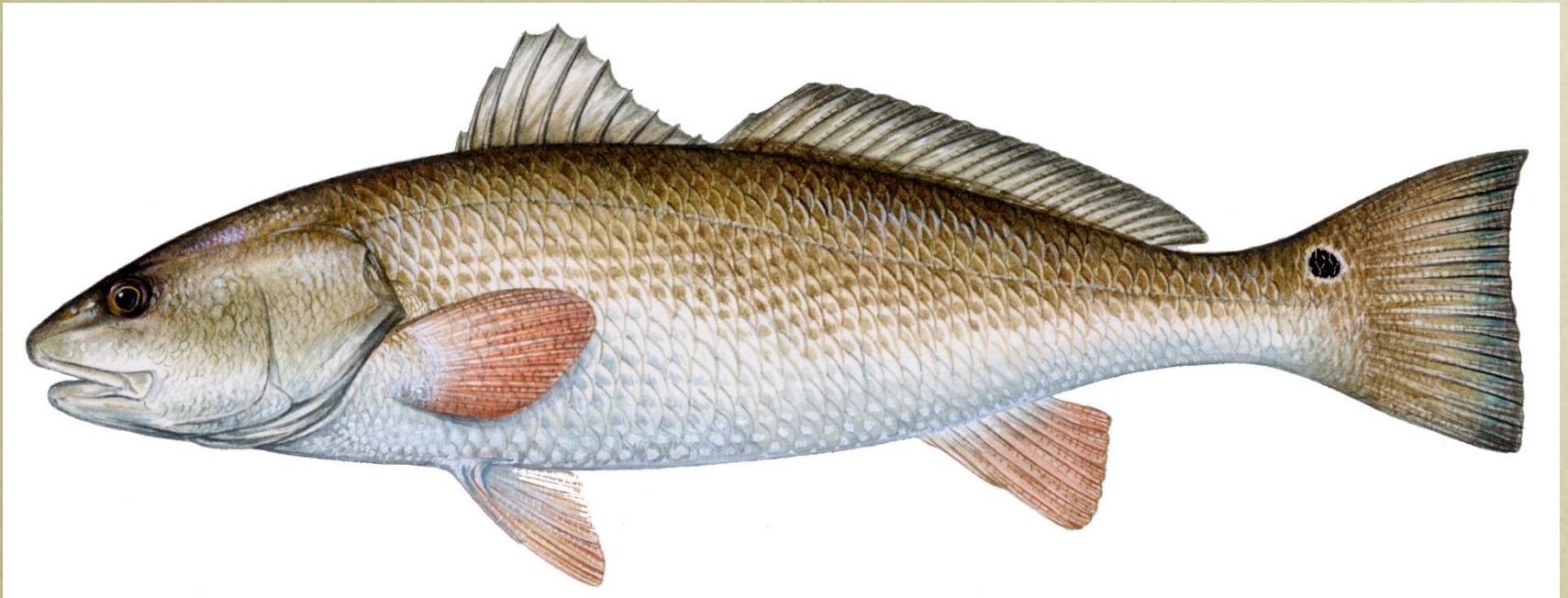


Counter Shading

Dark back blends in with the ocean bottom, light belly blends in with the sky



Body Color



Deceiving
False eyespots confuse predators





Recreational Angling: Catch and Release

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management

Overview

- Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
 - Division of Marine Fisheries Management
- Sport Fish Restoration (SFR)
- Catch and Release
- Get Involved



The FWC

The agency manages 575 species of wildlife, 200 species of freshwater fish, and 600 species of saltwater fish and invertebrates

Divisions

- Marine Fisheries
- Freshwater Fisheries
- Law Enforcement
- Hunting & Game
- Boating & Waterways
- Habitat & Species Conservation
- Fish & Wildlife Research Institute
- Licensing and Permitting



“Managing Fish and Wildlife Resources for Their Long-Term Well-Being and the Benefit of People”



FWC- Division of Marine Fisheries Management (DMFM)

- Division activities- regulate recreational and commercial marine fisheries, outreach and education, artificial reef deployment and monitoring.
- Recreational Outreach and Education
 - Promote fisheries conservation
 - Curriculum based fishing programs
 - Publications
 - Angler Recognition Programs


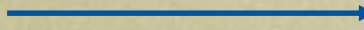



Fishing Capital of the World

- #1 recreational fishing destination in the United States
- Commercial and recreational fishing businesses add up to \$6.6 billion annually in Florida
- Healthy fish populations are important to Florida's economy



Angling for Conservation

- Pre-Fishing 
- Handling Fish 
- Releasing Fish 

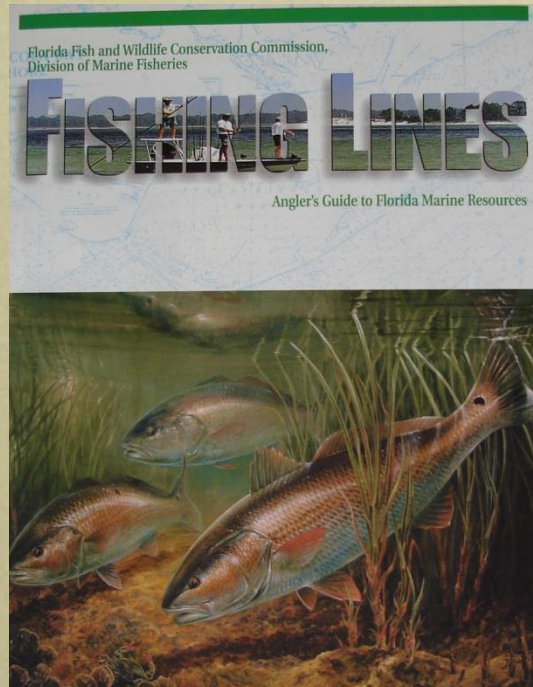


Sustainable
Fisheries



Pre-Fishing

- Know how to identify fish in your area and have a resource to help identify fish



DOG SNAPPER - *Lutjanus jocu*

Family Lutjanidae, SNAPPERS

Description: color brown with a bronze tinge, lighter on sides; canine teeth very sharp, one pair noticeably enlarged, visible even when mouth is closed; in adults, pale triangle and a light blue interrupted line below the eye; no dark spot on body underneath dorsal fin.

Similar fish: schoolmaster, *L. apodus* (no white triangle under eye, and fins are more yellow); other snappers.

Where found: large adults OFFSHORE over coral and rocky reefs; juveniles associated with estuaries.

Size: large snapper, attaining 30 pounds.

Remarks: spawns from spring through fall; known as a night feeder, taking fishes, mollusks, and crustaceans.



GRAY SNAPPER (mangrove snapper) - *Lutjanus griseus*

Family Lutjanidae, SNAPPERS

Description: color dark brown or gray with reddish or orange spots in rows along the sides; dark horizontal band from snout through eye (young only); two conspicuous canine teeth at front of upper jaw; dorsal fin have dark or reddish borders; no spot on side underneath dorsal fin.

Similar fish: cubana snapper, *L. cyanopterus*.

Where found: juveniles INSHORE in tidal creeks, mangroves, and grass beds; adults generally NEARSHORE or OFFSHORE on coral or rocky reefs.

Size: offshore catches common to 10 pounds.

Remarks: spawns June through August; feeds on crustaceans and small fish.

Florida record: 16 lbs., 8 ozs.



LANE SNAPPER - *Lutjanus synagris*

Family Lutjanidae, SNAPPERS

Description: color silvery-pink to reddish with short, irregular pink and yellow lines on its sides; diffuse black spot, about as large as the eye; the dorsal fin centered above the lateral line; outer margin of caudal fin blackish.

Similar fish: mutton snapper, *L. analis* (anal fin rounded in lane snapper, pointed in mutton).

Where found: juveniles INSHORE over grass beds or shallow reefs; adults OFFSHORE, most common in south Florida.

Size: usually less than 1 pound.

Remarks: spawns March to September, sexually mature at 6 inches; feeds on the bottom, taking crustaceans, mollusks, and fish.

Florida record: 6 lbs., 6 ozs.



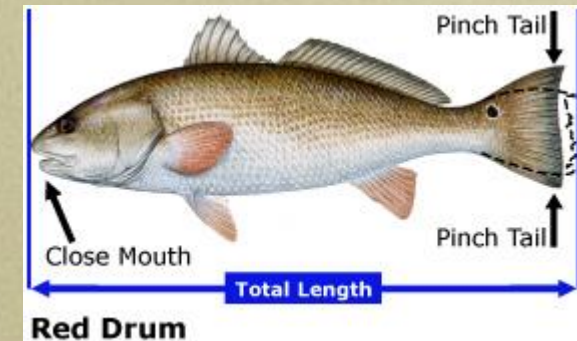
Fishing Regulations

- Fishing licenses
 - Shoreline and boat
- Monthly “Fishing In The Know”

<http://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/>

- Check out these Apps:

- Fish/Hunt Florida (MyFWC)
- Fish Rules
- Pro Angler
- Gulf Fisheries Management Council Regulations
- FL Saltwater Fishing Companion



Pre-Fishing

- Use tackle heavy enough to bring the fish in quickly
- Avoid using multi-hook rigs or lures, or remove some of the hooks

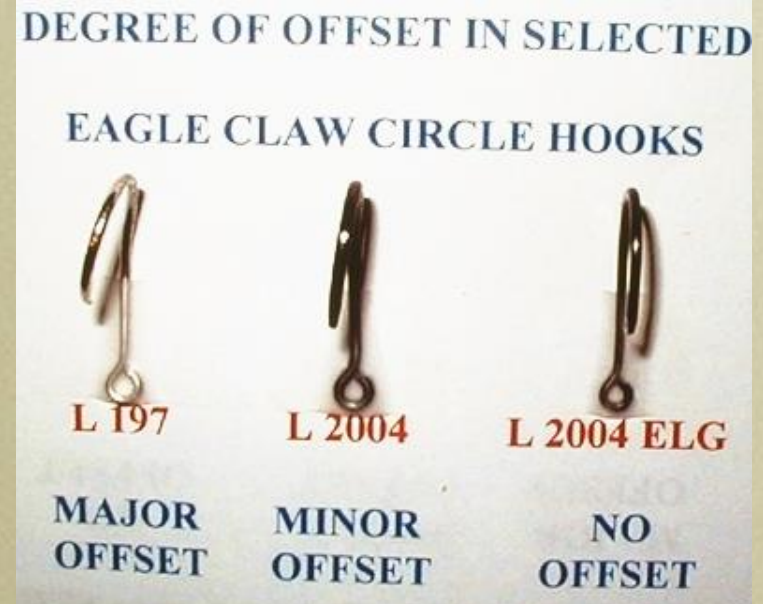
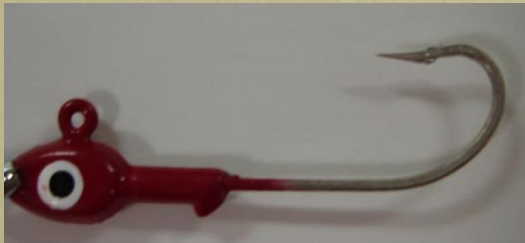
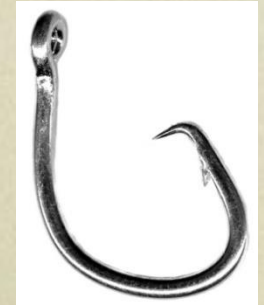


- Flatten barbs on all hooks



Circle Hooks

- Gulf of Mexico Gear Rule-Use circle hooks when fishing with natural baits and targeting reef fish.
- Flatten barbs on all hooks.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Eric Prince



Why Use Circle Hooks?

- For most species, circle hooks set in the jaw of the fish more than 90% of the time, which increases the survival of released fish.
- Decreased handling time.



Photo courtesy Dr. Eric Prince



Handling Fish

- Minimize handling to prevent slime loss
- Use wet hands if you need to handle fish
- Support the weight of the fish horizontally
- Practice Catch Photo Release (CPR)



Proper Fishing Handling



X



X



X

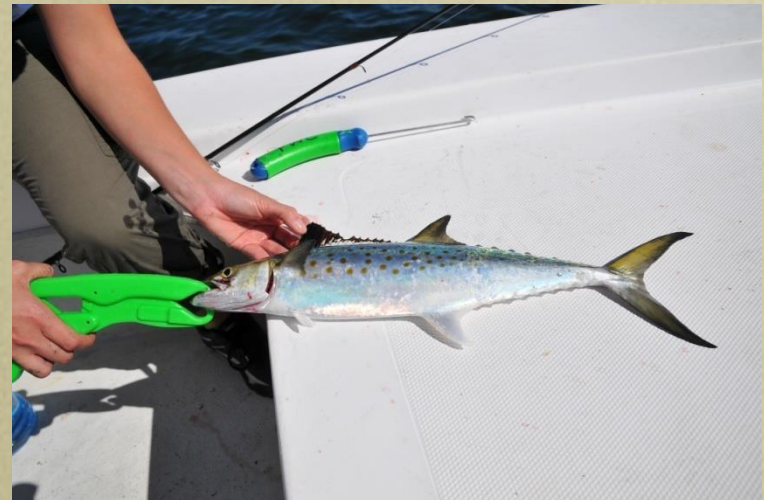


Handling Fish

- Do not drag a large fish over the gunwale
- Do not lift a large fish vertically



Handling Tools



Dehooking: Reef Fish Gear Rules

- **Dehooking Devices** - to possess and use a dehooking device to remove hooks embedded in Gulf reef fish with minimal damage
 - Hook to be secured and the barb shielded without re-engaging during the removal process
 - It must be blunt and all edges rounded, and it must be of a size appropriate to secure the range of hook sizes and styles used in the Gulf reef fish fishery
 - If you can't see the hook, it's probably better to cut the line close as to the hook as possible



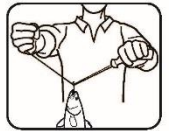
Dehooking

- Use a dehooking tool to release fish
- If you can't see the hook, it's better to cut the line close as to the hook as possible

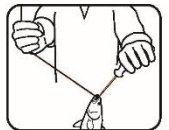


How to dehook a fish

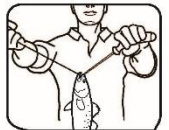
Step 1: Grab the leader in one hand and place the dehooking tool around the leader with the other hand.



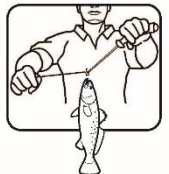
Step 2: Slide the dehooking tool down the leader until it engages the hook.



Step 3: Pull the dehooking tool and the leader apart until they form a straight line.

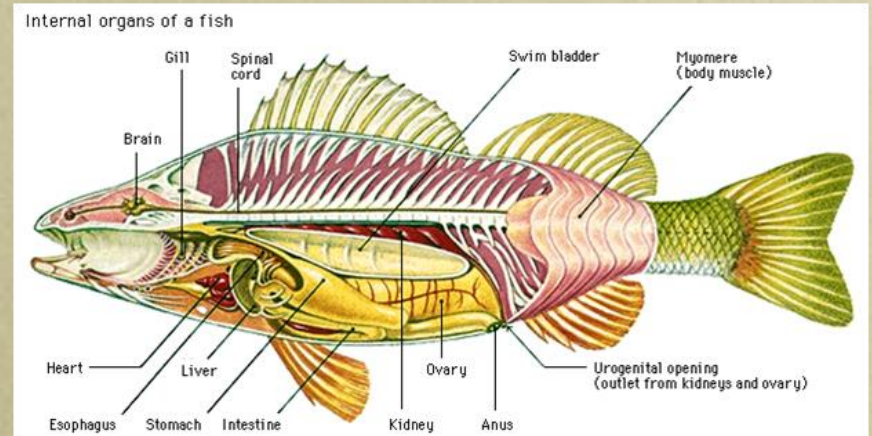


Step 4: Raise the dehooking tool while lowering the leader, keeping them in a taut, straight line. Jiggle the dehooking tool gently to release the fish.



Barotrauma

- Occurs around 50 ft + depth
- Signs of barotrauma before venting



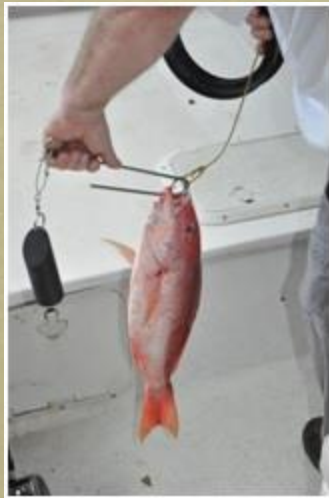
Venting

- Lay pectoral fin on body
- Align venting tool at tip of pectoral fin
- Slide venting tool under scale at a 45° angle
- Insert until you hear the gas escape



Descending Devices

- Reverses effects of barotrauma
- Based on individual angler preference
- Weighted and attached to fishing line
- Increases survival of released fish



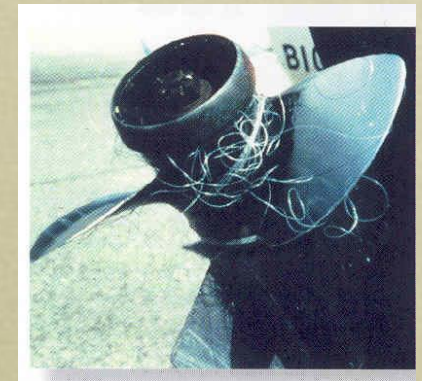
Releasing Fish

- Only gaff fish you intend to keep, never lip gaff
- Release fish head first into the water
- Revive exhausted fish by moving them forward in the water
 - Never “toss” a fish back
- Never boat or drag large fish over the gunwale



Monofilament Recycling

- Avoid entanglement
- Recycle only monofilament, not braid
- Used to make artificial habitat



Angler Tag Return

- What do you do if you catch a tagged fish in Florida waters?
 - Record capture information
 - Tag number, fish length, catch location
 - Call the Angler Tag Return Hotline:
 - 1-800-367-4461
 - For More information:

<http://www.myfwc.com/research/saltwater/fishtags/hotline/>



Wildlife Alert



If you suspect a fish, wildlife, boating, or environmental law violations

- Call [1-888-404-FWCC](tel:1-888-404-FWCC)
- If your information results in an arrest, you may be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000
- Examples of violations
 - Illegal hunting
 - Taking saltwater fish out of season
 - Taking protected wildlife species
 - Boating under the influence
 - Illegal tire dumping



Saltwater Angler Recognition

- Engage anglers and instill a conservation ethic
- Educate anglers about the importance of conserving marine fisheries resources
- Give anglers the chance to target more than one specific species
- Entice anglers to learn more about Florida's diverse marine resources
 - Grand Slam Program
 - Life List
 - Reel Big Fish

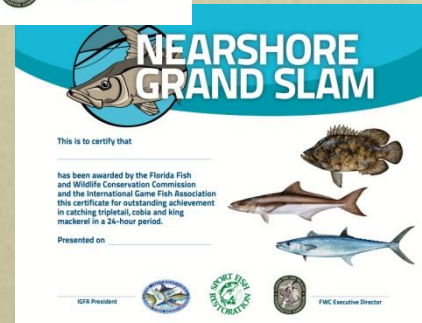
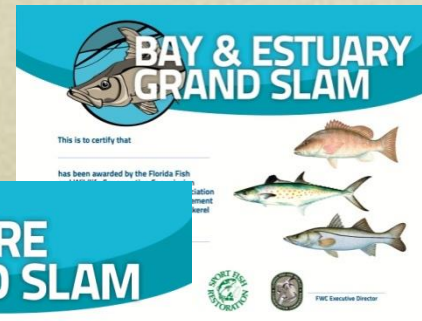
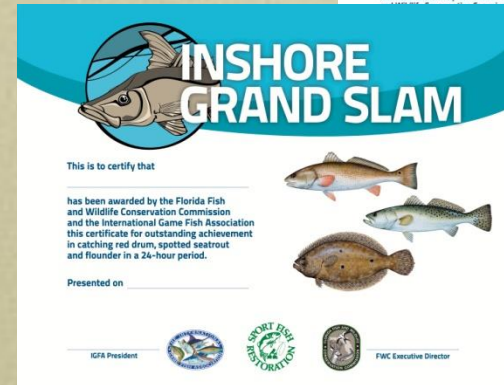


**Saltwater Angler
Recognition**



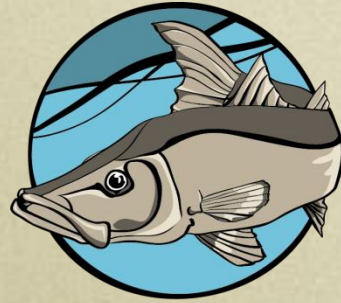
Saltwater Grand Slams

- Encourages catching a variety of species
- Recognition for catch during a 24 hour period
- Certificate, t-shirt, bragging rights
- The New Grand Slams:
 - **Inshore**-red drum, seatrout, flounder
 - **Family**-any three fish in same family
 - **Blue Water**-dolphinfish, sailfish, wahoo
 - **Florida**-permit, tarpon, bonefish
 - **Shoreline**-sheepshead, kingfish, pompano
 - **Reefs & Rubble**-black sea bass, gag, gray triggerfish
 - **Nearshore**-cobia, tripletail, king mackerel
 - **Bay & Estuary**-gray snapper, snook, spanish mackerel
 - **Small Fry (15 and under)**- pinfish, grunt, catfish



Look For...

- Life List
- Reel Big Fish



Saltwater Angler Recognition

Species	Length (Adult)	Length (Youth)
Greater Amberjack	50"	37"
Bluefish	28"	26"
Bonefish	28"	20"
Cobia	55"	33"
Black Drum	44"	33"
Red Drum	48"	34"
Gulf Flounder	25"	20"
Red Grouper	35"	28"
Scamp	27"	20"
Hogfish	26"	20"
Almaco Jack	45"	37"
Crevalle Jack	36"	29"
Ladyfish	30"	25"
King Mackerel	55"	44"
Spanish Mackerel	32"	28"
Permit	40"	30"
African Pompano	49"	36"
Florida Pompano	22"	18"
Red Porgy	20"	15"
Sheepshead	24"	20"
Gray Snapper	29"	24"
Schoolmaster	20"	15"
Snook	45"	38"
Spotted Seatrout	32"	27"
Tripletail	30"	22"
Gag Grouper	46"	34"
Black Sea Bass	19"	16"
Gray Triggerfish	21"	16"
Yellowtail Snapper	24"	18"
Mutton Snapper	38"	28"

"Reel Big Fish"

FWC's Saltwater Angler Recognition Program Application

The Reel Big Fish program rewards anglers who catch a memorable-sized saltwater fish. Qualifying anglers receive a colorful citation showing the type of fish they caught. In addition, an angler catching 5 different "Reel Big Fish" species will be recognized as a "Novice Angler", 10 different species qualifies as a "Pro-Angler", 15 different species is an "Expert Angler" and all of the fish listed is a "Master Angler". A special youth citation is given to an angler under the age of 16 for catching a fish that meets the youth size requirements (see chart for specific sizes and species). Length is maximum length in inches. Participants are encouraged to submit photographs. To qualify, the fish must be legally caught and exceed the minimum qualifying length. The catch can either be photographed or witnessed by another individual, and the Reel Big Fish application must be completed.

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____
 Address: _____
 City, State, and Zip Code: _____
 Telephone: (____) _____
 Email Address: _____
 Date Fish Was Caught: ____/____/____
 Where Fish Was Caught: _____
 Method Used to Catch Fish: _____

Identification and Length of Fish:

*See Chart For Eligible Species and Minimum Qualifying Lengths.

Species: _____ Length: _____

Type of Award: ☐ Angler Recognition ☐ Novice Angler

☐ Pro-Angler ☐ Expert Angler ☐ Master Angler

The fish described in the application was legally caught in the state of Florida, by myself, and the above information is true and correct. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission may use this information for research, informational and other public purposes.

Applicant's Signature: _____
 Witness Signature (optional if photo documentation included): _____

The application and photographs can be submitted to AnglerRecognition@MyFWC.com or mail the completed application to: Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; Attention: Outreach & Education; 2590 Executive Center Circle E., Suite 204, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Contact Marine Fisheries at (850) 487-0554.

The Florida Saltwater Fish Life List For Recreational Anglers



This Life List belongs to:



Fish can be caught and released or harvested for this program. All harvest of fish must comply with current regulations.

Wrasse: *Lutjanus*
Sheepshead: *Archamia*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Triggerfish: *Balistidae*
Sea Tunicate: *Salpidae*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



Porgies: *Scorpaenidae*
Sheepshead: *Archamia*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Red Porgy: *Scorpaenidae*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Groceries: *Haemulidae*
White Snout: *Haemulon*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



FWC: Division of Marine Fisheries Management
 Tallahassee, FL 32301
 (850) 487-0554
 Regulations for: OCSM (Statewide Fisheries)



Drum: *Sciaenidae*
Black Drum: *Pagrus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Red Drum: *Sciaenidae*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Spotted Seatrout: *Cynoscion*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Weakfish: *Cynoscion*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Gulf Kingfish: *Morone*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



Atlantic Kingfish: *Morone*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Flounders: *Paralichthys*
Gulf Flounder: *Paralichthys*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Atlantic Flounder: *Paralichthys*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Atlantic Flounder: *Paralichthys*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



Atlantic Flounder: *Paralichthys*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



Spanish Mackerel: *Scomberomorus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



Spanish Mackerel: *Scomberomorus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



Little Tunny: *Euthynnus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Yellowtail Snapper: *Thunnus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Yellowtail Snapper: *Thunnus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

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 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



Yellowtail Snapper: *Thunnus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



Swordfish: *Xiphus*
Swordfish: *Xiphus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Swordfish: *Xiphus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Swordfish: *Xiphus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Swordfish: *Xiphus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

Swordfish: *Xiphus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____

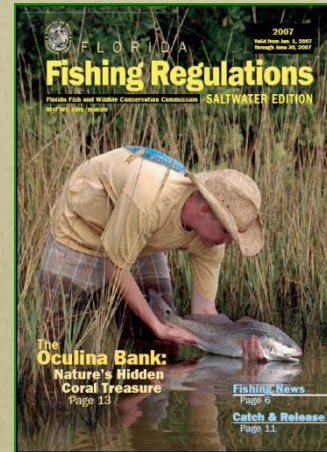
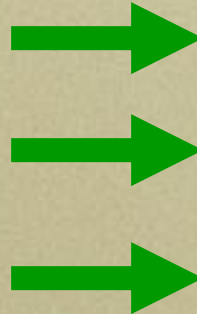


Swordfish: *Xiphus*
 Date: _____ Size: _____
 Location: _____



Ethical Angler Photo Contest

- Submit photo at EthicalAngler@MyFWC.com
- Properly handling fish (no fingers in eyes, gills, no gaff and fish held with wet hands) and large fish should not be “boated”.



Questions?



MyFWC.com



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Project WILD Coordinator

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Steve Marshall

Youth Freshwater Fishing Coordinator/FYCCN

Partner Coordinator

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FRPA

**FLORIDA RECREATION
& PARK ASSOCIATION**

For more information about the Florida Recreation and Park Association visit www.frpa.org.



Aquatic WILD and Hooked on Fishing-Not on Drugs® (HOFNOD) Workshop Agenda

Tuesday August 28, 2018 1:15pm to 5:30pm

2018 Annual FRPA Conference

Omni Orlando Resort at Champions Gate

1500 Masters Boulevard, Champions Gate, FL 33896

<https://goo.gl/maps/rCpgtYTFbWt>

Facilitators: Rebecca Lucas, Steve Marshall, Anita Forester

1:15 Start

Sign-in, register for incentive gift raffle

Introduction of Instructors

Overview: Agenda and Outline of FWC's Project WILD and Youth Fishing Programs/Camps

Ice Breakers: *Scale Tale (HOFNOD)* and *Are You Me? (Aquatic WILD)*

Anatomy of Fish and Function with *Fashion a Fish (Aquatic WILD)*

Mechanism of Fishing: Bottle casting rig creation, learning a knot and practice:

(HOFNOD and FWC Materials) <http://myfwc.com/media/1316038/fishing-florida.pdf>

Break

Practice casting with rods and reels: (FWC Materials)

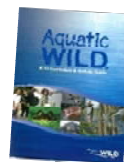
Proper Handling for Well Being of Fish and Angler: Catch and Release, proper handling a fish, reading regulations, and hands on practice with dehooking tools (FWC Materials)

Heathy Habitats and Food Chains: *Water Canaries and Pour a Pond* (Aquatic WILD and FWC Materials)

Distribute Guides: *HOFNOD* Curriculum Guide and *Aquatic WILD* Activity Guide

Wrap-up, survey, incentive gift drawing, certificates

5:30 Adjourn



Can/Bottle Casting Rig

Relationships to other fishing methods

A. Handline (yo-yo)

1. Hand held line and line control
2. Simple and inexpensive
3. Bait or lure pulls line out
4. Effective fishing method

B. Spinning

1. Fixed spool (the can)
2. Lure or bait pulls line out
3. Retrieve by wrapping line on fixed spool

Making a casting rig

A. Select sound can or plastic bottle

1. No sharp angles and surface free of nicks or sharp edges
2. Remove pull tab

B. Select the fishing line

1. Medium weight line for easy handling (8 to 20 pound test monofilament)
2. Cut into 15 to 20 foot lengths

C. Attach line to top rim or narrow portion with an improved clinch knot

1. Wrap line multiple times around can or bottle
2. Attach practice casting plug to free end of line using improved clinch knot

Pour A Pond Activity

Group Size: any size, but 6-10 for each leader works well

Suggested Age: 9 and up

Time: 30-50 minutes

Location: a freshwater pond, lake, or canal with not too steep or slippery banks. Pre-sample the site with your collecting equipment to be sure the site contains a variety of small aquatic organisms. Sample around and through vegetation. Have participants work in groups of three to five.

Materials:

For each group: a dip net with 3/16 inch stretch mesh and a white dish pan or 3 to 5-gallon bucket.

For the whole group (6 to 10 participants): a white or clear (with a white surface to place it on) cafeteria tray or cookie sheet with sides or small hula hoop with a sheet of white plastic to make a liner out of, aquatic organism identification guides, hand lenses or magnifying boxes, blank paper and pencils to record what organisms were found and how they might work as fish bait.

*Materials can be purchased from: Acorn Naturalists <https://www.acornnaturalists.com/store/index.aspx>

Memphis Net and Twine <https://www.memphisnet.net/product/3430/nets-dip-minnow-bait-shop>

Any “Dollar Type” retail store

Summary: In this activity, the participants collect organisms from the water’s edge and the bottom using the dip nets. If there is limited time, instructors can collect the organisms and bring them to the classroom setting. In the classroom or lab setting, pour the pond water (the first collecting bucket) into a white or clear cookie sheet or cafeteria tray or the hula hoop and white plastic liner located in the middle of a small round table. Don’t put more than about half an inch of water into this classroom pond. The small round table is best for participants to gather around the edges of the “poured pond” and make discoveries. Organisms can be viewed using a hand lens or they can be removed from the classroom pond using a plastic spoon, with some water accompanying the organism on the spoon, and placed into a magnifying box. Participants can then identify what organisms are present and decide which fish might be interested in eating them and which organisms might be good to use for fish bait.

More Background: Allow the participants to explore however they wish. Don’t be concerned if they can’t identify the organisms they find. It is important that they enjoy finding and appreciating the life in the water. When investigating a water body, most students will not notice anything smaller than a frog or very large insect. Have participants look for the smallest of critters. Check on vegetation. Placing the collecting bucket contents into a shallow, large surface area, white background container makes organisms much easier to see. When you are finished identifying organisms and making notes, place the contents of your “poured pond” back into the first collecting bucket(s) and return contents to the pond that they were collected from.

Source

Adapted from Mark Stephens, MSU Fisheries and Wildlife Department, Brandon Schreoder, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and Carl Richardson from the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, Bureau of Boating and Education.

Online Locations to Find Information

Fishing Florida Activity Booklet: <http://myfwc.com/media/1316038/fishing-florida.pdf>

Instructor Trainings Related to Freshwater Fishing: <http://myfwc.com/education/educators/aquatic/>

Hooked on Fishing – Not on Drugs®: <http://www.futurefisherman.org/f3programs/hooked-on-fishing-not-on-drugs-hofnod/>

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