

Waterfronts



By Steve Waters

TOURNAMENTS HIT THE WATERS



Steve Waters, Sun Sentinel

Four big kingfish such as the ones caught by members of the Get Sum fishing team can yield a big payoff in many South Florida saltwater fishing tournaments.

South Florida fishing competitions begin to heat up this spring

Spring in South Florida means good fishing and lots of fishing tournaments.

Bass bite like crazy in Everglades canals and at Lake Okeechobee. Offshore anglers catch sailfish, dolphin, tuna, wahoo, cobia and kingfish.

Tournament organizers try to capitalize on the fishing to attract lots of anglers who, if all goes well, will catch lots of big fish.

Some tournaments, such as the Mercury Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo, have been around for decades. Most of the others have popped up in the past few years.

The result is that anglers can pretty much fish in a tournament somewhere in South Florida almost every weekend. Here are some of those tournaments:

Saturday: South Florida Anglers For Everglades Restoration Save Our Canals tournament, safe light-2 p.m., Everglades Holiday Park. Entry fee \$50 per boat, \$10 for the big bass pot. Register at the park Saturday morning.
May 2: Publix Mad Dog Mandich Fishing Classic: out of Miami Beach Marina. Entry fee \$650 for up to four anglers. Kickoff party 6-10 p.m. May 1 at Texas de Brazil at the marina. Eligible species dolphin, kingfish, tuna and wahoo. Boat with heaviest total weight wins \$15,000. Top angler, lady angler and junior angler also win prizes, as do the anglers catching the heaviest of each species. Visit maddogclassic.com or call 305-667-0399.

May 9-10: The Sailfish Tournament, the world's first carbon neutral fishing tournament, out of Miami Beach Marina. Entry fee \$2,500 per boat. This year is a fun fish division for dolphin, kingfish and tuna. Kickoff party May 7 at Monty's. Visit thesailfistournament.com or call 305-282-1006.

May 9: Pompano Beach Saltwater Shootout out of Hillsboro Inlet Park. Eligible species dolphin, wahoo, kingfish, tuna and cobia. Top boat wins \$7,500. Numerous other prize divisions. Entry fee \$325 per boat (\$425 after April 30). Register from 6-8 p.m. April 30 at Bonefish Mac's Sports Grille in Lighthouse Point. Kickoff party is 6-10 p.m. May 7 at the Pompano Beach Civic Center,

awards party there from 1-4 p.m. May 10. Visit bluewatermovements.com or call 954-725-4010.

May 15-16: Mercury Pompano Beach Fishing Rodeo out of Alsdorf Boat Ramp Park. Eligible species dolphin, cobia, kingfish, wahoo and tuna. Heaviest fish worth \$10,000 and boat catching the heaviest total weight wins \$10,000. Entry fees \$200 per angler (\$235 after May 1) for each of the first three anglers and \$100 (\$135 after May 1) for the next three. Drift boat division entry fee \$150 (\$175 after May 1). Visit pompanofishingrodeo.com or call 954-942-4513.

May 16: American Legion Post 304's Mahi-Mahi Madness Charity Fishing Tournament. Entry fee \$75 per angler, with proceeds benefiting Special Olympics Florida. First place pays \$1,200. Captains meeting 7 p.m. May 7 at the Hollywood Ale House. Awards, auction and raffle start at 3 p.m. May 17 at the I.T. Parker Center in Dania Beach. Call Roger Helwig at 954-290-2509.

May 17: Russ Bringer Memorial Fishing Tournament on Lake Okeechobee out of Okeechobee Fishing Headquarters. Entry fee \$150 per boat and includes dinner. Proceeds benefit Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. Call Kim or Herb Bringer at 863-634-4525.

May 17: Bass N Fools' Spring Fling out of Everglades Holiday Park. Entry fee \$80 per team and includes the big bass pot. Call Mark Escobar at 954-475-0248.

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Plantation hunter gobbles up chance to bag elusive turkey

Florida's spring turkey season ends Sunday, but there's still time to bag a gobbler.

When things go right, you can do it in as little as 10 minutes.

That's about how long it took George Perkins to put a satisfying finish on what had been a frustrating season.

Perkins, of Plantation, started the South Florida season March 7 at the Corbett Wildlife Management Area west of West Palm Beach. He'd had birds gobbling and coming in to his calling, but a sudden rainstorm shut down the birds one time and a real hen turkey took away the gobbler another time. He didn't see or hear

anything his last two hunts because buggies had illegally run off-trail through the area he'd been hunting and scattered all the birds.

By the end of the South Florida season, which concluded April 12 (the Central and North Florida seasons started March 21 and end Sunday), Perkins was ready for a change of venue. He found it in Madison, where his friend Jimmy Wickett Jr., of Hollywood, and his family own 150 wooded acres that are home to deer, wild hogs and wild turkeys.

The first morning Wickett took Perkins to a spot where he always sees turkeys. As the sun rose, the woods were quiet save for the ham-

mering of woodpeckers. It wasn't until about 7:40 a.m. that they heard some yelping in the cypress swamp behind them and Perkins yelped back. Then they heard some clucks and purrs from what they assumed were a couple of hens.

Five minutes later, a gobbler flew down 15 yards in front of them. Then a second gobbler flew down 15 yards behind them. The two birds clucked and purred to each other and, presumably, to the hen decoy Perkins had set out. When he saw the gobbler behind him was getting a little nervous, Perkins shot the bird and the hunt was over at 7:50.

— Steve Waters

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

Pro card features local ATT fighters

By Sharon Robb
STAFF WRITER

FORT LAUDERDALE
» American Top Team fighters are showcased on tonight's Streetwise Fight League mixed martial arts pro card at War Memorial Auditorium.

ATT Sunrise fighter Roger Krahl is promoting the show, which has a strong local pro card.

Brazilian Marcos Da Matta of American Top Team West Palm Beach, a former Brazilian jujitsu world champion, fights for the first ISKA pro title in the main event.

If you go

What: Streetwise Fight League MMA pro card

When: Tonight, 8 p.m. Doors open 6:30 p.m.

Where: War Memorial Auditorium, 800 NE Eighth St., Fort Lauderdale

Admission: \$15 and up. Call 954-828-5380

"I am excited because I have family and friends flying in from Brazil for this," Da Matta said.

Da Matta (4-0) fights Ralph Acosta of Jungle

MMA in Orlando for the 135-pound title.

In the co-main event, Ailton Barbosa of ATT Coconut Creek fights Mike Bernhard of Freestyle Fighting Academy of Miami for the 170-pound ISKA pro title.

Also on the card are Sam McCoy of ATT Deerfield Beach and Cardinal Gibbons alum Hayder Hassan and Chris DeCaro of Bears Den in Cooper City.

Elsewhere

The Florida Gold Coast men's and women's USA

Open boxing regional qualifier tournament is Saturday at William Dandy Middle School, 2400 NW 26th St., Fort Lauderdale. More than 100 boxers from around South Florida are expected to compete. Non-tournament bouts will also be held. The amateur card begins at 4 p.m.

Sharon Robb can be reached at srobb@SunSentinel.com

Fishing trends

LAKE OKEECHOBEE

"Bass are still biting really good early in the morning," said Capt. Steve Daniel of Clewiston, who had several fish up to 6 pounds. The big news was the awesome bluegill bite. Daniel and his customer caught 59 bluegills in 2½ hours using Beetle-Spins along Observation Shoal.

FRESHWATER/EVERGLADES

Capt. Alan Zaremba of Hollywood said peacock bass were biting good in urban canals, and the bass fishing in the Everglades "is as good as it gets" fishing out of Everglades Holiday Park with lures in the L-67A Canal and the Miami Canal.

FLORIDA BAY/10,000 ISLANDS

Capt. Brian Sanders of Sunrise, who fishes out of Chokoloskee Island, said redfish up to 27 inches were biting around the outside islands along with lots of small snook and a few keeper snook. Cobia and permit were biting around wrecks in the Gulf of Mexico.

GOLD COAST OFFSHORE

Capt. Skip Dana of the *Helen S* and *Fish City Pride* drift boats at Hillsboro Inlet Marina said fishing for kingfish has been red-hot on night trips in 130-150 feet. Kingfish also were biting on morning trips, along with mutton and yellowtail snapper, in 100-120 feet.

Kingfish and a few cobia were caught using dead sardines Thursday morning in 80-100 feet off Boynton Beach Inlet, along with some small amberjack.

PIERS

Calm waters made for slow pier fishing Thursday, but fishing should improve as the wind picks up. Juno Beach Pier had pompano, Spanish mackerel and bluefish early in the morning. Deerfield Beach Pier had kingfish, some mackerel and bluefish at night. Pompano Beach Pier had mackerel and a few pompano. Anglin's Pier had a few mackerel and yellowtail snapper every day. Dania Beach Pier had scattered mackerel and a few snapper.

THE KEYS

Fishing for tarpon has been excellent in the bridge channels and in the backcountry. Blackfin tuna were biting at most of the humps. Dolphin also were biting.

Outdoors notebook

Earth Day activities: Celebrate Earth Day from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday at the DuPuis Management Area in Martin County. Activities include wildlife presentations and hikes. Call **Kim Kanter** at 800-432-2045, ext. 3339.

Lionfish Smash: In an effort to reduce the number of harmful lionfish on the reefs in Bimini, the South Florida Free Divers will hold the inaugural Bimini Bay Lionfish Smash spearfish tournament May 2. Entry fee is \$50 per person. Visit southfloridafreedivers.com.

Elk permits: Thursday is the deadline to apply for an elk hunting permit in Kentucky. So far, 35,390 applicants have paid the \$10 fee to register for the 1,007 quota elk hunt tags being issued this year. Applications are available online at fw.ky.gov. For information, call 800-858-1549.

Bass results: **Joe Arcese** caught a two-day total of 27 pounds, 12 ounces of fish to win the Everglades Bass Anglers tournament at Everglades Holiday Park the first day and at Lake Osborne the second day. **David Lustig** was second at 23-15, followed by **Bob McDaniel** at 21-9, **Paul D'Arcy** at 18-4 and **John Nydam** at 16-4. Lustig had the big bass the first day at 6-12, and Arcese had the big bass the second day at 4-14.

FLPD results: **Rob Howell** and **Paul Roberts** caught 16.33 pounds of fish and Howell had the big bass of 7.32 to win the FLPD Team Bass tournament on Lake Okeechobee. **Kevin Shults** and **Kevin Hannah** were second at 13.99. **Matt Koch** and **Scott Feldman** were third at 12.75.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

Today: Night Owls bass tournament, 7 p.m.-2 a.m., Everglades Holiday Park. Entry fee \$70 per boat. Contact Luke Campbell at 954-707-8303 or fishfind2@aol.com.
Today-Sunday: SUDS — Soldiers Undertaking Disabled Scuba — diving out of Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach. To dive with the soldiers, call Sea Experience at 954-770-3483 or South Florida Diving Headquarters at 954-783-2299.
Saturday: Mercury/IGFA free family fishing clinic, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Dania Beach. Fish in the front ponds, learn how to throw a cast net, cast a rod and tie knots, get your face painted and ask questions of Mercury Marine pros. To take a boating safety course, register by calling 954-924-4247.
Saturday-Sunday: Field & Stream Total Outdoorsman Challenge, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Dania Beach. Compete in archery, air rifle shooting and baitcasting for a chance to advance to the regionals. Call 954-929-7710.
Sunday: ESPN Saltwater Series, 8:30 a.m., ESPN2, featuring the Redbone celebrity fishing tournament in Islamorada.
Tuesday: Capt. Tony DiGiulian presents "Fundamentals of Sportfishing" at the IGFA School of Sportfishing, 7-10 p.m., IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Dania Beach. Cost \$100 for IGFA members, \$150 for non-members. To register call Jeff Macklin at 954-924-4340 or visit igfa.org/schoolofsportfishing.asp.

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