

## MSC Kayak Group Trip November 13, 2021 – The Imperial River

November's trip took the MSC kayakers back to an area that we had not been to for a while...the Imperial River in Bonita Springs. 6 weeks ago, this area was hit hard by Hurricane Ian, and although the beautiful houses lining the river did not appear to have been severely impacted, it was clear that many of the docks and boats along the river were damaged due to the 7-foot storm surge that came roaring up the river. Despite that, the launch and the river itself were clear, and there was quite a bit of boat traffic both at the launch and on the river itself.

In the past, our outings to the Imperial River have produced some of the largest fish caught by the kayak group each year. I am pleased to report that the Imperial River did not disappoint this year, and lived up to its reputation. Not very long after starting out, Dave Schott was casting under one of the docks lining the river and landed a 29.5" Snook. That fish was the largest Snook caught on a kayak trip this year, and moved Dave into the top position in the 2022 Kayak Challenge. Ken Robertson had been in the lead with a 26.5" Snook caught earlier in the year. Dave was enjoying his "spot at the top" for a while, but a little while later we got a message on the radio that Ken had hooked into a big Snook and was trying to land it. He did land it, and it was "over-slot," measuring 35.5". That put Ken back on top of the 2022 Kayak Challenge leaderboard for Snook. With one month left in the challenge, that one looks like it is going to be tough to beat.



Besides those two big snook, the kayak anglers caught a number of other species, including redfish, trout, jacks and even a goliath grouper. We will be going back to the Imperial River again soon!

For our final outing of the year in December, we will be launching from the Jolley Bridge and will be headed up into Unknown Bay. From there, we will loop back to the bridge through Bear Point Cove. This trip has proven to be a popular one with the group in years past, and we are looking forward to another large turnout.

If you are interested in Kayak fishing, visit the MSC website for more information about the MSC Kayak Group. While there, take a look at some of the pictures from past trips and read the stories from our previous outings. If you are a new or current member who is interested in joining our group and participating in our monthly “adventures” please send an email to Howard Laskau ([hlaskau@comcast.net](mailto:hlaskau@comcast.net)) to get placed on the MSC Kayak Group email list. You will receive trip notices with all the necessary trip information approximately one week prior to each outing.

