

Marco Sportfishing Club
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FIRST CLASS MAIL

MSC Newsletter July 2012

Meeting on the first Thursday at Rose Historical Auditorium

MSC Board of Directors 2012

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MSC Tackle Box

www.MarcoSportfishingClub.com

Pete Arcidiacono, President



Dedicated to Safely Fishing in and around Collier County

July 2012

President's Message by Peter Arcidiacono 821-7499

Hello Everyone. We are officially in OFF SEASON and are still managing to have a great turnout at our meetings and events. The summertime is our Board of Directors "get stronger time", which means we now adjust and prepare for the busy months. One of the items we address during this time is the changing of Board members as their service will expire at end of year. If any of you have an interest in participating on the Board please contact me and I will be happy to explain, in detail, what it takes. It's a great experience to be a part of the BEST Board of Directors for the BEST club on Marco! Couple of important items to remember: the "MORGAN STANLEY SMITH BARNEY TRIPLE CROWN starts Aug 15th" and it's time to start looking for your fishing partner for REDFISH VII. Signup will start soon. Remember: practice catch and release, then you will know where the fish are. **See ya' at the bait shop, Pete A**

Review of June Meeting Topics

The focus of the meeting was Safety on the Water and at Home. Speaker, MIFD Chief Mike Murphy, was filling in for other firemen who were taking care of an emergency off the island. He covered many subjects including having the captain of the boat CPR trained. For those who have had training in the past, there are new procedures that require fewer rescue breaths and more chest compressions. The MIFD offers training as does the Red Cross. He then covered the need and use of the AED, Automatic External Defibrillator. They are small, easy to use and costs have come down a lot and now cost approximately 900 dollars. They are a proven life saver at home, while traveling and on the water. For persons having a heart attack, drowning, electrical shock or irregular heartbeats, this device can diagnose and then restore normal heart beats in time to prevent brain damage. He said that the typical ambulance takes 6 minutes to get to your house or condo on Marco after 911 is called, and in that time irreversible brain damage or death can result if the heart is not restarted.

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(Considering what we spend on our boats and fuel, it should be something for all boat owners to carry. Ask for one for Christmas, it could be priceless.)

He then went on to note that there is only one ambulance on Marco and when it is being used, the next closest one is on Isles of Capri. There is discussion on having two on Marco in the future. He noted that calls during peak tourist season and off season were not that different in number.

He finished with discussing the need for a better fire and rescue boat. The present boat can't carry injured people on a stretcher and the fire pump is quite small. He showed pictures of a proposed fire pump and rescue boat that had twin diesel shallow water jet drives and the ability to carry two persons in stretchers.

(The water is getting warmer and the fish are getting hungrier! Sign up for a tournament or outing! Stay Safe! Use Sunscreen-early and often, big brim hat, long sleeved spf shirt, good sunglasses and drink lots of water. Avoid storms. Wear an inflatable PFD. File a float plan with significant other before leaving.)

Celebrate our Country's Birthday 4th of July Marco Sportfishing Club Beach Party at Residents' Beach

Allan Bristow has arranged it so MSC members may enjoy access to Residents Beach festivities, even if you are not a member of MICA. The festivities begin at 12 noon. Enjoy a day at the beach with music by Mobile Sound Entertainment, games and crafts for the kids (begins at 1 p.m.), an All-American Hot Dog Eating Contest at 3 p.m., and Sandcastle Contest. Also patriotic swimsuit contest. Beer and wine for sale. Paradise Grill will serve full menu at pavilion and will be grilling hamburgers and hot dogs on the beach. MSC will have three small tents setup on north end of Resident's Beach-farthest from stage. Bring folding chairs, food, drink, your own shade, lots of SPF 50 sunscreen and your significant other! Join your friends! Fabulous fireworks display will begin when it gets dark! You will need a current, 2012, Residents Beach parking sticker if you want to drive into parking lot. If you don't have one and can't find a member to ride with, suggest dropping off stuff at gate and parking car at Catholic church lot. Contact Allan Bristow at 239-285-1639 or at aesj2323@aol.com for more details. **He needs volunteers to help setup starting at 8:30 AM**

SNOOK NITE BITE - July 26th By Ed Vesely

The July backwater event is an evening/night Snook event scheduled for 7/26. The idea is to try our luck in our canals, under dock lights and along riprap at night. Even though the season is still closed we thought it would be fun to try some Summer Night Fishing for Snook. It is cooler at night and storms are usually passed. I have lived here 10 years and have never backwater fished at night.

The sign-up sheet will be at the MSC July meeting. I also have \$40 to put up as prize money for this new event. The only MAJOR rule will be to try and not snag your neighbor's boat or to sing/play radio to loud. This is clearly a catch and release event. Could be fun, see me at the back of the room at the July meeting. Ed Vesely

First Inaugural Flounder Pounder Results by Ed Vesely

Sixteen avid anglers in seven boats headed out in the wind and drizzle on June 21 to target Flounder. Action is tough and the brave crews stayed out through the iffy weather. Phil Madonia (Photo to Right) landed the largest Flounder at 12.5 inches and his crew came in second in fish caught per boat. Ed Vesely came in with the second largest, at 11 inches and his boat came in first in most caught per boat. Ed Vesely also caught a 20 inch Wild Card Redfish. We all learned a lot and we definitely have the Flounder worrying about next year.



Again-Man Catches Shark and Man Eats Shark by Ed Shebert

OK FOLKS, **SCHEDULE IS REVISED** DUE TO STORM DEBBIE. SADDLE UP FOR THE TOUGHEST FISHING EVENT OF THE YEAR and only offshore event in July.

This is your chance to feed the masses with your shark fishing talents! You will also get to savor the talents of it cooked by our skilled culinary experts! The Battle will begin on Thursday, JULY 12th when we fish for shark . Then comes the picnic, "MAN BITES SHARK" on Friday, July 13th at Resident's Beach. We have reserved tables and a grill and can accomodate non-MICA members. Our experts will grill your catch with their SECRET Italian Recipe!

Due to schedule change, ALL NEED TO RESIGN UP. Contact ED SHEBERT eshebert@savatree.com or Bill MAC at mcintosh2466@embarqmail.com

MSC Master Angler Award

The Master Angler Award acknowledges proficiency in catching multiple species over a multiple period of years. One point is awarded each time a member finishes the month with the winning entry for the FOM contest, or finishes the year with the leading entry for a particular species on the Leader Board. A total of 10 points will qualify the member for this special award. Points are tabulated at the end of each calendar year. The limit of this contest is 5 years.

Morgan Stanley Triple Crown Tournament by Vic Ordija

Aug 15, 2012 thru Nov 15, 2012

The Triple Crown is a challenging tournament that will test the skills of our best backwater fishermen. The contest targets three fish species; Tarpon, Snook and Redfish. The contest period will run from August 15, 2012 thru November 15, 2012.

The top three fishermen will each receive a cash prize and the winner will have his or her name engraved on an individual name plate attached to a substantial trophy or plaque sponsored by the firm of **Morgan Stanley**. Each year the trophy/plaque shall be passed on by the prior year's winner to the new Triple Crown winner.

This year the rules will change somewhat so as to allow for more participation by easing the restrictions placed on the size of fish that are caught. Also in order to make the tournament more competitive, initially all entrants will be deemed to have caught a small fish from all three fish species. As the tournament progresses and as fish that are caught are reported, a standings table based on a new and simplified point system will be maintained to show the relative position of all anglers that are participating in the tournament.

Contact Victor Ordija at vicord1@comcast.net or call 203-906-7328 (cell) to register for the contest. An entry fee of \$10/angler is required to participate. A registration signup sheet will also be available at the MSC general meetings.

JULY EVENTS

MSC Beach Picnic and Fireworks- At Residents Beach. Alan Bristow, of MICA, Arranging Access.	July 4	See info in this newsletter.
MSC General Meeting 7PM Brian Fleuck – Univ FL Sea Grant-Update on fish regulations	July 5	Rose History Auditorium at Marco Museum
MSC Board meeting 9:30 AM Doors open at 9:15	July 9	5th\3rd Bank
Offshore Rescheduled Shark Bite. See Article above.	July 12	offshore
Offshore Picnic-Man Bites Shark See above.	July 13	Residents Beach.
“Snook Nite Bite”-Backwater Capt Meeting	July 24	Time and Location TBA
“Snook Nite Bite”-Backwater – Ed. Vesely. See above info. Sign up at July Meeting.	July 26	
Fish of the Month	July	Permit

AUGUST EVENTS

MSC General Meeting 7PM How to catch Tarpon. Morgan Stanley to be thanked for sponsorship of Triple Crown.	Aug 2	Rose History Auditorium at Marco Museum
MSC Board meeting 9:30 AM Doors open at 9:15	Aug 13	5th\3rd Bank
Triple Crown Tournament , sponsored by Morgan	Aug 15	TBD

Stanley, Kickoff and Capt's Meeting. Ed Vesely		
Tarpon Hunt-Tournament, sponsored by Morgan Stanley. Ed Vesely	Aug 16	Offshore
InShore Tournament. Every Catch Counts	Aug 23	Backwater
Fish Picnic. EdVesely	Aug 24	TBD
Fish of Month	Aug	Tarpon

2012 LEADERBOARD STANDINGS-as of 6-28.

Only Change this month is Jay Jones caught a 21.5" Flounder!

Fish of the Month

The May/June FOM was King Mackerel. Steve Aldrovandi reported catching a King Mackerel 47" on June 13. At this point he is the leader and only entry for FOM.

Buy-Sell-Trade More Info on MSC Website

2006 PROLINE 26' Offshore Center Console Boat ***NEW LOWER PRICE!!!!***

Twin Evinrude E-Tec 200 H. P. motors (320 hours) with transferable warranties, T-top Garmin GPS/Fishfinder. **\$29,900**. Call Dan Moll at 773-368-7200 (cell)

How To Catch FOM-Permit

Permit are found mainly offshore around wrecks and debris or inshore on grass flats, sand flats and in channels. Permit often travel in schools and feed mainly on bottom-dwelling rabs, shrimp, small clams and small fish. Permit are great table fare and a fun fish to catch that are challenging adversaries, capable of incredible displays of power and endurance. A feeding cruising permit will cover a large area in a relatively short period of time and the permit angler must be ready for it. They are a hard fish to catch.

There are more tips and secrets to catching permit. Here is a collection of some of those permit fishing tips.

- Small quarter to half dollar sized blue crabs, pass crabs and tail-hooked jumbo shrimp are prime baits for permit.
- The bait (usually a half dollar-sized blue crab) must be tossed well beyond and ahead of the fish, and then be quietly skipped along the surface into a presentation position near the fish.

- Whenever you see a stingray swimming nearby it is always worth casting just behind it. Even if you cannot see any following permit they may be in its wake. The movement of the Rays wings as they glide over the surface disturb the sea bed and dislodges shrimp and crabs. Permit love an easy meal.
- A big live shrimp or a jig (1/4 oz pink or yellow) or a jig and shrimp combo will work in a pinch.
- Keep your hands clean. Permit have a powerful sense of smell. They can smell crabs and shrimps they cannot see. They can also smell, insect repellent, beer, sunblock, gasoline and chemicals.
- Most all marine anglers are aware of the mythical status of the permit as well as its place amongst the Big Three of the flats, the other two being bonefish and tarpon. Because of its size range, permit, as well as tarpon, generally are best found in flats waters starting at three-feet deep. Bonefish, which are smaller, can be found in waters as shallow as a foot or less.

One of the reasons that permit are so spooky in shallow water is that the flats are not the natural home to them the way they are to bonefish. Permit often spend their time offshore over reefs and wrecks. When they head inshore to shallows only three to five feet deep, they feel very spooky and vulnerable to predation.

Permit fan out over flats waters to prowl on their favorite food source, which are live crabs. Occasionally, they eat other crunchy items like small lobsters.

- Yet the key to cracking the code on the shallow water permit is to understand its relationship to crabs. Indeed, permit on the flats are likely to be found in the vicinity of rock piles, channel markers, sandy potholes and channels. All of these areas either hold crabs on solid structure or via seaweed and current aggregations between the flats on the water surface. Of course, permit can be found on the "crowns" of flats hunting for food as well.



The large eyes of the permit give this gamester excellent vision.

- Anglers will sight permit either in the cruising mode or by "tailing" if the water is shallow enough for their caudal fin to break the surface as they tip down to feed on the bottom. Although anglers mystify permit sightings, in actuality they are fairly easy to see swimming. Often, they manifest themselves as a dark-backed silhouette that swims with a wagging tailbeat.
- **How it's Done**
- Because of the three to five foot water depths on the flats, it's essential to pursue permit in a shallow draft vessel with silent or very quiet propulsion. There are three

vessels that are used. The first and most common is a poled flats boat. The second most common method is by using a somewhat larger bay boat powered by an electric motor.

- ***Permit Tackle***

- The proper tackle setup for permit has become well established and falls between choosing either [spinning tackle](#) or [fly tackle](#). Spinning tackle generally entails [monofilament](#) or [braided line](#) of ten or twelve pound breaking strength. Braid has a smaller diameter than "mono" for the same breaking strength, and therefore offers theoretically further casting potential -- all other factors being equal. Braid will require a twenty-pound fluorocarbon leader, which will neutralize the running line's visibility. Clear monofilament is basically invisible to permit, but should have a leader fashioned by a double line formed by a Bimini Twist or Spider Hitch knot.

Always bear in mind that longer rods offer theoretically longer casts. I only use eight and one half to nine-foot long [spinning rods](#) instead of the stock seven-foot models all too commonly supplied by guide boats. I've never been "outcasted" by one of these latter models. The longer spinner generally can be bought in the "steelhead" section of most tackle company's selection. These rods are often sold as two-piece models and therefore wind up as easy-to-take travel items.

The most universal bait on spinning tackle is a live silver dollar-sized live blue crab. The bait is fixed to a super-sharp 2/0 [J-hook](#) or Circle hook by slowly and gently working the point through and out of one of the side points of the crab's shell. Be sure to check the point's sharpness once the hookup has been achieved. After that, the live crab is left in the water with the angler's rod pointing down until they are ready to cast it when they sight a fish.

- The other option on spinning tackle is to use artificial lures. This choice will increase the difficulty of catching a permit considerably. Permit have extremely good eyesight and quickly recognize when an offering does not either look or behave like their natural foods that they have been consuming their entire lives. The track record of the [soft plastic crab](#) look-alike lures has been disappointing compared to the classic hackle skimmer head jig. Although it is obvious that this diamond-shaped jig does not look all that much like a crab, there is something about its action through the water column that permit find enticing -- but more on the presentation style later.

[Fly fishing](#) on the flats has grown in popularity in the last fifteen years. While it is not particularly hard to catch a snook or tarpon "on the fly," it is quite difficult to catch a permit this way. Even though fly casters have created some flies that look like crabs, they simply still do not look or behave "on the strip" like the real thing. Catching a permit -- particularly the big Florida specimens -- on fly is considered by many knowledgeable anglers to be a lifetime achievement on the flats.

Parenthetically, permit in deeper water around the wrecks, towers, channel markers and shrimp boats take a fly more quickly and are less of a challenge.

- ***Presentation and Moment of Truth***

- The two major ways that permit manifest themselves on the flats will create one of the guidelines for the presentation. As stated before, these are the cruising and tailing modes. The second factor that shapes the presentation is the comparative calmness or roughness of the water on the flats.

Presenting a live crab, lure or even fly to a cruising permit means casting to a moving target. Logically, if the angler wants the presentation to be at the eye level of the cruising fish, the cast must "lead" the fish enough for it to have sunk to the proper depth by the time the fish should be seeing the offering. The angler's "lead" is determined by the depth of the water as well as the depth of the swimming permit in the water column. Generally, cruising permit will be found midway in the water column.

Hopefully, the offering has landed quietly and is sinking on a perfect intercept course in front of the permit. When fishing a live crab, there is no need to do anything but let the fish inhale the crab and when the line comes tight, smartly, but not-too-forcefully, strike it. When using a lure or fly on cruising permit, there are two schools of thought after the fish has clearly seen the presentation and is closing in. One approach is to let the lure or fly drop to the bottom and let the permit pin and suck in the offering. The "take" of the fish will be signaled by a "ping" in the running line. The second approach is to keep the lure or fly moving away from the permit to elicit a predatory attack. My position is that the angler should watch the behavior of each fish to determine what he or she'll do with their fly or lure.

The second manifestation of the permit is tailing. It is important to understand that a tailing permit is a busy, feeding fish. It is already tipped down in a feeding mode and the goal of the angler is to get the attention of the permit by ringing the dinner bell -- but ever so gently, since no life form has their food jump on their head or attack them! Once again, a live crab "fishes itself," but a lure or fly does not. Cast your lure or fly closer to a tailing permit and govern its action by the response of the tailing fish once it has seen your offering.

Lastly, the rule of water conditions and permit is that calmer water necessitates a longer lead on the presentation as well as smaller baits, lines and lures for subtlety of splash on the landing of the cast.