

Marco Sportfishing Club
PO Box 2104
Marco Island FL 34146-2104
www.MarcoSportfishingClub.com

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MSC Newsletter September 2012

Meeting on the first Thursday at Rose Historical Auditorium

MSC Board of Directors 2012

Elected Officers

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MSC Tackle Box

www.MarcoSportfishingClub.com

Pete Arcidiacono, President

Dedicated to Safely Fishing in and around Collier County
September 2012

President's Message by Peter Arcidiacono 821-7499

Hi Everyone,

Here it is September and the order of the day is hot and humid, and a little stormy, with a lot of Grouper and Redfish. Those of us still here are doing okay when it comes to fishing.

I have a couple of "Save the dates" for you. Monday, December 17th is our Christmas/Holiday Party, which will be a sit down dinner at Bistro Soleil. The other is in February, although not firm, on our meeting night when we will have a HUGE "Deal or no deal". This would be a good time to start looking for those wonderful collectables you would like to sell and set them aside. Details for both of these events are in the process of getting firmed up and information will get to all of you early enough to make your arrangements

Please note it's not too late to participate in the Triple Crown. Just let Victor or I know you would like in and we will handle it.

While the September Fish Of Month is Snook, it remains CATCH & RELEASE until September, 2013.

Good luck to those fishing the Triple Crown. Watch your emails for the "Update Happy Hour". The time and place will come at a later date. This is where all of the anglers can talk trash about their current standings.

Remember, you can't catch fish from your couch.

See ya' at the bait shop, Pete A

MorganStanley
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. Kayak Fishing Returns in September!

Mcllvane Bay September 13, 2012

This kayak fishing event will take advantage of the new Collier Paddle Craft Park. The new park provides easy access to Mcllvane Bay which holds good numbers of Snook and Redfish and has very light boat traffic.

Time; 8:00 AM @ Collier Paddle Craft Park, 951 and Capri Blvd

Returning; Approximately 1:30 PM

Drop point for kayaks is at the new Collier Paddle Craft Park. This is a beautiful facility with ample parking and other amenities. You can even wash off your kayak at the freshwater rinse station. At this time there is no fee to launch your kayak.

After the event, we can partake in a late lunch and/or beverages at the Capri Fish House, if anyone is interested.

In the event of bad weather and the trip is cancelled, the alternate date is Monday, September 17, 2012.

Contact Victor Ordija at vicord1@comcast.net or call 239-494-6741 (home) or 203-906-7328 (cell) to sign up for the trip.

Gilligan's Island Combined Sept Event

The Marco Sportfishing Club event for September will be a combined Backwater/ Near Shore Gulf outing that will end with a combined Picnic on Sand Dollar Island. Sand Dollar Island is on the Marco River near where Coconut Island used to be. The date we have set aside for the outing is Sept. 27th. The signup sheet will be available at the Sept. 6th MSC General meeting. This is clearly a great event to show your Significant Other what fun our fishing trips can be.

The objective is to fish both the Backwater and Near Gulf Reefs during the morning hours and meeting up on the backside of Sand dollar Island for a bring your own everything Picnic. The Picnic will begin about 11:30 AM and run till we are ready to go home. In the past there has been great conversations, shelling and Swimming for all.

The back side of Sand Dollar offers a protective anchorage with deep water coming right up to the beach. It has proven to be safe for a wide range of boat sizes. The sand is soft and the island shelters us from the on shore breeze. Bathing suits and wading shorts are the uniform of the day.

Ed Shebert (Gulf) and I, Ed Vesely (Backwater) will be running the event, If you need info just contact us. As we get closer to the event more info will be sent to the Captains via e/mail.

If you have any questions just E/Mail me at evesely@aol.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.

<i>SEPTEMBER EVENTS</i>		
MSC General Meeting 7PM Backwater Fishing Power Point Presentation	Sept 6	Rose History Auditorium at Marco Museum
MSC Board meeting 9:30 AM Doors open at 9:15	Sept 10	5th/3rd Bank
Kayak Fishing Outing & Capri Fish House late lunch and refreshments. See article above	Sept 13	Collier PaddlePark
Indoor Picnic at SandBar Bert Hoell Coordinator	Sept 19	Noon
Backwater Event Gilligan's Island. Fishing and Picnic at Sand Dollar Island afterwards. Ed Vesely Coordinator	Sept 27	
Fish of Month		SNOOK

OCTOBER EVENTS

MSC General Meeting 7PM Speaker Ken Chambers	Oct 4	Rose History Auditorium at Marco Museum
MSC Board meeting 9:30 AM Doors open at 9:15	Oct 8	5th\3rd Bank
Kayak Fishing Outing. Vic Ordija Coordinating. Sign up at Sept or Oct meeting or call Vic.	Oct 11	TBA
“Ride The Bull” Redfish Tournament. Weeklong. Announcements coming in email and next month’s newsletter. Big Fish = Big Fame and Fortune.	Oct 22-27	Secret Spots.
Fish of Month	Oct	Redfish

2012 LEADERBOARD STANDING CHANGES-as of 7-31.

Ed Brown caught a 52” King Mackerel.
Jay Jones caught a 21 ½” Gulf Flounder

Fish of the Month

The July FOM was Permit. John Cavanagh had the only entry with a 31.5 inch Permit caught 7/9. Good Job!

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)

“Ride the Bull” Week Update

For those of you who have been thinking about entering one of the Ride the Bull Tournaments, your decision is now easier. The Redfish VII Tournament (Thursday/Friday) is full and closed to new entries. The Monday night kickoff event is full also. However, there are several openings for boats in the Redfish Tuesday competition if you still want to get in on “the action”. Over \$1,000 in prize money will be given out to 5 winning boats in the Redfish Tuesday event. The tournament this year brings a brand new type of competition to the Marco Sportfishing Club....an actual weigh-in, where the 2-person team with the two heaviest “slot-sized” Redfish will win bragging rights for the year. Please go to the website to download an entry form, review the rules or check the “fast facts” on this year’s tournament. Even if you don’t enter the competition, you can still join in the festivities at the weigh-in BBQ or the Awards picnic on Saturday. As we get closer to the actual tournament date, watch your email for all the details and information.

An Update was made to the MSC Website, <http://www.marcosportfishingclub.com>. It is a link to the everglades backwater advisor website. Check it out for some useful tips on catching the September FOM, Snook.



MARCO SPORTFISHING CLUB

◆ HOME SOCIAL ▾ MEETINGS ▾ BUSINESS ▾ MISC ▾ CONTACT US ▾

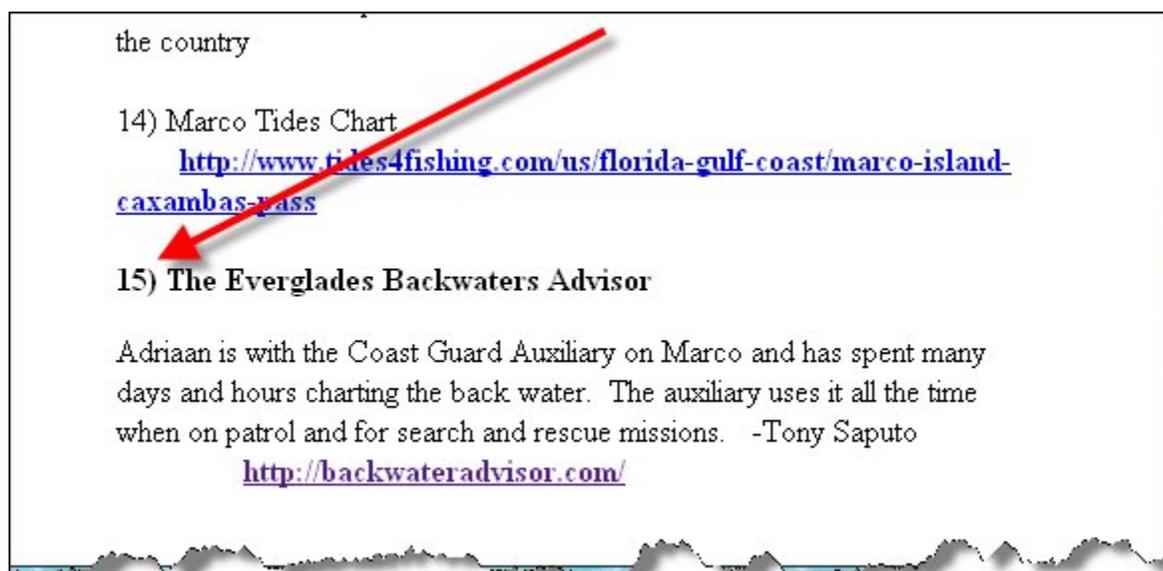
Fishing Links & More

Click on these links. In most cases you will be leaving the club website.

Note: A separate browser (i.e. such as Internet Explorer) will be used for each link. Close that browser when finished. Do you have some interesting links to share? [Click here](#) to send them to the webmaster. If you have pop-up blockers, links you may need to disable your pop-up blocker.

- 1) FWC Florida Regulations
<http://www.myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/regulation/>
- 2) Purchase Fishing License Online
<http://www.myfwc.com/license/recreational/>
- 3) Fishing Weather Report
<http://www.fishweather.com/windandwhere.iws?lat=26.5&lon=-81.5®ionID=113&siteID=2072&Isection=Forecast>

- ◆ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)
- ◆ HATS & SHIRTS w/ LOGOS
- ◆ INTERESTING LINKS TO OTHER WEBSITES
- ◆ BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT OUR CLUB
- ◆ GOOD FISHING ETIQUETTE
- ◆ WHAT'S IN YOUR TACKLE BOX?
- ◆ HOW DO I CATCH THESE FISH?
- ◆ CLUB FISHING BOUNDARIES



the country

- 14) Marco Tides Chart
<http://www.tides4fishing.com/us/florida-gulf-coast/marco-island-caxambas-pass>
- 15) **The Everglades Backwaters Advisor**

Adriaan is with the Coast Guard Auxiliary on Marco and has spent many days and hours charting the back water. The auxiliary uses it all the time when on patrol and for search and rescue missions. -Tony Saputo

<http://backwateradvisor.com/>

Proper Offshore Fish Venting- Undersized or Out of Season



This article is by the fishing legend George Poveromo. He has a website with all kinds of info <http://georgepoveromo.com/>. It is a requirement that we keep a venting tool on board when offshore. This article reminds us how to use it.

As the facts go; we were bottom fishing near Bimini, Bahamas, in 70 feet of water when I landed a 12-pound red grouper. The fish's swim bladder had expanded, virtually guaranteeing the grouper's death if it was released as is. Minus a venting tool (this was 15 years ago), I laid the fish upon a wet towel placed on the gunwale. I slightly punctured the rise in the flesh just aft of its pectoral fin with the end of the point of a thin fillet knife, expelled the trapped gasses from its swim bladder and released the fish. It swam slowly for bottom, seemingly none the worse for wear. This was confirmed by the underwater videographer, who was shooting the action for a bottom fishing video.

Four months later, we returned to the same numbers and caught the same grouper, easily identifiable by the light venting scar. I repeated the procedure and returned the fish to the ocean. And if that wasn't coincidence enough, I caught the same fish the next time I fished that spot. Once again I vented and released it.

After that, I never saw that red grouper again, leaving me to wonder if it ultimately ended up in someone's cooler, moved from that section of reef or died. Yet the bottom line remains the same: That fish had three opportunities to thrive and spawn over the course of eight months due to my venting it. There is little doubt about its fate had it not been vented: It would have wallowed at the surface and become an easy meal for a predator or died and floated away with the current.

To Poke or Not to Poke?

Whether venting a fish is beneficial or harmful stirs much debate. There's no denying that it can be stressful and sometimes fatal to a fish if done incorrectly. That's why, after you acquire enough fish for a few dinners, it's always sound practice to leave a bottom fishing spot or alter your tactics to catch fish at or near the surface. Yet even when food fishing, you are likely to catch undersize, undesirable or protected bottom species, which must be returned to the sea, before you limit out. And when these fish are reeled up from depths greater than 50 feet, the likelihood of swim bladder expansion and rupture — referred to as rapid decompression — is high. This is when venting becomes a viable option.

It should be noted that venting is required by law in Gulf of Mexico waters should an unwanted bottom fish come up bloated or have difficulty swimming back down. Though it is yet to be law along the rest of the coastal United States, it is often a sound choice. Off the West Coast, recompression is the preferred tactic. This involves returning a fish safely to the depths via weights so the increasing pressures recompress the gasses in the expanded bladder.

The Good Doctor

Dr. Karen Burns, Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council ecosystems management specialist, says reef fish rapidly brought up from depths of 50 feet or more are vulnerable to the expansion of the gasses within their swim bladders. Many times these swim bladders burst, and the escaping and expanding gasses fill the fish's body cavities. Burns explains that reef fish such as red grouper, red snapper and vermilion snapper can experience swim bladder rupture beginning at 33 feet (the equivalent of one atmosphere). When a fish is on the bottom, the pressures associated with depth compress the gasses so they fit in its swim bladder. As a bottom fish is rapidly brought up from the deep, the decrease in pressure allows the gasses to expand. As Burns points out, decompression when a fish is coming up leads to swim bladder expansion and rupturing. Rapid decompression is evidenced by the stomach protruding from a fish's mouth, the intestines protruding from a fish's anus or the bloating of the area behind a fish's pectoral fins.

Venting is especially effective on reef fish, like groupers, snappers and sea bass, which have large swim bladders. These are true bottom dwellers and the most vulnerable to bladder expansion. Other species with smaller, thicker swim bladders can traverse the water column with less threat of barotrauma, and others with no swim bladders at all, like sharks, swordfish, cobia and mackerel, are immune to the problem. This is why they can dive deep during a fight and swim back to the surface with no apparent ill effects.

Just Venting

It's essential to execute the venting process as quickly as possible, with minimal handling of the fish. For example, when we bring up a grouper, snapper or amberjack from depths greater than 50 feet and wish to release it, we'll look for signs of rapid decompression. If the fish looks fine, we'll grasp its lower jaw, return it to the water and resuscitate it. If it

appears to flounder at this stage and act like it may have problems going down, we'll vent it. To vent a fish, we soak a beach towel in salt water, spread it on the gunwale or cooler, and lay the fish on top. With one person holding the fish's head and tail, the free deckhand will lay the pec fin flush against the fish's body. About an inch or so behind that fin, we'll insert a hollow venting needle on a slight angle and just deep enough to purge the gasses from the swim bladder — it sounds like we're letting air from a bicycle tire. It's critical not to insert the needle straight in or too deeply, which can damage a vital organ. As the gasses leave the fish, we'll begin adding slight finger pressure on the now deflating area to help compress the bladder and expel the gasses.

We then cradle the fish and put it back into the water, holding the lower jaw into the current so the water moving past the anchored boat flows over and through the fish's gills. If the fish was captured drifting, we put a motor into gear to generate water flow. Once the fish appears rejuvenated (tail kicking, jaw clamping down on hand), we set it free. We use this tactic commonly for grouper, snapper and amberjack. For large fish, like goliath grouper, we execute the venting procedure with the fish in the water.

If a released fish doesn't swim down, we'll get it back to the boat and work with it some more. If a fish was brought up from cool, deep water to hot surface water, it could be thermal stress and not improper venting causing the problem.

The Right Stuff

Tools of the trade include a hypodermic or other hollow, well-honed, tiny-diameter and thin-walled stainless-steel needle. Knife and hook points are not recommended. The tool should be hollow for the gasses to escape. And make absolutely certain to clear that channel of flesh and scales. Do this by rinsing the tool in alcohol or bleach, drying it and then blowing through it. After it's cleaned and checked, put the cap over the tool and store it in a safe yet easy to access place. Remember, time is of the essence when removing a fish from the water and venting it, and it can't wait for you to clear a clogged needle.

Venting is a good, quick means of helping unwanted bottomfish get back to their lairs with a good survival rate. Yes, there will always be those who question the value of venting, but I will always go back to my red grouper story as proof that venting does indeed work — and is a much better option than setting unwanted fish afloat to die.