



Fort Myers Beach Tarpon Hunters Club

TARPON TALES

Club Member Newsletter

www.fmbthc.com

September 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

August has members seeing double

As I reflect back on our club's history, 55 years strong and the oldest Tarpon Club in the world, I think about our scrap books that we bring out once a year for our clinic. Page after page of photos of dead fish on the dock. I know we all agree that the days of killing fish are over and that new catch and release practices are the norm. Some would say we should burn our scrap books and destroy this savage display senseless waste. I say let us keep these albums as reminders of why we should be good guardians of our tarpon resources.

A lot has happened since our last newsletter. As I write this newsletter the unofficial total, pending Carl's official report, stands at 22 releases. That's up ten releases from last month. We now have 12 members with release. Our history has shown us that tarpon are likely to show up around the doubles in August. Steve Johnson was the first to connect with these fish. Steve added two releases to his total, catching his last fist yesterday during our three day money hunt. Congratulations to Steve, our first Money Hunt winner in club history. And Congratulations to Mary Laser, Rick DuJardin, Chip Rivers (Rookie) and Kim Owens on their releases this month. I went four for six that month. The secret to my success was that I attended a weigh in for an outing that I wasn't able to fish. I learned the fish were schooled up just past the doubles and the fish were being hooked. Luckily, we had stable weather that week and I was in a position to get out after work.

Relative to the fish released in August, many were caught on pinfish under a cork and some were landed with catfish tails. Both methods seem to work well with the live bait presentation seeing the better hookup ratio.

Going into the Month of September we should again examine what has worked in the past. The pattern of fish being schooled up on the beaches chasing bait should hold as we have seen a strong presence in August. Over the last few years the fish have been strong off Bonita and Sanibel and Captiva. The tactics that worked this August should extend into September and October. I would recommend an emphasis on live bait. Everything could change with the projected path of Irma. These beach fish become scattered after a storm and it may take a week or more of stable weather for the pattern to truly recover.

Time on the water paid dividends last month. It was great to see so many club members out working together to get our numbers up. We have now exceeded our 2016 totals in both total releases and number of members with releases. And more importantly, we still have several weeks left to make this season memorable.

Kevin

2017 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:
KEVIN VERTESCH ~ 239-425-5672
FMBTarponHunters@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT:
STEVE JOHNSON ~ 630-880-1023

SECRETARY:
KIM OWENS ~ 239-209-4555

TREASURER:
JERRY STEPHENSON ~
239-463-1745

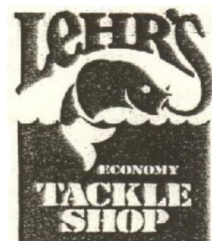
WEIGHMASTER:
CARL KEUTGEN ~
239-471-9218

2017 BOARD of DIRECTORS

DON TAYLOR ~ 239-850-9569
RICK (RD) DuJARDIN ~
239-910-4308
RAY LISTER ~ 239-850-3275
MATT PONZIO ~ 239-549-3474
BOB REED ~ 239-344-6697
MARY LASER ~ 239-395-0398
ARRON VIRNIG ~ 239-565-4062



Anderson's
ROD & REEL REPAIR

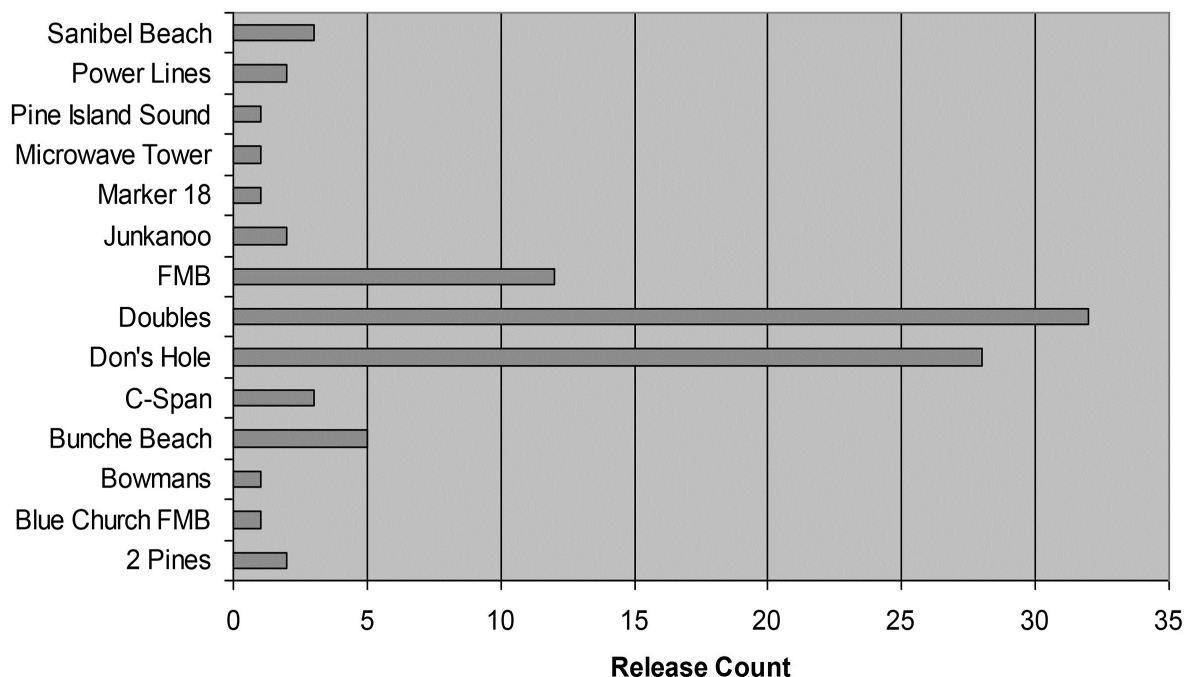


Current Fish Count 2017

Rank	Name	Tarpon	Date of first fish	Time of first fish	Date of last fish	Captains pts.
1	Kevin Vertesch	5	5/17		8/19	4
2	Steve Johnson	5	5/13		9/04	
3	Pete Maastricht	3	5/29	3:45 Pm	5/29	1
4	Jerry Stephenson	1	3/10	8:45	3/10	
5	John Zupanovich	1	4/19		4/19	
6	Warren Teigen	1	4/30	8:45 Pm	4/30	
7	John McDaniel	1	5/12		5/12	
8	Aaron Virnig	1	5/13		5/13	
9	Mary Laser	1	8/15		8/15	
10	Rick DuJardin	1	8/17		8/17	
11	Chip Rivers	1	8/17		8/17	
12	Kim Owens	1	8/19		8/19	
	Don Taylor					1
	Totals					

Historical Catch Locations for the Month of September.

Thanks to Don Taylor



Be sure to visit our Sponsors and let them know we appreciate all they do for us!

A Special Thanks to **Bill Semmer** for his continued hospitality for letting us meet at Bonita Bill's.

Check out our NEW WEBSITE: www.FMBTHC.com