



Fort Myers Beach Tarpon Hunters Club

TARPON TALES

Club Member Newsletter

www.fmbthc.com

May 2017

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Magical Month of May

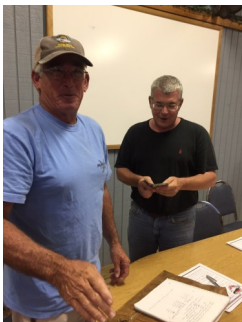
It's May and it's time to get serious about putting some numbers on the board. Yes, there are fish out there to be caught with fish showing up out front and in the back. It doesn't appear to be game on at this time but conditions are right. Every year I get this feeling of anticipation as May approaches.

There is no substitute for time spent on the water. I encourage you to get out this month and fish as May represents our best opportunity to land fish until the fall run.

Congratulations to Jerry Stephenson, John Zupanovich and Warren Teigen for their releases this season putting our total at three. We had two lady anglers hooked up during the Ladies Hunt. Kim Owens and Terry Walsh were hooked up around marker 18 but failed to get the leader touch. The day after, rookie angler Marya Teets jumped a fish off the Sundial. We have a lot on the schedule for May. We have a Rookie Hunt, Our Interclub Hunt with the Cape Club, and our three-day Memorial Day Hunt. Also good luck to those chosen few who were able to get into the exclusive Ding Darling Tournament.

At our May meeting tomorrow we will be welcoming representatives from Captains for Clean Water. This is a local grass roots organization dedicated to finding long term solutions for our water quality issues which impacts our estuary. Having attended several of their events, I would encourage all to attend and become more involved with this organization. Look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting.
Kevin



Congratulations to
Our 2016 Money Hunt Winner
Jerry Stephenson

2017 OFFICERS

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Anderson's
ROD & REEL REPAIR

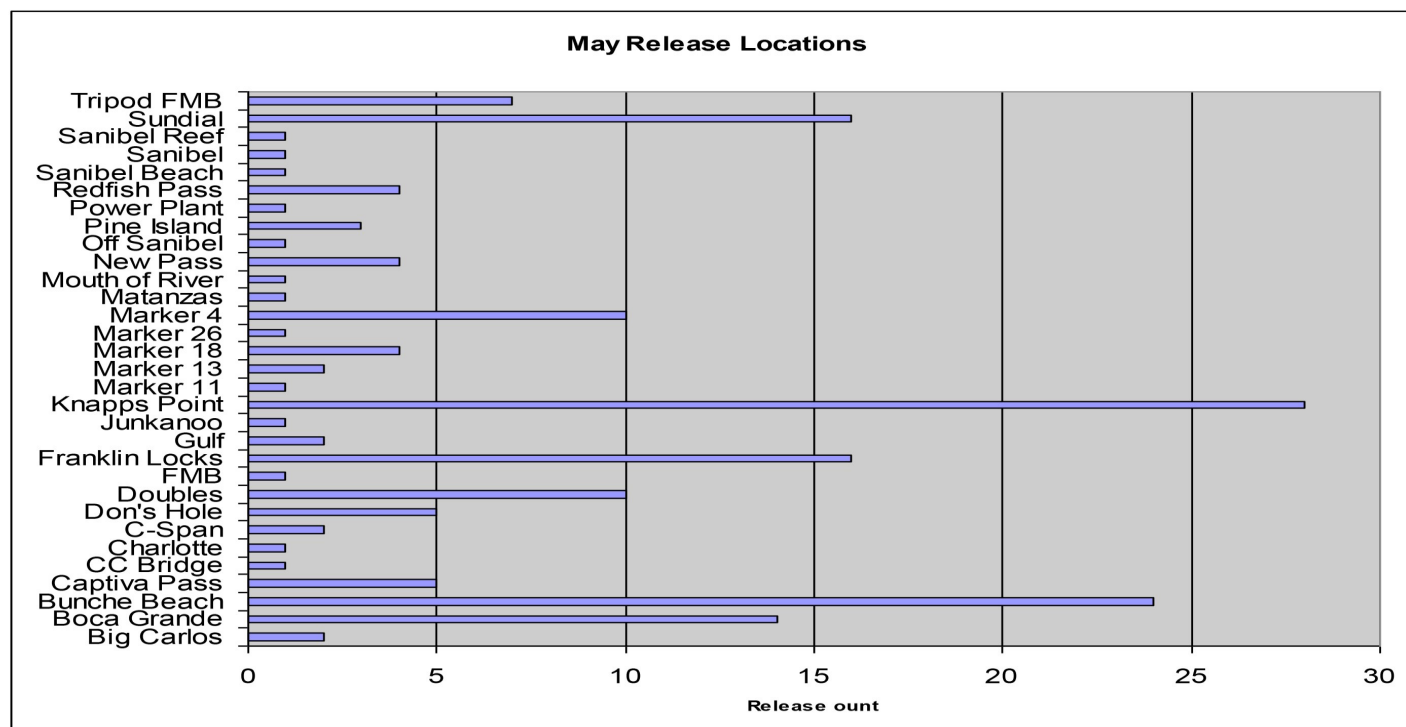


Current Fish Count 2017

Rank	Name	Tarpon	Date of first fish	Time of first fish	Date of last fish	Captains pts.
1	Jerry Stephenson	1	3/10	8:45		
2	John Zupanovich	1	4/19			
3	Warren Teigen	1	4/30	8:45PM		
	Your name could be here!					
	Totals	3				

Historical Catch Locations for the Month of May.

Thanks to Don Taylor



UPCOMING EVENTS

Rookie Hunt May 6th
 Interclub Hunt May 13th
 Ding Darling Tarpon Tournament May 19th Good Luck to our fellow members!
 3-Day Memorial Day Money Hunt May 27th-May 29th
 Club Picnic June 11th
 SW Florida Coastal Information Day Saturday June 17th

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

A Day in the Life of a Tarpon Fisherman

By John Zupanovich

April 19, 2017

A few weeks ago Jerry Stephenson documented his first fish of the season. I thoroughly enjoyed reading his report. It made me feel like I was there with him. The following few paragraphs will briefly summarize my day on the water (Wednesday April 19, 2017) in pursuit of a tarpon. Perhaps some of the information may be helpful to others.

Wednesday April 19, 2017 marked my fourth trip of the year for tarpon. The previous expeditions were to the Northwest side of the C span and to Markers 14 and 16. I only observed one rolling fish during those trips. Based on Jerry's write up, I decided to try the Gulf side of Sanibel.

I was on the water early arriving at Woodrings Point to net pinfish at about 6:15 AM. I've had virtually no luck at all this season finding and netting threadfins at any of the Sanibel causeway bridges. So pinfish it is. Chummed in the bait with cat food and got an assortment of pinfish sizes and few threadfins.

About 7:15 AM I headed for the Gulf. I passed a few boats anchored a couple miles southwest of the Point Ybel. I zig-zagged down the beach looking for rolling fish. The pattern covered water depths of from 12 to 18 feet in the process. The marine forecast said the wind was 10 to 15 knots from the Southeast. The water had a moderate chop with fairly regular and sizeable rollers. Anchoring in my bay boat was not an option with the waves. The tide at Point Ybel was rising. Approaching Knapps Point I saw a tarpon gulp air about 100 yards off my port side. About a mile further up there were four guide boats; some drifting, some trolling. I decided to drift toward them. I was about a mile and half off the beach at Knapps Point, the cell tower was due north of my location. The water depth was 16 feet and the water temperature on my electronics showed 76F.

On my 20 pound spinning outfit (Sewell 7' rod, Penn Battle II, 20# braid, 6' of 100# mono leader and an 8/0 circle hook) I rigged it with a threadfin and sent it out the back of the boat about 90 feet away. The time was around 8:30 AM. I got a second rod out and tied on a new hook. As I was about to hook a pinfish to the second rig the first rod bent and the drag screamed. I threw the pinfish overboard and started the engine. As I was reaching for the rod the fish cleared the water by several feet shaking its body violently, the neon orange float exploded into pieces - the fight was on.

My phone said 8:40 AM. The fight went toward the beach then back out toward the crab pots several times. The fish jumped four more times one after the other within a couple hundred feet of a guide boat with several excited clients aboard. As all tarpon fisher men/women know, when a fish jumps you bow your rod to the king. I had to do that four times in rapid succession to avoid breaking the fish off. That probably looked comical. The fish eventually came to the boat, saw it or me and bolted. After chasing him down for the third time the fish jumped again but only managed to get its gills out of the water. Finally I pumped him up along the side of the boat and got the leader to the tip/top. I grabbed the leader and he bolted again. Apparently, still a bit green. Another tug of war and he came to the boat I grabbed the leader, he gulped air and bolted again. Chased the fish down, this time he was shaking his head and swimming away in pulsed spirals. Finally got him up by the port side of the boat grabbed the leader took a quick mark of his length. He started struggle violently again, I cut the leader. He bolted straight down and with a flick of that big forked tail threw several gallons of water into my face knocking my hat off. The time was 9:35 AM. Looking around there were now 14 boats in the immediate area.

The fish measured 71 inches based on my unscientific gunnel bench marks. I did manage to get a few seconds of video while trying to rest my lactic acid laden body. From that I culled a few pictures. See one above. I texted Carl with the details.

I re-rigged and drifted for another two hours without a hit. I packed up headed for home. Along the way I saw three other rolling tarpon between Knapps Point and the lighthouse. Depth was in the 12 to 18 foot range.

This fish was my eighth tarpon but the first as a member of the FMBTHC. Finally got that Rookie weight off my shoulders.

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