



Fort Myers Beach Tarpon Hunters Club

TARPON TALES

Club Member Newsletter

www.fmbthc.com

September 2018

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hardest Month

I just don't know how to put a positive spin on the August recap. I'm not aware of any club releases this month or of too many brave soles out there even trying. I can't even pretend to motivate you to get out to try. The fact is the season is in jeopardy.

We started out with great hope and promise with releases being recorded in the spring as normal. We weren't on a roll by any means but there was a path that could be seen to lead us toward a successful season. Our trip up north in June left us wondering if the effects of red tide would impact us further south. In August, our question was answered with a significant and persistent environmental melt down. And it looks to continue into September, one of our most productive months.

I am encouraged by the lack of tarpon. I know that sounds crazy. Here is my point, it seems that the tarpon have moved away from the red tide. This was noted during the Up North Hunt where we didn't find tarpon in the pass. Yeah, some tarpon mortality has been recorded but not in any significant quantities. Sanibel was recording the number of dead tarpon along the beaches and for the week and it totaled what I would estimate to be equal to a normal shark feeding weekend at Boca Grande Pass.

I do not pretend to know the short and long-term impacts of this lasting episode of red tide. In the past our waters have demonstrated a remarkable ability to rebound from adverse conditions. I'm always amazed how resilient it can be. I am hearing reports of tarpons sightings from many and even a few releases. Bait fish can still be found. Threadfins started popping up at the causeway last week and are showing up around the power lines with an occasional tarpon sighting. I took my boat out last weekend and although was saddened at what I saw, I was also encouraged by some of the improvements I was witnessing.

I plan on catching a few tarpon this season. I refuse to give up. I will pray for improved water quality and the return of the seasonal migration of bait and tarpon. If they return, I will be ready! If they don't return this season, I'll get them next season. I am also comforted in the fact that I belong to a great club of like-minded fishing enthusiast whose friendship I value dearly.

Now that I have the base fired up, I look forward to seeing many of you at our weigh in for our three day hunt on September 3rd and our two day hunt on September 23rd.

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Anderson's
ROD & REEL REPAIR

Kevin



2018 Fish Count

Rank	Name	Tarpon	Date of first fish	Time of first fish	Date of last fish	Captains pts.
1	Pete Maastricht	8	4/1		5/19	3
2	Leslie Miller (R)	2	4/28		5/5	
3	Jerry Stephenson	2	5/19		5/19	
4	Aaron Virnig	1	4/6		4/6	
5	Marya Teets (R)	1	5/5		5/5	
6	Bart Sharp (R)	1	5/5			
7	Kevin Vertesch					2
8	Don Taylor					2
	Totals	15				

Don't miss our two weigh-in's this month!
Three day hunt on September 3rd and our two day hunt on September 23rd.
4pm At Bonita Bills

Historical Releases

Thanks Don Taylor

September Release Locations

