

Fishing Volusia County's Artificial Reefs



Photo Courtesy John Baller Jr.



Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Preparation and Safety

The single most important thing about boating, fishing, or diving is to be prepared.



[Picture of two men and capsized boat]. Retrieved February 9, 2013 from <http://www.nbc-2.com/story/16650451/2012/02/01/englewood-men-rescued-from-capsized-boat>

Boating Safety Education

In order to operate a motorboat of ten (10) horsepower or greater, Florida law requires anyone who was born on or after Jan. 1, 1988 to successfully complete **an approved boating safety course** and obtain a Boating Safety Education Identification Card issued by the FWC.

Visit <http://myfwc.com/boating/safety-education/boating-courses/> for a list of classroom and online classes to fulfill this requirement.

Boat Inspection

- Check your safety gear before leaving the dock.
- Inspect the condition of your vessel to ensure that everything is working properly; lights, bilge, radio, electrical system, etc.
- Participate in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Vessel Safety Check Program.
- Have a checklist so that you do not forget something. It could save your trip.



<http://jacksonville.com/news/florida/2010-05-24/story/boat-safety-focus-life-jacket-program-memorial-day-approaches>

Trailer Inspection

Inspect your trailer regularly!



[Picture of boat trailer accident]. Retrieved February 10, 2013 from <http://www.floridamarinetimes.com/articles/406/Boat-Trailer-Safety/>

Proper Fishing Licenses

Plain and Simple... You will need a Florida Saltwater Fishing License to fish Volusia County's Artificial Reefs. Even if you are fishing in federal waters, you will be landing the fish in the state.

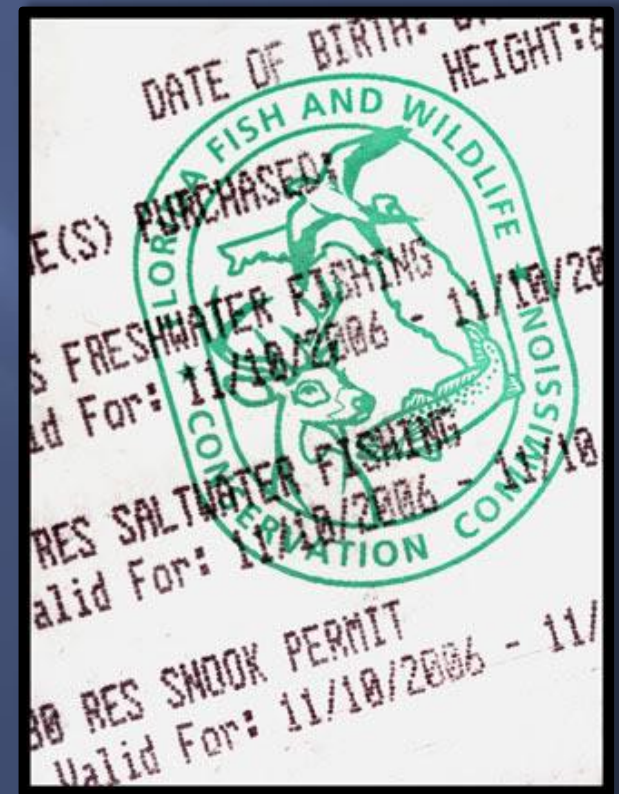
You will not need a license if you are:

- Fishing from a for hire vessel
- Resident and member of the Armed Forces that is stationed out of state and are home on leave for 30 days or less
- Under 16 or over 65

Visit:

<http://myfwc.com/fishing/saltwater/recreational/>

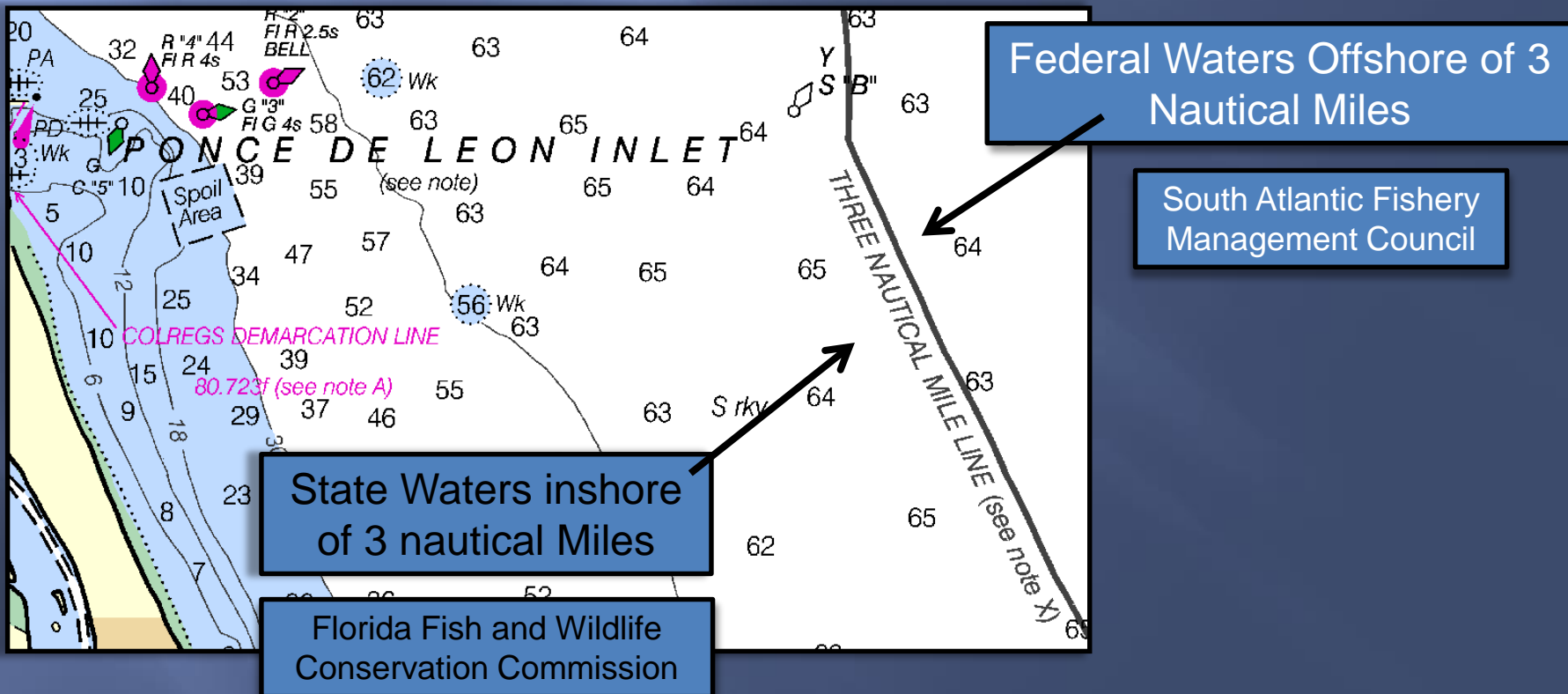
For more information on saltwater fishing licenses



Fishing Regulations

It is very important to know the current fishing regulations!

Be aware that there are different regulations for State and Federal Waters.



Planning Your Offshore Day

The most important part of fishing offshore is to plan your day accordingly.

Check The Weather

- Wind direction and speed – know how the wind and current will affect your trip.
- Know how to check for approaching fronts.
- Have access to NOAA weather broadcasts – this is especially important in the summer when squalls and sea breezes can be unpredictable.

It is very important to have a VHF radio when heading offshore. Not only can you listen to weather broadcasts, but it is a dependable source for emergency calls.



Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Prepare A Float Plan

Float Plan : a written statement of the details of an intended voyage usually filed with a family member, friend, neighbor and/or marina operator on shore; a document that specifically describes the vessel, equipment, crew, and itinerary of a planned voyage.
[1]

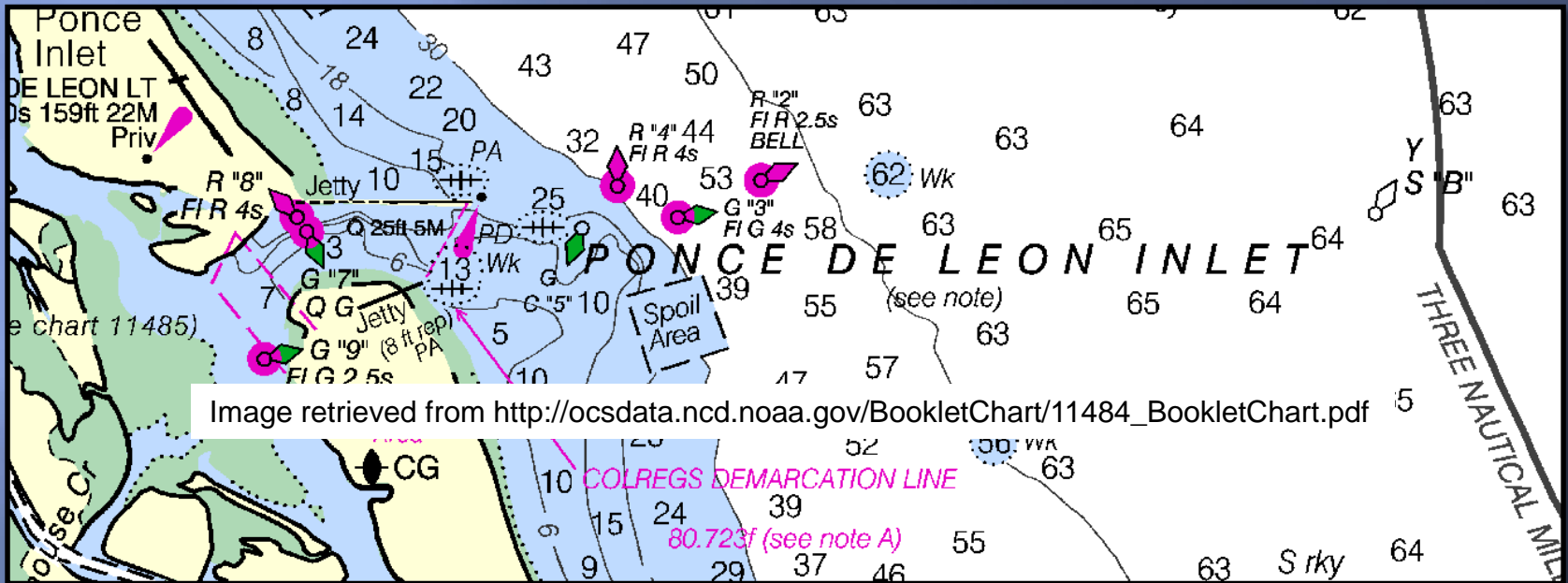
It should include:

- Description of your boat.
- Passengers.
- Description of safety equipment, i.e. flares, radio, distress beacon.
- Expected location of trip.
- Expected time of return.
- The person left with the float plan should contact the Coast Guard (have phone number readily available) if the party does not return within a reasonable time.

Navigating Ponce Inlet



Knowing the Nautical “Rules of the Road” is very important to safely leaving and returning to your destination.

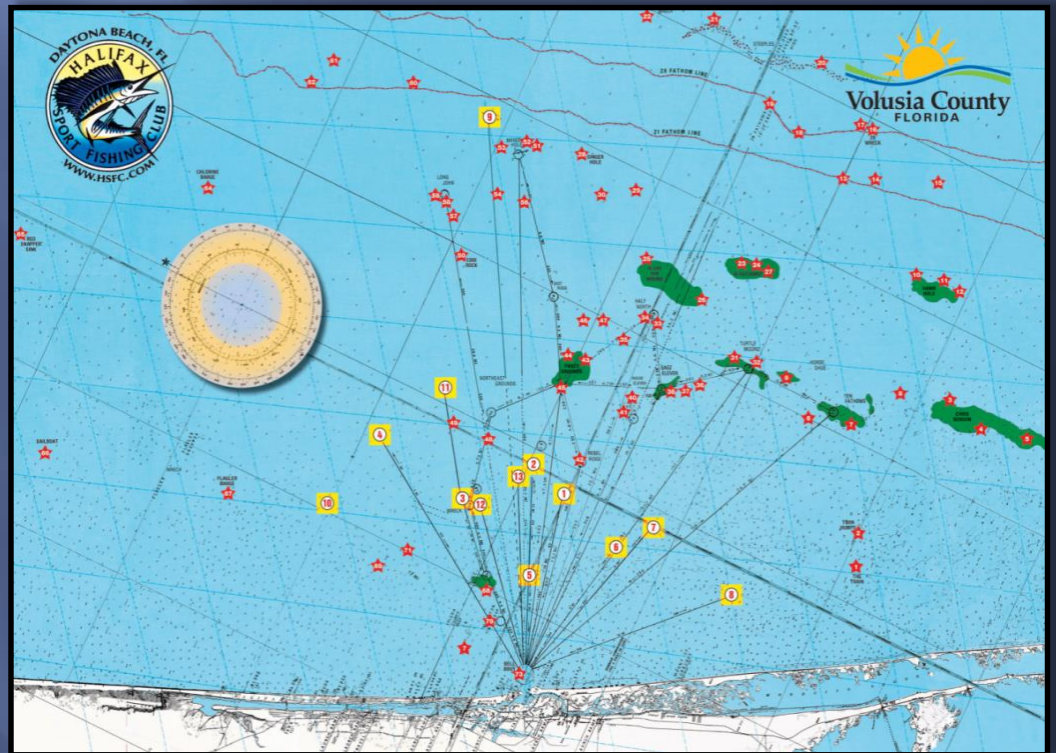


Ponce de Leon Inlet to Cape Canaveral NOAA Chart 11484

Artificial Reef Chart

In 2012, the Halifax Sportfishing Club updated its offshore fishing chart to include Volusia County's latest artificial reefs. With a grant from Volusia County's Ponce Inlet Port Authority the older chart was redesigned, enlarged, and sites verified for all of the artificial reef locations.

Charts available at Halifax Sport Fishing Club and local bait and tackle stores.



Choosing Your Fishing Location

Use common sense when choosing your fishing locations.

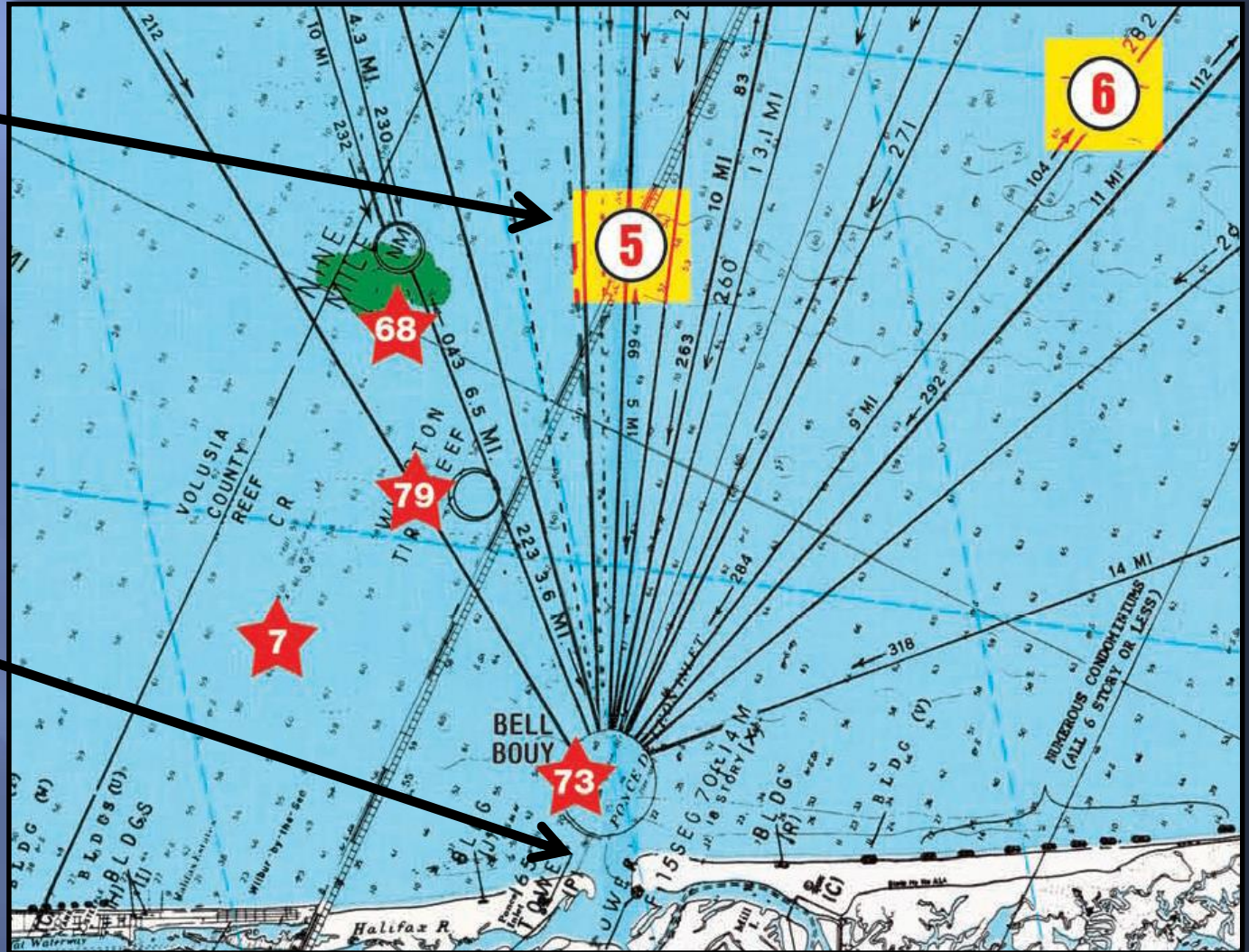
- Stay close to shore. Choose reefs 6–8 miles from shore if you are inexperienced fishing offshore.
- Consider the weather conditions and forecast.



Using A Chart Helps Visualize Your Fishing Trip While Considering Weather And Conditions

Site 5 is approximately five miles from the inlet.

Ponce de Leon Inlet



Halifax Sportfishing Club Offshore Fishing Chart

Entering Reef Site Into GPS



Precise Location Of Reef



Marking The Reef



Once the reef has been located, a buoy (with line and weight) is deployed to mark where the anchored boat should end up.

Calculating Drift And Direction



Calculating Drift and Direction

Drift and Direction

Take the boat out of gear to calculate drift (current) and direction.

Head in opposite direction to set anchor



Anchoring Technique Video



Drop Anchor



Anchoring Technique

Direction of Drift

Head Up-Current
Far Enough To
Safely Anchor
And Drift Back
Onto The Fishing
Spot



Tie Anchor Off
When The
Fishing Spot
Shows On The
Depth Finder



Choosing The Proper Gear

Rods And Reels

Rod

Power : Medium Heavy

-Refers to the strength of the rod. The “heavier” the rod the larger the fish it can handle.

Action : Medium Fast

-Refers to how much the rod bends when you put pressure on the tip. The faster the action, the more the tip bends and is sensitive to strikes.

Conventional reel

-commonly used for larger fish, especially when bottom fishing. Conventional reels can be more difficult to cast.

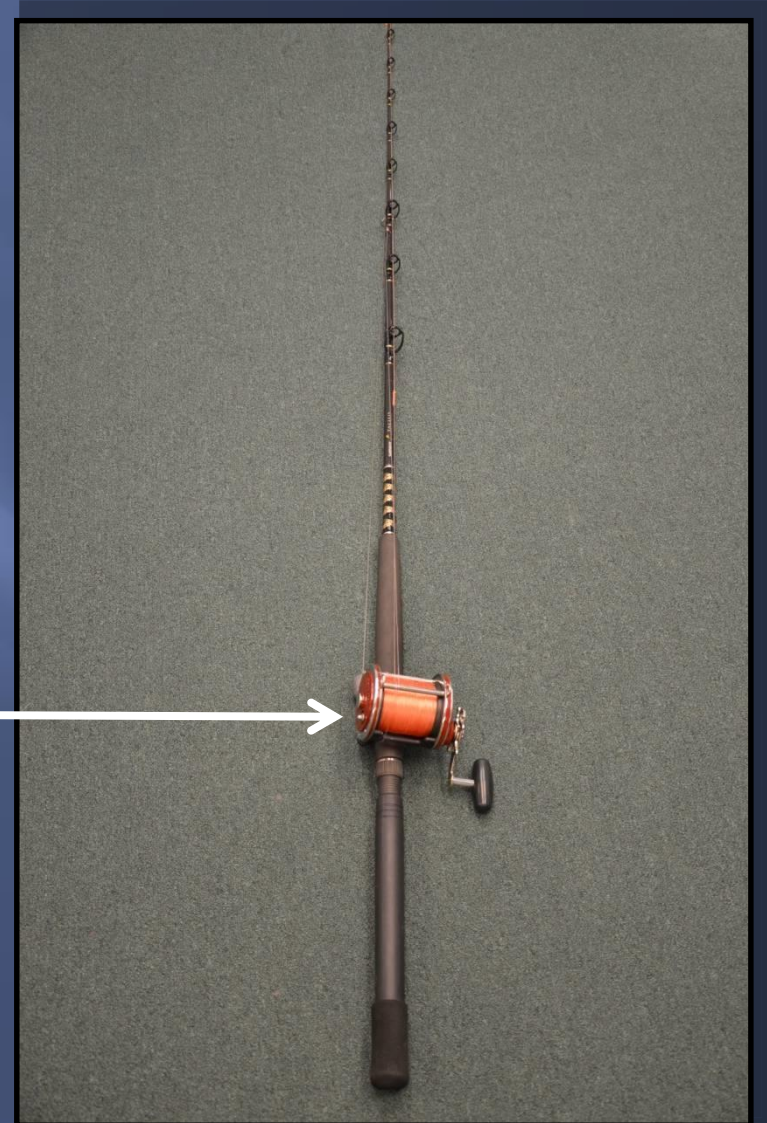
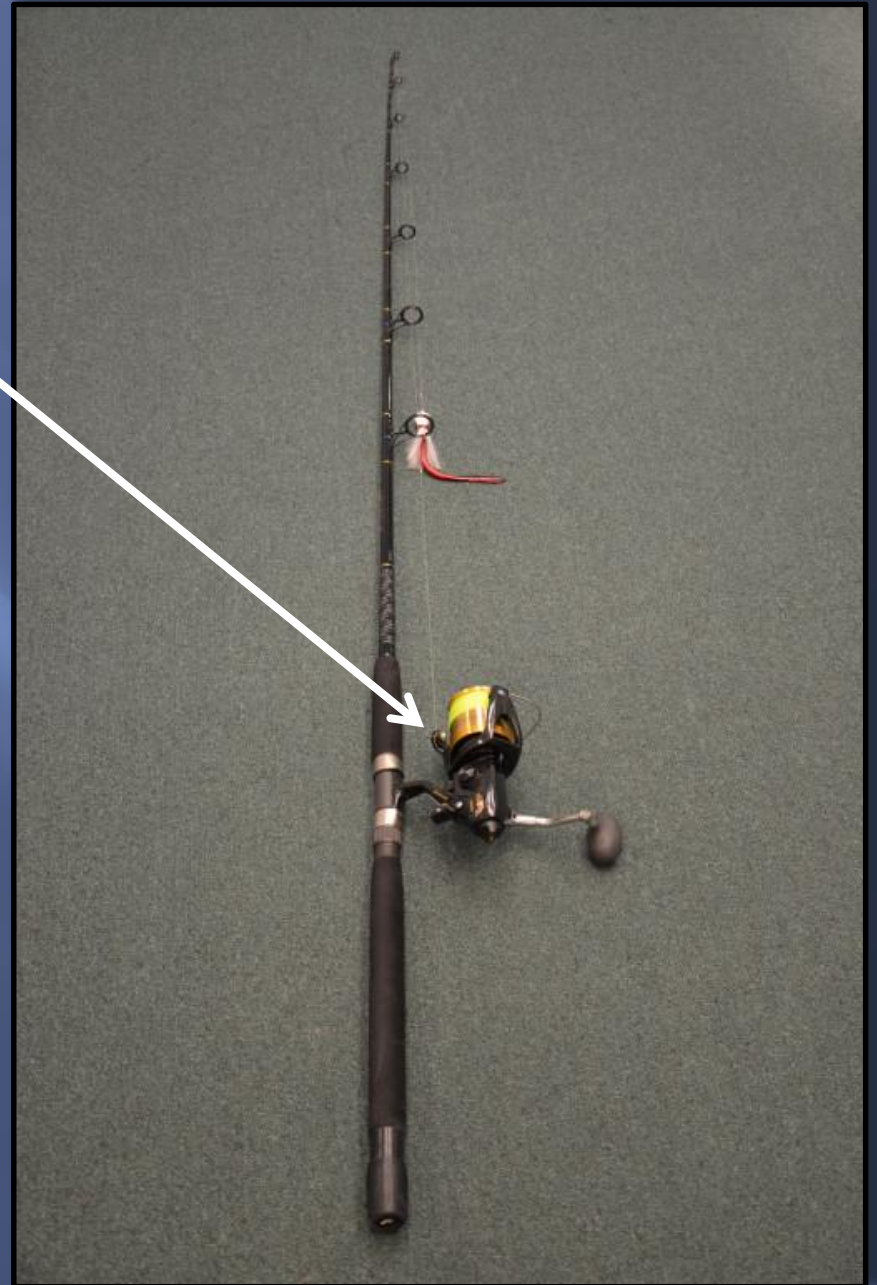


Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Spinning Reel

-used for casting or lightweight bottom fishing. Easier to cast than a conventional reel, without the worry of backlash.

This setup is valuable when free swimming species, such as dolphin or cobia, approach the boat. This rig should be prepared to quickly cast a bait or lure.



Jigs



Soft plastic baits
give the jigs
more action

Photo Courtesy
Captain Don Martin

- Commonly used to catch cobia at the surface or amberjack at the bottom. When used for amberjack, the jig is jerked up and down just above the reef.

Be prepared for free-swimming species such as cobia, which will show up unexpectedly or follow a bait or catch up from the reef. Use your spinning rig with a jig or live bait to try and trigger a bite.

Cobia
Rachycentron canadum



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Bottom Fishing Rigs

Slider Rig

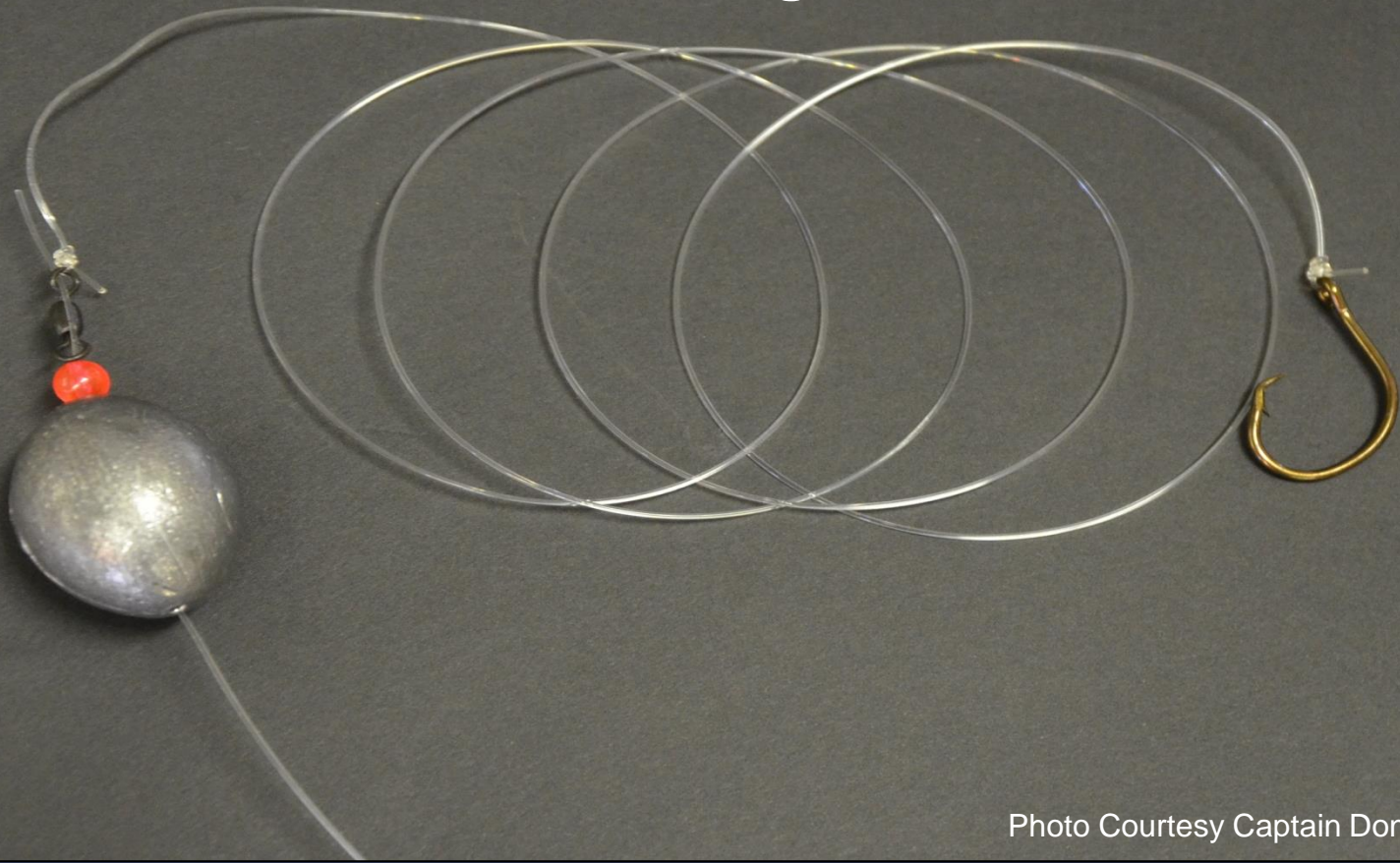
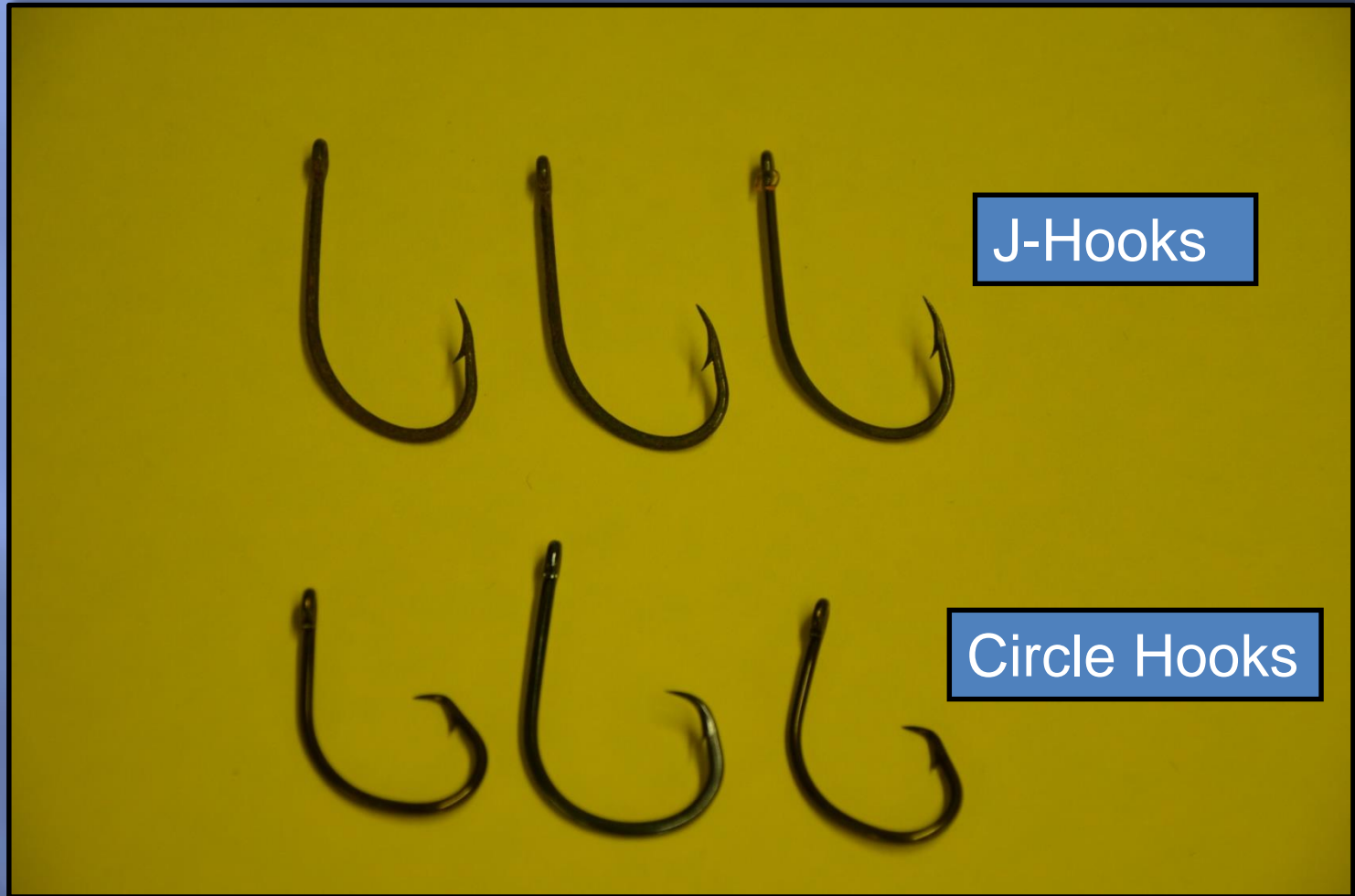


Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

- The line slides through the weight allowing the bait to cover more area as you let line out.

Hooks



J-Hooks

Circle Hooks

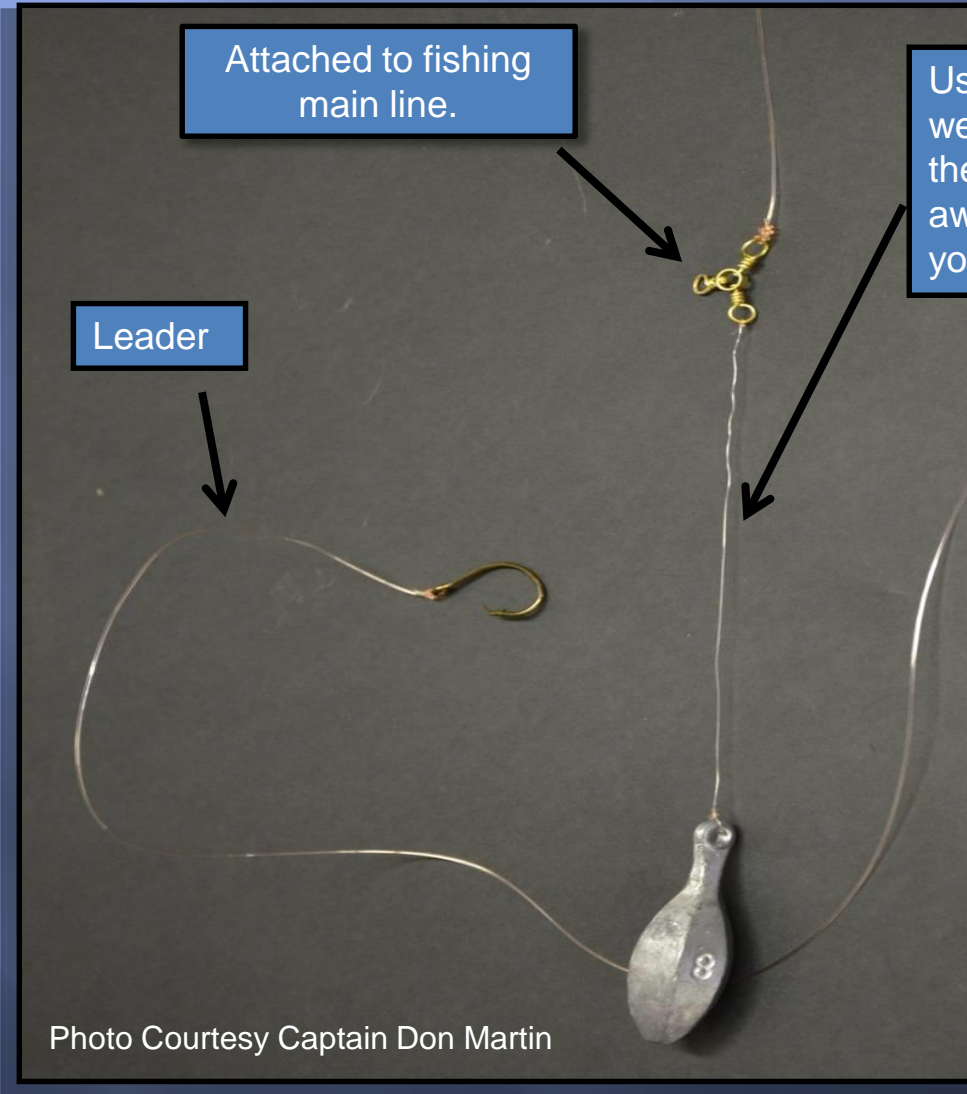
Note: Federal Regulations require the use of non-stainless circle hooks when bottom fishing in Federal Waters.

Double Rig

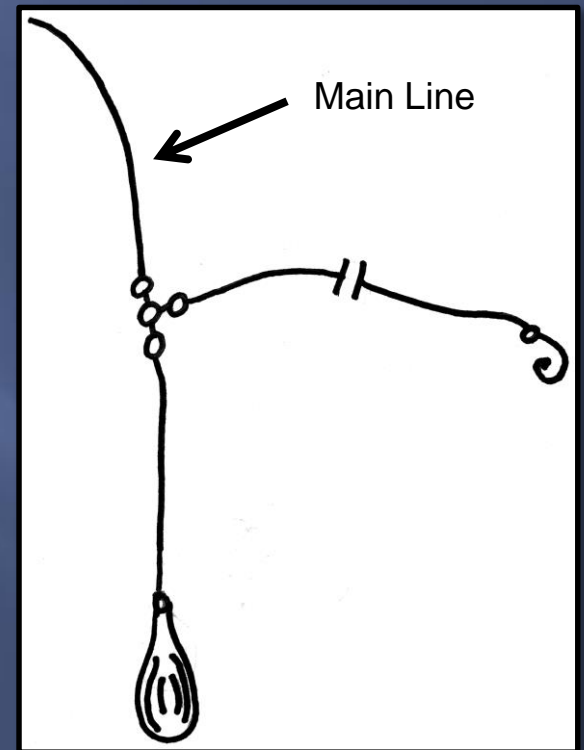


Effective for medium sized schooling fishes including porgies, grunts, and snappers. Dropper knots with loops allow hooks to be changed easily to target different-sized fishes.

Break-Away Rig



Use light line so that if you weight becomes caught in the structure, it will break-away and allow you to retain your tackle.



The break-away rig is effective to use in rugged bottom where there is a large chance to get entangled.

Choosing The Right Fishing Line



Monofilament Fishing Line

Advantages:

- Easier to cast – casting lures
- Less Expensive

Disadvantage:

- Less resistant To Abrasion
- Degrades In Sunlight
- Considerable More Stretch



Braided Fishing Line

Advantages:

- Thinner – fit more on reel
- Stronger
- Resistant To Abrasion

Disadvantage:

- More Expensive

Leader Material

Fluorocarbon leaders far out-perform monofilament.



Generally, 30-60# leaders are used when fishing offshore

Fluorocarbon Leaders:

- Do not absorb water like monofilament, which makes the line 10% weaker
- Are coated, which makes the fluorocarbon line resistant to abrasions
- Have a lower refractivity index, making them almost invisible underwater
- More expensive, therefore primarily used for making leaders

Baits: Sardines and Squid



Bottom Fishing



What If You Don't Have A Boat

Volusia County offers a large charter boat industry from Head Boats to smaller 6-Pack Charters.



Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Inquire online or one of the many Bait and Tackle Stores for more information. Take advantage of this resource...**And Go Fishing!**



Halifax Sport Fishing Club

The HSFC offers many opportunities to learn more about fishing, join up with members that have boats, enter tournaments, and participate in community service.

HSFC sponsors many kid's events.



Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

In this photo kids are getting a talk about proper fishing and release techniques as well as how to be environmental stewards of the ocean.

Kids Can Fish Too! Offshore Fishing Trip



Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Kids Can Fish Too!

Freshwater Fishing At Lake Lloyd



Fishing Seminars



Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Fishing Seminars are the third Thursday of every month and open to the public.
(excluding November and December)

Seafood Cooking Seminar



Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Fishing Tournaments



Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Offshore Challenge Fishing Tournament

Lady Angler Fishing Tournaments



01/01/2008 02:53

Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Jan 1, 2008 2:53

Tournaments Are Fun For Everyone



Lady Angler Prize For Best Decorated Boat

Surf Fishing Tournaments



Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Club Social Events



01/01/2008 02:18

Photo Courtesy Captain Don Martin

Special Thanks To “Capped Off Charters” For Helping With The Navigation and Fishing Videos Portion Of This Presentation.



cappedoffcharters@gmail.com

Fish Identification And Regulations

Proper Identification Of Fish Species Is The Key To Avoiding Hefty Fines, Penalties, And Possible Boat Confiscations

Make sure to bring a copy of the regulations, a measuring device, and a field guide to Atlantic species of fishes.

New Federal Regulations Concerning Fishing And Release Gear

*Recreational and commercial fishermen are required to use **dehooking tools** when fishing for snapper grouper species.*

*The use of non-stainless steel **circle hooks** (offset or non-offset) is required for all species in the snapper grouper complex when using hook-and-line gear with natural baits in waters north of 28 degrees N. latitude.*

Prohibited Fishes

Goliath Grouper - **Prohibited**



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Goliath grouper, Nassau grouper, speckled hind, and warsaw grouper - Closed to harvest or possession in federal waters.

Nassau Grouper - Prohibited

Black Saddle On Area Just Before Caudal Fin Distinguishes The Nassau Grouper



Photo Credit Chad Macfie



Commonly Confused With The Red Grouper

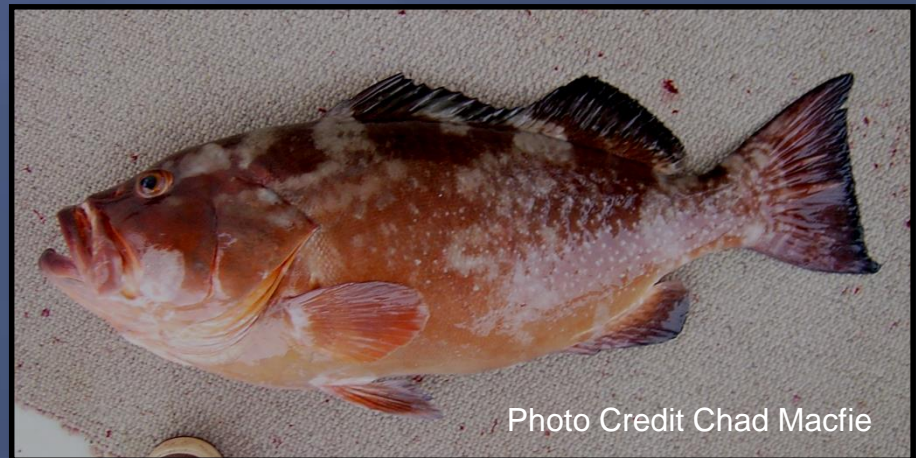


Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Warsaw Grouper - Prohibited



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Commonly Confused With
Snowy Grouper



Retrieved from http://www.fishtrack.com/features/deep-dropping-in-the-florida-keys_90684

Red Snapper - Prohibited



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Juvenile Red Snappers Have A Dark Spot Under Soft Portion Of Dorsal Fin



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Groupers



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

elongated caudal fin rays

Scamp Grouper
Mycteroperca phenax



Retrieved from
<http://reefsofcozumel.com/pages/reefs/northofpalancar.html>

Black Grouper *Mycteroperca bonaci*
bar-like markings



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Gag Grouper
Mycteroperca microlepis

worm-like markings

Groupers



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Black Sea Bass
Centropristis striata

Bank Sea Bass
Centropristis ocyurus



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Groupers



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Red Grouper, *Epinephelus morio*

Yellowfin Grouper
Epinephelus venenosus



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Snappers



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Yellowtail Snapper
Ocyrus chrysurus



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Lane Snapper
Lutjanus synagris

Snappers



Photo Credit Chad Macfie

Mangrove (Gray) Snapper
Lutjanus griseus

Vermillion Snapper
Rhomboplites aurobens



Photo Credit Chad Macfie