

## The following are members of the Boca Grande Fishing Guides Association

T - I	Steve Ahlers	941-964-1711
T - I - O	Mike Bailey	239-825-4292
T - I - O	Butch Barnhill	941-697-1522
T - I	Mark Becton (Director)	941-697-2089
T - I	David Chatham (Director)	941-270-1527
T - I - O	Charlie Coleman	941-809-8791
T - I - O	Dickie Coleman	941-979-6487
T - I - O	Matthew Coleman	941-270-3022
T	Babe Darna	941-964-2559 CC
T - O	Mark Futch (Secretary)	941-964-0234
T	Matt Futch	941-964-0234
T - I	Robbie Hayes	941-815-6120
T - I	Les Hill	941-743-6622
T - I	Greg Hood	239-822-5698
T - I - O	Van Hubbard	941-697-6944 CC
T - O	Cappy Joiner (President)	941-697-6052 CC
T - I - O	Lamar Joiner, Sr.	941-697-4939 CC
T - I	Lamar Joiner, Jr.	941-628-2367
T - I	Wayne Joiner	941-964-0317 CC
T - I - O	Mark Liberman	941-955-4524
T	Bill Miller	813-363-9926
T - I	Billy Miller	813-363-9927
T - I	Waylon Mills (Vice-Pres.)	941-697-3452

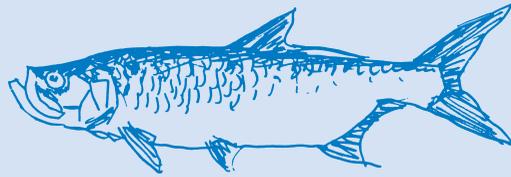
T - I	Willie Mills(Director)	941-270-0353
T - I	Scott Moore	941-778-6983
T - I	Gary Peeples	863-559-3315
T - I	Eddie Potter (Director)	941-698-6948
T - I	Mike Reark	863-443-1000
T - O	Jimmy Robertson	941-697-4088 CC
T - I - O	Jesse Smith	941-697-5544
T - I - O	Timmy Smith (Director)	941-697-5544
T - O	John (Tater) Spinks	941-697-0144 CC
T - I	Doug Stewart (Director)	941-964-1736
T - I	Joe Sturgess	941-662-0451 CC
T - O	Ned Van Deree	941-484-3225
T	Dumplin Wheeler	941-964-2679 CC
T	Jon Zorian	813-681-8908 CC

**CC = Charter & Continuous Member**

**Fishing Codes:** T ..... Tarpon  
I ..... Inshore  
O ..... Offshore



Visit Our Web Site  
[www.bocagrandefishing.com](http://www.bocagrandefishing.com)



## FISHING BOCA GRANDE PASS

Tarpon generally congregate in mass at the deepest areas of the pass. The "hole" (Boca Grande Hole) is approximately 100 yards wide and 350 yards long. It runs lengthwise with the pass just south of the lighthouse which is located at the south end of the island. There is a smaller hole referred to as the "Coast Guard Hole" which is closer yet to the beach. The Boca Grande Hole is 65 to 70 feet deep and the Coast Guard Hole is about 70 feet. The remainder of the pass bottom surrounding the holes is about 40 feet. Fishing the pass requires a good fish recorder.

When fishing outside the hole, "green" marker on the reel will keep you generally safe from snagging the bottom. When in the hole, "red" on the reel or at the tip of the rod is suggested, depending upon the actual depth reading. You must pay attention to the recorder and adjust your reel settings accordingly.

## TARPON TRIVIA

What little is known about the tarpon proves that this prehistoric animal is one of the most diversified and interesting creatures in the world.

The tarpon is the only fish with an air bladder which allows it to absorb oxygen and live in waters with almost no oxygen content.

Tarpon are also called tarpum, sabalo real, cuffum, silverfish or silverking and belong to the bony fish family Elopidae. The Latin designation is *Magelops atlanticus*.

These extraordinary fish can be found on both sides of the Atlantic, having been seen as far north as Nova Scotia and as far south as Natal, Brazil. Across the Atlantic tarpon can be found from Senegal to the Congo.

Spawning takes place offshore as far as 125 miles and the young make their way to shallow estuarine coastal waters. Females lay up to 15 million eggs. While only microscopic at birth, tarpon have been documented at over 8 feet in length and 350 pounds.

The average tarpon at Boca Grande weights about 75 to 85 pounds, with numerous fish well over 100 pounds. Catches of fish over 200 pounds have occurred at Boca Grande. A fish over 100 pounds is generally a female, and the rate of growth is very slow, taking 8 to 10 years to reach sexual maturity. Tarpon can live 55 or 60 years.



TO:

BOCA GRANDE FISHING  
GUIDES ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 676  
Boca Grande, Florida 33921  
[www.bocagrandefishing.com](http://www.bocagrandefishing.com)

Place  
Stamp  
Here



**2009**



## TARPON FISHING & BOAT OPERATION AT BOCA GRANDE

**"FANTASTIC" BGFGA  
TARPON TOURNAMENT  
CONTINUES TO GROW**

- SEE INSIDE -

COMPLIMENTS  
OF  
**BOCA GRANDE  
FISHING GUIDES ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
(A NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION)

# THE BOCA GRANDE FISHING GUIDES ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Boca Grande Fishing Guides Association, Inc. was founded in 1988. The original charter and continuous members total 10 and are noted by the designation "CC" on our posted membership lists.

Today we have 37 voting members who are professional guides specializing in various types of fishing, with tarpon being the common bond for almost every member during the world famous Boca Grande tarpon season that exists from late April through July and sometimes into early August.

As most know, Boca Grande is known internationally for being the tarpon capital of the world. Our clients come from all walks of life and many places, both in the United States and from foreign countries. Also, our area has some of the finest shallow water inshore fishing and deep sea offshore fishing to be found.

We are proud of our great natural resource. One of the foremost goals of the BGFGA is to preserve this fishery and see that it is protected and productive for future generations... future generations of guides, clients and enthusiasts.

Our association is very vocal pertaining to the issues regarding our industry and its protection. Not only do our individual members take the time to participate in programs such as the Marine Fisheries Commission Advisory Board, the Florida Marine Research Institute, several tagging programs and various other endeavors, the BGFGA is also actively involved in supporting such activities. As an organization we respond to state and federal governmental agencies as necessary to effectively voice our opinion.

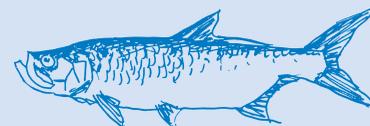
The Boca Grande Fishing Guides Association, Inc. welcomes enthusiasts to our area. We wish you a great time filled with fond memories. We ask that you leave our paradise as you found it. A strict attention to following marine protection regulations and bag limits is expected. In addition, we ask that common sense conduct be the rule regarding boat operation, proper disposal of your trash, local ordinances, etc.

For your enjoyment, the BGFGA has expert professional guides that can add great fishing memories to your Boca Grande visit. Our members are experts in their field and hold all necessary regulatory licenses. We are proud of our ability to give you and your family the best in fishing. Take the time to call one of our knowledgeable members and make the most of your Boca Grande vacation.

# TEN COMMANDMENTS... BOAT OPERATION AT BOCA GRANDE PASS

These rules are a guideline for **ALL** to follow. Due to the large number of boats at Boca Grande Pass, there must be some harmony among all involved. Keep in mind that the objective is to show clients and guests professionalism and a great time. By following these rules, we can all be winners and friends, hopefully. We have the best fishing in the world. Let's enjoy and preserve it!

1. **"Short drifting"** is the most disruptive method of boat operation and it is despised by all experienced pass fishermen. It causes hard feelings and sets off a chain reaction when one crowds in between drifting boats, which then continues to the next boat causing chaos for everyone in the fleet. The end result is fewer fish caught and the more quickly spooked fish will move to another location.
2. When finished with a drift, move back to the head of the pack on the outside of drifting boats, **NOT** through them.
3. Operate your boat in the pass among other tarpon boats at a rate of speed that does **NOT** create a wake, especially in areas of shallow water known as the "pan" and "hill".
4. Keep the engine(s) running at all times and keep your boat positioned so as not to disrupt another boat's drift.
5. Do **NOT** position your boat during a drift directly in front of or under the bow of another boat.
6. Use tackle sufficient enough to control a tarpon with a minimum of 50 pound test line. Do **NOT** follow the fish.
7. Once hooked, control the tarpon with your boat and take the fish out of the pack as quickly as possible before finishing the fight and releasing the fish.
8. In case two boats tangle with each other's lines, the boat with the fish should move out of the fleet. The other boat with no fish should release his drag and then go alongside and slightly ahead of the boat with the tarpon. The hook will slide up the tight line of the hooked fish and it can then be easily removed at the rod tip by the captain. Be sure and give enough slack so he can easily remove the hook.
9. Do **NOT** anchor in the pass!
10. Try to adhere to these rules. Watch and **do what the pro's do** and you will have fewer problems. If you need help, ask a professional guide.



# BOCA GRANDE FISHING GUIDES ASSOCIATION INVITATIONAL TARPON TOURNAMENT

**BGFGA Tarpon Tournament** - The forth annual Boca Grande Fishing Guides Association Invitational Tarpon Tournament held in 2008 was a fantastic success. Traditional tarpon fishing during the two day event produced many hookups and a lot fun for all involved. The unanimous consensus of participants, volunteers and sponsors since the tournament has been, "Do it again in 2009".

So, the fifth annual tournament will be held this coming tarpon season. Actual tournament fishing will be on Thursday and Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, between the hours of 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. The final registration will take place on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> and the captain's party will be that evening. Basically, the same rules will apply as in the 2008 tournament. All tarpon caught will be released either at the boat or after being weighed in a specially designed wet sling.

In addition to the money and prizes awarded for the first three places, the Jay Joiner Memorial Award for most releases (third place) is a coveted achievement for the captain and includes a specially designed gold and silver belt buckle by Montana Silversmiths, plus the captain's name is placed on the Jay Joiner Memorial Trophy, which is on display in the Gasparilla Maritime Museum at Whidden's Marina.

Additional information regarding the tournament, including rules, amount of entry and a printable entry form can be accessed by going to the Boca Grande Fishing Guides Association web site, [www.bocagrandefishing.com](http://www.bocagrandefishing.com), and then clicking the link labeled "Tarpon Tournament". Also, entries can be picked up at Whidden's Marina and the Boca Grande Chamber of Commerce.

# CHARLOTTE HARBOR FLATS & BACKCOUNTRY

The newly recognized "frontier" of fishing in the Boca Grande and Charlotte Harbor area are the many square miles of premier shallow waters called "flats." This bounding natural resource produces hundreds of species of marine life with particular interest for the angler being trout, redbfish, and snook. Enthusiasts from the world over travel to Boca Grande to experience the exciting and explosive magic of fishing the flats with light tackle or flyrod.

Local natives have known about this plentiful and natural area for generations, but only recently has the interest by outside anglers been so enthusiastic. The visual experience of being able to see your catch at the end of your line, many times before the strike, in beautiful clear shallow water is unforgettable.

We welcome you to this beautiful and bountiful area. In order for it to remain the same we must be aware of its delicate balance and do our best to leave it as we found it. As our true native Americans said, "Leave only footprints." We must learn from the destructive past and plan for the future to preserve our great natural resources.

The Boca Grande Fishing Guides Association has in its membership the finest flats guides who know these back waters and how to maneuver through them without damage to the sea life and plant growth which is so necessary for this area to remain productive. If you have your own flats boat to access these areas, please remember the following:

1. DO NOT OPERATE YOUR BOAT IN AREAS THAT ARE TOO SHALLOW FOR YOUR EQUIPMENT:  
Plant growth in these shallow waters is absolutely necessary for the production and protection of hundreds of species of marine life. Destruction of this plant growth will be devastating to the future enjoyment of this natural treasure. It takes years for this marine plant growth to come back. In addition, props are not cheap and can be easily damaged in shallow waters. Sudden impact to the bottom can also hurt you or your passengers. Be aware of your depth and watch your prop wash for telltale mud or plant life.
2. POLE OR USE A TROLLING MOTOR:  
Take the time to use this slow and quiet method to reach your fishing area. Fish on the flats are spooky and will scatter with a little amount of noise. A cautious approach catches more fish. Anglers move before or about the time the fish begin to adjust to the intrusion and settle down within casting distance of your boat. Be quiet and patient for best fishing. A frightened fish does not feed.
3. DO NOT CROWD ANOTHER BOAT:  
If you see another boat in the area, do not run to him unless beckoned. Put yourself in his position and conduct yourself as you expect to be treated by others. Following a guide boat will only cause aggravation from the captain

and the ensuing commotion will yield no fish for anyone. The fun of flats fishing is the search and find technique. This adds enjoyment to your trip and a sense of accomplishment when you make your catch. If you take time to learn to fish you will catch more and have a much greater time.

4. RESPECT STATE OF FLORIDA REGULATIONS:  
The laws to protect fish species and the environment are constantly changing. Conduct yourself within the limits of the law. Report violations as quickly as possible to the Florida Marine Patrol. Be sure and get the registration number from the boat and a good description for FMP officers.
5. DO NOT CONTAMINATE OR LITTER THE BOTTOM:  
Plastics and monofilament are forever and kill many sea creatures. Petroleum products kill all forms of marine life. Cans and bottles are a disgusting site on the bottom. BRING IT ALL BACK TO THE DOCK!



COMPLIMENTS OF  
BOCA GRANDE FISHING GUIDES ASSOCIATION, INC.  
[www.bocagrandefishing.com](http://www.bocagrandefishing.com)

Mail in Coupon for Associate Membership

Associate Member Application  
BOCA GRANDE FISHING GUIDES ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 676, Boca Grande, Florida 33921  
[www.bocagrandefishing.com](http://www.bocagrandefishing.com)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. enclosed: \$30 ( ) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( )