

FLAGLER SPORTFISHING CLUB

THE CHUM LINE



FROM THE HELM - BY CAPTAIN MIKE VICKERS JR.

Dear Flagler Sportfishing Club Members,

It is the start of a new year; here is to hoping that this new year is even better than the last. At our January members meeting we will have our first Reel of Fortune drawing. Please ensure you have renewed your membership prior to the 6th of January to be eligible to win.

With the start of the new year is the start of our monthly fishing tournaments and meeting events. You can reach out to our NEW Tournament Director Cliff Way at fsfctourdir@gmail.com or at our meetings to volunteer to organize one of these events.

We have made some changes to the yearlong and CPR tournaments. We have brought whiting back into the mix. There is a 14-inch minimum for these fish to be entered in to either tournament.

Let's all have a great year, tight lines and screaming drags.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **January Monthly Meeting & Chili Cook-Off 1/8/26**
- **Membership Renewals going on now!**
- **Black & Red Tournament 1/17/26**

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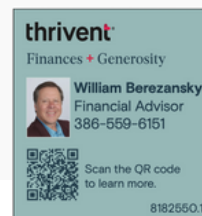
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Follow us on social media
for more updates & tips!



THANK YOU CLUB SPONSORS!



Please help us support our Club Sponsors!
Click on the logo to be taken to their website.

TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN REPORT BY TIM MILLER

Tim Miller
fsfctourdir@gmail.com

Happy 2026 to all our club members! With the start of a new year, our Annual Tournament starts over. This is your chance to win a prize — and bragging rights — in one of 23 species.

A change for 2026 is that Whiting is back as one of the eligible fish for the Year-Long Species Tournament. Whiting must be at least 14 inches to be weighed in. See the club website for the complete list of eligible species along with all club rules.

The club's year-long results are housed on a fantastic website with great features, including an AI program. You can access the site at MyWeighMaster.com.

Once on the site, click Login, then Create Account. After you have an account, click My Club, then Take Me to My Club.

The 2025 Annual Catch-Photo-and-Release (CPR) Tournament was a success! More than 685 legal fish were released back into our waters by 40 anglers. For 2026, let's see if our club can double the number of members releasing fish. Rules for this tournament can also be found on our website. Please note that fish can be caught anywhere in the state of Florida. New for 2026, 14-inch Whiting are now an eligible species.

When you enter your CPR fish, please be sure your information is correct before you submit. Your first and last name need to be entered the same way every time you log a fish. Our first tournament will be the Black and Red Tournament on January 17, 2026. See the flyer included in this issue for all the details. With \$700 in prize money, this is a great opportunity to win cash to help cover your 2026 dues. Check out the club calendar on our website to see all the events for 2026 so you can plan your year with your fishing club.

Would you like to help run a tournament — including food and payouts? Sign up to run one of the club's free tournaments and you'll be in charge! Running a tournament is easy and a fantastic way to meet members. Send me an email or talk to me at the next club meeting, and I'll share all the details.

Tim Miller
fsfctourdir@gmail.com



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2026

Renew NOW! Renewals received by December 31st are just \$80!

Renew online now:

<https://flaglersportfishing.com/membership/membership-renewal/>

Starting January 1, renewals will be at the regular price of \$90

Coming in January: "The REEL OF FORTUNE"

Get ready for Pat and Vanna as we introduce the REEL OF FORTUNE at January's Member Meeting! Details were shared at the November meeting. See Page 1 From the Helm article by Cpt. Vickers, Jr. for details. You don't have to answer questions or solve puzzles — you just need to be a member, show up, and enter the REEL OF FORTUNE for your chance to win!

Anyone not renewed by Dec. 31st or paid for a new membership as of Jan. 7th, will miss the official start of the wheel.

Big Year Ahead for Our Youth Anglers!

January also kicks off an exciting year for our Youth Angler Programs — with new prizes, tournaments, and opportunities for young anglers to get involved and inspired.

DON'T BE LEFT OUT — RENEW
EARLY, SAVE MORE, AND GET
READY FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR
OF FISHING, FRIENDSHIP, AND FUN!

CLICK HERE TO
RENEW NOW!

A promotional graphic for the Flagler Sportfishing Club membership renewal. It features a blue background with white wavy lines at the bottom. In the top right corner, there is a circular logo with a fish and the text "FLAGLER SPORTFISHING CLUB". The main text "MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL" is in large, bold, white letters. Below it, a dark blue banner says "GOING ON NOW!". The text "RENEW BEFORE DECEMBER 31ST FOR JUST \$80!" is in white. Below that, it says "AFTER DEC. 31ST, RENEWALS WILL RESUME NORMAL PRICE OF \$90 FOR 2026". On the right side, there is a circular photo of a man and a young girl on a wooden pier, both holding fish. The man is wearing a white polo shirt and a cap, and the girl is wearing a white shirt and pink boots.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

GOING ON NOW!

RENEW BEFORE
DECEMBER 31ST FOR JUST
\$80!

AFTER DEC. 31ST,
RENEWALS WILL RESUME
NORMAL PRICE OF \$90
FOR 2026



You Tube



[FLAGLERSPORTFISHING.COM](https://flaglersportfishing.com)

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS: BOSTON WHALER, "THE UNSINKABLE LEGEND."

The Flagler Sportfishing Club would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Boston Whaler for their continued support of our club and its events. As one of the most respected names in boating, Boston Whaler stands out for both innovation and performance — traits that perfectly align with our fishing community's passion for quality time on the water.

Boston Whaler has earned a legendary reputation as the "Unsinkable Legend," thanks to its unique Unibond™ hull construction that delivers unmatched durability, a smooth ride, and confidence in even challenging conditions. This design — developed over more than 60 years of innovation — provides boaters with safety and peace of mind, whether heading out for inshore fishing or offshore adventures.

From versatile center console models with spacious casting areas to dual consoles and larger boats built for family cruising and long-haul fishing, Boston Whaler boats are engineered for performance, comfort, and reliability. Anglers appreciate ample deck space, smart fishing amenities, and dependable handling that lets you focus on the catch, not the conditions.

Whether you're chasing fish early in the morning, spending a day with family on the water, or just cruising the coast, Boston Whaler offers a wide range of models to suit every boating lifestyle. Their boats are built to last, hold their value over time, and create lasting memories — just like the ones we make together out on the water.

We encourage all club members and friends to support the businesses that support our club. To explore Boston Whaler's lineup and find the right boat for your next adventure, visit their website at www.bostonwhaler.com.

Thank you, Boston Whaler, for your partnership and for helping us make every season a great one for fishing and boating!



FISHING REPORT BY CHRIS CREGO

**Palm Coast Inshore Fishing Report – December Edition
Brought to you by Chris Crego of Skinny Water Lures**

December brought cooler water and air temperatures across Flagler County, but inshore fishing stayed steady for anglers who adjusted their tactics. Water temperatures generally settled into the mid-60s to low-70s, and many species shifted to deeper holes, channels, and protected backwaters as cold fronts moved through. On calmer, sunnier days, fish briefly slid shallow to warm up, creating short bursts of feeding activity.

**Water & Weather Recap**

Cool mornings and mild afternoons dominated most of the month. The most consistent bites came during periods of moving water, especially when warming afternoon sun coincided with an incoming tide. After stronger cold fronts, the bite slowed for a day or two until temperatures stabilized, at which point fish regrouped in predictable winter locations.

What Was Biting**Redfish**

Redfish were a reliable target through December. Many anglers found them staging near oyster bars, creek bends, and deeper edges. Smaller slot fish held tight to structure, while schools of overslot fish gathered in deeper pockets. Live shrimp and slow-rolled soft plastics worked especially well when presented close to the bottom.

Spotted Seatrout

Trout fishing was consistent, particularly around deeper channels, creek mouths, and troughs. Anglers who slowed presentations — soft plastics on light jig heads or subtle twitch baits — picked up quality fish. The best windows often came during the warmest part of the day.

Snook

Snook activity tapered with cooler water but remained possible around docks, pilings, and deeper cuts. The more patient anglers found success by working lures slowly and targeting midday warmups. Most fish were tucked into structure where the water held a degree or two more warmth.

FISHING REPORT CONTINUED**Sheepshead & Black Drum**

December was productive for sheepshead around rocks, bridge pilings, and dock posts. Fiddler crabs and shrimp produced steady action. Black drum also showed up around oyster bars and deeper structure, taking cut bait and shrimp fished close to the bottom.

Flounder

Flounder held along sandy drop-offs and near creek mouths. Anglers dragging soft plastics or small live baits across the bottom picked off fish, particularly on outgoing tides as bait flushed out of the backwaters.

Takeaways from December

Fishing rewarded anglers who slowed down, fished deeper water, and stayed mindful of tides and post-front recovery periods. Structure, current edges, and warmer pockets of water held the most consistent action.

Looking Ahead: January Expectations

January typically continues the winter pattern — cooler water, clearer conditions, and fish concentrating around deeper structure.

Expect:

- Redfish schooling tighter in creeks and flats on calmer days
- Trout settling deeper and responding best to slow presentations
- Sheepshead activity increasing around hard structure
- Occasional snook opportunities during warmer weather windows

Anglers who plan trips around warming trends, fish slowly, and focus on areas with current and structure should see steady success moving into the new year.

WEIGH MASTER REPORT BY BILL ZIMMER



Bill Zimmer
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**January's Fish of
 the Month is
 Black Drum**



****NOTICE** - The overall species Leaders and Full Point Standings are updated at the end of each month on the club website:
flaglersportfishing.com
 Then under Fishing click on YearLong Club Standings.



You Tube

The November Fish of the Month was Longest Legal CPR Fish. Mark Dwyer was our winner with a 24.5 inch Redfish. The Fish of the Month for December is Whiting and the winner will be announced at the January meeting.

Tournament Check-In Procedures: At our monthly tournaments or any other tournaments that we host, please be sure to check in with the Weighmaster by the end of the check-in time. If you come early to the weigh-in, you can place your fish bag at the weigh-in area and check in with the Weighmaster at that time. If you have a live fish in the live well, check in as soon as you arrive so you will be placed in line for your weigh-in. You will need to stay in the area close enough to hear your name called when it is time to weigh your fish. If not, you will be moved to the end of the line.

Fish brought to the tournament weigh-ins are required to be measured on the official club bump board before being weighed. Please take your fish to the bump board at the weigh table before putting it on the scale. If you weigh in a fish at a club tournament, I will enter the data in the Yearlong Tournament. There is no need to take the fish to a weigh station.

Important reminder:

The rules for each tournament are clearly stated on the flyer published for that tournament. **PLEASE READ THE RULES.** There will be no exceptions to the rules.

All fish must comply with FWC rules. Fish weighed in for our club tournaments must be caught in St. Johns, Flagler, and Volusia counties. Fish being photographed and released for CPR entry must be caught in state of Florida waters.

Official bump boards available to buy for \$20 at any of our club meetings. They are also available (cash only) at Hammock Bait & Tackle. If you have different brand of bump board, please see me to approve the accuracy and obtain a Flagler Sportfishing Club sticker to place on your bump board.

For our CPR Competition, all Year Long fish species (including Whiting in 2026) are eligible and just one CPR submission gets you into the CPR drawing at the end of the year. One additional ticket into the drawing is obtained for each 5 additional submissions so the more photos you submit, the better your chances of winning a great prize.

WEIGH MASTER REPORT CONTINUED

CPR photos must be caught in State of Florida waters and meet FWC requirements including in season, length, and proper measuring method. Please check FWC rules to make sure you are measuring properly (i.e. nose to tail, pinch the tail, nose to fork etc). Photos not meeting FWC requirements will be deleted.

Please note that for the species Yearlong Tournament, if your fish is not heavier than the 6th place fish for that particular species in the Men's or Ladies' standings, there is no need to weigh-in the fish. Points are only given for places 1 through 6.

NOTICE - The overall species Leaders and Full Point Standings are updated at the end of each month on our website: <https://flaglersportfishing.com/>

Then under 'Fishing' click on 'YearLong Club Standings'.

Thanks for everyone's support, and if you have any questions, please let me know.

Bill Zimmer - Weighmaster - (850) 728-1937



JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING



FLAGLER SPORTFISHING CLUB

Monthly Meeting Thursday January 8th, 2026

**Public
Welcome!****7:00pm Quick Tips & Chili
Cook Off****Meeting Location:**
Club 51/Social Club
51 Old Kings Rd. N
Palm Coast, FL 32137**7:30pm General Meeting
& CPR Tournament
Winner Drawing!****7:45pm Break****8:00pm Guest Speaker
TBA****Thank you, Sponsors!**

January 8th, 2026

CLUB CHILI COCKOFF

Bring Your Best Chili in a crock pot to the
January Club Meeting at 6:30pm

1st Place: \$75
2nd Place: \$50
3rd Place: \$25

****Club will provide
bowls & spoons.****You Tube****FLAGLERSPORTFISHING.COM**



'kids4reel' IN THE COMMUNITY

Wrapping Up an Incredible Year — and Looking Ahead!

As we close out 2025, the Flagler Sportfishing Club's kids4reel program has so much to celebrate — and even more to look forward to in 2026. This year has been filled with meaningful moments on the water, hands-on learning, conservation awareness, and countless smiles from students, parents, teachers, and volunteers alike.

Once again this season, kids4reel collected Christmas gift card donations from our generous members, neighbors, and friends to support families in need. Thanks to you, our kids4reel "elves" were able to deliver donations to each of our in-school partners. School leaders then ensured those cards reached families who needed them most.

A heartfelt thank-you to every donor — and a special shout-out to volunteer leader Deb Marinco for coordinating this tremendous effort.

December was also one of our busiest months of the year. Our kids4reel volunteers stepped up in a big way, supporting fishing and learning events with five partner schools:

- Old Kings Elementary
- Wadsworth Elementary
- Indian Trails Middle School
- Bunnell Elementary
- Belle Terre Elementary

From casting practice and fish identification to conservation conversations and first-time catches, these events continue to introduce young anglers to the joys and responsibilities of being on the water.

As 2025 comes to a close, kids4reel has positively impacted more than 1,000 students — plus parents, guardians, and school leaders. Bravo and well done!

None of this would be possible without our incredible volunteers who plan, organize, load gear, teach, encourage, and show up — again and again. Your dedication is making a lasting difference in our community.

We're already excited for the adventures ahead in 2026 — more schools, more learning, more fishing, and more opportunities to inspire the next generation of responsible anglers. Here's to another amazing year with kids4reel!



'kids4reel' IN THE COMMUNITY CONTINUED



BLACK & RED TOURNAMENT FLYER



BLACK & RED TOURNAMENT

Saturday January 17th, 2026

Bing's Landing North, Weigh-in 2pm-3pm



50/50

Species:

Redfish & Black Drum

Raffle

Redfish

Black Drum

1st \$100
2nd \$80
3rd \$70
4th \$50

1st \$100
2nd \$80
3rd \$70
4th \$50

Junior Angler Prizes: - \$25 Heaviest Fish

CPR Prizes: - \$75 Redfish with Most Spots on 1 side

CPR RULES: Show photo of released legal fish on club approved bump board to Weighmaster at weigh-in. CPR tie-breaker is first photo shown to Weighmaster.

Show Up Drawing - \$25 Gift Card

RULES:

- Fishing starts at 6:30am, fish from anywhere in Flagler, Volusia and St. Johns Counties. FWC Rules apply
- One cash prize per person, including Bonus
- Members with fish, must check-in with Weighmaster by end of Weigh-in time.
- Tie-breaker: first fish weighed in
- Junior Anglers (under 16) fish free with a member
- Free to members, guests may fish with a \$20 donation & must fish with member

Weigh-In:

2pm - 3pm Bing's Landing North

Lunch Provided, served at 2pm. Free for one guest Additional guests \$10 donation.

Sign Up:

Members may attend the weigh-in even if they don't fish. Deadline is 1/15. Please sign up for food head count. Sign up at January monthly meeting or <https://flaglersportfishing.com/event/club-black-red-tournament/>

For more information, please contact Mark Heffley at 678-491-6597

m.heffley@comcast.net

**Click Here
to Sign Up
Now**



YouTube

[FLAGLERSPORTFISHING.COM](https://flaglersportfishing.com)

Quick Tips for FSC

- **The Chum Line** newsletter is delivered to your inbox each month to inform you of all Club activities.
- Visit the **Club website** for valuable up to the minute information on all activities that the club has to offer.
- Connect to other Club Members on our **Facebook page** and **Instagram page**.
- The Club provides Quick Tips Videos on **YouTube** to help introduce our members to the various types of fishing that is available in the area.
- Electronic communications come out every month called the "Fishing Line" with the upcoming events for the Club.
- A monthly meeting is held at the **Club 51/ Social Club on the 1st Thursday** of every month with excellent speakers to improve your fishing knowledge and techniques.
- You can attend wonderful social events like ice cream socials, chili cook-offs, family picnics, holiday parties and so much more.
- You can participate in 10 free fishing tournaments, plus one for-free charity event during the year as well as a Free Kid's Clinic & a Free Member's Clinic.
- FSC takes pride in community through FSC's gifting commitment to Veterans' organizations, UF's Whitney Laboratory, Coastal Conservation Association, and other diverse nonprofit organizations.
- You find the current calendar for 2026 **HERE**

Flagler Sportfishing Club
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UPCOMING EVENTS

FLAGLER SPORTFISHING CLUB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS JANUARY 2026 - MARCH 2026

JANUARY BLACK DRUM

08- Member Meeting &
Chili Cook-Off
Club 51 / Social Club of
Palm Coast,

17-Black & Red Tournament,
Bing's North

29- Directors Meeting,
DAV 7:00pm

FEBRUARY SHEEPSHEAD

05- Member Meeting,
Nomination of Officers
Club 51 / Social Club of
Palm Coast,

21-Sheepshead
Tournament, Herschel King

26- Directors Meeting,
DAV 7:00pm

28-Member Kids' Clinic,
Herschel King

MARCH BLUE FISH

05- Member Meeting ,
Nomination of Officers, Swap
& Shop
Club 51 / Social Club of Palm
Coast

18-Count the Spots
Tournament, Bing's North

21 - Member Clinic
Club 51 / Social Club of
Palm Coast

26 - Directors Meeting,
DAV 7:00pm

