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Map Key

Location of Advertisers See Listings Cover Images courtesy of Tiamo Resorts

that helped make this map possible, with a special the Minister and his team at The Bahamas Ministry m, and The Bahamas Out Island Promotion Board.

The publisher wishes to thank the following for their Game Clug,Broad Shad Cay, Green Turtle Club d Bonefishing Lodge, North Andros Flyfishing, Tiamo anquility Hill Bonefish Lodge, And all the owners and

Message From **The Minister of Tourism & Aviation** Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar, MP

Just fifty miles southeast of Florida lies an angler's dream – a chain of 700 islands extending over 100,000 square miles of pristine seas teeming with fish of every size and kind. Welcome to The Islands Of The Bahamas.

The Bahamas is home to a population of 380,000 people whose warm hospitality has helped build this nation's reputation as a vacation paradise. Each year, six million travelers make their way to the shores of The Islands Of The Bahamas. Tens of thousands of them book a Bahamas vacation for the express purpose of indulging in their passion - fishing. In the waters of The Bahamas, under year-round sunshine, anglers can enjoy many produc tive days of fishing, no matter their level of angling skills or experience.

Whether it's hand-lining for gray snapper in the mangroves of Bimini; fishing for grouper using a spinner rod on reefs off the Exumas; fishing for tuna in blue water with heavy tackle in the Abacos; or fly fishing for bonefish on the many sandy flats surrounding Andros, Long Island, Acklins or Crooked Island, we can fulfill all your vacation fishing desires. There s something for every category of angler, at a wide range of price points.

For trusted information about choice fishing locations, highly endorsed lodges and quality guides, anglers turn to The Bahamas Fishing Map and Angler's Guide. This publication is widely distributed around the world at major international fishing shows, marinas, fishing clubs and retail tackle dealerships.

The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism is pleased to be a partner with Multi Media Group, publishers of The Bahamas Fishing Map and Angler's Guide to promote the advantages of recreational fishing

throughout our islands. Whether this is your first visit to The Bahamas or you've lost count of how many times you've visited us, you'll leave convinced that fishing is one of the reasons "It's Better In The Bahamas". Tiaht Lines

J=>5 g/ Hon. Dionisio D'Aguilar, MP



NEW SPORT FISHING REGULATIONS, QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

What are the most recent changes to the Fisheries Regula-tions in The Bahamas? Sharks are protected in The Bahamas as a result of an amend-ment made in 2011. Sharks may only be taken under special permits for specific purposes. A shark hooked during the course of fishing is to be released unharmed.

How much fish can I keep? The Regulations specify the amount of fish and fishery products that can be aboard a licensed foreign sport fishing vesse at any time. The bag limits are: a. 18 pelagic fi of Dolphin, Wahoo, Kingfish or Tuna), b. 10 lobster in season) c. 6 conchs d. 60 pounds or up to 20 demersa uch as snappers and groupers, whichever is the lesse Am I allowed to eat any of the fish I catch?

Can I use an electric reel?

Is there a catch limit for bonefish? There is no catch limit for bonefish. Catch and release rongly encourage

Do I have to use a local fishing guide? There is no requirement that you use a Bahamian guide. The Department of Marine Resources encourages use of Bahamian fishing guides as this provides an enhanced fishing experience. *Am I allowed to keep any billfish (Marlins, sailfish, sword*-

fish) caught? Unless you are fishing in an approved tournament, all billfis caught must be returned to the sea unharmed.

Can I sell some of the fish I catch in The Bahamas? tors to The Bahamas are not allowed to sell or trade any nery products. This constitutes commercial fishing an

would be a serious violation of the law. I intend to fish from the shore or a dock. Do I need a sport shing permit:

o, because you will not be using a foreign owned vesse

Do I need a sports fishing permit? You will only need a sports fishing permit if the boat you rent is not Bahamian owned. Even when fishing from such a boat, a Non-Bahamian person must observe the sports fishing catch limits.

an I still gather conchs while in The Bahamas? fishers are allowed to gather conchs. The maximur number that you may have aboard the sport fishing vessel at any time is six (6). Remember that there is a legal size limit for onch in The Bahamas. The shell must have a well-develope laring lip. This is a sign of maturity

How much fish can I take home when I leave The Bahamas When you leave The Bahamas via a foreign vessel that had a ing permit, marine resources up to the new catch limits may be aboard. This does not depend on the number of persor

Can I clear into The Bahamas and obtain a Sports fishin

, unfortunately these services are not available online. T sport fishing vessel must clear Bahamas Customs at a Port-of-En try and obtain the Sports fishing Permit at that time. You should ot engage in any fishing until this has been don lling from Florida, when do I cross into Bahamian waters

e maritime boundary between The Bahamas and the United Ites of America (USA) has not been formally agreed upon the South Florida area, where the USA and The Bahamas are eparated by the Gulf Stream, NOAA Chart 11469 depicts the line king the limits of the United States Exclusive Economic Zone his line essentially runs up the middle of Gulf Strear

For more information please contact: Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Out Island

East Bay St., P.O. Box N 3040. Nassau, N.P; The Bahamas E-mail: minagriculturemarine@bahamas.gov.bs Telephone: (242) 397-7000

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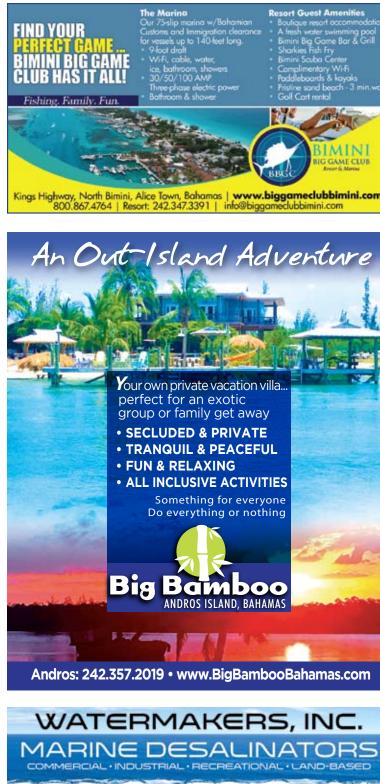
BAY

NOTE: This map is not to scale and is intended for use as a reference only, not for navigation

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FLATS & FLY FISHING

When you hear talk about flats fishing in The Bahamas, most likely it's about the elusive bonefish. After all, savvy anglers know this is the place to come if you're looking for a world record catch. Let it be known these islands own seven IGFA World Records for bonefish, and another was set this year in Andros. The largest bone was brought to the boat weighing 16 pounds and it was caught on traditional gear. Right behind that monster, is a 15-pounder caught on fly.

Most people agree these are the best flats fishing in the world, both in numbers and sizes of fish. Although the primary draw is bonefish, bigger waving fins and trails might mark a Permit the size of a tabletop. They

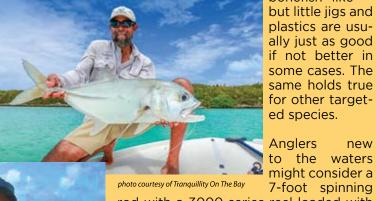
often exceed 20 pounds here, and they're tough to fool into taking a fly or crab. However, when one does, it's like hooking a bonefish on steroids. Bones, permit and tarpon (the Grand Slam) are glamour species drawing lots of attention, but they're just the icing on a rich Bahamian piscatorial cake.

If you're unfamiliar with "saltwater flats" fishing, the accepted definition would include the expanded shallow areas found along shorelines that usually

have sandy bottoms. The bottom could also be dotted with beds of seagrass, and depths consider six-feet or less - which is the guideline for needing a Flats Fishing license here. Flats are created and maintained by the rising and falling tides. As the tides flood, they bring large numbers of small prey such as shrimp, crabs and small fish. At the same time, numerous predators such as bonefish, permit, barracuda, jacks, ladyfish and several species of sharks cruise the flats looking to feed. During these feeding times, fishing is at its best. -ishing magazines may concentrate on fly fishing, yet far



more anglers find light spinning tackle a better choice because it's more versatile. Bonefish flies are good mimics for small shrimp, crabs, and other creatures that



onefish like -out little jigs and plastics are usually just as good if not better in some cases. The same holds true or other target ed species.

nalers new the waters 🚧 might consider a

rod with a 3000 series reel loaded with 6-10 pound test. Use this to cast everything from live and imitation shrimp to jigs or to baitfish imitators lures such as Rapalas and Mir-O-Lures. Spinning tackle is also easier for children to use, and the variety of fish a kid can catch along on or near the flats often brings them back as adults. Fishing with flies in the deeper waters off the edge of the flats is another rewarding experience. On any given

day anglers will find these waters teeming with several species of snappers and jacks, barracuda, grunts, triggerfish and small Goliath groupers - all catchable with

Most of the top fishing sites in this archipelago of pristine islands are also wonderful places for family vacations. Activities such as snorkeling, kayaking and shelling are found within walking distance from many lodges and resorts. Anglers can leave families on a beach in the morning, catch their fill of fish on a nearby flat and re-join everyone for lunch. Warm, stable weather is another advantage The Bahamas have over most des-

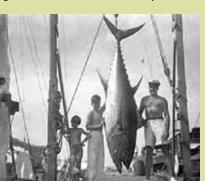
WORLD-CLASS FISHING DESTINATIONS

What brings so many anglers to The Bahamas every year? The answer might be as clear as the 100,000 square-miles of water where they fish. Maybe it's the year-round sub-tropical climate. Those are good answers but most likely it's all the big fish and the fact this island nation owns almost 90 world records. And another was set this year in Andros. Mix in the dozens of celebrated fishing lodges and now, like we said, the answer becomes pretty clear. Better yet, it's so easy to get there and very safe.

THE NORTHERN BAHAMAS... fantastic destinations for bonefish, tarpon and permit running the massive stretches of flats all year. The cobalt-blue waters offshore produce world-record billfish. Excellent air service and full-service marinas are found throughout the region. Fishing is just minutes from your dock or doorstep.

Bimini... Hemingway made this place legendary for sport fishing years ago. But today's anglers love the mix of history, contemporary resorts and

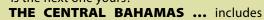
the opportunity of a worldrecord catch. Bonefish to blue marlin, wahoo to grouper – they're all caught here, some in record sizes. Good marina facilities, nice resorts and quaint island-style accommodations are found on both North and South Bimini. Perhaps the best known of all is the famed Bimini Big Game Club. The club is rich in his-



tory and well-known for its accommodations, full-service marina, and excellent food -- a favorite of visiting anglers. Grand Bahama... a large, well-developed island boasting excellent bonefishing on the expansive northern bank and East End flats. Marlin, sailfish and large tuna migrate seasonally -- while mahi-mahi, grouper, snapper and bones are resident, available year-round. The eastern side of the island is renowned worldwide as one of the best bonefishing destinations. Many of the flats are hard bottomed, making them ideal for wading.

The Abaco Islands... this northern-most chain includes Great Abaco, Little Abaco, and a 120-mile string of fringing islands dotted with pristine coves and shallow flats. A choice of handsome fishing lodges, resorts and boutique inns please even the most discriminating angler. Treasure Cay Resort boasts a large modern marina, waterfront rooms and suites, and offers something very handy for anglers. Along with the full-service marina, and some great fishing guides, there is also a very unique option to rent a choice well-maintained center console fishing boats up to 27 feet. This northern sector of Great Abaco is a favorite "home-base" amongst savvy anglers and cruising enthusiasts. On Green Turtle Cay you'll enjoy the Green Turtle Club, another fine marina resort with nice accommodations, fine dining, and the marina with fuel and water. Across the sound, only a short walk away, sits Bluff House sprawling across the hilltop with a marvelous waterfront restaurant and rooms overlooking the Sound of Abaco.

Both have easy access to fabulous offshore fishing and amazing bonefish flats. On the big island of Great Abaco, about halfway between Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay, you'll find Abaco Lodae with great bonefishing out the back door. and easy access to the famed Marls on the west side of the mainland. To maximize your catch in Abaco, it's always best to fish with a professional guide. Contact the Abaco Fly Fishing Guides Association (561-202-8575) for more information. Abaco owns bragging rights to 13 IGFA world record catches - is the next one yours?



New Providence, Andros, The Berry Islands, Eleuthera, Exuma and Cat Island – all with good air service, resorts and numerous fishing lodges. Much of the travel to these destinations passes through Nassau. New Providence consists of Nassau, Cable Beach (now Baha Mar) and Paradise Island -- known mostly for the nightlife, casinos, shopping and fine^pdfhing. Few are aware of the island's surprisingly good fishing. Bones and tarpon are found in the tranquil flats year-round. Crewed charter boats are plentiful around the Nassau, and all know where to find fish. Not far away is the famed Tongue of the Ocean, where anglers battle some of the biggest marlins on the planet.

Andros Island... the country's argest island has earned its reputation as the "Bonefish Capital of the World" -- largely because it owns so many world records. Comprised of North Andros, Mangrove Cay and South Andros -- separated by tidal creeks. - This is where savvy anglers find record-setting bones, a variety of well-appointed lodges, and outstanding guides. Although bonefishing gets most of the headlines, don't discount the tasty satisfaction of bottom fishing over



the reef, or the thrill of catching a giant blue marlin in the "Tongue" -- where the water is unbelievably deep and the fish are bigger than life. Fishing Lodges dot the coastline from north to south, and there's one to suit every budget. Northern Andros is home to tranquil and secluded Small Hope Bay Lodge, offering all beachfront cabins, excellent guides, international cuisine, and a variety of affordable fishing packages. This area's shoreline parallels the world's 3rd largest barrier reef. For those anglers traveling with family or a small group of friends, Big Bamboo Villa is a prime consideration. A beautifully designed, two-acre waterfront villa boasts four, well-appointed private bedrooms, private bathrooms, a large lodge-like living room, and fully-equipped kitchen. Staff and seasoned guides are available. Flats and reef fishing are close by and both are excellent. Just south of Andros Town sitting at the water's edge, and only a cast away from the magnificent reef, is the legendary Andros Island Bonefish





tinations. Winter cold fronts that chill much of the southern United States, seldom cross the warm waters of the Gulf Stream.

Another plus for summer travelers is the reduced price of lodging at lodges -- especially those featured on this publication. Most lodges have very attractive packages for anglers traveling with friends or family, and their close proximity to the U.S. mainland makes it even more appealing. English is the national language of The Bahamas, making communication with the skilled guides easy -- and Bahamian guides are among the best anywhere. Guides are on the water constantly, it's their way of life. So remember, while do-it-yourself fishing is available in some areas, a guide dramatically increases the odds of catching the larger fish.

And, if you're not an experienced angler, don't worry! This is really a nice place to learn. Between the flats and shallow reefs, it's easy for beginning anglers to hook-up with a tarpon, snapper, grouper, or maybe your first bonefish. And because most of the lodges are within minutes of deep blue water, anglers of all abilities can take a day from the flats to fish for deep-water species such as tuna, wahoo, mahi-mahi, blue marlin and sailfish

Club. Recognized as the country's original fly-fishing club, the lodge has cozy and clean accommodations, great food, and easy access to the reef and West Side National Park. South a few miles through the flats, Mangrove Cay is another hotspot for big bones. Sitting at the water's edge on a pretty little stretch of beach is Swain's Cay Lodge, perhaps the best-known lodge in the area. Shaded by swaying palms, the lodge accommodates about 20 anglers with clean comfortable rooms and a mouthwatering menu of meals at its Reef Side Restaurant. Non-anglers will enjoy the beach with free use of kayaks,



bicycles and snorkel gear. Skilled guides provide exciting days of fishing, no matter nether you prefer bones on the flats or marlin in the offshore waters. South Andros is home to the 1.5-milion acre West Side National Park – the largest natural park in The West Indies. The parks shallow waters flow through the pristine flats, stretching east to the cobalt-blue waters of the 6,000-foot deep Tongueof-the-Ocean. The opportu-

nity to fish both on the same trip makes for some of the most exciting fishing on the planet. In the middle of all this action is the celebrated *Tiamo Resort*. A cut above any ordinary fishing lodge, *Tiamo* is more like a luxury resort designed for serious anglers, families and friends. The nearby waters remain pristine with no commercial fishing, which means wahoo, snapper, grouper and mahi-mahi are plentiful. The resort presents varied possibilities for excellent fishing, and competent auides to aet vou there.

The Berry Islands... include Chub Cay and Great Harbour Cay, both with scheduled air service and full-service marinas. The Carriearl boutique hotel at Great Harbour offers styl-

ish rooms and gourmet restaurant. Chub Cay Club recently renovated its guest rooms and rental units are available. The extensive san-dy flats surrounding the cays are alive with bonefish year-round and the nearby "tongue" is the place for prized marlin and other game

Eleuthera & Harbour Island... the main island connects easy to Spanish Wells and Harbour Island by ferry. Visiting anglers find an array of accommodations ranging from quaint hotel rooms to high-end, luxury villas and award-winning dining at Valentines

Resort & Marina on Harbour Island. Experienced anglers love this place because they know this is blue marlin country, especially during April, May and June when the mixing currents push large gatherings of bait fish. Large schools of dolphin (Mahi-mahi) are also seen at this time. If you didn't come by boat, don't worry. The charter captains and guides at *Valentines* know these waters, and know where to fish.

Fishing for blue marlin once was a highly-specialized game involving large boats trolling lures so big they could be the winner at a freshwater bass tournament. Simply getting a marlin alongside and releasing it safely required bigger boats and skilled crews. Today, anglers with boats under 30 feet have developed their own techniques, mostly using stand-up tackle. While the majority of anglers find success catching



the smaller white marlin, plenty of 400-pound-blues have been caught by anglers who trailer boats.

These picturesque islands of The Bahamas sit on shallow, sandy banks separated by Atlantic Ocean channels and tongues as deep as 10,000 feet. The regions geology creates currents that bring huge numbers of baitfish near shore. This phenomenon brings bigger fish closer to shore, allowing smaller boats with blue

water anglers to routinely have lines in the water minutes after leaving the dock. In some marinas, such as Treasure Cav Marina in Abaco, you don't need to run your boat across because they have a stable of well-maintained center console boats available to rent by day or week. This growing concept is growing fast because it is cost-effective and allows more time to fishing.

Every year tens-of-thousands of fishermen come from all parts of the globe to cast lines into these pristine waters. Some troll the offshore waters for sailfish, white and blue marlin, tuna, wahoo, and mahi-mahi. Others fish the fertile reefs, dropping a jig or fresh bait that usually brings a quick and powerful strike from big grouper, snapper,



amberjack, or dozens of other critters lurking below. Flats fishermen prefer winter for bonefish, permit and tarpon - even though the same trophy-sized fish are found from Abaco to the Acklins year-round. Blue

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TAKING GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS IS AN ART...

Photographing your catch is an art. First, you need to start with a good camera, preferably digital with high-resolution capability. Digital cameras let you review your image, and if needed you can reshoot. Keep your camera on "high-resolution" and shoot away from the sun. Keep your camera close to you so it's handy when needed. Shoot and release the fish quickly, lessening the stress on the fish. Always handle your catch with care. The most exciting photos

can be taken while the fish is still in the water. These images are far better than the typical "dead fish" photos we see too often. Not touching the fish minimizes the stress and trauma it endures. It also increases their likelihood of survival. To cap-

hundreds of small pristine cays, including Staniel Cay. Here is home to the celebrated Staniel Cay Yacht Club. Anglers traveling with families will enjoy array marine activities, first-class accommodations, a sparkling white sand beach, and a savory menu of in-

Exuma... Heading southeast out of Nassau you'll come upon

ternational cuisine at the 🔜 gourmet restaurant. The Yacht Club has been part of the Staniel Cay community since 1956. Today visitors enjoy 14 charming bungalows, an 18-slip marina and a clubhouse with a really good restaurant. The flats offer excellent bon efishing and blue water



fishing is awesome to the east, outside the reefs. Cat Island... is home to Mount Alvernia, the highest peak in The Bahamas. Basically undeveloped, the island's tourism is mostly nature-based. Fly fishing is excellent in these pristine waters, a popular choice with visitors. Accommodations are excellent, so is the cuisine. Guide services are provided by the island's resorts.

THE SOUTHERN ISLANDS... are the ultimate destination for anglers seeking solitude and out-of-the-ordinary, pristine fishing grounds. The walk and wade technique on the flats is very popular here. A good guide will help spot the fish and assure you find your way home. Regularly scheduled air service makes it easy to reach these outer islands, and visitors will find a handsome array of comfortable accommodations. Long Island... The main attraction here is fishing for big bones, and they're here year-round. Reportedly, the big-

gest fish are caught along the western flats, and foreshores of north and south coasts. Lodges and fishing resorts that anglers favor include Gems

of Paradise, Greenwich Creek, Stella Maris and Long Island Bonefish Lodge which is designed to meet the needs of DIY anglers. Offshore fishing is outstanding. The island's eastern Atlantic shore is washed by the North Equatorial Current, which brings large schools of marlin,

sailfish, wahoo, and tuna. Acklins and Crooked Island... Teaming with 2 pristine flats, Chester's Highway Inn Bonefish Lodge sits in the middle of this kind-of Bahamian Outback. The lodge welcomes anglers with genuine hospitality, clean rooms and delicious

home-cooked meals. The islands form a perfect shallow-water environment which is home to numerous species of fish roaming the huge sand flats that welcome waders most every day. Far to the south sits the popular Salina *Point Bonefish Lodge*, a full-service lodge with nice amenities. Perfect for DIY anglers, the fertile waters are home to large barracuda, triggerfish, snapper, snook and permit - some of which may have never seen a fly.



BLUE WATER FISHING

water fishing is usually in the spring through summer months. Big vellowfin tuna (called Allison tuna here) are most abundant in March and April, and often well



into May. This is also the best time for sailfish. An exception is big wahoo, the fastest fish in these waters, which usually run from November to March.

Catching the elusive blue marlin is a highly-specialized game. It involves high-speed trolling, knowing what ures to run, or finding a seasoned skipper that knows what baits to troll. If you're not sure which artificial to troll, try natural baits like ballyhoo which can often save the day. Some days you may see marlins swim up and look at your lures, and then disappear. When that happens, some anglers switch to natural baits. They

may end up catching a trophy-size white marlin or a couple of nice wahoo, maybe several big king mackerel. That's a great day in any angler's log. Tight lines!



photos courtesy of Bahamas Ministry of Tourisi

ISHING REGULATIONS BAG LIMITS

The boat you fish from, must have a fishing permit aboard. Individual permits are not required.

Permits are obtained from Customs officials at ports of entry. Fishing gear is restricted to hook and line and you may not fish with more than six rods at a time. Bag limits are as follows:

Nahoo/Dolphin/Kingfish/

Migratory species such as Kingfish, Dolphin, Tuna or Wahoo shall not exceed 18 ish per vessel at any time.

Stone Crabs:

Closed season is June 1 to October 15. Minimum harvestable claw is 4". Harvesting of female is prohibited.

Turtle:

Illegal to export. No vessel shall have any marine turtles on board.

Lobster or Crawfish:

No more than 10 tails at any given time. Annual closed season is April 1 to July 31. Minimum size limits are 3-3/8 inch carapace length or six inches tail length. Eggbearing female crawfish are protected.

Conch:

Harvesting and possession of conch without a well formed lip is prohibited. Bag limit at any given time is no more than 6 per boat.

Vessel Bag Limit:

Demersal species (groupers, snappers, etc.) not in excess of sixty (60 lbs.) pounds or 20 scale fish.

Information subject to change

ture the "no-touch" style, leave the fish in the water using the leader to bring him towards you. Getting into the water when flats-fishing will give you an exciting up-close-and-personal look, and the fish suffers less stress while in the water. When handling the fish, keep your hands wet and free of any suntan lotions or oils, and never wipe the fish clean. The slimy coating felt on most fish is a protective coating that keeps them healthy. Wiping it away leads to significant stress and illness. If you're lifting fish out of water, always use two hands. Keep one under the tail and the other under the belly. Also, please don't hold fish by their jaw, especially bonefish. They might look fine when you return them to the water, but a bonefish held by the jaw may not be able to eat after his release.







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