**FISHING TIPS, FISHING & BOATING APPS & WEBSITES**

Tom Casey
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**FAVORITE BOATING AND FISHING APPS:  (all free, I believe)**

DRAG QUEEN...anchor alarm, free from Active Captain

FISH RULES...a must have to determine size and catch limits.  Automatically determines your location and what the regulations are for that spot

EMERGENSEE...an app you load all your pertinent boating and personal information.  When activated (within cell range) it sends out an emergency call with            your information automatically.

NOAA WEATHER...good weather app

LOCAL BOUYS...shows the closest bouy or any you choose, with NOAA forecast

STAR TRACKER LITE...or any star finder / tracker app.  Shows the night sky with all the stars and constellations named.  As you pan, it moves as well...very     cool.

GOOGLE TRANSLATE...nothing to do with boating unless you are in a foreign country or need to translate for a friend...great must have app!!

**FAVORITE WEBSITES:**

ACTIVE CAPTAIN...https://activecaptain.com/  AN ABSOLUTE MUST FOR ANY BOATER!!!  Sign up for their weekly email news letter.

NOAA PREDICTIONS...http://www.srh.noaa.gov/key/?n=marine   An excellent website for boaters.

COAST GUARD SECTOR KEY WEST NWS WEATHER SUPPORT...http://www.srh.noaa.gov/key/?n=marine  Probably the best weather website for     boaters.  Note "Prototype: Under Development: Not to be used for operational decision making purposes."  It is listed as an aviation website, but  none-the -    -less, a super website!

SOMBRERO LIGHT WEATHER INFO...http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/station\_page.php?station=smkf1  Currently, SMKF1 is not operational but you can open     other NOAA sites from here .

TIDES 4 FISHING...http://www.tides4fishing.com/us/florida-florida-keys/sombrero-key-hawk-channel   Uncannily accurate for best days and time to fish.      You can change locations easily at the bottom of the page.

WINDFINDER...http://www.windfinder.com/forecast/marathon\_islamorada  Best website to see what's ahead (wind-wise) for the next few days...not real     accurate past 4 or 5 days, but what weatherman is?!

**FISHING TIPS**

BEST TIP TO CATCH REEF AND GULF FISH...use fluorocarbon leader...15 lb test for murky days, 8, 10 or 12 lb test on very clear days.  Use 5 to 6 feet,     directly tied to main line, no swivel.  Best bait is fresh ballyhoo pieces or live shrimp.  Try squid or silversides if they are finicky.  For Yellowtail, flat-line         (no weight)  your small cut bait on a small hook , by hand feeding the line. (I like my shrimp whole and alive).  Yellowtail often hit live shrimp 3 times     before they hookup, be patient.   For mangrove or mutton snapper, use heavier fluorocarbon, 15 to 20 pound and bigger hook to match the bait,  with either a     split shot or some sort of sinker at the knot, depending on current, to get to the bottom,  Use live pilchards or small pinfish (use scissors to cut of the "pinny"     spines on the dorsal fin if possible), to catch the big ones! Use braided line for grouper, 50 pound test, minimum.

BEST BIG FISH TIP...when anchored, drift back a live pinfish, or any legal fish you catch on the reef, or gulf, hooked just in front of the dorsal fin, with a     balloon tied 5 to 10 feet from the fish (less line if you are shallow in the gulf).  Send it back at least 100 feet.  If you have an outrigger, put out the outrigger     and clip the line to get it away from your boat (and you're other lines).  Use a short wire leader if you don't want to get bit off.  You won't catch something     big every time, but some of my best reef catches (and unexpected  catches)  have often come with this technique. (55 lb wahoo, 14 lb mutton, 7' sailfish...)

Tight Lines!

Tom Casey