

# Cheerio Charters Key West, Florida

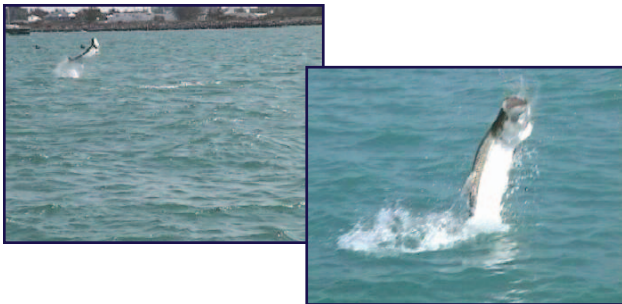
## The Captain

Ryon Logan, a Miami-native has been commercially and charter fishing the waters around Key West daily for over 13 years. Commercial fishing is the key to gaining an in-depth knowledge about how, why and where fish bite. It also gives the Captain the opportunity to explore the water extensively and develop a long list of productive "Hot Spots" based on the season and weather conditions. And we want to share the experience with you.

When planning your adventure to Key West, please refer to the fishing calendar to see what species of fish are running during your stay. Regardless, you will hook fish in the Key West area any time of year. This is due to the location of Key West in the Gulf of Mexico. Good fishing is just minutes from shore.

In fact, the longest trips are usually less than one hour from the marina. Numerous wrecks, drop-offs and shallow flats combined with warm water results in the perfect combination of both bait fish habitat and large game fish territory. Unique to Key West are large numbers of both migratory and resident fish species. In the same day you may catch a monster grouper, a hard fighting tarpon and hook a dolphin or bill fish.

Captain Ryon fishes most of the time with light to medium tackle for two reasons. First, the battle is better, which means more spectacular jumps and more reel smoking runs. Secondly, the line is more sensitive and the angler has a better feel for the bite. This means more hook sets and more time fighting fish.



## Tips for the Angler

1. Due to quickly changing weather, it is best to call in advance of your trip to check the forecast.
2. Polarized sunglasses and a billed hat are a plus.
3. Winter weather can be chilly at sea, so wear long pants and bring a medium weight jacket.
4. Wear sun screen of at least SPF 30.
5. Bring your own lunch. Water and soda are provided.
6. Come with an open mind and a good attitude, you will enjoy you adventure all the more.



## Contact Us:

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Custom charter, spear fishing and snorkeling adventures that guarantee a great day on the water in the Florida Keys!



# Charter Fishing

Fishing Key West waters can be broken down into four basic groups: **Harbor, Reef, Wreck and Off Shore.**

## Harbor

Harbor fishing in Key West is primarily for tarpon however, permit, cobia and snapper can be found between early March and mid-July. The harbor is also a great alternative when the weather is poor. Tarpon are extremely strong fish and hunt in schools. They can be aggressive feeders, yet have a light bite. This makes for a challenging hook set.

Once the fish is hooked the battle can range from 20-minutes to over an hour. A typical catch is between 60 and 100 pounds. Tarpon will usually jump 5 to 10 times clearing the water and shaking their heads violently in an attempt to dislodge the hook. The jumps usually increase as the fish approaches the boat, making for an exciting battle. Tarpon are not a suitable eating fish, so all are released after a quick picture.

## Reef

The waters surrounding Key West are full of reef spots ranging in depth from a few hundred feet to over a mile. They provide for both bait fish and the large game fish which feed on them including black, red and goliath grouper, barracuda yellowtail tuna and mutton snappers.

Reef spots are 20-minutes to one hour off shore. They are so numerous and are seldom fished resulting in great fish numbers and non-stop action. These are the perfect trips for the novice angler and the family. Everyone will catch fish and learn how to set the hook.

Do not be surprised if you hook a bill fish or king fish while at a reef as they often cruise these waters in search of an easy meal. If you are interested in keeping a few fish for the table, this is the trip for you.

Please keep in mind that the fishing in Key West has been getting better each year due to Catch and Release practices. Twenty years ago all fish caught were kept. This eventually resulted in a decline of fish populations. While the ocean is large, Maintaining this beautiful and productive fishery is up to all of us. Please help to do your part.

## Wreck

Due to drastic changes in water depth, numerous reefs and temperamental weather, many ships have sunk on both the north and south sides of Key West. These wrecks offer perfect artificial cover for snapper, cobia, permit, grouper, and sharks. When fishing a wreck, the water will be 50 to 350 feet deep. As with reef fishing the goal is to draw the fish away from the cover of the wreck and induce a competitive feeding atmosphere. It is often possible to attract the fish close enough to the boat to see them. It is hard to put in words just how exciting it is to watch your line get inhaled by a 40 pound cobia or 60 pound amber jack as your reel screams off the line. As with all of Ryon's charters, catch and release is practiced, but you are welcome to keep a few fish for the table.

## Off Shore

Most off shore fishing entails trolling for sailfish, wahoo, dolphin, tuna and the occasional marlin. Captain Ryon uses medium tackle to get the best fight possible from the fish. Drifting live bait for sailfish, tuna, bonita, mackerel, and dolphin can be an exciting adventure. A mix of fishing can be accommodated. An ideal family day at sea may include a half day off shore trolling for Dad in search of a sailfish, followed by a few more hours of wreck fishing for the kids ensuring that everyone gets some fishing action.



Wreck and Reef Fish Calendar							
	Goliath Grouper (Jew Fish)	All Grouper	Amberjack	Cobia	Shark	Snapper	Permit
January	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
February	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
March	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
April	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
May	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
June	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
July	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
August	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
September	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
October	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
November	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
December	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Harbor Fishing				
	Tarpon	Permit	Cobia	Snapper
January				
February		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
March	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
April	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
May	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
June	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
July	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Deep Sea							
	Sailfish	Marlin	Wahoo	Dolphin	Tuna	Shark	Kingfish
January	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
February	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
March	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
April	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
May	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
June		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
July		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
August			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
September			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
October			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
November	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
December	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

