

# Rockport Fly Fishers

Volume 2 Number 3

March 2008

## The President's Note

By Mike Cook

Our own Captain Jack Campbell will be the guest speaker at the March meeting. Jack guides fly fishers in the Port O'Conner area and has been known to hook up with tarpon on a pretty regular basis. His presentation will not just be tarpon fishing and I believe he is bringing maps to show us where to find trout and reds. Jack is really down to earth and I for one am looking forward to his presentation.

We also have several ongoing raffles for some pretty cool stuff. There is a 4 wt Orvis fly rod and reel, a fishing trip with yours truly, a bunch of fly tying material and a fly line drier up for raffle so be sure to buy some tickets. We will probably have some door prizes to give away and don't forget to put your attendance drawing ticket in the bucket.

We pretty much "lost our lease" at the Yacht Club and will not be meeting there this year. The March meeting will be at the Senior Center on Church Street. The Senior Center may become our permanent home although we are looking into a couple other venues.

I've been out of town for a few days. When I left the tides were very low but when I got back I saw that they had come way up. Spring must have sprung while I was gone. I had been seeing a lot of tailing reds of late, when the tide was low. Looks like I'm going to have to look harder to find them now. With the water temperature approaching that magical 70 degree mark, look for flats fishing to bust loose just any day now. The bull tides of spring will certainly scatter the fish, and they will be feeding in places that have had now water for

quite some time. They will be out there and they will be feeding so get out there and put a fly in front of some.

Sorry for such a short note this month but I have been out of touch for a couple weeks. I could probably go on but it would be a bunch of nonsensical ravings of a lunatic mind. See you at the meeting.

## MARCH MEETING

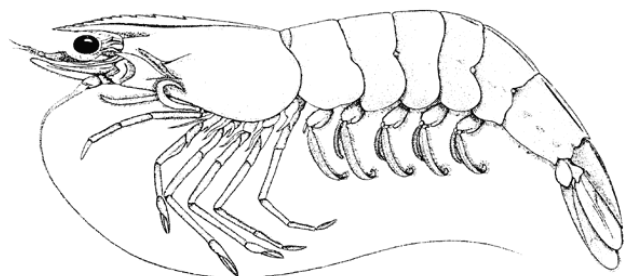
"Fly Fishing Port O'Connor"

With Captain Jack Campbell

Thursday, March 27, 2008 7:00 pm

Rockport Senior Center  
912 S. Church St.

Bring your own beverages and snacks



## Meeting Schedule

Our meetings are on the last Thursday of each month. Fly tying and casting from 6 to 7 and General Meeting from 7 to 8:30.

### March 27—Meeting

6:00p-7:00p Casting & Tying Demonstrations, Socializing (Bar will be open).

7:00p-7:30p General Club Business

7:30p-8:15p Program

8:15p-8:30p Wrap-up/Door Prize/Raffle/Auction!  
(Donations for door prize/raffle/auction needed and appreciated!)

Program Title: "Fly Fishing Port O'Connor". Captain Jack Campbell will give a presentation on fly fishing in the Port O'Connor area. He has been a fly fishing guide for almost 40 years.

Jack's website: <http://skinnywaterflyfishing.com>

**April 24—Meeting.** Speaker: TBA



Can you count the spots?

## Calendar of Events

### Fly Tying Roundtable

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays (April 2 and April 16).

All Welcome! No Charge!

6:00pm to 9:00pm

Rockport Senior Center

912 S. Church St. (Loop 70 - south of Market St.)

Featured Tyers and Beginner's Table each Roundtable

BYOB&S (Bring Your Own Beverages & Snacks)

BYOFTS (Bring Your Own Fly Tying Stuff!)

**April 2nd**—Featured tyer Billy Trimble.

Billy is a local fly fishing guide and a well known fly designer and tyer. He will be demonstrating how to tie his Foxy Chicken, a must-have fly.

**April 16th**—Open tying. Bring your material and show us how to tie your favorite fly

We need featured tyers for the round table. If you know someone who would be interested please let me know.

Contact: Ron Head

[fishinginrockport@yahoo.com](mailto:fishinginrockport@yahoo.com)

361-386-0110

**March 22-23**—Colorado Bend State Park white bass fishing. More info, e-mail [wjlaas@charter.net](mailto:wjlaas@charter.net).

**April 28**—Port Aransas. North jetty & surf fishing for speckled trout, redfish, & mackerel.

**May 6**—Aransas Wildlife Refuge. Outdoor Kids Program—need fly casting instructors and fly tyers.

If you wish to participate in any of these events, please contact Walter Laas at 512-294-3150 or e-mail

[wjlaas@charter.net](mailto:wjlaas@charter.net)

Walter Laas

Vice President -- Outings

### OI AI's Fly Casting Clinic

When: April 20

Where: Slowride's Kayak Shack in Aransas Pass.

This will be a Clinic for all levels of fly casting. Building on the basic to advanced casting.

The class will be \$100.00 for the day of lessons.

Contact Allen Crise at [flysoup@itexas.net](mailto:flysoup@itexas.net) or phone 254-396-1574 to hold your spot in the class.

**“Chris-a-Palooza”  
The Capt. Chris Phillips Fly Fishing Festival**

Over the last thirty years, Capt. Chris Phillips has become one of the most beloved members of the Texas fly-fishing community. For those of you who might not know Chris, he was one of the first anglers to chase the saltwater fishes of Texas with a fly rod, and he has been introducing new anglers to the sport of fly fishing for longer than many of us can remember. Chris is a past president of the Texas Fly Fishers, and he has been guiding fly anglers on the waters of Galveston Bay for well over a decade.

Even if you are not a member of the fly fishing community, chances are you have crossed paths with Chris at Fishing Tackle Unlimited, where he works when he is not on the water. Chris has helped many an angler select the right tackle for his or her next big adventure, and he always has been available to share his knowledge and experiences with those wanting to learn. His passion and generosity are matched by few.

Not too long ago, Chris was diagnosed with a large brain tumor. He has found care at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and he will undergo surgery on February 11th. The potential complications of his surgery are significant, and his recovery time likely will be lengthy.

We ask you to join us in helping Chris through this difficult time.

A fundraising event is being held by his friends and colleagues to provide financial relief for our favorite Captain. There will be casting demonstrations, fun contests, fantastic auction items, and lots of good cheer. A “Who’s Who” of Texas fishing will be in attendance.

The event will be held on March 30th from 1:00 PM until 5:00 PM at Blanco’s on West Alabama in Houston, TX.

For more information, please contact:

Andy Packmore  
Fishing Tackle Unlimited  
281.481.6838  
[packmore@fishingtackleunlimited.com](mailto:packmore@fishingtackleunlimited.com)

Dave Hayward  
Orvis  
713.204.1855  
[haywardd@orvis.com](mailto:haywardd@orvis.com)

Christopher De Los Santos  
I Fly the Angler’s Edge  
713.993.9981  
[admin@cdellossantos.com](mailto:admin@cdellossantos.com)

# ROCKPORT FLY FISHERS

## Club Membership Form

Please Print

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

NEW \_\_\_\_\_

RENEW \_\_\_\_\_

CHANGES FROM 2007? \_\_\_\_\_ NO (JUST CHECK 'TYPE' & SIGN)  
\_\_\_\_\_ YES (UPDATE BELOW)

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\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ (mo) \_\_\_\_\_  
(wk) \_\_\_\_\_ (alt) \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP TYPE

\_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL \$25

\_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \$35 (NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_)

\_\_\_\_\_ YOUTH (AGE 16 OR LESS) \$15

\_\_\_\_\_ SPONSORSHIP \$100

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

Mail Completed Form and Check to:

Rockport Fly Fishers  
PO Box 1611  
Rockport, TX 78381

# Biology of Southern Flounder

By Mark Fisher

Southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*) are one of 27 species of lefteye flounder (Family Bothidae—flatfishes with eyes and coloration on the left side) found in the Gulf of Mexico. Southern flounder are the largest and most abundant lefteye flounders in the Gulf, and are easily distinguished by their lack of ocellated spots (*lethostigma* means “forgotten spots”). Other lefteye flounder generally possess spots, including the closely related Gulf flounder (*P. albigutta*) with three large ocellated spots.

Southern flounder are found from North Carolina to northern Mexico, although their range is not continuous around the southern tip of Florida. It is particularly abundant in the western Gulf and is targeted by both commercial and recreational fishers. Flounder are one of the “big three” recreationally important species among saltwater anglers, and catching flounder, red drum and spotted seatrout on the same day is a “Texas Grand Slam”.

They are found in a variety of habitats, but are most commonly found in areas where the substrate is soft and muddy. Also, they seem to prefer salinities between 5-20‰. In contrast, Gulf flounder are most commonly found on hard, sandy substrates and in salinities over 20‰.

Adults emigrate from the estuaries during fall and winter (peaking in mid-November) to spawn in deeper offshore waters, with migrations coinciding with falling water temperatures (about a 10°F drop). Males usually leave earlier than females, and only gravid females emigrate. Some adults overwinter in deeper holes and channels of bays and estuaries. Severe “northers” will result in mass emigrations, while moderate to warm winters will result in flounder dispersing over longer periods of time. After spawning, adults then migrate back into bays and estuaries throughout spring and early summer, although older males tend to remain offshore for the duration of their lives.

Spawning occurs at the surface at night, with a female accompanied by an attending male. Females swim to the surface to release their eggs, which are immediately fertilized by the male. Females are serial spawners and spawn several times per season (November-January). Eggs are buoyant, about 1 mm in diameter, and hatch within 48-72 hours. Larvae are initially symmetrical and free swimming, with eyes on both sides, until the right eye begins to “migrate” to the left side. This begins at about 4 mm total length, and by 16 mm both eyes are present on the left side and these settled fish look more like an adult in appearance. By 25 mm, they have acquired most of their adult characteristics. Juveniles begin immigrating back to the estuaries in February.

Females grow faster, live longer, and attain larger sizes than males, with a maximum lifespan of 7 years and attaining an average of 10 inches their first year, and 14, 17, 19, 22, 23 and 24 inches in successive years. Sexual maturity occurs at age 2. Males have a maximum lifespan of 4 years, and attain an average of 8 inches at the end of their first year, and 11, 13 and 14 inches in successive years. Males become sexually mature at age 1.

Southern flounder are ambush predators with the ability to change coloration so that they blend in with the substrate. Flounder generally remain motionless on the bottom and wait for prey to come within striking distance before attacking. They are frequently found in shallow water near oyster reefs or the mouths of small tidal creeks draining the high marsh as the tide ebbs. Fish are a major component of their diet, particularly anchovies, mullet and menhaden, but mullet are the most important prey item for larger specimens. Shrimp, when seasonally abundant, are another important component to their diet, and flounder are the dominant predator on brown shrimp during the spring.

The Texas state rod and reel record is 13 pounds and 28 inches, caught on February 18, 1976 from Sabine Lake. The state fly rod record was 5 pounds and 24 inches, caught on November 26, 1999 from Galveston Bay on a Clouser minnow. The state gig record is 14.5 pounds and 34.5 inches, set on December 10 2002.

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