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Redfish Caught



For more pictures and the story about this redfish that was caught off of Cedar Key on Saturday afternoon (Jan. 8), please visit the [LEISURE PAGE](#).

Photo by Capt. Kyle Carasea © Jan. 10, 2016 @ 11:27 p.m.

Fantastic fishing trip outshines dismal weather



Jeff Hardison holds an 18-inch long redfish that he caught on Saturday afternoon (Jan. 9)

Photo by Capt. Kyle Carasea © Jan. 20, 2016 @ 11:17 p.m.

By The Phantom Fish Story Writer © Jan. 10, 2015 @ 11:17 p.m.

GULF OF MEXICO -- Capt. Kyle Carasea took Bob Tremberger and Jeff M. Hardison on a four-hour inshore fishing adventure Saturday (Jan. 10).

The outstanding venture in search of trout and redfish overcame any misgivings that some may have had due to something other than sunny and blue skies.

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Bob Tremberger holds the first trout that was big enough to keep. Capt. Kyle Carasea is seen in the background.

The trip was enjoyed on relatively calm waters in the Gulf of Mexico, never venturing so far as to lose sight of the western edge of Levy County's Cedar Key. The temperature was in the high 60-degree Fahrenheit range, and the sky remained overcast from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with a bit of a drizzle of rain at the very end of the fishing expedition.

On Saturday, Tremberger caught two trout that could be kept and Hardison caught one redfish that could be kept. All of the not-quite big enough fish were returned to the Gulf.

HardisonInk.com financed the fishing adventure by being the winning bidder on the trip that was donated to the Cedar Key Chamber for its annual fundraising auction during Labor Day Weekend. The trip was donated to the Chamber by Hooked Up Charters.

Hooked Up Charters is based in Cedar Key Marina, 12780 State Road 24, and it has

another launching point at the dock stand closest to the boat ramp leading directly into the Gulf of Mexico near to Cedar Key City Park.

This half-day charter turned out to be in the best possible weather, though, because the threat of rain kept almost every other boat out of the area. It also made it so that none of the men on the water needed to be concerned about sunscreen.

During the debriefing and interview of the lead fisherman, he waxed philosophical while maintaining his inimitable positive outlook. Hardison told about the previous day's excursion across the waters close to various islands in the Cedar Key area.

A GREAT FISHING TRIP

"It was another one of those great fishing trips," Hardison said. "Bob, Capt. Kyle and I began our trip with a search for trout. Capt. Kyle cast my first line into the water on one of the many shallow grassy areas. I am only counting half of that first trout I caught as being my catch, because the captain cast the lure right into that trout's mouth. I caught three or four trout, but none of them reached the minimum keeper length of 15 inches. So they were all released.

"The good captain took us to several places over various underwater grass flats and we caught enough trout to make me happy," Hardison said. "Bob caught two that were long enough to keep. I know he wanted to go home with a redfish that day, though."

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Bob Tremberger (left) holds the second keeper trout that he caught as Jeff Hardison stands next to him at the bow of the boat.

The fishermen used a variety of lures and baits.

Capt. Carasea moved the fishermen from place to place in a constant search of a mother-load of fish. As far as quantity of fish, the men did not limit-out, however, the overall trip was excellent thanks to the guiding of Capt. Carasea.

Interestingly, the engine on this boat did not have a propeller and did not chop up the grass flats. The boat was powered much like a jet ski. This also allowed it to run in very, very shallow water.



Beautiful driftwood is seen near one of the islands the fishermen passed on the way out to grassy flats looking for trout.

Hardison and Tremberger had fun shooting the breeze about various fish stories and the like, and they enjoyed drinks they brought in coolers on the boat. There was plenty of room to move around and the fishermen never crossed lines.

The fishing team saw very few other vessels in the Gulf of Mexico near them on Saturday,

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probably because other fishermen perceived the weather as being uninviting for catching fish. The sun never broke through the clouds and it seemed to become cooler in the afternoon. At about 2:45 p.m., a very light rain began dropping out of the sky and the men returned to the marina.

“I joked with Bob that since this fishing trip was part of the weeks of celebration of my 60th birthday,” Hardison said, “all of the other boaters agreed to stay out of the Gulf. He pointed out a boat later in the afternoon, and I said that captain did not read the memo.”



Using a long lens on the small fishing camera, Hardison sees some birds among the driftwood. Hardison wore his fishing shirt, jeans, fishing sneakers, fishing eyeglasses, a shing pocketknife and he carried business cards in his fishing business card carrying case. 'I left my cell phone off the boat,' he said, 'because even though I was not planning to jump overboard at any point, the potential to get wet is something to consider.'

Hardison was very happy with the redfish he caught.

“Capt. Kyle took us to some of his channel bass (redfish) areas,” Hardison said. “These were near various channels that run through the Gulf – off of Cedar Key and other neighboring islands. Bob caught two or three reds, but they were all a bit shy of the 18-inch minimum.

“I caught the first keeper,” Hardison said. “It was only 18 inches long. I chose to keep it. If we had been in a giant redfish frenzy, then “Little Spot” or “Bassy,” or whatever this fish was named, would have been released back to the wild. I was thinking about deep-frying some fish, though, and this one was big enough to keep.”

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Capt. Kyle Carasea holds some of his quickly fileted fish.

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Pelicans wait for scraps from the fishermen.



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When the men returned to Cedar Key Marina, the captain -- who is certified by the U.S. Coast Guard -- fileted the fish and put the filets in plastic bags. Pelicans waiting at the marina ate the fish parts that were not part of the filets. Tremberger took home the trout filets, and Hardison went home with the redfish filet.

"I really was impressed by this fishing guide," Hardison said. "He took us to places where we caught trout and redfish. And he even cleaned the fish for us when we returned to the marina."

HardisonInk.com bid on this trip, he explained, to help the Cedar Key Chamber of Commerce. This trip was also to provide a half-day of relaxing fishing for the company owner.

"My first choice of a friend to go fishing with me was Robin Thackrey," Hardison said. "He needed to stay in Pinellas County at this time. So, I invited my neighbor Bob Tremberger. I know Bob likes to fish because he has invited me to go fishing with him before."

The six Chambers to which *HardisonInk.com* belonged in 2015 are Cedar Key, Chiefland, Dixie County, Gilchrist County, Inglis and Yankeetown (Withlacochee Gulf Area) and Williston.

"As for me," Hardison said. "I will do what I can to help other local business interests, like the one I own. I think 2016 will show continued growth in the economy of the Tri-County Area. I am very much in favor of the American system of free enterprise. *HardisonInk.com* is an excellent place to advertise businesses and other institutions."