

## The Villages Deep Sea Fishing Club September 2, 2024

President Ken Jagodzinski called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 112 members in attendance.

### **Gag Grouper & Snook season openings**

President Ken shared that the Gag Grouper & Snook season in the Gulf of Mexico was now open. He added that the Gag Grouper season will only be 15 days in duration starting September 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on September 16, 2024. He encouraged members to get their trips booked early as demand for trips will be robust.

### **Discounts at Plantation Resort in Crystal River**

The sales team at the Plantation Resort in Crystal River is offering our members a discounted rate for overnight accommodations. If you are fishing a charter and want to avoid an early morning drive or merely want to get away for a day or two, check out their offer. [CLICK HERE](#) for a discounted booking link. .

### **Amendment 2 on November ballot**

President Ken reminded members that Amendment 2 [**A2**] on November's ballot proposes an amendment to the Florida State Constitution to preserve forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. **A2** specifies that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section of Article IV of the State Constitution.

The proposed **A2** contains two provisions. One would provide and preserve forever a state constitutional right to hunt and fish. The second would declare that hunting and fishing are the preferred means of "responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife."

There are groups on each side of this Amendment. [CLICK HERE](#) to read an overview.

After review and discussion, your Club recommends a **YES** vote for Amendment 2. You decide!

### **Fishing Trip Coordinator reports**

Coordinator reports highlighted current fishing reports and openings for July trips. Presenters included Jim Scheer, John Hogan, Joe Cicman, Dave Easton, Bruce Speck and Steve Newman.

### **New Captain Vetting Process**

Vice President Gaylon Thompson shared the Club's process for bringing on new Captains before allowing them to offer charter trips to our members. According to Gaylon, "this is an essential step to make sure Captains have a valid and current Captain's license with the State

of Florida and adequate insurance.” A review of the Captain’s experience, equipment and reputation are also considered. Once all documentation has been provided to the Club, a determination is made. The Club receives frequent requests from Captains to offer charters to our members. This process seeks to maintain a level of quality that our members have come to expect. If you know of any Captain interested in offering charters to the Club, seek out Gaylon to ask about the review process.

### **NEW members**

Dave Easton welcomed 7 new members that signed up at the meeting. All new members were asked to stand and introduce themselves. Dave invited the new members to stay for a brief orientation meeting following the regular meeting.

### **Open Forum**

There were several members that spoke during this Open Forum segment this month.

### **Financial Report**

Treasurer Steve Newman gave the financial report.

### **Guest Speaker – Member Charlie Pryde**

President Ken introduced Charlie Pryde who showcased his YouTube video of the recent trip to Venice, LA fishing for Yellow Fin Tuna. Charlie shared the uniqueness of this trip and answered questions as there was good member interest.

### **100% Raffle**

Club member Chuck Ogle led the club raffle of eight (6) \$50 vouchers that can be used on any Club trip. Congratulations to the winners. Chuck also led the second chance raffle.

Next meeting is Monday, October 7, 2024 at Everglades Recreation Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 PM.