

THE DELPHI CLUB

ABACO ISLAND, BAHAMAS



The Fly Shop

TACKLE & OUTFITTING GUIDE

GPS Coordinates: 26°12'17.62"N | 77°10'44.56"W

WWW.THEFLYSHOP.COM



Trip Questionnaire: Please click on the link below. This will take you an electronic questionnaire form that we ask you to complete and submit to The Fly Shop. Please be sure to click the **“Submit”** button at the end of the form. The information provided will help us -- and the outfitter best coordinate your trip.

THANK YOU!! Click [HERE](#)

Getting to The Delphi Club

Unlike the majority of other islands in the Bahamas it is possible to fly directly to Marsh Harbour from the U.S. mainland. While it is also possible to fly via Nassau, a direct flight from Florida is by far the easiest.

Major commercial carriers fly directly to Marsh Harbour, from several Florida airports:

American Airlines flies to Marsh Harbour from Miami:

(800) 433-7300 | www.aa.com

United flies to Marsh Harbour from Ft. Lauderdale, West Palm Beach and Orlando:

(800) 864-8331 | www.united.com

Bahamas Air flies to Marsh Harbour from Ft. Lauderdale:

(800) 222-4262 | www.bahamasair.com

Air Gate flies to Marsh Harbour from Daytona Beach and Smyrna:

www.flyairgate.com

Sky Bahamas flies to Marsh Harbour from Ft. Lauderdale:

<http://www.skybahamas.net>

For larger groups, a private or shared charter can be an easy and cost efficient option:

Cherokee Air flies to Marsh Harbour from the West Palm Beach Exec. Terminal:

(866) 920-9971 | www.cherokeear.com

Air Flight Charters flies to Marsh Harbour from Ft. Lauderdale Jet Center:

www.airflightcharters.com

There are several local carriers that fly between Nassau and Marsh Harbour, including:

Bahamas Air:

(800) 222-4262 | www.bahamasair.com

Western Air:

(242) 377-2222 | www.westernairbahamas.com

Sky Bahamas:

(242) 377-8993 | www.skybahamas.net

For more information about flights from Nassau to Marsh Harbour, please visit this website: <http://flights.bahamago.com/>

On arrival at Marsh Harbour you will be met by a lodge representative, who will transfer you to the lodge. It is a short 10-minute drive and the cost is included in the package.



When you arrive at the lodge, the welcoming staff will greet you and show you to your room.

There is no organized fishing scheduled for your arrival day, but this can be arranged prior to arrival. If not you may spend the day either wade fishing in front of the lodge, or relaxing in the pool with a refreshing drink. Our staff would be happy to help you assemble your gear if you do choose to fish.

On your departure day, you will be taken back to Marsh Harbour with plenty of time to catch your flight. The Delphi Club manager will assist you with timing your departure from the lodge the night before.

Travel Documents:

You will need a valid passport, 2 pages and copy of your return ticket to enter the Bahamas. No Visa is required for US or UK passengers, but other nationalities should check with their local consulate.

Contacts

The Delphi Club at Rolling Harbour

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General Information

Insects on Abaco:

Mosquitoes and “doctor flies” in the Bahamas are always a possibility. Wearing long pants and long sleeved shirts is your best protection, and insect repellent (with DEET) will deter these bugs. Pesky “No See’ums” may come out at dawn and dusk, especially when the winds are calm. A light pair of socks with your pants tucked in will eliminate any bites.

Clothing & Sun Protection:

Abaco may be the most informal place on the planet Earth. Comfortable, casual wear is accepted and encouraged. Flip-flops, sandals, shorts, T-shirts...casual is king. Expect air temperatures in the mid-80s during the days and high 60s to low 70s in the evening and early mornings. We recommend long-sleeved shirts and long pants while on the flats. Apply a waterproof sunblock of at least 30 SPF to all exposed skin including your ears and lips each morning. Re-apply occasionally throughout the day and consider wearing a wide-brimmed hat and/or Buff. After applying sunscreen, scrub your hands with a scoop of sand and water as bonefish can smell lotion on your fly resulting in refusals. Applying sunscreen with the back of your hands minimizes transferring sunscreen to your fly and leader.

Personal Gear:

You’ll need an assortment of personal gear for your days on the flats, and a boat bag to keep them in.

**Boat Bags:**

Your boat bag will contain all your gear for the day in the boat and in transfer to and from the dock. Anglers often prefer some organizing dividers inside, and quick access pouches on the outside. It needs to be large enough to hold your rain jacket, fly boxes, sunscreen, extra leaders and tippet, camera, and back up glasses and fly lines. Fishpond, Patagonia and Simms offer quality boat bags.

Wading Pack:

You may be wading for hours and the boat will be just a speck on the horizon. Be sure to bring a wading pack to carry your flies, leaders, tippet, clippers, a water bottle, snack bars, camera, etc. The design is your choice, with sling, fanny and backpack the most common. Fishpond, Patagonia, and Simms offer proven models in these designs.

Tools:

Pliers, hemostats, leader snips, hook sharpener, and release tool.

Rain Gear:

Lightweight and breathable is the best for warm climates. Bring your rain gear with you on the boat everyday no matter how clear it looks. Squalls pop up quickly and the boat ride can be wet.

Sunglasses:

Polarized glasses with amber or copper lenses are the most popular for flats fishing, and having an extra pair in your boat bag is a darn good idea.

Health Concerns:

As always, check with your personal doctor about any health concerns you may have. You do not need any inoculations to travel to the Bahamas. If you have a health condition, please make sure to bring ALL the medication you will require for your stay. Please notify us of any health conditions or concerns we should be aware of. You can do this with the Pre-Trip Questionnaire. The lodge has a basic first aid supply but do bring any item you think you might need. As with all destination travel, you should be covered by a Health and Travel insurance plan. There is an efficient Air Ambulance service available for serious emergencies. The service evacuates to Fort Lauderdale or West Palm Beach, and it is very costly. We recommend you always buy private travel insurance before any trip to cover you in case of an emergency.

Important:

Please make your flight accommodations as soon as possible to secure seats and the best fare and let us know your air and hotel travel plans enroute to the lodge.

Communications:

The Club has cell phone coverage, but not all foreign networks have reciprocal agreements with the Bahamas telephone company, so yours might not work. If in doubt, check with your service provider. They do have Wi-Fi at the lodge.

Currency:

The local currency is the Bahamian dollar, but US dollars are readily accepted everywhere on a 1-for-1 basis.

Electricity:

The electrical outlets are AC 110 volts (same as the U.S.) and most appliances will work fine. Make sure that you have plenty of spare batteries for cameras and other small appliances, as the cost for replacements in the Bahamas is high.

**Visas:**

Visas are not required for citizens of the EU, USA or most Commonwealth countries. For others countries, refer to the official website www.thebahamasguide.com/travel/visa.htm

Gratuities:

All tipping is entirely discretionary. For guidance, it is usual to pay \$25 per guest per night for household staff and \$100 per boat per day for guides, shared by those in the skiff.

Payments on Site:

Guests are actively encouraged to settle their accounts at the end of their stay using cash dollars (to avoid the exorbitant charges levied by Bahamian banks for credit card payments). The Club does, however, accept Visa & MasterCard, but not American Express.

Weather:

Cooled by the prevailing south-easterly trade winds in the summer and warmed by the surrounding waters and the Gulf Stream in the cooler months, Grand Bahama is rarely uncomfortably hot or cold.....Although similar in latitude to Palm Beach, Florida, the winter temperatures average 10° (F) warmer than Florida and the summer highs are generally somewhat lower than those found on similar Florida latitudes due to the moderating effects of the surrounding waters. The average daily highs and lows rarely differ by more than 12 degrees (F), with monthly rainfall averaging about 2 inches in the winter and 6 inches in the summer, primarily in the '20-minutes-and-they're-gone' afternoon showers. The Bahamas weather is generally most benign. The summer months can be hot and humid, with occasional heavy tropical rains that, in general, pass over rapidly. Breezy weather in other months can affect fishing quality, as can the occasional cool or cloudy front in the winter. As with any fishing, one can be unlucky with conditions. But bad weather rarely lasts for more than a few days. Hurricanes in Abaco are rare but possible. The official hurricane season is from June to November, but August and September are generally seen as the months of highest risk and the Club is generally closed at that time.

Fishing Notes

The main target is bonefish. For these wonderful sporting fish, the Club generally applies a fly-fishing only rule, on a catch-and-release basis using barbless hooks. Exceptions are sometimes made for complete beginners.

There are some permit at various times of year and occasional small tarpon. Fishing for shark, barracuda & other species is also popular and the fly-only rule does not apply, although fly fishing is encouraged for them too.

Fishermen leave the lodge at 8.00am and are normally back by 4.30pm (or 1.30 on half days). Fishermen are provided with a picnic lunch cool box and their selection of drinks, whether full or half days. Fishermen normally fish in pairs with a guide. Single occupancy of a boat may be available at extra charge.

The Club boats (Dolphin 16ft skiffs with 40hp Yamaha motors) have padded seats, a leaning bar on the casting platform and dry storage lockers, as well as radios & GPS locators.



The great majority of the fishing is from boats, but there may be opportunities for wading, especially at Cherokee Sound. Most of the fishing, however, is normally on the west side of Abaco in the famous Marls, where wading is less easy. Bonefish and other species are sometimes also caught right off the Club beach.

The Club guides – and the launch points for the boats – are rotated during the week to provide maximum diversity of scenery and opportunity. It is not possible to reserve specific guides, but all the Club's guides are highly competent professionals. Boat launch points are normally just 10-20 minutes away from the Club, although we sometimes range further afield.

The Club shop has plenty of local fly patterns but no monopoly of wisdom, so bring all your bonefish and other saltwater flies.

They have rental gear – mostly Hardy saltwater rods & reels - available at \$25 per day.

A Day at The Delphi Club

The typical trip does not fish on arrival or departure, but if time allows and guides are available, half-day trips can be arranged prior to getting here. Typically, you'll be shuttled from the airport to the lodge where you can check into your room, prepare gear, and spend an afternoon relaxing on the lodge grounds.

- 6:30 am Coffee ready on the buffet table
- 7:15 am Breakfast
- 8:00 am Depart with your guide for a full day of fishing
- 4:00 - 4:30 pm return to lodge
- 6:15 pm Cocktail hour with appetizers
- 7:30 pm Dinner is served

Other Activities & Day Trips

Unlike some other bone-fishing destinations, Abaco has a very good tourism infrastructure and offers a wealth of attractive options for day trips, many of them involving boat rides. The outer cays, with their charming colonial settlements such as Hope Town and Green Turtle Cay, are easily reached by ferries from Marsh Harbour and Treasure Cay respectively and make for pleasant day trips.

Big game fishing charters are available in Marsh Harbour and golf is available at Treasure Cay and sometimes, by special arrangement, at the superb Winding Bay course. The Club has close links with excellent scuba diving instructors and snorkeling guides. Abaco has some wonderful reefs.

There is an excellent guide for birding and nature tours who is a mine of information about Abaco's bird life, flora and fauna. Advanced booking is recommended. For more information on the local wildlife, see our fascinating sister website <http://rollingharbour.wordpress.com>.

Laundry:

There is laundry service at the lodge, so you can pack light.

Off-Shore Fishing:

In addition to the wonderful flats, Abaco has incredible blue water fishing. We are happy to coordinate a day, or two, with the best captains available. On these outings we are in search of marlin, sailfish, dorado, wahoo,



and tuna, depending on the season. Arrangements can be made at the lodge, but the best captains book early and we recommend you do as well. There will be an additional charge for this type of fishing.

Fishing at the Delphi Club:

The majority of the fishing is done from the boat, but wading opportunities exist if you prefer. Runs to the flats vary from 10 to 45 minutes. The Club boats are Hell's Bay skiffs, and have padded seats, a leaning bar on the casting platform and dry storage lockers, as well as radios & GPS locators.

The bonefish on the Marls average 2-4 pounds with the occasional shot at bigger fish. The ocean side flats offer opportunities at some of the largest bonefish in the Bahamas, some pushing the ten pound mark. There are the occasional shots at permit, tarpon, barracuda, jacks, and sharks, and we recommend you bring the appropriate tackle just in case. Rigging a few rods and being ready for permit, bonefish and other species is the way to go. The guides – and the launch points for the boats – are rotated during the week to provide maximum diversity of scenery and opportunity. The Club's guides are highly competent, experienced professionals. Boat launch points are normally just 10-20 minutes away via auto from the Club, although a few launches require a bit more driving time.

Tackle & Equipment

Multiple Rods:

We strongly suggest that you have a few fly rods strung-up, handy and ready to fish. Although Andros is primarily a bonefish destination, and depending on the season, there are opportunities to fish for barracuda, jacks, snappers, permit and tarpon. If you have three or four rods, bring them with you. Have the rods ready to fish, one with a bonefish fly, and another with a permit crab, or maybe a 'cuda fly, and another with a tarpon streamer or shark fly. If you are wading the flats, have your guide take one of the other rods along. At the least, it will double as a great fish pointer.

Bonefish Tackle

The primary focus of fishing South Andros is sight fishing for bonefish. On the average, bonefish will be in the 3 - 5 pound range. Smaller bonefish tend to swim together in large schools, a natural defense against sharks, barracudas and other predators. Large bonefish generally travel alone or in pairs. We have found that most times when fishing to big schools of moving bonefish, the largest fish tend to be in the back of the pack. Bonefish are active feeders and a variety of flies and fishing strategies are effective in taking them.

Rods:

We strongly suggest 9', 4 piece travel rods in 7, 8 and 9 weights. Fast action rods that generate high line speed are the most popular, and rods that have been especially designed for the rigors of saltwater fly-fishing are the best choice. In that category, we like the Sage, Scott, and Winston rods. Traveling with a spare rod is always good idea.

Reels:

Reels designed for saltwater fly fishing are important. Features to look for are smooth drags, sufficient backing capacity, and a machined, anodized aluminum, one-piece frame. Large arbor reels are a great choice, quickly retrieving line and backing. Proven saltwater reels are manufactured by Abel, Ross, Hatch, and Galvan.

Lines:

A weight forward floating line designed for the tropics is extremely important. Scientific Anglers Bonefish and Redfish Warm are excellent lines, as well as the Rio Flats Pro series. These lines are specifically designed for saltwater fly fishing and have a specifically designed core that provides the proper stiffness to allow



excellent shooting while resisting tangles, even in tropical heat. They are extremely accurate lines, and the running portion is a large diameter and floats on top of the water, making it a pleasure for wade fishing. Traveling with a back-up fly line is strongly suggested. It weighs almost nothing, takes up little space in your luggage, and won't spoil before your next trip.

Flats Boots & Socks:

There are daily opportunities to get out of the boat and wade the flats. If you prefer wading, your guide can have you on foot most of the day. This means that you'll need a pair of quality flats boot for both foot protection and comfort. Quality boots that fit well are important, and proven models are made by Simms. Simms lightweight neoprene socks will add an additional layer of protection, absorbing the friction from sand that gets inside your boots.

Leaders & Tippet:

We typically fish 9' - 12' tapered saltwater leaders made from clear monofilament or fluorocarbon, with 12 - 20 lb. test the most popular choices. 12lb. leaders are common, but there are situations where you want to go heavier, 16lb. or 20lb, making the release quick and easy.

Both nylon and fluorocarbon leaders are popular among bonefish aficionados, with each having their specific properties. Nylon sinks slower than fluorocarbon and could be a good choice for presenting to fish in extremely shallow water. Fluorocarbon is less visible and more abrasion resistant, possibly the best as your last few feet of tippet.

Bonefish Flies:

Experienced anglers typically agree that having the right fly can make the difference between a good trip and a great one. Having a broad selection of bonefish flies will help to ensure that you have a successful trip. An important aspect of fly selection is sink rate. When tying or purchasing bonefish flies, vary the sink rate of your flies by including some with no eyes, bead chain eyes, and lead barbell eyes. This allows you to fish different depths of water and to fish tailing fish and cruising fish.

As a general rule, use light colored flies on a sand bottom, and dark colored flies on turtle grass or rubble bottoms. On the flats, high visibility can turn any creature into prey. Most prey on bonefish flats are well camouflaged. Try smaller flies for fish that are spooky or tailing on shallow flats in calm weather conditions. On deeper flats, or in windy conditions, larger flies work well, especially on fish that are cruising fast. Larger flies should typically be cast further away from bonefish.

Subtle earth tone flies often work best on sunny, bright days in shallow water when bonefish are spooky. Bright flies generally work best on cloudy or overcast days.

Year after year the Gotcha has proven to be a go to fly, spawning a number of effective variations including the Beck's Sili Legs. Spawning and Mantis shrimp patterns are important flies on South Andros, and it seems like every guide and angler has their favorite patterns.

Bring your favorite Gotchas, spawning shrimp and crab patterns, in white, pink, pearl, brown, and tan in sizes 2, 4 and 6. Include weighted flies for fishing the deeper edges and high tides, and unweighted flies for fish in skinny water. You may need to change the pearl Gotcha that worked all morning to a Spawning Mantis in the afternoon.

With these thoughts in mind, we have prepared a list of flies with which we have found success.

Bonefish Flies:

- Gotcha - #2, 4 & 6
- Orange Butt Gotcha - #4, 6



- Shallow Water Clouser - #6, tan/white, & chartreuse/white
- Mini Puff - #4 & 6, pink & tan
- E.P. Spawning Shrimp - #4, Bead chain and lead eyes, tan and translucent
- Borski's Bonefish Slider - #2, 4
- Squimp - #2, 6
- Miheves Flats Fly - #6
- Beck's Silli-Legs - #6, tan
- Bonefish Junk - #2, 4, 6
- Spawning Mantis - # 2, 4, 6
- Sandy's Cracked Crab - #4
- Raghead Crab - #6, tan

Tarpon Tackle

Although bonefish are what most fly fishers are chasing in the Bahamas, tarpon are available. Tarpon in the Bahamas are most often seen in and around creek, freshwater springs and blue holes. Most tarpon in the Bahamas range in size between 30 - 60 pounds. Big tarpon, up to and over 100 pounds, are often sighted in the spring and summer. If you own a 10, 11 or 12 weight rods, bring it to Andros if you intend to hunt tarpon.

Rods:

Fast action 9', 4 piece travel rods in 10, 11, & 12 weights are standard. The Sage, Scott, and Winston rods are excellent choices.

Reels:

A heavy-duty saltwater reel is a must here. Look for a reel with a smooth drag, plenty of backing capacity, and a sturdy one-piece, machined, aluminum anodized frame. Models to consider are built by Hardy, Abel, Galvan, Ross and Hatch.

Lines:

Ninety percent of tarpon fishing is done with a weight forward floating line and the Scientific Anglers Mastery Tarpon Taper is one of the best. A good second choice in a tarpon line is a full sinking intermediate line, and we fish the S.A. Sonar in this situation.

Leaders:

Leaders for tarpon can be simple, or complex. The knots used in building class tippet tarpon leaders take some practice to learn, and it can be very rewarding to acquire those skills. We often build a simple tarpon leader with 8 foot of 40# fluorocarbon followed by 2 feet of 60#, 80#, or 100# bite tippet. You can also purchase Hand-Tied Tarpon Leaders from Rio.

If you would like to tie your own tarpon leaders, some good reference books are Lefty Krey's "Fly Fishing in Saltwater" and "Practical Fishing Knots by Lefty Kreh and Mark Sosin." We like to use clear, stiff monofilament or fluorocarbon when constructing our class leaders.

Tarpon Flies:

In general, tarpon flies for the Bahamas should be tied on 1/0 through 3/0 size hooks. Slight variations in shape and color can be all that is needed to entice tarpon into striking. Flies to consider are:

- Tarpon Rabbit Toad - #1/0; purple/black, tan, chartreuse
- Cockroach - #1/0 & 4/0
- Bigeye Tarpon - #3/0; orange/grizzly, sand devil, yellow



- Black Death - #3/0
- Tarpon Toad - #2/0; yellow, chartreuse, red/black

Permit Tackle

There are very few permit on Andros. However, they are occasionally seen so if you want to have a rod rigged up, below is what we suggest. Permit in the Bahamas range in size from 3 - 30 pounds. Most often you will sight permit in deeper water (4 to 6 feet), along the edge flats or at the top of a high tide change. We recommend taking a 9 or 10 weight rod if you are after permit and having it rigged and ready in the boat.

Rods:

We suggest 9', 4 piece travel rods in 9 or 10 weights. We like fast tapered fly rods that generate high line speed. Rods that have been especially designed for the rigors of saltwater fly-fishing are the best choice. In that category we like rods built by Sage, Scott, and Winston.

Reels:

Fly reels specifically designed for saltwater fly fishing are important. Features to look for in reels are smooth drags, plenty of backing capacity, and a sturdy, machined, aluminum, one-piece anodized frame. Large arbor reels are a great choice and take up line and backing very quickly. Reels to consider include those built by Hardy, Abel, Galvan, Ross and Hatch.

Lines:

The Scientific Anglers and Rio saltwater floating lines are a couple of our favorite permit lines. They cast permit crab and shrimp flies with ease, and both are very accurate.

Leaders:

Fluorocarbon leaders are your best choice for permit as they are virtually invisible in water, and highly abrasion resistant. Fluorocarbon 9' leaders and tippet in 16 & 20 lb. test are standard.

Permit Flies:

There are a lot of permit flies marketed these days, and here are a few of them that have hooked permit.

- Squimp - #2; tan
- Raghead Crab - #2; tan, olive
- Contraband Crab #2, 4; olive, tan
- Casa Blanca Raghead Crab - #2; tan, white
- Avalon Permit - #2
- Puglisi's Spawning Shrimp - #4; tan, translucent
- Puglisi's Bead Chain Spawning Shrimp - #4; tan

Barracuda & Jacks

Barracuda in the Bahamas get big, and they are very aggressive. They attack a fly at an unbelievable rate of speed, and often skyrocket into the air when hooked. When hooked, few fish can match a 'cudas initial run for speed and sheer violence...hold on!

Jacks are very fast, pull like a freight train, and will destroy both surface poppers and streamers. Watching them blow up on your popper while you strip it as fast as you can is a sight to remember. Endurance is their strong point, and no jack gives up without a fight that you will remember.

**Rods:**

Flies for these fish are often large streamers and poppers, so 9', 4 piece travel rod in 9 or 10 weights are good choices. Your permit rod is also a barracuda rod. Fast tapered rods that generate good line speed like those built by Sage, Scott and Winston are good choices.

Reels:

Fly reels specifically designed for saltwater fly fishing are important. The same reel that you brought for permit, your 9 or 10 weight, will perform well for barracuda fishing.

Leaders:

Leaders for barracuda and jacks can be simple. We often build a leader with 8 foot of 40# fluorocarbon for jacks, and add a bite tippet of 40 lb. Rio Powerflex Wire Bite Tippet or Scientific Anglers Wire Tippet for barracuda.

Flies for Barracuda & Jacks:

- In-Shore Popper – #3/0; chartreuse
- Tandem Cuda Fly - #2/0
- Cuda Killer – #4/0

Bonefish Behavior

Bonefish are the target species on Abaco Island, and have three basic modes of behavior.

Feeding Fish:

Bonefish feed on the bottom, and through the water column. While feeding on very shallow flats their dorsal fins and shimmering tails are often visible out of the water. While bonefish are feeding, the condition of the surface of the water affects their feeling of security. Bonefish are more nervous in calm water. Conditions determine how best to present the fly. On most days there is a light wind chop on the water's surface and presenting the fly three to five feet in front of them is successful. On very calm days the fly should be cast further from the fish and stripped back into his area of awareness.

Mudding Fish:

During the warmer months very large schools of bonefish will often back off the shoreline into 3 to 8 feet of cooler water. While feeding on the bottom they stir up silt, creating a visible cloud of mud. This cloud of mud moves as the bonefish feed, making them feel quite secure because they are not visible to predators. Fishing muds can be an excellent experience for beginners, allowing them to have repeated opportunities to hook and handle multiple bonefish.

Traveling Fish:

Traveling bonefish are intent on changing location, typically quite aware of their surroundings and not necessarily interested in feeding. When casting to traveling bonefish, present your fly well ahead of the fish and let it settle. When the fish is in range of seeing the fly, make a few short strips showing the fly to the fish, and let it settle again to the bottom. Hopefully the fish will stop and feed in your fly.

Bonefishing Technique:

On the flats and fishing from the skiff, your guide will be standing on the platform and poling the boat while scanning for fish. You will be standing on the casting deck with your rod in one hand and your fly in the other.

Another method will be wading the flats. When wading, walk slowly and stop often to look for fish. If you see the fish moving in a specific direction, move quietly into position so you will be able to present the fly in front the fish. You usually have more time than you think to make a precise presentation.

Bonefish are almost always moving, and movement is often the first sign of fish. From the skiff, scan the water slowly from side to side, within the range that you can cast. The guide will be looking further out, responsible for finding fish at a distance and poling the boat into good casting position. Look for the flash of an exposed tail, nervous water, a wave or wake on top of the water, or the dark shadow of a cruising fish. When casting to a fish that is moving towards you, land the fly in front of the fish, let it sink while the fish moves towards it, and begin stripping when the fish is close to the fly.

Typically, the guide will see the fish before you, and will put the boat in position for your cast. You will hear him direct you to the fish by saying something like “10 o’clock, 40 feet, going left”. Point your rod where you think he is directing you, and he will often help by saying, “more left” or “more right”, and tell you when to cast.

If you do not see the fish, do not cast until your guide asks you to. He will put the boat in position for the cast, tell you how far to cast and in which direction, and when to cast. Follow his directions in when to begin stripping your fly.

After you cast, let the fly sink to the bottom and make your first strips long and slow to get the fishes attention. Now you are going to “read the fish” by observing its behavior. If it moves quickly to your fly and stops, it probably ate your fly. Make a long strip to set the hook. If there is no resistance, stop, let the fly sink, and begin stripping again. If you do feel resistance, pull on your line to set the hook without lifting your rod, and prepare to “clear your line” as the fish runs. The first run often takes all the line quickly off the deck, and it is important that you guide the line off the deck and onto the reel. Your drag has been preset, so hold your rod tip high and enjoy the run! Occasionally the fish will turn and run towards you. If you can’t strip fast enough to keep a tight line, push your rod tip into the water and the drag of the fish pulling the line through the water will keep tension on the hook. Bonefish have tough mouths and having sharp hooks is important. Check your hook point regularly by pulling it across your thumb nail. If it digs into your nail, it’s sharp. If it drags across your nail without sticking, it’s time to sharpen the point.

Be certain to pinch down the barbs on your hooks. This makes it easier to release fish with minimal handling, and also minimizes the risk of injury to yourself and others.

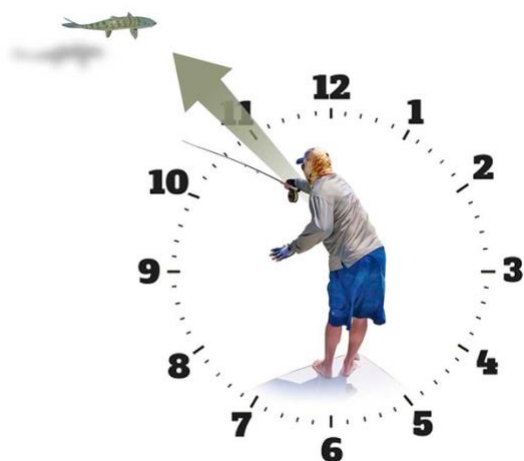
You & Your Guide are a Team:

Please introduce yourself and get to know your guide. Discuss which species you want to fish, how you want to fish (wading or from the boat), your abilities and fishing experience.

Encourage your guide to guide check your equipment, knots, leaders, tippet material, flies, rod and reel, etc.

When you first step up on the casting platform, strip out some line and make a short cast as the guide watches. Ask the guide how far you just cast. Next, make a medium cast. Then, make a long cast. Make sure you are both agreeing in judging distance.

On the flats, the guide will often spot fish before you. When this happens, your guide will refer the numbers on a





clock to give you the fish's general direction. For example, the bow on the boat would represent 12:00 o'clock. Perpendicular to the boat off of your right is 3:00 o'clock; perpendicular to the boat off your left is 9:00 o'clock, etc. In addition to the direction, the guide will also refer to the distance and the direction that the fish is swimming. For example: "1:00 o'clock --- 50 feet, going left".

If your guide spots a fish and you do not see it, don't cast until you see that fish. Point your rod in front of you as if a pointer on a chalk board and have your guide direct your rod to where he sees the fish. Your guide might say, "2 o'clock, more right, keep going, stop!" That is where you should concentrate your vision and again do not cast until you see the fish, or your guide instructs you to do so.

Setting the hook in saltwater fishing is very different from what most of us have learned in freshwater. You want to learn and practice the "Strip" strike or set. This is not done by lifting the rod tip as in trout fishing, but by keeping your rod pointed at the fish and pulling on the line, or stripping. In this way, the hook is either buried in the fish with the static line driving the hook, or at least the fly will remain in front of the fish for another chance. Lifting the rod tip will likely pull the hook out of the mouth of the fish without a hookup and spook the fish from the area.

Bonefish evolved their incredible burst speed to avoid being eaten by predators. Since they are the favorite food of sharks and barracuda it is very important to release them in good condition and give them a strong chance to survive. Please be careful when handling bonefish and be sure to fight the fish quickly. If it has been a long difficult battle, please consider taking photos of the fish only in the water. Trophy bonefish are old fish and what makes the fishery special, so please take good care of them. We hope all anglers realize that the release is more important than a photo.

We do not recommend ultra-light leaders and long fights with loose drags that tire the fish excessively. Leader should not be lighter than 12 lb. and we recommend 16 and even 20 lb. leaders.

For photographs, please revive the fish before removing it from the water for the photograph and please keep the fish out of the water for as short a time as possible. Handle the fish with clean, wet hands as little as possible. Please allow your guide to take the time to revive the fish before releasing.

We follow the recommendations of Bonefish & Tarpon Trust's "Best Practices for Bonefish Catch & Release". <https://www.bonefishtarpontrust.org/education-outreach-bonefish-catch-release/>



The Delphi Club Clothing & Equipment Checklist

- ___ Hat with bill & neck protection
- ___ Polarized sunglasses (2 pair)
- ___ Buff® neck gaiter
- ___ Long sleeve fishing shirts
- ___ Evening wear shirts
- ___ Raingear (lightweight for thunder showers or wet boat rides)
- ___ Wading pants
- ___ Sun gloves
- ___ Shorts & swimsuit
- ___ Wading socks (we recommend the Simms light neoprene socks)
- ___ Wading shoes or booties (should have heavy sole for maximum protection)
- ___ Sandals or flip flops
- ___ Belt
- ___ Sunscreen SPF 30+ UVA/UVB
- ___ SPF Lip balm
- ___ Insect repellent (DEET as the active ingredient is best)
- ___ Line dressing & cleaner
- ___ Forceps / pliers / hook file / line clipper
- ___ Reel lube / oil
- ___ Zip-lock® bags & garbage bags
- ___ Small flashlight or headlamp
- ___ Flexx-Rap or finger guards
- ___ Toiletries
- ___ Camera & Battery Charger & storage Cards
- ___ Smartphone / Tablet & charger
- ___ Small binoculars
- ___ Wading pack & boat bag
- ___ Airline tickets
- ___ Notebook & pen
- ___ Passport
- ___ 2 Copies of passport (packed separately in Zip-Lok baggies)
- ___ Book & magazines
- ___ Cash & credit cards
- ___ Emergency contact numbers
- ___ Prescription glasses
- ___ Pre-trip information
- ___ Aspirin & Prescription drugs