

FIND THE NORTHEAST'S NEARSHORE BLUEFIN / 6 GREAT FAMILY-FISHING DESTINATIONS

# SPORT FISHING

## CALIFORNIA YELLOWTAIL

HOW A TOP SOCAL PRO FINDS THEM CONSISTENTLY

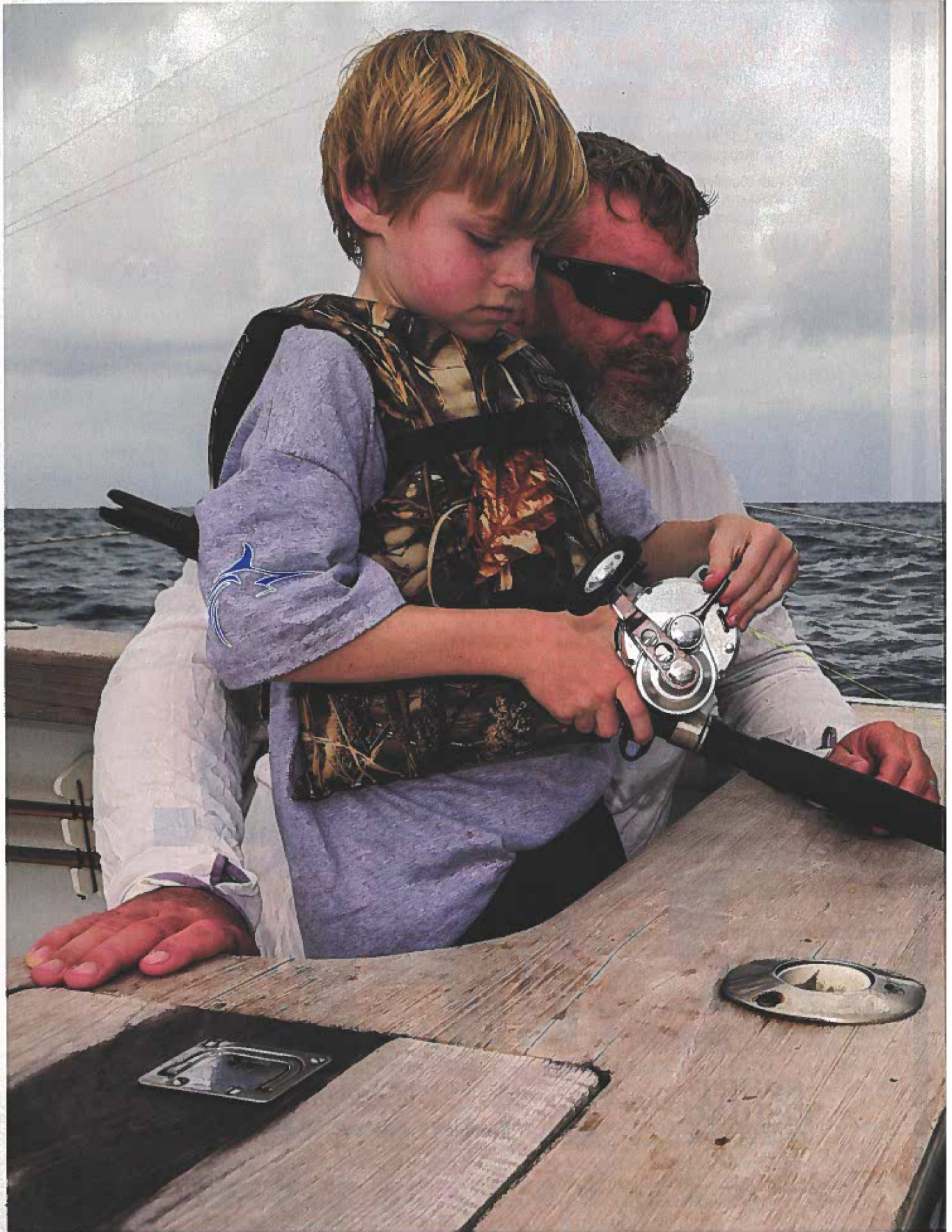


# HOW AND WHAT FISH SEE

INSIGHT THAT CAN HELP YOU AS AN ANGLER

THE ZIMMERMAN AGENCY

(continued)





# Top Family-Fishing Destinations

From the Florida Keys to Central America:  
Recommended Lodges and Locations for Fast Fishing  
and Great Times **By Chris Woodward**

Introduce kids to fishing early. These family-friendly fishing destinations will help ensure your next trip is popular and successful.

# D

uring its earliest days, saltwater fishing seemed as exotic as big-game hunting: expensive, wildly adventurous, maybe even dangerous. But with global development, abundant air-travel options, and advances in marine technology, anglers of all shapes, sizes, genders, ages and skill levels can access—and enjoy—once-remote destinations and challenging, sought-after species.

Fishing has become more family-friendly, and just in time to encourage a revival of the sport.

The Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2018, leads the drive to recruit women and children to fishing. While focusing primarily on the abundant freshwater resources and opportunities in the United States, RBFF also addresses prospects for coastal saltwater fishing.

In May 2018, the organization released its Top Mom-Approved Places to Fish and Boat in the U.S., which included two coastal locations: Grand Isle State Park in Louisiana and Pōka'i Bay in Oahu, Hawaii.

To enhance that list, I compiled recommendations from *Sport Fishing* staffers: Some destination ideas emanated from personal experience, others from reputation. All offer not only excellent fishing opportunities, but also

options for day trips, kids' activities, adventurous dining and comfortable accommodations. (The destinations, which include specific lodges as well as general regions, are listed alphabetically. Pricing is included where feasible.)

## I

### Idaho - Oregon (10 Days / 1,000)

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This region offers a mix of fishing opportunities, from trout and salmon in the mountains to steelhead and coho salmon in the coastal areas. The Snake River and the Salmon River are popular for trout and salmon fishing. The Oregon coast offers excellent opportunities for steelhead and coho salmon fishing. The region is also known for its scenic views and outdoor recreation opportunities.

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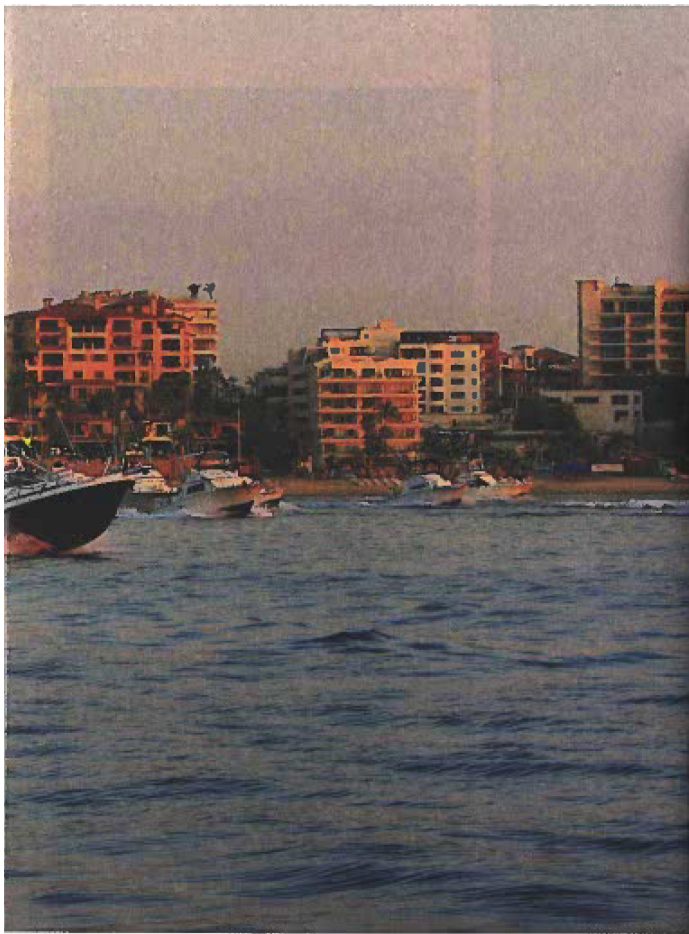
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([visitloscabos.travel](http://visitloscabos.travel)). For charter information, visit [piscassportfishing.com](http://piscassportfishing.com), [picantesportfishing.com](http://picantesportfishing.com) and [redrumcabo.com](http://redrumcabo.com). Tour operators can be reached through [cabo-adventures.com/en](http://cabo-adventures.com/en), [caboexpeditions.com.mx](http://caboexpeditions.com.mx) and [wildcanyon.com.mx](http://wildcanyon.com.mx).

## 6

### North Carolina—Crystal Coast

#### FAMILY ATTRACTION

The Crystal Coast of North Carolina comprises 85 miles of shoreline and sounds along the southern end of the Outer Banks. From Emerald Isle to Harker's Island and the Down East area, this

**Right: North Carolina captains can target sailfish from spring through fall, trolling lures or dead baits offshore.**

viewing, beach yoga, eco-tours, and sightseeing cruises. Visitors usually fly to New Bern, about a 40-minute drive north of the Crystal Coast.

#### FISHING INFORMATION

As in many coastal marshlands, inshore fishing on the Crystal Coast excels with redfish and trout the prime players, joined by flounder, black drum, bluefish, cobia, Spanish mackerel, tarpon and even striped bass. The prime season for redfish and trout stretches from May through November. (Action slows from January through April, with marginal expectations for stripers and bluefish.) Offshore, anglers target blue and white marlin, sailfish, wahoo, kingfish, and bluefin, blackfin and yellowfin tuna. Giant bluefin tuna migrate through this region in December and January, chasing baitfish fairly close to shore. Peak season for king mackerel is September through December, and summer is time for dolphin and marlin species. Charters of all sizes and shapes, including

party boats, work out of the region's ports.


#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

Some of the top family opportunities along this coast include visits to Fort Macon, a restored Civil War-era fort with a coastal education center in Atlantic Beach; outings to the North Carolina Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores; boat rides to see the wild horses on the Shackleford Banks; and forays to the Cape Lookout "Diamond Lady" lighthouse.

#### FAMILY-FRIENDLY RESORTS AND HOTELS

Options range from campgrounds and bed-and-breakfast properties to resorts to condo or home rentals. The Peppertree Atlantic Beach Resort features condo-style units with full kitchens and porches. It offers mini golf, tennis, volleyball and other activities. The Fisherman's Inn, on the Atlantic Beach causeway, offers lodging with dock slips.

#### BOOKING/CONTACTS

Visit [crystalcoastnc.org](http://crystalcoastnc.org). 

region includes 11 separate communities. Each has its own vibe and experiences, including inshore and offshore fishing, of course, as well as paddle sports, culinary tours, shelling, wild horse and dolphin

