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LAKE O’ REPORT
Drier water makes catching bass in deeper water a little easier. Also, it seems the artificial lure site is working better with more shiners now. Capt. Mark King offers some tips as well as his outlook for July.

CHECK OUT THE CATCH OF THE MONTH
Okay, so the picture wasn’t taken in June, but with Loxahatchee Mini-Season right around the corner, it seemed like a good time to show the 10+ pound monster snook local divers pulled out of the Sebastian Inlet last year.

TURTLE WALKS
See turtles come ashore this time of year. Take a guided tour through their nesting grounds.

SAVE THE DOLPHIN
New dolphin naming program encourages fishermen to tag — rather than keep — smaller fish.

OKHEEDEE BAY TRACK
Not only is it the West Palm Beach track about to celebrate its 25th anniversary, it’s also considered one of the best in the country.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Looking for some outdoor fun? Here’s what’s going on when and where.

TABLE FARE
Got a great seafood recipe? We’re receptive to submissions from our readers and decide it’s time to share them. The first one...

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By CHED CHASE
Special to Florida Outdoors

We leave port at about 8:30 a.m. and Mark “The Shark” Quartiano comfortably guides his 50-foot Hatteras Luxury Fishing Boat into deeper water in search of some monster shark. It’s just another day in paradise for the Shark Hunter.

The fishing for this day begins at 9 a.m. and Mark VonOehl, who captains the boat on Quartiano’s off-shore, inshore rigging up the baits. For shark fishing, Quartiano and VonOehl typically use a great white sardine, which seems to work best for sharks but they also use kingfish and bonito to catch the giant predators.

“We’ve been here, in about 250 feet of water right on the edge of the Gulf Stream. The shy white bears are not as active, they are simply passing through,” Quartiano said. At 11:20 a.m., a 33 ½ pound blackfin shark is reeled up from the bottom. The shark was hauled up from the water’s surface to the boat, where it was released, back down in the water.

As the boat returns to port, a shark is pulled from the water for another successful day of fishing. The deckhand is busy processing the caught shark and the boat is ready for another day of successful shark catching.

ABOUT THE CAPTAIN
Name: Mark Quartiano
Home: West Palm Beach, FL
Experience: About 40 years, 16 of which have been spent in South Florida.
Specialties: Sharks, day-trip deepsea fishing and other big game.

Boat: Stiletto (3) Deep sea sport fishing on a 50-foot Hatteras Sport Fishing Yacht fully equipped with live wells, state-of-the-art equipment and lures, and a Loxahatchee fishing chart. The center is fully equipped.

Partners: Captain Kevin Powell, Maritime Marine, Miami. Partners helped build and design the 46-foot boat to fish in South Florida for over 30 years. It’s located 250 miles off the coast of Cameron. Also helped build the local fishing boats (Osprey and softball) as they could take customers out on charter. Quartianos call it the best place in the Atlantic Ocean to catch sailfish, and he has caught 99 in one day.

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