

MSC Kayak Group

February Trip to Hell's Gate/Palm Bay

The second MSC kayak trip of the year was to the Hell's Gate/Palm Bay area. This area is accessed by launching at the base of the Goodland Bridge. Once you make your way across Goodland Bay, you go through the "Gate" where you have access to Palm Bay, Lighter Bay and a number of small mangrove islands. I was interested in trying to find out where "Hell's Gate" got its name and did some searching. I found that this area was named "Hell's Gate" a long time ago....long before boaters had GPS units on their boats that made it easy to navigate and find out where you are at any given time. As a result, years ago, when boaters went through "The Gate" they always felt like they would have "a hell of a time" finding their way back! With GPS units and the tracks they leave, that's something I guess we all take for granted now.

Anyhow, the weather was clear and the water was calm in the morning. The bite was slow and several people caught trout. John Baker and Dwayne Metzger both caught trout that were 17+". As the day went on, the wind started to pick up a bit. More trout and several small snook were caught before the anglers made their way back through "the Gate," into Goodland Bay and then back to the Goodland Bridge.

No entries were recorded this month for the 2021 Kayak Challenge. In this competition for kayakers, the goal is to catch the largest Snook, Redfish, Trout or Bass during one of the MSC monthly trips. At the end of the year, the winners will each receive an MSC Kayak Angler fishing shirt that they can proudly wear! To learn more about the Kayak Fishing Challenge, please visit the MSC website. While there, read about the MSC kayak group and the monthly outings that are held at various locations. If you are a MSC member and want to be placed on the Kayak Group Mailing List or if you have any questions, please use this link to contact Howard Laskau, the MSC Kayak Events Coordinator: <https://www.marcosportfishingclub.com/email-form-ContactOfficer.htm>

In March, the Kayak Group will travel to Fakahatchee Strand State Park and try their luck at the Basshole. We'll share those results next month.





**John Baker
Trout**



**Dwayne Metzger
Trout**