

MSC Kayak Group Trips
November 27, 2021 – Isle of Capri Paddle Park
December 18, 2021 – Unknown Bay/Bear Point Loop

Due to a few weather cancellations the November kayak trip took place too late in the month to make the cutoff for the December newsletter. So, this month's report will cover both our November and December outings!

The November trip was supposed to take place in Rookery Bay, using the Shell Island Road launch, but we ran into technical difficulties. The gate to Shell Island Road is supposed to open automatically at sunrise (it always has in the past), but this time we were locked out. Phone calls went to voice mail and no Park Rangers were in sight. So, after waiting a while, the line of 9 cars with kayaks sticking out the back of them, on car roofs or on trailers made u-turns on the narrow road and headed for the next closest kayak launch site, the Isles of Capri Paddle Park, which, luckily, was not too far away.

This venue always holds a variety of fish, and sometimes some big ones! Dwayne Metzger found that out as he landed a 32.25" snook that gave him a nice fight and landed him on top of the 2021 Kayak leaderboard by a healthy margin. Some redfish, trout and a variety of other fish were also caught during the trip, but Dwayne's fish ended up being the catch of the day

Fast forward a few weeks to December 18th and the MSC kayak group assembled again, this time launching at the base of the Jolley Bridge. From there, the group headed up the Marco River, made their way through Three Island Cove and up into the channel leading to Unknown Bay.

The tide was a little slow in coming in, so the group took their time in the bay, waiting for it to "fill up." Ladyfish, jacks, and catfish were plentiful. Howard Laskau even added a lizard fish and puffer fish to the list of fish that nobody wants to catch!

As the tide came in, the group made their way over to the trail leading to Bear Point Cove for the return trip to the Jolley bridge. A few trout were picked up along the way. Ron Weiler hooked into a snook that took his kayak for a little ride and Ken Robertson picked up a few also. However, at

the end of the day, there were no changes in the 2021 MSC Kayak Leaderboard, so the results of the year-long contest for largest fish caught during one of the kayak outings are now official! The 2021 Kayak Leaderboard winners are:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Kayak Angler</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Date Caught</u>
Snook	Dwayne Metzger	32.25"	November 27, 2021
Redfish	John Baker	28.5"	October 9, 2021
Bass	Dave Schott	22"	April 17, 2021
Trout	Dave Dodd	19.5"	October 9, 2021

Congratulations to Dwayne, John, Dave Schott and Dave Dodd. As winners of the 2021 Kayak Challenge, each kayak angler has won an official MSC Kayak Angler fishing shirt, with their name, species caught, and MSC logo embroidered on the shirt. The shirts will be distributed in person at the February General Meeting.

If you are interested in Kayak fishing, visit the MSC website for more information about the MSC Kayak Group. While there, take a look at some of the pictures from past trips and read the stories from our previous outings. If you are a new or current member who is interested in joining our group and participating in our monthly "adventures" please send an email to Howard Laskau (hlaskau@comcast.net) to get placed on the MSC Kayak Group email list. You will receive trip notices with all the necessary trip information approximately one week prior to each outing.

**November, 2021 MSC Kayak Group Trip
Isles of Capri Paddle Park**



**Bob Schneider
Redfish**



**Dwayne Metzger
32.25" Snook**



**Vic Ordija
Jack**

**December, 2021 MSC Kayak Group Trip
Unknown Bay/Bear Point Loop**

