

A nice thing about fishing at The Plantation on Crystal River is that you can head directly back to the dock, filet your fish and let their wonderful chefs personally prepare your catch. If you're not in the mood for freshly prepared fish, it's guaranteed that the shrimp and grits will blow your socks off. It's a refined, yet relaxed dining experience, and the service is second to none. After dinner, you can reminisce about the day by the crackling fireplace. Southern charm is what makes the Plantation a fixture in the Florida fishing community.



If you're still up for more fishing, an offshore trip is an adrenaline-pumped experience. Grouper and snapper are abundant year round and Yo-Zuri deep diving Crystal Minnows always seem to trick the grouper into biting. On the boat, it's a great workout to haul those fish onto the deck and fill your Grizzly cooler! Jigging Amberjacks is also a rush! On some spots, it's possible to glide over the structure and target them on each drift when you know they're down there. Catching the occasional sheepshead, triggerfish or kingfish around these areas is a nice way to bring a little more variety in the boat.

When Gag season opened in July, keepers became a force to be reckoned with. During the long closed season, they had been growing and repopulating in extremely high numbers, now, the Gags are thick as gnats in the Gulf of Mexico. Due to the long closure on gag grouper and red snapper in the Gulf, kingfish and cobia have become two of the most highly sought after fish in these waters. This is not only because they put up a nice fight, they are also good table fare. Since these fish are so plentiful in Crystal River, the Plantation is at the top of my list for this type of fishing in Florida.

If an angler is looking for a well-rounded fishing location that is full of breathtaking marine life, The Plantation on Crystal River should not be missed. It's a hidden Florida gem that's worth the trip and it will surely keep an experienced fisherman busy. This time of year, the warm Florida breeze smells like the excitement of summer. Crystal River is already bursting with underwater experiences waiting to be explored. There is a wide variety of both inshore and offshore fishing; this is an area of Florida that will remain imprinted on an angler's memory forever. ☑



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