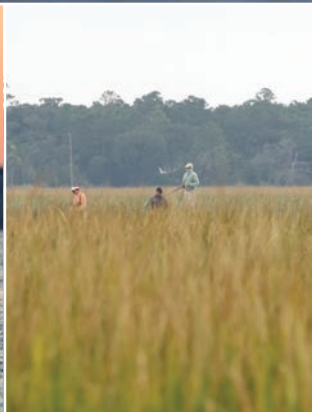




Casting For The Cure

It began 21 years ago as a way to raise money to find a cure for cystic fibrosis. Then it was called the Redbone Celebrity Tournament Series. The concept was pretty simple: Put guides, celebrities and die-hard saltwater anglers together on a boat at some of the world's premier fishing destinations and, through entry fees and donations, fish toward a cure for a deadly disease. Now, this series is as ingrained in the saltwater scene as poling platforms, and the new name of the tournaments (ESPN Outdoors Saltwater Series) elevates the exposure, and potential fundraising, to a new level.

Photos: Seigo Saito, James Overstreet and Larry Towell





The Trophies

There are many ways to do well at the Saltwater Series events, including catching the biggest or most permit, redfish, bonefish and tarpon. Land these elusive critters on a fly, and you are talking about a whole new category of success. Although the trophies and accolades are nice, the real pleasure is being surrounded by infinite beauty, all the while casting for a good cause.





The Atmosphere

Competing in a Saltwater Series event is a complete experience. Being in the Florida Keys, or Savannah, or Montauk is not just about the fishing. These legendary coastal areas offer participants a vacationer's backdrop, complete with island fare, tropical drinks and breathtaking sunsets, the likes of which inspire another round.



To find out more about the ESPN Outdoors Saltwater Series, log on to ESPNOutdoors.com.



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Stuff You Want

Olympus

Although the SW in this camera's name doesn't stand for saltwater, it should. Because it is shock-proof and waterproof (the real reason for the SW), an angler will be hard-pressed to beat the Stylus 850 SW as a digital camera for the boat. Shooting at 8.0 megapixels and featuring a large HyperCrystal LCD display, this camera turns out photos that are as high-quality as the viewing platform. Catch a real trophy, and the video function may be appropriate. These cameras were used to capture some of the images in our ESPN Outdoors Saltwater Series photo essay starting on page 38. www.olympusamerica.com; 888-553-4448



Stylus 850 SW

Nautilus Reels

Brute force saltwater reels are Nautilus' mainstay, and this new model in the CCF series is meant to target tarpon, midsize tuna, sailfish and other bluewater gamefish. But as the DD in its name indicates, it's a double-duty reel that will work well for double-handed (spey) applications. www.nautilusreels.com; 888-397-7335



CCF 12DD

Orvis

The new Helios blank is nearly one-third lighter than the Zero Gravity blank, yet it's a strong, fast blank that combines the highest-quality components into a top-of-the-line rod. www.orvis.com; 888-235-9763



Saltwater Helios Rods

Z-Man Fishing

Inshore species won't know what hit them when this realistic shrimp imitation falls in front of them. Made of the company's proprietary ElaZtech material, the bait contains a fish-attracting scent, comes with a weighted hook and can be twitched through the water column or crawled along the bottom. www.zmanfishing.com; 877-797-2424



UltraShrimp

Bomber Saltwater Grade

Based on the shape of the Heddon Zara Spook, this topwater — available in high-pitch and low-pitch models — is made of tough polycarbonate and comes with the proprietary HD hook system. The lures also feature 1/0 VMC Perma steel hooks and come in 12 colors. www.lurenet.com; 800-531-1201



Walkie Talkie

Berkley

Now anglers can give any bait or lure the scent of Gulp Alive. The 8-ounce trigger spray bottles are available in four saltwater flavors: crab, herring, shrimp and squid. www.berkley-fishing.com; 800-237-5539



Gulp Alive Fish Attractant



Nothing But Net

Perfectly leading a bonefish with a 30-foot roll cast is impressive. False casting in 20 mph winds just to land your fly on the nose of a redfish is noteworthy. However, the most impressive cast of the day may well be made without the use of rod and reel.

Photo: ESPNOutdoors.com



What Is A Redbone?

TYPICALLY, AN ORGANIZATION REVEALS the nature of its content and its objective by the wording of its name. Redbone is a catchy word, but it surely needs an explanation. So, what is a Redbone? A legendary blues musician? A hardworking hound dog? Try again. An embarrassed bonefish? Well ...

In 1984, my newborn daughter, Nicole, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis. My wife and I were told that with considerable care, she should live to her early teens. After asking the question "What is cystic fibrosis?" we set out to find a way to fight it. In 1988, with the help of many friends, including baseball legend Ted Williams, we founded the Redbone Celebrity Tournament Series to help the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation fund the research to cure the disease. Guides, anglers and celebrities from film and sports teamed up on 33 boats to angle for redfish and bonefish. From that tournament came the name "Redbone." We raised \$16,000 that first year and more importantly, introduced CF into the consciousness of the very caring community of Islamorada in the Florida Keys. From that small seed, the Redbone has mushroomed into 25 tournaments spanning both coasts of the United States and the Bahamas, and an art gallery specializing in angler art. In the last 21 years, the Redbone has made a total contribution of more than \$10 million to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. In 2006, Redbone fishing tournaments, including our new cooperative efforts with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, netted more than \$1.5 million "to catch the cure."

When the Redbone was first established, children with CF rarely lived to attend high school. Today, the median age of survival for a person with CF is 35 years. We should not celebrate this achievement because not a single life has yet been saved from this devastating disease, but it has become a sign of hope for a brighter tomorrow for individuals with the disease and their families.

My daughter Nicole is now 24 years old, works in international marketing, travels the world and models for a clothing company. Not bad for a woman who was hardly expected to see her teens. I can't help but get choked up when I see what the Redbone events have done for Nicole and others afflicted by cystic fibrosis.

Money buys science, and science saves lives. That's why the ESPN Outdoors Saltwater Series Redbone Celebrity Tournaments are important. If you'd like to help support this cause, log on to espnoutdoors.com or www.redbone.org. Together, sportsmen can do great things, including finding a cure for cystic fibrosis.



In the last 21 years, the Redbone has made a total contribution of more than \$10 million to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.

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