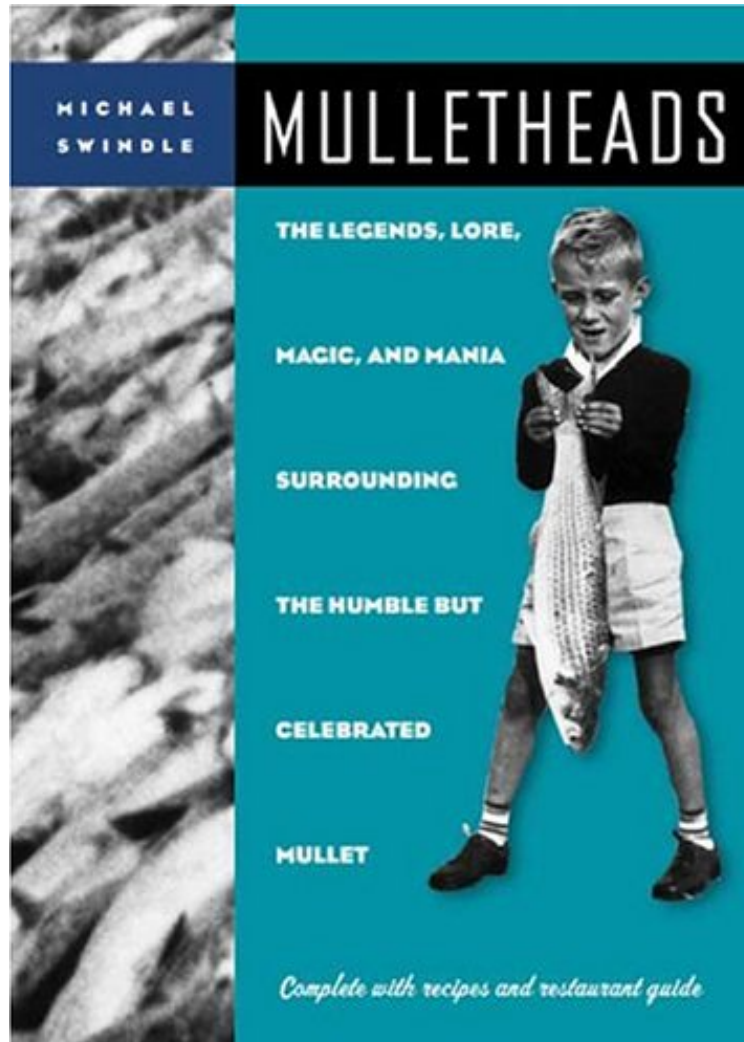


## Mulletheads

*Michael Swindle*

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**Michael Swindle : Mulletheads** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mulletheads:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I must be a MULLETHEAD! By Reynald C Feldt Jr Well written with information I did not know. I grew up in the late thirties along the Pithlachasootie River in New Port Richey, wondering why there were so many mullet jumping in that river that you that it seemed you could almost walk across on them. Mullet was a regular diet then and during the war years. Except for Ted Peter's Smoked Mullet in St. Petersburg, smoked mullet is not commonly found and rarely can you even find fried mullet in restaurants in Pinellas County. The chapter about Alan Fredericksen, a former Clearwater High School classmate (1953), was also informative. I knew Alan's family lived on one of our Gulf beaches but didn't know that they were fisher folk nor that

Alan was an accomplished author. I subsequently purchased Alan's book *Red Roe Run* and want to buy or bat least read someone's copy of Alan's *Man Mullet An Elegy for a Lost Way of Life*.:0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Robt E moseleyInformative book for Southern boys3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fun ReadBy Virginia L. BransonMichael Swindle's "Mulleheads" is an entertaining, yet comprehensive report on a fish. Having been raised in Alabama, I have always known that mullet is delicious seafood. Once I reached my twenties, I made the obligatory Alabama pilgrimage to the Florabama, the Gulf Coast bar made famous by Jimmy Buffet, for the annual Mullet Toss festival. So Swindle's extensive research on the topic, coupled with his inimitable dry wit, made "Mulleheads" a fun, interesting, and comfortable read."Mulleheads" takes the reader on a vivid tour of the mullet restaurants along the Gulf coast, introducing us to the owners, the chefs, and ultimately to the suppliers - the fishermen who catch and deliver the mullet to the skillet. Along the way, we attend mullet festivals, mullet-tossing contests, mullet cooking contests, and meet some mighty colorful characters who are also mulleheads (people who love mullet).The book includes addresses and phone numbers of the best mullet restaurants in Florida and Alabama, and a few delicious recipes, gleaned from various fancy chefs and simple cooks.When I finished this book, I felt like I had met the people Swindle had met. His affable writing style reflects his obvious love of those people. I was impressed with his respect for every person, regardless of station, class, or occupation. In fact, I was reluctant to put the book down, not wanting the adventure to end.If you enjoy the easy lifestyle of the South, you will find "Mulleheads" a pleasant and refreshing read.

Book by Swindle, Michael

From Library JournalThe mullet, a primarily saltwater fish known for its delightful yet mysterious jumping, initially "called" New Orleans- based journalist Swindle to write this witty and offbeat travelog. He spent months on a "gypsy roam" of the "sandy fields and roving floods of the Gulf Coast" and throughout "was drawn on by the songs of the mulleheads I met along the way." "Mulleheads" are the fish's enthusiasts he finds in small-town bait shops, diners, marinas, at mullet festivals, and the "Mr. Mullet Contest." Swindle also encounters a number of traditional mullet-throwing tournaments: An annual boozy f?te at the Florida-Alabama border, the Interstate Mullet Toss, typically draws 60,000 revelers over three days, and some 1200 of them compete in heaving mullet up to 178 feet (the record). As with Mark Kurlansky's *Cod* (LJ 7/97), here cultural history written around a fish makes surprisingly good reading; this unsung bottom-feeder inspires impressive loyalty as Swindle's lucidly deadpan book moves along the mullet trail, gathering quirky stories, wisdom, and recipes from the devoted. Recommended for adventurous Americana, cooking, or travel collections.ANathan Ward, "Library Journal"Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.