Dockside Cafe & Oyster Bar

115 John Sims Parkway West (Northern Lights Marina), Niceville, FL 32578

(850) 678-2350

www.mydocksidecafe.com

If you want authentic Cajun food with an amazing water view – then this is the spot for you to spend the afternoon (or longer). If your travels take you anywhere near the Florida Panhandle – make sure you put on blinker and go make a pit stop. Ask for Ernie Danjean (the owner and ask him to tell you some stories about his Dad, who played for the Green Bay Packers) he will take great care of you.

You can start off with a cocktail from the bar or enjoy a nice cold beer, including some regional microbrews.

They have plenty of appetizers, that looked great but I would go with Gumbo – it will make a memory!

They have all the traditional choices of burgers, sandwiches, wraps, and salads; but some of the standouts was the Muffalatta (the taste was truly authentic), the Shrimp Po-Boy (was delicious and overstuffed), and the Andouille Sausage Sandwich (great cajun flavor and plentiful) - will make you think you are in the French Quarter.

The fish/seafood is their "calling card". The portions are much more than generous and are cooked per your request, with just the right amount of seasoning & sauces. The fish does not get any fresher - the local fishermen make regular stops to show Ernie their catch. I had some grilled Tuna - that had been swimming only a couple hours before.

As far as their sides - they have them all, but go with the Corn Nuggets.

On the dessert front New Orleans's Bread Pudding is the choice.

"Ernie's Dockside Grill", which actually has a pool right outside, and live music Thursday – Sunday; may have been the place where Alan Jackson & Jimmy Buffett perfected the song "It's 5 o'clock Somewhere."