

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



A Family Oriented Fishing Club Since 1997

Volume 2012 Issue March

Meeting: March 1, 2012 **Time:** 7:00 PM
Place: American Legion Post 88 2663 Halls Mill Road
Main Speaker: Captain Bobby Abruscato
A-Team Fishing Adventures/ Spring tactics
Quick Hits: O.P. Harrison
Mini Seminar 6pm: Bobby McElroy: Hardbaits
New Member Orientation: 5:45 & 6:45

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2012

President:	Patric Garmeson	747-1554
Vice Pres:	Joey Gates	209-1220
Treasurer:	John Erwin	442-4592
Secretary:	Bill Perry	661-0129
Membership:	Vince Hawkins	421-4792
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	Doug Tierce	593-0275
Logo Items:	Bill Graves	443-8017
"	Bob Ward	661-3118
Awards:	Gary Tingle	662-0260
Statistics:	David Thornton	458-2775
Newsletter:	David Thornton	458-2775
Webmaster:	Brandon Milam	680-1302
Food Advisors:	Brenda Wilson	513-0313
"	Vince Hawkins	421-4792
Mini Seminars:	Adam Barker	747-1552
Quick Hits:	Bill Midgette	473-4768
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	

Upcoming Events

Thursday March 1 2nd Meeting
Fri-Sun March 9-11 Boat Show
Sunday March 11 Begin Day Light Saving Time
Saturday March 17 1st Tournament
Tuesday March 20 First Day of Spring

You can easily subscribe to get your newsletters emailed to you @ <http://www.acfish.com/list/?p=subscribe&id=1>

Let's Get Ready to RUMBLE!

President's Message:

I want to personally thank all of the current board members for their services. These volunteers give up time away from their families and fishing to make sure we continue to have the best fishing club around.

Our first meeting of the year is behind us and it was a good one. Jason Smith shared some great information about weather and how it effects inshore fishing. He also explained our current weather pattern, upcoming hurricane season, wind/marine predictions, and numerous other weather related topics. Jason also mentioned the marine forecast is updated at 4am and 4pm everyday. So if you are trying to plan a fishing trip you will get the most up to date prediction following each 4 o'clock update. We also had a very informative "quick hits" segment by our own Bill Midget. He provided us with tips and tricks he has picked up from fellow fisherman and through his own experiences.

One of the new additions to our meetings is a new raffle each month. In February we raffled a pair of \$100 Ono sunglasses to a lucky new member. Raffle tickets are only \$2 each or 3 for \$5 and all the money goes directly to the club and helps pay for the rent and other expenses.

Our upcoming meeting will be highlighted by one of the most popular inshore fishing captains in our area, Captain Bobby Abruscato. Captain Bobby will provide us with information to help us be more successful when trying to locate and catch speckled trout throughout the year. About 6 years ago I sat through one of Captain Bobby's seminars and it forever changed my trout catching abilities. So if you like to catch speckled trout and redfish, I recommend you do not miss our March meeting.

Speckled trout and redfish are still holding strong in most of the rivers around Mobile Bay. My Dad (Marty) tells me that flounder have shown up around the causeway and there are plenty of Sheepshead down around the mouth of the Bay. Good luck on your next trip!

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NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION:
March 1st @ 5:45 and again @ 6:45

2012 Memberships are Due and ...

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION:
March 1st @ 5:45 and again @ 6:45



You can mail in your **\$50** membership fee along with your name, address and telephone number to:
ACFA c/o Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Dr Chickasaw, AL 36611

The form can be found at the end of this newsletter or @ <http://acfafishing.com/membership/form/meb.pdf>

Wouldn't you like to avoid the crush at the Treasurer's Table at your first meeting?

This will go a long way to alleviate the crowding and confusion at the meetings and leave more room for NEW members to sign up. Plus mailing your membership (by April 1st) will include you in one of two membership refund drawings to be held at the April meeting. IF you have already renewed your membership, **give the form to a friend you'd like to join the club and have them check you as a referral.**

Remember, ANY member who refers at least one new member is eligible for a drawing to refund their \$50 membership fee!

And the ACFA member who has the most referrals by New members will have their \$50 membership fee refunded.

So there are four ways to win!!!

Lastly, remember those who already have fish entered in the 2012 Big Fish Contest **MUST** have renewed their membership by the end of February, or their Big Fish Contest entries have to be removed.

OOPS! - Correction & Omissions from the ACFA 2011 Awards Banquet Recap

Regrettably the awards for the year-long Catch, Photo and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout category were left out of the February newsletter. This is an especially prestigious award adding to the lasting remembrance of the accomplishment of catching, and recording a successful release of what most anglers would consider a notable catch, if not THE catch of a lifetime! But conservation is very important to the ACFA and this was our 4th consecutive year of the contest with more entries expected each year. So with it is with our admiration and respect (along with my apologies) we salute the 2011 CPR Speckled Trout Award recipients:

1st Place	George Koulianos (27.25 inches)
2nd Place	O.P. Harrison (26.50 in.)
3rd Place	Paul Lewis (26.00 in.)
4th Place	Chris Conken (26.00 in.)
5th Place	Trevor Wood (25.75 in.)

Editor's Note: In the bio of the last newsletter I mistakenly reported that "With Patric at the helm most of the time, Adam made a strong end of the season push and took home the club points championship that year." When in fact they were only able to fish together for one Tournament during that year.



Which takes us to... the 2012 CPR Speckled Trout Contest

We've only had one entry so far in the first three months of this year's contest, but it is a beauty! **George Harrison** landed and released this fine **27 inch speck** in January on the Mobile River. The photographs were taken by his granddad O.P. Harrison.

Since it's inception four years ago, this contest has been extremely popular as well as highly competitive. Many of our anglers find the experience of purposefully releasing a speckled trout which most fishermen would consider "a catch of a lifetime" both exhilarating and pleasurable rewarding.

Full details on the procedure are outlined in the Tournament Rules found on page 6 in this newsletter, or on the ACFA website where we try to post the entries.

No doubt the bar has already been set high this year, but there is still plenty of time, and room for YOU to take a place in the ACFA Top 10 CPR Speckled Trout for 2012!

The Mini-Seminars are back!

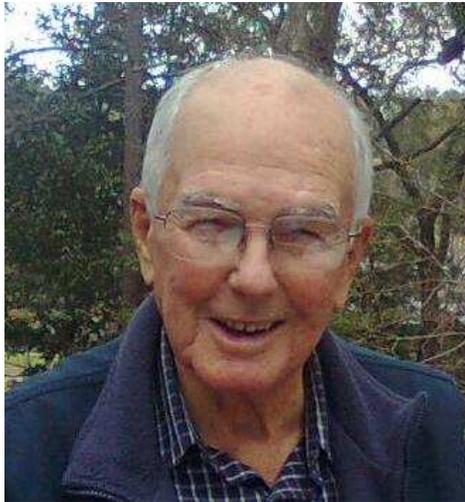
The huge popularity and success of the Mini-Seminar Series is due in large part to the efforts of longtime member Joe Sirmon who spearheaded the idea some years ago. This year we plan to provide even more discussions (and facilitators) on the local aspects of weather and water (tide) data and forecasts, tackle and boating, more 'open floor' fishing discussions, more professional guide involvement and a veritable cornucopia of resources available to the beginning angler or seasoned 'old salt' (including the world wide web) that can make YOU a better informed, better prepared and better overall fisherman!

This month we'll have a chance to hear from Bobby McElroy (ACFA record speckled trout holder) (a.k.a. "The Brain") on details of his approach to fishing with artificial hard baits. Lures like Rapala, and Zara Spook and Mirrolure, topwater, sinking, etc. are just about all he ever fishes with for speckled trout. And Bobby doesn't just 'fish' with them (out of the box), he 'spearmints' with them (outside the box ;-)



We would like to hear from you about what other topics (and facilitators) you would like to see discussed along the lines of **"questions we'd like to hear answered, but were afraid to ask."**

You can pass your ideas on to Patric at the meetings or call Adam Barker @ 747-1552. We hope to see you in March @ 6pm sharp!



Charlie Dowdle

Meet the Angler

In so many ways and years “Mr. Charlie” embodies the spirit and history of fishing in this area, and of the ACFA. Born in St. Elmo, Charlie grew up hunting and fishing the waters around south Mobile County following in the ways his father taught. Raised in Bayou LaBatre, Charlie recollects with ease when it was just a small ‘fishing town’ in the years before the shipbuilding era. When word would spread the speckled trout were ‘running’ folks would drop their work and line both banks fishing for them. Day and even at night under a moon they fished using lures with names like “Hellbender” and “Lucky 13”. And he’d scull down the bayou or one of the nearby rivers in his 16 foot cypress hulled skiff catching speckled trout, or out in the Mississippi Sound with his 6 hp motor catching bait and keeping it alive in the water pooled in the bottom of the boat.

Charlie, and his wife “Nellie” have been married for 62 years and now live in the house they built in west Mobile 40 years ago. They have three children, raised in the traditions of hunting and fishing which have been passed on to their two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. As a 21 year veteran in the U.S. Army and active reservist, Charlie has maintained a strong relationship and appreciation for other veterans and service members through his membership in the American Legion. In the first year of the ACFA it was he (along with Bill Midgette) who approached the Post 88 about having the meetings there. And after the club’s traditional weigh in location of Liz’s Haven on the Causeway was destroyed, Charlie obtained permission from American Post 200 (on Dauphin Island Parkway) for the ACFA to have their weigh ins on the premises there ‘rent free’. A privilege we still enjoy!

From early in the formation of the ACFA, Charlie has played a pivotal role. He has served as Vice President, and as Weighmaster for many years. And he cooked the hams for the first (end of the year) Christmas Party and at many more. He cooked at the weigh ins too, including the fish fries. Often in those fledgling years the club wouldn’t have enough money in the treasury to pay the rent on the meeting hall. So Charlie, along with several other of the earliest members would donate the use of their own money with no guarantee enough people would join up for them to be repaid. Even if they hadn’t Charlie would have stayed around as he enjoys the fellowship and friendship as much (if not more than) the fishing. Still Charlie had a 4th place flounder in the Big Fish Contest last year. And he fishes whenever he can, usually with some of his long time friends in the club (like Joe Sirmon and Ocie Wade). He enjoys what this club offers and stands for and believes that in being an active member and giving back through volunteering we get more out of it for ourselves in the long run. But it’s really all about having fun. He says we should all just enjoy the club!

Please pass on any suggestions for articles like those above and below to Patric or to David Thornton (your newsletter editor).

ACFA Guide’s Tip of the Month

Mercury Rising

Keep an eye on the water temperature as we reach the month of March. When the temps reach - and stay- in the 62 degree range for a week or so, trout will begin their spring spawning ritual. I find trout at the mouths of the tidal rivers and bayous- like Bayou la Batre, and West Fowl River- early in the period. They will be over oyster beds and often give themselves away by creating slicks. A variety of baits work, but the majority of my spring trout quantity and quality come on shrimp imitations fished under a popping cork. GULP and D.O.A.s are my favorites. I rig them about 2 feet deep and use a “Bobcat” style hook from No Slack Tackle. Be sure to set up your drift from up wind and be ready with a pole or anchor. As soon as you get a bite, *quietly* stop the drift and prepare to whack them!



By: Bobby Abruscato www.ateamfishing.com

Short casts:

ACFA Logo Items will be on sale to reduce inventory and make way for new items and more or the most popular. See or call **Bob Ward** or **Bill Graves** for more info.

Donations (for Door Prizes and Grand Prizes) are needed! We are always looking for new local and national sponsors who will help us out with contributions. PLEASE pass along any items, monetary donation\$ or contact info to **Doug Tierce** our Donation Chairman.

Raffle: This month we will offer a FREE Year long **Sea Tow Membership (\$169 value)**. Chances are only \$2 (or 3 for \$5)

The ACFA will be at the **Mobile Boat Show March 9-11** We will again have a display booth in the main hallway (# 106) and will need volunteers (plus their wives) to be there ‘talking up’ the club and our family orientation. See or call Patric.

Note: **ALL ACFA volunteers will receive free entry.** Also the **ACFA will be hosting fishing seminars on Sunday from 11 am till 3 pm.** PLEASE show your support to the club and patronize any of our sponsors who are also there.

Statistics...

as of February 18, 2012

The BIG Fish Contest

Mail your 2012 Big Fish Contest entries to: **David Thornton 31 Hannon Ave. Mobile, AL 36604 (ph: 251-458-2775)**

Blackfish		WT	Flounder		WT	Ground Mullet		WT	Redfish		WT
1			1			1			1		
2			2			2			2		
3			3			3			3		
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		
6			6			6			6		
7			7			7			7		
8			8			8			8		
9			9			9			9		
10			10			10			10		
Sheepshead		WT	Spanish Mackerel		WT	Speckled Trout		WT	White Trout		WT
1			1			1	Jay O'Brien	6.44	1	Bill Midgette	2.54
2			2			2	Trenny Woodham	6.06	2	O.P. Harrison	2.48
3			3			3			3	Marty Garmeson	2.47
4			4			4			4	O.P. Harrison	2.00
5			5			5			5		
6			6			6			6		
7			7			7			7		
8			8			8			8		
9			9			9			9		
10			10			10			10		

* First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler

Below are listed the weights, angler and year of the Top 10 fish (for each species) recorded by the ACFA since 2000

Rank	Speckled Trout	Redfish	Rank	Blackfish	Sheepshead
1	9.65 Bobby McElroy 2005	7.75 John Fassbender 1999	1	28.29 Kyle Mitternacht 2011	12.80 Doug Smith 2004
2	8.55 Keith Smith 2000	7.75 Theo Koulianos (J) 2010	2	24.40 Del Delchamps 1999	12.20 Henry Nall 2007
3	8.12 Bill Patterson 2002	7.45 Erik Nelson 2008	3	24.10 John Erwin 2011	11.75 Les Smith 2006
4	8.00 Alvin Bell 2009	7.40 Vince Hawkins 2007	4	23.93 Rick Tourne' 2009	10.96 Bruce Howle Jr.(J) 2001
5	8.00 Bill Graves 2011	7.35 Bill Graves 2009	5	23.86 John Fassbender 2004	10.90 Jason Miller 2007
6	7.95 O.P. Harrison 2009	7.30 Jared Kelly 2011	6	22.45 Del Delchamps 2001	10.90 Todd Golomb 2011
7	7.94 Rick Yeend 2004	7.25 Margaret Miller (L) 2005	7	22.27 Rick Tourne 2010	10.85 Kyle Mitternacht 2006
8	7.80 Bill Patterson 2000	7.20 Phillip Guy 2009	8	22.16 Frank Mitternacht 2008	10.80 Brittney Howle (J) 2004
9	7.71 Bill Midgette 2009	7.10 O.P. Harrison 2009	9	22.00 Kyle Mitternacht 2007	10.65 Chris Massey 2007
10	7.60 Lee Minto 2009	7.05 Bud Barr 2003	10	21.85 Kyle Mitternacht 2011	10.45 Barry Keith 2002
Rank	White Trout	Ground Mullet	Rank	Flounder	Spanish Mackerel
1	3.38 Vicki Foster (L) 2008	2.50 Marty Garmeson 2010	1	7.80 Darin Grizzle 1997	7.88 Bekki Ludlam (L) 2000
2	3.15 Todd Golomb 2006	2.45 Bill Perry 2008	2	7.80 Gerald Markow 2008	6.55 Bekki Ludlam (L) 2008
3	3.15 Vicki Foster (L) 2007	2.32 Bruce Howle Jr. 2004	3	7.50 Jerald Bolen 2005	6.15 Bekki Ludlam (L) 2003
4	3.14 Bruce Howle Jr.(J) 2001	2.30 David Thornton 2010	4	7.47 Sharon Markow (L) 2010	6.05 Bekki Ludlam (L) 2000
5	3.06 O.P. Harrison 2011	2.15 David Thornton 2010	5	6.84 Bob Ward 2010	6.00 Bekki Ludlam (L) 2003
6	2.89 Vicki Foster (L) 2007	2.15 Marty Garmeson 2010	6	6.83 Rick Tourne' 2010	5.95 Don Ludlam 2003
7	2.77 Mike Foster 2007	1.98 David Thornton 2011	7	6.57 Gerald Markow 2009	5.50 Bekki Ludlam (L) 2001
8	2.76 Marty Garmeson 2011	1.95 Dane Tomberlin 2009	8	6.55 Bruce Howell Jr.(J) 2001	5.30 Bekki Ludlam (L) 2008
9	2.65 Mike Foster 2007	1.92 Kyle Doster 2009	9	6.25 Scott Ritter 2000	5.29 Bekki Ludlam (L) 2001
10	2.64 Patric Garmeson 2007	1.91 Mike Thompson 2003	10	6.19 Shane Steiner 2000	5.25 Don Ludlam 2003

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association Tournament Rules

REVISED: Jan 2012

1. ALL tournaments start at 5:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. except for the Causeway Classic, which starts at 6a.m.
2. Weigh-in is from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the day of the tourney. You MUST be on the premises with your fish by 5pm
3. Each fish must be weighed in by the member or family member who caught it.
4. Fish that are not fresh or in good condition will be disqualified. This includes ANY redfish that has been mutilated in a way that alters (shortens) the length.
5. All decisions made by the Weigh Master and/or his assistants (club president and officers) are final.
6. All fish MUST be caught during the tournament hours on hook and line (on a rod and reel) in Alabama State waters (out to 3 miles).
7. To qualify for the monthly awards, all fish weighed in an ACFA tournament must be no less than a minimum of one pound with the exception of White Trout and Ground Mullet, which must weigh at least 8 ounces (0.5 pounds). To avoid confusion in using local names in our classifications "Ground Mullet" is considered to be any of the three species of kingfish: Southern Kingfish (*Menticirrhus americanus*), Gulf (*M. littoralis*), or Northern Kingfish (*M. saxatilis*). And "White Trout" is considered to be either the Sand Seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*) or Silver Seatrout (*Cynoscion nothus*). Likewise, any "Flounder" species. There is no minimum weight for the Junior Angler category fish, but it must meet any minimum size limits specified by the AL MRD (see Rule # 11).
8. Only legal 'slot' Redfish (16"-26" with pinched tail) will be weighed in the tournaments (to assure compliance to state law). It is the angler's responsibility to bring the redfish to the weigh in table in a pliable condition that allows it to readily be accurately measured. ONLY redfish that are 'straight' can be accurately measured, so the angler must prepare the fish for that. Fish that are mutilated or have been mistreated may be rejected by the Weigh Master. And his ruling to accept or reject a fish is final. (See Rules #4 & #5) Also, no flounder less than 12 inches may be entered. No Speckled Trout under 14 inches. No Redfish or Blackfish under 16 inches. (See Rule #11)
9. Only one fish in each category per member can place. NOTE: a second category fish may be weighed in as a Big Fish Contest entry as long as it meets the minimum requirements for that species (see Big Fish Contest Rule #1).
10. In case of a tie, the first fish weighed in wins. Times recorded on the weigh in sheets are considered "official".
11. All state and federal laws apply. (See Rule #8) **PLEASE CALL 251-861-2882 OR 251-968-7576 FOR UPDATED INFORMATION.** THE
FISHERMEN ARE RESPONSIBLE TO KNOW THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME.
12. Tournaments will not be cancelled due to weather conditions (except when tropical storm or hurricane conditions are predicted or expected to be predicted by the NWS and/or NHC for the Tournament weekend). Still members shall fish at their own risk and should use good judgment when and where to fish. The ACFA encourages safety, and assumes no responsibility for participating fishers or their equipment. It is not worth risking life and property to get a plaque!
13. Competition is open to all members in good standing (paid dues prior to tournament day) their spouses and children under 16 years of age on Feb 1 of that tournament year. PLEASE make a note to the Weighmasters of the member's name when their dependants (spouse or children) enter a fish. This is especially important for helping to verify the validity of step or grandchildren who have a different last name from the accompanying adult. PLEASE use the same name each tournament!
14. For every tournament the top three places in each category will be receive a plaque at the next club meeting, except in the Speckled Trout Challenge and Grand Slam Tournaments (see 'Bonus Points' below). ALL Junior Anglers will receive plaques for their tournament category fish (1st through 3rd place) but points are awarded ONLY when their fish place 'overall' (i.e. against the adults).
15. The Club's Tournament Point Champion will be recognized at the year-end Awards Banquet in December. The member (or members) accumulating the highest number of tournament points at the season's end in October will be declared the victor.
16. Tournament points will be awarded as follows: (since 2009)

PLACE	1	2	3	4	5
POINTS	5	4	3	2	1

Bonus Points:

 - * One "Participation Point" will be awarded to each member who weighs a fish at any tournament provided that fish is a 'legal fish' and of one of the specified tournament categories, even though that fish may not meet the minimum tournament weight for Tournament plaques and points.
 - * 4th and 5th place points (2 & 1 point) will be awarded for ALL regular club tournaments (excluding the Speckled Trout Challenge).
 - * Five additional Tournament Points will be awarded to any member that completes the slam in the Grand Slam Tournament (places in the top five in Speckled Trout, Redfish and Flounder for that tournament).
 - * Five additional Tournament Points will be awarded to any member that breaks an existing club record in a tournament.
 - * One "Participation Point" will be awarded to each ACFA member who weighs in a Speckled Trout during the Speckled Trout Challenge and two additional points will be awarded to any ACFA member that places in the top ten. (i.e. IF you make the top 10 you earn 3 points, if not you only earn 1 point) (NOTE: The Challenge is NOT a regular club tournament though entries will be accepted for the Big Fish Contest by the Weighmasters at their convenience).
17. Any angler over 16 years of age must have a valid fishing license and must be a paid member IF their 16th birthday is prior to Feb 1st of that year in order to participate in any tournament and the Speckled Trout Challenge. Junior Anglers must NOT have reached their 16th birthday by February 1st of this year.
18. All weigh-in locations will be announced in the newsletter and at the regular club meeting prior to the tournament. Our Weigh in site for most tournaments is the American Legion Post 200 on Dauphin Island Parkway Hwy 193 (near the Greer's Food Tiger store). The Speckled Trout Challenge (in May) and the Causeway Classic (in October) will likely have weigh ins on the Causeway (location: 'TBA' To Be Announced).

New for 2012: NETMAN (or WOMAN) of the Year Category!

19. Any ACFA angler at the time of their weighing in a tournament fish who declares the eligible member or dependant who actually netted that fish for them (including themselves) will be awarded the same number of points in a separate category called "Netman of the Year". These points will be tallied and kept for the duration of the tournament season and the angler with the most accumulated "net" points will receive this award during the December Banquet.

** Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) be held responsible for the welfare, conduct or actions of any members, guests, or their equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge. **

2011 Year Long Big Fish Contest Rules

Revised: January 2012

The ACFA recognizes eight categories in its Big Fish Contest that runs from 12:01 a.m. November 15th until 12:00 a.m. (midnight) the following November 14th. To avoid confusion using local names in our classifications "Ground Mullet" is considered to be any of the three species of kingfish: Southern (*Menticirrhus americanus*), Gulf Kingfish (*M. littoralis*), or Northern Kingfish (*M. saxatilis*).

"White Trout" is considered to be either the Sand Seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*) or Silver Seatrout (*Cynoscion nothus*).

And likewise, all "Flounder" species are also inclusive under that name.

To encourage conservation of the resource each category has the following minimum weight requirements to qualify for this contest:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Minimum Weight</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Minimum Weight</u>
Blackfish	10 pounds	Speckled Trout	6 pounds
Flounder	3 pounds	White Trout	1 pound
Ground Mullet	1 pound	Spanish Mackerel	3 pounds
Sheepshead	6 pounds (changed in 2010)	Redfish *	5 pounds

* Redfish can ONLY be weighed in during tournaments (to assure slot limit compliance) and MUST be presented in a condition ready to measure. See Tournament Rules # 4 and #8 for clarification.

2. Each fish entered must be legally caught by hook & line (on rod & reel) in Alabama State Waters (out to 3 miles).

3. Each member is allowed a maximum of two (2) fish in each Big Fish category.

4. Points will be awarded for each of the top ten (10) places in each category, as follows:

PLACE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10th
POINTS	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

5. Five (5) bonus points will be awarded to any member that breaks an existing AFCA club record.

6. The member with the highest overall number of Big Fish points will be declared the club's Big Fish Champion.

Top five places for each of the eight categories will be recognized with a plaque at the December Awards Banquet.

7. Weight verifications in one of the following manners are acceptable: a. Weigh Master at ACFA club tournaments

b. Tournament Official at other tournaments, in writing on an ACFA Big Fish Card (or paper with the info and signature on it)

c. Business with calibrated scales, in writing, on an ACFA Big Fish Card, or (in lieu of) on a business receipt (preferably with phone#)

Showing the date (& time for tiebreaker), member's name, species of fish, weight, name of the business, and weigher's signature (name).

*All entries must be legible and complete and contain the same info as required on the ACFA Big Fish Card or the entry can not be accepted.

8. All entries must be received (via hand or US MAIL delivery) by the ACFA Statistician within 30 days of the catch in order to be entered.

a. Entries mailed at the end of the season MUST be postmarked no later than 11:59 pm on November 14 and be delivered to the Statistician within 3 'Working Days' (i.e. M-F) in order to be accepted for this year. Late or delayed entries will automatically be placed in the next year's contest.

b. Under no circumstances can electronic submissions (such as faxes or emails) be accepted.

Mail entries to: **DAVID THORNTON 31 HANNON AVE MOBILE, AL 36604 (phone: 251-458-2775)**

*It is highly recommended you make a good photocopy of your Big Fish Contest submission before mailing it in.

** And check back with him to BE SURE he got your entry.

9. Certain rules specified in the tournament rules apply to the Big Fish Contest. (See Redfish in particular)

10. In case of a tie the earliest date (and time) of a business receipt or the ACFA card will take precedence over the later entry.

SPECIAL Year Long CPR Contest Rules

1. In an effort to promote good conservation practices and exercise proper catch and release tactics, the ACFA will run a year long Catch, Photograph, and Release (CPR) category for the longest speckled trout.

2. The contest duration is the same as the Big Fish Contest (November 15th until the following November 14th @ midnight).

3. A member must submit (within 30 days of the catch) photographs (digital or print) to the Statistician that allows **A:** verification of the angler (either the member or their dependant) along with their catch. **B:** An accurate length of the LIVE speckled trout and **C:** During the release process. Of course a certain amount of leeway in the 'A' and 'C' requirement can be expected for anglers fishing solo.

But procuring a sufficient quality image of the fish measurement that allows verification and good handling to ensure the survival of the fish is primarily the responsibility of the angler who is 'on his honor' to follow the spirit of "a good release". Every 'reasonable' effort will be made to verify all entries. However entries not meeting the above criteria, that is; do not allow verification of length or of poor photo quality or exhibiting poor release techniques may be rejected at the discretion of the judge (i.e. Statistician) and his rulings will be final in this matter.

Fish must be measured in a 'natural position' (i.e. flat) with mouth closed and tail 'fanned' (not pinched or bent to artificially exaggerate the length) and centered over the tape or rule. The picture MUST show the entire fish and allow an accurate measure of the length (to the nearest 1/4"). Guidelines for CPR measurements are posted on the ACFA website forum @ <http://www.acfafish.com/cms/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=9012> (Print outs of the post are available to members by request.)

4. The members with the five (5) longest verified live release speckled trout will receive special plaques at the Awards Banquet in December.

NOTE: Each member (or dependant angler) is allowed a maximum of two (2) fish in the top 10. Results will be posted monthly in the newsletters.

** Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) be held responsible for the welfare, conduct or actions of any members, guests, or their equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge. **



A Family Oriented Fishing Club - since 1997

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association Membership Application Form

mail w/ \$50 to: ACFA c/o Vince Hawkins 112 BARATARA DR CHICKASAW, AL 36611

Date 2012

First Name/Middle Initial _____ M.I. _____
 Last Name _____

(Please use your common name (nickname, Sr, Jr, III, etc) that you will use in the Tournaments and wish to have printed on memberist and in the newsletter to help avoid confusion.)

Street Address _____
 City _____
 State/Province _____
 Zip/Postal Code _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____

First Time Member? Yes No

Newsletter by postal mail? Yes No

(NOTE: Select 'Yes' to have your newsletter mailed to your address)
 Newsletters are available on the ACFA website to read or print, or you may opt to have them emailed to you.

Online Screen Name _____
(if registered on the online forum)

Boat Type/Make _____
 Boat Name _____

% Time Fishing With Artificial Bait _____ Live Bait _____

Topics you would like to hear discussed at meetings _____

% Of Time Targeting	Speckled Trout	_____	Redfish	_____
	Flounder	_____	Sheepshead	_____
	Ground Mullet	_____	Blackfish	_____
	White Trout	_____	Spanish Mackerel	_____

Referred to Membership or Sponsored by _____

Other family members who qualify to fish tournaments on your membership:
 Spouse (First Name): _____
 Children under age 16 before February 1st (including step-children)
 First Name(s): _____

Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) be responsible for the welfare of any members, guests or equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge.