

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



March 2011		<u>Club Officers for 2011</u>	
Next meeting:	March 3rd	President:	Vince Hawkins 452-3899
Time:	6:00 p.m.	Vice Pres:	Patric Garmeson 747-1554
Speaker:	Captain Crazy Kjun Andrew Carter	Treasurer:	John Erwin 442-4592
Quick Hits:	Donald Wayne	Secretary:	Vicki Foster 621-9113
Mini-seminar:	100-1000 Restore Coastal Alabama	Statistics:	David Thornton 458-2775
Next tournament:	MARCH 12 March Madness	Membership:	Keith Kenny 661-6057
		Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes 422-6992
		Donations:	TBD
		Logo Items:	Bill Graves & Bob Ward
		Awards:	Gary Tingle 662-0260
		Newsletter:	Paul Lewis 421-1936
		Webmaster:	Brandon Milam 680-1302
		Food:	Brenda Wilson 626-3534
		Advisor:	Mike Thompson

President's Message

If the turnout to our first meeting was any indication, we should have a great year. There were numerous visitors that became New Members and several former members that joined the club again. Thanks to all speakers and a BIG THANKS to Brenda and crew for some outstanding food. We have our booth at the Mobile Boat Show and I will need additional help working our table on Saturday and Sunday (March 19th and 20th) – please sign up at the meeting to assist in this endeavor. Special Thanks to Bob Maclay and Denny Manufacturing for creating a fantastic banner for us to use.



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Battle of the Grubs III

Speckled Trout:	1 st	Doug Tierce/Trevor Wood	18.85 lbs
	2 nd	OP/George Harrison	17.50 lbs
	3 rd	Paul Lewis/Elroy Harbison	14.95 lbs
Lunker:		OP Harrison	4.40 lbs
Redfish:		Trevor Wood	6.50 lbs

*Congrats to Grub and Doogie. Had there been season points for BOG it would have been a blowout!

2011 Big Fish Standings

	Blackfish	Wt	Flounder	Wt	Ground Mullet	Wt	Redfish	Wt
1 st			Marty Garmeson	3.83	David Thornton	1.98		
2 nd					David Thornton	1.74		
3 rd								
4 th								
5 th								
	Sheepshead	Wt	Spanish Mackerel	Wt	White Trout	Wt	Speckled Trout	Wt
1 st					Marty Garmeson	2.76	Frank Mitternight	6.63
2 nd					Marty Garmeson	2.08		
3 rd					Patric Garmeson	1.94		
4 th					Patric Garmeson	1.86		
5 th					Jacob Guy (J)	1.73		
6 th					Bruce Howle Sr.	1.70		
7 th					Bill Midgette	1.47		

*New Club Record

Note: Each Category has 10 spots. The board was condensed until more entries are made.

CPR Speckled Trout: 1st Paul Lewis 26.00, 2nd Patric Garmeson 23.50, Trevor Wood 23.25

February Meeting Recap

If you missed the last meeting, you missed a good deal of a time. Jason Smith talked about our recent weather and how it has related to this year's fishing. He also gave tips on his personal preferences on his fishing setup. He said to look for some new episodes soon from his outdoors show. Don Ludlam spoke during the quick hits segment on keeping your gear in prime time shape. The food was outstanding and there was enough of it to choke a horse! Great job staff!

March Tournament!

Get your stuff out and ready! Hit Academy/Bass Pro/Walmart because it's time! The first club tourney is on **MARCH 12TH**. Species in play are Speckled Trout, White Trout, Ground Mullet, and Sheepshead. The tournament starts at 5 am and the weighin closes at 5 pm. The weigh site is at the American Legion Post on DIP. Come hungry!

Boat Show

We will have a booth at the Mobile Boat Show this year. Confirmed dates for our booth are Saturday and Sunday, March 19th and 20th

ACFA is responsible for seminar speakers on Sunday from 12 to 4 (5 spots and we may or may not do a 4pm). I have 2 confirmed speakers and waiting on one more commitment. I will speak about this at the meeting and have a sign up sheet, but please talk to any of your friends about volunteering for an hour at our booth to talk about the club, sell shirts/merchandise and sign up new members.

Logo Items

The club has some sharp acfa shirts, hats, etc available at each meeting. Be sure to see either Bill Graves or Bob Ward to pick yours up.

Donations are Needed

Donations are always needed for door prizes and the 2011 Grand attendance package (for those who attend at least 8 of the 10 meetings). Please see John Erwin if you would like to donate or have ideas for securing donations.

New Membership Sponsors

Please remember to invite as many friends as possible to attend meetings and to participate in club membership. Any active member who signs up at minimum one new member is eligible to be entered in a drawing to have their dues refunded. The member who signs up the most new members will have their dues refunded. So get to it!

Dues are Due!

Just a friendly reminder that club dues are due! It is important they be paid the day prior to the tournament so to be eligible for your fish to count and points to accrue. You can pay them at the next meeting (March 3rd) or mail them to **Keith Kenney at 4276 Honey Court Mobile, AL 36619 or Treasurer John Erwin at 8468 Rester Court Mobile, AL 36695.**

Thought for the Day

If they aren't biting, keep casting. If they still don't bite, just remember it could be worse, I could be golfing...

Club Notes

Big Fish Eligibility: Be sure to have your big fish cards to pier# (David Thornton) no later than 30 days from landing the fish. Entrances received after 30 days will be DQ'd.

Tournament Note: Tournament weigh sheets and results from 2011 will be posted on the website the day of or following day of the tournament.

Reminders

All monthly meetings are held at American Legion Post 88 on Halls Mill Road, at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of every month. 2011 Big Fish Contest is now running. Our Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch. Fill out and send Bigfish cards to: Adam Barker 1682 Heartland Circle Robertsdale, AL 36567(947-2579) Please remember, NO SMOKING in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment. Please buy your drinks for meetings and weigh-ins from the American Legion. Outside alcohol is not allowed. And PLEASE be respectful of our speakers (and members who want to hear them) by refraining from any unnecessary talking or moving about during the presentations. And we ask that you save your questions until the end of their talk.

Check Us Out Online @ <http://www.acfafish.com/>

ACFA----We catch fish----Get the net!!!

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Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association Tournament Rules

REVISED: Jan 2011

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. IT IS THE FISHERMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY 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 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 of one of the specified tournament categories**, even though that fish may not meet the minimum tournament weight.
 - * 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).

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2011 Year Long Big Fish Contest Rules

Revised: January 2011

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

Category	Minimum Weight	Category	Minimum Weight
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 (i.e. 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.

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