

# Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Volume 1, Issue 2 March 2008

## Club Officers for 2008

President:	Doug Smith	604-4758
Vice Pres:	D.W. Garrettsen	599-8701
Treasurer:	Chris Conken	209-2726
Secretary:	Angie Howle	479-2911
Statistics:	Vince Hawkins	452-3899
Membership:	Mike Lee	665-4445
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	Jimmy Quint	377-4879
Logo Items:	Alvin Bell	455-5739
Awards:	Bryan Hack	510-4196
Food:	Randy Wiscaver	662-3628
Newsletter:	David Thornton	458-2775
Webmaster:	Chris Massey	422-2518
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	

**Next Meeting: March 6, 2008**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Place: American Legion Post 88  
2663 Halls Mill Road**

**Mini-Seminar: @ 6:00 pm**

**Quick Hits: Jerald Bolen**

**Main Presentation: Dr Bob Shipp**

## Upcoming Events:

- Mar 6 Meeting
- Mar 15 Tournament
- April 3 next meeting
- April 5 2nd Tourney

**Dr. Bob Shipp from the Dauphin Island Sealab will give a talk on the state of our inshore fish stocks and tell us about what we can expect to see in Fishery Management in the future. Be there!**

## Our first Tournament of the 2007 season will be Saturday March 15th

Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead and Ground Mullet are the category fish. In addition we will offer plaques (but not points) to the top 3 Junior anglers that weigh ANY of these four species. So a potential of 24 plaques and bunch of Tournament Points are up for grabs. But remember your dues MUST be paid prior to the tournament date to be eligible. For the new members, you can launch and fish anywhere in Alabama waters (out to 3 miles from shore). The tournament time is from 5 am to 5 pm; and weigh-in is from 3pm to 5pm at the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway (Hwy 193) next to the Family Dollar Store near the Greer's Food Tiger store at the blinking yellow light @ Fowl River Road (County Road 20). Weighmaster Pat Hughes will be set up in the yard behind the building and ACFA members are asked to park their vehicles and fishing rigs in the large parking area near the rear of the building. Restrooms and a beverage bar are located inside the main building and if you are so inclined, we ask that you purchase drinks from the Post. Also, it is our tradition to offer any unneeded fish to Post 250 as they utilize the ACFA as one source of fish for their fish fries held for disabled Vets throughout the year. And there will be food!! Randy Wiscaver, our award winning Food Chairman will have more to say about the menu at the meeting. Whatever he has in store, guaranteed it will be yummy ;-). We hope to see you there, bring your fish and your 'hungry'!

## President's Message

Well Spring is just around the corner. The March meeting is coming up, and that means better fishing and our first tournament is just a few weeks away. I hope to see everybody at the meeting and the tournament! Remember keep what you can use and release the rest to fight another day. Doug

## Inside this issue:

Old News (recap of our Feb meeting)	2
Jubilee	2-3
Cornucopia and new stuff	3
Reminders	4
Statistics	4
2008 ACFA Tournament Rules	5
2008 ACFA Big Fish Contest Rules	6
2008 ACFA Catch, Photo, Release Rules	6



**Chris Massey with his 7.4 pound Speckled Trout, the largest entered in the 2007 ACFA Big Fish Contest.**

**Old News: February Meeting Recap**

What a fine kickoff meeting for the 2008 season. Over 50 folks paid their membership and at least 10 were new members. Welcome aboard! As always Captain Bobby Abruscato draws a crowd. At least 125 people were present in the meeting hall during his fine presentation on Spring fishing. We are VERY fortunate to have him as a member and speaker. Thanks for the door prizes too BA! You can book a charter with Capt Bobby (or other A-Team captains) or just check out his latest reports and tips on the internet @ <http://www.ateamfishing.com/>

Kudos to Joe Sirmon who received his 2007 ACFA Founder's Award for his service as moderator of the Mini-Seminars and catch and release. And to Gerald Bolen who donated a good bit of cash to buy door prizes for the February meeting. Bill Midgette did the 'Quick hits' segment that turned into the 'long hits' segment. LOL! Just kidding Bill. Folks the man just loves to share his knowledge of fishing with others! One outstanding recommendation he had was to fill out a copy of the US Coast Guard Float Plan to leave in your house in case you are delayed in getting back home. The information on the Plan is an invaluable tool for searchers to avoid confusion about what boat they are looking for. You can download a printable version of the USCG Float Plan @ <http://sioscuba.ucsd.edu/docs/USCGFloatPlan-3.pdf>

**2008 Memberships are Due and ...**

Wouldn't you like to avoid the crowding at the Treasurer's Table at your first meeting?  
You can mail in your \$45 membership fee along with your name, address and telephone number to:

**Mike Lee 4451 Nicholl Dr. Mobile Alabama 36619**

This will go a long way to alleviate some of the confusion at the meetings and leave more room for NEW members to sign up.

The form can be found in the previous newsletter or on the club website at <http://acfafishing.com/membership/form/meb.pdf>

IF you've already renewed your membership, give a form to a friend you'd like to join the club and have them check you as a referral.

As incentive ANY member who refers at least one new member (by April 1st) is eligible for a drawing to refund their \$45 membership fee! Remember, the ACFA will draw TWO names of members (at the April meeting) who renewed by mail and refund their \$45 membership fee!

**Other Tournaments and Catches of Note...**

For about 15 years Bruce Howle, Sr and David Hare have hosted a series of artificial only (aka Grub) tournaments during the 'off season'. As unpredictable as winter weather can be the results (and participation) often vary. This year was no exception. Their 1st tournament had decent weather, about two dozen boats, and the winning 10 speck creel was over 30 pounds! The 2nd tourney was held under more 'winter like' conditions, with only about 10 boats participating, but still the winning 5 fish creels were over 15 pounds! The full results are...

5 FISH CREEL: KYLE MITTERNIGHT & RICK YEEND 18.10#, DONALD GARRETTSON & RICK TOURNE 17.14#, BILL PATTERSON 15.10#

3 FISH LIVE CREEL: DONALD GARRETTSON & RICK TOURNE 13.12# REDFISH SLOT: CHRIS MASSEY 4.14#

LUNKER TROUT: BILL PATTERSON 6.8# NO MONEY BUT GOOD TROUT... CHRIS MASSEY 5.2#, KYLE MITTERNIGHT 5.14#

This just goes to show the caliber of inshore fishermen in our club who can produce such fine trout even in less than ideal conditions.

**ACFA... WE CATCH FISH... GET THE NET!!!**

**Don't forget to patronize our sponsors.**

CANVAS PRODUCTS, SOUTHERN BAMA BAIT&TACKLE, SAUCY Q, L&S TACKLE/MIRROR LURE, GRADY MARINE, ACADEMY SPORTS AND OUTDOOR, WEST MARINE, A-TEAM FISHING ADVENTURES, MO-FISHING in Orange Beach, AL.

And we want to say a special THANKS and welcome back to Great Days Outdoors Magazine as a sponsor. Alan White, the magazine's editor has offered discount subscriptions to all ACFA members and even given us some FREE subscriptions for door prizes at the meetings. Kudos to Judy Smith for spearheading the communications with Mr. White and procuring the subscriptions.

We have weblinks to our sponsors websites available on the front page of our popular acfafishing.com website. Be sure and visit them there!

**ACFA Logo items**

Alvin Bell, our Logo Item Chairman is working out a deal to get a new T-shirt design possibly in time for sale at the March meeting. He said the 'new design' ACFA hats and visors are in and he still has a limited supply of items to sell from last year. (long sleeve T-shirts, T-shirts and hats) in limited colors and at the same price except the ACFA towels are now \$3 each.

In addition he will have a dozen of the latest (2007) issue Top Spot Maps with NEW GPS numbers and locations.

These are courtesy of Barry Keith at Keith Map Service @ 60 Schillinger Road (ph 633-5588).

At the April meeting we will have an opportunity to get the ACFA logo embroidered on your favorite fishing shirt (for a \$10 fee).

The shirts would be collected (along with the money) at the meeting and returned at the next meeting in May. This is a very popular program to accessorize your fishing wardrobe and probably the only chance we will have this year. Don't let the big one get away!

**The Mini-Seminar is BACK!**

The huge popularity and success of the Mini-Seminar Series in the past two years has assured it has a place in the planning for this year.

Patric Garmeson has volunteered to 'take the helm' and said he would like to see it resume for the March meeting with a theme of "Basic Resources and Tips for fishermen". We plan to provide a discussion (and even internet links) on the local aspects of weather and water (tide) data and forecasts, tackle and boating, fishing discussion resources (internet forums similar to our own), fishing articles 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! Bring your questions and listen in or participate as much as you'd like in the discussions with our panel and others who'll share their experiences.

In addition Pat said he 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 Pat at the meetings. We hope to see you at 6 pm...

**Sign-In and WIN!**

Those that attend and check in to at least 8 of our 10 regular club meetings (Feb-Nov) will be eligible for our 2008 Grand Attendance Prize Package to be given away at the 2008 ACFA Awards Banquet in December (**worth in excess of \$700 last year**).

So be sure to see Mike Lee at the sign-in table at the meetings and please wear a name tag. It's a great help to new members in associating names and faces and for all club members to get to know one another quicker and make new friends. Don't let "the BIG one get away" ;-)

**This is YOUR Newsletter...**

You are receiving this newsletter compliments of the ACFA, THE premier inshore fishing club of coastal Alabama.

We recognize the importance of getting this news to our members as quickly and efficiently as possible (the week prior to meetings) and always endeavor to do so. Membership dues (\$45) are now due for 2008 and MUST be paid in full for you and your family members to compete in the club tournaments. Mailing this newsletter represents one of the most expensive line items in the ACFA yearly budget. After the April mailing, non-renewing member's names will be purged from the mailing list. IF you would like to save the club some money (about \$5 per member per year) you can request to have your name removed from the postal mailing list by signing a "NO MAIL" waiver that will be passed around at the meetings or by asking any Club Officer to add your name (and email address) to the list or by adding your name to the list on our website to receive the mass email postings of the newsletter or read the newsletter online. We will try to have all the newsletters emailed and available on our website during the week they are mailed out. In addition a limited number of printed newsletters will be available at meetings and we'll try to maintain an archive of newsletters on the website for general use and referral @ <http://acfafishing.com/news.htm>

We welcome any comments or suggestions. Address comments, suggestions or corrections to the Newsletter Editor:

David Thornton 1711 Jasper Road Mobile, AL 36618 (458-2775) or email [pierpounder2001@hotmail.com](mailto:pierpounder2001@hotmail.com)

**New Member Sponsors**

In our twelfth year, and dues remain at \$45 (unchanged since the birth of ACFA.)

We're still the best fishing deal around!

That price includes spouses and children (under the age of 16 on Feb 1) to fish in our tournaments and to attend all ACFA functions including meetings, cookouts, weigh-ins and banquets. And why not talk to your friends about joining the ACFA? Even if they don't fish much, the food benefits alone are less than a single family seafood dinner at a local restaurant. And be sure that any new members you get to sign up put your name down as their sponsor in order to qualify you for the drawing of a FREE Dinner for two at a local restaurant. And again the member who sponsors the most new memberships will automatically win a free dinner for two as the Membership Sponsor Award for 2008.

**Donations are Needed ...**

For our monthly door prizes and for the 2007 Grand Attendance Prize Package.

Please see, or call Jimmy Quint (377-4879) to donate or make arrangements.

**Congratulations!**

We'll try to keep up with our ACFA members as they place in the various local public tournaments. You make us all very proud and bring only good publicity to our club. Feel free to contact the newsletter editor for inclusion in our next issue.

**ACFA Rule of 200+**

The ACFA has maintained membership numbers of well over 200 for the past few years! In order to try and keep pace with the club's phenomenal growth, and to offer THE MOST opportunities for participation and awards back to the members, the 2008 officers voted unanimously to add an additional Tournament (in November). This to complement the great fall fishing we experience at that time.

And as a conservational consideration we will add a CPR (Catch, Photograph & Release) contest that will run parallel to the year long Big Fish Contest. The difference is it is strictly **for speckled trout that are released alive after being measured and photographed**.

To enter the contest, all a member has to do is submit a photograph (paper or digital) of a speckled trout that adequately shows the true length of the fish they just caught prior to releasing it alive, and the health of the fish is our main concern. All photographs are subject to approval by the ACFA Board of Directors for approval. Remember we operate on an 'Honor System' in the ACFA. (insert that 'all fishermen are liars' joke ;-)

The members with the five longest "CPR" speckled trout will receive a special plaque recognizing their catch at the Awards Banquet in Dec.

This year Speckled Trout will be featured as a designated Tournament Species in all 9 tournaments. (plus the CPR awards).

Flounder is featured 7 times, Redfish 6 times, White Trout 5 times, Ground Mullet 3 times, and Blackfish and Spanish Mackerel two times.

Also we will offer up to 3 plaques for the special Open Pompano Division in the April Tournament (though NO tournament points) and an additional plaque to reward the angler in the August "Grand Slam" Tournament weighing in the heaviest "Grand Slam" (combined weight of that angler's Speckled Trout, Redfish, and Flounder) whether or not any or all of their "Grand Slam" fish place in the top 5 of those species.

NOTE: ANY angler placing in the top 5 of all 3 of the designated "Grand Slam" species for this tournament will still receive a bonus 5 Tournament Points. That's only been done 3 times in 10 years!

Additionally, a semi-anonymous benefactor has again made cash contributions to the club requesting those funds be used for the junior anglers. Last year we experimented with the idea of adding a separate Junior Angler species in EVERY tournament. That was interesting and fun, but...

**This year we will offer the Junior Anglers plaques for 1st thru 3rd place in EACH of the designated species for EVERY tournament!**

To avoid any confusion with the regular tournament point totals, NO points are given for the Junior Angler species (except for one Tournament "Participation Point") unless the Junior Angler's fish is in the top 3 entries overall. (i.e. with the adults)

Example: For the March Tournament the designated fish species are Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead and Ground Mullet.

Let's say the heaviest Sheepshead caught by a Junior Angler is also the 2nd heaviest overall.

That (Junior) Angler "passes" on the 1st place Junior Angler plaque (and NO points) for the 'more prestigious' 2nd place overall plaque (with the accompanying 2nd place points).

Then the Junior Anglers who landed the next 3 biggest sheepshead will all move up in order and get Junior Angler plaques.

So in this case 4 Junior Anglers would receive plaques instead of just 3.

In 2008 Junior Anglers will be offered plaques for 3 places for a different species in EVERY tournament throughout the year (up to 15 per tournament) for a total of up to 113 Junior Angler Plaques. This offers the greatest opportunity for the kids to fish right along with the adults.

In fact the ACFA will offer a whopping total of **245 plaques (for adult and junior anglers) during the 2008 Tournament season!**

**Check Us Out Online @ <http://acfafishing.com/>**

Our entire club related information is available on the internet through the above URL address in a very 'user friendly' format. Our Mission Statement, Sponsor Recognition (and links to their websites). Club officers: for 2008. Membership: all information including a printable registration form. Meeting Place: maps, directions and schedule. Newsletter archives: published news from the ACFA archived back through 2006. Pictures: online photo albums from past ACFA events. And a printable ACFA Big Fish Card.

Also join us on the forums to get the latest fishing reports, outdoor news, gossip, hunting reports, recipes and just plain fun available on the 'web' on our premier message forums @ <http://acfafishing.com/phpBB/> that includes our exclusive "ACFA Members ONLY" forum where even the area's best kept fishing secrets are revealed by our resident panel of 'experts' ;-)

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

**Also Coming in 2008**

A raffle for a full day inshore redfish sight fishing charter trip for two anglers in LA marsh with Bruce Howle Sr (aka TOPDAWG).

Junior Angler Division plaques: for 3 places in EVERY tournament

'Special' Pompano Division: added to our April tournament (3 plaques)

'Special' Tarpon C&R Tournament (Tarpoonapalooza) in August (with plaques)

'Special' Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout division (5 plaques)

'Mini-Seminars': to be given prior to the meetings on popular subjects

Streamlined sign-in and more seating at meetings (see Patric Garmeson about any topics you'd like to see discussed)

Up to 248 plaques to be awarded in our 2008 tournaments

**Reminders**

2008 dues are due now, pay by mail to avoid crowds and qualify for drawings to held at the April meeting.

Please remember, NO SMOKING in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment.

STATE LAW prohibits any outside alcohol at the meetings. PLEASE support Post 88 and purchase your drinks from the bar.

Parking is quite limited at Post 88. There would be additional spaces if vehicles parking behind the hall would back well into the grass to allow other vehicles to 'double park' in front of them. Please park smart, and come early ;-)

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 unless prompted by the speaker.

The ACFA 2008 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2008. Our Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch.

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# The BIG Fish Contest

Current

22-Feb-08

	<b>Blackfish</b>	<b>WT</b>		<b>Flounder</b>	<b>WT</b>		<b>Ground Mullet</b>	<b>WT</b>		<b>Redfish</b>	<b>WT</b>
1			1			1			1		
2			2			2			2		
3			3			3			3		
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		
	<b>Sheepshead</b>	<b>WT</b>		<b>Spanish Mackerel</b>	<b>WT</b>		<b>Speckled Trout</b>	<b>WT</b>		<b>White Trout</b>	<b>WT</b>
1			1			1	Bill Patterson	6.80	1	Vicki Foster (L)	2.43
2			2			2	Bill Patterson	5.96	2	Michael Foster	2.09
3			3			3			3	Theo Koulianos (J)	2.03
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		

\* First to weigh in

(N) New Member

(J) Junior Angler

(L) Lady Angler

Statistician Vince Hawkins wants to remind everyone to please be sure and make a photocopy of your Big Fish Card before entrusting it to the mail. Better safe than sorry! **Mail to: Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Drive Chickasaw, AL 36611 (452-3899)**

**Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association Tournament Rules**  
**REVISED: January 2008**

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.
5. All decisions made by the Weigh master and/or his assistants are final (see Rule #17).
6. All fish MUST be caught during the tournament hours on hook and line in AL state waters.
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*). 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.  
No flounder less than 12 inches. No Speckled Trout under 14 inches. No Blackfish under 16inches. (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.
10. In case of a tie, the first fish weighed in wins.
11. All state and federal laws apply. (see Rule #8)
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). 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.
14. For each 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).
15. The Club's Tournament Point Champion will be recognized at the year-end Awards Banquet in December.  
The member (or members) with the highest number of tournament points after the season ends will be declared the victor.
16. Tournament points will be awarded as follows:

PLACE	1	2	3
POINTS	7	5	3

Bonus Points:
  - \* One "Participation Point" will be awarded to each member who weighs a fish at any tournament provided the fish is of a specified tournament category, even though that fish may not meet the minimum tournament weight.
  - \* 4th and 5th place points (2 & 1 point) will be awarded at the Grand Slam Tournament (excluding White Trout and Blackfish)
  - \* 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).
  - \* Five additional Tournament Points will be awarded to any member that breaks a 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. The Weigh Master will decide any matters not covered by the rules (as per Rule #5).
18. 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 16<sup>th</sup> birthday by February 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.
19. 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 November) will likely have weigh ins on the Causeway (Scott's Landing).

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### Year Long Big Fish Contest Rules

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*).

To encourage conservation of the resource each category has the following minimum weight requirements for entry qualification:

<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	9 pounds	Redfish *	5 pounds

\* Redfish can ONLY be weighed in during tournaments (to assure slot limit compliance)

2. Each fish entered must be legally caught by hook & line or rod & reel in Alabama waters.

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 five (5) places in each category, as follows:

<b>PLACE</b>	1	2	3	4	5
<b>POINTS</b>	5	4	3	2	1

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

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

- Weigh Master at club tournaments
- Tournament Official at other tournaments, in writing
- Business with calibrated scales, in writing, on a business receipt or ACFA Big Fish Card.  
(Date, member's name, species, weight, location of business, and weigher's name)

8. All entries must be received by the ACFA Statistician within 30 days of the catch in order to be entered.

Mail entries to: **Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Drive Chickasaw, AL 36611**

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

9. Certain rules specified in the tournament rules apply to the Big Fish Contest.

10. In case of a tie the earliest dated business receipt or ACFA card will take precedence over the later entry.

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### 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 15<sup>th</sup> until the following November 14<sup>th</sup>).

3. A member must submit a photograph or photographs (digital or print) to the Statistician that allows verification of the angler's catch and an accurate length of the LIVE speckled trout, just prior to release. Procuring a quality image of the fish 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, images of poor 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.

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 is allowed a maximum of two (2) fish in the top 5.