

'March Madness' Tournament

Our first tournament of the 2008 season was held under much less ideal conditions than we'd hoped for. The influx cold fresh water down the rivers coupled with dense early morning fog and strong south to southwest winds up to 25 knots put a damper on the enthusiasm of many of our potential anglers. No one braved to fish the nearshore rigs as the Gulf waves were in the 6 to 8 feet range, and that was probably a good decision :-). Many anglers (like myself) had no luck even catching a fish to weigh in and many more struggled to even get their 'participation point'. As always there were a few who solved the fish riddle for the day and put some nice fish in the boat. Donnie Howell placed first in sheepshead and ground mullet with fish he said he "ordinarily wouldn't have bothered to weigh in." It was THAT bad folks! Most anglers chose to fish the Theodore Canal (or other protected waters) and piddled around. But a trio of intrepid anglers (or just plain fish-crazy) had another plan (crazy like a fox :-). Patric Garmeson, Adam Barker and Jim Foster ventured out early in the fog only to run aground on the Dauphin Island Shoals. Not to let a single opportunity get by, the three (never-say-quit) anglers wade fished around their stranded boat while waiting for the rising tide to free them and caught some nice trout and ground mullet in the process. After freeing the boat they proceeded to their choice (secret :-). destination and proceeded to put a 'working over' on the redfish and sheepshead. Still not finished, the group caught even more fish within talking distance to a couple of us in Little Dauphin Bay which seemed to me that day should have been renamed the DEAD SEA! Well I guess some days ya got it, and some you wind up eating the bait :-). At least we were all rewarded at the weighin with some great fellowship and treated to Randy Wiscaver (Bigun's) fine BBQ with beans and coleslaw. That there was worth the early rise!

'March Madness' Tournament Results: March 15, 2008

	Sheepshead (13)	WT	Speckled Trout (20)	WT	Ground Mullet (5)	WT	White Trout (7)	WT
1	Donnie Howell	5.55	1 Bobby Abruscato	3.95	1 Donnie Howell	1.10	1 Trenton Pitt (J)	0.75
2	Jim Foster	5.15	2 Jimbo Miller	3.50	2 Leslie Smith	0.85	2 Doug Smith	0.60*
3	Mike Foster	4.90	3 John Fassbender	3.40	3 Alvin Bell	0.80	3 James Roushmi	0.60

* First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler ? Problem w/Membership verification

Approximately 50 anglers weighed in 45 fish.

Junior Angler Trenton Pitt will receive first place points and plaque for his white trout.

Junior Angler Timmy Bradley will receive plaques for his speckled trout and sheepshead. No points here, but let's get more kids involved!

Donnie Howell and Patric Garmeson weighed in slot sized redfish for the Big Fish Contest.

Remember, redfish can be weighed in ONLY during ACFA Tournaments.

Some fish weighed in the tournament did not meet minimum requirements to post in the Big Fish Contest (refer to Rules: Minimum Weights)

Be sure to mark or tag YOUR fish to easily distinguish them from your partners during a tournament to avoid embarrassment or confusion.

Bobby Abruscato weighed in his first place speckled trout at 4:50 pm still alive, and I heard later released it. THAT's conservation in action!