

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



Established in 1997

Volume 2011 Issue December

Awards Banquet: Friday Dec 2, 2011
Time: 6:00 PM– until...
Place: “The Grand Hall” on Halls Mill Road just west of I-65
Food Catered: by **Fishhead’s Catering**
LIVE music: by **“The Mystifiers”**
ACFA Members and family eat FREE!

Club Officers for 2011

President: Vince Hawkins 452-3899
 Vice Pres: Patric Garmeson 747-1554
 Treasurer: John Erwin 442-4592
 Secretary: Vicki Foster 621-9113
 Statistics: David Thornton 458-2775
 Membership: Keith Kenney 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

Another Year for the Record Books!



ACFA CLUB RECORDS as of November 2011

SPECIES	WEIGHT	CAUGHT BY	YEAR
BLACKFISH	28.29#	KYLE MITTERNIGHT	2011 Oct
FLOUNDER	7.80#	DARIN GRIZZLE	1997
FLOUNDER *tie*	*tie*	GERALD MARKOW	2008 Oct
GROUND MULLET	2.50#	MARTY GARMESON	2009 Dec
REDFISH (16"-26")	7.75#	JOHN FASSBENDER	1999
SHEEPSHEAD	12.80#	DOUG SMITH	2004 Mar
SPECKLED TROUT	9.65#	BOBBY MCELROY	2005
SPANISH MACKEREL	7.88#	BEKKI LUDLAM	2000
WHITE TROUT	3.38 #	VICKI FOSTER	2008 Oct
*SPECKLED TROUT	22.30#	O.P. HARRISON &	2009 Jul
(*5 FISH CREEL)	22.30#	GEORGE HARRISON	2009 Jul
** FLOUNDER	-	-	-
(*3 FISH CREEL)	8.20#	LEE MINTO	2011 Jul
SPECKLED TROUT (C-P-R)	28.25"	JIM FOSTER	2008 Nov

Kyle Mitternacht holds up a ‘Behemoth’ Blackfish a new ACFA record @ 28.29#

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Farewell Message

This will be my final President’s Message. I have enjoyed my time as ACFA President and look forward to actually hanging out with peers at a meeting for a change. If I started naming the people that have helped me throughout my three year term, I would miss someone. So I will just say “Thank You!” to all. We have battled through a deep recession and an oil spill with membership still close to 200 strong. I would like to see more involvement in tournaments next year and will do what I can to make this happen and promote the ACFA throughout southern Alabama. Thanks again and see you on the water – you now have a certified Captain as you Commander In Chief. Good Luck Patric!

End of Year Banquet

Please make sure to sign up to reserve your spot at the 2011 Awards Banquet/Christmas Party. As previously mentioned, we pay the caterer for the number of people that sign up to attend. If you sign up and can not make it, it is imperative that I be notified a week in advance. Date is **Friday, November 25th**. You can call me at 251 452-3899 with your name and number of adults and children attending. We ask that guests (non family members) pay \$14 – thanks.

Vince

November Meeting Recap:

Our last regular meeting of year was anchored by a rousing 'sit & tell' session by our own venerable Donald Wayne Garrettson. He covered a good bit of fall/winter fishing tactics including a rundown on some of his favorite tackle choices and added some topwater fishing tips for good measure. The talk was capped off by a round of spirited questions and answers. Thanks again cuz! Doug Tierce handled the 'Quick Hits' segment concentrating on some of the finer applications and techniques of fishing with a Rattletrap, often the second most widely used (and effective) artificial baits in an angler's quiver.

Vince Hawkins announced the Club Officers for 2012. **We still need someone to step forward to take over the Membership Chair.** Keith Kenny has done a fine job in that position along with Bob Maclay and Steve O'Dell. We thank you guys for a job well done!

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
 Statistics: David Thornton 458-2775
 Membership: *****
 Weighmaster: Pat Hughes 422-6992
 Donations: Doug Tierce 593-0275
 Logo Items: Bill Graves & Bob Ward
 Awards: Gary Tingle 662-0260
 Newsletter: David Thornton 458-2775
 Webmaster: Brandon Milam 680-1302
 Food: Brenda Wilson & Vince Hawkins
 Advisor: Mike Thompson

2011 CPR Final Results

Congratulations to George Koulianos on his first place speckled trout in the coveted ACFA Catch, Photo, and Release Contest! All of the entrants should be commended for their conservation minded effort to put back what most anglers would consider a catch of a lifetime. The top five places will receive a plaque in recognition of their accomplishments and deserve the admiration and gratitude of all Alabama coastal anglers for their efforts to conserve our speckled trout resource.

PL	CPR Speckled Trout	INCHES
1	George Koulianos	27.25
2	O.P. Harrison	26.50
3	Paul Lewis	26.00
4	Chris Conken	26.00*
5	Trevor Wood	25.75
6	Doug Tierce	25.75
7	Patric Garmeson	25.50
8	Doug Tierce	25.00
9	Joey Gates	25.00
10	George Harrison	24.75

Top 5 Heaviest Big Fish Contest Weights By Year With Averages Per Species

Species	Year	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	Avg.	Species
Blackfish	1	28.29	22.27	23.93	22.16	22.00	21.60	18.85	23.86	17.57	18.16	22.45	16.30	24.40			21.68	Blackfish
Blackfish	2	24.10	21.81	19.86	21.50	20.50	20.70	18.67	20.12	15.58	16.09	19.44	16.21				19.55	Blackfish
Blackfish	3	21.85	20.71	18.51	21.47	18.69	20.20	18.00	15.84	14.23	14.55	18.76	15.32				18.18	Blackfish
Blackfish	4	21.80	19.50	17.55	21.03	16.65	20.02	13.28	14.34	10.77	14.29	16.16	15.17				16.71	Blackfish
Blackfish	5	20.12	17.30	17.23	20.88	16.45	17.83	11.73	14.32	5.06	13.79	14.15	14.48				15.28	Blackfish
Flounder	1	5.60	7.47	6.57	7.80	5.48	5.42	7.50	5.16	5.80	5.85	6.55	6.25		7.80		6.40	Flounder
Flounder	2	5.38	6.84	5.95	5.80	4.74	4.90	5.42	5.14	5.67	5.25	5.07	6.19				5.53	Flounder
Flounder	3	5.01	6.83	5.25	4.89	4.51	4.67	5.00	4.94	5.54	4.20	4.58	5.77				5.10	Flounder
Flounder	4	4.52	5.71	5.01	4.50	4.44	4.46	4.75	4.70	4.84	4.00	4.54	5.37				4.74	Flounder
Flounder	5	4.00	5.46	4.62	4.35	4.11	4.46	4.45	4.50	4.20	3.78	4.50	5.27				4.48	Flounder
Ground Mullet	1	1.98	2.50	1.95	2.45	1.50	1.69	1.85	2.32	1.91	1.80	1.30	1.47				1.89	Ground Mullet
Ground Mullet	2	1.74	2.30	1.92	1.80	1.50	1.66	1.67	1.86	1.67	1.64	1.30	1.34				1.70	Ground Mullet
Ground Mullet	3	1.53	2.15	1.72	1.65	1.47	1.64	1.50	1.60	1.42	1.48	1.21	1.00				1.53	Ground Mullet
Ground Mullet	4	1.51	2.15	1.70	1.59	1.45	1.47	1.45	1.58	1.24	1.30	1.20					1.51	Ground Mullet
Ground Mullet	5	1.42	1.58	1.70	1.50	1.35	1.41	1.25	1.20	1.20	1.27	1.15					1.37	Ground Mullet
Redfish	1	7.30	7.75	7.35	7.45	7.40	7.00	7.25	7.15	7.05	4.69	6.15	6.55	7.75			6.99	Redfish
Redfish	2	6.90	6.95	7.20	6.70	6.75	6.80	6.90	6.20	6.80	3.95	5.95	6.25				6.45	Redfish
Redfish	3	6.60	6.85	7.10	6.55	6.65	6.75	6.85	6.10	6.65	3.90	5.85	6.10				6.33	Redfish
Redfish	4	6.55	6.60	6.50	6.55	6.50	6.65	6.75	6.10	6.65	3.60	5.80	5.45				6.14	Redfish
Redfish	5	6.50	6.55	6.45	6.45	6.25	6.45	6.45	5.75	6.20	3.15	5.15	4.35				5.81	Redfish
Sheepshead	1	10.90	9.62	8.20	9.11	12.20	11.75	10.40	12.80	9.88	10.45	10.96	10.30				10.55	Sheepshead
Sheepshead	2	9.15	9.51	7.16		10.90	10.85	10.20	10.80	9.55	10.25	9.35	9.51				9.75	Sheepshead
Sheepshead	3	9.10	9.36			10.65	10.14	10.10	10.26	9.25	10.12	9.30	8.39				9.67	Sheepshead
Sheepshead	4	9.00	9.24			10.20	10.05	9.90	10.05	9.15	9.75	9.29	8.24				9.49	Sheepshead
Sheepshead	5	8.60	8.69			10.00	9.96	9.50	10.00	8.50	8.85	9.17	6.74				9.00	Sheepshead
Spanish Mackerel	1	4.56	4.47	5.10	6.55	4.35	4.10	4.13	5.00	6.15	4.58	5.50	7.88				5.20	Spanish Mackerel
Spanish Mackerel	2	4.50	4.07	4.57	5.30	4.10	3.65	3.99	4.85	6.00	4.05	5.29	6.05				4.70	Spanish Mackerel
Spanish Mackerel	3	3.91	4.01	4.40	5.10	4.05	3.35	3.76	4.75	5.95	4.03	4.35	4.90				4.38	Spanish Mackerel
Spanish Mackerel	4	3.82	3.80	4.03	5.05	3.94	3.30	3.76	4.00	5.25		2.97	4.65				4.05	Spanish Mackerel
Spanish Mackerel	5	3.80	3.18	3.33	4.95	3.00	3.00	3.74	2.79	2.58		2.65	3.46				3.32	Spanish Mackerel
Speckled Trout	1	8.00	7.20	8.00	6.91	7.40	7.26	9.65	7.94	7.00	8.12	7.54	8.55				7.80	Speckled Trout
Speckled Trout	2	6.90	6.69	7.95	6.90	6.83	6.40	7.52	7.58	6.98	7.15	6.87	7.80				7.13	Speckled Trout
Speckled Trout	3	6.90	6.60	7.71	6.80	6.50	6.34	6.84	7.55	6.96	6.83	6.80	7.56				6.95	Speckled Trout
Speckled Trout	4	6.75	6.56	7.60	6.80	6.20	6.25	6.74	7.06	6.95	6.75	6.75	7.54				6.83	Speckled Trout
Speckled Trout	5	6.64	6.46	6.95	6.70	6.10	6.19	6.67	6.74	6.58	6.57	6.48	6.66				6.56	Speckled Trout
White Trout	1	3.06	2.04	2.29	3.38	3.15	3.15	2.30	1.95	2.33	2.58	3.14	2.34				2.64	White Trout
White Trout	2	2.76	2.03	1.65	2.43	2.89	2.65	2.18	1.86	2.26	2.25	2.06	1.86				2.24	White Trout
White Trout	3	2.63	1.85	1.59	2.09	2.77	2.35	2.13	1.83	2.25	2.14	1.90	1.80				2.11	White Trout
White Trout	4	2.51	1.66	1.30	2.03	2.64	2.27	1.95	1.78	2.18	2.20	1.80	1.52				1.97	White Trout
White Trout	5	2.43	1.65	1.28	1.90	2.49	2.10	1.81	1.70	1.93	1.77	1.35	1.40				1.82	White Trout

The chart on the left shows the weight of the top five fish in each species entered in the ACFA Big Fish Contests over the past 14 years. The number under the Avg. column is the computed average weight for each place and each species over the course of years we have recorded weights. It is intended that members can use this table to help them determine the likelihood a fish they wish to enter in the year-long Big Fish Contest will stay on the board for the duration of that year's contest. As noted in the past few seasons, just about anything can happen over the course of a year (storms and other disasters) which influence the catch sizes of certain species. So this table is intended to be only an item to assist club members wishing to assess their Big Fish Contest entries and not meant to influence that decision. When in doubt, check it out!

The red triangles are where comments are attached in the Excel file indicating an ACFA club record, or where fish did not meet minimum weights to be included in the Big Fish Contest for that year (blank boxes). Blank boxes (in 1997-99) are gaps in the records when we have no data for those years.

December Awards Banquet Announcement...

Our outgoing club president **Vince Hawkins** announced the venue for our December Awards Banquet will again this year be held at "**The Grand Hall**" on Halls Mill Road (1/2 mile west of I-65). The Banquet will be on **FRIDAY** night December 2nd from 6pm to midnight. Catering will again be provided by **Fish Heads Catering**. That's Terry Quint and company. LIVE ENTERTAINMENT will be provided this year by "**The Mystifiers**" all the way from Belleview Retirement Home. In case you're not aware, the band features ACFA members **David Hare** "Burl Minnow" and **Don Ludlam** "Iceman". So stick around after the awards as the fun could last till...?

There is no bar at the facility so drinks are BYOB. PLEASE drink responsibly and have a good time! And as is our custom, the ACFA will provide ice and a limited number of soft drinks and iced tea which members are asked to provide for everyone to share. Members are also asked to bring some of their favorite hors d'oeuvres and/or desserts to share and compare.

IF you did not sign the list passed around during the October and November meetings, you MUST call Vince by Friday Nov 25th. At the meetings Vince mentioned the cost of the catered food is \$14 per person and we will NOT be overbooking! So IF you're planning on attending it's imperative to get your name on this list so we can accurately plan the number to expect. Also, if you are on the list and see you can not make it please call Vince @ 452-3899 so the club will not be charged for no-shows. Your paid membership allows for you and your family to attend free of charge (wife & children, girlfriend or mermaid ;-)
We request any additional guests pay \$14 each to help us recoup some of the cost and to pay the band so they will play and not eat all the food. So make your plans to attend now, as we hope to see you there. There'll be great food, fun and entertainment! We have well over 50 plaques and trophies in addition to other prizes to hand out, including our "GRAND ATTENDANCE PRIZE PACKAGE (100 quart ice chest) filled with hundreds of dollars worth of great fishing "stuff". It just might be yours!

ACFA Rule-of-100 and Now, Rule-of-150!

In the distant past when our club had fewer than 100 members, only the 8 people in 1st place of each category in the Big Fish Contest received plaques. After the membership reached 100 members that number was expanded by the board of directors to include plaques for places 1st thru 3rd in each category. And after the membership exceeded 150 it was decided to provide plaques for the top 5 finishers in each of the Big Fish Contest categories. That tradition continues this year with up to 40 plaques given away at the banquet for ALL the winners.

So be sure and look over the FINAL Big Fish Contest Standings on page 4 of this newsletter to see if you will be getting a plaque (or plaques) at our Awards Banquet. Congratulations to all the finalists!

And There's More...

Besides the Big Fish Contest winners for each of the 8 fish categories, we will award plaques for the top 5 'overall' point getters in the Big Fish Contest and the top 5 places in Tournament points. Plus we'll name the Big Fish Contest Champion, the Tournament Point Champion, we will also crown a Lady Angler, Junior Angler, and New Angler Champion in addition to our overall Master Angler. Also we'll honor the Member of the Year with the Founder's Award. And the last award to be given out is our Grand Attendance Prize Drawing. An ice chest filled with 'good fishing stuff' worth in excess of \$500, to be given away to one of the club members who attended at least 8 of the regular club meetings. Someone's dedication will pay them BIG dividends!

*A bit of ACFA History...

There needed to be a way to evenly compare placing in the monthly tournaments (based on point accumulation) with the year-long Big Fish Contest (based on position points). Somewhere along the line, we came up with a formula to reduce the two lists to the top finishers in each list. We assign points the same points for 1st place in each contest down to 1 point for the last angler (s) and by adding the adjusted totals of each person for the two contests together we get an overall champion who is crowned as the Master Angler for that year. So as mind bending (and close) as those calculations are you'll just have to come to the Awards Banquet to see who the 2011 Master Angler will be, or wait until the February 2012 newsletter comes out ... ;-)

REMINDERS

- The December Awards Banquet will be held **FRIDAY** December 2, 2011 at the 'Grand Hall' on Halls Mill Road.
 - Plaques not picked up from previous tournaments will be available for the last time at the December Banquet.
 - Please remember, **NO SMOKING** in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment.
 - Drinks at the December Awards Banquet are BYOB. Please drink sensibly and drive carefully. We want you back next year!
 - The ACFA 2012 Big Fish Contest is now running until Nov 14, 2012. Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch.
 - Our 'Special' Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout division is in effect for 2012 for the same period.
 - IF you have a fish in the 2012 Big Fish Contest (or CPR) you MUST renew your membership by the end of February 2012.
 - The first regular meeting for 2012 will be held Thursday February 2nd, 2012 at the American Legion Post 88 (Halls Mill Rd)
 - NO regular ACFA tournament in December, January or February.
 - The next ACFA newsletter will be mailed out the last week in January 2012
- Call Vince IF you haven't already to let us know how many to expect at the December 2, 2011 Awards Banquet !

Statistics...

FINAL as of November 15, 2011

The BIG Fish Contest

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WT		Redfish	WT
1	Kyle Mitternacht **	28.29	1	Jerry Markow	5.60	1	David Thornton	1.98	1	Jared Kelly	7.30
2	John Erwin	24.10	2	Doug Tierce	5.38	2	David Thornton	1.74	2	Erik Nelson	6.90
3	Kyle Mitternacht	21.85	3	Gary Tingle	5.01	3	Phillip Guy	1.53	3	Trevor Harrison (J)	6.60
4	Summer Williams (N)(L)	21.80	4	Charlie Dowdle	4.75	4	Bekki Ludlam (L)	1.51	4	Rob Howell	6.55
5	Ed Greer	20.12	5	Patric Garmeson	4.52	5	Austin Lee (J)	1.42	5	Theo Koulianos *	6.50
6	Trevor Wood	19.90	6	O.P. Harrison	4.02	6	Donnie Fassbender	1.40	6	Mark McPherson	6.50
7	Donald Garrettson	19.19	7	Jerry Markow	4.00	7	Shane Ford	1.20	7	Donnie Fassbender	6.35
8	Rick Tourne'	19.18	8	Marty Garmeson	3.83	8	Johnny Fassbender	1.20	8	Theo Koulianos	6.30
9	Jay O'Brien	17.37	9	Lee Minto *	3.50	9	Tim Pierce	1.15	9	Johnny Fassbender	6.10
10	Yano Serra (N)	16.00	10	Doug Tierce	3.50	10	Teena Pierce (L)	1.11	10	Leslie Smith	6.05
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1	Todd Golomb	10.90	1	Norman Lewellen (N)	4.56	1	Bill Graves	8.00	1	O.P. Harrison	3.06
2	Phillip Guy	9.15	2	David Thornton	4.50	2	O.P. Harrison	6.92	2	Marty Garmeson	2.76
3	Bruce Howle Jr	9.10	3	Vicki Foster (L)	4.21	3	Chris Conken *	6.90	3	Trevor Wood	2.63
4	David Hare	9.00	4	Steve O'Dell	3.91	4	O.P. Harrison	6.90	4	Vicki Foster (L)	2.51
5	Robert Mosely (N)	8.60	5	David Thornton	3.82	5	Jerry Markow	6.75	5	O.P. Harrison	2.43
6	David Thornton	8.35	6	Carson Tierce (J)	3.80	6	Theo Koulianos	6.64	6	Vicki Foster (L)	2.38
7	Mike Foster	8.05	7			7	Frank Mitternacht	6.63	7	Mike Foster	2.11
8	Mike Foster	8.00	8			8	Trevor Wood	6.56	8	Marty Garmeson	2.08
9	Josh Burroughs (N)	7.85	9			9	Chris Massey	6.39	9	Patric Garmeson	1.94
10	Donnie Fassbender	7.75	10			10	Trenny Woodham	6.30	10	Patric Garmeson	1.86

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

Big Fish Contest Top 5

POINTS	NAME	PLACE
39	David Thornton	1
37	O.P. Harrison	2
23	Kyle Mitternacht	3
20	Jerry Markow	4
20	Vicki Foster (L)	4
17	Phillip Guy	5

Tournament Points Top 5

PLACE	NAME	POINTS
1	Vicki Foster (L)	37
2	Trenny Woodham	36
3	Mike Foster	27
4	O.P. Harrison	24
5	Doug Tierce	23
5	Michael Nicholas (N)	23

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

ACFA Members in other Tournies



Dog River Clearwater Revival Fishing Tournament

O.P. Harrison (2nd place Speckled Trout,
2nd place White Trout)
Trenny Woodham (3rd place Speckled Trout,
3rd place Redfish,
3rd place White Trout)

Kids Division -

Ryan Hoffman (son of Richard Hoffman, Jr.)
(2nd place Flounder, 3rd place White Trout)

Be sure and check us out on the www...

If you get the chance you'll want to check out the club's official website @ www.acfafish.com

There are links to just about all the pertinent club info we could think of (like a newsletter archive) in addition to our forums. Anyone can join in.

MISSION STATEMENT

ACFA is a local inshore saltwater fishing club. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month to promote friendship, sportsmanship, and conservation along coastal Alabama. Our objectives are to provide a family oriented fishing club where you can meet new friends and learn all about being more successful while pursuing your hobby / sport. Dues are \$45.00 per year which covers member, spouse, and children under 16. Meetings are at 7 P.M. at the American Legion Post 88, 2663 Halls Mill Road. Speakers every month on how to, where to, etc. We offer a year long Big Fish Contest, 8 club Tournaments, fish fries, and an end of the year banquet with lots of food, awards and prizes.

Visitors are always welcome!

Jay O'Brien (above) is obviously pleased with this 6# 7 ounce Speckled Trout the Lunker Trout in that category in the 2nd Annual Dog River Clearwater Revival Fishing Tournament held on Saturday November 12, 2011 at the River Shack Restaurant on Dog River. When pressed for the specifics of his catch, Jay responded "it was caught with a live shrimp somewhere near the Parkway." Other ACFA members made their presence felt in the tourney among the 100 Adult and 24 kids entered. See more results to the upper right...

***BOG 2011**

Longtime ACFA member David Hare is quoted, "Hide your wife, hide your kids.— BOG 2011. You know you love it. It's BOG time! Year 15 or so. We have endured floods, freezes, divorces, wrecks, sinkings, and then of course there is the 'MAMBA'. LOL! Five trout sounds easy...it is sometimes. Sometimes not so damn easy! Anyway, you don't have to be pro to fish (or win). And we will all likely be fishing about the same places, so come out and fish with us." (rain or shine)

When: Saturday Dec 10, 2011

Signin: Waffle House on Hwy 90 @ I-65 (5-5:30 am) Burl says "packing heat is advised." ;-)

Price: \$20 per man/ 2 per boat, but you may fish solo. Optional \$10 'Winner Take All' Redfish Lunker

Payout:

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place Speckled Trout (best 5 fish per boat)
Lunker Speckled Trout
Heaviest 'Slot' Redfish

Oh yes, the trophies will be back again this year! 😊

*BOG stands for Battle Of Grubs, as in artificial ONLY!



Family, friends and well wishers gave a flaring sendoff to the newly wed couple of Patric Garmeson and Autumn Lundy. They were married November 11, 2011 (11-11-11) at Historic Fort Conde in Downtown Mobile. Congratulations and best wished from all your ACFA friends!