

2010 Year Long Big Fish Contest Rules

Revised: February 2010

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 same info 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: **ADAM BARKER 16832 HEARTLAND CIRCLE ROBERTSDALE, AL 36567 (phone: 251-747-1552)**

*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 delivery (to the Statistician) of the ACFA card (or receipt) 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 responsible for the welfare of any members, guests, or equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge. **