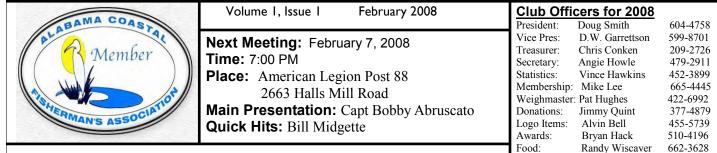
Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



A New look and a New Year!

Upcoming Events

Feb 7 1st Meeting Feb 9 'Grub' Tourney Feb 21-24 Boat Show Mar 6 2nd Meeting Mar 22 Tournament

President's Message

Newsletter:

Webmaster:

David Thornton

Chris Massey

Advisor: Mike Thompson

458-2775

422-2518

I hope everybody had a very Merry Christmas & hope your New Year is going well. But now its time to get ready for our first meeting of year!!!!!!!!!!! Hope to see everybody there.

Keep Your Newsletters on File

If you haven't already started, keeping these newsletters in a file will help answer most of your questions (and maybe answer someone else's too). Over the course of the year the details of all our club's activities will be published here, so STAY TUNED and STAY INFORMED! Like this important information below:

2008 Memberships are Due and ...

Wouldn't you like to avoid the crush at the Treasurer's Table at your first meeting?

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

The form can be found in this newsletter or on the club website at http://acfafishing.com/membership/form/meb.pdf IF you've already renewed your membership, give the form to a friend you'd like to join the club and have them check you as a referral. Remember, ANY member who refers at least one new member is eligible for a drawing to refund their \$45 membership fee! As added incentive the ACFA will draw TWO names of members who renew by mail and refund their \$45 membership fee! And remember, those who already have fish entered in the 2008 Big Fish Contest MUST have renewed their membership by the end of February, or their Big Fish Contest entry will be removed.

Inside this issue:

New in 2008: (see page 3)

Adding another tournament (in November)

Multiple Species Junior Angler Plaques (1st-3rd)for ALL Tournaments

Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Speckled Trout Contest

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2007 ACFA Awards Banquet Left to right: Bekki Ludlam (Lady Angler), Brittany Howle (Junior Angler), Mike Foster (Master Angler and co-Tournament Point Champion with), Patric Garmeson and Bill Midgette, Kyle Mitternight (Big Fish Champion)

ALABAMA COASTAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

A GOOD Time Was Had ...

By nearly 200 members and guests who attended the 11th Annual ACFA Awards Banquet held Saturday evening December 8, 2007. Over 60 awards and trophies were given out and mass quantities of delicious HOT, catered food and sides from Catalina Seafood were consumed along with numerous "scrumptious" desserts contributed by the attending members. It was another great ACFA party, and if you missed it, then you REALLY missed it! But the focus of the evening was the award presentations that followed.

Our 2007 Big Fish Champions were:

Blackfish: 1st and 3rd place Kyle Mitternight 22.00#, 2nd & 5th Rick Tourne, and 4th place Brandon Parker Sheepshead: Henry Nall 12.20#, 2nd Jason Miller, 3rd Chris Massey, 4th place Ted Keifer, 5th place Leslie Smith Flounder: Louis Felis 5.48#, 2nd Kyle Mitternight, 3rd Sam Clark III, 4th Rick Yeend, 5th place Dane Tomberlin Spanish Mackerel: 1st and 5th place Bekki Ludlam (L) 4.35#, 2nd Don Ludlam, 3rd Dane Tomberlin, 4th place Terry Quint Ground Mullet: Brittney Howle (J)1.50#, 2nd Jimmy Quint, 3rd and 4th place Daniel Ford, 5th place David Hare Speckled Trout: Chris Massey 7.40#, 2nd Kelly Fulmer, 3rd Tom Duncan, 4th Bill Midgette, 5th place Bill Robinson Redfish: Vince Hawkins 7.40#, 2nd Richard Rutland (N), 3rd Judy Smith (L), 4th Mutt Burke, and 5th place John Burke White Trout: Vicki Foster (L) 3.15# *, 2nd and 3rd Mike Foster, 4th Patric Garmeson, and 5th place Adam Barker (N) (* Tied Club Record)

All the overall winners in the yearlong Big Fish Contest are assigned points based on the number and place of fish they had in the final 2007 Big Fish Contest results. We refer to this as the Big Fish Championship. Based on these point totals 3rd place went to Mike Foster, 2nd place Chris Massey, and **the 2007 Big Fish Championship was awarded to Kyle Mitternight.**

In addition we recognized the accomplishments of club members who consistently placed in our monthly tournaments by their standings in accumulated point totals at the end of the competition season.

Mutt Burke was 5th place, Steve O'Dell (N) 4th place, Henry Nall, Chris Massey and Belinda Smith (L) tied for 3rd place, Rick Tourne and David Hare tied for 2nd place and **our 2007 Tournament co-Champions were Bill Midgette, Mike Foster and Patric Garmeson**. An overall champion is chosen by a complex mathematical equation in which we compare each individual's rank in the Big Fish Contest and Tournament point totals.

By virtue of that, our coveted 2007 Master Angler Trophy was awarded to Mike Foster.

We use the same formula to select the overall lady and junior anglers too. Lending equal weight to the Tournament and Big Fish Contest. So the **2007 ACFA Lady Angler Trophy went to Bekki Ludlam** and the **2006 Junior Angler Trophy was awarded to Brittney Howle**.

The "Founder's Award" is another coveted trophy. Each year it is presented by Mike Thompson to the individual who is considered to have advanced the club by giving time and effort beyond expectations or job description. For his work in making the pre-meeting Mini-Seminar Series a resounding success along with promoting fish tagging coupled with catch & release, the 2007 Founder's Award went to Joe Sirmon.

A very important part of the success of the ACFA is the support of the club by individuals, businesses and organizations who help make it all possible. At the end of each year the club tries to recognize (albeit in a small way) the most deserving of them for their contributions with a plaque of recognition. In 2007, the ACFA recognized **Post 250, The American Legion** (tournament weigh in site), **Scott's Landing** (Speckled Trout Challenge and Causeway Classic weigh in site), **Grady Marine** (financial support throughout the year), **Charlie Crawford and Souther-N-Bama Bait & Tackle** (Big Fish Contest plaques and monthly door prizes). Thanks again Charlie!

The last award of the evening was the **Grand Attendance Prize** drawing (an ice chest filled with lures and other 'goodies' **worth in excess of \$700**). About 25 members qualified for the drawing (by attending at least 8 of the 10 regular monthly club meetings). The 'lucky' member this year was Trey Pitt. Congratulations to all our 2007 winners and good luck in 2008 (you're gonna need it ;-)

Don't forget to patronize our sponsors at the Boat Show.

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

ACFA Logo items

Our Logo Item Chairman, Alvin Bell said he still has a limited supply of items to sell from last year. (long sleeve T-shirts, T-shirts and hats) In addition he will have a dozen of the latest (2008) 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).

Later we will have at least one 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 a meeting and returned at the next meeting. Probably in April and May.

The Mini-Seminars will return...

The huge popularity and success of the Mini-Seminar Series last two years has assured it has a place in the planning for this year. Joe Sirmon who has spearheaded the idea has decided to step aside for someone else to 'run the boat' for a while. Patric Garmeson has courageously 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! 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 in March!

ALABAMA COASTAL FISHERMAN'S ASSOCIATION

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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 <u>pierpounder2001@hotmail.com</u>

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+

Now in our 12th year, 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. All photographs are subject to approval by the ACFA Board of Directors for approval. 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 will be 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.

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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

C

Up to 248 plaques to be awarded in our 2008 tournaments

All this (and more) brought to you by your 2008 Board of Directors. Please see any of them for comments and suggestions.

Reminders

2008 dues are due now, pay by mail to avoid crowds and qualify for prizes.

NO ACFA tournament in February, all 2008 meeting and club tournament dates are included in this newsletter.

Alvin Bell (455-5739) will be selling ACFA a limited number and selection of logo'd items at the February meeting

2008 Mobile Boat Show at the Mobile Convention Center Feb 21-24, 2008

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

Fill out and send cards to Vince Hawkins 112 Baratara Drive Chickasaw, AL 36611 (452-3899)

Dues MUST be paid by the end of February to retain a fish on the Big Fish Board.

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

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.

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.

The **BIG** Fish Contest

	Current		-	23-3411-00		-			-		-
	Blackfish	wт		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet	WТ		Redfish	WТ
1			1			1			1		
2			2			2			2		
3			3			3			3		Î
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1			1			1			1	Vicki Foster (L)	2.43
2			2			2			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)

OFFICIAL ACFA 2008 Calendar

Meeting date

Tournament date

Newsletter Due date

Newsletter Mail date

Ja	nu	ary	12	00	3	
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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NO Jan Meeting or Tourney

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July Tourney on Holiday Weekend

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

October Tourney

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24	25	26	27	28	29	

NO Feb Tourney

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				29		

May Tourney = ST Challenge?

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Nov Tourney Big Fish Ends Nov 14th

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June 2008 Su M Tu W Th F Sa 1 2 3 4 5 6 9 8 10 11 12 13 14 16 17 18 19 20 21 15 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Se	pt	em	be	r 2	00	8
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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Dec Meeting = Awards Dinner NO Dec Tourney NO Jan News

Mar. Feb. 22 Jun. May. 21 Jul. Jun. 20 Jun. May. 23 Jun. 25 Apr. Mar. 21 Jul. 25 Aug. Jul. 25 Sep. Aug. 22 Sep. Aug. 22 Sep. 19 Oct. Sep. 19 Dec. Nov. 21	ACFA 2008 Schedule	ail Monthly Tourna- ewsletter Meeting Tourna- 1/2 Date 1st Saturday ment date Tournament fish a Cournament fish a Cou	XXXX NO regular MEETING - Board meeting BEFORE Christmas	Jan. 28 Feb. 7 NONE NO Tournament in Feb. Too Cold!	Feb. 25 Mar. 6 Mar. 15 Speckled Trout, White Trout, 12 Set week later for better bite Sheepshead, Ground Mullet	Mar. 24 Apr. 3 Apr. 5 Spring Breakout Ground Mullet 12 Open Pompano Div	Apr.21 May. 1 May. 3 Speckled Trout Challenge Speckled Trout & Jr Speckled Trout 10 STC (who?) Weigh in at Scott's Landing / Fish Fry	May. 26 Jun. 7 Summer Starter Stornd Mullet. Spanish Mackerel	Jun. 23 Jul. 3 Jul. 5 Rodeo Warm-up Flounder, White Trout, Blackfish, 15 2 anglers per team for specks 5 Species - / Shrimp Boil Flounder, White Trout, Blackfish	Jul. 28 Aug. 7 Aug. 9 Mobile Bay Grand Slam White Trout, Blackfish, Flounder, 21 5 Species 1st thru 5th Place in Slam Catagories Vhite Trout, Blackfish 21 5 Species 1st thru 5th Place in Slam Catagories	under, 15	Sep. 22 Oct. 2 Oct. 4 Fall Fallout Sheenshead Sheenshead <	Oct. 27 Nov. 6 Nov. 8 Causeway Classic White Trout White Trout 12 2008 Big Fish Contest ends Nov 14 and '09 begins Nov 15	NO Mai	124 Iunior Andler Placues (1st thru 3rd) for All Tournament Snaries
		Mail newsletter 1 1/2 weeks prior to meeting	XXXX					May. 26	Jun. 23			Sep. 22		Nov. 24	



Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association Membership Application Form mail to: Mike Lee 4451 Nicholl Dr. Mobile Alabama 36619

Date		
First Name/Middle Initial Last Name	M.I (Please use your common name (nickname, Sr, Jr, III, etc) that you will use in the Tourname	nts
Street Address City State/Province Zip/Postal Code Phone E-mail	and wish to have printed on memberlist and in the newsletter to help avoid confusion.)	
First Time Member	YesNo	
Boat Type/Make Boat Name		
% Time Fishing With	Artificial Bait Live Bait	
Topics you would like to hear discussed at meetings		
% Of Time Targeting	Speckled Trout Redfish Flounder Sheepshead White Trout Spanish Mackerel	
Referred to Membership or Sponsored by		
Other family members who qualify to fish tournaments on your membership:	Spouse (First Name): Children under age 16 before February 1 st (including step-children) First Name(s):	