

2024 Year-Long Big Fish Contest (BFC)

1. The ACFA recognizes **Ten (10) species** in its Year-Long Big Fish Contest (BFC), for Adult and Junior anglers. The BFC runs from 12:00 am November 15th until 12:00 am (midnight) the following November 14th.
 - a. Species included in the 2024 ACFA Big Fish Contest are:
 - i. Croaker
 - ii. Flounder
 - iii. Gafftopsail Catfish
 - iv. Kingfish
 - v. Pompano
 - vi. Redfish
 - vii. Sheepshead
 - viii. Spanish Mackerel
 - ix. Speckled Trout
 - x. White Trout

2. To avoid any confusion when using local names in our classifications:
 - a. “Kingfish” is considered to be any of the three species of “Ground Mullet/Whiting”: i.e. Southern (*Menticirrhus americanus*), Gulf (*M. littoralis*), or Northern (*M. saxatilis*)
 - b. “White Trout” is Sand Seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*) or Silver Seatrout (*Cynoscion nothus*)
 - c. “Flounder” species include Gulf (*Paralichthys albigutta*) or Southern (*Paralichthys lethostigma*)

3. To abide by state fishing regulations as laid out by the AL MRD, as well as encourage conservation of the resource and consolidate the rules, the ACFA has established the following minimum weight/length requirements to qualify for this contest (for both Adult and Junior Divisions):

Species	Min.	Species	Min	Species	Min
Croaker	10” TL	Gafftop	14” FL	Redfish (slot)	16”-26” MTL
Kingfish	10” TL	Spanish Mackerel	14” FL	Speckled Trout (slot)	15”-22” MTL
White Trout	10” TL	Pompano	12” TL		
Sheepshead	12” FL	Flounder	14” TL		

FL = Fork Length TL = Total Length MTL =Maximum Total Length ("pinched tail")

4. **SPECIAL NOTE:**
 - a. Sheepshead, Gafftop, and Spanish Mackerel are to be measured using Fork Length (as per AL MRD regulations);
 - b. Flounder, Pompano, Croaker, Kingfish, and White Trout are to be measured using Total Length (as per AL MRD regulations);
 - c. Redfish & Speckled Trout are measured using Maximum Total Length (i.e. ‘pinched tail’) as per AL MRD ‘slot’ regulations.

5. You may submit your BFC Entry to the ACFA Statistician using one of the following methods:
 - a. **Link on Fishing Chaos (you MUST create a Fishing Chaos account, be a paid ACFA member, and register for the BFC)**
 - b. Text to: (251) 654-3444
 - c. E-mail: micaiahlindquist@outlook.com
 - d. **U.S. Mail:**
ACFA Big Fish Contest
c/o Micaiah Lindquist
2231 Johnson Rd W
Mobile, Al 36695

6. Any of the **Ten (10) Species** identified in ACFA BFC Rule #2 and #3 should be submitted by one of the following means:
 - a. Using a **2024 ACFA Big Fish Card** (which may be found under the **RESOURCES TAB** on the ACFA website @ **acfafish.com**) or;
 - b. Weigh Master at ACFA club tournaments (automatic) or;
 - c. Tournament Official at other tournaments utilizing calibrated scales;
 - i. In writing on a **2024 ACFA Big Fish Card** (or paper with the **same info and signature** on it) or accessibly published in print or the internet;
 1. Angler is required to notify the ACFA Statistician and provide a BFC card (or paper with the **same info and signature** on it), photo, video, printout, or internet link relating to that tournament in order to verify the angler name, fish species, weight, and length or;
 - d. Business with calibrated scales or tabletop scales at a “brick & mortar bait shop”, in writing, on a **2024 ACFA Big Fish Card**, or (in lieu of) a business receipt (preferably with phone#), showing the date, angler's name, species of fish, weight (and length if applicable), name of the business, name and signature of the person actually weighing (and/or measuring) the fish;
 - i. Information must be legible, complete and contain the same info as required on the **2024 ACFA Big Fish Card** or the entry may be rejected at the ruling of the Statistician;
 - e. Be submitted to Statistician or on Fishing Chaos within 30 days of Date of Catch;
 - f. Include a photo or video verifying the length complies with AL DNR & ACFA requirements.
 - g. **Include a photograph/video showing angler with his/her catch to assist the statistician in verifying the length of catch (Statistician will be final judge in all entries).**
7. In case of a tie the earliest received date (and time) entry will take precedence over the later entry.
8. The ACFA Statistician is the sole judge in this contest.
9. Each fish entered must be legally caught by hook & line in a sportsmanlike manner (no intentional 'snagging' of fish permitted) on rod & reel, bait, or lure in Alabama State Waters (See ACFA Tournament Rule #3 & #3.a).
10. Each qualifying angler (paid member, their spouse, child, or grandchild) under age 16 as of Feb 1st, is allowed a maximum of **Two (2)** fish in each Big Fish category (species).
11. To qualify, membership must be paid for the calendar year of the contest ending or renewed by March 1st of the following year to avoid disqualification and removal of fish from the contest.
12. Points will be awarded for each of the top ten (10) places in each category as follows:

Place	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
Points	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
13. **Five (5)** bonus points will be awarded to any qualified angler breaking an existing ACFA club record.
14. Results will be posted monthly in the newsletters along with the rest of the standings and statistics, and on the club website @ <https://www.acfafish.com/stats-and-records>
15. The top three (3) places for each of the **Ten (10)** category species (in both Adult and Junior Angler Division) will be recognized with a plaque at the December Awards Banquet.

** Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA), or its officers, be held responsible for the welfare, conduct or actions of any members, guests or their equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA Tournaments or Contests**