

2023 Year-Long Big Fish Contest (BFC)

1. Participation in this contest is automatically included when yearly membership dues are paid prior to fishing. Your membership extends to your family: spouse, children (or grandchildren) who have not reached their 16th birthday by February 1st of the current year. ACFA members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with our Mission Purpose of providing a “Family-Oriented Atmosphere” during club functions. Unruly or otherwise disruptive behavior is unacceptable, and the membership of such offender may be forfeited (and refunded) at the discretion of a majority of the club executive officers.
2. The ACFA recognizes ten (10) species in its Year-Long Big Fish Contest (BFC), for Adult and Junior anglers. The BFC begins 12:00 am November 15th until 12:00 am (midnight) the following November 14th.
 - a. Species included in the 2023 ACFA Big Fish Contest are:
 - i. Croaker
 - ii. Flounder
 - iii. Gafftopsail Catfish
 - iv. **Kingfish** (formerly “Ground Mullet/Whiting”)
 - v. Pompano
 - vi. **Redfish (slot 16” to 26”)**
 - vii. Sheepshead
 - viii. Spanish Mackerel
 - ix. **Speckled Trout (slot 15” to 22”)**
 - x. White Trout
3. To be consistent with ACFA Tournament entries and help avoid any confusion when using local names in our classifications:
 - a. “**Kingfish**” is considered to be any of the three species of Kingfish/Kingcroaker. Those are: **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*)
4. To abide by state fishing regulations as laid out by the AL MRD, as well as encourage conservation of the resource and coincide with ACFA Tournament rules, the ACFA has established the following minimum weight or length requirements to qualify for this contest (for both Adult and Junior Divisions):

Species	Min.	Species	Min	Species	Min
Croaker	0.50 #	Gafftop	1.00 #	Redfish (slot)	16” – 26” MTL
Kingfish	0.50 #	Spanish Mackerel	1.00 #	Speckled Trout (slot)	15” - 22” MTL
White Trout	0.50 #	Pompano	12” TL		
Sheepshead	12” FL	Flounder	14” TL		

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

5. **SPECIAL NOTE:**
 - a. Sheepshead are to be measured using Fork Length (as per AL MRD regulations);
 - b. Flounder and Pompano are 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.
6. You may submit your BFC Entry to Wayne Swiger, ACFA Statistician by one of the following methods:
 - a. Text to: (251) 802-5987
 - b. Or E-mail: swigerwayne@gmail.com
Or U.S. Mail:
ACFA Big Fish Contest
c/o Wayne Swiger
658 Jemison St
 - c. **Mobile, Al 36606**

7. The **ten (10) Species** eligible in ACFA BFC (Rule #2) should be submitted by one of the following means:
 - a. Weigh Master at ACFA club tournaments (**automatic entry**) or;
 - b. Using a 2023 ACFA Big Fish Card (which may be found and downloaded under the **RESOURCES TAB** on the ACFA website @ <https://www.acfafish.com/big-fish-card> or;
 - c. Tournament Official at other tournaments utilizing calibrated scales;
 - i. In writing on a 2023 ACFA Big Fish Card (or paper with the same info and signature on it) or accessibly published in print or the internet;
 1. The angler is required to notify the ACFA Statistician and provide a BFC card (or paper with the same info with signature on it), photo, printout or internet link relating to that tournament in order to verify the angler name, fish species, weight, and length (if applicable) or;
 - d. Business with calibrated scales, in writing, on a 2023 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 2023 ACFA Big Fish Card or the entry may be rejected at the ruling of the Statistician;
 - e. Be submitted within 30 days of Date of Catch;
 - f. Include a photo verifying the 'pinch tail' length complies with AL DCNR & ACFA requirements.
 - g. **Include a photograph (or video) showing angler with his/her catch to assist the Statistician in verifying the length of catch (Statistician will be final judge for all entries).**
8. In the case of a tie the earliest received date (and time) entry will take precedence over the later entry.
9. The ACFA Statistician is the sole judge in this contest.
10. Each fish entered must be legally caught in Alabama waters by hook & line on rod & reel, bait, or lure in a sportsmanlike manner (no intentional 'snagging' of fish permitted) in Alabama State Waters (See ACFA BFC Rule #3, and ACFA Tournament Rule #4).
11. 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). You may however, "upgrade" your two allowed catches of each species with heavier entries. The third entry then becomes invalid.
12. To qualify fish entered in the 2023 BFC caught after November 15, 2022, current members must renew by March 1st, 2023, to avoid disqualification and removal of those fish from the contest.
New members are always welcome to join at any point during the year.
13. 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
14. **Five (5)** bonus points will be awarded to any qualified angler breaking an existing AFCA club record.
15. 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>
16. 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**