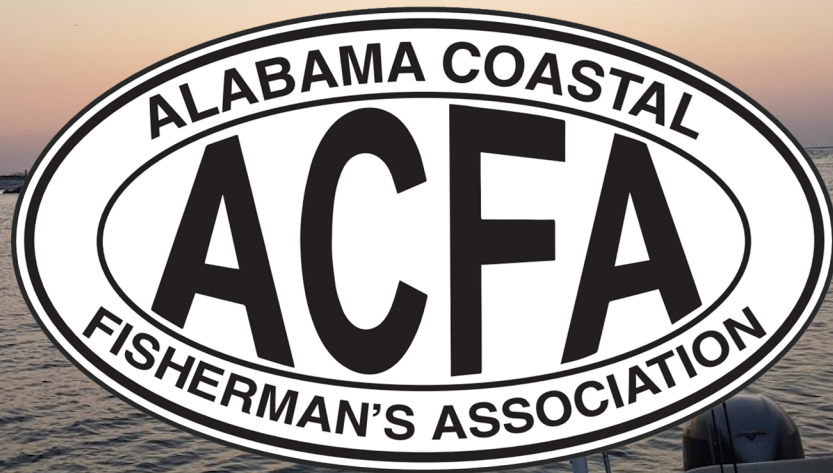


March 2024 Newsletter



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2024 ACFA Officers

Position	Name	Phone
President	David Thornton	251-458-2775
VP/Speakers	Perry Stokley	251-680-9505
Treasurer	Terry Wilson	251-591-7663
Membership	Micaiah Lindquist	251-654-3444
Awards	Wayne Sanders	251-601-4155
Donations	Colton Carlisle	251-214-6747
Donations	Harvey Pepper	251-447-3677
Food Advisor	Romie Perez	251-605-5005
IT/Website	Craig Hall	251-533-2727
Logo Items	Chad Summers	251-680-5271
Logo Items	Courtney Summers	251-680-8580
Newsletter	Robert Thornton	251-232-1904
Statistics	Micaiah Lindquist	251-654-3444
Weighmaster	Kaci Stokley	251-401-1407

March Meeting

Thursday March 7, 2024 6:30 pm

Moe's Original BBQ
701 Springhill Ave.
Mobile, AL 36602

Speakers:

George Harrison

&

Blakeley Ellis

+ Raffle and Door Prizes!

Upcoming Dates

- Thur. Mar 7 - ACFA Meeting
- Sun. Mar 10 - Daylight Savings
- Sat. Mar 16 - March Madness Tournament

President's Message



As daylight hours are getting longer, it certainly looks like winter is all but over. There are lots of indicators that this springlike weather will continue at least through early March. That means more springlike rains will descend upon us on occasion too. At least nothing looks extraordinary weatherwise for this time of year.

Look for speckled trout to stage in the lower Mobile Bay and Mississippi Sound, including the Gulf beaches through the dark stages of the moon in early to mid March. Sheepshead will also be ganging up in anticipation of their upcoming spawn. ACFA founder Mike Thompson used to say “look for sheepshead around the gas rigs south of the coast while the azaleas are blooming”. Plus it won't be long before Spanish mackerel begin showing up in Alabama waters. A Gulf water temperature of 65 degrees (sustained) usually signifies their arrival is imminent.

Our 2024 BFC and CPR contests continue, and the first ACFA tournament (“March Madness”) will be March 16th. Have you renewed your membership? And included you family members who plan to fish? Use the Fishing Chaos app for all your ACFA signups. And don't forget our Membership Drive ends at the start of our first tournament.

Speakers for the March 7th meeting will be George Harrison ([Harrison Inshore Fishing](#)) and Blakley Ellis ([CCA Alabama](#)).

We will have a fine raffle and door prizes. Hope to see you there!

David Thornton - ACFA President

2024 ACFA Sponsors



February Meeting Review



Robert Thornton-Editor

The Kick-Off meeting of the 2024 Fishing season was held Thursday, February 15, 2024 at Moe's BBQ Downtown. To get things started, Christian Summers held everyone's attention by giving us a rundown of whatever came to her mind first. She spoke about everything from School, friends, Mardis Gras, the club, her Birthday and Jack Wilson, who in the opinion of the editor, seemed to be her favorite subject! Thank you Christian and HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

ACFA President, David Thornton got the crowd of between 75-80 quieted down and began the evening with a short Prayer and then proceeded to the business at hand. He introduced the 2024 Board of Directors. He also mentioned our 2024 Sponsors without whom, the club could not survive. To date, the ACFA has procured the following as Sponsors...Moe's BBQ, Tackle This Fishing Outfitters, George's Water Sports, Fishing Chaos, WNSP Outdoors, Bon Secour Butchers, Davey Williams Competition Head Service and Deer River B&T.

David then began explaining how the 2024 Membership Drive, which will come to a close at 5:00 am March 16, 2024, will work. He laid out the guidelines for how the names of those signing up on Fishing Chaos during this period, will automatically have their names placed in a drawing for prizes which will be held at the April 4, 2024 meeting. Also, if you are having trouble signing up on the Fishing Chaos app, please contact Micaiah Lindquist at (251) 654-3444.

February Meeting Review (cont)

David also reminded everyone of the changes to both the BFC & CPR contests that came about during the January Board Meeting, and how it is each member's responsibility to become familiar with the rules of BOTH contests, especially in the CPR Contest. An entry into the Catch, Photo & Release Contest without the ACFA 2024 marker, will not be valid. Again, contact Micaiah Lindquist if you have any questions.

As is normal this time of year, we currently do not have any Big Fish Contest entries, but the Catch, Photo & Release Contest has already seen some activity. A Father/Son duel is taking shape between Eric Miller and his son Davey Miller. Alex Beebe is in the Top Spot in both the Flounder & Speckled Trout categories. Things will begin to heat up after the March Madness Tournament.

We had 2 outstanding speakers at the meeting. First up was Brandon Lunceford from one of our long-time Sponsors George's Water Sports who discussed issues regarding the care and maintenance of you boat's motor.

Items discussed included checking fuel & filters for contamination, Propeller & Shaft components for signs of wear, Electrical system components, Lighting, Steering system, Hydraulic components, Fluid levels and hose condition, Throttle & Shift mechanism esp cables, and lastly and most importantly,

MAKE SURE THE DRAIN PLUG IS IN PLACE BEFORE YOU LAUNCH YOUR BOAT!!

Our second speaker, Don Ludlum, a longtime former member of the ACFA, spoke about Rod & Reel maintenance. Some of his tips were: Level-wind reels require much more maintenance than do spinning reels. All Rod & Reel combos require some level of care, especially in the off-season. Always try to clean rods & reels with a low soap solution using a soft bristled brush and a soft water rinse. Do not tie braided line directly to the spindle without using a backing. Neoprene is a far better handle material than cork. Secure hooks by attaching to hook eye or to the leg of the guide. Lastly, it is a good idea to spray Zirconium on guides to help prevent corrosion and help to preserve the life of guides.

February Meeting Review (cont)

When it came time to draw for Raffle Items, we had several choices.

Tyler Dixon won the Daiwa Rod & Reel Combo, courtesy of our long-time Sponsor Tackle This Fishing Outfitters;

Sandy Tillery won a pair of Pier Bumpers from another long-time Sponsor, George's Water Sports;

Grady LeBlanc, Pat Hughes and John Phillips all won hats from various sources.

Several members were also gifted with Door Prize packets.

**Congratulations to all the winners and a big
THANK YOU to all of our Sponsors.**



2024 ACFA Tournament Rules

2024 ACFA Tournament Rules

All 8 club tournaments are included in your yearly membership fees, which must be paid prior to fishing in a tournament. Your membership extends to your family: spouse and children (or grandchildren) who have not reached their 16th birthday by February 1st of the current Tournament year.

1. Competition is open to all members in good standing (dues paid prior to tournament day and legally licensed for Alabama saltwater fishing).
 - a. Their spouse and children (or grandchildren) under 16 years of age as of Feb 1 of that tournament year.
 - i. PLEASE make a note to the Weighmaster of the member's name when their dependents (spouse or children) enter a fish.
 1. This is especially important for helping to verify the spelling and validity of stepchildren or grandchildren who have a different last name from the accompanying adult.
 2. PLEASE use the same name for each tournament!
2. Tournaments begin at 5:00 am. and end at 3:00 pm (**Unless otherwise advised.**)
3. All fish MUST be caught, by the entering angler, during tournament hours, on hook and line (rod and reel) using bait or lure in Alabama State waters (out to 3 miles).
 - a. 45 feet deep water is generally (not officially) accepted as the southward extent of 'state waters'. You are on your honor!
 - b. Tournament weigh-in is from 1:00 pm.-3:00 pm. (**Unless otherwise advised**)
The Weigh Master keeps "official time". You MUST be within view of the weigh-in table with your fish by 3:00 pm (**Unless otherwise advised.**)
4. Each fish should be weighed in by the member or family member who caught it.
 - a. You MUST be on the premises.
 - b. You are ultimately responsible for ensuring your catch is recorded correctly.
5. All decisions made by the Weigh Master and/or his assistants (club president and officers) are final. No changes will be made to the weigh sheets after declared final.
6. To qualify for the monthly awards, all fish weighed in an ACFA tournament must be a **Legal Alabama Catch** as specified in AL MRD (see Rule #8 & #11).
 - a. For unregulated species or those with no minimum length, the following will apply:
 - i. Spanish Mackerel and Gafftopsail Catfish must **measure at least 14 inches Fork Length (FL).**
 - ii. "Croaker", "White Trout", and "Kingfish" must **measure at least 10 inches Total Length (TL).**

2024 ACFA Tournament Rules

7. To avoid confusion when using local names in our classifications:
 - a. "Kingfish" is considered to be any of the three species of kingfish or kingcroaker previously known as "whiting" or "ground mullet" i.e. Southern (*Menticirrhus americanus*), Gulf (*M. littoralis*), or Northern (*M. saxatilis*).
 - b. "White Trout" is considered to be either the Sand seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*) or Silver seatrout (*Cynoscion nothus*).
 - c. "Flounder" species include either Gulf flounder (*Paralichthys albigutta*) or Southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*).

8. It is the angler's responsibility to bring the fish to the weigh in table in a "FRESH" and pliable condition that allows it to readily be accurately measured.
 - a. ONLY fish that are 'straight' can be accurately measured, so the angler must prepare the fish for that.
 - b. Any fish that meets any of the following **WILL** be rejected by the Weighmaster:
 - i. 'Spoiled',
 - ii. Frozen,
 - iii. Mutilated in such a way to alter (shorten) the length for "slot length" fish (i.e. Redfish, or Speckled Trout)
 - c. The ruling of the Weighmaster to accept or reject a fish is final by the end of the tournament.
 - d. **SPECIAL NOTE:** Only the following may be entered in ACFA Tournaments
 - i. Flounder 14" minimum TL (Total Length) or longer,
 - ii. Redfish (16" - 26") MTL ("Slot" = Maximum Total Length),
 - iii. Speckled Trout 15"- 22" MTL ("Slot" = Maximum Total Length),
 - iv. Pompano 12" TL minimum (Total Length) or longer,
 - v. Sheepshead 12 inches minimum FL (Fork Length) or longer,
 - vi. Gafftopsail Catfish minimum 14" FL,
 - vii. Spanish Mackerel minimum 14" FL,
 - viii. Kingfish, White Trout and Croaker minimum 10" TL.

9. Only one fish in each category per angler can place in each tournament.
 - a. **NOTE:** a second category fish may be weighed in as a Big Fish Contest entry if it meets the minimum requirements for that species (see Big Fish Contest Rule #3).
 - b. Also, fish eligible for the Big Fish Contest (even if caught prior to tournament hours) may be weighed at tournaments, provided the angler first declares the fish is ONLY for the BFC. You are on your honor!

10. Weights are recorded to hundredths of a pound. In case of a tie, the first fish weighed in places highest. Times recorded on the weigh in sheets are considered "official".

11. All state and federal laws, creel limits and licenses apply. (See AFCA Tournament Rule #6). PLEASE CALL ALMRD 251-861-2882 OR 251-968-7576 FOR UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE FISHERMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW AND ABIDE BY THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT.

2024 ACFA Tournament Rules

12. Tournaments will be canceled due to weather conditions if:
- A "Small Craft Advisory" is predicted or expected to be predicted for a majority of Alabama waters (3 of the 5 Alabama Marine Weather Forecast Zones) by NWS Mobile for the Tournament day.
 - Members should always "exercise caution", fishing at their own risk, and shall use good judgment of when and where to fish.
 - The ACFA encourages safe boating practices and assumes no responsibility for participating fishers or their equipment**
It is not worth risking life and property to get a plaque!

13. **Tournament points** will be awarded as follows:

Place	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Points	5	4	3	2	1

14. **Bonus Points:** * One (1) Tournament "Species Point" will be awarded to each member who weighs a fish (of the 5 eligible species) at any tournament provided that fish is 'legal' and meets the minimum set weights (see ACFA Tournament Rules 8.d.i-ix). You will receive 1 point per species in that tournament even if they do not place in the top 5.
- *Five (5) additional Tournament Points will be awarded to any member who places in the top five in Speckled Trout, Redfish and Flounder for the August Grand Slam Tournament.
 - *Five (5) additional Tournament Points will be awarded to any member who breaks a club record in a tournament.
 - For every tournament the top three places in each category will receive a plaque and/or inscribed plate at the next club meeting (unless they **DECLINE** at the weigh in).
15. As of 2019 Junior Anglers will be running a separate Tournament Division and receive **TOURNAMENT POINTS** in addition to plaques for their tournament category fish (1st through 3rd place) only against other Junior Anglers.
- Any qualified dependent of a member (Junior Angler) may choose to waive the Junior classification (at their first tournament) and fish against the adults for the entire season.
16. The Club's Tournament Point Champion and Junior Tournament Point Champion:
- Will be recognized at the year-end ACFA Awards Banquet in December.
 - The member, or dependents, accumulating the highest number of Tournament Points at the season's end in October, will be declared the victor.
 - We also track Lady anglers (L) and New members (N) for each year.
17. All weigh-in locations will be announced in the newsletter and at the regular club meeting prior to the tournament.

2024 ACFA Tournament Rules

- a. Our Weigh-in site for most tournaments is the American Legion Post 200 on Dauphin Island Parkway Hwy 193 (near the Greer's Food Tiger store).
- b. The May and October tournaments have weigh-in sites on the Causeway (location: 'TBA' means "To Be Announced" in the newsletter and meeting).

NETMAN (or WOMAN) of the Year

1. Any ACFA angler at the time of their weighing in a tournament fish who declares the eligible member or dependent who actually netted that fish for them (including themselves) will be awarded the same number of points as Tournament Points in a separate contest category called "Netman of the Year".
 - a. These points will be tallied and kept for the duration of the tournament season.
 - i. The anglers in each division with the most accumulated "net" points will receive this award during the December Banquet.



**Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) nor 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 the challenge. *

MARCH MEETING PREVIEW

Come Join us on Thursday March 7, 2024 at MOE'S BBQ
from 6:30pm-8:30 pm

Speakers will be:

GEORGE HARRISON will be speaking on Inshore Trout Fishing Tactics
BLAKELY ELLIS will be speaking about the Coastal Conservation
Association (CCA)

2024 March Madness Tournament Preview

The March Madness Tournament will be held on
Saturday, March 16, 2024. Weigh-in will be at the
American Legion Post 250 on D.I.P from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

SPECIES

SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER, SHEEPSHEAD, KINGFISH

Romie Perez will be serving
his almost nearly World Famous

Chicken/Sausage Gumbo

March Marks the initial Tournament of the year. To date, the only action has been confined to the Catch, Photo & Release Contest (CPR). As the daylight hours return to Springtime Standards, keep in mind even though our rules state a 5:00am start time, "safe light" is more like 5:30am. Everyone PLEASE use caution launching and getting you and your boat to your fishing spot. We want everyone to be safe and come to the weigh-in from 1:00pm - 3:00pm at the American Legion Post 250.

WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE FOOD PREP & CLEAN-UP HELP!

STATISTICS

Adult Big Fish Contest Standings

2024-02-20

PL	PTS	CROAKER	WT	PL	PTS	FLOUNDER	WT	PL	PTS	GAFFTOPSAIL CATFISH	WT
1	10			1	10			1	10		
2	9			2	9			2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	KINGFISH	WT	PL	PTS	POMPANO	WT	PL	PTS	REDFISH (SLOT)	WT
1	10			1	10			1	10		
2	9			2	9			2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	SHEEPSHEAD	WT	PL	PTS	SPANISH MACKEREL	WT	PL	PTS	SPECKLED TROUT (SLOT)	WT
1	10			1	10			1	10		
2	9			2	9			2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	WHITE TROUT	WT	PL	PTS	WHITE TROUT	WT				
1	10			1	10						
2	9			2	9						
3	8			3	8						
4	7			4	7						
5	6			5	6						
6	5			6	5						
7	4			7	4						
8	3			8	3						
9	2			9	2						
10	1			10	1						

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE NO BFC ENTRIES

** Club Record * First Submitted (N) New Member (L) Lady Angler

STATISTICS

Adult Catch, Photograph, Release Standings

2024-02-20

PL	PTS	BLACK DRUM	LENGTH	PL	PTS	FLOUNDER	LENGTH	PL	PTS	JACK CREVALLE	LENGTH
1	15			1	10	ALEX BEEBE	15.00	1	10		
2	9			2	9			2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	REDFISH	LENGTH	PL	PTS	SHEEPSHEAD	LENGTH	PL	PTS	SPECKLED TROUT	LENGTH
1	10	ERIC MILLER	39.75	1	10			1	10	ALEX BEEBE	21.75
2	9	DAVEY MILLER *	39.00	2	9			2	9		
3	8	ERIC MILLER	39.00	3	8			3	8		
4	7	DAVEY MILLER	27.00	4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		

** Club Record * Tie (first to weigh in) (N) New Member (L) Lady Angler

Adult Catch, Photograph, Release Points

2024-02-20

PL	ANGLER NAME	PTS	BLK DRUM	FLND	JACK C	REDFISH	SHEEPS	SP TROUT	TOT PTS
1	ALEX BEEBE	20		10				10	20
2	ERIC MILLER	18				18			18
3	DAVEY MILLER	16				16			16
	TOTALS	54	0	10	0	34	0	10	54

STATISTICS

Junior Catch, Photograph, Release Standings

2024-03-02

PL	PTS	BLACK DRUM	LENGTH	PL	PTS	FLOUNDER	LENGTH	PL	PTS	JACK CREVALLE	LENGTH
1	10			1	10			1	10		
2	9			2	9			2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		
PL	PTS	REDFISH	LENGTH	PL	PTS	SHEEPSHEAD	LENGTH	PL	PTS	SPECKLED TROUT	LENGTH
1	10			1	10	COOPER GARMESON	17.00	1	10		
2	9			2	9	COOPER GARMESON	16.50	2	9		
3	8			3	8			3	8		
4	7			4	7			4	7		
5	6			5	6			5	6		
6	5			6	5			6	5		
7	4			7	4			7	4		
8	3			8	3			8	3		
9	2			9	2			9	2		
10	1			10	1			10	1		

** Club Record * First to weigh in (N) New Member

Junior Catch, Photograph, Release Points

2024-03-02

PL	ANGLER NAME	PTS	BLK DRM	FLNDR	JACK CRVL	REDFISH	SHEEPS	SP TROUT
1	COOPER GARMESON	19					19	
2		0						
3		0						
	TOTALS	19	0	0	0	0	19	0

(N) New Member

LOGO ITEMS

Our ACFA Logo Items co-Chair wives Allie & Amber Summers, along with Chatwin & Christian Summers will have shirts, car tags (\$20), koozies (\$5-\$10), hats (\$20), stickers (\$5), and visors (\$15) available for sale at the March 7th meeting.

“New member kits” should also be available at the meetings..

Shirts need to be pre-ordered (long-sleeved dri-fit)
(\$25 for regular sizes, and \$30 for plus sizes).

They will be printed per your size and color preference, then picked up next meeting...

IF you need anything else, or would like to see additional items like ACFA sunglass lanyards, keychains, etc. contact: Chad Summers



2024 ACFA Sponsors

