

# Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



## October 2011

**Next meeting:** October 6  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Speaker:** Captain Dan Kolenich  
**Quick Hits:** Alvin Bell  
**Mini-seminar:** TBD  
**Next tournament:** October 15

“Mutt Burke Causeway Classic”

## Club Officers for 2011

President:	Vince Hawkins	452-3899
Vice Pres:	Patric Garmeson	747-1554
Treasurer:	John Erwin	442-4592
Secretary:	Vicki Foster	621-9113
Statistics:	David Thornton	458-2775
Membership:	Keith Kenney	661-6057
Weighmaster:	Pat Hughes	422-6992
Donations:	TBD	
Logo Items:	Bill Graves & Bob Ward	
Awards:	Doug Tierce	583-0275
Newsletter:	Paul Lewis	421-1936
Webmaster:	Brandon Milam	680-1302
Food:	Brenda Wilson	626-3534
Advisor:	Mike Thompson	

## October 2011 President's Message

A few brave (some may say crazy) souls, braved the elements and fished the September tournament. We even had to move the weigh in to Scott's Landing so the tent wouldn't get blown away. And the fishermen and guests that arrived to see who was crazy enough to fish were treated to some great gumbo from Terry Quint. And we actually had a few fish weighed in.

It was mentioned in the last meeting, but we still need some volunteers for several board positions for 2012. If you enjoy the club, volunteer for a position to keep this club the best inshore club around. Thanks!

## In this issue:

**Page 2- October Meeting Preview, September Tournament Results, Tournament Point Standings**

**Page 3- Big Fish, CPR Standings, October Tournament info, ACFA'ers in other tournaments**

**Page 4- Reminders**

**Page 5- Speckled Trout facts sheet**



Sept 24 Alabama Hunger Relief Inshore Slam Tournament pictured L-R Doug Tierce, Pat Garmeson (assisted by John Collier Tierce), and Trevor Wood

## September Meeting Recap

Dr. Ruth H. Carmichael - Senior Marine Scientist at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and an Assistant Professor of Marine Science at the University of South Alabama gave a very informative presentation on the Manatee Sighting Network. She also informed us on the travel patterns, feeding habits and what boaters should do should they encounter these creatures on the water. More @ <http://manatee.disl.org/> Larry Lartigue with the Mobile Power Squadron gave our mini seminar presentation. He spoke on the how to's of boating safety and the training offered by the Power Squadron on this topic. More info @ <http://www.usps.org/localusps/mobile/> or call 251-583-6163 Captain Patric Garmeson held the quick hits and discussed summer fishing patterns and the benefits of braided line. Richard Hoffman won the Best Door Prize of the night – one free Opossum (trap not included), courtesy of Doug Tierce Trapping, LLC.

## October Meeting Preview

Captain Dan Kolenich will be speaking on fishing the causeway and upper bay in the fall. It's getting to be 'THAT' time! And Alvin Bell will give the quick hits presentation.

OP Harrison has stated he will be available to chat during the interlude following the main speaker and quick hits. He will be focusing on answering questions any club members may have regarding inshore fishing tactics. So don't be shy!

### ACFA "End of Summer" tournament September 3, 2011

A total of only seven fish made the cut at the weigh in, but word among the anglers was the &\*\$% skipjack bite was "off the chain!" And there was a ton of great chicken gumbo (made by Terry Quint) to warm the bones and forget the breeze and rain.

#### Speckled Trout

1	John Burke	2.10
2	George Harrison	1.95

#### Redfish

1	Trenny Woodham	4.95
2	Doug Tierce	4.85

#### Flounder

1	Patric Garmeson	2.10
2	~	~

#### White Trout

1	George Harrison	0.90
2	Trenny Woodham	0.65

### 2011 Tournament Point totals as of: September 3

Pl	NAME	Pts	Pts	
1	Trenny Woodham	30	9 pts	Chris Massey, David Thornton, Larry Watkins, Rick Tourne', Summer Williams (L)(N)
2	Vicki Foster (L)	28		
3	Michael Nicholas (N)	23	8 pts	Donnie Fassbender, Kristen Mitternacht (J), Todd Golomb
3	Mike Foster	23	7 pts	Bill Midgette, Phillip Guy, Rudy Baugh
4	Doug Tierce	22	6 pts	Ben Conken (J), Brenda Wilson, Bruce Howle Jr, Danny Finch, Gerald Markow, Jay O'Brien, Richard Hoffman Jr, Shane Ford
5	George Harrison	21		
6	Johnny Fassbender	20	5 pts	Christian Howell (J), Donald Garrettson, Doug Smith, Kyle Eckhoff(N), Kyle Mitternacht, Les Smith, Lindsey Hawkins(J), Steve Lindsey (N), Steve O'Dell, Tom Brooks (N), Tyler Dixon
7	David Hare	18		
7	Donnie Howell	18		
7	Patric Garmeson	18	4 pts	Jared Kelly, Kelly Jordan (L)(N), Norman Lewellen (N), Richard Hoffman Sr, Teena Pierce (L)
8	O.P. Harrison	16		
9	Bob Ward	15	3 pts	Cole Howell (J), Jacob Guy (J), Katie Mitternacht (J), Kevin Owens (N), Luke Fleniken, Marty Garmeson, Patrick Hughes, Robert Mosley (N), Ryan Hoffman (J), Ted Lawson
10	Bill Graves	14		
11	Bill Perry	13		
11	Tim Pierce	13	2 pts	Autumn Lundy(L), Barry Keith, Bob Maclay, Denise Dorgan(L), Gary Tingle, Gavin Tourne'(J), Jason Miller, Jessica Owens (L)(N), Lori Tourne'(L), Mike Vickery (N), Rhonda Beech (L)(N), Richard Beech (N), Scott Beech (N), Victoria Tourne' (J), Vince Hawkins
12	Bubba Williams	12		
12	Carson Tierce (J)	12		
12	John Burke	12		
13	Alvin Bell	11	1 pt	Ben Hum, Caleb Gates(J), Chase Maxwell(J), Daniel Ford, David McNew, Del Delchamps, Erik Nelson, George Koulianos, Greg Robinson, Henry Nall, Jackson Eubanks(J), Jackson Hughes(J), Joe Cieutat(N), Joe Hughes(J), Joe Sirmon, Joey Gates, John Erwin, Josh Burroughs (N), Kaleb Barker(J), Kevin Alt(N), Laura Greer(L), Maresa Serra(J)(N), Marie Serra(J)(N), Mark McPherson, Mike Dorgan, Mike Thompson, Noah Barker(J), Paul Lewis, Phillip Ward, Rileigh Hawkins(J), Sharon Markow(L), Steve Leger, Theo Koulianos, Tiffany Bunch(L)(N), Todd Bunch (N), Tye Jordan(J)(N), Will Conken(J), Wilson Winter(J), Yano Serra(N)
13	Lee Minto	11		
13	Trevor Harrison (J)	11		
14	Brad McDonald	10		
14	Ed Greer	10		
14	Trevor Wood	10		

Big Fish Contest Standing		Sept 22, 2011									
Blackfish	WT	Flounder	WT	Ground Mullet	WT	Redfish	WT				
1	John Erwin	24.10	1	Gary Tingle	5.01	1	David Thornton	1.98	1	Jared Kelly	7.30
2	Kyle Mitternight	21.85	2	Patric Garmeson	4.52	2	David Thornton	1.74	2	Erik Nelson	6.90
3	Summer Williams (N)(L)	21.80	3	Jerry Markow	4.00	3	Phillip Guy	1.53	3	Trevor Harrison (J)	6.60
4	Ed Greer	20.12	4	Marty Garmeson	3.83	4	Austin Lee (J)	1.42	4	Rob Howell	6.55
5	Trevor Wood	19.90	5	Lee Minto *	3.50	5	Donnie Fassbender	1.40	5	Theo Koulianos	6.50
6	Donald Garrettson	19.19	6	Doug Tierce	3.50	6	Shane Ford	1.20	6	Donnie Fassbender	6.35
7	Rick Tourne'	19.18	7	O.P. Harrison	3.37	7	Johnny Fassbender	1.20	7	Theo Koulianos	6.30
8	Jay O'Brien	17.37	8	Sharon Markow (L)	3.21	8	Tim Pierce	1.15	8	Johnny Fassbender	6.10
9	Yano Serra (N)	16.00	9	Carson Tierce (J)	3.20	9	Teena Pierce (L)	1.11	9	Leslie Smith	6.05
10	Frank Mitternight	15.79	10	Vince Hawkins	3.18	10	Jared Kelly	1.10	10	Tom Brooks (N)	6.00
Sheepshead	WT	Spanish Mackerel	WT	Speckled Trout	WT	White Trout	WT				
1	Todd Golomb	10.90	1	Steve O'Dell	3.91	1	Bill Graves	8.00	1	O.P. Harrison	3.06
2	Phillip Guy	9.15	2	David Thornton	3.82	2	Chris Conken *	6.90	2	Marty Garmeson	2.76
3	Bruce Howle Jr	9.10	3	Carson Tierce (J)	3.80	3	O.P. Harrison	6.90	3	Trevor Wood	2.63
4	David Hare	9.00	4	David Thornton	3.66	4	Gerald Markow	6.75	4	Vicki Foster (L)	2.51
5	Robert Mosely (N)	8.60	5			5	Theo Koulianos	6.64	5	O.P. Harrison	2.43
6	David Thornton	8.35	6			6	Frank Mitternight	6.63	6	Vicki Foster (L)	2.38
7	Mike Foster	8.05	7			7	Trevor Wood	6.56	7	Mike Foster	2.11
8	Mike Foster	8.00	8			8	O.P. Harrison	6.55	8	Marty Garmeson	2.08
9	Josh Burroughs (N)	7.85	9			9	Chris Massey	6.39	9	Patric Garmeson	1.94
10	Donnie Fassbender	7.75	10			10	Trenny Woodham	6.30	10	Patric Garmeson	1.86

\* First to weigh in (N) New Member (J) Junior Angler (L) Lady Angler

PL	CPR	Speckled Trout (in)
1	George Koulianos	27.25
2	O.P. Harrison	26.50
3	Paul Lewis	26.00
4	Chris Conken	26.00*
5	Trevor Wood	25.75
6	Doug Tierce	25.75
7	Patric Garmeson	25.50
8	Doug Tierce	25.00
9	Joey Gates	25.00
10	George Harrison	24.75

\* 1inch penalty due to incomplete picture

2011 Big Fish Contest is running through November 14th. Our Statistician MUST receive cards within 30 days of catch. Fill out and send Bigfish cards to: David Thornton 31 Hannon Avenue Mobile, AL 36604-1212 (458-2775).

## October 15<sup>th</sup> "Mutt Burke Causeway Classic"

Our October tournament is officially known as the Mutt Burke Causeway Classic and will be held on Saturday **October 15<sup>th</sup>**. The late Mutt Burke was a great man that loved this club and fishing the causeway and freely shared his wealth of knowledge with others. Please NOTE that this is the only tournament of the year where we have **mandatory launch rules (any launch on the causeway)**. Weigh in will be at Scott's Landing from 3-5 pm. Categories are: **Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder and Sheepshead**. Parking may be an issue so you might consider parking offsite and carpooling or using the vacant lot across the highway.

## 2011 ACFA Chili Cook Off

'Fire up your habaneros and dust off the recipe' as chili will once again be the food at the weigh in for the October tournament. Team Hawkins will be defending their crown and welcomes any and all challengers (just make sure you get there before the judges are full).

## ACFA Members In Other Tournaments

The ACFA was well represented in the Alabama Hunger Relief Inshore Slam held at Fowl River Marina ("Pelican Pub") Saturday September 24<sup>th</sup> nearly securing a clean sweep in all categories. Patric Garmeson won the Inshore Slam with 14.22# and George Harrison finished second with 11.44# Doug Tierce finished 4<sup>th</sup> and Vicki Foster finished 5<sup>th</sup>. Also Doug Tierce's boat won the Speckled Trout Jackpot with 14.95# in addition to the fine door prizes and cash they carted off in support of a good cause. Well done folks!

## CCA-Western Shore Chapter -Bay Blast –Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

The Western Shore Chapter of CCA-Alabama will be holding its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bay Blast banquet on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Gates of Fowl River. Tickets include: dinner, beer and wine, live music from "Grits & Pieces", and a one-year membership to CCA. There will also be great raffle items, a silent auction and a live auction. Some real deals can be had in both auctions. Couples tickets are \$75, and single tickets are \$50. When you consider that the price of a CCA membership is \$25, that means your ticket is getting you dinner, drinks and live entertainment for two for \$50. Try that someplace downtown. All funds raised go to conservation geared toward recreational saltwater fishing in Alabama. See Jason Miller, Becky Ludlam, Jimmy Quint, or call the CCA office at 478-FISH for tickets.

## 2012 Board Positions

Several people have expressed interest in Board Positions. Thank you for 'stepping up'!  
We **really** need someone to serve as Membership Chairman and Secretary. Please speak to Vince at the meeting...

## 2011 Awards Banquet and Christmas Party

Please make sure to sign up at the October and/or November meeting to reserve your spot at the 2011 Awards Banquet/Christmas Party. The date is **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**. And the food will once again be sumptuously prepared by our own Terry Quint. As previously mentioned, we pay the caterer for the numbers of people that sign up to attend. **If you sign up and can not make it, it is imperative that Vince be notified a week in advance.** You can also call him at 251 452-3899 with your name and number of adults and children attending. We ask that guests (non family members) pay \$14 to help defray the cost to the club – thanks.

## Dues Reminder

It's not too late to get someone to join the ACFA in time to attend the Awards Banquet Dinner (cheaper than dinner out for 2) And dues **MUST** be paid the day prior to the tournament so to be eligible for your fish to count and points to accrue. You can pay them at the next meeting (October or November) or mail them to **Keith Kenney at 4276 Honey Court Mobile, AL 36619 or Treasurer John Erwin at 8468 Rester Court Mobile, AL 36695.**

## Donations are Still Needed

Donations are always needed for door prizes and the 2011 Grand attendance package to be given away at the Awards Banquet (for those who attend at least 8 of the 10 meetings). Please see John Erwin or any other ACFA board member if you would like to donate or have ideas for securing donations.

## Logo Items

The club has some sharp ACFA shirts, hats, etc available at each meeting. Check for sales on CLEARANCE items too! Be sure to see either Bill Graves or Bob Ward to pick yours up.

## Reminders

All monthly meetings are held at American Legion Post 88 on Halls Mill Road, at 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month. Please remember, **NO SMOKING** in the meeting room. Thanks for helping to make a healthier family environment. Please buy your drinks for meetings and weigh-ins from the American Legion. Outside alcohol is not allowed. 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.

## Fishing License Reminder

A friendly reminder that fishing licenses expired on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Make sure you renew before the tournament!! The link to renew is: <http://www.outdooralabama.com/licenses/> Or you can order your license by phone @ 1-888-848-6887

**Check Us Out Online @ <http://www.acfafish.com/>**

ACFA----We catch fish----Get the net!!!

\*\*\*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.\*\*

# Spotted Seatrout in Alabama

from <http://www.masgc.org/pdf/masgp/06-025.pdf>

Spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*) belong to the drum family Scianidae. Other locally common members of the drum family include the Atlantic croaker, southern king fish (ground mullet), black drum, and red drum. Spotted seatrout, also known as specks or speckled trout, are found in shallow coastal waters from Tampico, Mexico through the Gulf of Mexico and up the east coast to New York.

No spotted seatrout are harvested commercially in Alabama and Texas, where they are designated as game fish. Some other states allow highly regulated harvests, resulting in about 240,000 pounds of specks landed per year. The recreational harvest in Alabama is around 200,000 fish per year, and the recreational harvest in the gulf of Mexico region is about 10.6 million fish per year.

## Fishing Success

Since 1997, the Marine Resources Division of the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has conducted a survey of fishermen who were fishing from boats on Alabama's inshore waters. In recent years, more than one-third of the anglers encountered each year said spotted seatrout was their primary or secondary target species. Annual catch rates have been consistent over the period with an average of one spotted seatrout caught per fishing trip for all anglers regardless of target species and slightly more than two spotted seatrout caught per fishing trip for anglers targeting spotted seatrout. Fish observed by MRD staff have ranged in size from 7 to 25 inches in length with the average-sized spotted seatrout annually measuring 16.5 inches. Nearly 14 percent of all the fish measured during this period that were kept by fishermen were longer than 18 inches. The Alabama state record for the fish is 12 pounds 4 ounces.

## Management

Spotted seatrout management is guided by socio-economic conditions and a desire to achieve sustainable yields. The Alabama State Legislature determined that it was in the best interest of the state to declare spotted seatrout a game fish. Game fish status means that specks caught from state waters cannot be bought or sold. However, fish legally caught under a commercial license from other states may be sold in Alabama when properly documented.

Sustainable yield is achieved through a combination of length and bag limits. Length limits protect fish until they are large enough to spawn at least once; smaller fish then grow to a larger size, which increases yield. Bag limits reduce the overall harvest of fish, leaving some for another year, and are related to fishing pressure and fish population size. As pressure (number of fishermen) increases, bag limits may need to be reduced.

A number of local guides and other experienced fishermen encourage the release of larger spotted seatrout. Larger fish generally are females and the most productive members of the population.

## Biology

Because spotted seatrout are found over such a wide geographical range, several aspects of their biology vary considerably. The following description is based on studies from the north-central Gulf of Mexico.

Spotted seatrout reportedly spawn from April to October. Within this time period, there are two spawning peaks; one occurs in the spring, and a second occurs later in the summer.

Spawning begins near sunset and lasts for several hours. Males congregate over grass, rubble, or shell areas near channels and in deeper passes near barrier islands where they produce drumming or knocking sounds to attract females. Contact among fish stimulates the release of sperm and eggs into the water where fertilization takes place.

Water temperature and salinity influence location and time of spawning. Spawning is unlikely at water temperatures below 68 degrees F, and most spawning occurs at temperatures between 70 and 86 degrees F. Low salinities are not conducive to egg and larval survival, and spotted seatrout usually do not spawn in salinities below 7 to 10 parts per thousand; most spawning occurs between 17 and 35 parts per thousand. For specks spawning in Mobile Bay, salinity may be a major factor. It is not unusual to have high river flows in April or May, which result in very low salinities in the bay. Some bay areas that are normally good spawning habitats may have salinities too low to support spawning. Research from Louisiana indicates that under these low salinity conditions, specks move to higher salinity areas for spawning.

Females are capable of spawning for the first time when they reach 10 to 13 inches in length and are older than 1 year. They can spawn many times in a season, and reported frequencies range from every 3 to 5 days to every 16 to 21 days depending on the location and size of the fish. As a result, estimates of egg production are not precise. However, a 2-pound female spawning eight times in a season could produce a total of about three million eggs.

Individual fish show much variation in growth, and the long spawning season means that some fish are produced as early as April and others as late as September, making it difficult to associate the length of a fish with its age. In Alabama, male trout average 11.8 inches at 1 year, 13 inches at 2 years, 14 inches at 3 years, 16 inches at 4 years, and 17 inches at 5 years. Females average 13 inches at 1 year, 15.6 inches at 2 years, 17 inches at 3 years, 20 inches at 4 years, and 23 inches at 5 years. The largest female trout were 23 to 33 inches at 5 to 9 years of age.

Little is known about the behavior of recently hatched speckled trout, but they seem to move with the tides. As they reach ½ inch in size, they are found in or near submerged vegetation or other structures in the bays and bayous where they remain during the warm months. They move to deeper water in the winter.

Small specks feed on grass shrimp and copepods. As they grow larger, shrimp and small fish become more important in the diet. Adults feed on shrimp and larger fish; the larger specks seem to feed more on fish than shrimp.

Spotted seatrout are not considered migratory because they rarely move more than 30 miles. However, they do seem to move to deeper waters during the coldest weather and return to the shallow areas in the spring. Deep holes are known to attract specks when water temperatures drop. Severe cold fronts have resulted in large numbers of spotted seatrout dying when some fish apparently could not reach warmer waters.

Specks also move in response to salinity changes. While they can be found in waters of very low salinities (2 parts per thousand) and very high salinities (greater than 45 parts per thousand), they seem to prefer moderate salinities of 10 to 25 parts per thousand.

## The Future

Spotted seatrout are resilient in the face of fishing pressure and catastrophic events, such as freezes, because they are highly productive (reproduce at an early age, produce eggs over several months, and produce high numbers of eggs). However, like any organism, specks need a healthy environment in which to thrive. Good water quality and habitats such as submerged and emergent aquatic vegetation and oyster reefs are key elements in sustaining spotted seatrout populations.