

October 'Causeway Classic' Tournament Results

Early Saturday morning October 21, 2006 was pretty typical Mobile fall weather for the start of the 'Causeway Classic'. A 3:30 am check of the weather conditions showed the air temp was 48 degrees at the USS Alabama with NNW winds at 8-12 mph. That's a wind chill of below 45 degrees! The winds were even a bit stronger out over the bay. Middle Bay Lighthouse had 56 degrees and winds were NNE at 15 mph. That made the early morning run down the bay "kind of choppy" for some club members (like Frank and Kyle Mitternacht and Rick Tourne) and may have contributed to folks gathering up in Pinto Pass. The "big bite" seemed to come early there for some members (like Lee Minto and partner Bryan Hack), evade most (like me), and come late for others (like my partner DeWayne Overstreet). Some resourceful members (like Gary Tingle) even caught their fish without aid of a boat. Nice specks and reds were reported caught from Meaher Park Pier! Many members moved around looking for that big bite. For some, like Chris Massey it paid off (all four eligible species in four casts!), for most others though... oh well, maybe next year.

It sure turned out to be a nice day once the wind died and sun warmed things up, even though the fishing seemed to get slower as the tide turned. But some fishers persevered (like Henry Nall) and there was a flurry of nice fish brought in just before 5 pm. And as spotty as the catching was, most members did manage to bring fish to the scales (plus there were numerous oversized redfish caught and released). There were 70 fish officially weighed in by Pat Hughes and Charlie Dowdle.

Sheepshead (12 total):

1. Bryan Hack 5.85
2. Lee Minto 4.40
3. Donnie Howell 4.10

Speckled Trout (22 total):

1. Rick Tourne 4.60
2. Kyle Mitternacht 4.05
3. Chris Massey 3.85

Redfish (26 total):

1. Henry Nall 6.80
2. Leslie Smith 6.75
3. Belinda Smith (L) 6.65

Flounder (10 total):

1. DeWayne Overstreet 3.65
2. John Fassbender 3.45
3. Lee Minto 3.35

As some folks noted, Bryan Hack's 1st place finish and Les Smith's 2nd place finish means there is now a tie for the top position in the Tournament Points. Since the season ended with this tournament it was suggested that they launch in Les' boat (since he had it there) and have a 'fish-off' to decide the champion. But that idea was tabled after it was pointed out that Bryan fishing in someone else's boat would give him a clear advantage. (ha-ha ;-)) That's a joke! Actually, President Doug Smith announced that at the November meeting there would be a "special test" between the two of them to determine the champion. Don't ya just love the drama!