

# Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



A Family Oriented Fishing Club Since 1997

Volume 2015 Issue April

## April Meeting

**Date:** April 2, 2015 **Time:** 7:00 pm

**Place:** Moe's Original Bar B Que,  
701 Springhill Ave., Mobile, AL 36602

**Main Speaker:** Bobby Abruscato, A-Team  
Fishing Adventures

**Mini Seminar:** Capt. Robert Cardin, Sea Tow

**Quick Hits:** Joe Sirmon

President	Patric Garmeson	747-1554
Vice President	Joey Gates	209-1220
Treasurer	John Erwin	442-4592
Secretary	Jeb Mann	423-1574
Membership	Gary Tingle	662-0260
Weighmaster	Pat Hughes	209-1220
Donations	Joey Gates	402-5443
Logo Items	Kevin Owens	518-6569
" "	Joe Cieutat	605-9986
Awards	Jay O'Brien	379-1420
Statistics	Mike Foster	610-9805
Newsletter	Meagan Schrandt	
Food Advisor	Kyle Eckhoff	259-2357
Mini Seminar	Joe Sirmon	605-5811
Quick Hits	Joe Sirmon	605-5811
Advisor	Mike Thompson	633-3333

## Important

## Dates

- ⇒ April 4—ACFA Tournament
- ⇒ April 5—Easter Sunday
- ⇒ April 11—Discovery Day at DISL
- ⇒ May 2—Captain Hook Classic, Gulf Shores

Be sure to tune in 105.5 for WNSP Outdoors every Thursday at Noon and FM Talk 106.5 Outdoors every Saturday morning at 7am!

## President's Message:

Two meetings and our first tournament are already behind us for 2015. Each of our first two meetings had over 150 people in attendance and our first tournament had good participation with some really nice fish weighed.

Our April meeting will feature Captain Bobby Abruscato of A-Team Fishing Adventures who is both entertaining and informative. Eight years ago I attended my first Captain Bobby seminar and it forever changed my spring fishing styles and techniques. If you find difficulty locating speckled trout then I highly recommend attending our next meeting.

FYI: If you attend 8 of 10 meetings then you will be entered in a drawing to win a cooler loaded with fishing goodies (estimated value \$350+). Even if you don't catch any fish for the tournament you are always welcome to come hang out and eat some good food (this is when good info is shared). If you catch a legal fish species that is featured in the tournament you get a participation point for just weighing in and sometimes that small fish is large enough to place and this could win you several points to go towards the end of the year tally. Ask Rick Tourne how valuable that 1 participation point is.... :-)

Capt. Patric Garmeson

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### MEETING

*April's raffle item is . . . a  
Sea Tow Membership!!!*



**You can also have children fitted for new life-jackets (see inside for details)!**

## APRIL MEETING

1. Please join us and welcome back **Capt. Bobby Abruscato of A-Team Fishing Adventures** (<http://www.ateamfishing.com/>) as our main speaker of the evening! Capt. Bobby has over 35 yrs. of experience in inshore fishing and will be discussing wade fishing around Dauphin Island. Get there early so you don't miss out on good information!
2. The mini speaker of the evening will be **Capt. Robert Cardin of Sea Tow Mobile** (<https://www.seatow.com/mobile>). He will be available during the evening for a couple of opportunities:
  - Update, renew, or purchase a Sea Tow membership
  - Life Jacket Fittings: If you have children under 12 yr. old with a life jacket they have outgrown (both present at meeting), the child can be fitted for a new lifejacket



## SPRING BREAKOUT TOURNAMENT

### SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2015

**CATEGORIES:** Speckled Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Sheepshead, Ground Mullet/Whiting

**WEIGH-IN LOCATION:** American Legion Post 250—Fowl River

**FOOD:** Baked Ziti, provided by ACFA Food Advisor Kyle Eckhoff and Tom Brooks

**BONUS:** Free USCG Auxiliary Boat Inspections at Weigh-In!



## March Meeting Recap

March's meeting at Moe's Original Bar B Que was another success with over 150 people in attendance. Many members enjoyed food and drink specials, two speakers, and plenty of raffle and door prizes.

Early attendees to the meeting got a treat with a seminar from Don Ludlam of LudStud Rod and Reel Repair and Custom Fishing Rods (251-402-7637). The focus of Don's talk was rod and reel maintenance and care. A little bit of maintenance can save some repairs in the future as saltwater is brutal on fishing gear. Don passed on some very helpful tips and tricks-of-the-trade to keep your fishing gear in top shape so you don't lose those precious fish on the other end!

Capt. Kris Robert of One Last Cast LLC (228-284-9502) was the main speaker for the evening. He has been fishing Lake Pontchartrain, LA and the rivers for over 30 yrs. One Last Cast is a south Mississippi and Louisiana fishing and charter guide service specializing in Red Drum, Speckled Trout, and Bass. The focus of his talk for the evening was Speckled Trout fishing in Lake Pontchartrain, although he also touched on some Red Drum fishing techniques. Although based out of LA, Capt. Kris drew parallels between Lake Pontchartrain and Mobile Bay, and believes his tips/tricks/techniques are applicable here as well. He encouraged everyone to fish the bridges/causeway and associated pilings, being mindful that your tactics will need to be altered based on tidal flow.

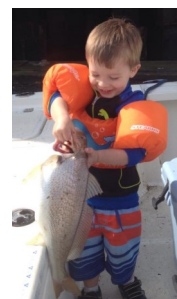
**ACFA "March Madness" Tournament March 21, 2015**

<u>Ground Mullet</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>NetMan</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>Junior Angler Ground Mullet</u>	
1		5	1		1		
2		4	2		2		
3		3	3		3		
4		2	4		4		
5		1	5		5		
<u>Red Fish</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>NetMan</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>Junior Angler Redfish</u>	<u>Wt</u>
1 Rhonda Beech (L)	6.30	5	1	Richard Beech	1	Cooper Garmeson	3.85
2 Steven Summersell (N)	5.30	4	2	Matt Coker	2		
3 Patric Garmeson	4.30	3	3	Patric Garmeson	3		
4 Cooper Garmeson (J)	3.85	2	4	Patric Garmeson	4		
5 Richard Beech	3.70	1	5	Rhonda Beech (L)	5		
<u>Sheepshead</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>NetMan</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>Junior Angler Sheepshead</u>	<u>Wt</u>
1 Henry Nall	9.05	5	1	Richard Hoffman Jr.	1	Ryan Hoffman	4.95
2 Michael Foster	8.05	4	2	David Thornton	2	Brylee Tidmore	4.20
3 Vicki Foster (L)	7.65	3	3	David Thornton	3	Weston Tidmore	3.50
4 Barry Keith	7.25	2	4	Trey Holladay	4	Tucker Tidmore	3.35
5 David Thornton	5.90	1	5	Vicki Foster	5		
<u>Speckled Trout</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>NetMan</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>Junior Angler Speckled Trout</u>	<u>Wt</u>
1 Doug Tierce	7.15	5	1	Doug Tierce	1	Cooper Garmeson	4.65
2 Brian Myrant	6.55	4	2	Brian Mygrant	2	Hunter Behr	3.05
3 Joe Cieutat	6.35	3	3	Christine Shaul	3		
4 Jonathan Byrd	5.70	2	4	Jonathan Byrd	4		
5 Tyler Dixon	5.00	1	5	Sandy Tillery	5		
<u>White Trout</u>	<u>Wt</u>	<u>Pts</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>NetMan</u>	<u>Pl</u>	<u>Junior Angler White Trout</u>	<u>Wt</u>
1 Johnny Phillippi	2.30	5	1	Tom Littlepage	1		
2 Gus Riley	1.15	4	2	Tom Brookes	2		
3 Tom Brooks	1.05	3	3	Gus Riley	3		
4 Tom Littlepage	1.05	2	4	Tom Littlepage	4		
5		1	5		5		

**March Madness Recap**

Thankfully the rainy weather held-off and the first tournament of the year was a sunny success. Those who came out to the weigh-in enjoyed some of Jay O'Brien's delicious jambalaya. A special thanks also goes out to Gary and Mr. Ted for helping Patric get everything set up. Thanks to all those who can pitch in time after time!

Two highlights of the weigh-in had to be little Cooper Garmeson's 3 lb. croaker, and Doug Tierce's 7.15 lb. Speckled Trout! When asked about the Speckled Trout, Doug had this story to tell (shortened for the interest of space, and fast-forwarded to the part about the actual fish): "... Delbert hooked me up with some good bait at Deer River and I headed out. Crush was working a bank and I fell in behind him by a few hundred yards. First cast got me a dink. I made four more casts then "BAM" there she was. As soon as she felt the hook she came to the top and I got a glimpse of what I was dealing with. I eased off on the drag and prayed to the good Lord that she wouldn't come unbuttoned. It was a long fight for a trout; probably 4-5 minutes. I had remembered what Minto said about having the net out and ready so when she started sliding across the top of the water towards the boat, I gently scooped her up and laid her in the bottom of my boat ... I saw Rick throw his hands up as if to ask "how big". I texted him 28". That was at 8:19. The next cast I made produced a five pounder that I frowned at. The reality set it that that was probably my personal best and that an upgrade was not very likely, I turned on some tunes and half-heartedly fished until Jay O called for me to pick him up at the dock."



# STATISTICS:

## BIG FISH CONTEST & CATCH-PHOTO-RELEASE

(As of March 23, 2015)

Big Fish Contest Standing				21-Mar-15							
	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet/Whiting	WT		Redfish	WT
1			1			1			1	Rhonda Beech(L)	6.30
2			2			2			2	Steven Summersell (N)	5.30
3			3			3			3		
4			4			4			4		
5			5			5			5		
6			6			6			6		
7			7			7			7		
8			8			8			8		
9			9			9			9		
#			#			#			#		
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1	Henry Nall	9.05	1			1	Doug Tierce	7.15	1	Brian Mygrant	2.60
2	Michael Foster	8.05	2			2	Rick Tourne	6.92	2	Johnny Phillippi	2.30
3	Vicki Foster (L)	7.65	3			3	Brian Mygrant	6.55	3	Gus Riley	1.15
4	Barry Keith	7.25	4			4	Brian Mygrant	6.35	4	Tom Brooks	1.05
5	Vicki Foster (L)	6.05	5			5	Joe Cieutat	6.35	5	Gus Riley	1.05
6			6			6			6	Tom Littlepage	1.05
7			7			7			7		
8			8			8			8		
9			9			9			9		
#			#			#			#		

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



### Catch-Photo-Release Standings

#### CPR Speckled Trout

	(in)
1 John Howard	26.00
2 Joe Cieutat	25.00
3 Cooper Garmeson	23.25
4	
5	

"I like to catch fish and release them. I probably haven't killed a fish that I've caught in sportfishing for over 20 years. No reason to kill it. You know, just take it and release it." -Jack Nicklaus





March 2015



## “Participation Points”, Clarified

Apparently there was some confusion as to which fish can be weighed in for a ‘Participation Point’ at the tournaments. ANY fish species (of legal size) in the Yearlong Big Fish Contest ( i.e. Speckled Trout, White Trout, Redfish, Flounder, Sheepshead, Blackfish, or Spanish Mackerel) can be weighed as a potential Big Fish Contest Fish at any ACFA Tournament, and thus earn that member one participation point, provided that fish was caught during tournament hours. But IF that fish is below minimum weights for the species (see tournament rules), it can not be considered for awards.



Remember, the member who caught the fish MUST be present for the weigh-in in order to receive a participation point or to be eligible for any associated awards. You can launch and fish anywhere in Alabama waters. You can fish alone, or even with a friend who is not an ACFA member (but it's more fun IF he or she is). IF you fish with others, be sure to mark your fish to ensure accuracy and accountability (we are on the honor system). You can use live or artificial bait (but no large nets, snagging or explosives please ;-). Slot redfish (16"-26") can ONLY be weighed at an ACFA tournament (for the Yearlong Big Fish Contest), and are a category fish (for awards and tournament points) only in the last five tournaments.

## MEMBERSHIP DUES . . . AND MORE PRIZES!!!

**In our 18th year, our annual dues of \$50 per year is still the best fishing deal around!**

That price includes spouses and children (under the age of 16) to fish in our tournaments and attend all ACFA functions, including meetings, cookouts, weigh-ins, and banquets.

Spread the word to your friends about joining the ACFA. Even if they don't fish much, the food benefits alone are less than a single-family seafood dinner at a local restaurant.

And be sure that any New Members you get to sign up write your name down as their sponsor. That sponsorship qualifies you for the \$50 drawing (covers your membership dues)! The member who sponsors the most New Members will automatically win \$50 (cost of your membership).

**The New Member Sponsorship prizes (dinners) will be awarded at the May meeting, so there's still plenty of time!**





## • • • ACFA FISH 'TAILS' • • •

### *Stories from your fellow anglers (You decide whether it's fact or fiction)*

*I'd like to start a new part of the newsletter where you all submit your fish stories, fact or fiction, funny or serious, whatever you prefer. I know we've all lost things, retrieved things, fallen in a time or two, fibbed about the actual size of a fish, or what really went on during that afternoon, etc. So let's share our stories and put some smiles on everyone's faces! Ok, so try to let people keep some sense of dignity — change names if you want to or have to — and make sure that if you're submitting a story involving someone else, you have at least informed them, and preferably gotten their permission :)*

~ Submit your stories to Meagan Schrandt at the monthly meeting or email to: [mschrandt@disl.org](mailto:mschrandt@disl.org) ~

### ~DISL Discovery Day~

The Dauphin Island Sea Lab invites you and your family for a day of discovery. Learn about local wildlife, the Gulf coast ecosystem, and current research being conducted by staff of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

The research labs will be open from 10 am until 2 pm, with interactive events for children.

Enjoy free children's and reduced adult admissions to the Estuarium, as well as a 15% discount at the Estuarium Gift Shop.

The event is FREE and is a very popular annual activity.



### Dauphin Island Sea Lab

# DISCOVERY DAY

**SATURDAY  
APRIL 11th  
10AM - 2PM**



- **FREE CHILDREN'S ADMISSION**
- **OPEN RESEARCH LABORATORIES**
- **FUN KIDS' MARINE ACTIVITIES**
- **GIFT SHOP DISCOUNT**
- **FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY**

**Come SEA what we've been up to!**

**251.861.2141 FOR MORE INFO OR [WWW.DISL.ORG](http://WWW.DISL.ORG)  
101 BIENVILLE BLVD, DAUPHIN ISLAND**


[www.cgaux.org](http://www.cgaux.org)

# FLOAT PLAN

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this plan before you go boating and leave it with a reliable person who can be depended upon to notify the Coast Guard, or other rescue organization, should you not return or check-in as planned. If you have a change of plans after leaving, be sure to notify the person holding your Float Plan. For additional copies of this plan, visit: [www.floatplancentral.org](http://www.floatplancentral.org)


[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)

Do NOT file this plan with the U.S. Coast Guard

## VESSEL

### IDENTIFICATION:

Name & Hailing Port \_\_\_\_\_  
 Document / Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_ HIN \_\_\_\_\_  
 Year & Make \_\_\_\_\_  
 Length \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_ Draft \_\_\_\_\_ Hull Mat. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Color \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prominent Features \_\_\_\_\_

### COMMUNICATION:

Radio Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_  
 DSC MMSI No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Radio-1: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Ch./ Freq. Monitored \_\_\_\_\_  
 Radio-2: Type \_\_\_\_\_ Ch./ Freq. Monitored \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell / Satellite No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### PROPULSION:

Primary-- Type \_\_\_\_\_ No. Eng. \_\_\_\_\_ Fuel Capacity \_\_\_\_\_  
 Auxiliary--Type \_\_\_\_\_ No. Eng. \_\_\_\_\_ Fuel Capacity \_\_\_\_\_

### NAVIGATION: (Check all on board)

☐ Maps ☐ Charts ☐ Compass ☐ GPS / DGPS  
☐ Radar ☐ Sounder ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

## SAFETY & SURVIVAL

### VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS:

- ☐ Electric S-O-S Light  
☐ Orange Flag  
☐ Orange Smoke  
☐ Red Flares

### AUDIBLE DISTRESS SIGNALS:

- ☐ Bell  
☐ Horn / Siren  
☐ Whistle

### OTHER GEAR:

- ☐ Droogie / Sea Anchor  
☐ EPIRB \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Fire Extinguisher  
☐ Flashlight / Searchlight  
☐ Food & Water for \_\_\_\_\_ days  
☐ Foul Weather Gear  
☐ Life raft / Dinghy  
☐ Personal Locator Beacon  
☐ Signal Mirror  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### PFDs: (Do not count Type IV devices)

Quantity On Board \_\_\_\_\_

### GROUND TACKLE:

☐ Anchor: Line Length \_\_\_\_\_

## PERSONS ONBOARD

### OPERATOR:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vehicle (Year, Make & Model) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trailer will be parked at: \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Notes (Special medical condition, can't swim, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Has experience: ☐ with this Vessel ☐ with Area

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle License No. \_\_\_\_\_

Trailer License No. \_\_\_\_\_

### PASSENGERS / CREW:

Name & Address

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Notes (Special medical condition, can't swim, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

- Age \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_ Notes (Special medical condition, can't swim, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Attach "Supplemental Passenger List" if additional passengers or crew on board.

## ITINERARY

	DATE	TIME	LOCATION / WAYPOINT	MODE OF TRAVEL	REASON FOR STOP	CHECK-IN TIME
Depart						
Arrive						
Depart						
Arrive						
Depart						
Arrive						
Depart						
Arrive						
Depart						
Arrive						

Attach "Supplemental Itinerary" if there are additional locations or waypoints.

Contact 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Contact 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a genuine concern for the safety or welfare of any persons on board the Vessel described above, who have not returned or checked-in in a reasonable amount of time, then follow the step-by-step instructions on the *Boating Emergency Guide*™ included with this float plan, or on the Internet at:

[www.floatplancentral.org/help/BoatingEmergencyGuide.htm](http://www.floatplancentral.org/help/BoatingEmergencyGuide.htm)



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# COASTAL ANGLER

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