

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association



A Family Oriented Fishing Club Since 1997

Volume 2016 Issue March

March 2016 Meeting

Date: March 10, 2016

Time: 6:30 pm Mini-Sem. / 7:00 pm Main

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

Important Dates

- ◇ March 5 = BOG IV
- ◇ March 19 = ACFA Tournament
- ◇ March 20 = 1st Day of Spring

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I'd like to thank everyone who came out to the boat show and volunteered to help. We talked to a lot of new potential members. This month's meeting we have Chris Blankenship from the Alabama Marine Resources Division coming to talk about the new snapper regulations and new reefs that are in the works for Mobile Bay. I'd like to remind everyone that this month will be our March Madness Tournament. We will also be adding redfish to this tournament. Jay O'Brien will be cooking jambalaya for after the tournament. Remember to bring a friend to the meeting. Also, don't forget if there is anything that anyone can think of to help us or help out with the club, feel free to give me a call or email.

- Joey Gates

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Mini Seminar: Captain Patric Garmeson, Sheepshead Fishing

Main Speaker: Chris Blankenship, Red Snapper laws and new artificial reefs

Raffle Item: New rod & reel combo?!!??!

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2016 BOARD MEMBER CONTACTS

President	Joey Gates	251-209-1220
Vice President	John Howard	251-234-1285
Treasurer	John Erwin	251-234-1458
Secretary/Membership	Jeb Mann	251-423-1574
Weighmaster	Pat Hughes	251-422-6992
Logo Items	Kevin Owens	251-518-6569
Logo Items	Joe Cieutat	251-605-9986
Awards	Josh Tidmore	251-490-6464
Statistics	Craig Hall	251-533-2727
Co-Food Advisor	Tom Brooks	251-533-4036
Co-Food Advisor	Kyle Eckhoff	251-259-2357
Newsletter	Meagan Schrandt	mschrandt@disl.org
Donations	Joey Gates	251-209-1220
Quick Hits/Mini Seminar	--- OPEN ---	
Advisor	Mike Thompson	251-633-3333

February 2016 Meeting Recap: 1st Meeting of the Year

Thank you to all who attended our first ACFA meeting of the year. We had a good turn-out with many returning members and also quite a few new members—welcome to the ACFA! We are making an effort to try to keep up with the *website* and the *forum*, so please check for updates and new things as they are made available. Remember that there is a “member’s only” section on the website as well, so make sure to sign-up for member’s only information. Also, this year be sure to carry your *ACFA Membership Card* with you on tournament days. This will be the only way to partake in free boat launches and other incentives on ACFA tournament days in 2016.



Our speaker at the first club meeting was Fox 10 News’ Chief Meteorologist, **Jason Smith**. Jason gave an excellent seminar focused on how the weather impacts fishing in our area. He covered everything from how rain up-state can impact our waters days later, to actively tracking river stages to predict where clean/muddy water will likely be, to fog and sea breezes, and even which colors of lures to focus on depending on whether it’s sunny, cloudy, or windy! Jason did a great job covering many topics that are helpful to local fishing.

The 2016 Marine Calendar can be found online: http://www.outdooralabama.com/sites/default/files/2016%20Marine%20Information%20Calendar_0.pdf

BATTLE OF THE GRUB III & IV

Only 5 out of 14 registered boats weighed in for the BOG III on yet another tough day. However, everyone still had a great time so mark your calendars for **BOG IV: Saturday, March 5, 2016.**

The results for BOG III are:

1st Place: Bobby Abruscato and Richard Rutland

2nd Place: Patric Garmeson and Rick Tourne

3rd Place: Chad Palmer and Eric Nelson

Lunker: Richard Rutland



~ 2016 Membership Dues ~

Please fill out the ACFA membership form and mail, along with your **\$50** dues, to:
ACFA c/o Jeb Mann, 4969 Audubon Drive, Mobile, AL 36619

The membership form is located on the ACFA website:

http://acfafish.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/ACFA-Membership-Form_2016.pdf

Current members are encouraged to send dues by mail to leave the membership area at the meeting open for new members to sign up. Also, by sending your dues by mail, you are entered into a drawing held at the April meeting, where two members will have their \$50 dues refunded!

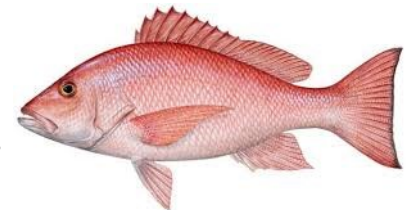
Invite your friends to join! And make sure that they write your name down on the membership form as their referral to the club. There will be a drawing later in the year where one member who referred a first time member will have their \$50 dues refunded. Also, the person who refers the most first time members will also have their \$50 dues refunded!

March Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2016

Our March meeting will start at 6:30 pm with *Captain Patric Garmeson* discussing Sheepshead fishing in our local waters. Be sure to come out and support our previous ACFA president and learn how to catch these fish in Alabama's coastal waters.



The main speaker for the March 2016 meeting will be Director of Alabama Marine Resources Division, Major *Chris Blankenship*. He will be discussing the new Red Snapper fishing laws and new reef-building plans around Mobile Bay. Blankenship has been the director of Marine Resources for over 5 years, coming from about 17 years of experience as an enforcement officer.



March Madness Tournament: Saturday, March 19

Speckled Trout, White Trout, Sheepshead, Ground Mullet, Red Drum

WEIGH-IN: American Legion Post 250, Fowl River: 1—3 pm

FOOD: Jay O'Brien's Jambalaya

***Reminder: you can weigh-in *LIVE* Speckled Trout (or any category) at this and any other tournament.

BIG FISH BOARD and CPR

As of Feb. 25
New Big Fish Cards will be available at the March Meeting

	Blackfish	WT		Flounder	WT		Ground Mullet/Whiting	WT		Redfish	WT
1			1			1	David Thornton	1.31	1		
2			2			2	David Thornton	1.23	2		
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		
10			10			10			10		
	Sheepshead	WT		Spanish Mackerel	WT		Speckled Trout	WT		White Trout	WT
1	Brian Mygrant	7.40	1			1			1	John Phillippi	2.44
2	Vicki Foster	6.71	2			2			2	David Hare	2.41
3	Chloe Chaffin	6.64	3			3			3	John Howard	2.06
4	Vicki Foster	6.49	4			4			4	John Howard	1.71
5	Mike Foster	6.30	5			5			5	Jay O'Brien	1.26
6			6			6			6		
7			7			7			7		
8			8			8			8		
9			9			9			9		
10			10			10			10		

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



ACFA CPR SPECKLED TROUT	inches
JOHN HOWARD	23.75
JOHN HOWARD	23.00

-----ACFA 2016 RULES-----

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association Tournament Rules

REVISED: January 2014

1. ALL tournaments start at 5:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. except for the Causeway Classic, which starts at 6a.m.
2. Weigh-in is from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the day of the tourney. You MUST be on the premises with your fish by 5pm
3. Each fish must be weighed in by the member or family member who caught it.
4. Fish that are not fresh or in good condition will be disqualified. This includes ANY redfish that has been mutilated in a way that alters (shortens) the length.
5. All decisions made by the Weigh Master and/or his assistants (club president and officers) are final.
6. All fish MUST be caught during the tournament hours on hook and line (on a rod and reel) in Alabama State waters (out to 3 miles).
7. To qualify for the monthly awards, all fish weighed in an ACFA tournament must be no less than a minimum of one pound with the exception of "White Trout" and "Ground Mullet/Whiting", which must weigh at least 8 ounces (0.5 pounds). To avoid confusion in using local names in our classifications "GMullet/Whiting" is considered to be any of the three species of kingfish: Southern Kingfish (*Menticirrhus americanus*), Gulf (*M. litoralis*), or Northern Kingfish (*M. saxatilis*). And "White Trout" is considered to be either the Sand Seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*) or Silver Seatrout (*Cynoscion nothus*). Likewise our "Flounder" species include either Gulf Flounder (*Paralichthys albigutta*) or Southern Flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*). There is no minimum weight for the Junior Angler category fish, but it must meet any minimum size limits specified by the AL MRD (see Rule # 11).
8. Only legal 'slot' Redfish (16"-26" with pinched tail) will be weighed in the tournaments (to assure length compliance to state law and ACFA rules). It is the angler's responsibility to bring the redfish to the weigh in table in a "FRESH" and pliable condition that allows it to readily be accurately measured. ONLY redfish that are 'straight' can be accurately measured, so the angler must prepare the fish for that. Fish that are frozen, mutilated or have been mistreated may be rejected by the Weigh Master. And his ruling to accept or reject a fish is final. (See Rules #4 & #5) Also, no flounder or sheepshead less than 12 inches may be entered. No Speckled Trout under 14 inches. No Redfish under 16" or Blackfish under 18". (See Rule #11)
9. Only one fish in each category per member can place. NOTE: a second category fish may be weighed in as a Big Fish Contest entry as long as it meets the minimum requirements for that species (see Big Fish Contest Rule #1).
10. In case of a tie, the first fish weighed in wins. Times recorded on the weigh in sheets are considered "official".
11. All state and federal laws apply. (See Rule #8) 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 AT ANY GIVEN TIME.
12. Tournaments will not be cancelled due to weather conditions (except when tropical storm or hurricane conditions are predicted or expected to be predicted by the NWS and/or NHC for the Tournament weekend). Still members shall fish at their own risk and should use good judgment when and where to fish. The ACFA encourages safety, and assumes no responsibility for participating fishers or their equipment. It is not worth risking life and property to get a plaque!
13. Competition is open to all members in good standing (paid dues prior to tournament day) and their spouse and children under 16 years of age on Feb 1 of that tournament year. PLEASE make a note to the Weighmasters of the member's name when their dependants (spouse or children) enter a fish. This is especially important for helping to verify the validity of step or grandchildren who have a different last name from the accompanying adult. PLEASE use the same name each tournament!
14. For every tournament the top three places in each category will be receive a plaque at the next club meeting, except in the Speckled Trout Challenge and Grand Slam Tournaments (see 'Bonus Points' below). ALL Junior Anglers will receive plaques for their tournament category fish (1st through 3rd place) but points ONLY when their fish place 'overall' (i.e. against the adults).
15. The Club's Tournament Point Champion will be recognized at the year-end Awards Banquet in December. The member (or members) accumulating the highest number of tournament points at the season's end in October will be declared the victor.
16. Tournament points will be awarded as follows: (since 2009)

PLACE	1	2	3	4	5
POINTS	5	4	3	2	1

Bonus Points:

 - * One "Participation Point" will be awarded to each member who weighs a fish at any tournament provided that fish is a 'legal fish' and of one of the specified tournament categories, even though that fish may not meet the minimum tournament weight for Tournament plaques and points.
 - * 4th and 5th place points (2 & 1 point) will be awarded for ALL regular club tournaments (excluding the Speckled Trout Challenge).
 - * Five additional Tournament Points will be awarded to any member that completes the slam in the Grand Slam Tournament (places in the top five in Speckled Trout, Redfish and Flounder for that tournament).
 - * Five additional Tournament Points will be awarded to any member that breaks an existing club record in a tournament.
 - * One "Participation Point" will be awarded to each ACFA member who weighs in a Speckled Trout during the Speckled Trout Challenge and two additional points will be awarded to any ACFA member that places in the top ten. (i.e. IF you make the top 10 you earn 3 points, if not you only earn 1 point)

(NOTE: The Challenge is NOT a regular club tournament though entries will be accepted for the Big Fish Contest by the Weighmasters at their convenience).
17. Any angler over 16 years of age must have a valid fishing license and must be a paid member IF their 16th birthday is prior to Feb 1st of that year in order to participate in any tournament and the Speckled Trout Challenge. Junior Anglers must NOT have reached their 16th birthday by February 1st of this year.
18. All weigh-in locations will be announced in the newsletter and at the regular club meeting prior to the tournament. 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). The Speckled Trout Challenge (in May) and the Causeway Classic (in October) will likely have weigh ins on the Causeway (location: 'TBA' To Be Announced).

New for 2012: NETMAN (or WOMAN) of the Year Category!

19. Any ACFA angler at the time of their weighing in a tournament fish who declares the eligible member or dependant who actually netted that fish for them (including themselves) will be awarded the same number of points in a separate category called "Netman of the Year". These points will be tallied and kept for the duration of the tournament season and the angler 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) 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. **

2016 Year Long Big Fish Contest Rules

Revised: February 2016

1. The ACFA recognizes eight categories in its Big Fish Contest that runs from 12:01 a.m. November 15th until 12:00 a.m. (midnight) the following November 14th. To avoid confusion using local names in our classifications "Ground Mullet/Whiting" is considered to be any of the three species of kingfish: Southern (*Menticirrhus americanus*), Gulf Kingfish (*M. littoralis*), or Northern Kingfish (*M. saxatilis*). And "White Trout" is considered to be either the Sand Seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*) or Silver Seatrout (*Cynoscion nothus*). Likewise our "Flounder" species include either Gulf *Paralichthys albigutta* or Southern Flounder *Paralichthys lethostigma*.

To encourage conservation of the resource each category has the following minimum weight requirements to qualify for this contest:

Category	Minimum Weight	Category	Minimum Weight
Blackfish	10 pounds	Speckled Trout	6 pounds
Flounder	3 pounds	White Trout	1 pound
GMullet/Whiting	1 pound	Spanish Mackerel	3 pounds
Sheepshead	6 pounds (changed in 2010)	Redfish *	5 pounds

* Redfish can ONLY be weighed in during tournament hours (to assure slot limit compliance) and MUST be presented in a condition ready to measure.

See Tournament Rules # 4 and #8). However, redfish in a FRESH condition (i.e. obviously caught in the previous 24-36 hours) may be entered the day of a tournament (as a Big Fish entry ONLY) but the angler MUST first declare the date the fish was caught, and it is not eligible for Tournament points or plaques.

2. Each fish entered must be legally caught by hook & line (on rod & reel) in Alabama State Waters (out to 3 miles).

3. Each member is allowed a maximum of two (2) fish in each Big Fish category.

4. Points will be awarded for each of the top ten (10) places in each category, as follows:

PLACE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10th
POINTS	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

5. Five (5) bonus points will be awarded to any member that breaks an existing ACFA club record.

6. The member with the highest overall number of Big Fish points will be declared the club's Big Fish Champion.

Top five places for each of the eight categories will be recognized with a plaque at the December Awards Banquet.

7. Weight verifications in one of the following manners are acceptable: a. Weigh Master at ACFA club tournaments

b. Tournament Official at other tournaments, in writing on an ACFA Big Fish Card (or paper with the info and signature on it)

c. Business with calibrated scales, in writing, on an ACFA Big Fish Card, or (in lieu of) on a business receipt (preferably with phone#)

Showing the date (& time for tiebreaker), member's name, species of fish, weight, name of the business, and weigher's signature (name).

*All entries must be legible and complete and contain the same info as required on the ACFA Big Fish Card or the entry can not be accepted.

8. All entries must be received (via hand or US MAIL delivery) by the ACFA Statistician within 30 days of the catch in order to be entered.

a. Entries mailed at the end of the season MUST be postmarked no later than 11:59 pm on November 14 and be delivered to the Statistician within 3 'Working Days' (i.e. M-F) in order to be accepted for this year. Late or delayed entries will automatically be placed in the next year's contest.

b. Under no circumstances can electronic submissions (such as faxes or emails) be accepted.

Mail entries to: Craig Hall, ACFA Stats, 2728 Charlestowne Dr. W MOBILE, AL 36693 (phone: 251-533-2727)

*It is highly recommended you make a good photocopy of your Big Fish Contest submission before mailing it in.

** And check back with him to BE SURE he got your entry.

9. Certain rules specified in the tournament rules apply to the Big Fish Contest. (See Redfish in particular)

10. In case of a tie the earliest received date (and time) of a business receipt or the ACFA card will take precedence over the later entry.

SPECIAL Year Long CPR Contest Rules

1. In an effort to promote good conservation practices and exercise proper catch and release tactics, the ACFA will run a year long Catch, Photograph, and Release (CPR) category for the longest speckled trout.

2. The contest duration is the same as the Big Fish Contest (November 15th until the following November 14th @ midnight).

3. A member must submit (within 30 days of the catch) photographs (digital or print) to the Statistician that allows A: verification of the angler (either the member or their dependant) along with their catch. B: An accurate length of the LIVE speckled trout and C: During the release process.

Of course a certain amount of leeway in the 'A' and 'C' requirement can be expected for anglers fishing solo.

But procuring a sufficient quality image of the fish measurement that allows verification and good handling to ensure the survival of the fish is primarily the responsibility of the angler who is 'on his honor' to follow the spirit of "a good release". Every 'reasonable' effort will be made to verify all entries. However entries not meeting the above criteria, that is; do not allow verification of length or of poor photo quality or exhibiting poor release techniques may be rejected at the discretion of the judge (i.e. Statistician) and his rulings will be final in this matter.

Fish must be measured in a 'natural position' (i.e. flat) with mouth closed and tail 'fanned' (not pinched or bent to artificially exaggerate the length) and centered over the tape or rule. The picture MUST show the entire fish and allow an accurate measure of the length (to the nearest 1/4" or 1/8").

Guidelines for CPR measurements are posted on the ACFA website forum @ <http://www.acfafish.com/cms/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=9012>

(Print outs of the post are available to members by request.)

4. The members with the five (5) longest verified live release speckled trout will receive special plaques at the Awards Banquet in December.

NOTE: Each member (or dependant angler) is allowed a maximum of two (2) fish in the top 10. Results will be posted monthly in the newsletters.

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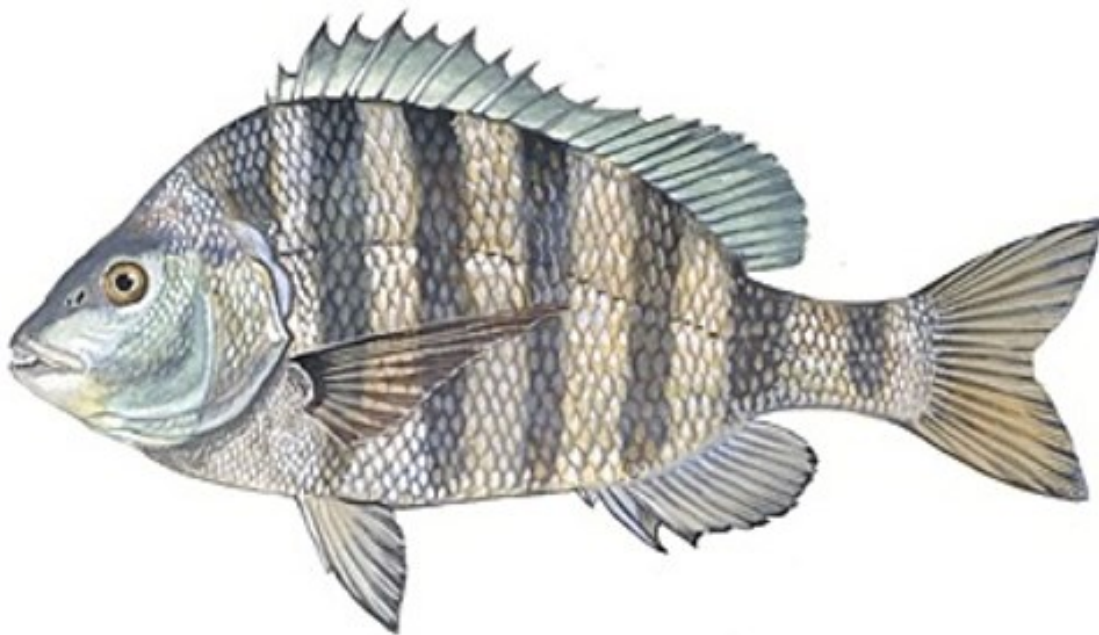
DISL Looking for **Sheepshead Carcasses**
for research!

Can be filleted or not!

Call **Pearce Cooper**

(540) 247-1707

- 1.) Keep on ice until pickup if possible. If you have the weight before filleting that would be even better!
- 2.) I'll come pick up the carcass(s) for you!



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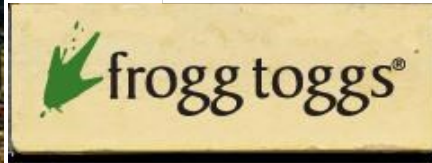
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