

# Newsletter



## February 2025 Edition

### In this issue:

	page
President's Message	3
December Meeting Review	4 - 6
February Meeting Preview	7
Rules: Big Fish Contest	8 - 9
Rules: Catch, Photo, Release	10
Rules: Tournaments	11 - 13
Rules: Inshore Champ Series	13 - 15
ACFA Calendar/Schedule	16 - 17
Sponsors	2 & 19

### February Meeting

Thursay February 6, 2025 6:30 pm

*Moe's Original BBQ*

701 Springhill Ave.

Mobile, AL 36602

### SPEAKER:

2025 ACFA President Scott Ellzey will explain rule changes, new Inshore Championship Series, and take Q&A

### Raffle & Door Prizes

Rod/Reel Combo  
Tickets are \$2.00 ea.

## 2025 ACFA OFFICERS

Position	Name	Phone	Email
President	Scott Ellzey	(251) 586-5833	gulf2bay.fishing@gmail.com
VP/ Speakers	Perry Stokley	(251)-680-9505	perrystokley@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Chris Hicks	(251) 406-1255	jchris2043@bellsouth.net
Membership	Tim Pierce	(251) 895-3188	timpierce01@yahoo.com
Sponsors	Colton Carlisle	(251)-214-6747	coltcfca@gmail.com
Awards	Wayne Sanders	(251)-605-4155	fanman8072@bellsouth.net
Donations	Harvey Pepper	(251)-447-3677	hpepper51@aol.com
Food Adviser	Lynette Kalifeh	(251)-232-1339	lynettekalifeh@gmail.com
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## Upcoming Dates

- Thu. Feb. 6, 2025 1st Meeting
- Fri. Feb. 7 begin BFC & CPR
- Fri. Feb. 14 1st Mardi Gras Parade
- Tue. Mar. 4 Mardi Gras Day
- Thu. Mar. 6 2nd Meeting
- Mar. 14-16 Mobile Boat Show
- Sat. Mar. 22 1st Tournament

# ACFA Sponsorship Tiers for 2025

## o Platinum (\$1,000):

- ✦ Limited to 5 spots (see Perry Stokley). Cash-only contributions for this tier.
- ✦ Full-page advertisements in the club book, newsletter, and website.
- ✦ *Note:* Perry to verify how many sponsorship spots can fit on contest plaques.

## ✦ Gold (\$500):

- ✦ Limited to 8 spots.
- ✦ Half-page advertisements in the club book, newsletter, and website.
- ✦ Contributions can be cash or product donations valued at \$500 or more.

## ✦ Silver (\$250):

- ✦ Limited to 20 spots. Quarter-page advertisements in club book, newsletter, and website.



**Let's thank these 2025 ACFA Sponsors Already Onboard, by Supporting Them!**



# President's Message



What a way to kick off the year! We got 7.5 inches of snow, shattering an all-time record that's stood since 1895. I hope everyone got a chance to get outside and enjoy the winter wonderland! Now that the extreme cold has passed, the water is starting to warm up a bit, which should get the fish moving again. I was out fishing this past weekend, and with water temps in the high to mid-40s, it was a challenge to get any bites.

The executive board has been meeting since December and we've come up with some exciting new developments! We're adding a brand-new tournament—the ACFA Inshore Championship Series. To promote conservation, we've also added new options for anglers to log their catches for the BFC. This means you could potentially place 1st in both BFC and CPR on one fish! Be sure to check out the new rule changes at the end of the newsletter. We're working with Fishing Chaos, and everything should be up and running before our first meeting.

Be sure to join the ACFA Members-Only Facebook page. This year, we'll be posting about fun events like beach days where we can grill out, play games, and even tubing trips down Blackwater River. These activities won't be on the official ACFA calendar, but we'll post all the details on the Members-Only Facebook page, so stay tuned!

And lastly, some exciting news—Perry Stokley is leading our new sponsorship program and is also putting together a Club Magazine! If you have a creative side and want to get involved, reach out to Perry.

Looking forward to our first meeting of the year,

ACFA President

Scott Ellzey

In this first newsletter of the new year, before we get into the “NEW” business at hand, we have one last bit of “old” business to address And that is ...

# December Meeting Review

## 2024 AWARDS BANQUET

The 2024 Awards Banquet for Alabama Coastal Fisherman’s Association began at 6:30pm Friday December 6th at Moe’s BBQ Downtown. The format was a little different this year since we requested all attendees over 13 years of age pay a \$10 fee to help defray the cost of the meal, which is the single highest budget item for the club. Consequently we recouped \$870 from the 87 adults, plus over \$400 from the raffle. Thanks again to everyone for coming (116 in attendance), and for supporting the ACFA all year long. It really helped things end on a high note for me as outgoing President, and leave the incoming administration in a stronger financial position for 2025. But none of this would have happened without the advise, cooperation and helping hands of our 2024 Board of Directors who did a fantastic throughout the year. Thanks folks!

As has become our custom, the meeting opened with a prayer of thanks and blessing. Once we were appropriately stuffed to gills (thanks to Moe’s staff and those ACFA members who contributed desserts). We opened the ceremonies by calling up our Junior Big Fish Contest and Catch, Photograph, Release Contest winners for each species. Next we recognized the Adult BFC and CPR winners for each species.

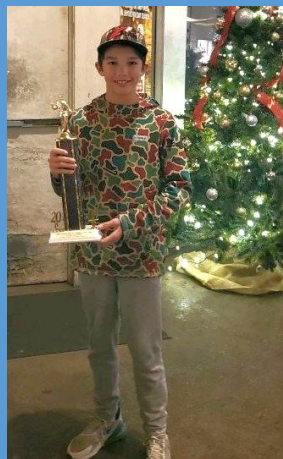
Then, we started homaging the champions beginning with our co-Netmen of the Year .....**Colton Carlisle and Daniel Jones**



Next, we recognized the Junior Tournament Champion: **Angel Manes**; Junior Catch, Photograph, Release Champion: **Cooper Garmeson**; and Junior Big Fish Champion **Wolfgang Schuchardt**. Junior NEW Angler of the Year was also **Angel Manes**; and **Cooper Garmeson** was the overall Junior Angler of the Year.



ANGEL MANES



COOPER GARMESON



WOLFGANG SCHUCHARDT



ANGEL MANES

— continued —

# December Banquet Review (continued)

Champions were determined by comparing the three contests on an equal footing. Each angler's rank or place in each contest, determined their points, then the multiple scores were combined and totaled...

## Junior Angler of the Year Calculations

2024-11-15

<u>Tpts</u>			<u>CPR</u>			<u>BFC</u>		
PL	ANGLER NAME	points	PL	ANGLER NAME	points	PL	ANGLER NAME	points
1	ANGEL MANES (N)	17	1	COOPER GARMESON	17	1	WOLFGANG SCHUCHARDT	17
2	COOPER GARMESON	16	2	CHATWIN SUMMERS	16	2	ANGEL MANES (N)	16
3	ANDY WARD	15				3	MICAH SANDERS (N)	15
4	MICAH SANDERS	14				4	ANDY WARD	14
5	BRYCE ELLZEY	12.5				5	COOPER GARMESON	13
5	CHATWIN SUMMERS	12.5				6	LEVI LINDQUIST	12
7	WOLFGANG SCHUCHARDT	11				7	CHATWIN SUMMERS	11
8	CHRISTIAN LUNDY	7.5				8	CHRISTIAN LUNDY	10
8	COLTON SMITH (N)	7.5				9	SAVANNAH DIEHL	9
8	ELLIS McDONALD	7.5				10	BRYCE ELLZEY	8
8	MAGNOLIA SWIGER (N)	7.5				11	ISAIAH LINDQUIST	7
8	WILLOW SWIGER (N)	7.5				12	COLTON SMITH	6
8	CALLIE QUINLEY (N)	7.5				13	LEXI QUINLEY (N)	4.5
14	FAE SCHUCHARDT	3				13	MAGNOLIA SWIGER (N)	4.5
14	JACK WILSON	3				15	BROOKLIN CLARK	3
14	LEVI LINDQUIST	3				16	MALACHI LINDQUIST	1.5
17	MALACAHI LINDQUIST	1				16	RICHARD CLARK	1.5



In this case 17 is the maximum number of points (based on 1st place).

16 points are awarded to 2nd place, 15 to 3rd, and so on down the list.

Ties split the combined points between the contestants who are tied.

When the cumulative points are tallied for each angler they are ranked

in order from most points to least to determine the overall Angler of the Year and NEW Angler of the Year.

This method has been used to determine our yearly Master Anglers since the ACFA was founded in 1997.

Rank by AoY Point Total	
ANGLER NAME	AoY Pts
COOPER GARMESON	46
CHATWIN SUMMERS	39.5
ANGEL MANES (N)	33
ANDY WARD	29
MICAH SANDERS	29
WOLFGANG SCHUCHARDT	28
BRYCE ELLZEY	20.5
CHRISTIAN LUNDY	17.5
LEVI LINDQUIST	15
MAGNOLIA SWIGER (N)	12
SAVANNAH DIEHL	9
CALLIE QUINLEY (N)	7.5
COLTON SMITH (N)	7.5
ELLIS McDONALD	7.5
WILLOW SWIGER (N)	7.5
ISAIAH LINDQUIST	7
COLTON SMITH	6
LEXI QUINLEY (N)	4.5
BROOKLIN CLARK	3
FAE SCHUCHARDT	3
JACK WILSON	3
MALACHI LINDQUIST	2.5
RICHARD CLARK	1.5



# December Banquet Review (continued)

Then it was the Adults turn for 2024:

**Perry Stokley** was our Adult Tournament Champion; **Jamie Crawford** the Adult Big Fish Contest Champion; and **Colton Carlisle** was the Adult Catch, Photograph, Release Champion. They, and everyone else's rank in each contest was assigned a point total down to 19th place. This assures we have covered several Lady and New members in the list to make a comparison.

## Adult Angler of the Year Calculations

2024-11-15

PL	BFC	Rank	PL	CPR	Rank	PL	TPts	Rank
1	JAMIE CRAWFORD (N)	19	1	COLTON CARLISLE	19	1	PERRY STOKLEY	19
2	SANDY TILLERY	18	2	PATRIC GARMESON	18	2	BRAD McDONALD	18
3	TIM PIERCE	17	3	MICAIAH LINDQUIST	17	3	COLTON CARLISLE	17
4	COLTON CARLISLE	16	4	DAVEY MILLER	16	4	NOE MEZA (N)	16
5	NOE MEZA (N)	15	5	ERIC MILLER (N)	15	5	SANDY TILLERY	15
6	SHANE SCHUCHARDT	14	6	ALEX BEEBE	14	6	DAVID JONES	14
7	BRAD McDONALD	13	7	COURTNEY SUMMERS	13	7	MARK JONES	13
8	MARK JONES	12	8	SANDY TILLERY	12	8	LARRY KENNEDY (N)	12
9	DANIEL JONES (N)	11	9	CHAD SUMMERS	11	9	LUCY CARLISLE (L)	11
10	CINDY DIXON (L)	10	10	ED THATENHURST (N)	9	10	CLIFF BAILEY	10
11	PERRY STOKLEY	9	10	PHILLIP WARD	9	11	DANIEL JONES (N)	8.5
12	SCOTT ELLZEY	8	10	WAYNE SWIGER	9	11	TIM PIERCE	8.5
13	CLIFF BAILEY	7	13	AUSTIN QUINLIVAN	7	13	JAMIE CRAWFORD (N)	6
14	RAY DIXON	6				13	SCOTT ELLZEY	6
15	ANITA DIXON (L)	4				13	SHANE SCHUCHARDT	6
15	DAVID THORNTON	4				16	ALEX MANRY	3.5
15	MICAIAH LINDQUIST	4				16	TYLER DIXON	3.5
18	PATRIC GARMESON	1.5				18	CINDY DIXON (L)	1.5
18	RANDY SWIGER (N)	1.5				18	DAVEY MILLER	1.5

When it was all said and done at midnight November 14th, and the final places and ranks could be assigned and tallies made, this is where everyone stood in the comparison of the three contests.

**Cindy Dixon** edged out Lucy Carlisle by a mere half point for Lady Angler.

(NO-WAY) **Noe Meza** was the New Angler of the Year. Yes—way!

And **Colton Carlisle** was the overall Master Angler of the Year.

Every year brings its champions and share of bragging rights, and 2024 was no exception! But we were by no means finished for the night. We raffled off a Penn combo (from **Tackle This**), a boat bag (from **Buffalo Gear**), sun gloves (from **Glacier Glove**), and LIVE SHRIMP (from **Deer River B&T**). In addition to 7 Door Prize lure bags (from **Ugly Fishing**), and 10 gift certificates to **Tackle This Fishing Outfitters**. A wonderful night was had by all, and it was safe to say nobody went away hungry, either!

RANK BY AOY POINT TOTAL		
NAME	AoY Pts	
COLTON CARLISLE	52	Master Angler
SANDY TILLERY	45	
BRAD McDONALD	31	
NOE MEZA (N)	31	New Angler of the Year
PERRY STOKLEY	28	
TIM PIERCE	25.5	
MARK JONES	25	
MICAIAH LINDQUIST	21	
SHANE SCHUCHARDT	20	
DANIEL JONES (N)	19.5	
PATRIC GARMESON	19.5	
JAMIE CRAWFORD (N)	19	
ALEX BEEBE	17.5	
DAVEY MILLER	17.5	
CLIFF BAILEY	17	
ERIC MILLER (N)	15	
DAVID JONES	14	
SCOTT ELLZEY	14	
COURTNEY SUMMERS	13	
LARRY KENNEDY (N)	12	
CINDY DIXON (L)	11.5	Lady Angler of the Year
CHAD SUMMERS	11	
LUCY CARLISLE (L)	11	
ED THATENHURST (N)	9	
PHILLIP WARD	9	
WAYNE SWIGER	9	
AUSTIN QUINLIVAN	7	
JAMIE CRAWFORD (N)	6	
RAY DIXON	6	
ANITA DIXON (L)	4	
DAVID THORNTON	4	
TYLER DIXON	3.5	
RANDY SWIGER (N)	1.5	

# February Meeting Preview

The first ACFA meeting of 2025 will be held @ Moe's BBQ Downtown on Thursday February 6, 2025 @ 6:30 pm.

We are fortunate again this year that Mardi Gras festivities in Mobile fall between our February and March meetings.

There will not be a guest speaker for this meeting as President Scott Ellzey will explain the workings of our new ACFA Inshore Championship Series (ICS) and answer questions to get everyone enrolled to understand the various rule changes and procedures to be implemented this season. It is hoped the ICS will help bolster our membership and treasury so the club can do even more great things for its members and sponsor supporters.

<https://app.fishingchaos.com/club/OKuF3gTIFVOgpXguQpTq>

Once you renew or join the ACFA (still \$50 for angler, spouse, children or grandchildren under age 16 by February 1st), you can join the exclusive ACFA MEMBERS ONLY! Facebook page. Lots of inside information and upcoming events will be discussed there. So join up and get in!

Take some time to explore the rules following in this newsletter noting specific changes in contest dates, times, species, payouts, and scoring. And then study the calendar and schedule.

There will be a quiz at the end of the meeting to determine if you were paying attention. LOL! Just kidding!! But this session will help us all better understand and embrace these changes.

This looks to be our best year yet!

# 2025 Season-Long Big Fish Contest (BFC)

1. The ACFA recognizes **eight (8) species** in its Year-Long Big Fish Contest (BFC), for Adult and Junior anglers. The BFC runs from 12:00 am February 7, 2025, until 12:00 am midnight November 9, 2025 (Unless stated Otherwise)
  - a. Species included in the 2024 ACFA Big Fish Contest are:
    - i. Flounder 14" minimum total length (MTL) or longer,
    - ii. Redfish 16" - 26" MTL ("Slot" = Maximum Total Length),
    - iii. Speckled Trout 15" MTL or longer
    - iv. Sheepshead 12 inches minimum FL (Fork Length) or longer,
    - v. Gafftopsail Catfish minimum 12" FL (Fork Length) or longer,
    - vi. Spanish Mackerel minimum 12" FL (Fork Length) or longer,
    - vii. Ground Mullet (Whiting) 12" MTL, or longer, and
    - viii. White Trout 12" MTL, or longer.
2. To avoid any confusion when using local names in our classifications:
  - a. "Ground Mullet/Whiting is considered to be any of the three species of "Kingfish" i.e. Southern (*Menticirrhus americanus*), Gulf (*M. littoralis*), or Northern (*M. saxatilis*)
  - b. "White Trout" is Sand Seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*) or Silver Seatrout (*Cynoscion nothus*)
  - c. "Flounder" species include Gulf (*Paralichthys albigutta*) or Southern (*Paralichthys lethostigma*)
3. Big Fish Entrees will be the angler's responsibility to upload a photo of the fish and weight into Fishing Chaos' Big Fish Contest. Submittals **MUST** be completed through **Fishing Chaos**. See submittal requirements below:
  - a. Angler **MUST** provide three (3) photos:
    - i. One (1) photo that contains - angler, entire picture of fish, and ID verifier code  
**"Will be provided on Fishing Chaos when the tournament begins"**
    - ii. One (1) Photo with entire fish while lying flat, in a natural position, centered over the ruler with mouth closed and nose of fish against the ruler stop with verifier code
    - iii. One (1) Photo with fish on ACFA Accepted Scale with verifier code. Fish weight must be clear and in digital format recorded to hundredths of a pound.
4. ACFA Accepted Scales:
  - a. Other tournaments utilizing calibrated scales
  - b. Deer River Bait and Tackle
  - c. Jemison's Bait & Tackle
  - d. Hooked Up by The Bay
  - e. Foley Fish Company
  - f. Hooked Up (Gulf Shores)
  - g. Fishermen's Discount - Barnwell
  - h. Foreverlast Scale Gripper Combo -SC-23
  - i. Brecknell ElectroSamson Portable Hanging Fishing Scale, 22 lb. x 0.02 lb. / 1/4 oz
  - j. Catch Commander Scale
  - k. Bubba Smart Fish Scale
  - l. Bubba Pro Series Smart Fish Scale
5. Any of the **eight (8) Species** identified in ACFA BFC Rule #1 and #2 **MUST** be submitted into Fishing Chaos within 30 days of Date of Catch.
6. Entries not meeting ALL the criteria above may be questioned, changed, or rejected by the contest judge (ACFA Board Members) at their discretion. that is:
  - a. Photo does:
    - i. NOT contain **2025 ID Code**
    - ii. NOT allow verification of weight and length, that is, cut-off (cropped), poor quality (blurry)
    - iii. NOT show the entire length of fish to allow an accurate reading of the length
    - iv. Does not show the angler

-- continued --



— BFC Rules continued —

7. In case of a tie the earliest received date (and time) entry will take precedence over the later entry.
8. Each fish entered must be legally caught by hook & line in a sportsmanlike manner (no intentional 'snagging' of fish permitted) on rod & reel, bait, or lure in Alabama State Waters (See ACFA Tournament Rules).
9. NOTE: Each qualifying angler (paid member, their spouse, child, or grandchild) is allowed a maximum of **one (1)** fish in each BFC Category (species). That fish can be upgraded throughout the season
10. To qualify, membership must be paid for the calendar year of the contest ending or renewed by March 1<sup>st</sup> of the following year to avoid disqualification and removal of fish from the contest.
11. Points will be awarded for each of the top ten (10) places in each category as follows:

<b>Place</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Points</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

12. Results will be posted in the Monthly ACFA Newsletter and on Fishing Chaos along with all other standings and Statistics @:  
<https://www.acfafish.com/stats-and-records>  
<https://app.fishingchaos.com/club/OKuF3gTIFVOgpXguOpTq>
13. The top three (3) places for each of the **Eight (8)** category species (in both Adult and Junior Angler Division) will be recognized with a plaque/plate at the December Awards Banquet.

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\*\* Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA), or 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 Contests\*\*

# 2025 Season-Long Catch, Photo, Release (CPR) Contest

To promote good conservation practices while practicing proper Catch and Release techniques plus having fun, the ACFA is offering a Season-Long Catch, Photograph and Release (CPR) Contest.

- \*\*The Categories for the 2025 CPR Contest include the following Five (5) species:**
  - Speckled Trout (15" minimum TL)
  - Redfish (16" minimum TL)
  - Flounder (14" minimum TL)
  - White Trout (12" minimum FL)
  - Sheepshead (12" minimum FL)
    - For use in the document, the following will apply:  
FL = Fork Length TL = Total Length
- The Contest duration is the same as that used for the ACFA BFC Contest which runs from 12:00 am February 7, 2025, until 12:00 am midnight November 9, 2025 (Unless stated Otherwise)
- CPR submissions will only be accepted through Fishing Chaos under 2025 ACFA CPR Season Long Tournament.
  - It is the responsibility of the angler to upload clear photos of the fish into Fishing Chaos.
- When submitting a CPR entry, all ACFA Tournament Rules will apply as well as the following:
  - MUST** be submitted within 30 days from "Date of Catch";
  - MUST** include photographs showing the entire fish thus allowing the Statistician to:
    - See the year verifier code **"Will be provided on Fishing Chaos when the tournament begins"** with your fish;
    - Verify the length of the fish while lying flat, in a natural position, centered over the ruler with mouth closed and nose of fish against the ruler stop;
    - Verify the successful release of the LIVE fish, while utilizing proper handling and release techniques;
  - It is the angler's responsibility to follow the spirit of a successful catch, photograph, and release.
  - Every reasonable effort will be made to verify all entries;
- In case of a tie, the earliest entry (date and time) will take precedence over the later entry;
- Entries not meeting **ALL** the criteria above may be questioned, changed, or rejected by the contest judge (ACFA Board Members) at their discretion, that is:
  - Photo does:
    - NOT contain 2025 ID Code
    - NOT allow verification of length that is, cut-off (cropped), poor quality (blurry)
    - NOT show the entire length of fish to allow an accurate reading of the length to the nearest 1/8 or 1/4 inch;
    - NOT exhibit proper handling **and/or** release techniques.
- Results will be posted in the Monthly ACFA Newsletter and Fishing Chaos along with all other standings and Statistics : @  
<https://www.acfafish.com/stats-and-records>  
<https://app.fishingchaos.com/club/OKuF3gT1FVOgpXguOpTq>
- NOTE:** Each qualifying angler (paid member, their spouse, child, or grandchild) is allowed a maximum of **one (1)** fish in each CPR Category (species). That fish can be upgraded throughout the season.
- Points will be awarded for the top Ten (10) places in each species category as follows:

Place	1st	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	Etc.
Points	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	...
- The top Three (3) places for each of the **Five (5)** Species, will be recognized with a plaque and/or plate at the December Awards Banquet.

**\*\* Under no circumstances with the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA), or 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 Contests\*\***



# 2025 ACFA Tournament Rules

All 8 club tournaments are included in your \$50 yearly membership fee, 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 1<sup>st</sup> of the current year.

1. Competition is open to all members in good standing (dues paid prior to tournament day and (when applicable) legally licensed for Alabama saltwater fishing).
  - a. Their spouse, and any children (or grandchildren) under 16 years of age as of Feb 1 of that tournament year. **NAMES SHOULD BE ON YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**
    - 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 2:00 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 (9 nautical miles offshore).
  - a. Participants must be on the premises within view of the weigh-in table by 2:00 PM. Weigh in will be from 2:15 to 2:45. (**Unless otherwise advised**) The Weigh Master keeps "official time".
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.
  - c. Angler has to choose their biggest fish to weigh in (**No weighing in multiple fish to determine the biggest fish at tournaments**)
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).
7. To avoid confusion when using local names in our classifications:
  - a. "whiting" or "ground mullet" is considered to be any of the three species of kingfish or kingcroaker also known as 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.
- ONLY fish that are 'straight' can be accurately measured, so the angler must prepare the fish for that.
  - Any fish that meets any of the following **WILL** be rejected by the Weighmaster:
    - 'Spoiled',
    - Frozen,
    - Mutilated in such a way to alter (shorten) the length for "slot length" fish (i.e. Redfish, or Speckled Trout)
  - The ruling of Weighmaster to accept or reject a fish is final by tournament end.
  - SPECIAL NOTE:** Only the following may be entered in ACFA Tournaments
    - Flounder 14" minimum TL (Total Length) or longer,
    - Redfish (16" - 26") MTL ("Slot" = Maximum Total Length),
    - Speckled Trout 15"- 22" MTL ("Slot" = Maximum Total Length),
    - Sheepshead 12 inches minimum FL (Fork Length) or longer,
    - Gafftopsail Catfish minimum 12" FL (Fork Length) or longer,
    - Spanish Mackerel minimum 12" FL (Fork Length) or longer,
    - Ground Mullet (whiting), and White Trout 12" MTL, or longer.
    - Revolving Species\* for juniors and adults |
      - March – Sheepshead
      - April – Sheepshead
      - May – White Trout
      - June – White Trout
      - July – Gafftopsail Catfish
      - August – Spanish Mackerel
      - September - Ground Mullet (Whiting)
      - October – White Trout
- (\*All entries are Minimum 12" Total or Fork length) see 8 d. i – viii)

9. Only one fish in each category per angler can be placed in each tournament.
- 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).
  - 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.

12. Tournaments may be canceled due to weather conditions if:
- a. 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 National Weather Service - Mobile prior to the Tournament day.
    - i. Members should always "exercise caution", fishing at their own risk, and shall use good judgment of when and where to fish.
    - ii. The ACFA encourages safe boating practices and assumes no responsibility for participating in fishing or their equipment\*\*  
It is not worth risking life and property to get a plaque!

13. **Tournament points** for each category will be awarded as follows:

<b>Place</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Points</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>96 , Etc.</b>

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).

14. As of 2019 Junior Anglers will be running a separate Tournament Division and receive TOURNAMENT POINTS in addition to plaques & plates for their tournament category fish (1st through 3rd place), only against other Junior Anglers (who have not reached their 16th birthday by February 1<sup>st</sup>).
- a. 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.
15. The Club's Tournament Point Champion and Junior Tournament Point Champion:
- a. Will be recognized at the year-end ACFA Awards Banquet in December.
  - b. The member, or dependents, accumulating the highest number of Tournament Points at the season's end in October, will be declared the victor.
    - i. We also track Lady anglers (L) and New members (N) each year.
16. All weigh-in locations and species will be announced in the newsletter and at the regular club meeting prior to the tournament.
- a. Our Weigh-in site for most tournaments is the American Legion Post 250 on Dauphin Island Parkway Hwy 193 (near the Greer's Food Tiger store).
  - b. The April, May and October tournaments have weigh-in sites on the Causeway (location: 'TBA' means "To Be Announced" in the newsletter and meeting).

\*\*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. \*

# **ACFA Inshore Championship Series(ICS)**

## **1. Eligibility**

- The ACFA Inshore Championship Series (ICS) is open exclusively to current paid members and sponsors of ACFA who are 16 years of age or older.
- Participants under the age of 16 are allowed to fish on a vessel with a participant competing in the ACFA Inshore Championship Series.
- All participants aged 16 and older on a vessel must hold an ACFA Inshore Championship Series ticket. (If one person decides to fish the ACFA Inshore Champion Tournament everyone above the age of 16 on that vessel has to have a ACFA Inshore Champion ticket for that day)
- Registration must be completed via Fishing Chaos.
- Each participant must purchase an individual ticket before the start of the tournament.
- Cost: \$30 per angler

## **2. Cheating Policy**

- Any individual or team found or suspected of cheating before, during, or after any tournament will be subject to disqualification from the ACFA Inshore Championship Series and all future ACFA events.
- Disqualification decisions will be determined by a majority vote of the ACFA Board Members.
- Cheating in this or any other fishing tournament constitutes fraud under the law and may result in fines and/or imprisonment.

## **3. Sportsmanship and Conduct**

- Competitors in The ACFA Inshore Championship Series tournament are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon ACFA efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. Evidence of chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon ACFA efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any person for participation and for disqualification. Any act deemed by the ACFA Board Members that gives a team or angler an unfair advantage not specifically covered under this set of rules shall be grounds for disqualification. Any violation by an angler deemed intentional or preconceived by the ACFA Board Members to gain an unfair advantage, would be grounds for permanent disqualification and criminal charges will be filed with local authorities for committing fraud.

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-- 2025 ACFA Inshore Championship Series rules continued --

#### 4. Tournament Format

- The ACFA Inshore Championship Series consists of eight one-day tournaments held in March, April, May, June, July, August, September, and October.
- Specific dates will be announced in the ACFA calendar sent to all active members.
- Scoring: Points are awarded as follows:
  - 1st place: 100 points
  - 2nd place: 99 points
  - 3rd place: 98 points
  - And so forth.
- Trophies will be awarded to the top three participants at the years-end ACFA Awards Banquet in December for Speckled Trout and Red Fish. The top three participants accumulating the highest number of Tournament Points at the season's end in October, will be declared the victor.

#### 5. Tournament Rules

- Fish entries must be caught during official tournament hours within Alabama Public Waters.
- Official start time: 5:00 AM (CST) based on GPS/cellular network time.
- Lines may not enter the water before 5:00 AM.
- Participants must be inline or insight of weigh master by 2:00 PM. Weigh in will be from 2:15 to 2:45. **(Unless otherwise advised)** The Weigh Master keeps "official time".
- Only fish caught personally by the participant using a rod and reel are eligible for weigh-in.
- Angler has to choose their biggest fish to weigh in (No weighing in multiple fish to determine the biggest fish at tournaments)
- Both live bait and artificial bait are permitted
- You are ultimately responsible for ensuring your catch is recorded correctly.
- All state and federal laws, creel limits and licenses apply.
- Any fish that meets any of the following WILL be rejected by the Weighmaster:
  - 'Spoiled',
  - Frozen,
  - Mutilated in such a way to alter (shorten) the length for "slot length" fish (i.e. Redfish, or Speckled Trout)
- 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.
- Tournaments may be rescheduled 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 National Weather Service - Mobile prior to the Tournament Day.
    - Members should always "exercise caution", fishing at their own risk, and shall use good judgment of when and where to fish.
    - Tournaments may be rescheduled to Sunday or the following weekend. Please note that tickets are non-refundable in the event of a rescheduling.
    - The ACFA encourages safe boating practices and assumes no responsibility for participating fishers or their equipment\*\*

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-- 2025 ACFA Inshore Championship Series rules continued --

## 6. Prize Allocation

- If no qualifying fish are entered, prize funds for that category will be retained by ACFA for organizational expenses.
- **Winners:**
  - **Speckled Trout:** Determined by the largest fish by weight, measuring 15" to 22".
  - **Redfish:** Determined by the largest fish by weight, measuring 16" to 26".
- **Ties:** The fish registered first at the weigh station will prevail.
- Only one cash prize is awarded per angler per tournament per species.
- Fish weighed into the ACFA Inshore Championship Series cannot be weighed into the regular ACFA tournament.
- **Prize Distributions – Total cash payout will be determined by the number of tickets sold minus fees. (ACFA 5%, credit card - approximately 1.5% to 3.5%)**
  - **1–10 anglers: 1st place only (100%).**
  - **10–19 anglers: 1st place (60%), 2nd place (40%).**
  - **20+ anglers: 1st place (60%), 2nd place (30%), 3rd place (10%).**
  - **Cash Prize Distribution will be made at the next club meeting**

## 7. Additional Information

- Each tournament is independent for cash prizes.
- The cumulative winner of the series is determined by the highest total points at the end of the year.

\*\* Under no circumstances with the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA), or 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 Contests\*\*





# 2025 ACFA SCHEDULE of EVENTS

M O N T H	"DROP DEAD" DATE _____ EVERYTHING MUST BE TO NEWSLETTER EDITOR BY.....	MAIL NEWSLETTER WEEK + PRIOR TO MEETING	MONTHLY MEETING DATE: 1 <sup>st</sup> THURSDAY EVERY MONTH	TOURNAMENT DATE: 1 <sup>st</sup> SATURDAY FOLLOWING MEETING	TOURNAMENT NAME	TOURNAMENT SPECIES	REMARKS
JAN	** NO MEETING OR TOURNAMENT - Board meetings in Jan BEFORE 1st Newsletter **						
FEB	JAN 27	JAN 31	FEB 6	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	MEETING WEEK BEFORE MARDI GRAS NO TOURNAMENT IN FEB
MAR	FEB 24	FEB 28	MAR 6	MAR 22	MARCH MADNESS	SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER, SHEEPSHEAD	WEIGH-IN AMERICAN LEGION Post 250 FOOD: TBA
APR	MAR 24	MAR28	APR 3	APR 5	SPRING BREAKOUT	SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER, SHEEPSHEAD	BATTLESHIP PARK w/Saltwater Finaddicts FOOD: TBA
MAY	APR 21	APR 25	MAY 1	MAY 3	UCP - HOOKED UP TO HELP	SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER, WHITE TROUT	WEIGH-IN RALPH & KACOO'S ON CAUSEWAY w/ UCP FOOD: TBA
JUN	MAY 26	MAY 30	JUN 5	JUN 7	SUMMER STARTER	SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER, WHITE TROUT	WEIGH-IN AMERICAN LEGION Post 250 FOOD: TBA
JUL	JUN 23	JUN 27	JUL 10	JUL 12	RODEO WARM-UP	SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER, GAFTTOP	WEIGH-IN AMERICAN LEGION Post 250 FOOD: TBA
AUG	JUL 28	AUG 1	AUG 7	AUG 9	MOBILE BAY GRAND SLAM	SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER, SPANISH MACKEREL	WEIGH-IN AMERICAN LEGION Post 250 FOOD: TBA
SEP	AUG 25	AUG 29	SEP 4	SEP 6	END OF SUMMER	SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER, GROUND MULLET (WHITING)	WEIGH-IN AMERICAN LEGION Post 250 FOOD: TBA
OCT	SEP 22	SEP 26	OCT 2	OCT 18	MUTT BURKE & BILL MIDGETTE CAUSEWAY CLASSIC	SPECKLED TROUT, REDFISH, FLOUNDER, WHITE TROUT	WEIGH-IN HOOKED UP BTB ON CAUSEWAY FOOD: TBA
NOV	OCT 27	OCT 31	NOV 6	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	NO TOURNAMENT IN NOV
DEC	NOV 24	NOV 28	DEC 5	**NA**	**NA**	**NA**	ANNUAL ACFA AWARDS BANQUET ON 1 <sup>st</sup> FRIDAY Dec. 5th

ALL ITEMS IN RED NEED BOARD APPROVAL PRIOR TO FINAL EDITING OF SCHEDULE

# ACFA Sponsorship Tiers for 2025

## o Platinum (\$1,000):

- ✦ Limited to 5 spots (see Perry Stokley). Cash-only contributions for this tier.
- ✦ Full-page advertisements in the club book, newsletter, and website.
- ✦ *Note:* Perry to verify how many sponsorship spots can fit on contest plaques.

## ✦ Gold (\$500):

- ✦ Limited to 8 spots.
- ✦ Half-page advertisements in the club book, newsletter, and website.
- ✦ Contributions can be cash or product donations valued at \$500 or more.

## ✦ Silver (\$250):

- ✦ Limited to 20 spots. Quarter-page advertisements in club book, newsletter, and website.



**Let's thank these 2025 ACFA Sponsors Already Onboard, by Supporting Them!**