

Gulf Coast Kayak Fishing Association's Inaugural Spring Tournament Rules

Redfish-Trout-Flounder Challenge

June 10, 2006

1. **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY.** Participation is open to anyone 18 years of age or older. Minors are eligible to participate with a parent or legal guardian signature on the release form. A completed entry form, waiver, and entry fee must be received no later than the published entry date. The Tournament Director is the only GCKFA member excluded due to tournament responsibilities. "All participants represent that they are physically and mentally competent and fit and able to participate. By entering, all participants agree to assume all risks of personal injury, death, and damage to or loss of property and further agree to indemnify and hold GCKFA, its officers, members, agents, and sponsors harmless from and against any and all claims, liabilities, and causes of action resulting directly or indirectly from participation."

2. **PRE-REGISTRATION AND CAPTAINS MEETING.** Each contestant must pre-register and pay by June 9, 2006 to avoid late fee of \$5. Registration will be open through the Captain's Meeting at 5:30 pm, Friday, June 9, 2006 at Bahia Mar Marina, Pensacola, Florida. Attendance at the Captain's Meeting is **MANDATORY** for all contestants. If a contestant is unable to attend the Captain's Meeting they must pre-arrange eligibility with the executive committee of the Gulf Coast Kayak Fishing Association prior to being allowed to participate.

3. **SAFETY.** Safe boating must be observed at all times. During competition each contestant is required to comply with US Coast Guard and State regulations including the possession of a PFD and sounding device. If you find yourself in an emergency situation please call 911. No angler may launch a vessel prior to 5:30 AM. If you plan to launch your vessel before 5:43 AM (sunrise) or low visibility situations, you will be required to have a white light producing device capable of producing a visual signal to avoid collision with other vessels.

4. **WEIGH IN.** The weigh in station will be operational between the hours of 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm. Any fishermen in line at the weigh-in station at Pensacola Kayak & Sail at the 6 p.m. cutoff time on Saturday June 10th 2006 to be allowed to weigh in their catch. If an angler arrives after the 6:00 pm deadline, the catch will not qualify. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Official time will be kept by the Tournament Director at the weigh-in stations. Anglers are strongly urged not to wait until the last minute to submit their catch for weigh-in.

All competitors must check in with legal fish (Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission Regulations) to be eligible for fishing prizes. All fish submitted for weigh-in must be fresh and caught that tournament day. The weigh masters will make decisions on accepting fish for weigh-in, their decision is final. Any attempt to enter fraudulent catch, tamper with catch, or to hamper or threaten any official of the tournament will result in immediate disqualification. Only authorized persons will be allowed in the stations. Fish will be weighed in the order in which they are checked in. Tags will be issued for each fish as they enter the weigh in station. You may wish to provide ice and a cooler to keep your fish fresh. All weighed fish will be notched to indicate the fish has been processed at the weigh in station. The largest fish will be determined by weight. In the event of a tie, the first fish entered will be considered the winner, and the other will be dropped to the next position.

Spotted Sea-Trout

Not less than 15" or more than 20" (statewide) except one fish over 20" per person Nov & Dec S. Region; Feb N.E. and N.W. Regions (See regional definitions below) 4 per person per day South Region; 5 per person per day N.E. and N.W. Regions (See regional definitions below)

All fish must remain in whole condition until landed ashore (heads & tails intact). Fish are measured as total length, with tail pinched. Harvest prohibited by or with the use of any multiple hook in conjunction with live or dead natural bait.

SEATROUT REGIONS

"Northwest Region" means all state waters north and west of a line running due west from the westernmost point of Fred Howard Park Causeway (28E9.350'N 82E48.398'W.), which is approximately 1.17 nautical miles south of the Pasco-Pinellas County Line to the Florida-Alabama border, and adjacent federal EEZ waters.

12. TANDEM/SHARING. It is permissible for more than 1 entrant to share the same paddle vessel. However each paddler / fisher must be a registered participant.

13. PROTEST. All protests must be made in writing and delivered to a tournament official within 30 minutes of the check-in time. The tournament director is the final authority in all considerations.

14. RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE. A waiver, release of liability, and covenant not to sue are part of the entry form. It is required that all contestants take responsibility for themselves while participating in event activities.

15. RULE CHANGES. Rules interpretation is exclusively left to the Tournament Director. The decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

16. PRIZE STRUCTURE. For the June 10, 2006 Redfish-Trout-Flounder Tournament prizes, we will be awarding 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each class. The Grand Prize will be awarded to the 1st place Grand Slam to be determined by the aggregate weight of all three species. For the purposes of this tournament a Grand Slam consists of one each, Red Drum (Redfish) – Flounder - Spotted Sea Trout (Speckled Trout). In the event that no entry qualifies for the Grand Prize or any other prize, the Prize will be awarded or auctioned at the sole discretion of the Tournament Organizers.

- Aggregate/Slam – 1st place
- Biggest Red Drum – 1st place – 2nd place – 3rd place
- Biggest Spotted Sea-Trout – 1st place – 2nd place – 3rd place
- Biggest Flounder – 1st place – 2nd place – 3rd place