in partnership with

Family Fish Fest

EVENT RULES – LDWF Family Fish Fest – Campo's Marina, 5/24/14

1. **Rules** – Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. By participating in the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) Family Fish Fest, each contestant agrees to be bound by the Tournament Guidelines and by the rules stated herein. The Tournament Director reserves the right to not allow continued participation in the event by any contestant for any reason.
2. **Participation** – Participants are required to follow all applicable federal, state and local regulations and laws. Boaters must comply with U.S. Coast Guard maximum vessel capacity safety standards. Any violation may result in disqualification from the tournament. Participants must bring their own fishing gear and bait, and must provide their own container to transport live fish. See the Tournament Guidelines for specific division and category descriptions.
3. **Fish, Fishing Methods and Locations** – All fish must be wild and caught by rod and reel utilizing conventional methods. Artificial lures and live or dead bait may be used during competition. Participants may not catch fish or weigh-in fish that have been caged or confined in an area prior to the tournament. Foul hooked fish shall not be eligible for competition. Fishing is permitted from a boat or from the shore and/or piers, except areas that are designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by private ownership or local, state and federal officials. Crabs must be caught from shore using legal methods. All fish entered in the tournament must be caught by that registered participant. All fish entered in the Little Angler and Junior Angler divisions MUST be alive at time of weigh-in and will be tagged and released by LDWF staff. Teams may bring in fish alive or dead. Individuals participating in boat categories may not leave their boat at any time to land fish. Each fish may only be entered in ONE category/division. All live fish entered will be tagged and released by LDWF.
4. **Entry Fee and Registration** – Entry fee is $10 per participant if pre-registering online or onsite. Entry fees are nonrefundable. Registration may be completed online at www.wlf.la.gov/familyfishfest or in-person the morning of the tournament. Online registration will close 48 hours prior to the tournament. Cash or check will be the only accepted methods of payment for onsite registration. All participants will be assigned numbers according to the order of completed registration. Participants MUST check in with tournament staff to receive angler's number prior to start of fishing. Each participant may only be registered to fish in ONE category (either shore OR boat).
5. **Divisions** – There are three divisions:
   A. Little Angler – Youth age 10 or under.
   B. Junior Angler – Youth age 11-16.
   C. Team – Boat, family, or other group with at least 1 adult (17 or older) and 1 youth (16 and under). Teams may have up to 8 members, and may consist of no more than 4 adults. Each Team may only occupy 1 boat.
6. **Safety** – At the discretion of the Tournament Director, the tournament may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe conditions. The tournament will not start under a U.S. Coast Guard "Gale or Storm Warning" or until "Safe Light" is determined. Participants are expected to use their best judgment. No action by the Tournament should be construed as an endorsement or representation concerning whether it is safe to continue fishing at any given time. The Tournament will not give advice or recommendations to participants concerning weather conditions.
7. **Boat Regulation** – Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. By signing the entry form, each contestant agrees to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by LDWF personnel.
8. **Sportsmanship** – All Participants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, LDWF personnel and staff, and event sponsors and the sport of fishing. If conduct does not comply with the standards set forth, the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any entry, or to deny confirmed entry of a previously accepted entry, or disqualify a participant.
9. **Official Checkpoints** – There will be two official Weigh-In Stations located near the water and designated by tan tents with the LDWF logo.
10. **Scoring** – The total weight of each participant's catch during the tournament shall be measured in pounds and 100th of a pound. To be entered in the contest, redfish and black drum must be between 16"-27" and speckled trout must be over 12". All fish will be measured with mouth closed and rotated to obtain the fish's maximum overall length. The measurement will be from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail fin. Any fish over/under the designated slot will be disqualified. Any fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will not be weighed at the discretion of the Weigh Masters. All redfish and speckled trout entered in the Little Angler and Junior Angler divisions MUST be alive at time of weigh-in and will be tagged and released by LDWF staff. Teams will receive one raffle ticket for each LIVE redfish or speckled trout brought in to be tagged by LDWF for a grand prize. Participants may only place in one category, can only receive one award each, and must be present to accept prize. In the event of a tie, placement will be decided by the first fish that was weighed-in. The Tournament Director may award additional prizes at their discretion.
11. **Liability** – Participation of Contestants in the LDWF Family Fish Fest is voluntary and at their own risk. By virtue of participating, Contestants agree to protect, defend, indemnify, save and hold harmless, the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation, the State of Louisiana, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, its Commission, and all officers, agents, servants, employees, and volunteers thereof, from and against any and all claims, damages, expenses, and liability arising out of injury or death to any person or the damage, loss or destruction of any property which may occur, or in any way grow out of, any act or omission of Contestant in connection with participation in the Tournament, or any and all costs, expenses and/or attorney fees incurred by Contestant as a result of any claims, demands, suits, or causes of action arising out of participation in the Tournament. Contestant agrees to investigate, handle, respond to, provide defense for and defend any such claims, demands, suits, or causes of action at its sole expense and agrees to bear all other costs and expenses related thereto, even if the claims, demands, suits, or causes of action are groundless, false or fraudulent.