

Alabama Saltwater Tournament Action

Fishing for the Future

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Orange Beach Red Snapper World Championship and Saltwater Series Tournament 3/15/2009 – 8/15/2009

A great idea deserves to be repeated and two great ideas demand to be combined. At least that seems to be the thinking for saltwater tournament action along Alabama's Gulf Coast. The *Orange Beach Red Snapper World Championship Tournament*, held in Orange Beach, Alabama, has already become a calendar event and proven itself to be a real crowd pleaser. In the past, over 30,000 fishermen have participated in the event and this year the concept has even more to offer both the recreational and competitive angler. This world recognized tournament has expanded to become Alabama's state celebration of recreational saltwater fishing.

This year, fishermen will find that the *Red Snapper World Championship Tournament* and the *Orange Beach Saltwater Series* have combined to offer fishermen not only more weeks of fishing but more chances to win. For only a few dollars, any fisherman can purchase daily tickets to compete in both tournaments. The new combination boasts a total payout of over \$200,000 worth of prizes in numerous categories of fishing. The best part is the combined tournaments now span over 22 weeks of fishing from last year's split tournament of 13 weeks. The act of combining the tournaments puts anglers in the winning seat of being able to enter the most popular species sought by Gulf Coast anglers. For some of those lucky fishermen, there will be a fish caught that is literally worth taking to the bank!

The proceeds generated from Alabama's premier tournament package are directed towards improving and preserving the future of recreational saltwater fishing. In essence, participating anglers are actually fishing for the future of their sport. Last year's tournament donations, when combined with Alabama's 3-1 matching funds, generated over \$250,000. In the last five years the tournament has raised almost \$1,000,000.00. These funds are earmarked for the establishment, and continued maintenance, of the largest saltwater reef building program in the world. Approximately 1,200 square miles of Alabama waters are dedicated to the state's artificial reef program.

Entrants for the opening segment of *Orange Beach Saltwater Series* will be the first to "test the waters". The Saltwater Series allows anglers to extend their tournament dates from March 15 all the way to August 15. The tournament format will remain similar to the popular red snapper version. Once again, the major difference in the "Series" tournament will be the variety of fish that can qualify to win and place. The *Orange Beach Saltwater Series* consists of ten fish which includes; King Mackerel, Cobia, Tuna, Grouper, Amberjack, Triggerfish, Vermilion Snapper, Speckled Trout, Sheepshead and Red Snapper. Prizes stretch to cover all the species with \$3,000 for a 1st place King

Mackerel, \$3,000 for a 1st place Speckled Trout. So, offshore and inshore anglers are equally challenged by their respective species.

Later in the fishing season, anglers get to finish out the tournament schedule with what is considered the heavyweight main event. The dates of the *Orange Beach Red Snapper World Championship Tournament* will span June 1st to August 15th. Fishermen will compete head-to-head off Alabama's coast to bring home a red snapper worthy of becoming the \$25,000 first place winner and the owner of new Toyota Tundra pickup from Eastern Shore Toyota. Second place is no slouch with a new Toyota car valued at \$10,000. The tournament will pay out cash prizes for the first 3 places in both the angler and boat categories. Beyond the three placing cash prizes, merchandize will be given out to a total of ten places.

Entry ticket fees for anglers are \$10.00 per day or \$300.00 for the entire tournament. Boat entry fees for the length of the tournament will be \$500.00 for large boats over 35 feet and \$200.00 for small boats under 35 feet.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.redsnapperworldchampionship.com or at the following locations: Blue Water Ships Store, Dauphin Island Marina, Dog River Marina, Gulf Shores Yacht Club and Marina, Jemison's Bait and Tackle, J&M Tackle, Mo Fishin', Orange Beach Marina, Outcast Marina, Romar Marina, Sam's Stop and Shop, Scotts Landing, Southern Bama Bait and Tackle, Top Gun Tackle and Zeke's Landing Marina.

During the course of the tournament, the following locations in Mobile and Baldwin Counties will serve as weigh-in stations: Dog River Marina, Dauphin Island Marina, Fisherman's Discount, Gulf Shores Yacht Club and Marina, Jemison's Bait & Tackle, Orange Beach Marina, Outcast Marina, Scott's Landing, and Zeke's Landing Marina.

Historically, recreational fishing contributes approximately \$800 million each year to Alabama's economy. Forward thinking tournament directors and supportive sponsors have plans for that figure, and their fisheries, to grow. The future of Alabama's recreational fishing is certainly being assisted by this popular Gulf Coast celebration.

The Orange Beach Red Snapper World Championship / Saltwater Series is presented by Gary Finch Outdoors, Eastern Shore Toyota, Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau, Brett/Robinson Vacation Rentals, Gulf Coast Newspapers, Zeke's Charter Fleet, and the cities of Orange Beach and Gulf Shores.

For More information visit: www.redsnapperworldchampionship.com or call the Tournament Office, at **(251) 609-2047**