



MARCH 2010 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the 2010 series of the Florida Flatsfishing Association, our 4th year. The big news is the extended closure of Snook by the FWC due to the “big freezes” of 2009/2010. We’ll cover that in this newsletter...

First – the ON LINE REGISTRATION is up and running on the FLFA website... www.myflfa.com
Go and register your team now and we’ll take care of everything else at the first tournament on the 19th...

Now for some details... We are running the 2010 series with the new team format designed to benefit ALL that participate in the FLFA tournaments! Here is the list of changes that all need to know...

Team Registration-

Registering your team into the FLFA can be done by these four options-

Option 1	2 adults.	\$100.00 registration fee
Option 2	2 adults, 1 junior.	\$100.00 registration fee
Option 3	1 adult, 1 junior.	\$50.00 registration fee
Option 4	1 adult, 2 juniors.	\$50.00 registration fee

- The “per adult” entry fee cost remained the same this year @ \$50.00 per adult.
- You must have the minimum of 2 registered anglers on the team boat during tournament hours...
- Junior anglers can fish for trout and redfish for the team, along with their ladyfish and jacks.
- Junior anglers (15 & under at time of registering) are still free!
- Junior anglers can count as a second team member on a vessel!
- The points stay with the angler listed as the team captain in all tournaments (FLFA & sanctioned).
- Each team angler can be substituted one time in the three FLFA-run tournaments (#1, #2 & #4).

Most teams registering have been using option #2. If one of the adult anglers is unable to attend a tournament, the team has a junior angler present on the vessel as the second angler, with no substitution needed!

First tournament up is the FLFA’s “Free for All” Inshore Tournament with registration taking place March 19th at Capt. Hiram’s in Sebastian, upstairs in the Tiffany Room. Team registration starts @ 5:30pm, with the team meetings starting @ 7:00pm.

Remember, this is a free tournament for all teams that have their member dues paid by the close of tournament registration, so come and register your team and fish this tournament for free!

Next is the Snook issue-

With the snook category being closed, the FLFA divided the snook payouts in half. Trout payouts received ½ and the redfish payouts received ½. With a minimum of 40 teams registered for each FLFA tournament, the 1st place payouts for trout and redfish are now \$750.00, 2nd place payouts are now \$375.00 each, and 3rd place payouts for trout and redfish are now \$185.00. The FLFA board voted not to pay the \$1,000.00 slam for only 2-fish, so the new slam is a “heaviest 2-fish aggregate” (one trout & one redfish) with the winning team receiving an additional \$500.00.

If snook is re-opened September 1, the FLFA board will revisit the option of adding snook back into the circuit as a tournament fish with no end of season payouts awarded for the species winners at the end of season awards. The reasoning for this is that there will only be two regular season tournaments that would have snook as a category, and the board decided there would not be an end of season payout on snook for only 2 tournaments.

Circuit Points-

We're keeping it close this year by eliminating the issuance of bonus points and sanction points. No additional points will be issued to teams that win a 1st, 2nd or 3rd place on any tournament leader board. The dead fish penalty of a ½ pound deduction will remain in effect for 2010. Here's an example of how it works-

Your team weighs in a "live" 7.50 lb redfish and a "dead" 4.00 lb trout.

The team points for the redfish category are 7.50 points in the individual tournament.

The team points for the trout category are 3.50 points in the individual tournament.

Your team had the heaviest 2-fish aggregate of 11.00 pounds. Your team earned one additional point that is added onto your end of season total points score to be used only in to determining your team's placement into the top-20 for the end of the season fish off.

Also, we will be using each teams totals from their "best 5 out of 6 tournaments" (junior angler tournaments are exempt) to figure the species place payouts at the end of the year, so it pays to fish as many regular season tournaments as your team can!

Morning Checkouts-

FLFA-run tournaments will have a checkout. There will be 4 locations for you to checkout in the morning. The Stan Blum ramps in Ft. Pierce, MacWilliams ramps in Vero Beach, Sebastian Yacht Club ramps in Sebastian, and the Jorgensens ramp in Grant. 5am to 7am is the checkout time. You can checkout by trailer at any of the 4 locations, but all team members must be present at time of checkout.

Afternoon Weigh-in-

No "walk-ups" will be permitted. All fish for weigh-in must be presented by tournament vessel. Your team can trailer the team vessel **from** your fishing location (one time) to the "Sebastian Yacht Club ramps" for Sebastian weigh-ins or the "MacWilliams boat ramps" for Vero Beach weigh-ins. Proceed directly to weigh-in with NO FISHING PERMITTED between re-floating the vessel and weigh-in procedures.

Safety-

The FLFA requires that all team members must wear any approved flotation device whenever the combustion engine is being operated. Also, all kill switches must be operational with harness visible at checkout.

Conservation-

Teams are only permitted to weigh in one trout and redfish at time of weigh in. It is the team's responsibility to have in their possession a measuring device and a simple weigh device. No culling of fish is permitted in view of the weigh in facility. It is also a team's responsibility to have an approved livewell additive on the vessel designed to increase the probability of a live release of tournament fish. An overall one-point penalty will be assessed to a team that does not have a livewell additive at checkout.

The Championship-

The free FLFA slam fish off has been changed to a one day, winner take all event! If the 1st place team of the fish-off does it with a 3-fish slam, that team wins \$1,500.00 in cash and a \$1,000.00 gift card from "The Back Country" in Vero Beach! No slam, then the heaviest 2-fish aggregate only wins the \$1,000.00 gift card. 2nd & 3rd place teams win trophies and prizes in both options...

We have made it very simple for teams to get into the free end of season fish off-

#1) place in the top-20 teams for the 2010 season, or

#2) fish in all three FLFA tournaments (#1, #2 & #4) and you're in!

Now, the teams that make it in the top-20 will have some advantage by leaving earlier and arriving later for the weigh-in, so fish as many of the other sanctioned tournaments that your team can to secure a spot in the top-20.

We will be having a "pre-circuit" gathering/party on Saturday, March 13th from 2pm until "we get kicked out" at 185 14th Avenue, Vero Beach Florida, 32962. Mapquest.com the address, it's easy to get to. There is a pool and a Wii if you're bringing kids. Bring your own "refreshments" as we will be grilling hot dogs/hamburgers for all.

This is being put on by the FLFA so everyone in the circuit can have a chance to talk to other anglers, along with getting to know the circuit's sponsors. It's designed for some fun before the start of the 2010 circuit, so come out and enjoy the festivities! RSVP would help with having enough food... RSVP to myflfa@yahoo.com

Please welcome to the FLFA our new 2010 season sponsors!

New owner Tim Radcliff of "Florida Highway & Marine Insurance" in Sebastian, representing "Progressive Insurance."
Capt. Mark Castlow of "Dragonfly Boatworks" in Vero Beach.
Capt. Eric Davis of "The Back Country" in Vero Beach.
Dr. Connie Lawrence-Willis located within "Sebastian Wal-Mart Vision Center."

Please welcome returning sponsors of the 2010 FLFA season!

David Artigas of "Boats N Motors" in Vero Beach
Gary Farless of "Home Works Realty & Auctions" in Vero Beach
Kyle Walters representing "Palm Bay Beef-O-Brady's."
Capt. Ken Harland of "Sebastian SeaTow."
Outdoor Specialty Products, the makers of "Rejuvenade Livewell Additive."
Troy Denson of "Mount This! Fish Company" in Merritt Island.
Capt. Paul Dritenbas of "EDB Architects" in Vero Beach. (junior trophies)
Capt. Paul Dritenbas of "Reel Life Charters" in Vero Beach. (junior trophies)
Capt. Jeff Brauer of "Cast-A-Way Charters."
Capt. Larry Walter of "O'Fishly Hooked Charters."
Capt. JC Henderson of "JC's Indian River Fishing Charters."
Local marine artist Don Ray.
Last, but not least, Bob Maxwell of "Fishtailes Scale Service."

Junior Angler Tournament Sponsors-

Capt. Richard Willis
John Dobbins
Larry Camp
Darren House of 3D Fencing
Jack Bullers of Surfside Pavers

Location Sponsors-

Capt. Hiram's Resort in Sebastian,
Squid Lips Grill in Sebastian,
Riverside Café in Vero Beach,
Dockside Grill in Vero Beach,
Loggerhead Club & Marina in Vero Beach.

Media Sponsors-

Ed Killer of the "Treasure Coast Scripps Newspapers."
Dave Pikowitz of the "Treasure Coast Coastal Angler Magazine."

ALL ANGLERS of FLFA teams are required to read the rules page located on the FLFA website prior to registering for the 2010 season! The website address is - www.myflfa.com - so read the rules!

See you all on March 19th at Capt. Hiram's in Sebastian at the registration for the FLFA's 2010 season opener - the FLFA's "Free for All" Inshore Tournament. Registration starts @ 5:30pm, with the team meetings starting at 7:00pm.

Please refer to the FLFA website for all tournament info, sponsor info, special discounts for FLFA members, and the rules... Feel free to e-mail any of us with ANY of your questions on the 2010 FLFA series at this e-mail address - myflfa@yahoo.com See you at the next tournament!

Capt. Jeff Brauer - 2010 FLFA Executive Director
Capt. Larry Walter - 2010 FLFA Director of Operations
Capt. Eric Deleon - 2010 FLFA Director of Events

irafr03@yahoo.com
captlarrywalter@yahoo.com
eric_deleon@bellsouth.net

FLFA Website - www.myflfa.com