



Navarre Fishing Rodeo reels in more fish and fun

By Sandi Kemp
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The Navarre Fishing Rodeo was a huge success this past weekend with more than twice as many anglers than in year's past and a 100 percent increase in the number of fish brought in to the weigh station at Juana's Pagoda during the two-day tournament. All in all, the tournament saw a 224 percent increase in anglers this year over last even though the weather and wind brought about by a hurricane churling in the ocean on the other side of Florida, and a cool front made the weather a little less than perfect. "That just separates real anglers from those that think they are anglers," Frank Dailey said in jest, the day of the rodeo. Bottom line, everyone had the same conditions, and more fish were reeled in than ever before.

"Great prizes and better fish for the weather that we were handed. Thanks also to the sponsors," said rodeo participant Bob Boston after the event.

An added bonus this year was teaming up on the same weekend as "Take a Kid Fishing." More than 400 children received a free rod and reel and fishing lessons on the pier the Saturday of the Rodeo.

The Navarre Fishing rodeo, organized by the Navarre Chamber Foundation, is now considered to be one of the most popular rodeos among anglers on the Emerald Coast. It has even been added to the calendar of Santa Rosa County's Annual Beaches to Woodlands Tour and saw sponsors and donors from around the world, including an Australian company, Sun Protection Australia.

The rodeo highlighted the abundance of fish swimming through area waters and the different methods for catching them. Two anglers won the slam categories that highlighted three different species from offshore and inshore varieties. Noble Davidson is the overall winner of the "Inshore Slam" division with a catch of flounder, redfish and trout weighing a total of 13.1 pounds. Nick Creamer won the "Offshore Slam" category with his catch of a Spanish Mackerel, King Mackerel, and a Snapper with a total weight of 22.35 pounds. Chuck Carter won the "Mystery Fish" category - which was a 4.3-pound redfish.



Junior anglers enjoyed the tournament while winning prizes for pinfish, croaker, hardtail, pigfish, redfish and Spanish mackerel.

The Open and Kayak Division brought in an abundance of redfish, king mackerel, trout, snapper, and flounder.

All in all, 266 anglers came in and weighed 186 fish and won nearly \$20,000 in awards and door prizes. Thirty percent of the anglers who registered were from outside of Santa Rosa County and came as far away as Louisiana and Georgia.

Before the event, a "Captain's Meeting" was held at Juana's Pagoda on Navarre Beach where the anglers received their "Captain's Bags" that contained lures, hooks, coupons, a free "Kayak Angler" subscription, the latest edition of "Florida Sportsman" magazine, and more.

Proceeds from this event benefited Heroes on the Water and the entities in the Navarre Beach Marine Park.

Visit www.navarrefishingrodeo.com for more information.

Sponsors: Gulf Power, Walmart (Navarre), SaltLife, Mojo, Bimini Bay Outfitters, Coldwell Bankers United, Chickfila (Gulf Breeze), Kool Breeze of Northwest Florida, Culvers, Wynn Haven Animal Clinic, The Club at Hidden Creek, Samuel Stevens & Associates, Lagerheads on the Gulf, Juana's Sailor's Grill, Re/Max Total Properties, Navarre Laundry, EarthCents Homes, Navarre Family Eye Care, Broxson Outdoors, Navarre Properties, Sandpaper Marketing, Navarre Press, Half Hitch Tackle of Navarre, Coast Watch Alliance, Adam's Homes, and Navarre Lumber.

Door Prizes: Chick-fil-a (Gulf Breeze), The Ships Chandler, The Trophy Center, Life's a Beach Publications, Ace Hardware, Rep Your Water, Sun Protection Australia, Panama Jack, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Underwood Anderson, Shrimp Basket, Alf's Catfish House, Gulf Breeze Bait and Tackle, Hemingway's, Advanced Auto (Navarre & Gulf Breeze), Miss Donna's Antiques, O'Connor's Pub & Grill, Navarre Rib Shack, Foxy Boutique, Blue Wahoes, Key Sailing, Crabs Restaurant, Hilton Pensacola Beach, A Special Place, Pak N Fax, Sandi Pearls LLC, Shane's Rib Shack, Cactus Flower, Flounder's Gift Shop, The Fun Store, Starbucks, Anytime Fitness, Southern Specialty Market, Turtle's Nest, Harley Davidson, Casino Beach Bar & Grille, and Oak Ridge Gun Range.

Winners: 2015 Navarre Fishing Rodeo

2015 Junior Division Winners

Croaker	1st Billie Thomas	.9 lb.
	2nd Jared Thomas	.8 lb.
Hardtail	1st Tristan Mahowald	1.7 lbs.
	2nd Matthew Klein	0.1 lb.
Pig Fish	1st Angelina Sousa	0.3 lb.
	2nd John Foley	0.1 lb.
Pin Fish	1st Falcon Snider	0.6 lb.
	2nd Jared Heddon	0.5 lb.
Red Fish	1st Noah Coronado	2.8 lbs.
	2nd Audrey Sterry	2.35 lbs.
Spanish Mack	1st River Torres	2.7 lbs.
	2nd Gisele Roubique	2.4 lbs.
Trout	1st Cole Burton	1.7 lbs.
	2nd Oliva Ammon	1.65 lbs.

2015 Slams

Inshore (Flounder, Redfish, Trout)		
	1st Noble Davidson	13.1 lbs.
	2nd Brandon Semick	12.0 lbs.
Offshore (Spanish, King, Snapper)		
	1st Nick Creamer	25.85 lbs.
	2nd Dylan Service	22.35 lbs.
Mystery Fish (Red Fish 4.3 lbs.)		
	Chuck Carter	4.3 lbs.

Open Division

Bluefish	1st Kyle Rohrig	5.0 lbs.
	2nd Jim Olson	4.5 lbs.
Bonita	1st Joseph Willis	7.2 lbs.
	2nd Mark Griffith	7.0 lbs.
Flounder	1st Brandon Semick	2.4 lbs.
	2nd Jeff Brown	1.7 lbs.
King Mack	2nd Angelina Sousa	1.7 lbs.
	1st Heather Hildreth	10.1 lbs.
Grouper	2nd Mark Griffith	8.2 lbs.
	1st Jim Olson	11.2 lbs.
Pompano	1st Tatum King	1.7 lbs.
	2nd Tristan Mahowald	1.4 lbs.
Redfish	1st Steve Rhoades	7.2 lbs.
	2nd Trace Lewis	7.0 lbs.
Snapper	1st Brandon Semick	14.9 lbs.
	2nd Nick Creamer	12.5 lbs.
Spanish Mack	1st Dustin Service	7.0 lbs.
	2nd David Broxson	2.9 lbs.
Trout	1st Treney Woodham	5.4 lbs.
	2nd Noble Davidson	5.3 lbs.
Whiting	1st Lora Olivera	0.7 lb.
	2nd Cody McArdle	0.6 lb.

Kayak Winners

Flounder	1st Klaylan Burchett	2.2 lbs.
	2nd Ron Davis	1.4 lbs.
King Mack	1st Robert Boston	15.2 lbs.
	2nd Chris Hildreth	14.95 lbs.
Redfish	1st Anthony Besaw	5.6 lbs.
	1st Ron Davis	5.6 lbs.
Snapper	2nd Phillip Aldrich	5.5 lbs.
	1st Joseph Willis	9.8 lbs.
Spanish Mack	2nd Mark Griffith	6.75 lbs.
	1st Dylan Service	5.3 lbs.
Trout	2nd Chris Bradley	2.9 lbs.
	1st Ron Davis	3.4 lbs.
	2nd Jason Haynes	2.8 lbs.



Photos by Sandi Kemp