

Cape Fear fishing

By Jim Harper
Staff Writer

Flounder may not have exactly filled the river over the weekend but flounder boats nearly did so, with 93 competing in the Wildlife Bait and Tackle tournament.

Director Jimmy Price said that most of the larger fish were caught around the quarantine station site, across from the ADM dock, where action concentrated after Earl Thomas boated a 9.86-pounder there Friday.

That fish stood up to be the eventual winner, though a second nine-pounder, an eight-pounder and a seven-pounder were also recorded.

Price said fish were also taken under the Oak Island bridge main span, at the mouth of Bald Head marina, off Caswell Dock and behind Battery Island.

He said a flotilla of boats concentrated on the terribly tangled bottom around the quarantine station after Friday, and there on Sunday one angler reported losing 36 rigs trying to fish in the rubble.

It was exactly the right thing to do, for the season's largest fish, including a 13-pounder caught by Price himself, have been landed in extremely broken bottom and relatively deep water.

"Most of the fish were taken on mullet minnows, Price said, "though some smaller ones were caught on bucktails and on grubs.

"And the folks also caught some nice trout around the ADM dock and behind Battery Island."



Winner of the fifth annual Wildlife Bait and Tackle flounder tournament with this 9.86-pound fish over the weekend was Earl Thomas of Long Beach. He received a check for \$1,500 from tournament director Jimmy Price.

Thomas' flounder top prize

Earl Thomas of Long Beach won the fifth annual Wildlife Bait and Tackle flounder tournament over the weekend with a 9.86-pound fish.

Tournament director Jimmy Price said 93 boats with 300 anglers participated in the three-day event, which included an auction and fish sale at the end that produced nearly \$1,000 for the Shriners Crippled Children's Hospital.

Thomas collected \$1,500 as his prize, while Wayne Crisco again took top honors in the under-12 category, earning \$50 on two days with fish of 3.26 and 4.82 pounds.

Second place went to Paul Genovese of Southport, fishing with Russ Ferrell, who landed a 9.29-pounder; third prize went to the aggregate leader Carl Gibson of South Carolina, with 26.61 pounds for five fish; fourth place went to Mark Keller of Southport with a 7.93-pounder; and fifth place was taken by Eric Bruce of Lumberton with a 7.17-pound fish.

Seniors fishing trip

A seniors fishing trip will be offered Friday, September 16, by the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department.

The excursion will leave at 7 a.m. from Capt. Pete's Seafood, Holden Beach, aboard the *Mega Flite*, with return about 3 p.m. Fishing gear will be provided; participants should bring a small cooler with lunch and drinks.

For more information, persons may contact the county parks and recreation department, 253-4357 or 1-800-222-4790.

Softball tourney

The second annual Chris Sholar Memorial Softball Tournament will be played at Northwest Township District Park at Leland September 30-October 1.

The entry fee will be \$125 per team for both the men's and women's divisions.

For additional information, persons should contact Faye Burckhalter at 910-371-2604.

Captain Charlie's fish tourney next Saturday

Southport Parks and Recreation Department and the Southport Lions Club will host the annual Captain Charlie's Fishing Tournament for youngsters age 16 and under Saturday, September 24, at the city pier.

The annual event is one of the most successful one-day contests for children in the area. Last year, the Captain Charlie's Fishing Tournament lured nearly 200 kids to competition.

Prizes will be awarded for the most and heaviest fish of several species, for two age groups -- 12 and under and 13 through 16. Lunch will be served pier-side at noon, compliments of the city.

To enter the Captain Charlie's Fishing Tournament, youngsters need only fill-out an entry blank and mail it or take it to City Hall. Registrations will be accepted the morning of the tournament also.

Fishing Tournament Rules

- Starting time: 10 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon.
- Finish time: 4 p.m. Any fish on a line at the finish time will be counted.
- Fish must be caught by hook and line only. No snagged fish may be entered in the competition.
- No sharks, skates, rays or eels may be entered into competition.
- Competition is limited to youths 16 years of age or under.
- Only one rod per person may be fished.
- Divisions of competition are: most and heaviest spots, croakers, pinfish, pigfish, toadfish, flounders.
- In the event of a tie, the longest fish will be declared the winner.
- An entrant may only win in one division. If a contestant places in more than one division, he or she must chose the division for which he or she will be awarded a prize.
- Parents or guardians are allowed on the pier, but the contestant must reel the fish in unassisted.
- Any other decisions will be made by tournament officials.

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Price said that not only competitors in his event, but anglers on Caswell Dock, the Pigfish Ground and Jaybird Shoal, had a good weekend.

At Caswell puppy drum, trout and flounder were biting; the Pigfish Ground produced some spots and gray trout and excellent catches of croakers; and Jaybird turned up some good bluefish catches.

Steve Smith at Sure Catch Tackle said that offshore fishing for reef fish, and especially triggerfish, continued to be good, and that trollers found beginning concentrations of kings at the Horseshoe and on 12-mile and 15-mile rocks on the Lighthouse Rock chain.

He said that Spanish mackerel had started making a real move, turning up in huge schools from Yaupon Reef to the shoals, and out along the Lighthouse chain.

The same Spanish news was echoed at all Oak Island piers. Sammy Ray decked one at Ocean

Crest weighing 8.5 pounds, and at Long Beach Pier one fisherman had eight on Monday with the smallest weighing three pounds.

Live mullet minnows were generally the ticket for Spanish.

Yaupon Pier reported an 18-pound king and a 30-pound crevalle jack on Sunday; Carl Collins at Ocean Crest said six kings were caught Saturday through Tuesday; and Billy West at Long Beach Pier said two kings were taken Monday.

Meanwhile, in the Oak Island surf G. E. Hyer and Wayne Hyer found speckled trout, whiting and pompano at the Middleton Street public access, and Gina Canady and David Ratcliff found flounder biting Sunday at the Lockwood Folly Point.

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Captain Charlie's Fishing Tournament



Saturday, September 24
Starting Time: 10:00 a.m.
Ages 12 & Under; 13-16

Sponsored by:
Southport Parks & Recreation
Southport Lion's Club

Official Entry Form

Name _____

Address _____

Age _____ Phone _____

Mail or return to:
City of Southport Parks & Recreation
201 E. Moore Street, Southport, N.C. 28461-0201
(910) 457-7945

NOTE: Tournament will last until 4:00 p.m. with lunch served at 12:00 noon compliments of City of Southport Recreation Department.

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