

GCC FFI Mixed Bag Classic

A Fly Fishing Scavenger Hunt

Overview: The 2nd annual GCC FFI Mixed Bag Classic is a Multi-day, Mixed Bag Fly Fishing contest hosted as part of GCC FFI's Gulf Classic. Anglers fishing in one of four divisions (more below) will be challenged to Catch-Photo-Release as many of 24 eligible species/categories (plus 6 "wild cards") as possible with the highest species count in each division declared the winner. Coupled with additional awards for Beach Cleanup efforts and Most Unusual Catch, this event will feel more like a scavenger hunt than a conventional fishing tournament

When: May 2, 2024 – May 4, 2024

Where: Gulf State Park (Gulf Shores, AL) & surrounding waters

*see Boundaries Map for more details

Who: Fly Anglers of all ages in attendance at the Gulf Coast Classic

The Important Stuff: Rules, Registration, etc.

1. Registration & Fees:

- a. All registered "Classic" participants are eligible to participate in the Mixed Bag Classic
 - i. No additional entry fee is required
 - ii. Additionally, each participant must submit an FFI tournament waiver form prior to participation

2. Divisions:

- a. Participants may register for one of the following two (2) divisions:
 - i. Adult
 - ii. Youth (under 18)

3. Disqualification:

- a. Failure to abide by **any** of the following rules shall result in participant disqualification.

4. Tournament Dates:

- a. Fish submitted to this contest must be caught during the time frame prescribed below:
 - i. Lines In: May 2, 2024 at first light (5:40 AM)
 - ii. Lines out: May 4, 2024 at noon (12:00 PM)

6. Eligible Species:

- a. One fish representing each of the following 24 eligible Species/Categories may be submitted for the tournament
- b. Additionally, six “Wild Card” species may also be submitted.
 - i. “Wild Card” species are defined as any species not represented by one of the 25 eligible Species/Categories
 - 1. Wild Card entries may include only one additional species from a listed category
 - a. (i.e. Only one additional “Sunfish (*Lepomis sp.*)” may be submitted as a Wild Card)

2024 Eligible Species/Categories

Black Bass (<i>Micropterus sp.</i>)	Seatrout (<i>Cynoscion sp.</i>)	Whiting/Kingfish (<i>Menticirrhus sp.</i>)	Catfish, Saltwater (Hardhead/Gafftop)	Wild Card 1
Sunfish (<i>Lepomis sp.</i>)	Red Drum	Croaker, Atlantic	Pinfish	Wild Card 2
Catfish, Freshwater (Channel, Blue or Bullhead)	Black Drum	Mackerel, Spanish or King	Mullet (<i>Mugil sp.</i>)	Wild Card 3
Crappie (Black or White)	Sheepshead	Jack, Atlantic Crevalle	Tripletail	Wild Card 4
Pickrel (<i>Esox sp.</i>)	Flounder, Southern or Gulf	Snapper (<i>Lutjanus sp.</i>)	Cobia	Wild Card 5
Gar (Longnose, Spotted or Alligator)	Pompano	Ladyfish	Tarpon	Wild Card 6

7. Eligible Equipment:

- a. Only fly rods and reels may be used in this competition.
 - i. Conventional tackle and handlines are prohibited
- b. Flies shall be defined as any hand tied lure consisting of feathers, fur and/or synthetic materials.
 - i. Flies may not be tied on Treble hooks.
 - ii. Rope flies are prohibited

8. Submission & Acceptance Criteria of Eligible Species

- a. This is a Catch-Photo-Release (CPR) Tournament
 - i. Submission of all entries shall be completed through the Mixed Bag portal on the Classic website (<https://ffigulfcoastclassic.com/fly-fishing-tournament/>)
- b. All submissions must meet the following criteria to be accepted:
 - i. The entire fish MUST be visible in the photo
 - ii. The fish must be identifiable as the noted Species/Category
 1. Identifications brought into question may be rejected at the discretion of tournament officials.
 - iii. The fish must be alive at the time the photograph was taken.
 1. Submissions containing obviously dead fish will be rejected.
 - iv. The fly used to catch the fish and/or Fly Rod/Reel must be visible in the photo.
 - v. The Tournament identification code/token must be visible in the photo.
- c. All submissions shall be considered "Pending" until "Approved/Accepted" by tournament officials.

9. Scoring:

- a. One (1) point shall be awarded for each of the 24 eligible Species/Categories and 6 "Wild Card" species submitted by each participant for a possible maximum score of 30.
 - i. Final standings will be reported for each division with the point leader of each division being designated as the Division Winner (1st Place).
 - ii. In the event of a tie, time of final submission will serve as the first tiebreaker
 1. Should this tiebreaker fail, the division winner shall be determined by flipping a coin.

10. Awards and Prizes:

- a. An awards ceremony shall be held at Gulf State Park following the conclusion of fishing at 1:00 PM on May 4, 2024.
- b. Final standings shall be announced and prizes awarded (at a minimum) to the 1st Place finisher in each of the designated divisions.
 - i. Prizes: TBD
- c. A prize for "Most Unusual Catch" (selected by tournament officials) and Beach Cleanup (see Item 10) shall also be awarded at this time.
 - i. Prizes: TBD

11. Beach Cleanup Challenge:

- a. A beach cleanup bag shall be provided to each angler at the start of the tournament.
 - i. These bags shall be used to collect waste found along waterways during the course of the tournament.
- b. These bags (and any additional trash bags filled by the angler) shall be submitted to tournament officials prior to the awards ceremony for weighing.
 - i. The heaviest (Weight in Lbs.) shall be announced as the winner during the awards ceremony

12. Local, State and Federal Regulations:

- a.** It is the responsibility of all participating anglers to abide by local, state and federal regulations as it pertains to angling, use of watercraft and other tournament activities.
 - i.** This includes, but is not limited to, maintaining current fishing licenses for the waters being fished, following all boater safety laws when on the water and following relevant traffic laws when driving to and from fishing sites.
- b.** Failure to abide by these laws will result in immediate disqualification.