

32nd Annual Joshua Martin Thomas Memorial CREEKSLAM Fishing Tournament

RULES

1. Time and Location: October 21, 2023. Tournament begins at dawn and ends at 5:00 PM. All anglers must be recognized by a tournament official at the weigh station by 5:00 pm.

Where: Robert E. Ashley Boat Landing/under the Town Hall, 405 Pinckney Street McClellanville, SC 29458. Rain or shine. No refunds or cancellations.

2. Entry Fee: Adults \$55 and **Youth (14 and under)** \$20

3. Early Registration: If you sign up on or before September 29, 2023, you are considered an early registered angler and will receive a free t-shirt.

4. Packet Pick-Up/Captain's Meeting: Entry packets with parking passes and T-shirt(s) may be picked up at CREECS, 1011 Old Cemetery Road McClellanville, SC 29458, between 7:30 AM- 2PM, October 20, 2023. Packets may also be picked up at the *Captain's Meeting* on the same day between 6:00-8:00 PM under the Town Hall or on the morning of the tournament at the boat landing from 6:00-8:00 AM.

5. Team Tournament: You must ensure that you are registered and fishing with the partner(s) that you signed up with. Every person in the boat must be registered, whether they fish or not. Any changes must be done prior to the beginning of fishing. A team can consist of only one boat or craft. Violation of any of these rules will result in disqualification of the team.

6. Permitted Fishing Area- All public waters east of Highway 17, north of Isle of Palms Connector, and south of the South Santee River (including fishing in the river). All angling must be done from a registered boat. You may not get out of your boat to fish.

7. All fish must be caught on the day of the tournament by: rod & reel, cane pole, fly rod, or hand line only. Artificial or natural bait may be used. Cast nets are allowed to catch bait only.

8. Types of Fish-

Legal Size

1. Spottail Bass (Red Fish, Red Drum, Channel Bass)

15"-23"

2. Trout (Spotted Seatrout, Winter Trout)

14" minimum

3. Flounder (Summer or Southern)

16" minimum

9. Weighing/ Measuring fish-PLEASE KNOW YOUR BOAT NUMBER WHEN YOU WEIGH YOUR FISH.

All SC and USCG Laws apply. All coolers and live wells are subject to inspection. Only ONE fish per species per boat will be weighed, with the exception of the entry for the Youth Award. SC law allows the taking of no spottail bass over 23". Under the new SC guidelines, Red Drum are to be measured using the pinched tail method which will be followed for this event. The weigh master will follow SCDNR law and make the fish as long as possible when measuring the fish



Bass 15"

Trout 14"

Flounder 16"

It is highly recommended that you measure your fish prior to presenting it for weigh in. The weigh master will conduct the weigh in and make all decisions concerning the legality of the submitted fish. Each boat is responsible for deciding which **one fish** of each species is to be weighed. Submitting an illegal fish results in disqualification of that boat. All fish must arrive at the landing by boat by way of water.

10. Prizes & Winners!

50% of entry fees are returned as prizes: 1st place 50% 2nd place 30% 3rd place 20%
 Winners will be determined by total points collected. In the event of a tie, the highest aggregate weight of weighed fish wins.

POINT SYSTEM

	Bass	Trout	Flounder
Largest	7	7	7
2 nd Largest	5	5	5
3 rd Largest	3	3	3
4 th Largest	1	1	1

CREEKSLAM BONUS POINTS 2 points for weighing in all 3 species

11. Creek Challenge- There will be a separate Creek Challenge for each fish species of the tournament. The boat captain will decide which fish to weigh. 50% of the Creek Challenge money collected will go to the boat with the biggest fish (in other words: we will pay the redfish pot to the boat with the biggest red, the flounder pot will go to the boat with the biggest flounder, etc.) You must have entered the tournament to be eligible for the Creek Challenge. You must sign-up for the Creek Challenge at the Captain's meeting between 6-8 PM. All other rules of the tournament apply.

12. Youth Award- (Age 14 and under) The youth angler must land and weigh-in the largest legal fish of any species, (not just three species of tournament but excluding rays and sharks), will win The *Josh M. Thomas Youth Big Fish Award*. Ties will be broken as above. Youth angler must have caught fish unassisted.

13. Protests- Protests must be presented in writing (TEXT MESSAGE) to Margaret Crouch (843) 670-7472 on the day of the alleged infraction, by 5:15pm. A \$200 Cash Deposit, refundable if the protest is upheld, must accompany protests. The CREEKSLAM Committee will make all decisions, and their decision is final. If the protest is not upheld, then such deposit will be forfeited to the JMT CREEKSLAM. Any ruling or event involving this rule will be left to the CREEKSLAM Committee.