

# BFA

## BREAM FISHERMEN ASSOCIATION

1203 N 16th Avenue  
Pensacola, Florida 32503

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION CHARTERED IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

### Newsletter

July 2012

#### **\*\* Next Membership Meeting is Wed, 1 August\*\***

Doors open at 5:30, dinner will be served at 6:00 PM

#### **Dear Membership,**

The past three months have just flown by; here are a few of the highlights:

- BFA Members and Teen Court Kids worked hard on Sat, 5 May, to empty the building and basement of the club belongings;
- Repairs to the building have been finished according to the City of Pensacola, but are not up to the expectations we had hoped for, more on that discussion at the next Membership Meeting;
- Teen Court Kids and several BFA Members will empty the PODS storage unit and return BFA belongings back into the bldg;
- Please note that the BFA has a new mailing address, we are now receiving BFA mail at **1203 North 16<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pensacola, FL 32503**;
- BFA Members who are interested in participating in the Rain Gauge Project, will be able to pick up a kit with instructions at our 1 Aug Membership Meeting;
- BFA Members attending the Wed, 1 Aug Membership Meeting will be invited to provide input & design ideas towards the Oyster Spat Traps, which we hope to deploy soon. These traps will allow us to start understanding and monitoring the productivity of our bays, and specifically which portions of our bays yield the highest production; and
- The results of the BFA Survey indicate that the Membership continues to be interested in the quality of waters in our rivers, bays, and estuaries. Our Members understand that good water quality and clarity allow for healthy seagrass beds to thrive, which in turn provide a nursery ground for many important fisheries species. Most importantly, feedback from the survey suggests the membership wishes to continue work in this important area.

On that Note, please read on:

#### **Oysters can handle some, but not all pollution we dump into the nation's estuaries**

By **Ben Raines, Press-Register**

Press-Register , [www.al.com](http://www.al.com) Press-Register

While oysters are known to be one of nature's best natural filters, new research suggests there are limits to how much pollution they can clean up. In fact, some of the nation's estuaries are so overwhelmed with excess fertilizer that it would take more oysters than the bays can hold in order to purify the water. Adult oysters are known to filter about 50 gallons of water daily. But existing research had never fully addressed how much pollution was removed from the water filtered by an oyster, versus how much pollution passed through the animal's body back into the water.



**WILDERNESS PROTECTION - WILDLIFE PRESERVATION  
FISHING AND HUNTING CONSERVATION**

In particular, scientists sought to understand how much nitrogen oysters remove from the water. Nitrogen is one of the key nutrients responsible for the creation of the Gulf of Mexico's dead zone off Louisiana, and a similar dead zone that builds in Mobile Bay each year. Sewage treatment plants, industries such as the ThyssenKrupp steel mill, and farm fertilizers all contribute nitrogen to waterways. In the water, nitrogen fuels the growth of phytoplankton, which are tiny plants.

After 10 years of study, scientists with Auburn University and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab figured out a way to measure how much nitrogen an oyster can remove each day as it pumps water through its body. The scientists also analyzed the isotopes present in the oyster tissue to determine the portion of nitrogen that came from land-based pollution. The field work for the study was done on Cape Cod, Mass.

"There is a real chance for people to misunderstand what we are talking about with shellfish cleaning up the environment. People think, 'Oh, the oysters are cleaning up pollution, I don't want to eat them.' No, nitrogen is a nutrient, it's a problem when we get too much in the system," but it's not a poison like mercury, said Bill Walton, a marine biologist with Auburn University who was one of the study's co-authors. The problem with nitrogen, he said, is that it fuels the growth of algae, which then dies and falls to the bottom, where it decays. The decay process consumes oxygen, leaving the water with too little oxygen to support fish and other marine life.

"Putting shellfish out in the system is a lot like putting sheep in an overgrown pasture. The sheep are going to graze down the excess plants," Walton said. "Removing nitrogen sounds like you are filtering a pollutant. You're not. Essentially, the oysters are grazing down excess plants."

The study suggests that oysters and other shellfish can be part of a strategy for managing nitrogen pollution, but cannot solve pollution problems alone. "In the water bodies that are the most polluted, there's just not space available. In the most polluted urban estuaries, you just don't have enough room for the oysters. You would have to blanket the bottom of the entire estuary in oysters," said Dauphin Island Sea Lab scientist Ruth Carmichael, another coauthor of the study.

In part, the study showed the limits of what oyster reefs can do in a system in terms of cleaning up pollution, Carmichael said. "You can't say we'll never have to sewer anything, we'll never worry about stormwater. We'll just throw some oysters in the water and have carte blanche to pollute because the oysters will do the cleanup work. That's not going to happen. They are not going to be our panacea," Carmichael said. Oysters, like all life, have minimum requirements to live. In many of the nation's estuaries, those requirements are not being met.

"In places like the Chesapeake, they are struggling to get a natural population back, to restore a historical population," Carmichael said. "You have to ask why the oysters aren't growing there in the first place. You can't just throw a bunch of oysters out there and expect them to solve the problem if they won't grow there." The challenge in Mobile Bay, Carmichael said, is understanding how much nitrogen is coming into the system, and what the sources are. Work is under way to address those questions. Then, she said, scientists can calculate how much of that problem the bay's oyster reefs can be expected to help clean up.

## Plastic ingredient makes fish court other species

By **Michael Marshall**

It's like beer goggles gone wrong. A common chemical used to make plastics also causes fish to indiscriminately court members of other species – behavior that could result in interbreeding and the merger of two species.

Bisphenol A (BPA) affects animals' behavior and development because it mimics the hormone oestrogen. Such "synthetic hormones" can affect the males of many species, sometimes "feminizing" them and impairing their ability to produce offspring. But according to Jessica Ward of the University of Minnesota in Saint Paul, the effects go much further than that. She exposed captive blacktail shiners (*Cyprinella venusta*) and red shiners (*C. lutrensis*) to BPA for 14 days, then compared their courtship behavior to that of fish that had not encountered the chemical.

Fish exposed to BPA were more likely than the unexposed fish to approach fish of the other species and court them. Although the study did not include genetic tests to see if the courtship led to interbreeding, Ward says the courtship behavior is a "good proxy for mate choice in fish". "It would have been harder to tease out some of the more subtle behavioral changes if we had just put three fish in a tank and run genetic parentage tests on the resulting eggs," she says.

Red shiners are an invasive species, often introduced to new areas by fishermen who use them as bait. They often hybridize with native species, and exposure to oestrogen-mimicking chemicals like BPA could make it even more likely that they would do so. Although it has a lower profile than habitat loss and overhunting, interbreeding is a big threat to biodiversity. "Hybridization is one of the most common and widespread causes of species loss, especially in fish," Ward says.

The concentrations of BPA that the fish were exposed to are orders of magnitude higher than any that humans experience. Nevertheless, some scientists think BPA harms humans at those lower doses. Earlier this year the US Food and Drug Administration rejected calls to ban BPA from all plastic food containers, but it is now considering banning its use in containers of baby formula, following the examples of the European Union and Canada.

### Water, water everywhere but not a drop....fit to drink.

By John Chason

Water, water everywhere but not a drop fit to drink...Of course, this is NOT totally true...yet....but many articles I read strongly suggests that this is where we are, sadly, going.

Take time, please, to read the Opinion (PNJ.Com) dated June 28, 2012 of Mike Robertson concerning our major aquifer, the Floridan. It's not pleasant but largely true and a bit frightening. Each time another drills into it they discover they must drill deeper to reach the water. This is a concern and there is more to come. If our disappearing water in the aquifers, rivers & lakes is not enough to get your attention, check this out. !!!!!

I can vividly recall as a youngster the large Paddle Wheelers plying the waters of the Apalachicola/Chattahoochee Rivers. Fast forward, now. Just two years ago I was unable to launch my 13' Alum John Boat in the river at Blountstown; there has been NO improvement.

You should also read 1997 compact, passed by Congress. Its commonly referred to as the ACF Compact, meaning the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint basin, the first such compact in our nation.

It's serious, Folks. This is the Tri-State fight over water rights from these three rivers. Atlanta wants and seem to feel they are entitled to much more of the water than Florida or Alabama. This case will, some in high places say, finally be decided by the US Supreme Court. I say who are they to decide our allotment?? Stay tuned!!!

Now, if you really want a mind blower read Cynthia Barnett's recent book, *Mirage. Florida and the Vanishing waters*.....another classic read is... *Cadillac Desert*, by Marc Reisner, a 1986 book published by Viking (ISBN 0-14-017824-4) about land development and water policy in the western United States. Subtitled *The American West and its Disappearing Water*, it gives the history of the Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and their struggle to remake the American West. The book's main conclusion is that development-driven policies, formed when settling the West was the country's main concern, and are having serious long-term negative effects on the environment and water quantity. The book was revised and updated in 1993.

One more recommendation is a new *Stream Handbook for Landowners*. The Aldo Leopold Foundation has partnered with Trout Unlimited to produce an exciting new resource for landowners! Modeled after our popular My Healthy Woods handbooks, My Healthy Stream contains everything you need to know to begin managing your stream and the land next to it. Authors Jack Williams, Michael Dombeck, and Chris Wood have teamed up for their third joint effort and have assembled a comprehensive guide to understanding and making decisions about your streamside lands. The book includes chapters on understanding watersheds, stream monitoring, management options, flood control, invasive species, and more. Filled with color photos and accessible descriptions, My Healthy Stream is a great place to start on managing your stream. 84 pgs at a cost of \$6.95 at <http://www.aldoleopold.org/books/>

### Oral History Project Documents BFA History

By Christian Wagley

An oral history project to document the work of BFA over the last 40 years begins this summer. The project uses the voices of BFA members to tell the story of the organization, its history, and member's outlook for the future. Christian Wagley, a local freelance writer and green building consultant, is conducting the oral history interviews and will compile them into a series of recordings available on compact disc and the BFA website.

"I've long admired the BFA and all the great work the organization has done over the years," says Wagley. "It's incredibly important to document the work of the members, and their memories of the changing condition of our waterways."

A range of questions about local waterways and the BFA will be asked of participants, including:

- When and where did you begin fishing in our area?
- What was the fishing like in those days?
- How have our bays and bayous changed over the years?
- How did the BFA push to get our waterways cleaned-up?

Members who are interested in sharing their memories by participating in the project may contact Christian Wagley at 850-687-9968, or via email at [christianwagley@earthlink.net](mailto:christianwagley@earthlink.net)

### Rubber Ducky – You're the One...

By Nicole Frenk

The Great Mill Town Duck Race is a fundraiser for the Blackwater Pyrates. On 4 July at 5 p.m., 3,000 specially coated rubber racing ducks were cast off of the Hwy 90 bridge in Milton onto a roped off (or noodled off, if you like) race track in the river. I don't remember exactly how long it took them in the past to reach the finish line 400 yards downriver, but it was at least 30 minutes. This year, thanks to a strong current due to a heavy rains and frequent thunderstorms it took them 10 minutes at the most. The current was so strong that it actually swept the ducks over and under the styrofoam "noodles" once they reached the finish line, and it took several hours for the Pyrates to catch all of them. And yes, they were all caught! Thanks to strict regulations, these ducks have to be counted before and after each race and the numbers have to be documented and reported.

### FWC, DEP, DACS enhance service to Floridians

Contributed by Carole Tebay

On July 1, officers and staff from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services (DACs) will be combined with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in a move directed by the Florida Legislature and approved by Gov. Rick Scott. The 145 new sworn officers will don FWC uniforms and integrate completely into the ranks of the FWC, resulting in more efficient service to Floridians and visitors. "We will have more field-level officers available to respond to calls," said Col. Jim Brown, division director. "New and current FWC officers will be expected to patrol state forests, state parks, wildlife management areas and state waters as a more efficient and effective team."

The reorganization will save the state more than \$3 million over the next five years and \$1.28 million in recurring annual savings. "Through rearranging extra management and support positions, the consolidation will establish additional patrol and first-response capabilities and expand law enforcement coverage," Brown said.

The public can expect to see FWC officers in state parks and state forests and call upon them for help. "We will continue to provide excellent resource protection, boating-and-waterways services and public safety protection," Brown said. People should report fish and wildlife crimes, boating violations as well as environmental crimes and state park and state forest issues to the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline: 888-404-3922.

DEP's Bureau of Emergency Response (BER) will not move to the FWC, but will continue responding to emergency chemical spills and working with law enforcement on environmental crime matters at DEP. DEP's emergency numbers, #DEP or 877-2-SAVEFL should be used to report environmental emergencies, such as oil and chemical spills.

"The consolidation of officers will provide a more extensive network of environmental crime law enforcement coverage throughout Florida," said BER Chief Gwen Keenan. "DEP's Bureau of Emergency Response will continue to work closely with its law enforcement partners on environmental crime issues as it has done in the past."

In 2011 the Florida Legislature created a Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force, which met to develop work groups and evaluate functions of several law enforcement agencies. Ultimately, it recommended that DEP's Division of Law Enforcement be integrated into the FWC's Division of Law Enforcement. It also suggested that some personnel from the DACS Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement – the officers assigned to patrol state forests and the investigator responsible for commercial aquaculture violations – be incorporated.

"FWC officers in the field have been working alongside DEP and DACS officers for years," Brown said. "The consolidation simply provides an official, more efficient method of serving the public."

### Things to ponder...

- Since Jan and June 2012 (six month period), there have been over 18 sewage spills in Escambia County;
- Each spill has been over 1,000 gallons;
- Last year, during 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2011, people recreating in the Escambia River near the Hwy 90 Bridge became ill and as a result of their going to the hospital and sharing similar symptoms, a sewage leak was identified and traced to old pipes entering Thompson's Bayou, adjacent to UWF property. Only after people reported illness did the public receive notification of this leak;
- 27 June 2012, residents living along Grave Yard Branch, which empties into the wetland adjacent to the Westinghouse/GE Plant on Scenic Highway, began complaining about strong sewage odors coming from their creek. Emails from the Health Dept, Escambia County, FDEP, and ECUA claim that all residents were notified of the spill (28 June 2011);
- These same residents living along the creek indicated they had not been notified. 1 July 2012, fish kills were observed. Follow-up investigation revealed that the lift station located in the Wooded Glen Subdivision has been experiencing problems (leaks) on a regular basis (every 6-10 months residents note a spill, this has been happening for years);
- Last year, this creek experienced a record for an extended spill from ~Sept 2011 thru Nov 2011, and again in March 2012 without any notification to the families that live along this creek. The creek runs through Wooded Glen, Eau Claire Estates, Northpoint, Grand Point, Harbour Square and Bay Brook Estates, before it empties into the Pensacola Bay system at Lora Point;
- A request has been submitted to Bay Area Resource Council (BARC) and their associated Technical Advisory Council to investigate or develop a process by which to notify the public when these issues arise. The current boil water notification process is not adequate for informing the public of potential health hazards associated with surface water exposure or swimming activities.
- A notification process may be as simple as placing bright orange or pink door hangers on each resident's doorknob (e.g., those living adjacent to the creek) informing them of a sewage leak. This could be an inexpensive method to get the word out in a timely manner.
- In the mean time, all ECUA utility users pay a small portion of their monthly bill to fund infrastructure upgrades, which according to simple desktop calculations looks like roughly 150 houses living adjacent to the creek. The BFA could consider asking ECUA how this lift station 'ranks out' for an update among their other project priorities.

### Five Year Plan Includes Millions In North Escambia Road, Bridge Projects

Source: [www.NorthEscambia.com](http://www.NorthEscambia.com)

A five-year transportation improvement plan includes several new bridge and shoulder widening projects in the North Escambia area.

A recently released Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization report identifies the projects to be completed, project phasing, estimated costs and funding sources. Inclusion in the report does not guarantee that a project will be funded.

North Escambia area projects included in the five-year plan include:

#### **BRIDGES**

County Road 97A, replace bridge over Boggy Creek, 2014/15, \$5.2 million.

Brickyard Road, replace bridge over unnamed branch, 2013/14, \$1.98 million.

Fannie Road, replace bridge, 2013/14, \$3 million.

County Road 97A, replace bridge over west fork of Boggy Creek, 2012/13, \$2.3 million.

South Pineville Road, replace bridge over Brushy Breek, 2013/14, \$2.5 million.

Highway 97, replace bridge over Little Pine Barren Creek, 2014/15, \$3.5 million

Beck's Lake Road, replace bridge over unnamed branch, 2014/15, \$2.1 million

County Road 99, replace bridge over Pine Barren Creek, 2016/17, \$6 million

Dortch Road, replace bridge over Beaver Dam Creek, 2016/17, \$2 million

County Road 99A, replace bridge over Boggy Creek, 2016/17, \$3.3 million

Sandy Hollow Road, replace bridge over Sandy Hollow Creek, 2016/17, \$3 million

#### **ROADWAYS**

Highway 29, right of way for future capacity from I-10 to 9 Mile, 2016/17, \$66.4 million

Crabbtree Church Road, pave shoulders, 2014/15, \$1.4 million

South County Road 99, safety study from Barrineau Park Rd to Hwy 97, 2014/15, \$302,500

South County Road 99, pave shoulders from Barrineau Park Rd to Hwy 97, 2014/15, \$5 million

Jacks Branch Road, pave shoulders from Muscogee to Barrineau Park, 2013/14, \$2.6 million

The Florida-Alabama TPO also has a local government "wish list" of project requests during the five year period that includes paved shoulders on County Road 4 from Highway 97 to the Century town limits, a multi-use trail along six miles of Highway 29 in Molino, and paved shoulders on portions of the following: North Highway 99, Arthur Brown Road, Highway 4A, Molino Road, Highway 164, Quintette Road, Barrineau Park Road, Highway 4A, Highway 97A, Pine Barren Road and Cox Road.

The Florida-Alabama Transportation Planning Organization was created by the governors in Alabama and Florida to oversee the transportation planning process in the Florida-Alabama TPO Planning Area.

*NOTE:* BFA Members, please note that there are almost always sedimentation issues associated with bridge removal/replacement. If these bridges are close to you or you cross them regularly in your daily travels, would you like to take an active role in watching the progress, making sure that Best Management Practices (BMPs) are in place and working properly? And then reporting your updates to the Membership regularly?? Please see the next article for more information.



### Wish to Become More Active? The BFA could use your help....

As we regroup and begin to grow our organization, we need your help. If you wish to volunteer 2-3 hours a month, we would welcome your help. We have openings in specific areas ranging from the Membership Committee to Program Committee, as well as the Newsletter Committee to the Membership Meeting Food Committee. If attending Public Meetings interests you, please consider the following announcement and consider attending these meetings and providing feedback to our Membership. Our attendance, the Club and/or as private citizens, at these events is critical to letting our agencies know that we care about our waters.

#### **Public Workshop on the Draft Total Maximum Daily Loads for the Pensacola Bay and Perdido Bay Basins**

DATE: Tuesday, July 24, 2012

TIME: 9:00 AM CDT

PLACE: Conference Room 502, Northwest District Office

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, 160 W Government Street, Pensacola, FL 32502

#### **TMDLs TO BE PRESENTED:**

Fecal coliform TMDLs for Escambia River (WBID 10F), Texar Bayou (WBID 738), Carpenter Creek (WBID 676), Blackwater River (WBID 24AB), East Bay River (701A), Yellow River (WBID 30), and Turkey Creek (WBID 117), in the Pensacola Bay basin, and for Brushy Creek (WBID 4) in the Perdido Bay basin.

#### **THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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### Meet Some of the Current BFA Board Members....

- Ernie Rivers –Member since 1969-70 – Developed and ran water monitoring program for the BFA with JD in the early days;
- Olin Tisdale - Original Member since the 1960's. Used to do water sampling. Helps where he could, education, MS in coastal management. 31 years in Navy environmental sanitary technician;
- Richard Olson - retired GS civil service biomedical engineer. Join the BFA in 1977-78, has been a part of the Water Quality Monitoring Team for over 35 years;
- JD brown – is a 5th generation Pensacola Native. Got involved with the BFA back in 1965, his background is in mechanical and electrical engineering; and
- Jim Suchy – Has been a member of the BFA for 8 years, got involved because John Chason and the BFA were concerned about contaminants in local fish communities. He grew up here and returned in 1999 after spending time in a military career.
- Mary Gutierrez - environmental science, biology, and chemistry background now owns her own non-profit and is currently on the board for BFA;
- Mike Wernicke- Electrical Engineer with Gulf Power, interested in nature, surrounding resources, birding, and other environmental issues;
- Nicole Frenk – Highly interactive with the Santa Rosa Community and is interested in our areas water quality and the environment. Leah Oliver - USEPA – research based not regulatory- oyster research-toxicology/biology/environmental science;
- Pat Chason - married to fisherman- English major- learned new word “spat”;
- Carole Tebay - Non science person concerned about area. Master Gardener and Master Naturalist;
- Kim Rejda - Art Teacher at Escambia High School. Non-science but interested in the environment, likes nature photography;

*The information above is an excerpt from the April Board Mtg and does not include all the Board & Active BFA Members.*

Please let us know if you wish to join us as a more active member or if you wish to contribute articles to the BFA Newsletter. Information & comments can be sent to 1203 North 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pensacola, FL 32503, attention BFA, or email them to [Balbrecht@uwf.edu](mailto:Balbrecht@uwf.edu).

### Activities for the Fall...

Want to help us arrange a tour for our membership of the New Escambia County Water Quality Laboratory? The laboratory is located in the counties New One Stop Building which has a green roof. Christy Draper, Lab Manager, indicated that she would be glad to help us schedule and host a tour of the new facility.

### Save the Date

The Annual BFA Family Picnic will be held on the first Saturday of November, 3 Nov 2012. This is a tradition with our club and requires everyone's help. Please begin thinking of your role with this effort since we need everyone, especially those seasoned with hosting this event in the past, to guide us with this year's activities. After all, we have a fine fish fry reputation to protect and carry forward.

### July "Fish Busters' Bulletin" Angler-recognition revisited

**By John Cimbaro contributed to Bob Wattendorf's column.**

Photos available on FWC Flickr site: Go to <http://flic.kr/s/aHsjAiWghN>.

Have you ever heard of an angler that doesn't want to brag about a big catch? Okay, so fishermen (and women) have been known to exaggerate a bit. The big one that got away has become synonymous with "a fish story," which is defined as an extravagant exaggeration.

Well, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation, and the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission before it, have sought since 1953 to help anglers document their big catches and to give them bragging rights. The antecedent of the evolving "Big Catch Angler Recognition Program" was a "fishing citation" program run by Florida Wildlife Magazine from 1953-1976. The actual Big Catch Angler Recognition Program began in 1990; at the time, a fish's weight was required.

The program was revamped in 1996 with creation of categories for Specialists (five qualifying fish of the same species), Masters (five qualifying fish of different species) and Elite anglers (10 qualifying fish of different species). At that time, a few new species were added along with a youth category representing a size roughly 25-percent smaller than the adult qualification size.

In addition, rules were relaxed to allow anglers to report fish based on length or weight (with either a photo or witness to document the application). The objectives were to recognize anglers, so they feel good about their accomplishments, encourage appropriate catch-and-release, and collect informal data on where big fish were being caught in various locations around the state to share with other anglers. Since 1990, more than 7,500 Big Catch certificates have been issued – that's almost one per day.

Awards were and still are a full-color, frame-able certificate with the Duane Raver image of the appropriate species, plus a window decal for adults and a 3-inch pin/button for youth. The Master and Elite certificates were based on the "Go Fishing" largemouth bass conservation tag.

In July, another upgrade to the program will take place. In addition to traditional paper submissions, a new mobile-friendly Internet reporting system will be available to the public, so anglers can submit their catches and photos electronically as well as get reports on when and where freshwater fishing is at its best. New sponsors, such as FishPhotoReplicas.net and SportsmanOnCanvas.com, are offering 20-percent discounts to help certificate winners further memorialize their catch – and avoid the stigma of just another "fish story."

Several changes in sizes and species are described below, which will represent the new standards – based on actual FWC field data from over a quarter-million fish – beginning July 1, 2012. Among the changes are new sizes for Suwannee and shoal bass. Alligator gar, redbfin pickerel and skipjack herring have been dropped. Yellow perch, Mayan cichlid and jaguar guapote were added.



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In addition, a new series of freshwater grand slams is being added, including: Black Bass (for catching a large-mouth, spotted, shoal and Suwannee bass in the same year); Bream (for catching any four of bluegill, redear sunsh, spotted sunfish, warmouth, redbreast sunfish or flier in one day); and Nonnative Fish (for catching a butterfly peacock, Mayan cichlid and oscar in one day) slams – see [MyFWC.com/BigCatch](http://MyFWC.com/BigCatch) for details.

The Big Catch Angler Recognition Program will be followed in October 2012 with a fantastic new TrophyCatch program for anglers who catch and release largemouth bass greater than 8 pounds. Three different tiers will be recognized: The Lunker Club (8.0-9.9 lbs), The Trophy Club (10.0-12.9 lbs) and the Hall-of-Fame Club (13 pounds and greater).

Anglers will be encouraged to follow catch-and-release guidelines for these big bass (8.0-12.9) and to document the catch with a length, weight and series of photos prior to release. A more thorough certification process will be in place for Hall-of-Fame bass.

As TrophyCatch is developed and executed, it will provide reward incentives to encourage anglers to report and live-release trophy bass (more than 8 pounds), create public/private partnerships to protect trophy bass and promote fishing, and support conservation programs.

By documenting verified catches of trophy bass and publicizing them Florida's bass fisheries will maintain world-wide prominence. By using the data on when and where trophy bass are produced, biologists can improve trophy-bass management via habitat enhancement, regulation management, stocking or other means that are proven to increase catch of trophy largemouth bass while fostering a strong catch-and-release conservation ethic.

The excitement of these angler recognition programs will also increase fishing participation of Florida's youth and families and attract more anglers to Florida, while promoting strong conservation messaging. Among the most important outcomes will be increased public awareness and commitment to protect our fisheries and their habitats.

Trophy catch will rely heavily on private support, partnerships and sponsorships and is expected to evolve in the coming years. It is a hallmark of the long-term Bass Management Plan that was created through an interactive process with anglers, researchers, tourism and outdoor communications professionals and fishing-related business representatives. Ultimately the goal of the plan, including Trophy Catch as one component, is to ensure Florida is the undisputed Bass Fishing Capital of the World.

The Bream Fishermen Association is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of the conservation responsibilities as well as the recreational enjoyment of fishermen, hunters, campers and related outdoorsmen. It is the objective of the BFA to support, develop, and implement programs that will 1) improve the quality of our environment, 2) protect and maintain our present wilderness type lakes, rivers, swamps, marshes, bays, forests, and beaches in their natural undeveloped state, and 3) advance the causes of plant, marine, and wildlife preservation. Membership is open to all individuals who support these objectives. Please join the BFA by sending us your filled out application & \$10 annual dues.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK PREFERRED FORM OF NOTIFICATION: Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

DUES \$10.00



# BREAM FISHERMEN ASSOCIATION



1203 N 16th Avenue  
Pensacola, Florida 32503

A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
CHARTERED IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

*WILDERNESS PROTECTION - WILDLIFE PRESERVATION  
FISHING AND HUNTING CONSERVATION*