

2010 Columbia Sportswear Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic

By Mike Kogan

Who knew when we started the Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic that it would grow to be the world's largest kayak fishing tournament. What started as just an idea for a recently formed website in 2004, the Classic has evolved into not only the largest kayak fishing tournament in the world, but one of the largest annual inshore fishing tournaments in the state of Florida, a considerable achievement for a bunch of "paddle jockeys".

Well over 300 anglers have already signed up to vie for over \$80,000 in prizes and gifts at the May 7-8 event and the Classic is on track again for another world's largest turnout of 400-500 anglers. This year they are coming from all over the US, not just Florida and the Southeast with a large contingent coming from Texas, many from the Midwest, and even a few traveling from England and Canada.

If you are a diehard wannabe "elite professional kayak angler" the Classic is not the tournament for you. The Classic's allure is the fun, recreational, conservation-oriented format and the focus on the benefit charities which include the Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville, Daniel Kids, and the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation. Columbia Sportswear is the returning title sponsor and is featuring their new Blood and Guts Superlight fishing shirt technology for those purchasing VIP entries.

Anglers win just by entering the Classic. Your entry fee (\$60 for regular and \$110 for VIP) gets you a rock solid captain's bag full of goodies from DOA, Fishbites, Slayer Jigs, Calcutta, Tsunami, Mirrolure, RodWraps, Costa Del Mar and others, a tournament tshirt,

measuring stick, raffle tickets, and food at the captain's meeting on Friday and the awards banquet on Saturday. And the ladies get special attention at the Classic - every lady angler also gets a special pink bella cut tournament tshirt and a pink Fish Grip from Norton Brass Rattler.

The Classic targets Red Drum, Spotted Seatrout, and Flounder in a catch-photo-release format. Trophies, kayaks, fishing gear and gift certificates will be awarded for first place through fifth place finishers in four open divisions including the Redfish-Trout-Flounder slam, biggest Redfish, biggest Trout, and biggest Flounder. There are also contingency prizes and awards for Jr. Angler, Lady Angler, Sr. Angler, Fly Angler, a Mystery Fish prize, a raffle for the Best Dang Tackle Box, and raffles that include more than \$20,000 worth of kayaks, equipment, and tackle.

Registration is open up until the captain's meeting and you can get in the fun by visiting www.JacksonvilleKayakFishingClassic.com for more information or to register online.

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Columbia Sportswear and JaxKayakFishing.Com present the 7th Annual Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic May 8th, 2010

1st-5th Aggregate/Slam
1st-5th Biggest Redfish
1st-5th Biggest Trout
1st-5th Biggest Flounder

Over \$80,000 in Prizes and Gifts

Jr., Lady, Sr., Fly Angler Prizes, Mystery Fish, Best Dang Tacklebox

Classic Venue is **St. Ephrem Syriac Catholic Church**
Mandatory Captain's Meeting May 7th, 6:30pm
Check In, Awards, and Banquet May 8th, 3pm-7pm
Complete rules and registration forms online at www.JacksonvilleKayakFishingClassic.com

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