

77TH ANNUAL

DESTIN FISHING RODEO

2025
EVENT GUIDE

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RODEO CHAIRMAN: BECKY MCFARLAND

ager. How fun it was to explore this little town. Walking in the bay looking for shells and finding Indian pottery and going to the Kelly Docks in the evenings to watch the fish come in. Then the best month of the year October arrives, and the Destin Fishing Rodeo was the place to be! It seemed the whole town was at the old Rodeo Dock. Boats would line up to weigh in their catch. Proud Anglers would stand next to their fish and have a photo taken for bragging rights. Then I met my future Husband, Captain Scott McFarland and he taught me how to fish. I fell in love with him, the sport and the lifestyle that came with it. I'm very fortunate to have been a part of this fishing community!

Every year the Rodeo Board of Directors, Executive Director and Volunteers strive to make that years Destin Fishing Rodeo the best it can be, and we prove to do so every

year. The Destin Fishing Rodeo attracts thousands of folks from all over the world to come and either spectate or compete. Watching the anglers weigh in their fish, having their photo taken with Miss Destin and seeing the faces of the folks watching light up when their catch is weighed is a special sight. Throughout the years we meet families who return every year. To watch their children grow up and eventually bring their families back to visit is truly special.

It takes a village to put on this fishing tournament, but we have the best one ever! So come on out. Book your reservations and we hope to see you at the Scales!

May you have tight lines and calm seas,

Becky Mac

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2025 MISS DESTIN

My name is Bella Riggs and I'm truly honored to be your Miss Destin 2025! I have lived in Destin my entire life and have always dreamed of becoming Miss Destin. I am blessed to have a loving family. I am the daughter of Stephen and Amy Riggs and have three younger brothers, Stephen, Caleb, and Hudson.

"I look forward to welcoming all of you to the 77th Destin Fishing Rodeo"

BELLA RIGGS



I absolutely love living in Destin and being involved in our community. I love volunteering at events such as Crop Drop, A Night to Shine, and Destin Methodist Vacation Bible School. I also enjoy spending time outside, whether it is going to the beach or on the boat. I love eating at all of our local restaurants and going on new adventures.

Growing up in Destin, I was very involved in community activities. I played soccer for the City of Destin for several years, cheered for our Destin Dolphin football team, played softball for Destin Little League and played basketball for Upward and the City of Destin. I participated in dance and gymnastics classes at local studios and gyms as well. I attended Destin Elementary School and Destin Middle School, where I was a four year member of the Destin Middle Dazzlers dance team and a member of the Destin Middle Girls county championship basketball team.

I will be a senior this upcoming year at Fort Walton Beach High School. I am an honors student with a 4.6 weighted GPA. I am also a four year member of the nationally ranked Fort Walton Beach High School Stars dance team and will serve as Captain this year. I have been President of my high school class the last three years and involved in our Leadership program.

I am also serving as President of Beta Club and a member of several other clubs and organizations, such as the Hope Squad, Viking Ladies, National Honor Society and our Fishing Club!

I grew up fishing off the docks on the harbor with my Dad and some of my best early memories were spent catching fish. As Miss Destin, I hope to both serve as a positive role model for youth in our community as well as to spread my love for our community and heritage with others.

The month of October is a special time in our Lucky Fishing Village, and I am so excited to be a part of it. I look forward to welcoming all of you to the 77th Destin Fishing Rodeo. Please come see me down on the docks as I will be there every day during October for the weigh ins. I can't wait to meet everyone!

Bella Riggs



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2025 Miss Destin Awards

Most Photogenic Award – **Caroline Campbell**
 The Nancy Cheney Congeniality Award – **Isabella Riggs**
 The Peyton LoCicero Humanitarian Award – **Estella Scoma**

Miss Destin 2025 – **Isabella Riggs**
 \$5,000 Scholarship

1st Runner-Up – **Estella Scoma**
 \$1000 Scholarship – Bonnie Orr Memorial Award

2nd Runner-Up – **Ivy Bryant**
 \$500 Scholarship

3rd Runner-Up – **Eleanora Remm**
 \$500 Scholarship

4th Runner-Up – **Caroline Campbell**
 \$500 Scholarship

Miss Destin's Crown: **Amber Helton**

Rodeo Crown, Sashes & Sash Pin: **Kelly & MaryAnne Windes, Real Estate Professionals of Destin**

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 Charter Boat Lady Em, Captain Travis Ream
 \$25 Miss Destin Community Award
 Emerald Coast Rental Management

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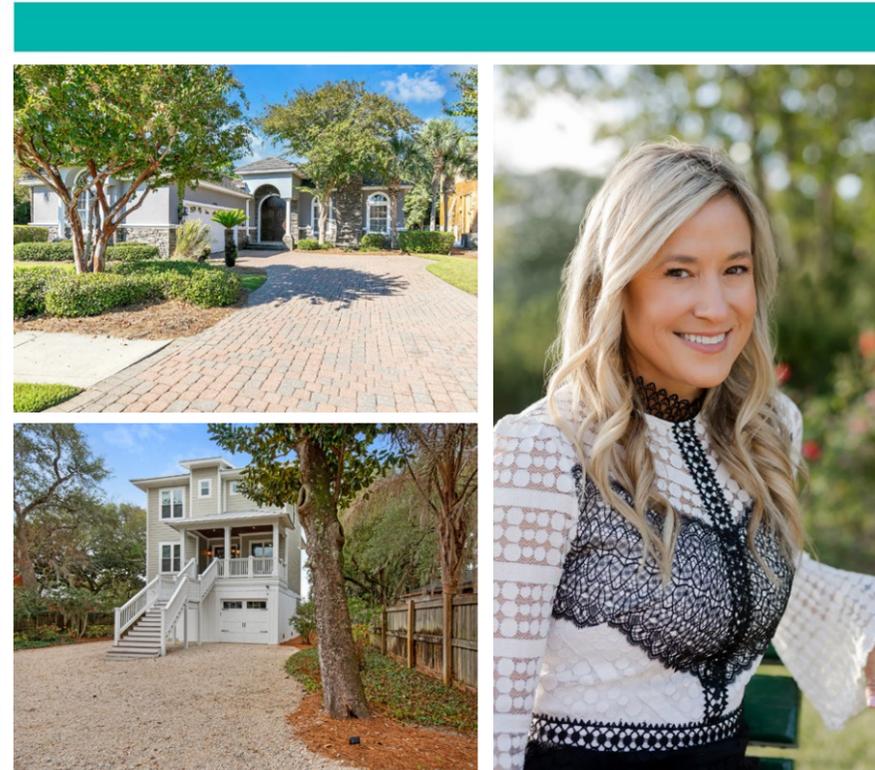
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SEPTEMBER

➤ **Rodeo Judges Meeting** (Monday, September 8th)

Volunteer Rodeo Judges will meet at 5:00 pm at the Destin Community Center for an informative meeting regarding the record-keeping of the Rodeo. If you are interested in participating as a Rodeo Judge. Contact the Rodeo office at 850.837.6734.

➤ **Meet Miss Destin** (Thursday, September 18th)

Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 6:00 pm, The Inn on Destin Harbor will host an Introduction party for Bella Riggs, Miss Destin 2025. Captains, Crew, Anglers, volunteers and their families are invited to this 23rd Annual Destin Tradition.

➤ **Captain and Mate's Meeting** (Thursday, September 25th)

Sponsored by Centennial Bank, and A.J.'s in the downstairs restaurant area. Thursday, September 25, 2025 – Registration begins at 4:00. The meeting will begin at 5:00. Free food and beverages for Captains, Mates and their guests. Boats may register and pick up captain's packages at the event. Rules changes will be announced and discussed at this very important, mandatory meeting. Centennial Bank will give away 2- \$250 to two lucky registered boat captains! (must be present to win). Angler entry forms will be disbursed.

➤ **77th Annual Rodeo Reel Local Rodeo Kick-Off Party** (Thursday, September 25th)

Immediately following the Captains and Mates Meeting on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at 6:00 pm, A.J.'s will host the 77th Annual Destin Fishing Rodeo Kick-Off Party. Family-fun gathering with Live Music! Join Us! Sponsored by Bud Light.

www.ajsdestin.com

➤ **47th Annual Destin Seafood Festival** (September 26, 27, & 28)

Come join us along the harbor at the 47th Annual Destin Seafood Festival. Live music on multiple stages all three days of the event! Admission is FREE. Good times – Priceless!

OCTOBER

➤ **77th Annual Destin Fishing Rodeo** (October 1st - 31st)

Come join us at the 77th Annual Destin Fishing Rodeo. Weigh-Ins are everyday behind A.J.'s from 10 am - 7 pm.

➤ **Destin 5K Rodeo Run** (Sunday, October 5th)

Starts at the picturesque Clement Taylor Park on the beautiful Choctawhatchee Bay. This run meanders through historic Destin neighborhoods and ends back at the park. Proceeds benefit the Miss Destin Scholarship Fund. Contact kimmymeyers@yahoo.com for more information or register online at destinfishingrodeo.org.

➤ **Destin Fishing Rodeo 17th Annual Kid's Wagon Boat Parade** (Sunday, October 5th)

The popular Annual Kid's Wagon Boat Parade will roll at 4:00 p.m. at A.J.'s Seafood and Oyster Bar. Celebrate the Destin Fishing Rodeo with the Kids Wagon parade. A free family -friendly event on the Destin harbor. Decorate your wagon to look like a sailing sloop, charter boat, pirate ship or bathtub!!! Whatever your boat designer kid dreams up! Join AJ's and the Destin Fishing Rodeo as they bring you fun activities. There is no registration fee and is open for elementary school-aged children.

➤ **Kids Fall Movie Festival** – (Monday, October 13th)

School is out and A.J.'s has just the thing to keep the kids entertained! A.J.'s will be showing a FREE movie on the famous JumboTron! Kids will be treated to hot dogs, popcorn and snowcones! For more details, please visit www.ajsdestin.com.

OCTOBER

➤ **Bruce Cheves Day** (Thursday, October 16th)

Come to the docks and celebrate the day the City of Destin has declared BRUCE CHEVES DAY! Our own weighmaster will be holding court (not in court!) and telling his best tales this day.

➤ **Ringing of the Bell** (Thursday, October 16th)

Each year 5:00 p.m. on Bruce Cheves Day, the Rodeo celebrates the lives and legends of those we lost this year.

➤ **Larry Hatchett Fishing Foundation Day** (Saturday, October 18th)

Each October, The Larry Hatchett Fishing Foundation brings in children from foster situations to fish and learn about marine habitats and environmental awareness. Sponsored by The New Florida Girl's American Spirit, Fish Florida, A.J.'s Seafood & Oyster Bar, Pilot Company, Zup-Med Memphis and Destin Realty.

➤ **3rd Annual Miss Destin Mingle** (Saturday, October 25th)

Miss Destin's from throughout the years come from near and far to celebrate the newest member of their "club". The girl's get together to reminence and enjoy an afternoon harbor cruise, and photo opportunities at the weigh-in! Come celebrate these incredible women with us!

➤ **Halloween on the Harbor!** (Friday, October 31st)

Wear your costume and join Rodeo Captains, Anglers, Rodeo Judges, Miss Destin and volunteers to be a part of the largest Halloween Party in Destin.

NOVEMBER

➤ **77th Annual Destin Fishing Rodeo Awards** (Wednesday, November 5th)

Tuesday, November 5, 2025, at 5:30 pm. The lucky anglers, captains, and mates will be given their prizes in a festive, fun, casual gathering downstairs at A.J.'s!

JANUARY

➤ **Annual Rodeo Membership Meeting** (TBA)

The meeting is open to all members of the Rodeo. Dress is casual and hors d' oeuvres are free. A.J.'s Seafood and Oyster Bar. This is a Members Only event. Membership fees may be paid at the meeting and must be paid prior to the voting. Membership info at www.destinfishingrodeo.org.

For more information on these events please visit the rodeo website at www.destinfishingrodeo.org or A.J.'s at www.ajsdestin.com



THIS AIN'T MY FIRST RODEO

But It Is My Last...

By Helen Donaldson, Director of the Destin Fishing Rodeo

As we come together to celebrate the 77th Annual Destin Fishing Rodeo, I find myself reflecting on what this event has meant to me—and to so many others—over the years. After more than two decades at the helm, this year will mark my final Rodeo as Director. It's a moment filled with emotion, pride, & deep gratitude.

THE JOURNEY

In 1998 I was hired as Director of the Rodeo, we operated out of the Fisherman's Co-Op. Not long after, we moved to Harborwalk Marina, and eventually found a long-term home at AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar. That move was transformative for the event.

In those early years, weigh-ins were held in two shifts with a long midday break—a schedule that worked well for a while. But after paying closer attention to boat patterns, we realized many charters returned around 1:00 p.m. and quickly turned around for afternoon trips. We adjusted our hours to remain open continuously from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.—a decision that made a meaningful difference for our anglers and helped the Rodeo to grow.

We've now been hosted by AJ's for nearly 20 years. I'm especially thankful

to Alan Laird for his ongoing support, the dedicated maintenance team, and Rachel Green, who has worked tirelessly to help bring all the moving parts of this event together every year.

THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES

No one accomplishes something like this alone. From the very beginning, Ham and Marion Palmgren were instrumental in guiding me. Marion stood beside me throughout the years, offering knowledge, encouragement, and the kind of friendship that sustains a person. Mr. Ham passed in 2013, and I still miss his wit, his generous spirit, and his willingness to wear any Halloween costume we asked him to. Bruce Cheves has also been a constant presence—offering not only wisdom and institutional memory, but also a deep love of the fishing community. Tina Harbuck at the Destin Log has documented the

Rodeo's story faithfully each year, and Angela Kalthoff has ensured that our operations remained organized and efficient, especially during the busiest of times.

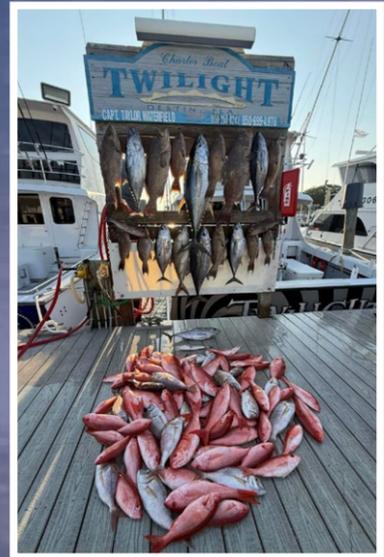
I would be remiss not to mention Ann White, who has led our merchandise and marketing efforts with creativity and dedication for 20 years. Her work helped define the visual identity of the Rodeo, and her friendship has been one of the great gifts of my time here.

GROWTH & CHANGE

So much has changed. When I started, we sold T-shirts under a tent with a single design in two colors. Today, our Rodeo merchandise includes multiple designs and colors, a full-size trailer for sales, and an additional stock trailer to keep up with growing demand. Our shirts are everywhere! You can't walk along the Harbor or go to a local store without seeing someone in a Rodeo T-Shirt! That's why our slogan is "Dress Like a Local."

Our recordkeeping has evolved too. In the early days, we used simple computers and kept most information by hand. Today, our digital system updates in real time, allowing anglers and spectators alike to follow the action every day throughout October.

And through it all, we've endured. Hurricanes, the BP oil spill, and even a global pandemic challenged us—but they never stopped us.



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Over 28 years, we've weighed an estimated 100,000 fish and processed about 30,000 entries. Volunteers have contributed over 50,000 hours to this event. That kind of commitment only comes from people who truly care.

LEGACY & COMMUNITY

The Rodeo is more than just a fishing tournament—it's a reflection of our community's heritage and heart. It's a tradition that brings together generations, locals and visitors alike. Anglers come not only from Destin, but from across the country and even overseas. The economic impact is significant, and the cultural impact even more so.

The fishing industry is Destin's oldest, and the Rodeo is one of its most beloved celebrations. Local businesses and individuals sponsor more than 250 awards each year. Their support is crucial, and I'm deeply grateful for it. I especially want to thank Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals and Real Estate for their unwavering sponsorship and generosity.

I've also had the privilege of coordinating the Miss Destin



pageant for 28 years—an experience that has allowed me to get to know dozens of exceptional young women who've gone on to do remarkable things. Staying in touch with many of them has been one of the most rewarding aspects of this role.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

On a personal note, I have cherished many memories during my time with the Rodeo. I have pictures of our grandson with Bruce Cheves, which have graced the walls of the Rodeo office for the past 12 years. 3 of our grandsons have served as Miss Destin Escorts and our granddaughter has been serving as "Lady in Waiting" for the pageant since she was 5 years old. I also introduced our oldest daughter to her husband 20 years ago at the Rodeo. They and our granddaughters have come back to Destin most every year to fish off the docks and earn their Junior

Certificates, and they've grown up alongside the event. Now, as they're getting older, they work in the merchandise trailer, helping to carry on the tradition. These personal memories are treasures that I will carry with me forever.

A NEW CHAPTER

My husband retired several years ago, and now it's time for me to do the same. It's bittersweet, of course. This work has been a labor of love, and I leave with full confidence in the future of the Rodeo. Thanks to the support of our board of directors, we've created a smooth transition plan. Amber Helton will join me this September and officially take over as Rodeo Director on September 1, 2026. Her energy and commitment to this community are inspiring, and I believe she will lead the Rodeo with integrity and passion.

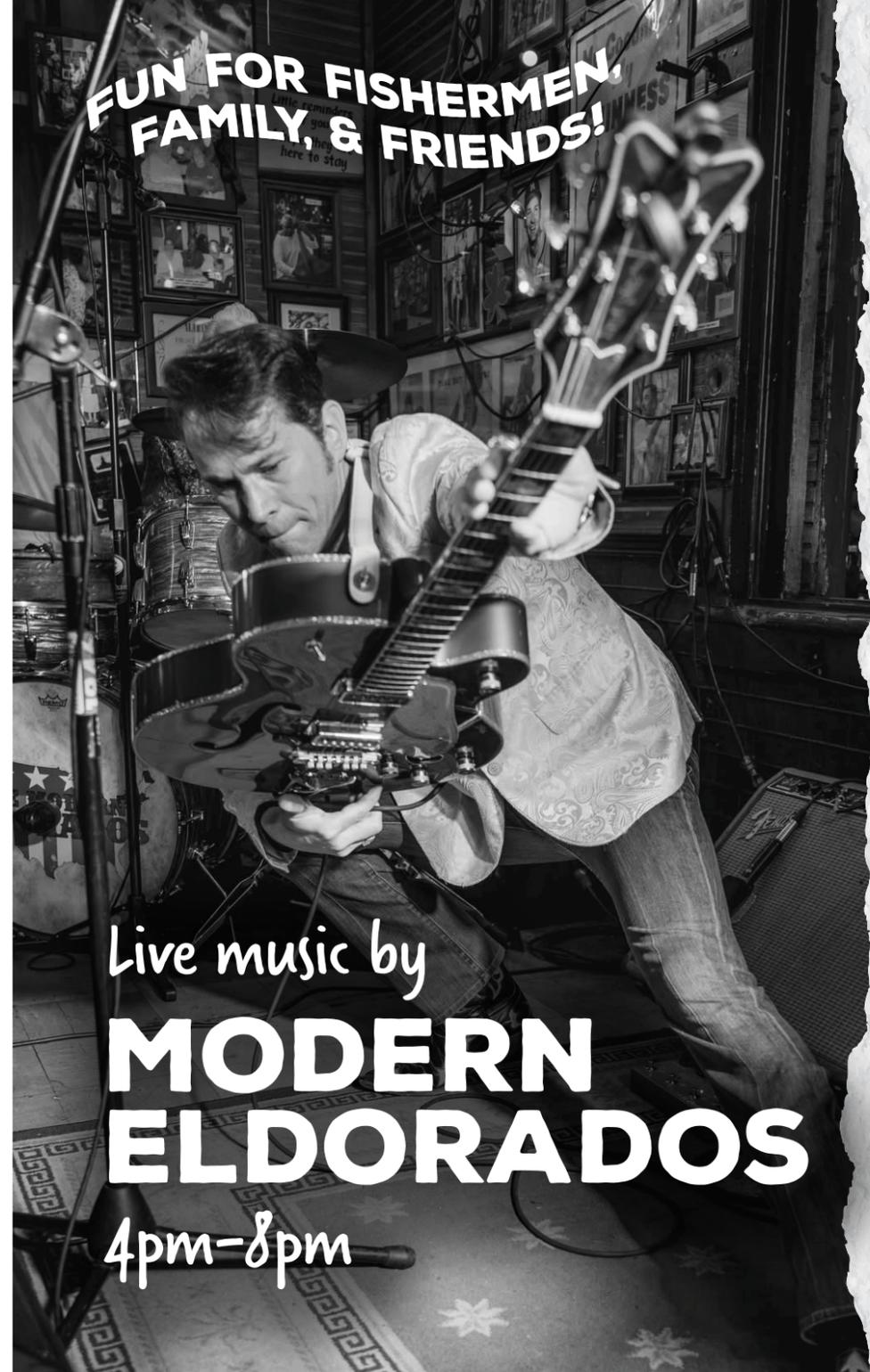
FAREWELL (FOR NOW)

As I step away, I do so with deep gratitude—for the people, the memories, the challenges, and the triumphs. It's been an honor to serve as Director of the Destin Fishing Rodeo, and I look forward to cheering on this beloved tradition for many years to come. In the words of Bruce Cheves: From Guppies to Godzilla, caught from Bathtubs to Battleships, the Rodeo will weigh it all.

Wishing you all fair weather and following seas.

Fish On,

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4pm Captains & Mates Registration
5pm Captains & Mates Meeting-Downstairs Restaurant
4pm-6pm Rodeo Kickoff Dinner



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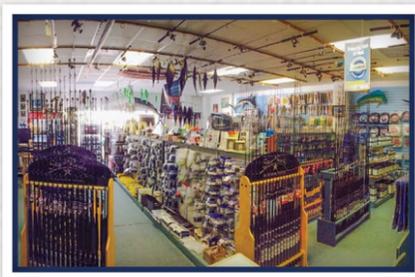
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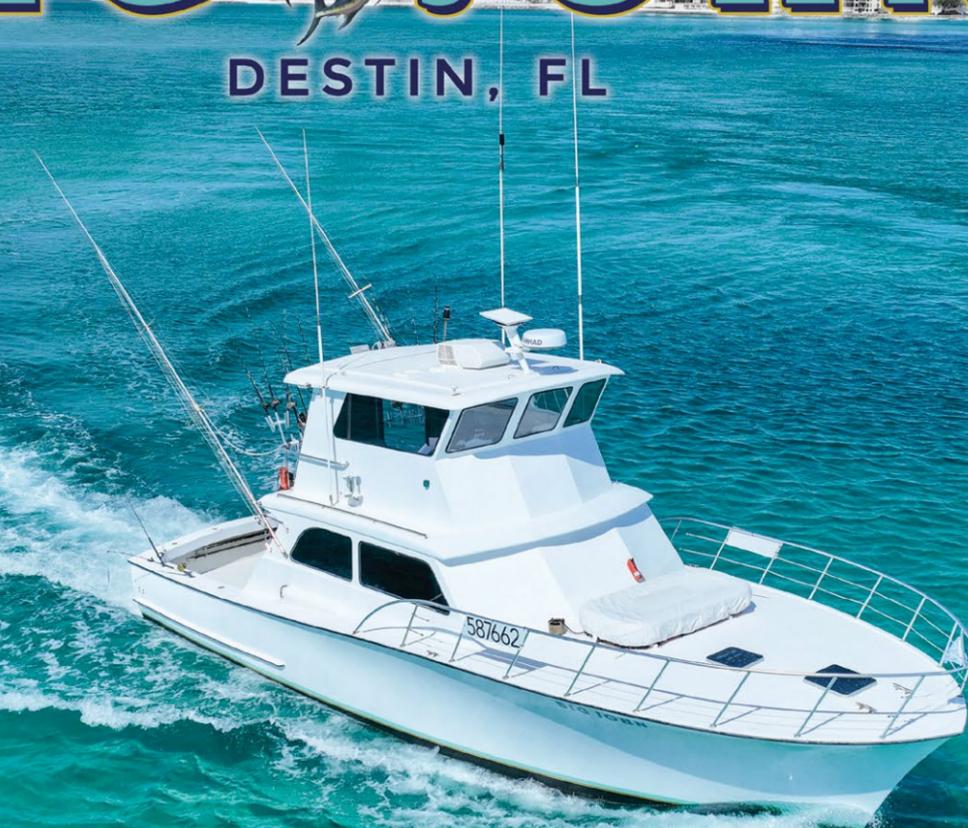
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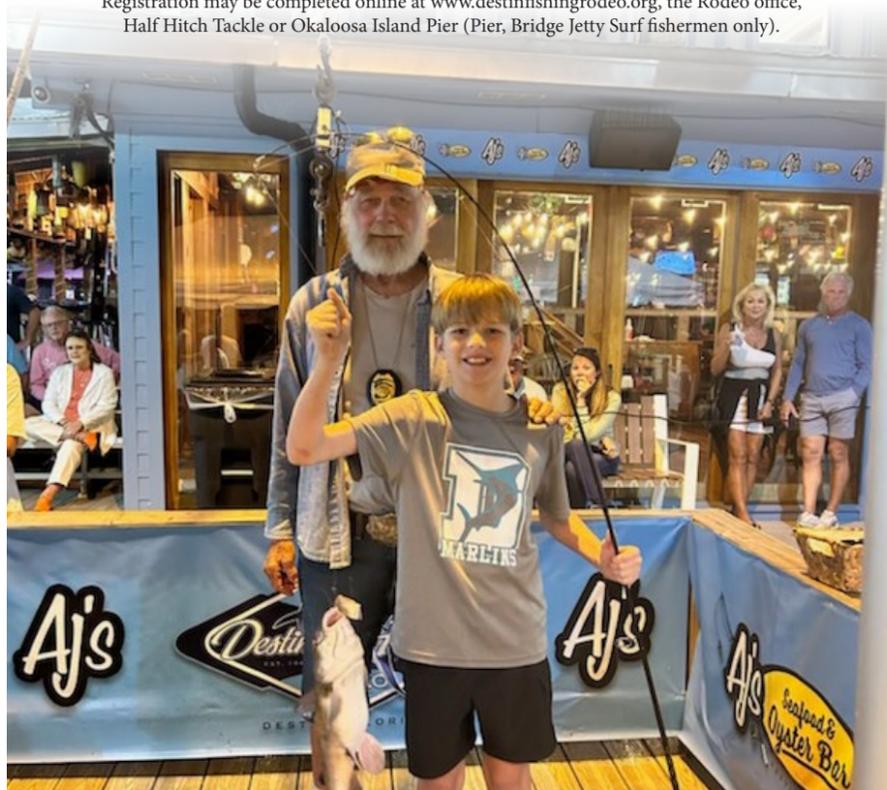
KAYAK/PADDLE BOARDS - \$100.00

PIER, BRIDGE, JETTY & SURF FISHING

\$25.00 Adults - Under 15 Years Free

Anglers fishing aboard registered vessels - FREE

A copy of a State/Coast Guard issued Boat Registration Form must be on file with the Rodeo prior to first weigh-in. Boats and/or competitors entered after the beginning of the Rodeo in any division are not eligible for competition until the day following registration. Registration may be completed online at www.destinfishingrodeo.org, the Rodeo office, Half Hitch Tackle or Okaloosa Island Pier (Pier, Bridge Jetty Surf fishermen only).



WIN MORE PRIZES THAN EVER BEFORE

2025 DESTIN 5K RODEO RUN



CELEBRATING 77 YEARS
RUNNERS / WALKERS

WHEN	WHERE	REGISTER
SUNDAY OCTOBER 5, 2025 8AM	CLEMENT TAYLOR PARK	
	POST PARTY AT AJ'S	

RUN FOR YOUR LIFE
DESTINFISHINGRODEO.ORG/RODEORUN

CAPTAIN LUCKY'S: RODEO LOG WHAT TO CATCH

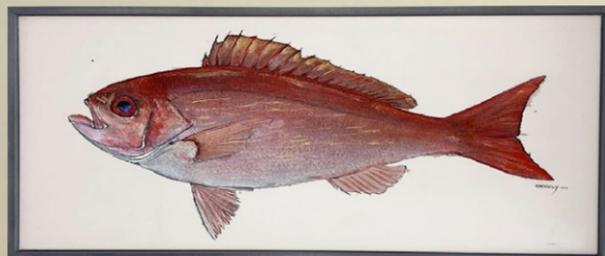
As the captain of a charter boat plying the emerald waters off Destin Harbor, I've seen firsthand why we've earned the nickname "The World's Luckiest Fishing Village". Every October, during the Destin Fishing Rodeo, the spectrum of species that makes its way to AJ's weigh-in dock is nothing short of spectacular. There are over 30 recognized species across 29 divisions—each with its own division and prize category! So, here's my rundown of the most sought-after species you might reel in at the Rodeo:



IMAGES COURTESY OF GNARLYFISHPRINTS.COM



King Mackerel
 Razor-sharp teeth, jet-fast, and relentless. These migratory speedsters swarm our nearshore reefs and structure, delivering high-speed thrill to anglers.



Vermilion Snapper - Mingo
 This deeper-hued Vermilion Snapper— is prized for delicious table fare. Bottom-dwelling, robust fighters that frequent reef habitats.



Grouper (Gag, Snowy, Warsaw, Yellowedge)
 Stalwarts of the reef and wrecks: deep-bodied, heavyweights requiring patience and power to haul. The Deep Drop division targets these bottom fish.



Amberjack
 Known as “reef donkeys” for their stubborn, heavy pulling power. Strong and often caught offshore.



Mahi Mahi (Dorado / Dolphin Fish)
 Flashy, colorful, acrobatic — the offshore champion. Quick to strike, fun to fight, and excellent on the platel.



Wahoo
 Slim and fast, built for drag-popping runs. Found in deeper offshore waters like the 100-fathom curve



Yellowfin Tuna
 Sleek, powerful pelagics that challenge anglers with sustained speed. Prized for its sushi-grade filet.



Triggerfish
 Tough-mouthed reef fighters— compact but feisty.



Redfish
 Bay-fishing favorites. This species— get inshore bragging rights for the highest fun vs. flavor balance.



Billfish: Blue and White Marlin, Sailfish
 The marquee stars of the Offshore and Billfish divisions. Renowned for sky-rocketing leaps and marathon battles

CAPT. BRADY BOWMAN



850-987-5876 • 850-830-4457 • destinperfectshot@gmail.com • bowdupfishingdestin.com



Cobia
The “Black King” of nearshore currents: massive, slow, and a true trophy in spring to early summer—but occasionally hanging around come October .



Pompano
This highly migratory, coastal species is as delicious as it is beautiful.



Swordfish
A deepwater titan. Catch-and-release is typical, but swordfish presence adds prestige to the deep-drop battle.



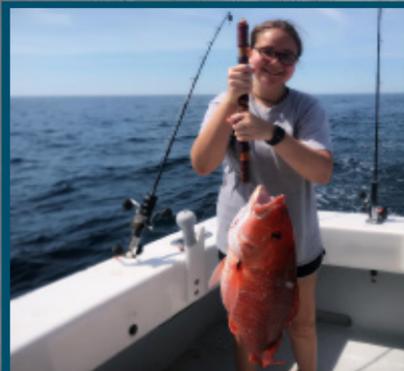
From the Helm: Pre-Rodeo Feel

Dawn on October 1, 2024: moored amid the fleet behind AJ’s Seafood & Oyster Bar, I watched the harbor buzz with tournament energy. Long-time clients and fresh faces, lines in hand, all eager. As we cut through the swells toward the shipping channel, I felt the same tingle I’ve felt since my first season.

Destin’s geography gives us an edge: shallow bays, jetties, reefs—to the edge of the continental shelf—all reachable in a morning run. For lucky locals like me, it’s a playground unmatched anywhere else.

CAPTAIN LUCKY’S: RODEO LOG
WHAT TO CATCH

850-837-1995 850-687-8668 (Cell)



PRIVATE & SHARED CHARTERS

4 hrs. to multi-day fishing. Bay & Gulf fishing Bait, equipment & licensing included. All you bring is food, beverages & sense of adventure.

Special events: weddings, memorial services, birthday parties & corporate multi-boat outings, catering available

Serving the community for over a decade!

theDestinCharterservice.com
Facebook & Instagram:
@destincharterservice



Call Jonelle today to discuss your next fishing trip or special family celebration. We'll have you hooked!

Destin Charter Service at the Destin Fishing Fleet Marina 210 Harbor Blvd. Destin, Florida





CAPTAIN LUCKY'S: RODEO LOG WHAT TO CATCH



Day 3 – Nearshore Triumphs

We hit the reef zone first light. Within minutes, anglers were rod-in-hand, bait streaming. First haul: Tripletail, then juvenile Amberjack. By noon, we'd pulled in:

- Gag Grouper that tested the reel drag.*
- A bull Redfish & drifting Speckled Trout inshore as we re-positioned near the jetties.*
- Trophies await on those early reefs.*

Deep Drop Division

One of my trusty crews hit the 300-foot mark. We dropped gear—baited jigs designed for the bottom. After a tense wait:

- A Snowy Grouper, then a Tilefish, sleek and silver.*
- Barrelfish—a rarity, but eligible in this division.*
- Yellow edge Grouper to round things out.*

Late night deep drops pay off in the morning weighing-in on the dock—catching prize money.

Mid-Rodeo

Campaigning the Continental Shelf edge (~20 miles out). There's a rhythm:
Spectacular Mahi Mahi erupts on a spread—bright and agile.

A pair of Wahoo blaze off the port side.

By midday, we tempting a Blue Marlin. Line whistles. The fight lasts 45 minutes—100 lb leader against simmering Gulf tension.

Why Destin Dominates the Game

Why does this place yield such a variety? Because Destin is uniquely positioned—port closest to the deep edge, nearshore reefs, inshore waters—all in swift run time. That's what earned us "The World's Luckiest Fishing Village." We didn't just earn the title—it's a way of life.

This Rodeo isn't just a tournament; it's a celebration of heritage. Since its 1948 inception by early Destin families and local captains, it's been the anchor of Destin's fishing identity.

The Final Day is a Carnival

Costumes, celebrations, costume weigh-ins, poster-board photo blasts, and the final tabulation of winners. For some, it's a dream realized. For my crew and me, it's one more glorious month behind the wheel, rod bent, and hearts roaring.

Because here in Destin, we're all in on three simple truths:

- Fish are our living trophies — every haul, every ounce, tells a story.*
- Community is our sea — anglers, families, spectators, captains all ride this together.*
- Luck? Nah brah. It's skill, tradition, location—and a love for the fight.*

Remember, when you are one hour out from the dock, be sure to call Gnarly Harley, to have him meet you on the docks. He will immortalize your catch with his special Gyotaku technique, seen in the art of this article. gnarlyfishprints.com

So welcome aboard—whether you're here in 2025 or a future Rodeo. The harbor's call is irresistible. Whether you're chasing the flash of a Mahi, the grit of a Grouper, or the leap of a Marlin, Destin delivers.

Tight lines and fierce friendships! See you on the AJ's docks this October.

— Captain Lucky, Destin Harbor

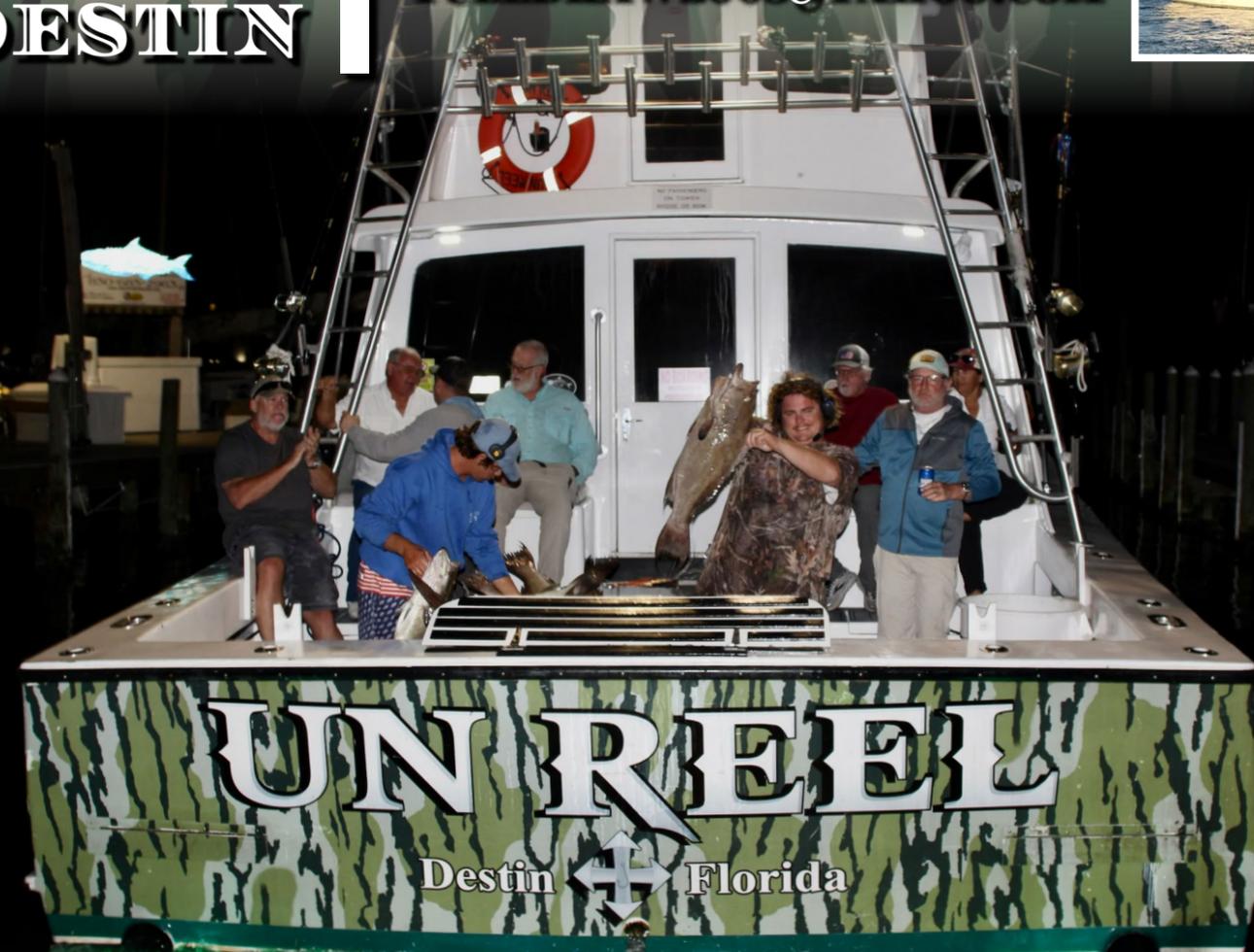
FISHING WITH A DESTIN

Book your next adventure on Charter Boat UnReel

CAPTAIN JUSTIN DESTIN

850.259.2516

FULLDRAW2005@YAHOO.COM



2025 REGISTERED VESSELS



OCEAN REEF
VACATION RENTALS & REAL ESTATE

Charter Fishing Boats

A Charter Boat is utilized for all varieties of deep-sea sportfishing and is generally chartered by groups of 4 or more, however some individuals may be grouped to form a charter. Contact the Captain for more information.

CHARTER FISHING BOATS

Boat Name	Captain	Phone	Web Address	E-Mail	Capacity	Length
100 Proof	Allen Staples/Robert Michelson	850-259-7343	destincharterfishing.org	100proofcharters@gmail.com	22	52'
30A Light Tackle	Mark Hotze	804-363-7340	30alighttackle.com	30alighttackle@gmail.com	4	24'3"
5th Day	Jimmy Miles	850-356-4034	emeraldcoastcharters.net	bloumiles5@gmail.com	6	40'
A Slice of Life Fishing	John Wyrostek	618-779-1417	FB: A Slice of Life Fishing Charters	babamm1@charter.net	6	32'
AL-Lin	Harold Staples	850-837-8615	al-lin-charterboat.com	al.lin@cox.net	6	44'
Anastasia	Tony Davis	850-259-6900	Anastasiacharterboat.com	robinlanier6@gmail.com	48	65'
Back Down 2	Philip Blackburn	850-837-9551	backdown2.com	pbjr34@gmail.com	11	57'
Badlands 2	Ryan Reed	850-830-3826	badlandscharters.com	badlandsfishingcharters@gmail.com	6	32'
Big John	Denis LaBarre/Reid Phillips	850-585-4384	bigjohnfishing.com	fishon@bigjohnfishing.com	15	52'
Bow'd Up	Brady Bowman	850-978-5876	bowdupfishingdestin.com	captbradybowman@gmail.com	13	52'
Catch 22	John Hitsos	770-686-6008	catch22fishingcharters.com	jahitsos@gmail.com	6	24'
Catching Memories	Brian Cole	850-963-6460	catchingmemoriescharters.com	colesconstruction01@gmail.com	6	46'
Championship	Matthew & Christian Champion	504-535-3491	championshipoffshore.com	mchamp1307@gmail.com	6	42'
Dawn Patrol	John Tenore	850-376-1936	dawnpatroldestin.com	johntenore55@gmail.com	6	21' 8"
DecipleShip	Brandy Miles	850-356-4034	emeraldcoastcharters.net	bloumiles5@gmail.com	15	46'
Deep Charters	Jon Polk	850-400-4155	deepcharters.com	jon@deepcharters.com	6	38'
Deep Obsession	David Dewberry	850-650-3825	pelicanadventures.com	pelicanadventures@gmail.com	6	42'
Destination	Stan Phillips	850-259-3778	charterboatdestination.com	destinfishinginfo@gmail.com	27	55'
Double Time	Tim Adams	850-685-1932	doubletimecharters.com	capttim@doubletimecharters.com	6	25'
Finatical	Blake Wyatt	361-728-7362	finaticalcharters.com	finaticalcharters@yahoo.com	6	33'
Finest Kind	Jason Mikel	850-837-6800	charterfishingdestin.com	jason.mikel@yahoo.com	22	53'
First Light	Tyler Breilmayer	850-419-5999	nothinmattersfishingcharters.com	tylex16@yahoo.com	10	48'
FishNFun	Karl Boehm	504-352-5049	fishfundestin.com	fishfundestin@gmail.com	6	32'
Full Draw	Brantley Galloway	850-543-3211	hilinercharters.com	hilinercharters@yahoo.com	6	40'
Game On	Eric Thrasher	850-259-1962	gameonchartersdestin.com	daybreak1962@yahoo.com	6	41'
Good Times	Mark Mueller	850-650-3825	pelicanadventures.com	pelicanadventures@gmail.com	20	45'
Hard Charger	Tim Baxter	850-865-9848	deepseadestinflorida.com	charterfishdestin@gmail.com	15	39'2"
Home Grown	Preston Muller	850-428-0118	destinfishingcharters.biz	destincharters@yahoo.com	6	40'
Huntress	Mike Graef	850-685-5593	charterboathuntress.com	fishhuntressdestinfl@cox.net	6	40'

2025 REGISTERED VESSELS



OCEAN REEF
VACATION RENTALS & REAL ESTATE

Party Fishing Boats

A Charter Boat is utilized for all varieties of deep-sea sportfishing and is generally chartered by groups of 4 or more, however some individuals may be grouped to form a charter. Contact the Captain for more information.

CHARTER PARTY

Boat Name	Captain	Phone	Web Address	E-Mail	Capacity	Length
Inn Keeper	Curtis Maphis	850-603-0614	innkeepercharter.com	jason@wooddevelopment.com	6	47'
Into the Blue	Nino Bright/Groovy Davis	850-420-9342	intothelblue Destin.com	info@intothelblue Destin.com	6	46'
Kraken Reels	John Ray	850-659-7998	Krakenreels.com	gofishing@krakenreels.com	6	46'
Lady Em	Travis Ream	850-933-6132	ladyemdestin.com	ladyemcharters@gmail.com	25	65'
Maximilian	Chris Fulford	469-853-0858	maximusfishing.com	maximumrpm@gmail.com	6	33'
Maximus	Justin Hall	469-853-0858	maximusfishing.com	maximumrpm@gmail.com	6	33'
Nothin' Matters	Tyler Breilmayer	850-419-5999	nothinmattersfishingcharters.com	tylex16@yahoo.com	6	44'6"
On The Bite Too	Scott Whitehurst	850-259-6210		onthebite1@gmail.com	6	24'10"
Outta Line	Trey Windes	850-837-2320	charterboatouttaline.com	outtalinelinefishin@gmail.com	24	53'
Phoenix	Justin Brantley	850-837-9734	charterboatphoenix.com	phoenixcharterboat@gmail.com	20	55'
Sea Fix	Chris Michelson	850-685-2963	charterboatseafix.com	nostuk@gmail.com	26	45'
Seahorse	Dean Cox	850-259-8782	charterboatseahorse.com	deancox@mchsi.com	16	47'
Sea Winder	Chris Couvillion	850-259-9125	seawinder.com	chris@seawinder.com	6	40'
Silver Lining	Joe Quaranto	850-259-0625	fishdestin.net	captjoe@fishdestin.net	13	46'
Stelluna	Judah Barbee	850-585-9985	deepseadestin.com	stelluna25@gmail.com	20	52'
Sure Lure	Don Dineen	850-376-8399	surelurecharters.com	fish@surelurecharters.com	6	40'
Tradewinds	Brian Howard/Larry Meyer	850-830-4752	chaterboatsdestin.com	bhoward271@cox.net	49	65'
Tropical Winds	Randy Hanshaw	850-837-7095	olinmarlercharterboats.com	olinmarlerbooth@gmail.com	35	65'
Twilight	Taylor Waterfield	850-699-4978	FB: Charter Boat Twilight	taylorwaterfield@gmail.com	12	52'
UnReel	Justin Destin	850-259-2516	fishingwithadestin.com	fulldraw2005@yahoo.com	17	55'

Boat Name	Captain	Phone	Web Address	E-Mail	Capacity	Length
American Spirit	Jim Green	850-837-1293	PartyBoatAmericanSpirit.com	newflagirl2000@aol.com	65	85'
Destin Princess	Steve Allen	850-837-5088	destinpartyboatfishing.com	maryanne@destin-real-estate.com	42	65'
Destiny	Dennis Kendrick	850-837-5088	destinpartyboatfishing.com	maryanne@destin-real-estate.com	56	72'
Gulf Breeze	Stone Caldevilla	850-837-7095	olinmarlercharterboats.com	olinmarlerbooth@gmail.com	35	65'
Sweet Jody	Aaron Finkley	850-585-9985	sweetjodyfishing.com	sweetjodyfishing@gmail.com	40	56'
Swoop II	Devin Sarver/Matt Wheeler	850-337-8250	swooppartyboat.com	wheeler.marine@swooppartyboat.com	40	65'
Vera Marie	Michael Cline/Anthony Dewberry	850-650-3825	pelicanadventures.com	pelicanadventures@gmail.com	65	75'

BOOK YOUR CHARTER TRIP TODAY



CHARTER BOAT CATCHING MEMORIES

Your Ultimate Fishing Experience! Step aboard our 46' sportfishing vessel, Catching Memories, where comfort meets performance. Whether you're chasing marlin, tuna, mahi, or sailfish, our top-tier gear and expert crew give you the edge. • Advanced GPS, sonar, radar, and fish-finding electronics • Premium tackle and gear for all target species • Spacious cockpit with fighting chair and outriggers • Air-conditioned cabin with galley, lounge seating, and restroom • Experienced, tested crew



you're a seasoned angler or a first-time competitor, Catching Memories is your partner in the pursuit of glory. Let's go Catching Memories!

From the first cast to the final weigh-in, we're committed to helping you land big fish and bigger memories. Whether

Captain: Brian Cole 850-963-6460
catchingmemoriescharters.com

CHARTER BOAT SURE LURE

We specialize in bottom fishing, offshore and inshore trolling, sight fishing, and serious deep-sea "safaris" -- Full Day, Half Day, Night Fishing, and Extended Voyages! Wins include "Top Grouper" in the Destin Fishing Rodeo (63 lb) and Cobia World Champions (overall and women's division). Our crew take pride in ensuring that all of our guests are consistently treated like members of our own family. We are a kid-friendly operation. Clean and well maintained, the SURE LURE comfortably accommodates up to 6 guests. We feature an enclosed air-conditioned cabin, clean restroom, latest marine electronics,



and twin 350 hp CAT engines to get you to where the fish are biting with ease. Call Capt Don today at **850-376-8399** or email fish@surelurecharters.com. Visit us at **surelurecharters.com**

CHARTER BOAT FIRST LIGHT

The First Light is a 47' G & S Sportfish that is a Coast Guard Approved 10 passenger vessel. It runs trips from 4 to 72 hours. We bottom fish, deep drop, shark fish, troll for all pelagics, live bait and chunk for Tuna. The vessel has air-conditioning, clean rest rooms and plenty of seating. Call Captain Tyler to reserve your trip!



Captain Tyler Breilmayer
(850) 419-5999
tylex16@yahoo.com
nothinmattersfishingcharters.com

CHARTER BOAT SEA WINDER

Preparation is the key to success, and the Sea Winder and her crew are ready to make the most of your charter. This 40' Infinity sportfisher boasts twin 430hp Cummins engines, outriggers, and tackle built by the captain himself. Captain Chris Couvillion and crew have the experience, energy, and equipment to satisfy and accommodate any angler. Fast, clean, air-conditioned, excellent service, hard-charging, successful, and family-friendly describe our operation. Sea Winder comfortably fishes up to 6 passengers on 4-19 hour charters.



Offering bottom fishing, inshore and offshore trolling, swordfishing, and shark trips, the Sea Winder is the right choice for your family, friends, or corporate event!
Seawinder.com 850-259-9125
chris@seawinder.com

CHARTER BOAT NOTHIN MATTERS

The Nothin' Matters is a six pack vessel. It runs trips from 4 to 72 hours. We bottom fish, troll, shark fish and deep drop. Whether it's catching red snapper, deep dropping for tile fish or landing Pelagics, we aim to give you the best experience. Nothin' Matters has clean restrooms as well as air-conditioning. Call Captain Tyler to reserve your fishing adventure!



Captain Tyler Breilmayer
(850) 419-5999
tylex16@yahoo.com
nothinmattersfishingcharters.com

CHARTER BOAT BADLANDS

Badlands Charters is veteran owned and operated fishing charter. We take pride in making the client happy. Whether that is filling the box or just putting you on fish to have fun, we do everything we can to insure you have a blast.



Depending on the time of year and seasons, we target red snapper, mingo snapper, amberjack, grouper, wahoo, tunas, triggerfish, king Mackerel, and offer deep drop trips.

Give us a call to book your trip today and let us show you the best time in the "luckiest fishing village"! **Captain Ryan Reed**
850-830-3826 BadLandCharters.com

CHARTER BOAT DESTIN PRINCESS

Party Boat DESTIN PRINCESS offers open-boat deep sea fishing trips in the Gulf of America (purchase one ticket per person) aboard our clean, fast, and comfortable US Coast Guard approved 65 ft. Catamaran that can carry 41 passengers. The Catamaran style absorbs the motion of the water reducing the chances of sea sickness. The Princess is in excellent condition, has men's and women's restrooms, air-conditioned cabin, places to sit in the sun and shade, and we know where the fish live! Recently our spots have produced larger size fish, and the fish populations are up! We provide bait, tackle, fishing licenses, and instructions from the best crew on the Destin Harbor.



Deep sea fishing ranging from a 4-hour kids cruise to a 12-hour DEEP water trip. We catch Red Snapper, Grouper, and Triggerfish. Bring sunscreen, food, beverages, and a camera to capture memories to last a lifetime.
850-837-5088 or Book online at **destinpartyboatfishing.com**

BOOK YOUR CHARTER TRIP TODAY

CHARTER BOAT CATCH 22

The Catch 22 is a 24 foot 6 pack vessel, it runs trips from 4 to 12 hours. We specialize in bottom fishing and trolling for pelagics. Here at Catch 22 Charters we aim to give you the best experience onboard and maintain a high standard for safety and comfort. The Catch 22 is even equipped with a bathroom for the ladies, which you won't find on most 24 foot vessels. Call Captain John and book your next Destin fishing adventure on Charter boat Catch 22.



Captain John Hitsos
770-686-6008
Catch22fishingCharters.com

CHARTER BOAT DESTINATION

The charter boat Destination is ready to take you and your guests on a first class deep sea fishing experience. Big, safe and capable perfectly describe this 55' fishing machine. The Destination specializes in providing a full-service, private, charter fishing experience for anglers of all ages and skill levels. We are USCG approved for up to 27 passengers and conveniently located at HarborWalk Marina.



We are Rodeo Ready!
Contact us at **850.259.3778** or **destinfishinginfo@gmail.com**, **charterboatdestination.com**.

CHARTER BOAT PHOENIX

The Phoenix is a 52' custom G&S sportfisher that is fast, clean and comfortable. It has a spacious galley with TV and AC. It is USCG approved for up to 20 passengers. The Phoenix has proved itself as one of the top fishing boats within the Destin Fishing Rodeo and fleet. We have placed in several divisions over the last few years including King Mackerel, Blackfin Tuna, reef fish, Ladies and Juniors.



Contact Captain Justin Brantley at **850-837-9734** or visit us online at **charterboatphoenix.com** for more information! Let's go fishing!

CHARTER BOAT DESTINY

DESTINY is a large, fast, clean, and comfortable 72" G&S USCG approved party boat that carries up to 56 passengers. She offers open-boat deep sea fishing trips in the Gulf of America. No need to charter an entire boat; you can purchase one ticket per person to go deep sea fishing. Destiny's size and weight reduces the chances of sea sickness. She is in excellent condition, with restrooms, air-conditioning, sun and shaded seating. We know where the fish live! Recently our spots have produced larger fish, and fish populations are up! We provide bait, tackle, fishing licenses, and instructions from the best crew on the Destin Harbor. Enjoy deep sea fishing ranging from a 4 to 12 hour trips, testing your DEEP water



skills. Our 6-hour deep sea fishing trip is our the most popular. We catch Red Snapper, Grouper, and Triggerfish in season and many other species. Bring sunscreen, food, beverages, and a camera to capture memories to last a lifetime.

850-837-5088 or Book online at **destinpartyboatfishing.com**

CHARTER BOAT EMERALD COAST

5TH Day / DECIPLESHP 30 years ago it was just a dad taking his daughter fishing...Today it's two captains with two boats taking your dad and daughter fishing. This father-daughter team enjoy sharing their passion with every fisherman young and old; from the most serious anglers to the first-time fisherman. With over 50 years combined experience your family is sure to make lifelong memories. Our 40-foot boats have comfortable indoor cabins with restrooms and air-conditioning. We offer private charters that can accommodate up to 15 passengers. *All awards are given to the anglers!*



Reserve your adventure today and let's place your name on the 2025 leaderboard. Call **850-356-4034** or check out our website at **Emeraldcoastcharters.net**
Faith * Family * Fishing

CHARTER BOAT BOW'D UP

The boat is a 52' custom Sportfisher. USCG approved for up to 13 passengers. The vessel is equipped with sleeping berths, bathroom/shower, air conditioning, satellite TV, and galley. Captain Brady has won captain of the year in 2008, 2016, 2017. We specialize in Big King Mackerel, overnight trips for Swordfish, Marlin and Tuna.



Call captain Brady Bowman at **850-978-5876** to book a trip!
Captbradybowman@gmail.com
Bowdupfishingdestin.com

CHARTER BOAT SEAFIX

Climb aboard our 45-foot custom sportfishing charter, a powerful and dependable vessel built for adventure on the open water. Powered by twin Cummins turbo diesel engines, she delivers both strength and reliability to get you to the fishing grounds fast and comfortably. Recently upgraded with the latest marine electronics, including GPS, radar, and fish-finding technology, this boat is fully equipped to put you on the bite. With a spacious deck and room for up to 25 passengers, it's the perfect choice for group outings, corporate



events, or serious angling trips. Whether you're chasing the thrill of the catch or just need your "sea fix," Captain Chris and first Mate Aaron are ready to deliver.
850-685-2963 CharterBoatSeafix.com

CHARTER BOAT MAXIMUS

Maximus is one of Destin's premier large offshore center console boats. As a Catamaran it's a smooth riding and spacious vessel to get you to the fish faster and more comfortably. Restroom on board for the ladies and the high sidewalls makes it comfortable for kids as well. Maximus is great for beginners, kids and hard core fisherman that want to make longer runs.



Captain Justin Hall
469-853-0858



WHAT A CATCH!

At Centennial Bank, our passion for doing business and supporting our customers with practiced precision has created a strong and stable foundation.

Over the past 25 years, we've worked tirelessly to create a reliable banking partner for our customers.

Let us help you charter the next chapter in your financial journey.



MY100BANK.COM

A Home BancShares Company (NYSE:HOMB)

All loans subject to credit and property approval.



2025 DESTIN FISHING RODEO AWARDS



2025 Rodeo Awards

Awards Presentation:
5:30 PM Wednesday, November 5 – AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar



AJ's Bonus Wahoo Awards

Largest Wahoo of Tournament	\$3000
2 nd Largest Wahoo of Tournament	\$2000
3 rd Largest Wahoo of Tournament	\$1000

Charter Boat Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

1 st & 2 nd King Mackerel	Henry Hinkel Memorial Award Sponsored by East Pass Pod Cast Ham Palmgren Memorial Award Sponsored by Twinkle Outzen Sponsored by Charter Boat Huntress Sponsored by Becky McFarland, Rising Star Real Estate, Inc. Sponsored by Destin Charter Boat Assoc. Sponsored by Breathe Easy Rentals Sponsored by Charter Boat Lady Em Sponsored by Emerald Coast Charters Sponsored by the Destin Charter Boat Assoc.
1 st & 2 nd Red Grouper	
1 st & 2 nd Blackfin Tuna	
1 st & 2 nd Mingo Snapper	
1 st & 2 nd Scamp	
1 st & 2 nd Wahoo	
1 st & 2 nd Almaco Jack	
1 st & 2 nd Black Snapper	
1 st & 2 nd Triggerfish	

Party Boat Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

1 st & 2 nd King Mackerel	Sponsored by Party Boats Destiny and Destin Princess
1 st & 2 nd Red Grouper	Sponsored by The Pancakery
1 st & 2 nd Blackfin Tuna	Sponsored by Destin Charter Boat Assoc.
1 st & 2 nd Mingo Snapper	Sponsored by Ann White Interiors
1 st & 2 nd Scamp	Sponsored by Destin Charter Boat Assoc.
1 st & 2 nd Wahoo	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals
1 st & 2 nd Almaco Jack	Sponsored by The Trophy Center
1 st & 2 nd Black Snapper	Sponsored by New Florida Girl's American Spirit
1 st & 2 nd Triggerfish	Sponsored by the Destin Charter Boat Assoc.



Charter Boats Under 26' Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

1 st & 2 nd King Mackerel	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals
1 st & 2 nd Red Grouper	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals
1 st & 2 nd Blackfin Tuna	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals
1 st & 2 nd Mingo Snapper	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals
1 st & 2 nd Scamp	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals
1 st & 2 nd Wahoo	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals
1 st & 2 nd Almaco Jack	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals
1 st & 2 nd Black Snapper	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals
1 st & 2 nd Triggerfish	Sponsored by Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals



Private Boat Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

1 st & 2 nd King Mackerel	Sponsored by Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House
1 st & 2 nd Red Grouper	Sponsored by Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House
1 st & 2 nd Blackfin Tuna	Sponsored by Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House
1 st & 2 nd Mingo Snapper	Sponsored by Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House
1 st & 2 nd Scamp	Sponsored by Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House
1 st & 2 nd Wahoo	Sponsored by Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House
1 st & 2 nd Almaco Jack	Sponsored by Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House
1 st & 2 nd Black Snapper	Sponsored by Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House
1 st & 2 nd Triggerfish	Sponsored by Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House



Private Boats Under 26' Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

1 st & 2 nd King Mackerel	Sponsored by Legendary Marine
1 st & 2 nd Red Grouper	Sponsored by Legendary Marine
1 st & 2 nd Blackfin Tuna	Sponsored by Legendary Marine
1 st & 2 nd Mingo Snapper	Sponsored by Legendary Marine
1 st & 2 nd Scamp	Sponsored by Legendary Marine
1 st & 2 nd Wahoo	Sponsored by Legendary Marine
1 st & 2 nd Almaco Jack	Sponsored by Legendary Marine
1 st & 2 nd Black Snapper	Sponsored by Legendary Marine
1 st & 2 nd Triggerfish	Sponsored by Legendary Marine

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2025 DESTIN FISHING RODEO AWARDS



2025 DESTIN FISHING RODEO AWARDS



Ladies Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- 1st & 2nd King Mackerel Sponsored by Harbor Docks
- 1st & 2nd Red Grouper Sponsored by Harbor Docks
- 1st & 2nd Blackfin Tuna Sponsored by Harbor Docks
- 1st & 2nd Wahoo Sponsored by Harbor Docks



Murphy's Home Services Junior Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- 1st & 2nd King Mackerel Sponsored by Murphy's Home Services
- 1st & 2nd Red Grouper Sponsored by Murphy's Home Services
- 1st & 2nd Blackfin Tuna Sponsored by Murphy's Home Services
- 1st & 2nd Wahoo Sponsored by Murphy's Home Services

Senior Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- 1st & 2nd King Mackerel Sponsored by Holiday Isle Properties
- 1st & 2nd Red Grouper Sponsored by Sugar Palm Vacation Rentals
- 1st & 2nd Blackfin Tuna Sponsored by Charter Boat Huntress
- 1st & 2nd Wahoo Sponsored by Professional Inspection Enterprises



Offshore Division (OPEN)

(1st Place - \$200 Half Hitch Gift Card and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Half Hitch Gift Card and Rodeo Trophy)

- 1st & 2nd Barracuda Sponsored by Half Hitch Tackle
- 1st & 2nd Bonito Sponsored by Half Hitch Tackle
- 1st & 2nd Dolphin Sponsored by Half Hitch Tackle
- 1st & 2nd Triple Tail Sponsored by Half Hitch Tackle
- 1st & 2nd Yellowfin Tuna Sponsored by Half Hitch Tackle

Billfish Division (OPEN)

(1st Place Only - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- 1st Place Blue Marlin Sponsored by Charter Boat 100 Proof
- 1st Place White Marlin Sponsored by Charter Boat UnReel
- 1st Place Sailfish Sponsored by Charter Boat Game On
- 1st Place Swordfish Andrew Gillingham Memorial Award Sponsored by Boathouse Marina



Deep Drop Division (OPEN)

(1st Place Only - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- 1st Barrellfish Sponsored by Charter Boat Finest Kind
- 1st Tilefish Sponsored by Charter Boat Finest Kind
- 1st Kitty Mitchell Sponsored by Charter Boat Finest Kind
- 1st Snowy Grouper Sponsored by Charter Boat Finest Kind
- 1st Warsaw Grouper Sponsored by Charter Boat Finest Kind
- 1st Yellowedge Grouper Sponsored by Charter Boat Finest Kind



Boathouse Reef Division (OPEN)

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- 1st & 2nd Cobia Sponsored by BoatHouse Oyster Bar and Marina
- 1st & 2nd Lane Snapper Sponsored by BoatHouse Oyster Bar and Marina



Inshore Division (OPEN)

(1st & 2nd Place - Shimano Rod, Reel and Trophy)

- 1st & 2nd Flounder Sponsored by The Ship's Chandler and Shimano
- 1st & 2nd Redfish Sponsored by The Ship's Chandler and Shimano
- 1st & 2nd Sheepshead Sponsored by The Ship's Chandler and Shimano
- 1st & 2nd Spanish Mackerel Sponsored by The Ship's Chandler and Shimano
- 1st & 2nd Speckled Trout Sponsored by The Ship's Chandler and Shimano



Extended Voyage Division (OPEN)

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- 1st & 2nd Red Grouper Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1st & 2nd Scamp Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1st & 2nd Yellowfin Tuna Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1st & 2nd Big Eye Tuna Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1st & 2nd Wahoo Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1st & 2nd Almaco Jack Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1st & 2nd Dolphin Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1st & 2nd Yellowedge Grouper Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1st & 2nd Snowy Grouper Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1st & 2nd Barrel Fish Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining
- 1 & 2nd Tile Fish Sponsored by Fort Walton Machining



Okaloosa Island Pier - Pier Bridge Jetty & Surf Division

(One-Year Pier Pass and Rodeo Trophy)

- Largest King Mackerel Sponsored by Okaloosa Island Pier
- Largest Spanish Mackerel Sponsored by Okaloosa Island Pier
- Largest Pompano Sponsored by Okaloosa Island Pier
- Largest Redfish Sponsored by Okaloosa Island Pier
- Largest Speckled Trout Sponsored by Okaloosa Island Pier
- Largest Flounder Sponsored by Okaloosa Island Pier
- Largest Sheepshead Sponsored by Okaloosa Island Pier
- Largest Fish by a Junior (except sharks and rays) Sponsored by Okaloosa Island Pier
- Largest Fish by a Senior (except sharks and rays) Sponsored by Okaloosa Island Pier



Abram Siter Memorial Kayak Division

\$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- Largest Flounder Sponsored by Friends and Family of Abram Siter
- Largest King Mackerel Sponsored by Friends and Family of Abram Siter
- Largest Redfish Sponsored by Friends and Family of Abram Siter
- Largest Sheepshead Sponsored by Friends and Family of Abram Siter
- Largest Speckled Trout Sponsored by Friends and Family of Abram Siter
- Largest Spanish Mackerel Sponsored by Friends and Family of Abram Siter

Mason Hupp Mako My Day Shark Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- Largest Shark of Tournament Sponsored by Pat & Lori Hupp
- 2nd Largest Shark of Tournament Sponsored by Pat & Lori Hupp



Paddleboard Division

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

- Largest Any (except Black Drum, Jack Crevalle, Sharks & Rays) Sponsored by The Waters at Freeport
- 2nd Largest Any (except Black Drum, Jack Crevalle, Sharks & Rays) Sponsored by The Waters at Freeport

First Fish in Rodeo

First Fish Recognized by the Weighmaster on October 1st
Sponsored by The Trophy Center



Double "G" Custom Rods & Restoration Youth Angler Mingo

- Largest Jr. Girl Charter Sponsored by D & G Custom Rods & Restoration
- Largest Jr. Boy Charter Sponsored by D & G Custom Rods & Restoration
- Largest Jr. Girl Party Sponsored by D & G Custom Rods & Restoration
- Largest Jr. Boy Party Sponsored by D & G Custom Rods & Restoration

Rodeo Records

(Rodeo Record Breakers will win \$500 Centennial Bank Check)

Grouper - 1993	70.2 lbs.	Bill Smith, Covington, GA Sunrise, Captain Kelly Windes
King Mackerel - 2018	64.2 lbs.	Bert Savoie, Ft Walton Beach, FL Dawn Patrol, Captain John Tenore
Wahoo - 2022	101.0 lbs.	Derrick Dover, Mary Esther, FL Muscle Memories, Capt Andrew Dover
Amberjack - 2012	111.6 lbs.	Mark Underhahl, Pensacola, FL Strange Brew, Captain Ken Nettles
Dolphin - 2000	49.0 lbs.	Jim Rainer, Memphis, TN Full Pull, Captain Chris Wagner
Warsaw - 2003	358.8 lbs.	John Hardin, Dunedin, FL Big John, Captain Todd Allen



Daily Awards –

King Mac Daily Award-

Based on 31 boat participation - \$100 buy in.
 Pays the boat \$100 a day for largest King Mackerel of the day.
 At the end of the tournament the remainder of the pot will be split 25% to the boat captain with largest King Mackerel and 75% to local charities.

Largest Fish of the Day Under 26' Vessels

77th Annual Commemorative Medal and Merchandise Discount Certificate for largest of each specie each day

- Almaco Jack
- Black Snapper
- Blackfin Tuna
- Dolphin
- King Mackerel
- Mingo Snapper
- Red Grouper
- Spanish Mackerel
- Speckled Trout
- Triggerfish

Largest Fish of the Day OVER 25'11" Vessels

77th Annual Commemorative Medal and Merchandise Discount Certificate for largest of each specie each day

- Almaco Jack
- Black Snapper
- Blackfin Tuna
- Dolphin
- King Mackerel
- Mingo Snapper
- Red Grouper
- Scamp
- Triggerfish
- Wahoo

Largest Fish of the Day Ladies, Junior, Senior, PBJS

77th Annual Commemorative Medal and Merchandise Discount Certificate for largest of each specie each day

- Largest Fish by a Junior – OPEN
- Largest Fish by a Lady – OPEN
- Largest Fish by a Senior - OPEN
- Largest Fish – Pier Bridge Jetty Surf

BOAT AND CREW AWARDS

Jim Wilson Billfish Catch and Release Awards

(1st Place - \$200 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy, 2nd Place - \$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)
 Billfish Catch and Release Awards will go to the BOAT with the most releases in October
 Most Releases Sponsored by The Wynsong
 Second Most Releases Sponsored by The Wynsong



Mike McKinney Memorial

Charter Boat Mates Awards

(\$100 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

Charter Boat Sponsored by Friends & Family of Mike McKinney
 Party Boat Sponsored by Friends & Family of Mike McKinney
 Charter Boat Under 26' Sponsored by Friends & Family of Mike McKinney



Brant Kelly Memorial

Charter Boat Captain and Mates Awards

(\$1000 Centennial Bank Check and Rodeo Trophy)

\$1000 to the Captain and \$1000 to the Mate that catch the largest Wahoo of the Tournament. Sponsored by the Charter Boat Relentless



Chubby Destin Memorial

Captain's Jackpot Awards

Trophies sponsored by Dewey Destin Seafood

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Largest King Mackerel | 50% Jackpot |
| 2 nd Largest King Mackerel | 30% Jackpot |
| 3 rd Largest King Mackerel | 20% Jackpot |

Captains Awards

Winning captains will be determined at the end of the tournament using a simple formula: 1st Places = 20 points, 2nd Places = 10 points, Daily Awards = 1 point

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Private Boat	Sponsored by Complete Fixture Solutions
Party Boat	Sponsored by Complete Fixture Solutions
Charter Boat Under 26'	Sponsored by Charter Boat 100 Proof
Private Boat Under 26'	Sponsored by Complete Fixture Solutions
Extended Voyage	Sponsored by Complete Fixture Solutions



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2024 RODEO REVIEW

LOOKING BACK AT THE 76TH FISHING RODEO



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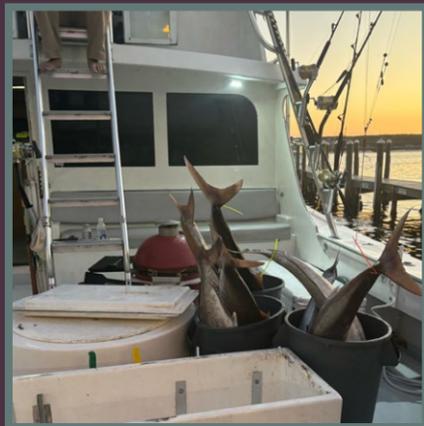


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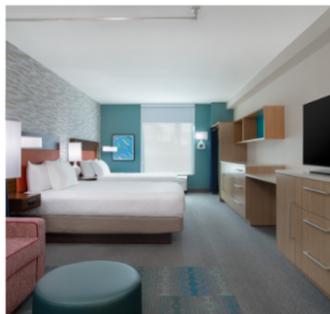
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Anglers must declare division of entry at the time of weigh-in. Anglers cannot win multiple awards for single fish.
(excluding bonus and jackpot awards)

Anglers must declare division of entry at the time of weigh-in. Anglers cannot win multiple awards for single fish.
(excluding bonus and jackpot awards)

2025 Rodeo Rules

SCOPE: These rules govern the Annual Destin-Gulf Coast Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo to be held October 1 through October 31.

GENERAL:

- 1 Contestants shall abide by the Rodeo rules. All rules are interpreted by the Rodeo Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors. The decisions of the official Rodeo Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors shall be final.
- 2 Rules may be modified, interpreted or changed without notice to meet unusual or emergency conditions by action of the Rodeo Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors.
- 3 Any winning angler or captain is subject to a polygraph test to verify authenticity of catch. The Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors will determine cause for the test.
- 4 Anyone who fails a polygraph test or is determined cheating (by the Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors) will be disqualified from participating in the rest of the year's Rodeo and the following two years' Rodeos. All catches in the current Rodeo will be disqualified.
- 5 Scales are considered accurate to the point of failure. Failed scales will be substituted with State certified, calibrated scales. No fish will be re-hung or re-weighed.
- 6 Inshore Division, Pier, Bridge, Jetty and Surf, Kayak and Paddleboard entries must be caught within the area between the eastern end of Choctawhatchee Bay (mouth of the ditch) to Navarre Beach Bridge.
- 7 All Boats must enter the Gulf through Destin's East Pass with the exception of weather-related condition trips which have called and notified the Rodeo office prior to departure. (850) 837-6734
- 8 Boat Entry: A copy of a State/Coast Guard issued Boat Registration Form must be on file with the Rodeo prior to first weigh-in by boats Under 26'. Boats and/or competitors entered after the beginning of the Rodeo in any division are not eligible for competition until the day following registration, with the exception of Bonus Awards (Jackpot, Big Mac Classic, etc.) which must be entered 72 hours before being eligible.
- 9 All fish must be caught on rod and reel, using hook and line. Handheld electric reels may be used.
- 10 Fish can only be weighed in the division the boat the fish was caught on was registered.

- 11 Boats may not leave Destin East Pass prior to 12:01 a.m. and must return to weigh-in by 7:00 p.m. daily. A daily bag limit will apply. Overnight fishing prohibited except in the Extended Voyage Division.
- 12 Prize winning fish shall be the largest by weight. In the event of a tie, the first fish recorded shall be the winner. Minimum weight of one pound is required for eligibility.
- 13 All fish are to be drawn (from anal vent through the breastplate to the throat with all entrails removed) and washed for inspection prior to being recognized by the weighmaster. Whole fish brought to the Rodeo weighmaster will be sent to the back of the line. An exception will be made for Triggerfish, Sheepshead, Pompano, Flounder and Sharks. Sharks will be weighed and recorded whole. If the shark is in contention for a prize, it will be gutted to determine that it is a legal fish. The whole weight will be the recorded weight. Fish in contention for world or state records will be weighed prior to being drawn for Rodeo entry at the request of the angler.
- 14 It is the responsibility of the angler to dispose of all fish.
- 15 Angler must be clearly identified prior to weighing fish. Only two fish per specie, per day, per person will be weighed. Boat captain and angler must be present, sign official entry form and verify the weight and angler of each fish officially entered in the Destin Fishing Rodeo at the time of weigh-in. The Angler's SSN will be required prior to being awarded a cash prize. By signing the official entry form, the captain also attests the angler whose name appears on the entry form did catch the fish being weighed. The captain's signature and initials at Division Line further attests to the division being entered. No changes in division will be allowed after the entry form is signed. The Captain's Signature proves ALL information on the form is correct.
- 16 Fish which have spoiled, been mutilated, frozen or appear to have been frozen, or chemically treated are not eligible for competition. (SHARKS MAY BE SHOT)
- 17 Any boat or individual in arrears to the Destin Fishing Rodeo after December 31st of the year the debt is incurred will be ineligible for all subsequent Rodeos until the debt is satisfied.
- 18 In an effort to expedite the weigh-in process, the largest fish in each division should be presented first.

- 1 The following persons are not eligible for awards (except, the King Mackerel Jackpot Awards, Captains Awards or Mates Awards if they have participated as such within the current calendar year: (a) Captains/crew members charter/commercial boats. Defined as "Crewmember" under definitions.; (b) commercial fishermen returning from a commercial trip are ineligible to enter fish from that trip; (c) No fish caught on a Recreational Rodeo Trip may be sold, bartered or traded; (d) commercial fishing pier owners/operators may not enter a fish in pier, bridge, jetty and surf division; (e) Rodeo Officials.
- 2 To expedite the weigh-in process during heavy traffic times, all boats will be required to check-in with the DOCKMASTER and **be visually recognized past the point in the Harbor**. Open Division contenders will be given a time-stamp to avoid controversy in case of a tie. After 5:00 p.m., Private Boats under 30', Kayaks and Paddleboards must park in a designated slip and walk their catches to the barge. At busy times, Charter Boats with customers, will be given preference. Order of weigh-in will be left to the discretion of the DockMaster.
- 3 Unsportsmanlike action by Rodeo participant may disqualify that individual from this and future events.
- 4 Complaints or protests must be in the form of a written statement and personally turned in to the Rodeo officials on duty not later than 7:00 p.m., seventy-two (72) hours following the occurrence which occasioned the complaint. A cash deposit of five hundred dollars (\$500) must accompany the protest. The burden of proof is on the Protester. If the complaint or protest is found to be valid, the deposit is returned, If not, the deposit becomes the property of the Destin Fishing Rodeo, Inc. Once a protest has been filed, the protested must be notified and has 72 hours to reply, in writing, their position on the protest. If the Board determines that a polygraph is required, the protested has 48 hours to inform the Board of their intentions whether or not to take the polygraph. The Board will strive to settle the matter within 14 days of the written position by the protested.
- 5 Participants in the Rodeo may not possess in excess of the FWC Recreational bag limits. Commercial quantities may not be possessed even for boats commercially permitted.
- 6 BRUCE CHEVES DAY – October 16 is Bruce Cheves Day at the Destin Fishing Rodeo. The traditional 'Ring of the Bell' and other celebratory events will be conducted to celebrate the longtime weighmaster and storyteller.

DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION:

Specific awards and prizes for the Divisions of Competition are listed in the Awards Schedule/Prize List.

- 1 SHARKS – If you have a Federal Reef Permit, you must adhere to Federal Rules. HMS Permits are required to weigh any shark in the Destin Fishing Rodeo. No Nurse, Lemon or federally protected shark will be allowed. HMS permits available at www.hmspermits.noaa.gov. All sharks brought to the weigh-in station must qualify using Federal Regulations, regardless of State regulations, if they are different. Minimum length on all Hammerheads is 78 inches, All other sharks (except for the Atlantic Sharpnose), the minimum length is 54 inches.
- 2 EXTENDED VOYAGE DIVISION. To qualify in the EXTENDED VOYAGE Division, the trip must be declared prior to the boat leaving the slip. Declaration must include the name of the Captain, the Second Captain, the date of departure, expected return date and whether the boat is departing from East Pass or the Ditch. The boat must return a different calendar day than when it departs, vessel must be at sea for a minimum of 18 hours (exceptions: i.e. medical or weather related) must be approved by BOD and/or the Rules Committee) and a maximum of 96 hours. A vessel on extended voyage cannot add additional fuel on board between the time they leave the Destin Harbor and return to the Destin Harbor. Once a vessel has been declared on an Extended Voyage, all fish brought back from the trip must be weighed in the Extended Voyage Division, Billfish Division, or Billfish Catch and Release Division. All Boats must enter the Gulf through Destin's East Pass with the exception of extended voyage trips which have called and reported that they are going through the ditch. Boats must notify Rodeo Headquarters prior to leaving the boat slip by calling **850-837-6734**. If an angler disembarks for any reason prior to returning to the Destin Harbor, other than medical, the angler will be ineligible to weigh fish that trip. Fish must be weighed on the day of the vessel's return to port. Two licensed captains are required aboard fare carrying vessels at all times and both captains must sign entry forms at the dock. Dates of Extended Voyages and both captains' names must be declared prior to leaving the boat slip. Fish caught on Extended Voyages **ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR RODEO RECORDS, JACKPOT AWARDS or BONUS AWARDS** (Special awards offered from time to time).
- 3 CATCH & RELEASE DIVISION: This is a BOAT award. It is the responsibility of the captain to present Photo documentation of the catch to the Rodeo office within 48 hours of the catch. Photo must include the Current-Year Rodeo Flag or sticker or a digital date-stamp to qualify as an official entry. Digital photos may be e-mailed to fishing@destinfishingrodeo.org.

Anglers must declare division of entry at the time of weigh-in. Anglers cannot win multiple awards for single fish.
(excluding bonus and jackpot awards)

Anglers must declare division of entry at the time of weigh-in. Anglers cannot win multiple awards for single fish.
(excluding bonus and jackpot awards)

- 1 BILLFISH DIVISION: HMS Permits are required to weigh any billfish in the Destin Fishing Rodeo. The Billfish Division includes of the Largest Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Swordfish and Sailfish of the tournament. The Rodeo has added 3" to the Federal size limit of these species.
 - a. Length is measured from lower jaw to fork. The minimum length of a Blue Marlin is 102"; White Marlin is 69" and the Sailfish is 66". The Rodeo encourages anglers to check the leaderboard before killing a billfish. Billfish can be caught and released as entry in the Billfish Catch and Release Division with photo documentation.
- 2 LADIES, SENIOR AND JUNIOR AWARDS: Only Ladies, Seniors and Juniors may enter fish in the Ladies, Senior and Junior Divisions. Ladies, Seniors and Juniors may cross in their appropriate categories (ie. Boat Type). Division must be declared at entry.
- 3 KAYAK DIVISION - ONLY human powered kayaks will be allowed. NO pier/shoreline/wade/jug/trot line/hand line/cast or drag net/bow fishing allowed. All Kayaks should be launched from shore. No assistance from another vessel is allowed. Entries must be caught within the area between the eastern end of Choctawhatchee Bay (mouth of the ditch) to Navarre Beach Bridge. Fish caught in the Kayak Division are eligible to weigh in the Kayak Division.
- 4 PADDLEBOARD DIVISION - ONLY human powered Paddleboards will be allowed. NO pier/shoreline/wade/jug/trot line/hand line/cast or drag net/bow fishing allowed. All Paddleboards should be launched from shore. No assistance from another vessel is allowed. A contestant shall not be eligible to hold more than one place in the Paddleboard division. Entries must be caught within the area between the eastern end of Choctawhatchee Bay (mouth of the ditch) to Navarre Beach Bridge. Fish caught in the Paddleboard Division are eligible to weigh in the Paddleboard Division (No Jack Crevalle / No Black Drum allowed).
- 5 PIER, BRIDGE, JETTY & SURF DIVISION – \$25 fee (for anglers 15 years and older) must be paid 24 hours prior to weighing fish in PBJs division. Only fish caught on Pier, Bridge, Jetty or Surf are eligible in this division. Fish must be weighed the day of the catch. Entries must be caught within the area between the eastern end of Choctawhatchee Bay (mouth of the ditch) to Navarre Beach Bridge. "LARGEST" fish (daily and overall) Junior and Senior awards may be a specie outside the division (except for sharks and rays, Jack Crevalle and Black Drum).
- 6 Double G Custom Rods and Restoration YOUTH ANGLER MINGO (October 1 – 31, 2025) The junior (age 6-14) girl and boy angler on a Charter AND on a Party Boat that catch the largest Mingo Snappers of the tournament will win a custom-built rod. (4 rods – 2 for Charter and 2 for Party).

- 7 KING MACKEREL JACKPOT - Open to all registered boats (Fare Carrying or Private) that have paid the Jackpot entry fee (\$100 per boat) 72 hours prior to being eligible to weigh a fish in the Jackpot, and filled out the Jackpot entry form. **ALL WINNERS IN KING MACKEREL JACKPOT MAY BE ADMINISTERED A POLYGRAPH TEST at the discretion of the Board of Directors.**
The Jackpot will be split as follows: (AFTER 10% TO RODEO FOR ADMINISTRATIVE FEE)
 - a. Largest King Mackerel 50% / Second Largest King Mackerel 30% / Third Largest King Mackerel 20%.
 - b. Jackpot Fee must be paid 72 hours before fish may be weighed in.
 - c. Prize money will be paid to the person named on the entry form.
- 8 KING MACKEREL DAILY PRIZE- Based on 31 boat participation - \$100 buy in.
 - a. Pays \$100 a day to the Captain for largest King Mackerel of the day.
 - b. At the end of the tournament the remainder of the pot will be split 25% to Captain in pot with Largest King Mackerel and 75% to local Charities.
- 9 BIG MAC CLASSIC - Open to all registered boats (Fare Carrying or Private) that have paid the Big Mac Classic entry fee (\$300 per boat) 72 hours prior to being eligible to weigh a fish in the Big Mac Classic, and filled out the entry form.
 - a. \$10,000.00 will be awarded for the LARGEST King Mackerel caught by participants in the Big Mac Classic.

ALL WINNERS IN BIG MAC CLASSIC MAY BE ADMINISTERED A POLYGRAPH TEST at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
All remaining proceeds (after cost of polygraph) will benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities Northwest Florida.



AWARDING OF PRIZES:

1. A prize not claimed within thirty (30) days after the date of the award shall revert to the Rodeo.
2. DAILY prizes must be claimed by the angler or legal Guardian at the Merchandise Trailer within 48 hours of the close of scales the day of catch.
3. The Rodeo will award 3 Charter Captain's Awards (One Charter Boat, One Party Boat and One Under 26' and under Charter Boat) and 2 Private Boat Captain's Awards (One Private Boat and one 26' and under Private Boat) and 1 Extended Voyage Captain's Award. Winning captains will be determined at the end of the tournament using a simple formula: 1st Places = 20 points, 2nd Places = 10 points, Daily Awards = 1 point (If a fish wins more than one daily prize, it will only be awarded 1 point). No points will be awarded for the First Fish. Should Captain's Award points end up in a tie, the captain that reached the final points first will become Captain of the Year.
4. **Overall Prizes may only be picked up by the person who won the prize. A signed letter from the prize winner indicating permission for a named other person to retrieve their prize may be scanned or e-mailed, no later than Monday, November 3, 2025 to fishing@destinfishingrodeo.org.**
5. All awards are ANGLERS Awards (except for Captain's Jackpot Awards, King Mac Daily, Big Mac Classic, Captain's Awards and Billfish Tag and Release Awards). 1099's will be issued to the winners in accordance with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.
6. Kids Certificates and/or Fishing Rods will be given to any child 10 or under who presents a fish to the Rodeo Dock before 5 p.m. (time exception will be made for anglers on registered vessels) every day. Only 1 rod and certificate per child per month.

DEFINITIONS:

- Rodeo officials: Paid employees & the Official Rodeo Judges judging that day.
1. Immediate Family: Father. Mother, Brother, Sister, Son, Daughter, and Spouse.
 2. Charter Boat: A boat owned and operated as a charter fishing business in Destin as determined by the Rules Committee.
 3. Private Boat: Vessel that has not carried passengers for hire as determined by the Rules Committee.
 4. Party Boat - A boat owned and operated as a charter fishing business in Destin as determined by the Rules Committee and participates in the Beaufort Head Boat Survey.
 5. Non-motorized Vessel – ONLY human powered vessels will be

- allowed. NO gasoline or electric motor propelled boats, sail boats, airboats, float tubes, or poled boats may be used.
6. Under 26' – Any vessel 25'11" and below as per official state vessel registration. Valid registration papers must be produced at the time of Rodeo registration. Registration Papers may be emailed to fishing@destinfishingrodeo.org, presented in person to the Rodeo Office or by mail (P.O. Box 296, Destin, FL 32540) prior to the Rodeo. Any fish caught aboard a vessel without documented registration papers on file will be disqualified.
7. Open Awards Classification: Awards eligible to all motorized vessels registered in the Destin Fishing Rodeo.
8. Registered Entry: A registered entry is an entry that is recorded with an official Rodeo Judge and eligible to be recorded on the leader board at the weigh station.
9. Crewmember: Any adult (18 or older) person whose primary occupation is as a credentialed crew member while underway of any commercial/for-hire fishing vessel in the Gulf of Mexico.
10. Legitimate Entry for Captain Awards: The heaviest fish in each category from a boat, per trip, that takes a position on the leaderboard. In the event of a tie, the earliest weigh-in prevails.
11. Junior Angler: any angler age 6 – 14 years old on the day of the competition. Anglers under the age of 6 are eligible for a certificate and rod and reel.
12. Lady Angler: female anglers age 15 and older on the day of competition.
13. Senior Angler: Any angler 65 years or older on the day of competition.



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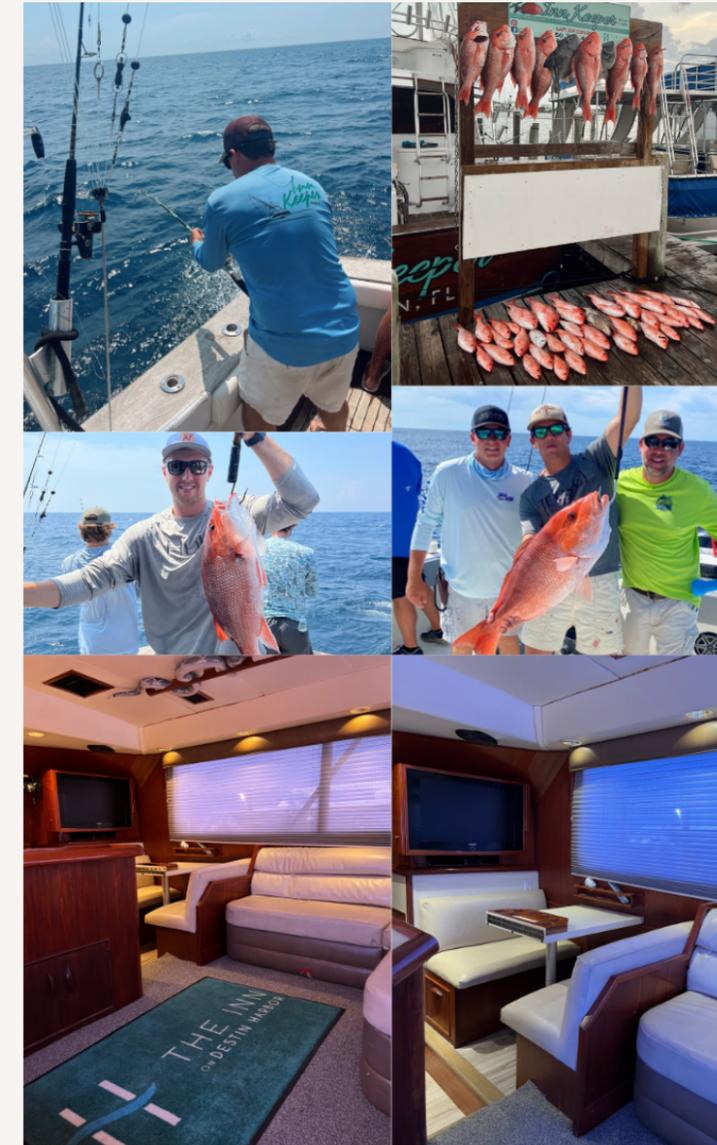
A special thanks to Helen Donaldson of Destin Fishing Rodeo, Marty Libowsky and Jane Shattuck for their support of this year's tournament.

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Bella Riggs Recipes:

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?



DOLPHIN FISH IN CREAM SAUCE

FISH

4- 6 oz. Dolphin fillet 1-inch thick
2 TBLS extra virgin olive oil
1 TBLS unsalted butter

RUB

3 TBLS flour
1 tsp EACH garlic powder, onion powder, salt, paprika
1/2 teaspoon black pepper

CREAM SAUCE

3 TBLS minced shallots
3-4 cloves garlic, minced
1 1/4 cups no salt chicken broth
1/2 cup heavy cream
1 TBLS cornstarch
1/2 tsp EACH dried parsley, dried thyme
2 TBLS lemon juice
3 tsp lemon zest
salt and pepper to taste

GARNISH (OPTIONAL)

Freshly chopped green scallion

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix together all of the Rub ingredients in a medium bowl. Pat fillets dry and rub spices into the fish.
2. Melt 1 TBLS butter in 2 TBLSs olive oil over medium-high heat in a cast iron skillet or coated cast iron skillet. Once hot, add fillets, turn heat down to medium and cook approximately 4 minutes, turn over, then cook an additional 3 minutes to your liking (it will depend on thickness). If fish is browning too quickly, turn down the heat. Remove fish to a plate and tent with foil.
3. Drain oil from skillet so you are left with about 1 TBLS oil. Add shallot and sauté while scraping up the fond for 2 minutes or until softened. Add garlic and stir 30 seconds.
4. Whisk chicken broth with cornstarch and add to skillet along with heavy cream, lemon juice, thyme and parsley. Simmer until reduced by half and slightly thickened, about 4-5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste, stir in lemon zest.
5. Nestle fish fillets back into the skillet and spoon sauce over the fillets. Garnish with fresh scallions. Serve immediately with sides of choice.



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Charter Boat Mates Awards

Charter: Robert Michelson, T.J. Boyette, Roland White 100 Proof
Party Boat: Jason Burns, Steve Funk, Nick Labell, Clay Gerber Sweet Jody

Chubby Destin Memorial King Mackerel King Jackpot

1st King Mackerel Jackpot 37.8 Doug Lambert - Miramar Beach, FL
Sponsored by Dewey Destin Restaurants (Wired Up, Douglas Lambert)

2nd King Mackerel Jackpot 33.2 Ken Carpenter, Fort Walton Beach, FL
Sponsored by Dewey Destin Restaurants (Game Changer, Ken Carpenter)

3rd King Mackerel Jackpot 32.6 Doug Lambert - Miramar Beach, FL
Sponsored by Dewey Destin Restaurants (Wired Up, Douglas Lambert)

Brant Kelly Memorial Wahoo Award

Largest Wahoo of the Tournament 66.2 (100 Proof, Allen Staples/Robert Michelson)

Captain of the Year

Charter Boat	Allen Staples	100 Proof	307 Points
Extended Voyage	Travis Ream	Lady Em	100 Points
Party Boat	Aaron Finkley	Destin Princess	138 Points
Charter Under 26'	Scott Whitehurst	On The Bite Too	127 Points
Private Boat	Andrew Dover	Muscle Memories	122 Points
Private Boat Under 26'	James Dexter	Dei Gratia	57 Points

D & G Custom Rods & Restoration Kid's Mingo Division

Girl's Junior Mingo Snapper Charter	3.8	Layla Case - Taylorsville, KY	100 Proof
Boy's Junior Mingo Snapper Charter	3.8	Maxwell Case - Taylorsville, KY	100 Proof
Girl's Junior Mingo Snapper Party	2.0	Harmon Chadband - Bham, AL	American Spirit
Boy's Junior Mingo Snapper Party	4.0	Brody Cox - Destin, FL	Sweet Jody

AJs Seafood & Oyster Bar AJ's Bonus Awards Division

1st Amberjack	96.0	Steve Murphy - Fort Walton Beach, FL	100 Proof
2nd Amberjack	91.0	Joe Bytell - Hartford, WI	100 Proof
3rd Amberjack	90.0	Jeff Cowen - Birmingham, AL	100 Proof

Harbor Docks Ladies Division

1st Ladies King Mackerel	31.2	Kelly Lupola - Navarre, FL	Raymarine/Strike Too
2nd Ladies King Mackerel	29.8	Cristina Smith - Destin, FL	Last 5
1st Ladies Amberjack	83.6	Jesica West - Destin, FL	100 Proof
2nd Ladies Amberjack	82.6	Taylor Kilgore - Jacksonville, AL	100 Proof
1st Ladies Blackfin Tuna	28.0	Suzanne Threet - DeQuincy, LA	100 Proof
2nd Ladies Blackfin Tuna	25.8	Michel Faircloth - Broadway, NC	Stelluna
1st Ladies Wahoo	75.4	Amy Taylor - Broadway, NC	Stelluna
2nd Ladies Wahoo	46.0	Kelly Thornton - Great Mills, MD	Huntress

Charter Boat Division

1st King Mackerel	22.0	Jack Barker - Allen, TX	Nothin' Matters
2nd King Mackerel	16.2	Nemo Smith - Prattville, AL	Big John
1st Amberjack	96.0	Steve Murphy - Fort Walton Beach, FL	100 Proof
2nd Amberjack	87.2	Jeremy Brown - Burnside, KY	UnReel
1st Blackfin Tuna	26.4	Scott Roberts - Destin, FL	Huntress
2nd Blackfin Tuna	26.2	Andrea Faircloth - Broadway, NC	Stelluna
1st Mingo Snapper	5.0	Matt Blincoe - Prospect, KY	100 Proof
2nd Mingo Snapper	4.6	Elissa Angelini - Hawthorn Woods, IL	Maximus
1st Scamp	19.8	Brandon Boggs - Madison, TN	Twilight
2nd Scamp	13.6	Evan Russell - Shelbyville, IL	Twilight
1st Wahoo Charter	66.2	William Hearne - Harriman, TN	100 Proof
2nd Wahoo Charter	65.0	Trae Burris - Manchester, TN	100 Proof
1st Almaco Jack Charter	29.8	James Solomon - Collierville, TN	Twilight
2nd Almaco Jack Charter	24.4	Aiden Kellner - Cartersville, GA	Bow'd Up
1st Black Snapper Charter	10.4	Fraya-Bell Steakly - McMinnville, TN	Big John
2nd Black Snapper Charter	9.6	Gordon Jones - Breeman, GA	Anastasia
1st Triggerfish Charter	9.4	Tristin Mills - Fort Walton Beach, FL	ReWind
2nd Triggerfish Charter	8.0	Josh Newbern - Steamboat Springs, CO	Destination

Party Boat Division

1st King Mackerel Party	30.0	Ron Sheridan - Crestview, FL	Destin Princess
2nd King Mackerel Party	16.8	Douglas Brigman - Mars Hill, NC	Destin Princess
1st Amberjack Party	56.4	Marlin Perry - Ashland City, TN	American Spirit
2nd Amberjack Party	54.0	Austin Brady - Shephardsville, KY	Swoop II
1st Blackfin Tuna Party	24.6	Ron Sheridan - Crestview, FL	Destin Princess
2nd Blackfin Tuna Party	23.8	Ron Sheridan - Crestview, FL	Destin Princess
1st Mingo Snapper Party	5.2	Jake Bicknell - Erivan, KY	Destin Princess
2nd Mingo Snapper Party	4.8	Mike Tipton - Irvine, KY	Destin Princess
1st Scamp Party	12.4	Randall Duncan - Crestview, FL	Sweet Jody
2nd Scamp Party	8.4	Ron Gros - Covington, LA	American Spirit
1st Wahoo Party	40.2	Dickie Harrison - Crestview, FL	Swoop II
2nd Wahoo Party	30.0	Erika Kerfien - Shalimar, FL	Sweet Jody
1st Almaco Jack Party	9.6	Monique Bromley - Lawrence, KS	Destin Princess
2nd Almaco Jack Party	8.4	Marlin Perry - Ashland City, TN	American Spirit
1st Black Snapper Party	12.6	Elle Keplinger - Cokato, MN	American Spirit
2nd Black Snapper Party	12.2	Art Summers - Miramar Beach, FL	American Spirit
1st Triggerfish Party	11.0	Becky McMaster - Shalimar, FL	Sweet Jody
2nd Triggerfish Party	8.6	Maksym Huativ - Duluth, GA	Destin Princess

Murphy's Home Services Junior Angler Division

1st Junior King Mackerel	27.0	Ethan Dover - Mary Esther, FL	Muscle Memories
2nd Junior King Mackerel	21.4	Bailey Madsen - Brentwood, TN	Stelluna
1st Junior Amberjack	89.8	Fisher Parker - Destin, FL	100 Proof
2nd Junior Amberjack	75.6	James Solomon - Collierville, TN	Twilight
1st Junior Blackfin Tuna	26.0	Yanasa Alvarez - Flomaton, AL	Into the Blue
2nd Junior Blackfin Tuna	25.4	Ariel Dover - Mary Esther, FL	Muscle Memories
1st Junior Wahoo	41.2	Jaxon Powell - Destin, FL	100 Proof
2nd Junior Wahoo	33.0	Carl Dean Aplin - Ponce De Leon, FL	Destiny

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Ocean Reef Vacation Rentals and Real Estate 26' & Under - Charter Boat Division

1 st King Mackerel	33.2	Austin Zeigler – Fort Walton Beach, FL	Game Changer
2 nd King Mackerel	18.2	Jason Lewis - Dever, NC	On The Bite Too
1 st Amberjack	42.8	Joseph Fisher - Destin, FL	30A Light Tackle
2 nd Amberjack	34.6	David Towery - Birmingham, AL	Catch 22
1 st Blackfin Tuna	25.8	Barna Demeter - Destin, FL	On The Bite Too
2 nd Blackfin Tuna	25.4	Laszlo Feczko - Destin, FL	On The Bite Too
1 st Mingo Snapper	3.4	Bert Savoir - Fort Walton Beach, FL	Silver King
2 nd Mingo Snapper	2.8	Matt Johnson - Shalimar, FL	Silver King
1 st Scamp	9.6	Danny Renn - Fort Walton Beach, FL	Silver King
2 nd Scamp	4.4	Joseph Fisher - Destin, FL	30A Light Tackle
1 st Wahoo	18.0	Austin Zeigler - Fort Walton Beach, FL	Game Changer
1 st Almaco Jack	12.4	Wesley Collins - Fort Walton Beach, FL	Catch 22
2 nd Almaco Jack	10.6	Steve Eddy - Battle Creek, MI	Catch 22
1 st Black Snapper	7.8	Dave Bromley - Eagan, MN	On The Bite Too
2 nd Black Snapper	7.2	Marvin Ragin - Freeport, FL	On The Bite Too
1 st Triggerfish	9.4	Ignacio Gonzalez - Fort Walton Beach, FL	Silver King
2 nd Triggerfish	7.6	Will Reese - Albany, GA	On The Bite Too

Boshamps Seafood & Oyster House Private Boat Division

1 st King Mackerel Private	37.8	Doug Lambert - Miramar Beach, FL	Wired Up
2 nd King Mackerel Private	32.6	Doug Lambert - Miramar Beach, FL	Wired Up
1 st Amberjack Private	82.8	Tony Dover - Mary Esther, FL	Muscle Memories
2 nd Amberjack Private	67.6	Greg Lankfer - Grand Rapids, MI	AssureCatch
1 st Blackfin Tuna Private	24.6	Michael Sheppard - Destin, FL	Aquaholics
2 nd Blackfin Tuna Private	24.0	Mac Garner - Hernando, MS	What's Next
1 st Mingo Snapper Private	4.4	Derrick Dover – Mary Esther, FL	Muscle Memories
2 nd Mingo Snapper Private	4.2	Andrew Dover - Mary Esther, FL	Muscle Memories
1 st Scamp Private	16.6	Tony Dover - Mary Esther, FL	Muscle Memories
2 nd Scamp Private	14.0	Greg Lankfer - Grand Rapids, MI	AssureCatch
1 st Wahoo Private	97.0	Jeff Hall - Gulf Breeze, FL	Raymarine/Strike Too
2 nd Wahoo Private	50.6	Drew Spady - Gulf Breeze, FL	Tunnel Vision
1 st Almaco Jack Private	19.4	Deanna Ovsak - Niceville, FL	Plane II Sea
2 nd Almaco Jack Private	16.6	Don Hearn – Destin, FL	Fifty/Fifty
1 st Black Snapper Private	5.8	Mike Wright - Merritt Island, FL	Wright Hook
2 nd Black Snapper Private	5.2	George Schrand - Denver, CO	AssureCatch
1 st Triggerfish Private	10.0	Justin Robinson - Chattanooga, TN	Fluid Mechanics
2 nd Triggerfish Private	7.0	David Tijerina - Fort Walton Beach, FL	Muscle Memories

Senior Division

1 st Senior King Mackerel	23.0	Brenda Barbee - Valpariaso, FL	Stelluna
1 st Amberjack	91.0	Joe Bytell - Hartford, WI	100 Proof
2 nd Amberjack	90.0	Jeff Cowen - Birmingham, AL	100 Proof
1 st Senior Blackfin Tuna	25.2	Jim Leslie - Hinton, WV	Huntress
2 nd Senior Blackfin Tuna	24.8	William Haire - Sardis, MS	Special K
1 st Senior Wahoo	49.4	Dave Miller - Destin, FL	Big John
2 nd Senior Wahoo	36.2	Charlotte McKee - Broomfield, CO	Back Down 2

Community Bank 26' & Under Private Boat Division

1 st King Mackerel	36.0	Ryan Camacho – Panama City, FL	Big Jerk
2 nd King Mackerel	20.6	Spencer Stewart - Winchester, KY	Low Budget
1 st Amberjack	52.8	John Lovendale - Gulf Breeze, FL	Reel Work
2 nd Amberjack	39.6	Brian Threlkeld - Navarre, FL	Lil Bit
1 st Blackfin Tuna	22.2	Cameron Cowan - Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Lucille
2 nd Blackfin Tuna	21.8	Cristina Smith - Destin, FL	Last 5
1 st Mingo Snapper	3.0	Andrew Cozad - Milton, FL	Destin-Ation
2 nd Mingo Snapper	2.8	DONALD OWENS - PIEDMONT, SC	Destin-Ation
1 st Scamp	9.8	Gary Perrin - Fort Walton Beach, FL	Big Jerk
2 nd Scamp	4.8	Chip Browning - Shalimar, FL	Big Jerk
1 st Wahoo	44.2	Conlin Arrowsmith - Fort Walton Beach, FL	Blind Hog
2 nd Wahoo	33.0	Tanner James Hicks - Richmond Hill, GA	Fight's On
1 st Almaco Jack	6.8	Joseph Silva - Miramar Beach, FL	Dei Gratia
2 nd Almaco Jack	4.6	Tony Todd - Apison, TN	True Grit
1 st Black Snapper	8.0	Josh Castle - Destin, FL	Low Budget
2 nd Black Snapper	7.2	Jacob Castle - Destin, FL	Low Budget
1 st Triggerfish	10.4	Joseph Silva - Miramar Beach, FL	Dei Gratia
2 nd Triggerfish	7.6	Joseph Silva - Miramar Beach, FL	Dei Gratia

Half Hitch Tackle Offshore Division

1 st Barracuda	41.2	Robert Ponder - Griffin, GA	Finest Kind
2 nd Barracuda	25.8	Tony Tenore - Destin, FL	Dawn Patrol
1 st Bonito	17.0	Darrell Nielsen - Navarre, FL	Special K
2 nd Bonito	16.4	Garrett Mason - Anderson, AL	Special K
1 st Dolphin	11.0	Ryan Simmons - Marietta, GA	Lady Em
2 nd Dolphin	9.8	Audrey Hopkins - Denver, CO	Back Down 2
1 st Yellowfin Tuna	79.8	Mitch Mowery - Murray, KY	Deep Charters
2 nd Yellowfin Tuna	79.6	Dan Koch - Murray, KY	Deep Charters

Billfish Division

Largest Blue Marlin	621.2	Styles Tolbert - Destin, FL	Up To It
Largest Sailfish	39.8	John Garber - Lafayette, LA	Tina's Destiny
Largest Swordfish	171.0	Casey Whitlock - Crestview, FL	Twilight

Boathouse Oyster Bar & Marina Reef Division

1 st Cobia	36.6	Teresa Reynolds - Athens, AL	First Light
2 nd Cobia	31.8	Nick Collins - Turtle Town, TN	Huntress
1 st Lane Snapper	2.6	Brandon Spense - Dothan, AL	Ex"Spence"ive
2 nd Lane Snapper	2.4	Fisher Sadler - Alpharetta, GA	Home Grown

The Ship's Chandler and Shimano Inshore Division

1 st Flounder	3.2	Tim Lewis - Prairie Grove, AR	Goin' Coastal
2 nd Flounder	2.8	Kevin McDaniel – Shalimar FL	Hat Trick
1 st Redfish	7.2	Hunter Owen - Collierville, TN	Goin' Coastal
2 nd Redfish	7.0	Beau Mayfield - Memphis, TN	Goin' Coastal
1 st Spanish Mackerel	4.8	Kylie Madsen - Brentwood, TN	Stelluna
2 nd Spanish Mackerel	4.4	Ford Taylor - Tampa, FL	On The Bite Too
1 st Speckled Trout	4.8	Chris Perley - Miramar Beach, FL	Playing Catch
2 nd Speckled Trout	3.6	David Pitchers - Dorsey, IL	On The Bite Too

Fort Walton Machining Extended Voyage Division

1 st Amberjack	84.8	Tyler Hunley - Blaine, TN	Lady Em
2 nd Amberjack	76.6	Andrew Hart - Freeport, FL	Bow'd Up
1 st Scamp	19.4	Bill Heineken - Navarre, FL	Lady Em
2 nd Scamp	18.4	Zip Dancy - Norris, TN	Lady Em
1 st Yellowfin Tuna	200.4	Forrest Holdsworth - Georgetown, KY	Lady Em
2 nd Yellowfin Tuna	193.2	Gregg Lewis - Destin, FL	Angel's Share 2
1 st Wahoo	61.4	Christopher Alex Hayes - McDonough, GA	Seahorse
2 nd Wahoo	49.0	Emmer Molina - Panama City, FL	Bow'd Up
1 st Almaco Jack	25.6	Paul Schoeneberg - Navarre, FL	Lady Em
2 nd Almaco Jack	10.4	Bret Ballard - Franklin, TX	Lady Em
1 st Dolphin	12.2	Patrick Stricklen - Dixon, TN	First Light
2 nd Dolphin	11.4	Daniel Salters - Bigelow, AR	First Light
1 st Yellowedge Grouper	14.6	Casey Whitlock - Crestview, FL	Twilight
2 nd Yellowedge Grouper	14.4	John Burton - Wayne, OH	Twilight

Okaloosa Island Pier Pier, Bridge, Jetty and Surf Division

Largest King Mackerel PBJS	12.2	Jerry Smith - Fort Walton Beach, FL	PBJS
Largest Spanish Mackerel PBJS	3.2	Bill Ireland - Santa Rosa Beach, FL	PBJS
Largest Pompano PBJS	2.6	Robert Green - Destin, FL	PBJS
Largest Redfish PBJS	7.0	Alto Jackson III - Destin, FL	PBJS
Largest Speckled Trout PBJS	3.4	Jerry Harris - Shalimar, FL	PBJS
Largest Flounder PBJS	3.0	Tristen Vacks - Destin, FL	PBJS
Largest Sheepshead PBJS	4.6	Larry Walker - Destin, FL	PBJS
Largest Senior Any Species PBJS	5.4	Jerry Harris - Shalimar, FL	PBJS
Largest Junior Any Species PBJS	3.4	Lilia Dover - Mary Esther, FL	PBJS

Friends and Family of Abram Sitcer Kayak - Abram Sitcer Memorial Division

Largest Flounder	1.8	Derrick Dover – Mary Esther, FL	Sea Note
Largest King Mackerel	13.6	Derrick Dover - Mary Esther, FL	Sea Note
Largest Redfish	4.0	Jerrett Cleveland - Niceville, FL	The Blue & Yellow One
Largest Speckled Trout	2.0	Derrick Dover – Mary Esther, FL	Sea Note
Largest Spanish Mackerel	3.6	Dennis Kalmon - Bloomington, IN	Kalmon Kayak

Mason Hupp Memorial Mako My Day Shark Division

1 st of the Tournament	263.6	Rick Starling - Acworth, GA	Misa
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BOTE Paddleboards Paddleboard Division

1 st Any Species	6.4	Ken Machuta - Shalimar, FL	Flotsam
2 nd Any Species	4.0	Albee Wheeler - Destin, FL	Got It

The Trophy Center FIRST FISH Division

First in Tournament	2.0	Grayson Gunter - De Funiak Springs, FL	PBJS
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The Wynsong Jim Wilson, Jr. Memorial Billfish Catch and Release Division

1 st Billfish	8 Releases	Gregg Lewis - Destin, FL	Angel's Share 2
2 nd Billfish	3 Releases	Dave Bromley - Eagan, MN	Lady Em

Charter Boat Twilight Deep Drop Division Division

Largest Barrel Fish	21.4	Joe Moody - Bartlett, TN	Twilight
Largest Tile	16.2	Reece Petrolle - Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Home Grown
Largest Kitty Mitchell	24.2	Reece Petrolle - Santa Rosa Beach, FL	Home Grown
Largest Snowy Grouper	40.8	Tim Nielsen - Fort Walton BEach, FL	Tunnel Vision
Largest Warsaw	19.0	Misty Fariss - Niceville, FL	Sea Fix
Largest Yellowedge Grouper	20.4	John Hawkes - Murfreesboro, TN	Twilight





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ABOUT US

Since our founding in 2005 the museum has preserved and taught our city's history. The museum features the history of the early pioneers from the 1830s and the history of the fishing industry from seine boats to the boats that you see in the Destin Harbor today.

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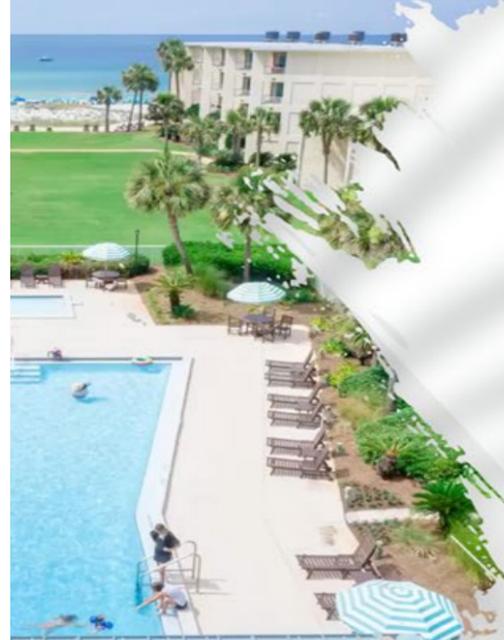



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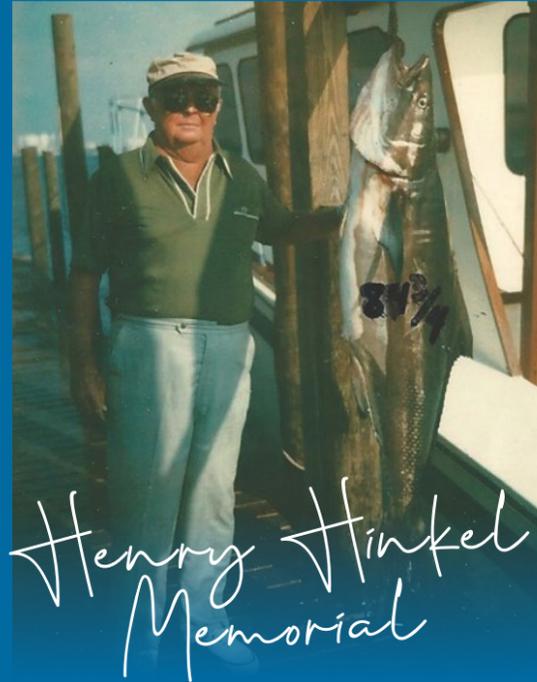

The Brant Kelly Memorial

Brant Kelly grew up in a little house on “the hill” over looking Kelly Docks... As a kid, he and friends would ride their tethered bikes off the Destin bridge, swim to shore, fish their bikes out of the water, and repeat! He had many stories about growing up on the docks in Destin.



He recalled the days when it was a big deal if a car ventured down Hwy 98! His fishing days started early, working for his grandfather, Coleman Kelly, on the first party boats in Destin. We always said, “he had salt water in his veins”!! Brant moved from party boats, to charter boats, to building his very own charter boats... His floating works of art can still be seen in the Destin harbor, making a living on the water today.... His first boat, that he built himself, was the Charter Boat Lady K, now the Destination. He ran the Lady K for 20 years. Following in it’s wake came the Charter Boat Relentless, still owned and operated by his family today. By “built them himself” I mean, he had the hulls laid up in Alabama and they came to Brant as a 56’, and later a 65’ “canoe”!! He sculpted every inch of the rest, himself- an intuitive master engineer with a degree that came only from a life on the water. He built these boats from plans in his head. When asked how on earth he could build a boat with no drawings, his only

response was, “I couldn’t draw it, I didn’t know what it was going to look like!” Brant took this creative approach on most things in life, always making his fishing trips, not just “fish catching missions” for his customers, but adventures that create memories to last a lifetime. As he turned his boat over to it’s current captain, he didn’t emphasize how many fish to catch, or how hard to run the boat, he emphasized how important it was to make it FUN. Of course that always involved catching their limit of whatever was open at the time, but, most importantly, make it fun.... If the bite was slow one day, he’d always say “that’s why they call it fishin’ not catchin’!!” Brant loved Destin and loved the fishing community. He was always available to offer a hand or a piece of advice to anyone... He appreciated all those in the industry that kept it afloat, especially the hard working mates, who are there long before their parties arrive and stay long after. His family feels privileged to sponsor this Mate’s award in his honor.



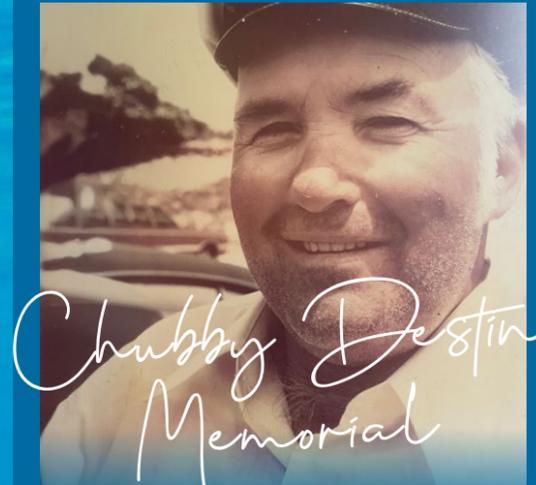
Henry Hinkel Memorial

CHARTER BOAT KING MACKEREL AWARD Henry Hinkel was a great fisherman who loved Destin! These two facts showed in the many ways he gave to the City as well as the Destin Fishing Rodeo. He paid for the first “Welcome to Destin” sign by the bridge, a roof for the library and the Destin Fishing Rodeo Office Building! He donated many of the mounted fish that are displayed in the Destin History and Fishing Museum and the City Hall. Henry Hinkel was an avid fisherman and still holds the record for the largest king mackerel in the Rodeo. He fished exclusively with Tommy Browning on the Finest Kind. The Henry Hinkel Memorial Award is a small way to honor a man who gave so much to the city that he loved. Capt. Tommy and Janie Browning.



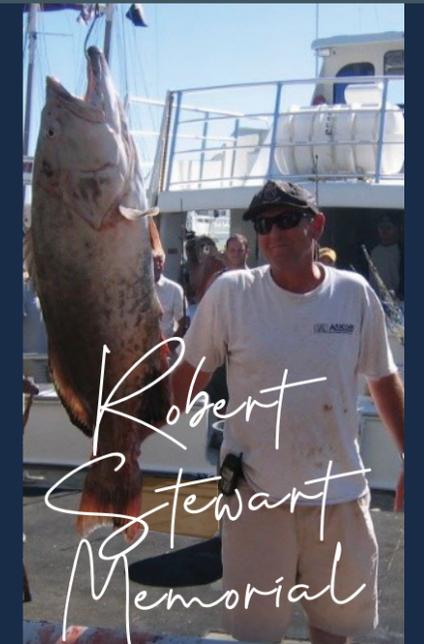
Ham Palmgren Memorial

CHARTER BOAT AMBERJACK AWARD The Palmgren Family has been coming to this area since the late 60s to fish and enjoy the Emerald Coast. They always booked three days of fishing while on their vacation and until 1973 always fished out of Panama City. In 1973 they came to Destin and never fished Panama City again! Ham Palmgren loved fishing for King Mackerel and Cobia, but by far his weakness was fishing for billfish. He felt he fished with some of the finest Captains in Destin William Frank Davis, Chubby Destin, Steve Wilson, Tommy Browning, Brant Kelly and David Windes. Ham enjoyed all of their mates, but had a special affinity for David Windes’ mate aboard the Miss Lisa and Seascape; Charlie Martin. In 1982 the Palmgren’s “retired” and moved to Destin, and volunteered to judge the Rodeo that first year. When Marcia Green was director, she asked his wife Marion to help out at the Rodeo every day from 10-12. Mr. Ham was there most days that year, and every year after until 2012. Ham served as a Rodeo Judge every year that he was able, and when he wasn’t judging, he was running errands, going to the bank, post office, hardware store, wherever he was needed he pitched in, with a smile and kind words for everyone he met. Halloween was Ham’s favorite day of the year! He loved to dress up and play the part of his character every year. A few of his more memorable costumes were Popeye, A Hooter’s Girl named “Candy”, Bob Marley, Pirate, Fish Head, vampire, caveman and a Sumo Wrestler and by far his favorite was the Hospital patient – where he showed “his” rear! Ham passed away in 2013 at the age 92. The Rodeo will surely miss this truly southern gentleman.



Chubby Destin Memorial

KING MACKEREL JACKPOT AWARDS Capt. H.F. “Chubby” Destin was a great competitor in the Destin Fishing Rodeo and always looked forward to fishing his Charter Boat “Shooting Star” in it. He was the recipient of the Sportsmanship Trophy in 1968; the Leonard Hutchinson Memorial Trophy in 1971 & 1973; the largest Blue Marlin Division in 1969; the largest King Mackerel Division in 1957, 64-69, 73; and, the Overall King Mackerel Division in 1973. The Traveling Captain’s award was retired to him after winning it 3 times. He caught his largest king in the last Rodeo he fished in 1973. He loved to fish, was passionate about the fishing industry and was not afraid to speak his mind to anyone who challenged the industry, and usually did. He was a compassionate man and would help anyone who needed help. In the years since his passing, we have been privileged to have complete strangers share their memories of his kindness. He was a wonderful husband and father. We miss him daily.



Robert Stewart Memorial

PARTY BOAT GROUPEUR AWARD Robert Brian Stewart (November 27, 1954 - February 1, 2012), affectionately known as “Captain Bob”, fished every year in the Destin Fishing Rodeo since 1972. He often referred to himself as a “Fishing Machine”, as fishing was his greatest passion. Bob’s two (2) favorite t-shirts to wear bore the slogans, “Fish Fear Me” and “Shut up and Fish!” Bob’s greatest accomplishment fishing was winning the 2005 Destin Fishing Rodeo Party Boat Grouper Division reeling in a 61LB Grouper he affectionately named, “Mr. Grouper.” Accordingly, Bob’s family and friends have sponsored the 2014 Grouper Party Boat Award in Bob’s Honor.



Mason Hupp
Memorial

“MAKO MY DAY” SHARK AWARD Mason was born and raised on the Emerald Coast, in Fort Walton Beach, to be exact, and loved being outside, whether at the beach, on a boat, on a dock, on the soccer field or our own backyard. He was exuberant about everything in life from family, community, soccer, even perfecting his practical jokes. He had this fantastic charm and wit. He could talk his way out of trouble and right into your heart. Mason was one you could always count on to be there for you and was usually the first to arrive

and the last one to leave. When you met Mason, you met a friend. Mason grew up fishing and playing soccer and absolutely loved both. Actually, he began both at the ripe old age of three! As a family, we’d load up our boat and fish nearly every weekend in the Gulf! By the time the sun was up, we were on the water. To Mason, it didn’t matter that he would get seasick, nearly every outing, he never missed a trip. Luckily he got his sea legs and stomach nearing age ten! One of his proudest moments came when he was about five and his grandfather “Rabbit” took him fishing at the bay. By the end of the day they had caught a whole string of pinfish! As fishing stories go, we “ate” his prized catch. By the time Mason arrived at college he would fish just about anywhere, the beach, pier, dock, you name it. He loved the people he met, the peace of the water and especially the thrill, excitement and the fight of catching the “big one”. One day, he had a mission, to catch a shark! And he did! His friend and he caught and released a five-foot nurse shark, in the dark! To them it was “the big one”! Every October we’d look forward to the fishing rodeo to share the stories and to be apart of the excitement right here in our own backyard. The love of fellow fisherman who started their adventures in much the same way Mason did, catching a string of pinfish. We dedicate the Mason Hupp Memorial Mako-My-Day Shark Award in our son’s honor and memory.



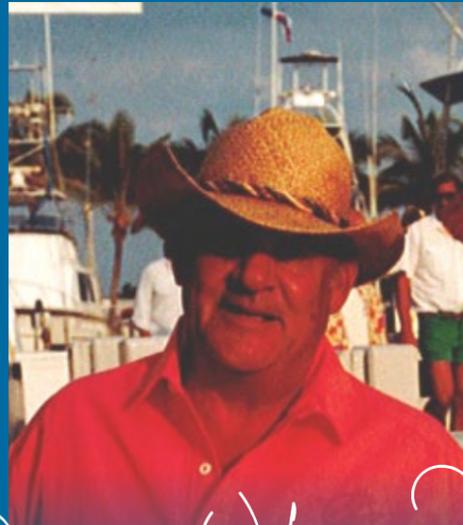
Abram Hunter Sitcer
Memorial

KAYAK DIVISION Abram Hunter went fishing with Jesus on April 28th, 2019. Abram entered the world with a bang on Nov. 18, 2006 and kept his parents Kevin & Amanda running since that day. “Brum”, as he was affectionately known, had one older brother, Bradley Gunner Sitcer. They were often mistaken as twins since they were only 1 year and 9 days apart. They became “Irish Twins” and have been inseparable since. Abram accomplished many goals and fulfilled his passions. He swam with the sharks & stingrays at the Ripley’s aquarium in Myrtle Beach, went scuba-diving with the crew of the “Aquanaut”, flew an airplane, and went on stage with his favorite bands, Great White & Blink 182. He was a lifelong scout, as a Wolf, Bear, Webelo, Arrow of Light, Scout, and Tenderfoot. He loved riding his bike with his brother, fishing with his dad, beaching with his mom, visiting his grandparents, building & creating, legos, anime, and he loved his dogs – Stryker, Lexi, & Destiny. Since moving to Niceville, FL in 2015, Abram grew to love the Destin Fishing Rodeo. The “Rodeo” is an annual event that Abram looked forward to and you would always see Abram wearing the new t-shirt designs as soon as they went up for sale at the rodeo office. Abram loved watching the weigh-ins. Whether it was Abram weighing in a junior daily winning fish off the Sweet Jody, or going to watch his dad weigh-in for the kayak division. Abrams’ love of others & nature was constantly displayed in everything he did. His sensitive heart, unpredictable and uncensored sense of humor, love of music and dancing will be missed every moment by all that love him. Abram loved “happy endings” & would want all of us to continue towards our own, and for those fishing the rodeo he would say “FISH ON!”



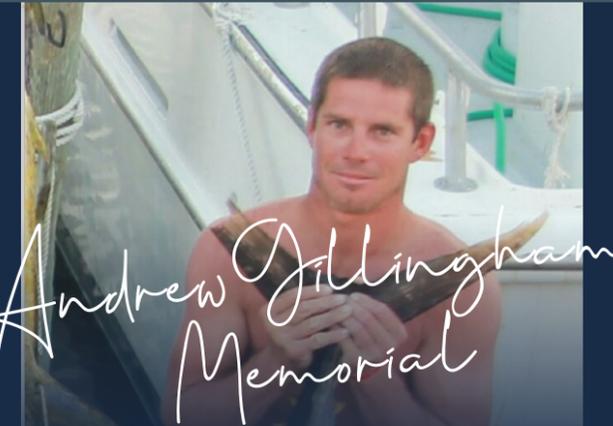
Michael Thomas
McKinney Memorial

CHARTER BOAT MATES AWARD Michael McKinney, affectionately known to us as Mini Mac, MT, or just Mike, was a born fisherman...and then he practiced! He caught his first fish at age 2 and never looked back. On his eighth birthday in 1977 Mike went deep sea fishing for the first time under the tutelage of Captain Tom Marler aboard Her Majesty. After that, his love for fishing in Destin only grew. In 1978, 1979 and 1980 Mike won first place in the Junior Division of The Destin Fishing Rodeo. Mike fished with many of Destin’s great captains and went on to work on numerous boats of the Destin Fleet. He truly loved to teach people the joy of fishing and gave that gift to friends, family and the many customers aboard the boats where he worked and fished. Mike’s academic interests were centered on fishing. He accepted a college scholarship to study Fisheries Management in Alaska. During that time he was recognized as Distinguished Fisheries Management Student at the University of Alaska. Mike was a published writer, award winning photographer and artist. All those who knew Mike knew he was a man devoted to friends, family and his passion for fishing.



James Wilson Jr.
Memorial

BILLFISH CATCH & RELEASE DIVISION Mr. James Wilson, Jr. started fishing out of Destin in 1975 with his first Sportfishing Boat “Wynsong”. He enthusiastically enjoyed offshore fishing, especially billfishing. Over the years he participated in all of the Gulf Coast and many of the Bahamas Billfish tournaments. He was very successful in all of them, leaving behind a legacy of good sportsmanship, competition and comradery among his peers and young folks of today. Jim very much enjoyed releasing the billfish so others could enjoy their mighty performances. We know he would be honored to sponsor the Catch and Release division of the Destin Fishing Rodeo.



Andrew Gillingham
Memorial

FIRST PLACE SWORDFISH Andrew Gillingham was a part of the Destin Fishing Fleet during some of the best times. The charter fleet has a comradery that can only be compared to a mix of Groundhog Day, Hangover and Apocalypse Now. The days are long but the years are short. The professionalism for the art, the competitions that spawn and the love for each other is real and raw. Charter fishing in Destin, FL. takes grit, dedication, knowledge, patience, determination and wisdom. And I am here to tell you that Andrew had all of those amazing qualities as one of the best humans to ever walk the docks of Destin. Andrew was an extremely talented fisherman. His passion for fishing made him a fish magnet and there are plenty of photos and videos to prove it. Andrew had the patience of Jobe with the kids while fishing and pure joy was all over his face when he helped them reel in their first fish. Tuna, Wahoo, Snappers or Swords didn’t stand a chance when Andrew was out fishing. As our tears rolled down our cheeks as we said goodbye, the fish breathed a small sigh of relief. We as a community miss him dearly and the friendships he had here are still waiting on him to hop on down the dock with that swanky smile. The soap down the water hoses will just have to wait for the next generation of pranksters.

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LARRY HATCHETT

Teaching kids to fish is the very heart of the Larry Hatchett Fishing Foundation, and for the last 34 years the foundation has done just that.

The Larry Hatchett Fishing Foundation was created as a memorial to Larry Hatchett, a lifelong Memphian who fished all over the world. His greatest joy, however, was fishing in the Gulf. Larry called Destin “the capital of his soul.” He often took children fishing with him, as he enjoyed both teaching them how to fish as well as seeing their elation when they reeled in their first catch. Larry faced an untimely death at the age of 34, and this prompted the formation of the Larry Hatchett Fishing Foundation’s annual trip so that Larry’s legacy could live on.

The 35th annual trip is scheduled for October 17-19, 2025 and will include foster children from homes in Florida, Tennessee, and Mississippi. Many of the participants have never had the opportunity to see the beach or swim in the gulf, and some have never traveled outside of their hometown. Each year approximately 115 kids will have the opportunity to fish in the gulf while learning about marine habitats and environmental awareness. They will also have the chance to form meaningful relationships with others in similar situations as their own. Justice, a former participant states,

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“If you give a man a fish, he will eat for a day.

If you teach a man to fish, he will eat for a lifetime.

If you teach a child to fish, he may feed the world.”

- Larry Hatchett

LARRY HATCHETT



fishing foundation

LARRY HATCHETT FISHING FOUNDATION



“These trips were like the light at the end of the tunnel... we could forget about all of our problems and the difficult times we went through and will continue to go through. The LHFF made my time in the foster care system so much better.” Justice is now an adult volunteer for the foundation.

Furthermore, the event affects the volunteers that help make the trip a reality. “This has been both an honor and a privilege for us to help those who have faced so many challenges throughout their lives. Our goal is to eventually take 1,000+ kids each year.” (Bob Wilder, Foundation President). Eric Westbrook, director on The American Spirit as well as LHFF board member states, “This is one of my favorite trips each year because the foundation is very dear to my heart.”

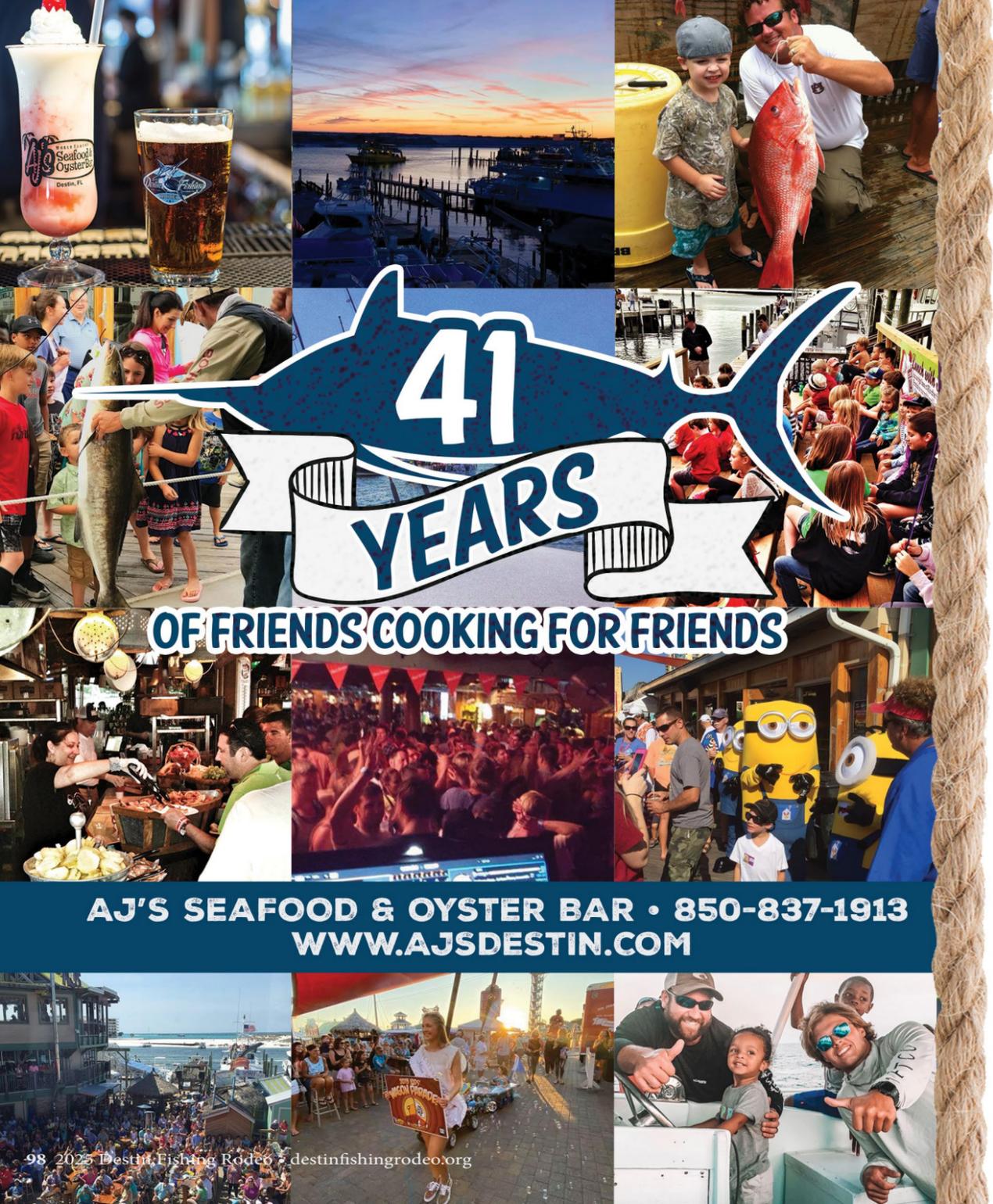


Throughout the years our volunteers have worked with the foster parents to become mentors to many of the participants. These mentor-type relationships have helped teach kids life skills such as how to shave their face, how to write a college essay, and have guided them through challenging life situations.

The Larry Hatchett Fishing Foundation as well as everyone involved always looks forward to the Rodeo competition. In 2008, one of our participants won first place in the triggerfish division and another placed third overall. In 2010 one of our youth won a \$2,500 Education IRA from the Rodeo. The Foundation is also a Rodeo sponsor and funds the Bonnie Orr Memorial Award for the Miss Destin Pageant winner.

This year the kids will fish with Captain Jim Green aboard The American Spirit. Fish Florida contributes funds towards the cost of the boat, and corporate as well as individual sponsors donate funds to pay expenses for travel, fuel, lodging, meals/snacks, fishing rods, and other souvenirs that each child gets to take home with them. As a non-profit organization, each contribution is vital for the foundation to continue our mission to one day “feed the world.” We extend many thanks to the Destin community and all that support this mission.

For more information or to make a contribution please contact LarryHatchettFishing@gmail.com or find us on Facebook, Instagram, or visit www.LarryHatchett.com



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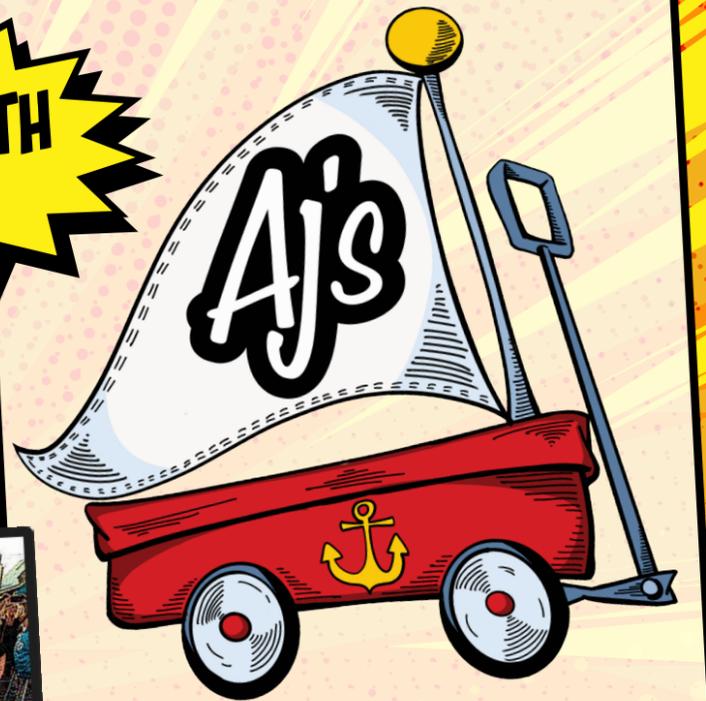
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**OCT. 5TH
4PM**



Join us and the Destin Fishing Rodeo for an afternoon of fun on Sunday, October 5th!

Build your own wagon and join us for the 17th Annual Kids Wagon Parade, A free family event on the Destin Harbor at AJ's. Decorate your wagon to look like a sailing sloop, charter boat, pirate ship, or bathtub! Whatever your boat designer kid dreams up! Oh yes, everyone's a winner and receives a commemorative medal!

Don't have a wagon to enter? you can still join the fun on the docks watching the fish get weighed in, and watching the parade... also 100 kids will receive a Kids Fishing Pole from AJ's Seafood & Oyster Bar and the Destin Fishing Rodeo.

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