Columbia Sportswear Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic Announced For May 13-14, 2011



JACKSONVILLE, FL – January 24, 2011 – JaxKayakFishing.com, Northeast Florida's online kayak fishing community, has again announced plans for the world's largest kayak fishing tournament to be held in Jacksonville, Florida on May 13-14. The 8th annual <u>Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic</u> promotes kayak fishing in Jacksonville with a fun conservation-oriented format and raises funds for children's programs at the <u>Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville</u> and the <u>Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation</u>. The <u>Columbia Sportswear Company</u>, the global leader in active outdoor apparel, is the title sponsor.

Officials expect that once again more than **350** kayak anglers will target Redfish, Trout, and Flounder in a catch-photo-release format with more than **\$80,000** in prizes and gifts. Last year's Classic had a world's largest attendance of **430** paddlers with more than **\$80,000** in prizes and gifts. The Classic raised over **\$40,000** for local children's and conservation charities.

The captain's meeting is scheduled for May 13th at Jacksonville's **St. Ephrem Syriac Catholic Church**. Check-in, awards ceremonies, and a banquet are set for May 14th at Jacksonville's **St. Ephrem Syriac Catholic Church**. The entry fee is \$75 and includes a custom Columbia fishing shirt, captain's bag, rights to fish, entry into the raffles, and catered meals at the captain's meeting and check-in banquet. Anglers will be launching and fishing at any inshore location within Duval, Nassau, St. John's, Flagler, Camden, and Glynn counties.

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

The event is co-sponsored by many of North Florida's finest kayak and fishing retailers, including Strike-Zone Fishing, Black Creek Outfitters, Gander Mountain, Dick's Sporting Goods, All Wet Sports, Academy Sports, and AquaEast. The world's leading fishing kayak and accessory manufacturers are also sponsors: Jackson Kayaks, FreedomHawk Kayaks, Hobie Kayaks, Malibu Kayaks, Ocean Kayaks, Emotion Kayaks, Native Watercraft, Cobra, Wilderness Systems Kayaks, Accent Paddles, Yak-Gear.Com, and Malone.

Many prominent national brands such as Costa Del Mar, Penn, Daiwa, Guy Harvey, St. Croix, Tilley Hats, Tsunami, Mirrolure, Fishbites, Slayer Lures, Polar Bear Coolers, and DOA Lures are also major supporters. The Outdoors Show, Florida Sportfishing Magazine, Florida Sportsman, Kayak Fisherman Magazine, KayakFishingMagzine.Net, Kayak Angler Magazine, Coastal Angler Magazine, Fishing Connection, Canoe&Kayak Magazine, Paddler Magazine, and Great Atlantic Outfitters are promoting and advertising the event.

Kayak fisherman can register online at www.JacksonvilleKayakFishingClassic.com or pick up an entry form at Strike-Zone Fishing, Black Creek Outfitters, All Wet Sports, and Gander Mountain. More information, rules, and prize details are available online.

Sponsors for the 2011 Jacksonville Kayak Fishing Classic include: Columbia Sportswear, Strike Zone

Fishing, BlackCreek Outfitters, Gander Mountain, Accent Paddles, Hobie Kayaks, Cobra Kayaks, Costa Del Mar, Malibu Kayaks, Jackson Kayaks, FreedomHawk Kayaks, Emotion Kayaks, Advanced Elements, Wilderness Systems Kayaks, Ocean Kayaks, Native Watercraft, Academy Sports, Dick's Sporting Goods, Black Fly Outfitter, All Wet Sports, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, Purefishing, Great Atlantic Outfitters, Slayer Lures, Yak-Gear.Com, Creative Feathers Studio, Outdoors Show, BullFrog, Mirrolure, Daiwa, DOA Lures, Calcutta, Crack of Dawn, MTI, Surf To Summit, Malone Auto Racks, KayakFishingSupplies.Com, Kayak Amelia, Florida Sportsman, Kayak Fisherman Magazine, B&M Bait&Tackle, Talic, RAM, Polar Bear Coolers, Otter Box, Scotty Rod Holders, Daiichi Hooks, Hook1, GearKeeper, Slayer Lures, Fishbites, ThermaCELL, Penn Fishing, Exude Mister Twister, Kayak Angler Magazine, Stohlquist, AquaEast, Bite-A-Bait, Wheeleez, White Shell Bait&Tackle, Arlington Bait&Tackle, Extrasport, Carlisle, Tilley Hats, 3rd Grip CrateMate, Precision Pak, 321Fish.Com, Fisherman's Seafood & Bait, YakLife.Com, TTI-Blakemore Fishing Group, AT Paddles, Wang Anchors, Skwoosh, Helter Skeletons, Florida Sportfishing, IrishWaterDogs.com, Bluestorm, Stowmaster Nets, St. Croix Rods, Heddon, StandNFish.Com, BackwaterFishingAdventures.Com, FlyFishingJax.Com, QuickSlide Stringers, Qualia Fishing, ZackTack, RodWrap.Com.

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