

Welcome Jr. Anglers

Welcome to the 2009 *Water LIFE Magazine Kids Cup Redfish Tournament*. As most of you already know, the Kids Cup is a fund raiser for the Don Ball School of Fishing. That's an eight week course taught by local fishing guides in six local middle schools. I know some of this year's Kids Cup Competitors are graduates of the Don Ball School program. Congratulations to you all!

The Kids Cup has an ongoing relationship with the Redfish Cup. So if you make it to the Kids Cup Top-5 then the next weekend you'll be fishing as part of the Redfish Cup show in Punta Gorda and you'll weigh in on the ESPN-2 TV Stage. Then if you are the Kids Cup winner you and your adult guide will go on to fish in the IFA Ranger Boat Redfish Tour at Englewood in June for FREE. This will be the second year the IFA has offered this opportunity for the Kids Cup winner. You could go home from that event with a new boat!

We've worked to make the Kids Cup fun. Fun and no pressure are our operative words. A couple of years ago one Kids Cup angler's dad had a pontoon boat. They weren't sure they could compete with the anglers in flats boats. I told them that they had just as much of a chance of landing a redfish as anyone else. The Kids Cup



Fish Handler
Robert Lugiewicz



Weighmaster
Capt. Ralph Allen



Co-Director
Ellen Heller



There was lots of action at the 2008 Kids Cup weigh-in.

is a one-fish tournament and luck always plays a big part. As it turned out, they weighed-in a nice 6-plus pound redfish and they had fun!

This has been a hard year for businesses and sponsors. Money has been tight, but we have been fortunate to have such great community support. Please make an extra effort this year to thank our sponsors who make this tournament possible.

On tournament day the idea is to enjoy yourself, get out on the water early and watch the day unfold. We've made the Kids Cup a real adult style tournament, complete with specific rules and a fast-sequenced start. Please read the rules yourselves and please stay safe.

Be aware of the movements of the tide, is the water salty? Smell the morning air, look around, get a feeling for the area around you. It will

help your fishing and in the future it will help you take care of Charlotte Harbor. Catch some fish, handle and unhook them carefully, have fun. It doesn't get any better than that.

This year when you go out in the morning the tide will be falling and the fish could be hungry. Soon the water will start coming back in and more fish could be moving around with it. Be very quiet, don't make a sound on your boat and keep your eyes open. Shadows or little ripples on the water could be an approaching fish. Look for fish, think like a fish and you just might get a redfish to take your bait.

There are a lot of good baits in this year's captain's bags. Experiment with them and by all means be positive that you are going to catch that fish. You have to believe!

This year we are again going to tag



Tournament Director Michael Heller

all the tournament fish. Every fish will get a plastic orange streamer tag affixed and 20 of those fish will also have a sonic tag surgically implanted in them. This will all happen right at the end of the weigh-in dock. Go over and watch.

We want every angler that catches a redfish to weigh-in. We will again present a smallest fish award this year. If you weigh-in the lightest-weight legal-size redfish you get a very nice rod and reel combo.

We hope learning about tournament fishing in the *Kids Cup* and seeing the way experienced fishermen handle fish will be a valuable, informative and a fun experience for you. We will go over all the rules at the captain's meeting dinner on Friday night. We will have the official measuring board and all the awards there for you to inspect. Be careful and take especially good care of your redfish. We look forward to seeing you before 2:30 at the weigh-in dock. Good Luck!

Michael & Ellen Heller

Kids Cup Tournament Directors

SHRIMP - Shrimp have been available and of adequate size. Fishin' Franks in Port Charlotte, Rio Villa Bait & Tackle and Laishley Marina in Punta Gorda should all have live and frozen shrimp on tournament day. Call ahead to check store times and specific size availability. This tournament receives help from all the area bait and tackle shops. Please thank them!

A SPECIAL THANKS to Robert and Frank at Fishin' Franks Bait and Tackle in Port Charlotte for the effort they put out every year to enlist the support of their tackle suppliers to contribute to the Kids Cup tournament. Our sincere thanks once again goes to Robert and Frank.



Booker Cothorn 2008 Kids Cup Winner
This year's winner will be crowned at the **Redfish Cup weigh-in on Sunday May 3 at Laishley Marina**
WILL YOUR PICTURE BE HERE NEXT YEAR?

RULES CHANGE

Pease Note

In order to comply with the FWC's requirements for the Culling Waiver Permit for this tournament they asked us to tell you specifically:

- 1) "Anglers are not allowed to cull dead redfish. Per conditions of the culling permit, dead redfish cannot be culled, and a dead redfish is considered harvested and will count as the daily bag limit for the angler who caught that fish."
- 2) FWC mandates the livewell dimensions on the culling waiver must be met in order to take advantage of the waiver.