

February 16, 2019 Gator Fishing Tournament Details

Tournament rules:

1. You must be in the tournament to win; entry fee = \$ 2.00
2. Catch Must be Legal
3. Winner must land the fish
4. Winner will be decided by weight
5. Prize will be awarded at 3 p. m
6. The decision of the judges is final
7. You can catch-and-release:
 - Your fish will be weighed
 - A picture will be taken
 - You can release
8. If you accidentally hook a sea turtle:
 - Call the Loggerhead Marine Life Center (LMC) 24-hour rescue hotline at 561.603.0211
 - Manipulate your line to keep the sea turtle on the surface so it can breathe
 - Wait for LMC's arrival to help
9. A fishing permit is included in the pier admission

What you need to know:

1. Cost \$ 1.00 admission to enter the pier
2. Cost \$ 4.00 to fish from the pier (admission included)
3. Cost \$ 15.00 to rent fishing tackle (admission included)
4. Bait is available
5. No alcohol; no dogs
6. Coolers are permitted
7. Beach umbrellas are permitted
8. Bring a folding chair (there are pigeons and seagulls all over)
9. Bring a hat with a wide brim (there are pigeons and seagulls all over)
10. Basic snacks and beverages are available
11. Need sunblock – reflected rays will get you (even with a hat)
12. Thunderstorms in the area will cancel the event in a flash
13. Bring Chapstick lip balm – the salt air and wind work in synergy

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14. Dress according to the weather:
 - Dress in layers
 - The colder the weather, the more layers
 - The birds consider good clothes prime targets
15. Skip the jewelry – barracudas love to bite at flashy targets (in case you fall in the ocean)
16. Look for the pirate flags – that will be the tournament weighing station
17. Will need volunteers for the judges
18. Call 561.356.0886 on the day of the tournament for up-to-date information
19. No telling how many sports fans will show (it will depend on the weather) but - there will be at least one [Randy]
20. Attendance expected to be 80 % directly proportional to the weather, 10 % inversely proportional to the last happy hour, and 10 % directly proportional to the barometer
21. Talk to Randy before buying bait or renting equipment
22. What you catch generally depends on your bait:
 - Bluefish = lures and cut bait
 - Spanish mackerel = lures and jigs
 - Pompano = cut bait and jigs
 - Amberjack and blue runner = lures and cut bait
 - Croakers and whiting = cut bait
 - As in life, nothing is guaranteed
23. May stop at Kirby's or Thirsty Turtle after the event
24. A few may stop at Publix seafood counter after the event
25. Why are we here?
 - Companionship and comradery
 - Local education
 - Introduction to fishing
 - To have fun
26. Will have high and low tide data on the day of the event
27. Bring your own cooler if you plan to keep any fish you might catch

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28. The *Old Farmer's Almanac*, 2019, page 226, predicts good fishing:
 - One hour before and after high tide
 - One hour before and after low tide
 - When the moon is between new and full = February 4 - 19
29. Law says you must release a shark
30. Other things to do if you do not fish:
 - Volunteer to be a judge
 - Take a walk on the beach:
 - Great exercise
 - Look for seashells
 - Look for treasure
 - Play a game of L/C/R with seashells
 - Watch the surfers
 - Catch up on your smartphone maintenance
 - Yoga practice
 - Catch up on the latest gossip
 - Do a bit of birdwatching – pelicans, sandpipers, bikinis, crows, seagulls, ravens, pigeons, etc.
31. Fish are subject to inspection for barcodes, sinkers, makeup, etc.
32. Good news travels fast; if a big school of fish comes in, the pier will be elbows to elbows in no time
33. Parking is as always: the later you arrive, the farther you will have to walk