

## Pro Staff News

Volume 5 Issue 11 November

### Team Ocean Kayak rack at IFA Championship Orange Beach, AL

First of all we would like to thank Jerry, Mike and all the people at the IFA for a great tournament series, we had a blast at all of them. Frustrated at a few, humbled at a couple, and wore out at the end of all of them, you guys and gals always made us feel welcome and appreciated, you are first class group of people.

When we first started thinking about maybe traveling to this event, we were a bit overwhelmed with all the details. Both Clint and I have young toddlers at home, and Filip just retired from the city and started a new job recently, my recent wreck that took out my kayak trailer and 2 of my kayaks, we didn't think we'd get it all together in time. So we put out some feelers, first to respond was Fairhope Boat Company in Fairhope, Alabama. The wonderful people there offered to provide us with loaner kayaks to use in the tournament if we couldn't travel with kayaks. As it turned out Clint was able to schedule some business in New Orleans and load the kayaks, gear, and clothes in his truck and take them with him to New Orleans. Fil drove to Houston and he and I flew from Houston to New Orleans and jumped into the truck with Clint for the 2.5hr drive to Mobile

The venue was beautiful. Just over a pass bridge, on an inlet from the Gulf, awesome. Orange Beach in a pretty place, white coral sand beaches, beautiful blue water. Well that beautiful water and nice weather was a complete death sentence for those that didn't absolutely crush them. Man I wish it had been 30 degrees and 25mph winds and rain. I think our spots would have been competitive, they were more winter spots. But the weather was awesome 75 highs sunny and calm with a little wind changes at times. But that set off the fish. The guys fishing the southern areas killed them. We kind of chose our spots based on the year's results, area tournaments, weather, size, average slams etc. I guess what we never figured on was the surf. I could have sworn in Texas we were told that you couldn't fish the surf. Maybe I was thinking of the boat division, you know IFA Inshore Fishing, etc...I don't know but it was a brain cramp none the less...but weather permitting I think I know where I'm getting some of my fish next year. After seeing the results of day one 63.25" in 1st, 57.25 in 2nd, 51.75 in 3rd, and 49.50 in 4th, that was one of the funniest rides home after a tournament that I've ever had. I don't think any of our math was good enough to figure out how many inches we were behind.

But we made a vow, we were going to fish this thing out. We didn't care how many inches we were behind. We were going to grind out our trout spot and try and locate some better redfish in the same area. I kept telling people, every day we're here we learn something new that we can use. Fil rallied and had the 3rd best slam of the tournament with 55.25" and awesome slam and the 2nd biggest of the day, which was a constant source of a laugh for the rest of the time we were there.. All Fil kept saying is "Man, 55.25 inches and I still got beat by like 13 inches" Again funny. We all manned up and rallied. Fil got his big slam, Clint caught a 4 fish slam both days (red, trout, flounder, bass), and I at least caught a 28" red and a respectable 44.5" slam and we didn't quit.



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