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Georgetown County anglers have opportunity to participate in Redfish Tour, win boat package and cash prizes

GEORGETOWN COUNTY — Local anglers have a chance to win a lot more than bragging rights on Aug. 29, when the Inshore Fishing Association’s Redfish Tour comes to Georgetown County.

The top prize is a $26,000 Ranger/Yamaha boat package. A number of cash prizes will also be handed out. Even 20th place may net up to $500 (assuming 100 boats registered).

While Georgetown County is developing a reputation as a host site for major fishing events, most of the larger tournaments — such as the B.A.S.S. Nation Southern Divisional Championship that took place here in April — are open only to those who have already placed in qualifying events. One of the great things about hosting the Redfish Tour is that it gives fishermen who live right here in the county a chance to participate and win, even if they’ve never fished a tournament before, said County Administrator Sel Hemingway.

“You don’t have to have the most expensive boat or equipment. If you’ve got a good fishing spot or are just having a lucky day, that’s all you need right there,” Hemingway said.

This is the IFA’s third stop in Georgetown County in the last year, and the county saw more local anglers getting in on the action during the most recent event in May. Hemingway is hoping to see that trend continue.

The Redfish Tour, a one-day tournament, will launch from the Carroll Ashmore Campbell Marine Complex on the Sampit River at dawn Aug. 29. Weigh-in is at 3 p.m.
Tournament registration is from 5-7 p.m. Aug. 28 at the marine complex and will be followed by a meeting and dinner for participants. The marine complex is located at 101 River Walk Dr. A $30 membership to the IFA is needed to sign up for the competition and can be purchased at registration. Participants fish in two-person teams. Entry fee is $250 per team.

The IFA Kayak Tour also takes place in Georgetown that weekend, with launch time at dawn on Aug. 30. Registration for that event will be at the marine complex beginning at 5 p.m. Aug. 29, following Redfish Tour weigh-in. This competition is also open to everyone. Anglers fish alone in this event and entry fee is $50 per angler. A $10 IFA membership, available during registration, is required.

The Redfish Tour attracted 73 boats during its last stop in Georgetown County and many participants said they plan to compete again this month.

“We’re happy to welcome the IFA Redfish Tour back again, and we’re looking for an even bigger success this time around, with more anglers and some new faces,” said Georgetown County Administrator Sel Hemingway. “We worked hard to make sure all those who participated in April and during the IFA’s first visit in 2014 would want to come back and we’re hearing that we were very successful in that.”

For more information and online registration, visit www.ifatours.com.

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