

Scheu's massive flounder hauls in local fishing title

HIGHLIGHTS

Carolina Forest senior hauls in top flounder at recent event



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For The Sun News

In a tournament chock full of veteran Murrells Inlet flounder fishermen, a youngster landed the biggest doormat.

Joe Scheu, an 18-year-old senior at Carolina Forest High School, was that angler, bringing in a tournament-best 4.45-pound flounder last Saturday to win the Grand Strand Saltwater Anglers 15th annual Flounder Tournament held within the boundaries of the inlet.

Joe Scheu's flounder, which measured 21 1/2 inches, earned the grand prize of \$1,500. Camille Scott with a 3.75-pounder finished second followed by Kevin Prosser (3.65), Ashley McLamb (3.55) and Mark Crenshaw (3.15) to round out the top five.

Scheu's fish topped quite a field – the largest in the considerable history of the tournament – with 269 anglers competing.

Scheu and his dad, Hank Scheu, were fishing with one of those very knowledgeable inlet flounder fishermen – Murrells Inlet native Albert Stutts.

"He knows all the holes," Hank Scheu said of Stutts. "He put us on the spot."

Stutts had his eye on a spot in an area called Charlie Cut, but it was occupied early Saturday morning when fishing began.

Around midday, the spot came open and the trio began casting mud minnows on 1/2-ounce jig heads, with a slow retrieve.

Around 1 p.m., the big bite happened for Joe Scheu, who does most of his fishing for bass in local lakes and ponds in the Carolina Forest area.

"I casted between two oyster beds, with an opening in the middle," said Scheu. "I was working it real slow and my line got loose. I reeled it in and it got looser (so) it was swimming toward me when I got it on. I thought it was going to be something small.

"By the time I got it to the boat it started to fight. Then we saw it at the surface and saw how big it was. We yelled 'get the net,' and my dad scooped it up. As soon as we pulled it up, my dad knew right away that was going to win (the tournament)."

The trio had a super day of fishing overall, catching 15 flounder with six keepers including the winning fish. They also landed an 18-inch black drum.

As for Joe Scheu, who plans to attend Coastal Carolina University and study Marine Biology after graduating from Carolina Forest High School, he was thrilled to catch the biggest flounder among so many anglers.

"It's amazing – my first tournament, 18 years old and I won it," said Scheu. "I couldn't believe it, nobody could believe it. I'm really excited about it. It was a good experience and it was fun."

Other top finishers were Ken Jacobs (2.85) in sixth place followed by Nick Contino (2.75, 20 inches), George Smart (2.75, 19 inches) and Jimmy Johnson (2.75, 18.26 inches).

Myra Leach was the top angler in the Youth Division with a 2.55-pound flounder. Eathan Schmaus was second with a 2.2-pounder followed by Ben Pardue with a 1.75-pounder.

A total of 87 flounder were weighed in during the tournament.

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