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# Tournament News

The anglers and guides involved with the **Brandon Thornton Fund Raiser Spot Tournament**, organized by the staff at **Skeeter Lagoon's Bait and Tackle** in Titusville, had a tough weather day on June 11th for fishing but still managed to raise over \$12,000 for Brandon and his family.

**Ed Killer** and his 6 yr. old son **Conrad**, eagerly wait each year to participate in the **Florida Oceanographic Challenge (FOC)**. This year's event drew 126 inshore despite foul weather. This is a family level fishing tournament organized with two purposes in mind: to raise awareness for the many activities and efforts of the FOS, and to raise money for the **Treasure Coast Fishing Center and Gamefish Lagoon**, both presently in development.

Tournament organizer and founder of **Florida Sportsman Magazine**, **Karl Wickstrom** stated, "We're very pleased with the record-setting turnout we saw this year," he said. "We may have to cut off the number of entries in a few years. Next year we fully expect to be able to collect some of the fish caught in this event for the lagoon."

The **FOC Professional Division**



champion award went to **Capt. Jerry Metz** of Fort Pierce for the second consecutive year. Metz also won the FOC Open division in its first year. Metz used live mojarra to catch a 22-inch trout and a 28-inch redfish for top rod. Finishing a close runner-up was **Steve Ferrise** with a 26-inch snook and a 15-inch pompano.

Little **Conrad Killer** was a third-peat winner of the Kids Division fishing with dad and his great-uncle **Capt. Bob Pelosi** with 15 species. Just accounting for the longest single fish of each species, it added up to 207 total inches of fish! Included in the young angler's catch was his first bonefish caught near the St. Lucie Inlet. **Zachary Scherer** of Port St. Lucie took second with 168 total inches of fish and **Casey Zeldon's** 119 inches collected third. About 100 people attended the awards barbecue at the FOS Sunday.

**Gary Giles**, released 136 of the 200-plus tarpon sampled in last year's **Tarpon Fishing for Science Tournament**. Gary will graciously be acting tournament director for **Jon Shenker**; while Jon travels out of the country. There is also a tagging program connect to the tournament this year and it will run through Oct. 31. Entry fee is \$30 a person, or \$60 for a family. Those involved in the tagging segment will pay \$50. Entries can be made at any time. Prizes will be awarded. For more information contact **Gary Giles** at 258-0041 or checkout <http://my.fit.edu/Oshenker/tournament.htm>

We're very pleased to have **Ed Killer** assuming the responsibility of **Coastal Angler Magazine's** tournament writer beginning in next month's issue. If you have any tournament information please forward it to Ed Killer at [eekiller@hotmail.com](mailto:eekiller@hotmail.com)

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