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Diamond Classic Sturgeon Derby taking registration

by staff
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Registration is now being accepted for the Fifth Annual Diamond Classic Catch & Release Sturgeon Derby on Saturday, Jan. 29 from Martinez Bait & Tackle.

The derby, founded by Steve Talmadge of Flash Sportfishing, celebrates the fishery by attracting the attention of anglers and respecting the fish by promoting the release of the sturgeon.

Entry fee is \$25 and 100% of the entry fees are paid in cash prizes (1st place through 7th place). Additional prizes will be awarded at the Pre-Derby Seminar and Weigh-In courtesy of our sponsors. Entry to the kids division entry is free. There is no charge for to enter (register) kids ages 15 and under.

First 300 entrants will receive a ticket to a sturgeon seminar on Friday, Jan. 28 from 6 p.m. to 9 .m. in Martinez. The seminar will feature a panel of sturgeon experts, including Capt. Steve Talmadge of Flash Sportfishing, Capt. Mike Bags Andrews of Predator Sportfishing, Capt. Bob Moncton of Reel-lentless Sportfishing, Capt. Jay Lopes of Right Hook Sportfishing, Capt. Barry Canevaro of Fish Hookers Sportfishing, Capt. Don Franklin of Soleman Sportfishing and Capt. Frank Miller of Fury Spoftfishing who will answer questions and give tips on how to catch sturgeon.

All entries and registrations must be submitted in person and paid in cash at one of the two official derby locations: Martinez Bait & Tackle (deadline Jan. 28, 4 p.m.) or Castro Valley Sportsmen Center (deadline Jan. 26, 5 p.m.).

Bait can be reserved in advance at Benicia Bait & Tackle (707) 745-4921. The store will open at 5 a.m. on Derby Day. Martinez Bait & Tackle will open at 4:30 a.m.

The Derby will run from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the boundaries of the Carquinez Bridge, east end of Little Cut to Port Chicago cranes, Montezuma Bridge and the Suisun City Ramp.

Measurements of the sturgeon will be taken on the water. Anglers must call the weigh master on channel 68 so a measurement and photo can be taken and the release witnessed. The fish must be 46- to 66-inches to be entered in the drawing. Multiple fish may be entered but only one prize person.

You must get your Fishing License and Sturgeon Report Card before Derby Day. The bait shops will have hundreds of people in line to buy bait and they will not be able to provide fishing licenses or sturgeon cards on Derby Day.

If you will have children (under 16) fishing with you, they must have a Sturgeon Report Card even though they do not need a fishing license. You need to get them a Sturgeon Report Card before Derby Day.

For more information, go to: <http://www.diamondclassic.org>