



The **6th Annual Diamond Classic** was held on Saturday, and as it is the brainchild of Steve Talmadge of **Flash Sport Fishing**, he was at the forefront organizing this year's event with plenty of help from a variety of volunteers, including party boat captains Mike Andrews of **Predator Sport Fishing**, Bob Monckton of **Reel-lentless Sport Fishing**, Jay Lopes of **Right Hook Sport Fishing**, Don Franklin of **Soleman Sport Fishing**, Frank Miller of **Fury Sport Fishing**, Sean Treacy of **SF Bay Sport Fishing**, Chris Kane of **Outcast Sport Fishing**, Jason Russey of **Longfin Sport Fishing**, Mark Delnero of **Fin Addict Sport Fishing**, David Hammond of **Delta Pro Fishing**, Paul Velez of **Boss Hogg Sport Fishing**, and Bill Clapp of **Bill's Sport Fishing**.

With such a quality lineup of captains, the lure of cash prizes for the top seven, and prizes for all children entered in the tournament, this year's attendance set an all-time high with 411 adults up from 348 in 2011 and 19 more children with 76 participants this year. All children are entered for free. Lynda Abbott, aka 'Diehard', served as the press coordinator for this year's event, and she exclaimed, "The entire event went off like clockwork from Friday night's seminar at La Tapatia restaurant to the award ceremony on Saturday afternoon," adding, "The weather couldn't have been better, and we were blessed with quality participants and happy people." Although Abbott thought the bite was slow, a total of 42 legal sturgeon made it into the pool this year for a catch rate of nearly 10%, and for the first time, three children caught and released legal fish. In addition to the legal sturgeon, three oversized were also released.

Update on Diamond Classic Derby & Results by Lynda Abbott –aka "Diehard"

Tanner Austin, Brooke Sutton, and Corina Medinas were the three children landing a legal sturgeon, and they all received a specially designed custom rod from Vic's Custom Rods in Martinez. Austin received a custom designed rod, plus as winner of the Kid's Division, took home a rod/reel combination worth over \$1000. Sutton also received reels in excess of \$500 in value. All of the kids received a prize – see the picture of the happy children.



List of winners in Adult Division who won cash prizes (below) as well as trophies (for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places)

PLACE	PRIZE \$\$	WINNERS	CITY	SIZE OF FISH
35% 1st	\$3,596.00	Shawn St Gormain	Martinez	49"
25% 2nd	\$2,569.00	Curtis Hayes	Benicia	51"
20% 3rd	\$2,055.00	Victor Grajeda	Vallejo	59"
5% 4th	\$ 514.00	Darren Anderson	Fairfield	58"
5% 5th	\$ 514.00	Jason Russey	Pleasant Hill	56"
5% 6th	\$ 514.00	Mike Christie	Auburn	46"
5% 7th	\$ 514.00	Dave Mc Kinnon	Vacaville	64"

With all anglers landing a legal sturgeon being placed into a blind draw, anyone landing a keeper can take home the top prize, regardless of the size of the sturgeon. The first place winner took home the Super Stealth Sturgeon trophy with the 2nd and 3rd place winners also took home a Custom Cut White Sturgeon trophy created by Sean Treacy of Custom Cut Critters.

Tony Lopez of Benicia Bait is the weighmaster for the upcoming Super Bowl Derby at McAvoy's Boat Harbor, and he needs to get his sleep this week as they will be staying up for nearly 48 hours straight to measure fish coming in at all hours of the derby. Lopez said, "My friend Ron is back down from Chico, and he caught and released sturgeon of 74, 66, 58, and 50-inches on straight eel in the shallows on Saturday, but he didn't fish Grizzly Bay due to the heavy boat traffic." He added that Curtis Hayes, owner of Benicia Bait, fished the Diamond Classic with Chris Kane of Outcast Sport Fishing, and he came in 2nd place with a 51-incher taken on a eel/grass combination. They are taking reservations for next week's derby, and he hopes that they will be able to meet demand for grass shrimp. Captain Mark Delnero of Fin Addict Sport Fishing participated as one of the derby's sponsors, and he called the organization a 'class act.'" On his boat, John Kenyon caught and released a 48-inch sturgeon on grass shrimp at the upper end of the Fleet. He was back out there on Sunday at the upper end of the Fleet, and he said, "Fishing was slow today, but Steve Talmadge had the hot hand with 4 shakers, a 53-inch keeper, and oversized at the lower end of the Fleet." Lynda Abbott, press coordinator for the Diamond Classic, confirmed the slow sturgeon fishing on Sunday, but she was aware of Flash's good fortune.