

TAB 1

**Cabela's Speckled Trout Trail
Site Visit
April 26, 2010**

After a meeting at the NASC Conference this month, it was determined that a site visit would be set up to determine if Manatee County would qualify to become a tour stop for the 2011 Cabela's Speckled Trout Trail. The following four areas were to reviewed:

- Area fishing guides to be polled to determine the best speckled trout fishing season in our area
- A physical visit by the site committee to all possible boat ramps, marina's, and launching areas
- A visit of area hotels and boat trailer storage areas
- To review possible locations for weigh in, award, kids fishing and vendor areas

Here are some of the facts of the Cabela's Speckled Trout Trail:

- 2 day event with 2 days of practice
- Weigh in and awards on the last day of the event
- Winners are on site
- Marketed by Cabela's in a 5 state area around Florida
- Approximately 125 -150 room nights per night
- 4-5 day stay by 90% of the registered fisherman
- Entries are 60% from out of state, 30% from Florida, 10% local
- Open to local fisherman
- 1 person team w/\$75.00 entry fee
- Cabela's will host, market and sponsor a Kids Fishing event on Saturday of the event.
- Marketing nationally on the web sites, bait shops, fishing shows, etc.

The following boat ramp sites were visited:

- Kingfish boat ramp
- Cutters Marina on Anna Maria
- Both fishing piers on Anna Maria
- Bridge Street City Pier
- Both Piers on Coquina beach bay side
- 75th street boat ramp
- Area behind the Marriot
- Palmetto boat ramp
- Linger Lodge
- Bradenton Yacht Club

The following hotels were visited by drive by and/or walk around during the visit:

- Bridgewalk
- Silver Surf
- Tortuga Inn
- Shorewalk
- Holiday Inn Express
- Ellenton corridor of hotels

It was determined that all of these hotels due to location of the area launching ramps would be the primary hotels of interest. Most provided areas for boat trailer parking as well as some had outside electric connections for the overnight charging of batteries on the boats.

A number of area fishing guides were called during the site visit to determine the best trout fishing month to host the event. It was determined the April/May months were the best months for larger fish.

It was determined that the Manatee Civic Center would be the best location for the Welcome/Registration meeting. Using a room like the Longboat Key room.

It was determined that the Palmetto side of the river, in the park at the fishing bridge would be the best area for the event to be centrally headquartered, weigh-in, kids fishing tournament and awards. A rough drawing was created to lay out the Cabella's stage, vendor trucks, tents, food areas and other vendor areas. The Linger Lodge and the Bridge Street Pier would also play roles in the event.

Manatee County Parks and Rec were called to determine the permitting of the area near the fishing bridge in Palmetto and it was said that the permitting and presentation of the event would need to go before the City of Palmetto.

At the end of the visit it was agreed that Manatee County would have the proper facilities, hotels and locations for the event to take place on May 5-8, 2011.

Next Steps:

- Application and presentation to the Palmetto City Counsel
- Confirm with the Civic Center if a meeting area is available from noon – 10pm on May 6th, 2011 is available.