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**YOUNG ANGLERS ATTENDED 24TH ANNUAL PORT FREEPORT  
TAKE-A-CHILD FISHING TOURNAMENT**

**FREEPORT, TX (May 21, 2024)** – On Saturday, May 11th, Port Freeport hosted its 24<sup>TH</sup> Annual Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament (TACFT) at Freeport Municipal Park drawing in 323 young anglers from local communities and surrounding counties. With their families and friends, the total attendance was close to nearly 700 people. Over 615 pounds of canned goods items were collected as part of the entry fee for the event to help fill the pantry at the Brazoria County Dream Center.

"It's thrilling to see so many participants at the tournament, with our youth and their families enjoying the outdoors while fishing along the Old Brazos River," said Phyllis Saathoff, Port Freeport's Executive Director/CEO. "Thanks to our sponsors and volunteers, it's been another successful event, now a cherished annual tradition for most."

The registrants were divided into two age groups, with first through third place prizes awarded to both groups. First place winners were awarded a trophy, laptop, and backpack. Second and third place received trophies and Visa gift cards. Each registrant received a t-shirt and a cooler backpack filled with goodies, with an opportunity to win one of the 200 door prizes. Special guests and event sponsors graciously volunteered their time. Among them, Blueline Copy Shop, Bridge Harbor Yacht Club, Dole Fresh Fruit, Promotions Unlimited, Signet Maritime Corporation and

Sunstates Security contributed in various capacities at the bait and goodie item station and assisted in monitoring the fishing. Dole Fresh Fruit Company's mascots Bobby, the banana, and Penelope, the pineapple, visited and took photos with the attendees. Sparkie, the mascot of the Freeport Fire Department, also made an appearance. Southern Cool Shaved Ice served snow cones and face painting was provided by Texas Port Ministry and First Baptist Church of Freeport.

"On behalf of The Port Commission, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to our 59 sponsors and our committed volunteers whose support ensures the success and enjoyment of this event, year after year," Port Commission Chairman Ravi Singhania said. "This tournament brings our community together for a joyful day of fishing while also offering our youth the opportunity to compete for top prizes, receive giveaways, and win one of many door prizes. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year."

The youth anglers caught a variety of fish and presented a total of 471 fish at the weigh-in. Port Freeport would like to thank everyone who attended and congratulate this year's winners:

Blue Fins Category (Ages 3-8): First Place – Gunner Strother, Second Place – Melanie Gonzales, Third Place – Amura Lewis

Yellow Fins Category (Ages 9-14): First Place – Gabriel Hlavinka, Second Place – Brayden Roaro, Third Place – Mayah Martinez

Port Freeport extends its gratitude to all the volunteers for their dedication, as well as to the following sponsors for their generosity: *Platinum* – A&O Port Services; Freeport LNG; McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.; Moffatt & Nichol; Ports America, Inc.; Co-Sponsors: South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District - ILA Local No. 30 & ILA Local No. 1817; Stewart Development; *Gold* – AAA Asphalt Paving, Inc.; Brazos Pilots Association; Dole Fresh Fruit Company;

Promotions Unlimited; Red Hook Terminals; Sunstates Security LLC.; Vulcan Materials Company; *Silver* - Bay - Houston Towing Co. ; Btel; City of Freeport; Doyle & Wachtstetter, Inc.; HDR Inc.; J&S Contractors, Inc.; Leaf Engineers; Signet Maritime; Southern Gulf Solutions, LLC; TJ's Lube Stop; Weighing Technologies, Inc.; *Sponsor* - Bell Dental; BGE, Inc.; Blueline Shop & Copy Center; Bracewell, LLP; Brazoria County Parks Department; Brazoria County Septic Service; Bridge Bait; Bridge Harbor Yacht Club; Carolina Damian, Realtor eXp Realty; Chick-fil-A; Chiquita Brands International; First State Bank Freese and Nichols; G&H Towing Company; GFL Plant Services, LP; Gulf Coast Engraving; Gulftex Vending & Coffee Services, Inc.; iAD Architects; Kendralyn Design Co.; KM&L, LLC; Kristina & Jordan Booth; Masterson Advisors, LLC; Mejia Industrial Supply Company; On The River Restaurant; Port Commissioner Ravi Singhania; Rooster's Crow Guide Service; Southern Cool Shaved Ice; Superior Fabrication; The Brevard Company; Texas Port Ministry; Vernor Material & Equipment

The 25th Annual Port Freeport Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament will be held on May 10, 2025, at the Freeport Municipal Park from 8 am – 12 pm.

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranks nationally as 6th in chemicals, 15th in total foreign waterborne tonnage, and 26th in containers. A 2022 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 266,300 jobs and has a total economic output of \$157.3 billion. Port Freeport serves Alliera, Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products Partners, ExxonMobil, Freeport LNG, Fresh Del Monte Produce Inc., Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Linde, MEGlobal, NYK RORO, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallaum Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy,

Volkswagen Group of America, and Vulcan Materials Company.

Port Freeport is committed to keeping the local community informed of our operations and results. If you have questions or comments about this article, please email or call Tricia Vela, Public Affairs Assistant.

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**PHOTO OUTLINE: Port Freeport Executive Director/CEO Phyllis Saathoff and Port Commissioners present 1st through 3rd place prizes to winners of the blue fins and yellow fins divisions at the tournament.**