

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **23<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL PORT FREEPORT TAKE-A-CHILD FISHING TOURNAMENT LURED YOUNG ANGLERS**

**FREEPORT, TX (May 15, 2023)** – On Saturday, May 6th, Port Freeport hosted its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament (TACFT) at Freeport Municipal Park. A total of 300 local young anglers with their families brought the total attendance close to 700 people. Over 625 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.

“With the generosity of our sponsors and the help from our volunteers, Port Freeport hosted a fun-filled day of fishing along the banks of the Old Brazos River,” Port Freeport Executive Director/CEO Phyllis Saathoff said. This tournament has become an annual tradition for returning anglers and volunteers, and we greeted many first-time anglers that we hope to see again. It is always a joy to host an event that allows families to enjoy the outdoors.”

Registrants were divided into two age groups, and first through third place prizes were 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 folding chair. They also had an opportunity to win one of the 180 door prizes. Special guests and event sponsors were in attendance to volunteer: LJA Surveying hosted a tent and handed out promotional items and snacks; Terracon assisted with the bait station; Dole Fresh Fruit Company’s mascots Bobby, the banana, and Penelope, the pineapple, visited and took photos with the attendees; free snow cones were served by Southern Cool Shaved Ice; and face painting was provided by First Baptist Church of Freeport.

“The Port Commission and I would like to thank our 59 sponsors and our dedicated

volunteers who help make this event fun and successful each year,” Port Commission Chairman John Hoss said. ‘This tournament brings our community together to fish with their children. With the sponsorships received, our youth had an opportunity to win one of the top three prizes, receive giveaways, and a chance to walk away with one of the 180 door prizes. We look forward to next year’s tournament.’”

The youth anglers caught a variety of fish and presented a total of 309 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 – Melanie Gonzalez, Second Place – Dax Dirzanowski, Third Place – Kenley Williams

Yellow Fins Category (Ages 9-14)

First Place – Elaina Lomeli, Second Place – Achilles Galicia, Third Place – Oscar Gonzalez

Port Freeport would like to extend a thank you to all the volunteers for their dedication and the following sponsors for their generosity: *Platinum* - AAA Asphalt Paving Inc.; Brazos Pilots Association; Freeport LNG; HDR, Inc.; McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.; Moffatt & Nichol; Ports America, Inc.; South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District – ILA; Vulcan Materials Company; *Gold* – Bay – Houston Towing Co.; Dole Fresh Fruit Company; ILA Local No. 30; Red Hook Terminals; South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District – ILA; Sunstates Security LLC.; *Silver* - Bracewell, LLP; City of Freeport; Doyle & Wachstetter, Inc.; Freese and Nichols; G&H Towing Company; J&S Contractors, Inc.; Leaf Engineers; LJA Surveying; Promotions Unlimited; South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District - ILA; Terracon; Weighing Technologies, Inc.; *Sponsor* - Bell Dental; BGE, Inc.; Blueline Shop & Copy Center; Brazoria County Parks Department; Brazoria County Septic Service; Bridge Bait; Bridge Harbor Yacht Club; Chick-fil-A; Chiquita Brands International; Dude Payne, Brazoria County Commissioner Pct. 1; Evergreen North America; Farmers Insurance - Kristy Anders; First State Bank; Freeport Launch Service; Freeport Mooring & Marine, Inc; Gulf Coast Engraving; Gulftex Vending & Coffee Services, Inc.; iAD Architects; Kendralyn Design Co.; KM&L, LLC; Magaly Malambri Photography; Masterson Advisors, LLC; Mejia Industrial Supply Company; Mulligan’s Golf Center; On The River Restaurant & Swamp Shack; Port Commissioner Dan Croft; Port Commissioner Ravi Singhania; Port Commissioner

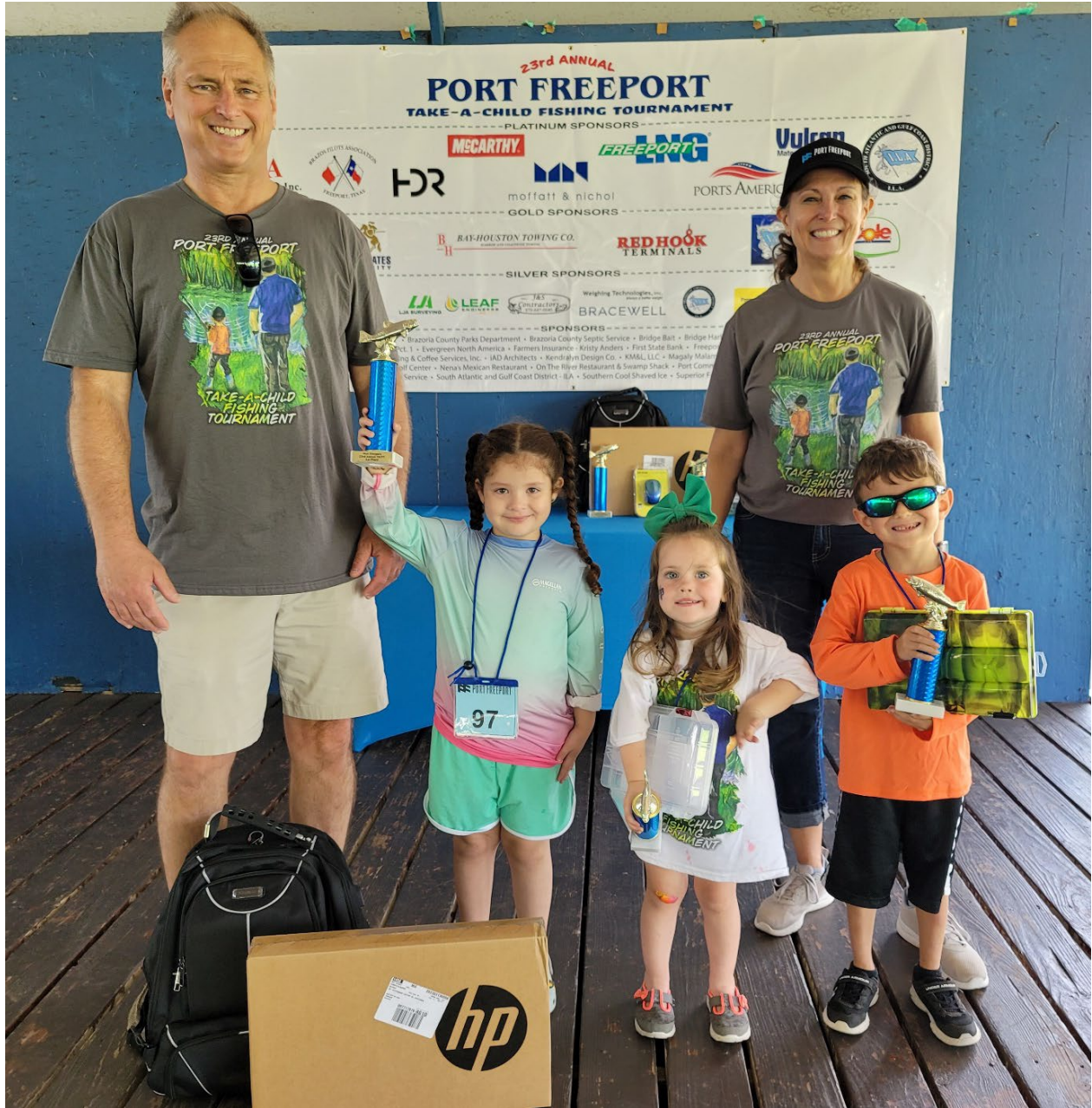
Shane Pirtle; Rooster's Crow Guide Service; South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District - ILA; Superior Fabrication; Southern Cool Shaved Ice; Texas Port Ministry; and Vernor Material & Equipment.

The 24th Annual Port Freeport Take-A-Child Fishing Tournament will be held on May 11, 2024, 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 ranked 6th in chemicals, 11th in foreign waterborne export 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, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Mammoet, MEGlobal, NYK RORO, Oceanus Line, 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 CUTLINE:** Port Freeport Executive Director/CEO Phyllis Saathoff and Port Commissioner Rob Giesecke present 1<sup>st</sup> place through 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards to the tournament in blue fins division winners.





**PHOTO CUTLINE: Port Freeport Executive Director/CEO Phyllis Saathoff and Port Commissioner Rob Giesecke present 1<sup>st</sup> place through 3<sup>rd</sup> place awards to the tournament yellow fins division winners.**