

APPENDIX 2

KID'S FISHING DERBIES

PERIOD COVERED: October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999

SUMMARY

One fishing derby was held in FY99, which was a one-day event at Sirena Beach, AAFB on May 31, 1999. To date, six marine derbies have been co-sponsored by DAWR and AAFB. Twenty-five children participated in this year's event.

OBJECTIVES

To encourage fishing as a form of recreation for children by promoting at least two kids fishing derbies per fiscal year, and to use these events as opportunities to teach environmental and fishing conservation ethics.

PROCEDURES

Coordination and Logistics

Coordination of the event involved preparation and planning at least 4-6 weeks in advance. A fishing site had to be selected that provided safe shoreline fishing for the participants and habitat for fish. A date had to be selected to ensure a high tide during the fishing event to increase the chances of catching fish. Chief Conservation Officer Kelly Knutson of Andersen Air Force Base and DAWR Fisheries Biologist Veronica Cummings were the designated points of contact for this kid's derby.

Logistics included following: rest areas with chairs and tables as well as refreshments; staff to serve as officials; organizing a safety briefing and the awards ceremony; and ensuring that official representatives from both agencies were present for the awards presentation.

Advertisements

The advertising strategy employed intended to ensure maximizing derby exposure to children ages seven to twelve both on and off base. This was done by providing flyers to all elementary and middle schools, having highway banners displayed in strategic locations, providing the media with press releases periodically, and making derby pitches through various radio talk shows. Kid's fishing derbies held in cooperation with military installations had individuals from both agencies serving as points of contact. This ensured that requirements of both agencies were met and that duties assigned to each agency were completed.

Derby Rules and Clinic

The derby had a harvest size limit and a bag limit for the fish caught to encourage the practice of conservation. Fish had to be over 6 inches (152 mm) in length in order to qualify for the derby awards and to be kept. Although there was an individual bag limit of five fish, participants were encouraged to practice "catch and release" during the event.

The derby was open to children from seven to twelve years of age, and was preceded by a fishing clinic open to the public on May 24, 1999.

The fishing clinic provided an opportunity for parents and children to learn about and practice basic fishing skills including knot-tying and casting. Demonstrations were also conducted to aid parents in selecting and purchasing fishing gear and in preparing for the fishing event. A highlight in this year's clinic was a casting contest held for the longest cast and most accurate cast. Winners were awarded during a ceremony held at the end of the derby.

RESULTS

Twenty-five children participated in this year's event. Certificates of Participation and fish posters were provided to all participants. A draft post-derby report has been completed, which includes comments and suggestions from derby participants to improve future derbies. Food was also donated by businesses, with donuts and soft drinks being provided as refreshments.

Prizes for the derby were solicited for a two-day event in accordance with Executive Order 91-08, resulting in thirty-seven prizes being donated. Since there were only five winners from the actual fishing, the remaining prizes were distributed by lottery to the non-winners (Table 1).

Table 1. FY99 Kid's Derby Winners.

MOST FISH

1st Place	Rikayah Flores	1 fish
2nd Place	Jenin Saleh	1 fish

LONGEST FISH

1st Place	Raymond Blas	21 inch Pepered Moray
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LONGEST TRIGGERFISH

1st Place	Jay Horton	7.5 inch Wedge Picassofish
2nd Place	Abed Saleh	5.5 inch Picassofish

RECOMMENDATIONS

Evaluations and Comments

1. Great, have them more often. D. Saleh
2. Excellent Program; Good coordination with fishing clinic. Fish not cooperating. Maybe include class on types of lures and how to attach bait.
3. Well conducted (wish there were more fish!)
4. Just make more fishing derbies both in "Fresh & Ocean" waters.
5. Thank you for giving my nephew the opportunity to fish on the AAFB beach. I commend all who took time away from their families to host this derby. I think that the times should be changed to approx. 9-11 a.m. Thank you to all! Mark Almandres (Angler)

6. Great job! See you next year! Blas
7. The next fishing derby should be one at Fena Lake where there are more fish to catch.
8. This program is indeed an exciting and experiencing way for children to enjoy fishing. This was my children's first time and we just wanted them to have fun and experience something different. I believe they did enjoy themselves. The supporting staff and individuals who made this possible. I appreciate you, to a job well done!
9. My son fished once, but he stood outside of site, on the right. For safety reasons, we agreed with you for enjoyable please think about fishing place. We didn't know when you had a fishing derby this year until I read the newspaper just a few days before. If you advertise it more, more participants will join.
10. The event is great for kids, please continue to have one or more yearly. We thank you for having a fishing derby. My son really enjoyed himself. See you next year. J. Blas (son)
11. I thought I had like 10 feet long but it was stuck by a rock and my friend got it. Suguru Nakanishi
12. It was very very fun. Even though I couldn't catch any fish. I enjoyed watching other people catch different fish. I hope the next time I come I can catch a fish! Yoichi Nakanishi
13. This is my third year and it's been great.
14. This is my third time at this event. It's been a great time again. Just one suggestion: How about having the next one in the evening or afternoon? Scott Klassen
15. Good work. Good program.

The derby program has been well received and is a valuable educational tool for those who participate. However, an increase in the number of participants is essential for the program to effectively continue. This can be achieved by adding radio advertisements to our other methods of advertising. In addition, hosting more events and targeting special groups like the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or village programs could work well.

Another factor concerning participation in derbies is to find a location that is more centrally located, instead of going to strictly military sites.

The response from participants and parents was positive. There have been requests by participants and parents to include a category for teenage anglers. Some of the older participants are interested in staying in the program, while some parents have older children who usually help their younger siblings to fish. This might help in making the derby more family oriented and decrease the chance of turning away potential participants.

PROJECT COST

The estimated cost of this project was \$1,000.

Report Prepared by: Veronica Cummings