

# High school anglers from 22 states will participate in the Skeeter Bassmaster High School Combine Sept. 15-17 in Decatur, Alabama

## From the Fishing Wire.com

DECATUR, Ala. — After the first two events generated more than \$4.5 million in scholarship offers, 112 anglers from 22 states hope to continue that trend by reeling in big-time offers from college coaches when the third annual Skeeter Bassmaster High School Combine kicks off on Sept. 15. The three-day event will be held on Wheeler Lake in Decatur, Ala.

“B.A.S.S. is constantly looking for ways to grow the High School and College platforms and give young anglers opportunities to excel not only in the sport, but also in the industry,” said Glenn Cale, B.A.S.S. tournament manager for the College, High School and Junior Series. “This has truly become the preeminent event for colleges looking to find and recruit talent from across the U.S.” The opportunity to meet individually with prospective anglers and evaluate talent from a wider swath of the country is critical for coaches.

“There is no way — even in a two- or three-year span — that a high school angler could visit, in person, all the universities that are brought to them at the High School Combine essentially in one location, in one weekend,” said Coach Todd Gill of Illinois’ Wabash Valley College. “Likewise, universities are provided an opportunity to sell their college and all it has to offer to anglers who might not otherwise be considering their program.”

Anglers like Jonathan Waschek, a junior from Apple Valley, Minn., are taking full advantage of having coaches in one location to advance their college search and test themselves against championship-caliber competition.



Bassmaster High School Combine connects students and college fishing coaches. (Photo/Courtesy: Bassmaster)

“We live up in Minnesota, so we would have to travel a lot to meet this many coaches at the colleges,” said Waschek. “This is a way to introduce myself to several coaches, learn about programs in one trip ... and narrow down the list of colleges I want to look at this fall. I’ve enjoyed the tournament fishing experience and the opportunity to compete with other students from around my state, but look forward to the opportunity to use what I’ve learned to compete in new parts of the country.”

At the High School Combine, anglers will perform multiple tasks — Casting Distance, Technical and Casting Accuracy — to show their skill set not only on the water, but also to display their knowledge of the sport as a whole. Each of the disciplines will operate on a point system

and will be timed by an official judge. After the first day, colleges will have the opportunity to select anglers for a “second look” where they can further explore everything that angler has to offer and see if they would be the perfect fit for their fishing program.

“I will be looking for positive attitudes and how the kids interact with each other. Team dynamic is very crucial to success. I’m looking for anglers that complement my program, not hinder it,” said Campbellsville University Coach Tony Miracle. “I want anglers that work hard to be successful, so good grades are very important to me. It tells me that they take pride in their lives. That turns into pride for your team. Wins mean nothing to me ... I look for consistency. Top 20 finishes will get you qualified for

Nationals; the more teams you have at Nationals the better your chance to win.” Similarly, the student anglers are hoping to leverage time at the Combine to determine where they want to spend the next stage of their careers.

“Currently, I have dialogue with around 10 programs. The Combine is a great opportunity to meet coaches in person and start the process of determining where I fit from a goal and cultural perspective. I’m hoping to find three to five programs that are a good fit for me and start building a relationship with the coaches and team members so I can make an informed decision,” said Dylan Sorrells of Dallas, Texas, who finished in the Top 20 at the 2023 Strike King Bassmaster High School National Championship presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors. “I’m excited to test my

technical skills against serious anglers who plan to pursue fishing in college. As a junior, it allows me to compare my skills against some of the best and provides feedback on what I need to improve on over the next two years.”

The following schools have committed to participating in the Bassmaster High School Combine:

- Auburn University (Auburn, Ala.)
- Bethel University (McKenzie, Tenn.)
- Blue Mountain Christian University (Blue Mountain, Miss.)
- Bryan College (Dayton, Tenn.)
- Campbellsville University (Campbellsville, Ky.)
- Carson-Newman University (Jefferson City, Tenn.)
- Catawba Valley Community

- College (Hickory, N.C.)
  - Dallas Baptist University (Dallas, Texas)
  - Drury University (Springfield, Mo.)
  - East Texas Baptist University (Marshall, Texas)
  - Emmanuel University (Franklin Springs, Ga.)
  - Erskine College (Due West, S.C.)
  - Faulkner University (Montgomery, Ala.)
  - Kentucky Christian University (Grayson, Ky.)
  - Lander University (Greenwood, S.C.)
  - Louisiana State University Shreveport (Shreveport, La.)
  - Murray State College (Tishomingo, Okla.)
  - Southeastern University (Lakeland, Fla.)
  - Troy University (Troy, Ala.)
  - University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Ala.)
  - University of Florida (Gainesville, Fla.)
  - University of Montevallo (Montevallo, Ala.)
  - University of North Alabama (Florence, Ala.)
  - Wabash Valley College (Mt. Carmel, Ill.)
  - Webber International University (Babson Park, Fla.)
- The 2023 Skeeter Bassmaster High School Combine is being hosted by Decatur Morgan County Tourism.
- 2023 Bassmaster High School Combine Title Sponsor: Skeeter  
2023 Bassmaster High School Combine Partner: Academy Sports + Outdoors  
2023 Bassmaster High School Combine Gear Partner: ProFISHiency  
2023 Bassmaster High School Youth Sponsors: 13 Fishing, Seaguar, Shimano

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## Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders declares Patriot Week in Arkansas

### Proclamation for Patriot Week in Arkansas

WHEREAS: Throughout this country’s history, the people of our great state and nation have worked together to ensure the preservation of the American ideals of freedom and liberty;

WHEREAS: American patriotism has endured through times of turmoil and times of peace, carrying our nation through the darkest days of history and strengthening our commitment to the ideals upon which our country was founded;

WHEREAS: A deepening appreciation for those ideals will help guarantee America’s spirit of freedom and liberty; and

WHEREAS: In great reverence to the victims of the attacks on September 11, 2001, and recognition of the signing of the Constitution on September 17, 1787, Patriot Week is a time to celebrate the principles set forth by our Founding Fathers as well as the countless Patriots, vital documents, speeches, and the flags that helped make America the great nation it is today.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SARAH HUCKABEE SANDERS, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim September 11-17, 2023 as

“PATRIOT WEEK IN ARKANSAS”

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 25th day of August, in the year of our Lord 2023.

## Grizzlies host ‘Day of Service’ at the FedExForum on Sept. 20 ... from sports page 2

post-event food truck celebration on the Big River Steel Plaza at FedExForum. Volunteers must be 18 years or older.

Registration will close on Friday, Sept. 15. Volunteers can

sign up today at [grizzlies.com/volunteer](http://grizzlies.com/volunteer).

Fans who want to support the Memphis Grizzlies and purchase 2023-24 season tickets and single game tickets can do so now by calling (901) 888-HOOP or going

online to [grizzlies.com/tickets](http://grizzlies.com/tickets). For more information on the Grizzlies, visit [grizzlies.com](http://grizzlies.com), ‘like’ Memphis Grizzlies on Facebook or follow @memgrizz on Twitter/X and Instagram.

## TDEC lifts ‘Do Not Consume’ advisory for silver carp and bighead carp in Mississippi River in Memphis, TN

NASHVILLE – The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has lifted a “Do Not Consume” advisory on silver carp and bighead carp in the Mississippi River in Memphis. However, a “Do Not Consume” advisory for all other fish species in the river in Memphis remains in place.

Based on fish tissue results collected in 2022 and historical data from 2005, which document that silver carp are below Tennessee’s trigger point for all contaminants of concern, the TDEC technical staff recommended that silver carp and bighead carp be removed from the advisory.

The mercury trigger point for a precautionary advisory is 0.3 mg/kg. PCB and pesticide advisories are based on calculated risk values. Silver carp, which were also used as a surrogate for bighead carp, were below all precautionary advisory trigger points. These data establish a clear basis for removing silver carp and bighead carp from the existing “Do Not Consume” ad-

visory regarding any fish, consistent with TDEC’s responsibilities under the Tennessee Water Quality Control Act.

“We provide these advisories so the community can make informed decisions about whether or not to consume fish where water contact hazards exist,” said TDEC Deputy Commissioner Greg Young. “Data studied from the collection in the Mississippi River have allowed TDEC to lift the previous advisory on the two species, and we are pleased to make this change. But we reiterate that the status for all other species has not changed.”

In 1982, a “Do Not Consume” advisory was issued for all fish on the Mississippi River in Shelby County due to elevated levels of Chlordane. The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) issued a commercial fishing advisory in 1985. The advisories included all fish species. The consumption advisory was expanded to include other organics including PCBs, endrin, diel-

drin and dioxin in 1993. Species tested included sturgeon, buffalo common carp, catfish, carp-sucker, sauger, bass and crappie. Mercury was added to the advisory in 2007.

In 2022, the TWRA, in cooperation with TDEC, collected fish for tissue analysis at two stations on the river in Shelby County. Silver carp and paddle fish were targeted. Tissue samples were analyzed for mercury, PCBs, and pesticides by the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) through a contract with TDEC, resulting in the change of the advisory.

TDEC will update warning signs at primary public access points and will work with the TWRA to communicate this information to the public.

For a complete listing of Tennessee’s current fishing advisories plus additional information about the advisory issuance process, [www.tn.gov](http://www.tn.gov).


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