

Micah Frazier retires from Bassmaster Elite Series with victories galore and tons of happy memories

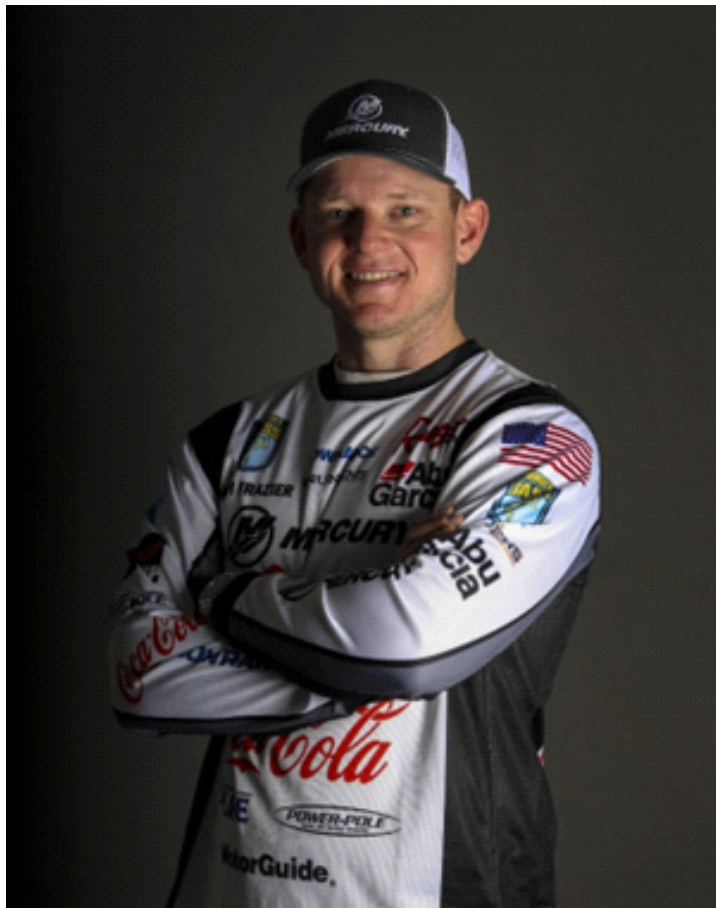
BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — After fishing nine seasons on the Bassmaster Elite Series, Micah Frazier of Newnan, Ga., is stepping away from professional fishing. Over the course of his B.A.S.S. career, Frazier has earned one Elite win, nine Top 10 finishes and 34 Top 30 finishes.

Although Frazier has experienced consistent success in the

"This has been a decision that has been two or three years in the making," said Frazier. "My family has always been able to travel with me, but with my son (Huck) about to start kindergarten, I just can't come to peace with leaving them so often when they start school.

Elite Series, he felt as if now was the right time to step away from his family and future endeavors.

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"I keep reminding myself that if I fish for another 10 years how much time I would miss with my kids, and I truly think that if you gave me the chance at the end of those 10 years, I would absolutely buy that time back." The five-time Academy Sports +

Outdoors Bassmaster Classic qualifier also feels as if some of the business opportunities he's passionate about have forced him to step back from providing bass fishing the attention it demands to be successful.

"I've really had to come to grips with the fact that I simply can't do everything I want to do," he said. "I feel like I have to free up some space in my life and in my mind. I haven't been giving fishing the attention it deserves."

Frazier fished his first St. Croix Bassmaster Open in 2013 and has since given bass fishing everything he has. Over the course of time, he's made relationships that will never be broken and experienced things that most anglers never get to experience.

One of those things is to mentor his brother Marc through his young Elite Series career.

"I'm really proud of my brother and all he's been able to accomplish in a really short amount of time," he said. "Not many people get the chance to share those

kinds of memories with their siblings. Leaving Marc out there (on the Elite Series) is one of the main reasons this decision was so difficult to make."

Like all Elite pros, Frazier knows how much of a sacrifice being a professional angler is, and doing it without the support of his wife Anna, parents, friends, sponsors and fans would make it impossible.

"I've really been blown away by all the comments and support that I've been given since I made the announcement," he said. "I know I'm doing the right thing. It's a bittersweet decision, and there are going to be times that I miss it, but it just doesn't sit in my life the same way it used to.

"The filter in which I see things now and my reason for living is my family and my kids, and it just doesn't suit them as much as it suits me, which is a big part of the reason I've made this decision."

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The TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Series announced for 2024 schedule

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The 2024 TNT Fireworks B.A.S.S. Nation Series schedule features four national qualifiers on some of the country's best bass fisheries along with a new format giving grass-roots anglers more opportunities to qualify for the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship and a shot at a berth in the iconic Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic.

Beginning in 2024, both individual B.A.S.S. Nation anglers and club members from each state will be able to enter national qualifier events, with the Top 20 finishers advancing to the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship. Additionally, club anglers will be able to qualify directly from their state tournaments to the championship.

"Our goal is to give the everyday angler more chances to make it to the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship, whether they get in via a state-run event or a national qualifier," said GL Compton, tournament director for the B.A.S.S. Nation. "We know that for many anglers — especially when you're working or in college — joining a local club isn't practical, so opening our regional qualifying events to unaffiliated individuals is a way to accommodate those competitors. But, if you're a club angler, now you'll have two paths to qualify for the Nation Championship. It really is an all-around win for grass-roots anglers."

The schedule will kick off early next year on Lake Eufaula in Eufaula, Ala., February 7-9. Known as the "Bass Fishing Capital of the World" and the hometown of late fishing industry legend Tom Mann, the brushpile-laden Chattahoochee River fishery has hosted 18 major B.A.S.S. events since 1968.

After a stop in Muskogee, Okla., April 3-5, the schedule will swing to the upper region of the United States in May with a qualifier on the Mississippi River May 8-10 in La Crosse, Wis.

Just weeks before the Elite Series heads to New York, the final national qualifier event will take place July 24-26 on Lake Champlain in Plattsburgh, N.Y. One of the most picturesque fisheries the B.A.S.S. events visit, this 435-square-mile natural lake straddling the New York/Vermont border delights anglers with the bass fishing trifecta — diversity, quantity and quality.

"We're excited to roll out the welcome mat for the B.A.S.S. Nation Series on Lake Champlain in 2024," said Alyssa Senecal, assistant director of tourism and marketing for the North Country Chamber of Commerce.

Manatees are on the move at Crystal River, Florida in annual migration

From The Water World Wire

GAINESVILLE, Florida— The annual migration of the endangered West Indies manatees is underway as the gentle sea cows start their move from the Gulf

What to do with so many manatees? Swimming is the answer, and this is the only locale in the United States where joining manatees in the water is legal. Local guides are knowledgeable about how to respectfully and carefully share the water with these inspiring mammals. Crystal River is a leader in manatee conservation

waters inland. The manatees' destination is Kings Bay, Crystal River, FL, the Manatee Capital of the World, to rendezvous with year-round residents. The population of these mammals soars to over 1000 from November to March.

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ing mammals. Crystal River is a leader in manatee conservation. Lodging in Crystal River has never been more exciting. Anglers Inn luxurious floating suites give guests the suite life on the water experience. These 59-foot,

wide body houseboats have all the amenities and sleep up to six. Docked at Pete's Pier in the heart of Kings Bay, our floating suites residents relax on the multiple decks and watch Manatees slowly cruising by.

Multiple manatee experience excursion companies in the area take customers to the best manatee viewing locations for snorkeling or watching from the boat deck.

Visitors are encouraged to make reservations for excursions and Anglers Inn Floating Suites lodging as early as possible to ensure availability.

Learn more by visiting Pete's Pier and Anglers Inn. Follow Anglers Inn Floating Suites, where Service is Our Focus, on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. For more information on the Crystal River area go to Discover Crystal River.

U.S. Postal Service issues 'The Save Manatees' stamp for 2024 for manatee lovers



The stamp art is a digital rendering of a manatee placidly lolling near the surface of the water. Derry Noyes, an art director for USPS, designed the stamp and booklet cover using illustrator Nancy Stahl's original graphic design.

"As always, our stamp program features a broad array of subjects and designs. Stamps are miniature works of art and often tell a story that highlights our American culture, our people or an important point in our history," said Lisa Bobb-Semple, acting Stamp Services director for USPS. "Stamps also allow us to show what's important to us as we carefully select which stamp adorns our mailpieces. The 2024 stamps were designed to offer the American public a broad array of choices for those looking to collect stamps or send a special message."

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Postal Service announced many of the stamps it will issue in 2024. Among them is 'The Save Manatees' stamp. It is being issued to create awareness about the threats posed to this beloved marine mammal. Human vigilance is crucial for its protection — both to minimize motorboat strikes and to maintain the aquatic plants on which the manatee feeds in the warm coastal waters in and around Florida.