

**Great Lakes Fish Decoy Collectors and Carvers Association**  
**2020 World Champion Fish Decoy and Carving Contest Rules**  
**September 18, 2020 - Quality Inn & Suites, Monroe MI**

1. Competitions are open to all carvers. All entries must have been completed after the last GLFDCCA show. All visible marks that would identify the carver must be covered; dark colored masking tape should be used for decoys.
2. Only natural wood may be used as a carving material. Wood composites, resins, or other plastics are not permitted. All fins or barbels are to be made from wood, leather or metal. Epoxy or urethane may be used to attach fins or eyes but not molded as a part of the fish. Materials used for ballast, or to cover lead cavities or make repairs are not restricted. Eyes, screws, snap swivels, line ties, and "cheater" hooks are the only pre-formed material that may be used.
3. All decoys should display proper swimming attitude in the water. Decoys should suspend at a relatively horizontal attitude and respond favorably to the jigging stick. This generally means that the decoy, when dropped into the water, will move forward and swim in a circular pattern when jigged.
4. There will be six Categories as follows (classes for each category are listed on the Registration Form):
  - A. Working Fish Decoys - Only the basic mouth shape, single gill coverings, and delineations for the beginning of the tail fin may be carved or burned into the fish. See diagram #1. A simple open mouth (band saw cut only) is allowed. No texturing allowed, and no painted scales. Judging criteria: swimming ability- 80%; likeness to species - 10%; craftsmanship - 10%.
  - B. Decorative Fish Decoys - Maximum details allowed. Judging criteria: swimming ability- 40%; likeness to species - 50%; craftsmanship - 10%.
  - C. Folk-Art Fish Decoys - Fish must be generic (not like any real fish) in both paint and form (body silhouette), and critters must be generic in paint. Decoys in the "cheater" class must have a hook or hooks, and can represent anything from the Working or Folk-Art categories. For the Two-Color Class, eye colors do not count but fin colors do, and for the Natural Finish Class, no paint is allowed, except on the eyes. Judging criteria: swimming ability- 70%; design and innovation - 20%; craftsmanship - 10%.
  - D. Jigging Sticks. Deluxe - maximum detail allowed; Working - no carving, burning or texturing allowed; Natural Finish - no paint allowed. Judging criteria: design - 60%; functionality - 30%; craftsmanship - 10%.
  - E. Decorative Fish Carvings - Must be original; contestants must create all elements from wood or metal, except display plaques, support structures, and substrate (all pieces of non-created bottom material must be less than 3/8 inch in size). Judging criteria: (emphasis will be on the fish) likeness to species - 80%; design - 20%.
  - F. No-Holds-Barred Fish Decoys - The only rule in this Category will be rule #1, however the carver is expected to have made the majority of the decoy, and only decoys that are ineligible within other categories will be allowed. Examples include: mythical animals; fish painted 1/2 musky 1/2 pike; animal combinations, the use of reflective tape etc. Judging criteria: swimming ability- 35%; design and innovation - 55%; craftsmanship - 10%.
5. For all fish decoy categories: the misplacement of fins will not be penalized, and; if multiple line ties are used, the carver must mark the one the judges should utilize.

6. Juniors are carvers who are 16 years of age or younger.
7. Entry fee is \$5.00 per individual entry; however there will be no charge for juniors.
8. Only one entry per contestant is allowed per class in all categories. Categories and Classes (species) are listed on the registration form.
9. Species allowed are limited to native freshwater fish found in the United States and Canada with the addition of brown trout and common carp. Salmon will be considered freshwater fish. Coldwater fish are all fish with an adipose fin, except catfish, bullheads, and madtoms. Sunfish classes will include crappie and all sunfish species.
  10. Judges reserve the right to drill a small hole in any entry to check its composition in the event of a concern or protest as to permitted materials. All decisions are final.
11. All contestants must agree to the rules, and complete and sign the Registration Form.
12. All entries must be made solely by one person, the only exceptions to this rule will be married couples and decoys entered into the Collaborative Fish Decoy Challenge.

**Diagram # 1**

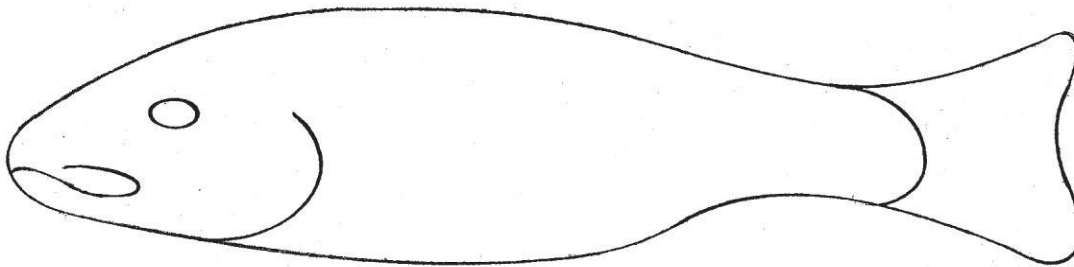


Diagram # 1 shows what can be carved or burned into a working fish decoy. Rules state – “Only the basic mouth shape, single gill coverings (one on each side), and delineations for the beginning of the tail fin may be carved or burned into the fish”.

**There is no maximum length limit in most decoy classes; however fish must demonstrate their swimming ability in our six-foot diameter tanks.**

In each class, first through third place ribbons will be awarded. Honorable mention ribbons will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. Judges will determine first through third Best of Show for all fish decoy categories. The “Best Decoy in the World” will be selected from the three Best of Show fish decoy winners from Categories A, B & C. First Best of Show only awards will be selected for jigging sticks and decorative carvings (Categories D & E). Registration for decoys and carvings will take place on the date of the contest from 8am to 10am, or at the show hotel at the discretion of the registrar. Entries will be returned to the contestant after the final award presentations.

**All mail-in entries should be sent to:** Al Reeg, 195 S. Matteson Lake Road, Bronson, MI 49028. Phone (517) 369-2364. Entries must be received by September 16th, 2020. Mail-in entries should include the following: a signed and completed Registration Form; a return shipping mailing label; a check for any entry fees; and a check for the actual return

shipping and insurance costs. Please remember these items will be shipped twice, and should be packaged accordingly. It is suggested that all carvings be doubled boxed, with packing material between boxes.

## **Categories and Classes (species) are listed on the Registration form.**

If you will be completing the Registration Form before attending the show, please bring three copies. Registration Forms will be available at the show. Results will be available on our website and via email. Make sure you include an email address on the Registration Form. For those without an email address, and would like a copy of the results, please include a self-addressed envelope with your registration form and our final results will be sent to you.

### **Collaborative Fish Decoy Challenge**

1. This Collaborative Team Challenge was created to kindle positive relationships between Michigan and Minnesota fish decoy carvers. Nevertheless, any "Team" of carvers is welcomed.
2. This year's decoy must be – 7-9 inch Working Perch Fish Decoy. See GLFDCCA contest rules for what is allowed in these decoys.
3. Judging criteria: swimming ability-80%; likeness to species - 10%; craftsmanship - 10%.
4. Only one decoy may be entered per "Team"; however a carver may be a member of more than one "Team".
5. All entries must have been completed after the last GLFDCCA show. All visible marks that would identify the "Team" must be covered; dark colored masking tape should be used.
6. All "Team" members must agree to the rules, and complete and sign the Registration Form.

**For additional information, or questions - contact our Show Chairman:**

**Al Reeg**

**195 S. Matteson Lk. Rd. or reegad@charter.net  
Bronson, Mi. 49028 Phone (517) 369-2364 US**

**2020 Great Lakes Fish Decoy Collectors and Carvers Association**  
**Fish Decoy World Championships and Carving Contest**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **Entry Fee – Number of Entries = \_\_\_\_\_ X \$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**All contestants must agree to the following:** 1. The below entry(ies) conform to all contest rules. 2. To hold harmless the Great Lakes Fish Decoy Collectors and Carvers Association, the hosting organization and location, and their officials and principals, from any and all liability from any loss or damage caused to persons or property for any cause whatsoever. 3. Decisions of the show chairman, registrar, and all judges are final. Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**2020**  
**GLFDCCA Categories & Classes**

<b>A. WORKING FISH DECOYS</b>	Official Use Only	<b>B. DECORATIVE FISH DECOYS</b>	Official Use Only	<b>C. FOLK-ART FISH DECOYS</b>	Official Use Only
Bass	A1-	Bass: species =	B1-	Under 5 inches	C1-
Pike or Musky	A2-	Pike or Musky	B2-	5-10 inches	C2-
Sunfish	A3-	Sunfish: species =	B3-	Over 10 inches	C3-
Yellow Perch	A4-	Yellow Perch	B4-	Two Color	C4-
Suckers	A5-	Minnow/ 6in and under	B5-	Holiday Theme	C5-
Brook Trout	A6-	Brook Trout	B6-	Natural Finish	C6-
Brown Trout	A7-	Rainbow Trout	B7-	Any Critter	C7-
Rainbow Trout	A8-	Brown trout	B8-	Cheaters	C8-
Walleye or Sauger	A9-	Walleye or Sauger	B9-		
Any Critter	A10-	Any Critter	B10-		
All Other Warm	A11-	Other Warm: species =	B11-		
All Other Cold	A12-	Other Cold: species =	B12-		
<b>D. Jigging Sticks</b>	Official Use Only	<b>E. DECORATIVE FISH CARVINGS</b>	Official Use Only	<b>No Holds Barred Decoys</b>	
Deluxe - Classic	D1-	Cold Water Species with environment	E1-		F1-
Working	D2-	Above species =			F1-
Natural Finish	D3-	Warm Water Species with environment	E2-		F1-
Deluxe - Creative	D4-	Above species =			F1-
		Wall Fish Plaque (without environment)	E3-		F1-
		Above species =			F1-
	Official Use Only	<b>Collaborative Team Challenge</b>	Official Use Only	<b>J. JUNIORS (no entry fees)</b>	Official Use Only
	COL-1			Working Decoys	JA-
				Decorative Decoys	JB-
				Folk-Art Decoys	JC-
				Any Jigging Stick	JD-