

ASK PROFESSOR FLOUNDER!

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Q: I'm confused. I don't understand what kind of scales I should use to weigh my fish for the GOFC Ellett Award competition. Also, how long do I have after I catch the fish to enter it?

A: Dear confused:

Your need for answers is the best reason for you (and everyone else!) to go to the **new and improved GOFC website** and read the official Tournament Rules. Just point your web browser to www.gofc.us and follow the links. You'll also find a copy of the club By-Laws, tournament schedules and news of upcoming meetings. Don't forget to take a look at the fishing photos on the 'photos' page and at information on local fishing hotspots with charts and photos while you're there. I'm hoping the new website becomes the focal point for up-to-the-minute GOFC information.

Q: I still have some old Loran TD's that I'd like to convert to GPS Lat/Long coordinates. Any suggestions?

A: Some of the latest GPS receivers have that capability, but I find it tough entering all those funny Loran numbers in a pitching boat. I've had the best luck using a program called *Posaid*, which does a pretty accurate job of conversions. It runs on a standard PC and allows you do convert lots a bunch of numbers while sitting in the comfort of your home (or office). It's a pretty complicated program to set up, but once you get the proper (closest) Loran chain information entered, you'll breeze through your old numbers with excellent accuracy. To get the program, do an Internet search for 'Posaid', and download the installation files.

Q: From a GOFC member who should know better: Should I keep a written copy of my GPS numbers just in case my GPS unit dies?

A: Duh. I keep written copies, copies on my computer (I use the Maptech Navigator program) and a backup GPS aboard with the exact numbers as my main unit. Enough said?

Send your questions relating to fishing techniques and tackle, boating, or personal relationships to Professor Flounder and look for the answers in future issues of 'Big Bend Angler'. Questions should be legitimate, but a few 'Stump The Sturgeon' attempts would be welcomed. Professor Flounder can be reached by email at captain@twotree.net or by phone at (352) 284-1763.