

2022 MSC Kayak Slam Sponsored by Naples Outfitters May 2, 2022



The second MSC "Kayak Slam" began on a beautiful Monday morning at the Isles of Capri Paddle Park. This event, sponsored by Naples Outfitters, provides kayakers of all skill levels with the opportunity to compete in an enjoyable and fun event. You don't even need to own a kayak to enter this tournament! For those who wanted to enter but didn't have a kayak, Naples Outfitters provided Hobie kayaks with pedal drives, and delivered the boats right to the launch site. It couldn't be any easier!

By random draw, all novice to intermediate kayakers are paired up with experienced kayakers for the day of kayak fishing. However, if spouses want to compete as a team, they may do so, and are exempt from the random draw. This year, Gloria and Ken Robertson bypassed the draw and entered as a team. When the fishing begins, each team sets out in search of a Kayak Slam...a snook, a redfish and a spotted seatrout. The team with the most total inches is the winner!

Since "kayak fishing" was a new experience for some of the anglers, the experienced kayakers spent some time with their teammates giving them a "Kayak 101" introductory lesson. Once they felt ready, the teams made their way out into McIlvane Bay and headed for the mangrove trails, where they hoped to get their slams. Once the teams made it to the mangroves, additional on-site training was needed for some of the newer kayakers, who had to learn, pretty quickly, how to untangle themselves, their kayak and fishing line from the ever-present mangrove branches and trees that seen to be everywhere.





While the weather, fishing conditions and tide cooperated during the day, the fish, unfortunately, did not. The 8 teams of kayakers fished all over McIlvane Bay, Johnson Bay and Rookery Bay, but the redfish weren't biting and neither were the trout. None of the kayak teams were able to record a "kayak slam". Surprisingly, no team completed a mini-slam either (two of the target species). Luckily, 6 of the 8 teams caught a snook, so this tournament ended up being a snook tournament, and instead of a "kayak slam," 6 teams turned in a "kayak micro-slam" (1 of the target species).

At the end of the day, the big winners were the team of Bob Schneider and Mike Lopez. Mike (novice kayaker) landed a 27" snook. That single catch earned his team the winning prize of \$140

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2<sup>nd</sup> place – Team Prize $100 - Dave Dodd and Dave Walsh
3<sup>rd</sup> place – Team Prize $ 80 - Gloria and Ken Robertson
4<sup>th</sup> place (tie)- Team Prize $ 40 - Victor Ordija and Ron Linn
$ 40 - Ron Weiler and George Vlasuk
6<sup>th</sup> place - Team Prize $ 30 - John Baker and Tim Cross
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Congratulations to all and thanks again to Naples Outfitters for sponsoring the event and working with our group to ensure everyone who wanted to participate was able to do so.

Plans are already in the works for Kayak Slam 3, which will take place later this year or early next year. If you haven't tried kayak fishing yet, you may want to join us next time for a fun-filled day in the mangroves.

To find out more about the MSC Kayak Group, go to the "Kayak Fishing" tab, which is located under "Fishing Info" on the Marco Sportfishing Club website.



