

The Gibbs High School Fishing Club had a Fishing Tournament this past Saturday at Madeira Beach Fundamental Middle School. The students caught a lot of fish and had a lot of fun spending time with friends and teachers from Gibbs High School. Marcus Lloyd was the big winner who caught the biggest and the most fish. Marcus caught 2 big sheepshead and 5 ladyfish. The Fishing Club president, Aundre Freeman, came in second with a 3-foot bonnet head shark.

The Fishing Club at Gibbs High School was started two years ago and has grown since that time as there were over 30 students who participated this past Saturday. All the students are equipped with fishing poles; bait; transportation; and plenty of food during the fishing outings; in addition to many prizes and free giveaways at each tournament. The students learn all about fishing including: how to tie knots; which lures to use under different circumstances; tides; and how to throw a cast net.

The Fishing Club is the only club at Gibbs High School that does not have any academic or behavioral requirements to participate. The club is designed for all students and especially students that need positive role-models and influences in their life. The students are provided an opportunity to learn a life-long hobby that they can continue and pass on to their friends and family. The Fishing Outings also provide great opportunities for the teacher-volunteers to bond with and mentor students.

The Fishing Club would not be possible without the assistance of the following businesses and important people:

- **The St. Pete Police** awarded Gibbs' Fishing Club \$ 1000 dollars last month through their forfeiture money grant program to pay for equipment and food during the fishing outings.
- **Dogfish Tackle** donated 15 poles to the Fishing Club.
- **Marine Max** donated 10 poles and fishing line.
- **Rick's Bait and Tackle** provides the club a 50% discount on all bait.
- **Tameaka Brown** for writing numerous grants to help start and continue the club.
- **Principal Chris Ateek** of Madeira Beach Middle Fundamental School for allowing the club to use his facilities for many of the tournaments.
- **Jim Simons** of the Florida Gulf Coast Center for Fishing for working so hard to make it possible for Pinellas County to
- The numerous **teacher-volunteers** who transport the students to the events.



