

Scales for Scales



Chris Catucci, 15, and Katie Tanner, 18

Teen fishing champs know how to convert measures of weight.

Fishing is the “reel” deal for 15-year-old Chris Catucci and 18-year-old Katie Tanner. Chris, from Warwick, Rhode Island, and Katie, from Missoula, Montana, compete in Junior Bassmaster fishing tournaments. They are among the best teenage anglers (people who fish with a hook and line) in the U.S.

Katie likes the uniqueness of competitive fishing. “Fishing isn’t about who is faster, like other sports,” she told *MATH*. “It’s about who can find the fish on any given day and have the patience to endure the long tournament days.” Chris, who won the 2010 Junior Bassmaster World Championship for his age

group, is drawn to the sport for different reasons. “I like that no two days are the same,” he said. “And it’s always a challenge to figure the fish out.”

Both Katie and Chris hope to one day compete in professional bass fishing’s top event, the Bassmaster Classic (this year held February 18–20 near New Orleans). “It would be an awesome accomplishment,” Chris told us. “The Classic is the Super Bowl of fishing.” Anglers in the Classic add the weight of the fish they catch to track where they stand in the competition. Try it out. We bet you can’t “weight” to get started.

—by Bill Wise

WHAT TO DO

The Bassmaster Classic is a three-day *catch-and-release* competition: The fish are caught, weighed, and returned to the water. The weights of the five heaviest fish each angler catches each day make up that day’s combined weight. The chart on page 13 shows the results for the top-8 finishers at the 2010 Classic. Read “Adding Pounds and Ounces.” Use that information to fill in each angler’s three-day total weight of fish on the chart. Then answer the questions.

BASSMASTER (2)

ADDING POUNDS AND OUNCES

→ Add ounces first, then pounds.

Example:

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \text{ lbs } 12 \text{ oz} \\ + 5 \text{ lbs } 9 \text{ oz} \\ \hline 8 \text{ lbs } 21 \text{ oz} \end{array}$$

→ If the sum in the ounces column is 16 or greater, divide the total ounces by 16. The quotient is the number of pounds that must be added to the pounds column. The remainder is the number of extra ounces.

$$\begin{array}{l} 21 \div 16 = 1 \text{ R}5 \\ 8 + 1 = 9, \text{ so the total} \\ \text{is } 9 \text{ lbs } 5 \text{ oz} \end{array}$$

1 Rank the anglers in order of finish (heaviest total at the top).

2010 Bassmaster Classic Top-8 Finishers

Combined weight of 5 heaviest fish caught on...

Angler	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	3-Day Total Weight
Brent Chapman	13 lbs 0 oz	8 lbs 2 oz	16 lbs 12 oz	<input type="text"/>
Todd Faircloth	18 lbs 2 oz	13 lbs 12 oz	12 lbs 5 oz	<input type="text"/>
Matt Herren	9 lbs 7 oz	13 lbs 15 oz	12 lbs 7 oz	<input type="text"/>
Michael Iaconelli	14 lbs 9 oz	12 lbs 3 oz	10 lbs 9 oz	<input type="text"/>
Jeff Kriet	16 lbs 7 oz	15 lbs 10 oz	14 lbs 5 oz	<input type="text"/>
Russ Lane	14 lbs 1 oz	11 lbs 10 oz	18 lbs 1 oz	<input type="text"/>
Kevin VanDam	19 lbs 8 oz	12 lbs 7 oz	19 lbs 7 oz	<input type="text"/>
Kevin Wirth	8 lbs 9 oz	10 lbs 11 oz	15 lbs 8 oz	<input type="text"/>

2 Which angler had the highest weight of fish caught for...

a. day 1 only?

b. day 2 only?

c. day 3 only?

3 What was Kevin VanDam’s average weight of fish caught per day?

4 Pam Martin-Wells, one of the best pro anglers of the past 20 years, had a 3-day Bassmaster Classic total of 25 pounds of fish. If she caught 6 lbs 13 oz of fish on day 1 and 8 lbs 4 oz on day 3, what was the combined weight of her day-2 fish?

WEB WISE: To see the results of this year’s Bassmaster Classic, look for the title of this article at www.scholastic.com/math/links