

STATE RECORD

Citronelle angler sets new standard for big amberjack with 132.80-pounder

BY JOHN N. FELSHER

A 38-year-old Citronelle angler set the new standard for one of the hardest-fighting fish in the Gulf of Mexico. On Aug. 2, 2019, Brian Andrews battled a 132.80-pound greater amberjack for more than 40 minutes.

“When I was fighting it, I knew it was going to be a big fish,” modestly remarked Andrews, whose family owns Andrews Ace Hardware (251-866-5554, www.acehardware.com/store-details/12001) located at 19750 North 3rd Street in Citronelle. “I didn’t think it was going to be a record, but I was just hoping it would

be bigger than my personal best, a 70-pounder that I caught several years ago.”

Brian’s fish measured 65.50 inches from its nose to the fork of its tail with a 40-inch girth. It not only beat Brian’s personal best, but shattered the old greater amberjack state record of 127.75 pounds. Marcus R. Kennedy caught that fish in June 1981. Brian’s fish ranks as the eighth largest non-shark or ray ever landed in Alabama.

“When we saw it, we knew it was bigger than 70 pounds, but still didn’t know it was a record until we put it on the scales,” Andrews recalled.

“Catching a state record never really crossed my mind. When we put the fish on the scales at Zeke’s, several people mentioned that it was bigger than the current state record.”

Andrews and his party fished aboard the Summer Breeze II, a 60-foot charterboat captained by Bobby Walker of Summer Breeze Charters, (251-981-6159, www.bobbywalker.com) who runs out of Zeke’s Landing Marina (www.zekeslanding.com) in Orange Beach. They fished about 45 miles southeast of Orange Beach. They also caught some amberjack

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