

22nd Black Drum Fishing Condition 2017

During the spring and winter of 1996, True Father led the Ocean Challenge Program in Uruguay boarding GoodGo boats which he sent from the US. Afterwards, he had the inspiration to establish a devotional condition which started in December of 1996, called the “Black Drum (Corvina Negra) Fishing Condition”.

At first, no one understood the purpose of this activity, but as time went on Father taught us that the 33 fishing poles represented the 33 countries of the Americas, and served as an internal condition for the unification of the North, Center, and South. Furthermore, the use of two fish hooks on each pole represented the masculine and feminine.

In the initial years, the condition occurred during the entire months of December and January under the strict leadership of True Father. After his passing, it was assumed that the condition would not continue. However, the National Leader of Uruguay, Rev. Kazuhiro Tsusaka, felt that it should not be stopped.

This year we celebrated the 22nd Black Drum Fishing Condition, which was completed for the past 21 years in a row. Participants from all over the world gathered in support. There was one North American, two UPA students, four Japanese missionaries of Uruguay and four Japanese missionaries of Argentina, two GPA Argentina participants, and five young Uruguayan community members, who received special training to lead this condition in the future.

Captain Antonio Palma, a member of the original team of the Black Drum Fishing Condition came from Brazil, and was the main instructor once again this year, for which we are very grateful.

The opening ceremony took place on Thursday, November 30th, which included testimonies and training.



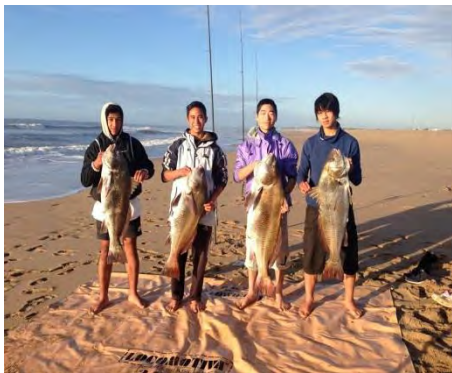
Friday, December 1st was very intense, filled with training, preparation, and the relocation to Punta del Este and the José Ignacio beach. Preparing the gear and setting up camp was very nostalgic.



The first couple of days went by without much result, but were very internal and educational.



A very special environment was set on the fourth day with testimonies of the experiences with True Parents, and by request of a missionary sister, Captain Antonio prepared a nighttime fishing occasion at the mouth of the lake, catching four black drums and becoming the hero of the moment.



One was caught each day on the following days, which kept the expectations very high, but it was on the ninth day where something very special happened. One of the GPA Argentina members, 2nd generation

Pedro Giuliano who was born in Venezuela from an Argentinian father and Paraguayan-Canadian mother, turned 21 years old (same as the condition) and was able to catch a large black drum weighing 21 kg (46 lbs). We see this as a gift from God to him, and was shared with everyone.



On Sunday the 10th we packed up and returned to Montevideo, where we prepared the gear for the next year. We offered all of the efforts and sacrifices made for this condition by our brothers and sisters, as well as the nine black drums that were caught. We hope this condition advances the peace and unification of the Americas, and helps the participants to commit to becoming the children God wants us to be, as well as establish themselves as blessed central families.

God bless you.

