

**NSU Oceanographic Center
Scholarship Fishing Tournament
October 22 - 23 2009**

Tournament Rules:

1) General Rules: International Game Fish Association ("IGFA") Rules shall apply to the NSU Oceanographic Center Benefit Fishing Tournament ("the Tournament"), except where they are inconsistent with the rules that follow. Anglers, crews, and captains are expected to be familiar with the IGFA Rules. To count for points, a registered angler must hook, fight, and bring the fish to the boat unaided by any other person. No one other than the angler may touch the rod prior to the fish counting as a release or capture.

All registered anglers and vessels must comply with all applicable federal and Florida laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits, speed limits, etc. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Highly Migratory Species (HMS) angling permits can be purchased at <http://www.nmfspermits.com> or by phone at 888-872-8862. In accordance with regulations, the results of the Tournament will be reported directly to NMFS; registered boats should therefore not report their catches during the Tournament. A photocopy of the NMFS HMS angling permit shall be required from each boat to register for the Tournament.

The fishing limits of the Tournament shall be the territorial waters of the United States but no more than 25 miles offshore. Registered anglers may fish as far north or south as they wish, but any boat with fish to be weighed for the Tournament awards must be at the weigh station no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday in accordance with Rule 7. Boats that are fighting a billfish after the "lines out" time must still adhere to this rule if they also have fish to weigh.

The Tournament committee will appoint an official weighmaster, who will oversee all activities at the weigh-in location. The weigh-in location will be announced at the captain's meeting.

2) Communications: The official VHF channel for the Tournament shall be channel 71. An alternate channel will be determined at the pre-Tournament captain's meeting and will also be broadcast to the Tournament participants at the start of the fishing day. The primary VHF channel shall be reserved for official Tournament announcements and participant reports of catches and releases to the Committee Boat. The alternate channel should be used for all other communications between Tournament participants.

3) Bait and Tackle:

a. Number of Anglers and Lines: Only registered anglers may fish in the Tournament, with a maximum of four anglers per boat. Unregistered anglers may not substitute for registered anglers during the Tournament. Each boat may fish up to six lines in the water at any one time, regardless of the number of registered anglers on board.

b. Line Strength and Leaders: Lines shall not exceed 80-lb. test strength. Leaders (excluding double lines) shall not exceed fifteen feet in length.

c. Hooks: Boats may only use approved circle hook models in the Tournament. Modifying these hooks in any manner, or using a non-approved hook model, may be grounds for disqualification. Approved models are:

Mustad *Ultra Point Demon Circle Fine Wire* 39951R, Mustad *Ultra Point Demon Circle Fine Wire* 39951BLN, Mustad *Ultra Point Demon Circle Fine Wire* 39954BLN, Gamakatsu 2214, Gamakatsu 2213, Eagle Claw *Lazer Sharp* L2004ELF, Precision *Saltwater Billfish* P170, Diaichi D84Z, and Diaichi 84Z.

d. Bait: Boats must supply their own bait and/or lures. Registered anglers and crew may fish for live bait at any time.

4) Fishing Hours: Boats may leave the dock at any time – there is no Bimini Start. However, the official fishing times for the Tournament will be from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No baits, teasers, or chumming with whole or cut baits are allowed in the water before the official start of the fishing day. Official announcements of "lines in the water" for the beginning of the fishing day, and "lines out of the water" for the end of the fishing day, will be issued on the tournament VHF channel 71. All registered anglers on any boat with lines in the water other than during the official times will be disqualified from the Tournament, with the exception of an angler fighting a billfish that has been reported and registered with the Committee Boat prior to the "lines out" time.

5) Billfish Reporting and Release Rules: All billfish fishing in the Tournament will be catch-and-release only. Any vessel retaining a billfish will be disqualified from the Tournament.

a. Reporting: As soon as possible after hooking a billfish, the captain will notify the Committee Boat and report both the species and name of the angler. All hookups must be acknowledged by the Committee Boat to be eligible for Tournament points. The Committee Boat will provide you with a release number. If you cannot communicate with the Committee Boat by radio on the primary

channel, ask another boat to relay the information for you. Alternatively, call the provided local number with a satellite phone.

b. Release: To be eligible for release points, the captain must obtain an official release number from the Committee Boat after the hookup. In accordance with IGFA Rules, and notwithstanding the release rules detailed below, a billfish shall count as a release if the swivel attaching the leader to the line touches the tip of the rod or a member of the crew touches the leader.

All teams must provide their own digital still or video camera to verify releases. The camera must show the correct date and time stamp on each photo or video frame. To score an official release, an identifiable photo must be taken of the fish showing the number card and date-time stamp. After the photo is taken, the official time, species, control number, and angler name must be written on each catch report affidavit, which will then be signed by the registered angler and the boat captain. At the end of the day's fishing, the camera, catch report affidavit, and all photo or video footage of the fish must be brought to the official scoring station by 4:00 p.m. for verification of the official release points. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of the catch and no points will be awarded.

An eligible release also requires that the billfish remains in the water at all times. Any billfish that is removed from the water for display purposes or brought into the boat for any reason will be disqualified from the Tournament.

6) Honor System and Official Protests: The Tournament will be conducted on the Honor System. However, protest forms will be available in case of complaints. All protest forms must be signed by the team captain and filed with the Weighmaster on the same day as the infraction is observed. All protests will be considered by the Tournament committee, whose decisions are final.

7) Weigh-in and Awards: Tournament awards will be presented in the Individual Angler and Team categories. Additional awards will be given to the first and second teams with the highest number of points and for the female angler with the highest number of points.

All boats with fish to be weighed must proceed directly to the weigh station at the end of the fishing day. Registered boats with fish to be weighed must at the weigh-in location by 4:00 p.m. on Friday for the fish to count towards the Tournament awards. Fish to be weighed must be delivered to the weigh station by the capturing boat. In case of a tie involving two or more boats in the tournament after the day of fishing, the

boat with the highest number of points in the billfish category will be the winner. If two or more of the tied boats in the Tournament have the same score within the billfish category, then the boat with earliest catch time wins.

a. Billfish: Each eligible billfish in the Tournament must be registered with the Committee Boat as described above. Points will be awarded for the successful release of each fish by species.

- i. Blue marlin: 400 points
- ii. White marlin and spearfish: 200 points
- iii. Sailfish: 100 points

b. Individual Bluewater Funfish: Two points per pound will be awarded to any registered boat landing the following species (10-pound minimum per fish, with each fish weighed to the nearest half pound): Dolphin, Kingfish, Wahoo, Blackfin Tuna, and Yellowfin Tuna. An award will be presented to the largest individual fish in each of these five species categories.

- i. Any mutilated fish will not be counted in the Tournament scoring.
- ii. Individual tail tags may be required by the Weighmaster to be attached to each weighed fish, which must be signed by the captain and labeled with the boat name.
- iii. No more than six individual fish per species per boat will count towards the Tournament award point totals.

c. Combined Funfish: An award will be presented to the greatest combined weight of any legally retained fish species (excluding elasmobranchs, such as sharks and rays). Two points per pound will be awarded to any registered boat landing their top five individual fish. It will be the captain's responsibility to ensure legality of all retained fish by state or federal permitting requirements, accurate species identification, and minimum size measurement. Any individual fish not legally retained will be disqualified from the tournament. As with the other categories:

- i. Any mutilated fish will not be counted in the Tournament scoring.
- ii. Individual tail tags may be required by the Weighmaster to be attached to each weighed fish, which must be signed by the captain and labeled with the boat name.
- iii. No more than five individual fish per boat will count towards the "Combined Funfish" award point totals.
- iv. Individual fish entered in the "Combined Funfish" category cannot be simultaneously entered into another tournament award category.

8) Weather: The Tournament committee may cancel any tournament day if, in its best

judgment, unsafe conditions exist at sea for the average registered boat. Notice of cancellation for the day will be broadcast on the Tournament VHF channel 71 at 7:30 a.m. However, the decision of the Tournament to allow fishing for the day shall not be interpreted as any assurance that the conditions are safe for any registered boat or angler. Registered participants must at all times make their own judgments regarding personal safety based on their boat, experience, seamanship skills, and any other relevant factors.

9) Liability: It is understood that all participants enter the Tournament at their own risk and that they, individually and collectively, thereby assume all risks which may be involved in participating, particularly those hazards due to weather or at-sea conditions. Participants fully understand that they may, at any time, elect not to continue participating when they deem the hazards too great. The Tournament committee, sponsors, organizers, and anyone else directly connected with the Tournament shall be exempt and is hereby released from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm, or injury suffered by anyone participating in this tournament.

By your presence at this event, you are granting your permission to use your name and any and all photographs/video taken of you, your family, or your boat for the promotional use of the Tournament without compensation or restriction.

**NSU Tournament Rules: 10 August 2007,
Amended 25 September 2009**

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NSU Oceanographic Center