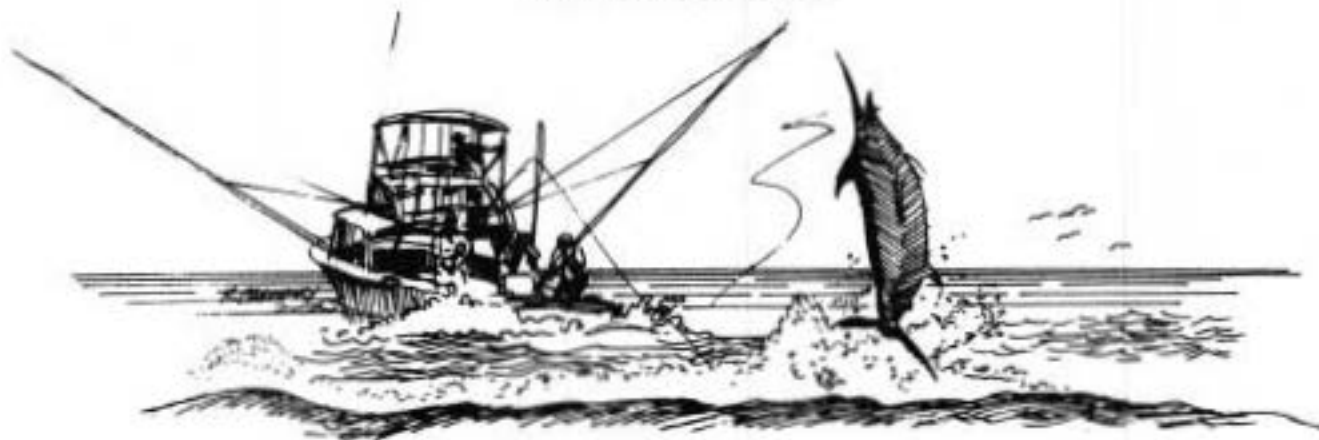


PLANNING AND HOLDING SPORTFISHING TOURNAMENTS

by

Donald L. Hammond



Educational Report No. 16

March 17, 1992

Finfish Management Program - Office of Fisheries Management
Marine Resources Department



South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department
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Charleston, South Carolina 29422

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Foreword

by
C. M. "Rip" Cunningham
Editor-in-Chief,
Salt Water Sportsman Magazine

In the not too distant past, I have to admit that I was a confirmed opponent of competitive fishing events. Okay, I may have said that a local club affair that did not load up the docks with dead fish was acceptable or at least not objectionable. In fact, the policy of SALT WATER SPORTSMAN was to ignore fishing tournaments in hope that they would go away. Fishing was meant to be more contemplative and a means for escape.

Well, what do you know. Tournaments did not go away. To the contrary, they have flourished and have had a positive effect on the sport of fishing. In the process, I woke up to smell the coffee and have changed my opinion about 180 degrees. Salt water fishing tournaments are here to stay. If organized correctly, they can be beneficial to the local economy, the fishery and research and management. My investigation of competitive events has lead me to believe that they are truly an untapped resource for fisheries managers and that participants want to be part of the process to enhance their avocation. They want to be part of the system.

My hat's off to Don Hammond for his compilation of this information to help tournaments get organized and become a productive part of the system. This publication should be required reading for anyone starting up a new tournament and for that matter, for those who want to fine tune existing events. It is all here and is another example of the excellent work being done by the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author deeply appreciates the advice and critical review of this manuscript by the following: Mr. Michael Leech, executive director, International Game Fish Association, Pompano Beach, Florida; Mr. B. Frank Bloomingburg, Investigative Associates of Charleston Inc., Charleston, South Carolina.; Mr. George E. Campsen, III, Campsen and Campsen, Attorneys at Law, Charleston, South Carolina; Mr. James R. Goller, Conservation Education and Communication Division of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Columbia, South Carolina. The advice and many suggestions provided by Ms. Kay Van Sant, Marine Resources Division of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Charleston, South Carolina are sincerely appreciated. Mr. Peter Laurie, Conservation Education and Communication Division of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department kindly provided the instate news media contacts. Also Mr. Charles Moore of the Marine Resources Division of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, Charleston, South Carolina is thanked for his review of the manuscript. Mrs. Pat Causby, Mrs. Emily Schroeder, and Mrs. Hope Mixson, Marine Resources Division, are thanked for their patience in typing this manuscript.

A special thanks is extended to Mr. C. M. "Rip" Cunningham, Editor-in-Chief of SaltWater Sportsman magazine for taking timeout from his busy schedule to review the manuscript and prepare the foreword.

In acknowledgment to the numerous tournament directors and committees with which I have had the pleasure and honor of working, this guide is dedicated.

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PLANNING AND HOLDING SPORTFISHING TOURNAMENTS

Introduction

Sportfishing tournaments are rapidly increasing in popularity throughout the country. No longer are these competitions held only by local fishing clubs. Today's tournaments are held by businesses, civic clubs, groups of individuals and even church groups. Many events are held simply for fun and camaraderie; others are used as promotional tools or as fund raisers.

In 1988, over ninety saltwater sportfishing competitions were held along the South Carolina coast. These tournaments focused on virtually every major gamefish from spotted seatrout to blue marlin. While these events were very diverse in nature and appealed to different groups of fishermen, the competition for participants was very keen among similar events. This competition for anglers has required that each event be well-organized and operate as smoothly as possible to project the most positive image while minimizing conflicts.

The goal of this guide is to assist organizers of sportfishing tournaments in developing professional competitions. Well-developed events project a positive image for tournaments and for sportfishing in general. It is vital that sportfishing tournaments project a healthy, positive image as the news media portray these as primary examples of South Carolina's marine recreational fisheries.

This basic guide to planning a sportfishing competition is based on twenty years of experience the author has in dealing with competitive events. It is designed to cover the full spectrum of frequently asked questions. Not all points discussed will apply to any one tournament, and organizers will invariably encounter issues important to their particular event that have not been addressed herein or have only been mentioned briefly.

For the tournament director wishing to read further, additional sources of information on planning and holding tournaments are available (see reference section). The Sea Grant Programs at both Texas A & M University (Snider et al, 1987) and the University of Florida (Otwell et al, 1982a, 1982b) have published materials beneficial to developers of competitions. Peter Goadby, in his latest book on sportfishing published in Australia (1991), dedicates a chapter to operating sportfishing competitions. A national magazine, Sport Fishing (Dugger, 1990), has published an instructional article on planning fishing tournaments.

Tournament Goals

The first step towards a successful sportfishing tournament is to establish its purpose. Sportfishing tournaments are held for a variety of reasons but virtually all can be classified into one of three basic goal types or a combination thereof. The most frequent goal of saltwater competitions is simply for fun and camaraderie. The second most common objective is to promote a product, business, etc. The third major goal is that of a fund raiser for a club or charity.

A tournament whose primary goal is fun and camaraderie normally targets a club membership or local anglers, and are relaxed, low-key events. Such tournaments feature low entry fees with awards presentations emphasizing the social aspect. Winners generally receive trophies and plaques along with some merchandise. These competitions require a minimum of manpower, time and money to properly develop. However, even low key events can go awry

if attention is not paid to the details.

Most high stakes/cash prize competitions fall into the promotional category. Large cash or merchandise awards along with a substantial entry fee are hallmarks of these tournaments designed to attract large numbers of fishermen into the area. By combining high numbers of sportfishermen with attention-getting prizes, media coverage can be readily attracted.

Well-organized promotional competitions are effective tools to advertise fishing clubs, businesses such as marinas or tackle shops, products or events, or a resort's sportfishing or recreational opportunities. These tournaments require the most time, money and manpower to produce. Because of the high value of prizes being offered and the intense competition that pervades these events, it is essential that rules are strictly adhered to and attention paid to every detail.

A modified form of the promotional tournament is used by municipal, county, and state-wide organizations to advertise area sportfishing opportunities and develop their local sportfishing industry. Such programs are designed to provide recognition for quality catches made during normal fishing, rather than encourage fishermen to kill additional fish. The cornerstones of such programs are no entry fee, long terms of operation, high levels of publicity, and broad-based, low key awards. An underlying purpose is to show both visitors and residents the quality and diversity of fishing opportunities available, thereby stimulating participation.

Sportfishing tournaments are also frequently used as fund raisers for clubs and charities. Properly run, these events can be good money making projects but require very careful planning and strong fundraising campaigns. To maximize monies realized for the club or charity, it is necessary to raise capital for operating expenses and also prizes whenever possible. In circumstances where entry fees alone are relied upon to cover expenses and prizes, the result is a profit level much lower than anticipated. However, this method is used frequently where fund raising is a secondary objective for the tournament.

A few organizers have looked at competitions for profit just from the entry fee alone. The mistake is usually made only once. Profits realized from a tournament come from purchases made by participants such as fuel, bait, tackle and food. Unless production expenses are paid for through donations, a tournament's final budget statement will seldom be in the black.

Tailoring Your Event to the Consumer

The best intentions of any tournament sponsor can be washed to sea in a flood of mis-marketing and improper design. It is imperative that tournaments be carefully tailored to suit the tastes and life styles of the sportfishermen targeted. To meet these goals, every facet of the tournament must be balanced against the social and economic level of sportfishermen being targeted. To seek a \$500 entry fee on any inshore tournament would price it out of the market and few fishermen would be interested. Likewise, to serve beer and pretzels as hors d'ouvres for a billfish tournament social requiring a \$1,000 entry fee would encourage few repeat anglers. Affluent anglers don't mind spending money for a first class event, while other economic segments are more cost conscious.

Species Selection

Selection of eligible species of fish for the tournament is the first step in targeting a consumer group. If you are interested in affluent sportsmen, billfish are the fish of choice.

Billfishing requires expensive equipment and boats and the aficionados of this sport usually reside in the upper level of society. This is not to say that billfish are the only fish sought by affluent sportfishermen; just that upper echelon sportfishermen comprise the largest proportion of this recreational fishery. When targeting this economic group, organizers should remember that it is the smallest market to draw upon. These fishermen schedule their activities well in advance and organizers should plan accordingly.

The largest segment of active tournament sportfishermen belong to the middle income level and consist largely of professionals and small business owners. These anglers commonly fish from trailerable boats in the 18 to 27 foot range. Fuel capacities of these vessels generally restrict fishing to within 40 miles of shore. Subsequently, king mackerel, dolphin, wahoo, tuna, cobia, amberjack and barracuda rank high on their list of gamefish. These anglers will also participate in both billfish and inshore tournaments.

The vast majority of saltwater tournament fishermen fall into the third category, that of inshore anglers. These fishermen, as a whole, are upper level blue collar workers who have been fishing inshore saltwater for many years. They principally own boats in the 14 to 18 foot range and restrict their fishing to creek and bays, only occasionally straying beyond sheltered water. Fishing for red drum (channel bass), spotted seatrout, flounder, sheepshead, black drum, bluefish and crevalle jacks are these angler's forte.

Highly competitive tournaments offering big prizes normally recognize only a single eligible species. This eliminates subjective quality ranking of recognized fish necessary in determining an overall winner. On the other hand, organizers of events intended for fun and camaraderie want to provide as many opportunities to win as possible for their participants. One of the best ways to achieve this is by recognizing many different species. Normally, general species events target fish that occur in the same general area, i.e., inshore or offshore. (See Appendix 1). However, by featuring fish that occur in distinctly different areas such as seatrout and amberjack, events target a broader spectrum of fishermen. This also serves to distribute awards among more boats.

There are but a few species of gamefish that transcend all social and economic levels of sportsmen. In our waters, it is the magnificent tarpon that crosses these barriers. Anglers from all walks of life have become addicted to the pursuit of this great gamefish. These anglers often become fanatics in pursuit of the silver king, but tournament organizers should be aware that tarpon enthusiasts in the Palmetto state represent one of the smallest markets.

Entry Fees

The price of entry into any tournament is extremely important. It largely determines the segment of sportfishermen that will be attracted to the event.

Tournament organizers must first establish the objectives of the entry fee. The most important consideration is to what degree these monies will be relied upon to finance the tournament. From this point the fee can be utilized to control participation by adjusting its level. It can even be used to market to a particular segment of fishermen.

It should be realized that there are limits as to how much each economic level of sportfishermen will pay to participate in a tournament. These limits however, are tempered by what the tournament is offering in the way of socials and prizes. In general, marlin fishermen place a greater importance on the elegance of socials than do seatrout and red drum anglers.

Generally speaking, the higher the ratio of entry fee to prize payback, the greater the appeal is to the fisherman. Example: an event with a \$10 entry for \$1,000 payback would be far more appealing than a \$100 entry for \$1,000 payback. However, marlin fishermen, due to their small numbers, routinely accept a lower ratio of payback than most other fishermen. Ideally, fishermen like to see 100 percent payback of entry fees.

Unlike most inshore fishing where the angler succeeds in catching a fish unassisted, offshore big game fishing is a team effort. A basic team in big game fishing consists of four people; one to run the boat, one to wire the fish, one to gaff the fish, and the angler. For this reason, entry fees for offshore and other big fish tournaments are based on boat entry and not on individual anglers. The rationale is that registering by boat rather than angler encourages teamwork, not individual competition. Additionally, individual registration may encourage unscrupulous anglers to register one person and credit them with all fish caught, resulting in a substantial savings on the entry fee. To control the number of people participating in the competition, organizers may restrict the number of anglers aboard each vessel (restricted limit should be no lower than four for offshore events and two for inshore). Attendance at socials may be controlled by issuing a fixed number of passes per boat. Angler participation should not be unduly restricted only because of costly socials. Additional angler registration and party passes may be made available for purchase to offset expenses.

Balancing Awards to Objectives

Improperly gauging the awards in a tournament can be embarrassing for an organizer. For example, a tournament that was held as a fund raiser for a conservation cause offered prizes only for dead fish. The event suffered extensive embarrassment at the hands of the media. Another organizer put forth a competition that had a \$200 entry fee with the top prize being a \$250 rod and reel. This event never received a single entry. Another competition attempted to present the winning angler of the wahoo division, who caught a 97-pounder, an ultra light spinning outfit designed for 4 to 6 pound test line. The angler refused to accept it in front of the entire crowd.

These examples demonstrate a few of the problems encountered with improper awards planning. Not only do such incidents generate a poor public image, they also serve to alienate current and prospective fishing clients.

Large cash or merchandise awards are not conducive to a low-key, fun, camaraderie tournament. Such awards inspire anglers to keen and often cut-throat competition. Awards of high value belong in promotional or fund raising competitions because of their effect on the attitudes of the participants. Fun tournaments should feature plaques or trophies possibly coupled with inexpensive merchandise.

Events promoting sportfishing for a particular area by recognizing fish caught in the course of everyday fishing normally feature certificates, trophies, and nominal merchandise. A primary purpose is to provide low cost recognition to as many people as possible. These seasonal or year-long programs normally award certificates, shoulder patches, and hats to all anglers entering a qualifying fish. Trophies and occasionally merchandise are presented to the overall winners.

Marine art has gained respect in recent years among tournament anglers. Hand carvings, sculptures, prints and paintings by internationally renowned artists are popular competition

awards. Tournaments also find that top quality equipment associated with the type of fishing featured in the competition is eagerly accepted. Inferior merchandise, however, will be instantly recognized by fishermen. Likewise, trophies or plaques should reflect the quality of the event. As a general rule, the more affluent sportfishermen have a deep appreciation for works of art while other segments prefer functional merchandise.

In highly competitive sportfishing tournaments, a large purse captures the attention of fishermen. There is no question that competitions featuring cash prizes are preferred by anglers who fish high stake events. However, there are many drawbacks for the tournament organizer who utilizes cash. The primary drawback is that a 1099 miscellaneous I.R.S. form must be filed with the Internal Revenue Service on each winner.

Cash for awards is the hardest item to obtain. Organizers have found that businesses will far more readily part with merchandise costing \$200 to manufacture than \$200 in cash. The merchandise promotes their product or service, whereas little promotional value is received from cash donations.

Organizers often rely on the entry fee to provide award money but this is a gamble at best. If the participation is below par, the organizer is placed in an awkward situation. One method used to avoid this is to have sponsors escrow the full prize amount in case of a short fall. Another option is to base the prizes on a specific level of participation. This should be clearly stated in all advertisements. However, fishermen have become somewhat wary of tournaments with conditional prizes.

Most of the effective fund raising tournaments rely on numerous sponsors to provide good quality merchandise useful to fishermen. The cumulative value of such donations can be a very attractive enticement for participants. These tournaments can be further enhanced by a low entry fee.

Special awards for setting a new state or world record in a tournament have become very popular. These awards are established for a specific species and usually represent a large cash sum arranged through an insurance company by purchasing a policy to cover such an occurrence. This is a good way to boost total purse offerings for advertising purposes at low cost.

Tournaments should be aware that the International Game Fish Association will not recognize any fish for a line class world record except in the all tackle category when a substantial cash prize is offered for its establishment. Additionally, insurance companies may refuse to write a policy for state records in states where there is no solid documentation required in the setting of state record fish. This is not a problem in South Carolina as all potential applications are thoroughly documented (See Appendix 2).

Concern for the health of popular marine gamefish stocks no longer allow tournaments to ignore conservation of these resources, and require steps be taken to reduce kill. Many fishermen, clubs and organizations fight to protect the resources on which sportfishing depends. It would be both foolish and a publicity concern to hold a large kill competition appearing to waste these resources with blatant disregard for conservation. With the current public concern about conservation ethics, it is not enough for tournaments to simply take steps to reduce the kill. They should also provide recognition to anglers who practice conservation through live release or tag and release of gamefish. Such awards don't have to be expensive to demonstrate

that competitions can also promote a conservation ethic.

The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department encourages every tournament to provide awards or recognition for anglers tagging and releasing gamefish. Placement of scientific research tags into game fish is a primary tool used in life history studies of marine game fish. By incorporating tag and release of gamefish into main awards or providing recognition, a tournament encourages anglers to practice conservation while aiding fisheries managers to achieve a better understanding of our fisheries resources. Free fish tags are available to individual anglers through the Marine Game Fish Tagging Program sponsored by the Marine Resources Division of the Wildlife Department. Fishermen may receive a tagging kit by writing: Marine Game Fish Tagging Program, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422. Anglers should specify what types and sizes of saltwater fish they are interested in tagging.

Because of misconceptions by many anglers, tournaments may wish to define what actually constitutes a released fish. It is a common misconception that I.G.F.A. states that a legal release occurs regardless of events after the swivel has been brought up to touch the rod; no matter whether the leader was cut or broke on its own; whether the hook was physically removed or was thrown by the fish. The fact is, I.G.F.A. does not define what constitutes a release.

The following constitute a legal release:

1. When the fish has been hooked, fought to the boat, the hook has been physically removed or the leader cut by an assistant and the fish returned to the water or released without any intentional injury or damage being inflicted on the fish.
2. When the angler has verbally declared his intent to release the fish, which has been successfully fought to the boat, and an assistant has the leader in hand or the fish has been placed in a landing net and an attempt is being made to implant a scientific identification tag in the fish; from this point on it does not matter whether the fish gains its freedom from the action of a member of the crew or not.

Designing Socials

Socials are an important feature of virtually all tournaments. These functions can be looked upon as a consolation prize for unsuccessful participants. Tournament socials are the only time when all people involved in the event are brought together for friendly interaction and camaraderie. They provide the opportunity to meet new friends and re-establish old friendships. These functions are not without drawbacks beyond basic expenses. Tournament organizers may consider legal counsel regarding their liability when serving alcoholic beverages at these functions.

Balancing the socials to the expectations and refinement of the fisherman is extremely important. An event that is below what the fisherman is accustomed to will be looked upon as

an insult. On the other hand, an elegant affair for inshore fishermen would be considered pompous and an unappreciated expense. Socials should start when the majority of fishermen have returned and have had time to clean up. The gregarious nature of sportfishermen virtually guarantees that a well planned social will be enjoyed by the participants.

Funding

No matter what the reason behind the tournament, the last thing an organizer wants is to wind up in the red financially at the end of the tournament. This is why funding usually dictates a tournament's organization. Most tournaments operate on funding received from a combination of sources such as donations, sale of advertisements and entry fees. Donations come in every conceivable form from cash to physical labor and all are valuable. Free labor should be welcomed as there is a prodigious amount of behind the scenes work involved in a successful tournament. The sale of advertisements in brochures distributed to all participants or in promotional brochures has become a popular funding technique. It is one, however, that creates additional expense, more work and requires advance planning.

Frequently, organizations or groups interested in holding a tournament can join with a business such as a marina or resort development. Such joint efforts can be mutually beneficial as tournaments offer one of the best forms of advertising and promotion for sportfishing-related businesses. Additionally, a marina stands to make money from additional sales created by the tournament. Because such businesses would benefit from the event, organizers can negotiate the level of financial responsibility the business will assume.

One very important point often overlooked by tournament organizers is following through on promoting the merchants and companies that supported their event. It is imperative that donor names are put before the public at every opportunity as their sole reward. If they feel ignored, it will be much harder to enlist their support in the future.

Public Relations

Getting the message to the public about your tournament is important to its success. This is true for every competition, whether for fun or a \$100,000 purse. Sole reliance on word of mouth among fishermen to bring in participants is simply not enough. The public must be constantly reminded that your event exists. (See Appendix 3).

Promotion of the tournament should begin three to ten months ahead depending on the size of the event planned. Many tools can be used. Promotional flyers and brochures are very effective when distributed to every place a fisherman might visit. Advertisements in sportfishing publications are also effective and adds credibility. However, the most effective method to reach anglers likely to participate in your event is a direct mail promotion to fishermen who have participated in similar tournaments in the past. Also, local radio and television stations will frequently provide free advertising to philanthropic tournaments held in the community.

Tournaments often fail to follow through in their promotional efforts. Large promotional or fund raising events can often get the local news media (radio, television and newspaper) to run daily progress reports as part of their community news and activities. But to receive this coverage, organizers must provide the media with a detailed daily report or a specific person, telephone number, and time that they can call to get information. Television is especially interested in being alerted to newsworthy catches, especially state records, but they must be

given a specific time for filming. A news release covering any special happenings along with results of the tournament should be sent out to all local news media immediately.

Scheduling

An important point to be considered in planning an event is selecting a date. A host of factors influence this simple step. Weather patterns, seasonal fluctuations in the fishing, even daily tidal fluctuations, are common points for considerations when picking a date. Other local fishing tournaments, festivals or major national events can adversely affect a tournament's participation level and therefore must be taken into account. These considerations will help to ensure the best participation and improve the odds for good quality fishing.

In an effort to minimize conflicts between tournaments, the Marine Resources Division through the Finfish Management Program (F.M.P.) offers a scheduling advisory service. Under this program, tournament directors can check to see what tournaments are already scheduled for a given weekend in order to avert competition for participants. Likewise, other similar tournaments can be alerted to your schedule to prevent or minimize conflicts. Also, F.M.P. personnel can advise about general trends and seasons for various gamefish. An annual brochure is published each spring listing the saltwater sportfishing tournaments that have been scheduled for that year. Each year, copies are distributed throughout South Carolina and into Georgia and North Carolina. To be listed in the brochure, tournaments must mail in information on tournament name, dates, sponsor, contact person, address and telephone number by February 28 of each year to the Finfish Management Program, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422. Inclusion is based on space and first received.

In choosing the actual days of the week for the tournament, some thought must be given to the participant's flexibility in taking time away from work and family. Upper level executives and business owners are more flexible in taking time off during the week than are blue collar workers. Subsequently, organizers of billfish tournaments can schedule their event to include week days with little effect on participation. However, scheduling an inshore tournament during the week may prove disastrous, as most inshore anglers prefer to fish weekends and holidays. Only occasionally, and if the tournament is large enough, will inshore anglers fish during the week. Another point for consideration is that fishermen coming from out of town like to have Sunday to return home before starting back to work Monday.

The number of days a tournament should encompass has much to do with the objectives of the event. Most events consist of one or two days of fishing, although some span up to five days. One of the basic reasons for multiple fishing days is to help ensure that enough fish will be caught to claim all prizes. Most serious charity tournaments are one day events in order to cut production costs. However, promotional events usually extend over several days to ensure having enough fish caught for a good media showing. A longer period also allows more time for advertising the promotional subject of the competition.

Abundance of the specie(s) of fish sought must be taken into account. Ideally, the tournament should be held during peak fishing periods, such as a blue marlin event in May or June. An abundance of fish is desirable for angler satisfaction. Sponsors should check on seasonal as well as monthly fluctuations in abundance for targeted species.

State and federal restrictions on harvest of species should be checked. It would be embarrassing to knowingly schedule a tournament for a species when it is illegal to have the fish

in possession, i.e., closed season. Additionally, it is risky to schedule an event for heavily exploited species such as king or Spanish mackerel at the end of their management year. The possibility of a closure looms greatest at this period if the Total Allowable Catch is reached.

Another consideration in scheduling a competitive event involving boats is registering with the proper law enforcement authority. Because of problems associated with boating activity, state and federal law requires the organizers of boating events to register their plans at least 30 days prior to operation. This is intended to alert enforcement authorities to increased boating activity and allow them to schedule necessary patrols.

Tournaments in South Carolina should secure a Marine Event form from the Boating Office at the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department in Charleston. If the competition involves boating activity in the open ocean, the application is turned over to the Marine Safety Office at the U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters in Charleston. Events whose primary boating activity occurs in inland waters come under the jurisdiction of the State Boating Office.

For applications or further information, tournament organizers should write: Boating Office, South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, P.O. Box 12559, Charleston, SC 29422, or telephone (803) 762-5041.

Awards Criteria

The rewards of winning or placing in a tournament and the criteria used for assessing the winner must be clearly presented to participants so there is no room for misunderstandings. All prizes and awards should be clearly and specifically detailed for each category or place. If the prizes are conditional such as based on a certain level of participation or for establishing a new state or world record, this must be perfectly clear. When the prizes are ambiguous, the results are often discontented anglers and an occasional law suit.

Eligible categories of fish must be clearly stated. A problem frequently arises in determining what species are eligible when collective or colloquial names for fish are used. This is frequently the case when terms such as snapper, trout, kingfish, or tuna are listed as a category. Fishermen chronically lump distinctly different fish belonging to different families under common terms. Red porgy, cousin to the sheepshead, is called pink snapper. Hogfish, a wrasse family member, is called hog snapper. Weakfish in South Carolina are referred to as summer trout. Little tunny, locally called bonita, is a member of the tuna family, so it could qualify as a tuna. There is nothing wrong with using a collective term, but if used, the particular species of fish to be included should be properly defined.

It is just as important to provide information on how winners will be determined. Identify specific criteria used to select the winner of each award. This is especially important in events recognizing several species, and also for overall awards, such as outstanding female angler. A potential problem frequently overlooked is the handling of ties. While length of the fish may be used to break ties (longest fish wins), it requires measuring each fish before a tie occurs and leads to extensive record keeping. A simple alternative is to use earliest entry (time fish was weighed in) as the tie breaker. This can be achieved by logging the weigh in time on each entry or by keeping a consecutive list of entries as they are weighed in each day. This also encourages fishermen to weigh in their fish as early as possible. All methods used should be clearly stated in the rules.

Another point often omitted is handling a situation where not enough fish are caught to fill each prize category. In cases where only trophies are offered, they can simply be retained. However, in situations where merchandise or money is being given for each category, a decision has to be made whether to divide awards from unfilled slots among the categories filled or retain the prizes. Information detailing divisions of unclaimed awards or the disposition of unclaimed prizes should be presented clearly to the anglers preferably in writing. These points should also be clearly covered at the captain's meeting prior to fishing.

Such plans should also cover the "worst-case" scenario of no fish being caught. In cash prize tournaments the options would be to:

- 1) escrow the money adding it to next year's prize
(entry fee doubled for boats not having fish this year;)
- 2) hold a fish bowl drawing among all participants;
- 3) refund entry fee less specific amount to cover socials or other costs;
- 4) divide prize money evenly among registered participants; or
- 5) donate the prize money to a worthy cause.

Anglers usually prefer a fish bowl drawing or the escrow of prize money.

Judging Awards

There are two primary ways to judge winners: the objective method, i.e., largest fish and the subjective method, such as most outstanding catch. In the former, the deciding factor such as weight can be physically measured, while the latter is a judgement decision by a group of individuals. Fewer problems are encountered using objective judging, since individual prejudice is removed. This prevents disgruntled fishermen and negative rumors.

Criteria for awards may be as simple or bizarre as the tournament sets. Most common are: single heaviest fish of a species; heaviest total weight for a species; and best quality catch (usually subjective). These basic categories may be expanded by breaking awards down into categories for men, women and children or any other qualifier the tournament wishes.

Basing awards on the weight of only one fish has advantages over other options. It reduces record keeping, number of fish being weighed, and can even help reduce the number of fish killed. Aggregate weight categories are good if the fish are to become the property of the event for use in a fish fry, or if they are to be sold to raise funds. However, this entails handling more fish and increased paperwork, especially when multiple days of fishing are involved. Additionally, there are both state and federal laws regulating the sale of fish and the possession of certain fish in quantities above the daily individual creel limit. Also, the public is becoming very conscious of the decline of many gamefish, therefore a tournament encouraging a large kill could draw negative media attention.

The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department recognizes the value of basing awards on the weight of single fish in reducing the number of fish killed within a competition. By imposing a reasonable minimum size requirement for a fish to qualify, a tournament can further reduce the kill associated with its event. The Department recognizes the value to science and fisheries management that these criteria offer when combined with a program that recognizes or rewards the tag and release of gamefish. All sportfishing tournaments are encouraged to adopt concepts that aid in conserving our valuable marine fisheries resources.

Rules and Regulations

Successful tournaments have been held that were based on minimal rules, and with rules that cover every aspect of the event. Generally, a low key competition requires simple rules. Unfortunately, in today's world of tournament fishing, high value prizes mandate drafting precise rules to keep the other fishermen straight (See Table 1).

A rules committee should be formed, composed of people knowledgeable in both general sportfishing and tournament fishing. This committee should be responsible for drafting rules for the event as well as handling any protests that may arise during the competition. Rules must be tailored to fit the species of fish sought as well as the objectives of the event.

Tournament rules are intended to create an environment for equitable sporting competition among participants. While rules may make it more difficult for unscrupulous fishermen (these are not sportfishermen) to cheat, they can not absolutely prevent it. If fishermen intend to cheat, they will. Even the use or threat of a Torrymeter test or lie detector examination is not 100 percent effective in deterring or revealing fraud.

Ascertaining the freshness in fish entered in a competition has been an area of concern among tournament officials. Ostensibly, the reason is to ensure that the fish entered were caught that day by the angler. Unfortunately, there is no absolute 100 percent positive test that can show the exact time and date that a fish died or who actually caught it.

Contrary to public belief, a Torrymeter, an electronic device that measures the dielectric property of fish flesh, cannot pinpoint the time a fish died. It does, however, provide an accurate guide to the relative quality of the fish's flesh, i.e. freshness. Fish flesh is highly perishable and prone to progressive spoilage. Subsequently, the Torrymeter can indirectly indicate the older (dead longer) fish within a group of fish that have been held under the same conditions. Fish that have been previously frozen can easily be detected. Unfortunately, no two fishermen maintain their fish under the same conditions. The result is that frequently a fish could be held more than one day under ideal conditions and produce a higher quality reading than a fish held only six hours but was neglected. This compounds the problem of detecting fish caught prior to the legal fishing period.

Ideally, two control fish of the same species and same approximate size expected to be entered should be available during the weighin period. Both fish should be caught early that morning, with one fish being properly stored in crushed ice. The second fish should be maintained at ambient temperature and exposed to the air. Then, by taking a reading on each fish you are provided a direct reference to what fish caught that day should register when properly maintained and when improperly maintained.

Visual inspection of the fish should also be used in assessing freshness. A fresh fish should exhibit red or pink gills (not gray, brown or white), having no strong rotten or sour (fishy) odor, and should have an eye lens that is clear, not milky or cloudy. Other fresh fish characteristics to look for are some stiffness in their body, a thin layer of slime (mucous) over the skin, clear, crisp eyes, no heavy layer of slime on the gills, firm flesh that springs back, not mushy, and shiny skin that doesn't wrinkle excessively when the body is bent.

While visual inspections coupled with the use of a Torrymeter test will probably detect any attempt at presenting a fraudulent fish caught prior to the tournament, it could also toss out a fish caught legally within the competition. Subsequently, many tournaments are now putting the burden on the fisherman by requiring that the fish meet certain freshness requirements such

as a Torrymeter reading of X to Y to qualify for entry. No matter what the reason, if these conditions are not met the fish cannot be entered. This is simply another step to qualifying in the tournament. More detailed information on assessing freshness of fish is available in "Judging Tournament Fish" (Otwell et al, 1982a) and "Verifying Freshness of Tournament Fish" (Otwell et al, 1982b) published by the University of Florida Sea Grant Program (see reference section).

Another alternative for tournaments in dealing with fraud is the polygraph. Polygraph examinations are the best device currently available for deterring and revealing fraud. Their use has become common within big money tournament circles. However, they have their drawbacks beyond a relatively high cost. First, the results of an exam are usually not admissible in a court of law. Secondly, devious anglers know that readings cannot be made on all people and that drugs, both depressants as well as stimulants, and alcohol consumed before the examination can render the test inconclusive. However, an experienced, qualified examiner can eliminate these counter-measures. Thirdly, most experienced examiners work within a 95 to 98 percent confidence level which means there is still room for human error.

The use of the polygraph exam in a tournament should be all or nothing. That is, each winner in the tournament must voluntarily submit to and pass an exam to qualify or no one is tested. To say that a polygraph test "may" be required and then single out one or more people to be tested is to imply that they are suspected of cheating. Such implications could land the tournament committee in court on a defamation of character lawsuit. However, when the printed rules state that "to qualify as a winner, a participant must voluntarily submit to and successfully pass a polygraph test" then it becomes nothing more than a qualifying step to win just like meeting a certain minimum weight for a fish.

Today's fishing competitions should be based on the "sport of fishing" and not just the kill of fish. What exactly constitutes "sport fishing" has probably been best defined by the International Game Fish Association (See Appendix 4). This august institution of sportfishing is recognized as the world authority on the ethics of the sport. For over fifty years they have provided the last word in defining the proper techniques and tackle for sportfishing world wide. These rules were originally drafted to establish an equitable basis for judging world record fish. Tournaments all over the world have fished for decades by these rules.

While the use of I.G.F.A. rules does provide an impartial code of ethics for the catching of fish, they are very detailed and highly restrictive. Strict adherence to these rules can lead to protests especially where fishermen compete in close enough proximity to observe each other during fishing. A mate has only to touch the line during the fight for a fish to be disqualified. Before any competition adopts I.G.F.A. rules in their entirety, they should be reviewed thoroughly. Many competitions find one or more rules too restrictive or not applicable to their event. They wind up selectively deleting I.G.F.A. regulations that do not lend themselves to achieving objectives of the tournament.

Tournament rules commonly go beyond the catching of fish to regulate virtually every facet of competition, hours that can be fished, departure times, minimum size of fish, number of fish weighed in, delivery of fish to the weigh station, number of lines fished, line test used and even the kinds of bait used are commonly covered. Each rules committee will have to determine points of concern and draft rules to address these (See Appendix 5).

The most controversial rule in any tournament is often the one dealing with bad weather

and when to cancel a day of fishing. It is a case of never being able to please everyone. Bad weather is usually handled in one of three ways. The oldest method is to select a weather committee that will go out each morning to make the decision of whether or not to fish. The second option is to utilize the National Weather Services' marine forecast of small craft warnings posted at a predetermined time to cancel the day's fishing. The third option is to make the fishing days "Captain's Discretion", whereby each boat captain decides whether he fishes but the tournament does not cancel.

There are advantages to each. Utilizing a weather committee provides your best chance of accurately determining local weather conditions. However, because tournament representatives make the decision, should bad weather lead to a damaged boat there is an increased potential for the tournament to be held liable. Using the weather service places the decision in the hands of an impartial body of experts, removing potential liability. The Captain's Choice scenario virtually guarantees that the tournament will be fished and will not have to be rescheduled. This is especially useful when large scale promotions and out-of-state participants are involved. However, in times of bad weather larger boats have a distinct advantage often leading small boats to venture out when they should not. No matter which method is chosen, each participating boat should be accounted for at the end of each fishing day.

The process and guidelines whereby a fish, fisherman or fishing team is disqualified must be clearly and precisely decided well before a confrontation. There is no room for any misunderstandings among the tournament workers as to the procedures and as to who has the authority to make a disqualification decision when a question of rules violation surfaces.

The tournament director or members of the rules committee should always be available during weighin periods to investigate and rule on a questionable fish or rules violation. The judges should act quickly and responsibly to secure all the facts surrounding the reputed violation so that a speedy, prudent decision can be rendered.

Immediately following the discovery of a potential rules violation, tournament persons should collect evidence to document its occurrence. In the case of mutilated fish, photos of the injuries should be taken. If it is a poor quality fish, it should be retained by the committee for further testing and to verify the stated conditions. Otherwise photographs, written and signed statements by witnesses and any physical evidence should be collected.

When the facts indicate that a rules violation has occurred, the judges may invite the contestant to meet with them. This should take place in a quiet room without spectators. The judges should present their facts to the entrant and invite the angler to respond.

If there is strong evidence of a deliberate attempt at fraud, such as an angler presenting a previously frozen fish to be weighed and entered in the tournament, then tournament officials may consider talking to the proper authorities to see if a criminal act was committed.

A point frequently overlooked that should always be addressed is a protest procedure. This establishes a formal process by which participants can make known possible violations of tournament rules. It should not, however, encourage or make it easy for disgruntled fishermen to make unfounded accusations against successful competitors.

The rules committee is logically the body to settle such disputes since they compiled the rules. A member of the committee should be physically present at the weigh station during the entire weighin period to receive any protest. A protest by a participant that is required to be presented in writing, dated and signed by all parties lodging the complaint. A filing fee should

be required that is high enough to discourage petty accusations. The filing fee should only be refunded if the protest is sustained. There should be a prescribed period each day of fishing when these protests may be filed. This period should allow at least a 30 minute period following close of the weighing scales on the last day of fishing to allow any possible protests of fish weighed at the close of weigh in.

When a protest is received, the committee should act immediately. A meeting of the rules committee should be held as soon as possible that day. A spokesman for the anglers filing the protest should be allowed to present their case followed with an explanation by a spokesman representing the boat or angler in question. Both presentations should take place without the other party or spectators in the room. This will avoid a direct confrontation between the parties that could later be an embarrassment to all.

All matters involved with a protest should be handled as discreetly as possible. Public attention should not be called to any conflict. Any resulting changes in winners should be announced matter-of-factly without explanation or apologies. Controversies, no matter how small, hurt the image of a tournament.

Table 1. Rules Commonly Addressed in Tournaments:

1. Define fishing hours and any exceptions to be allowed.
2. Define departure port or marina.
3. Define departure time.
4. Required return to port each day for boats offshore.
5. Define any restrictions on fishing area.
6. Define how or if fishing days will be canceled due to weather.
7. Define what will constitute a fishing day under "Captains Choice".
8. Specify how fish may be transported to the weigh station and if any exceptions will be allowed.
9. Specify hours for fish to be weighed and what exceptions will be allowed.
10. State whether fish can be entered on days other than day caught.
11. Specify any fishing line restrictions.
12. Specify any bait or angling method restrictions.
13. Specify whether boats can come in contact with other boats during fishing hours.
14. Specify how protests will be handled.
15. Spell out what consideration will be given disabled vessels.
16. Require all entries to meet all state and federal laws.
17. Specify what freshness standards will be required for fishes entered.
18. Specify if a polygraph exam will be required.
19. Statement declaring that the decision of the judges is final and by registering all participants agree to abide by their decisions.

Released Fish Competitions

The concept of holding a saltwater tournament where no fish are killed is not new. It has been practiced for a long time in the winter sailfish fishery in Florida. A decade ago, few fishermen would have even considered participating in such an event in our waters, citing that

the only fish released were those lost at the boat. Today's anglers not only recognize the need for catch and release, but are extremely proud of practicing non-consumptive sportfishing. Other fishermen on the dock now applaud these releases with the same enthusiasm as accorded fish brought to the dock. Releasing or tagging and releasing has become a recognized part of sportfishing in South Carolina.

Holding such a competition is not easy. There are many problems unique to holding a saltwater tournament where no fish are killed. Unlike freshwater bass tournaments whose target species conveniently fit into a small live well to bring in for live weighing, most saltwater gamefish are either too large, dangerous or fragile to handle in such a manner. This leaves tournament organizers in a quandary as to how to document and score fish caught, but released.

Fortunately, there are several options available. All have been proven effective for achieving specific goals. Awards in release events are usually based on either the number of fish released, points accumulated, or size of fish released. Methods for documenting releases are: 1) accept word of the angler; 2) require a legal affidavit be filled out; 3) require a photograph of each fish released; 4) have an observer on the boat to document releases; and 5) require winners to pass a polygraph examination. The choice of documentation will depend largely on the basis of judging and the value of awards offered.

Judging based simply on the highest number of fish released is the most common foundation for awards. It is the simplest to tally, and reduces the opportunity for angler error in identification or size measurement, intentional or not. This method of judging is particularly effective for single species events when difficulty or quality of catch is not a consideration. Many fishermen feel that the better angler will catch more fish, but luck plays a bigger role in the size of the fish. This form of scoring, however, can lead to frequent ties when fishing is slow.

A point system is commonly applied to a competition featuring multiple species. Anglers frequently like to rate the quality or difficulty of catch for different species. A variable point schedule applied to the eligible species allows anglers to take calculated gambles on what species to seek. Additional variation in point earnings can be based on length of fish, i.e. a fish over a set size would earn more points than smaller specimens of the same species which are considered easier to catch. Such a system would reward the angler targeting the more difficult fish. Most competitions either make it mandatory or offer extra points for the implantation of a scientific research tag. Fishermen recognize that it takes as much or more skill to tag a fish as to boat it. Unfortunately, fish size is the hardest to document, normally requiring the use of photographs or a legal affidavit. Lengths on fish under 36 inches can be documented via photographs by having the fish laying flat on a measuring board when the photo is taken. Larger fish such as billfish or sharks especially those too large to boat, are hard and even dangerous to measure, especially when taking a photo showing the length. It is prudent to use length only for species small and safe enough to handle. One problem associated with photographing a fish for measurement is the increased length of time the fish is kept out of the water for the picture to be taken. This may lead to less healthy fish being released.

A tournament offering only trophies has no real need for an elaborate or costly documentation system. A competition offering several thousand dollars in awards however, cannot afford to be lax on documentation. Expense and additional work are the primary drawbacks to increased levels of documentation, as you move from simple angler reporting to

observers and polygraph testing.

Accepting the word of the angler works well among small friendly events. When bragging rights are the only prize, there is little cause for indiscretions to occur, even among strangers. Small, close-knit clubs may even offer cash prizes without problems arising when only their members are involved. However, release competitions open to the public featuring high value merchandise or cash prizes require good documentation.

The simplest method for verifying the identity and date of release for a fish is the use of photography. A good quality photograph can provide for species identification, verification of size, as well as documentation of catch. A number of suitable low cost cameras are available today. Many cameras are sealed units intended for one use only. These are even available in waterproof models. Requiring a uniquely numbered card issued to each angler or boat be placed in the photograph with the fish is one way to guarantee that the fish in the photo was caught during the tournament. However, if the tournament itself is issuing sealed, one use cameras the evening before fishing, collection of the cameras at the end of the fishing will automatically guarantee when the photos were taken. If there is concern that cameras will be switched, then a unique number engraved on the camera housing will allow monitoring.

There are several problems inherent to the use of cameras. The most common is poor quality pictures resulting either from weather conditions (such as a rain storm) or an inexperienced cameraman. Secondly, photographs capture only an instant in time and most fish of a species, except for size, look identical. These facts could allow the unscrupulous angler to take ten pictures of the same fish, submitting them as different individuals.

Another widely used form of documentation is the legal affidavit. This is probably the simplest and lowest cost method to document released catches. The South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series is one program utilizing this method to validate all billfish tag and releases in each competition (See Appendix 6). The affidavit, when properly worded, signed, and notarized will hold up in court as a legal document. To knowingly sign this affidavit under false pretenses is an act of fraud, punishable under state law. By requiring every individual on the boat to swear to the validity of each release makes everyone an accomplice to any fraudulent act. The failure of any crew member to sign should disqualify the entry. This method, counts on at least one member of the crew having a conscience or being fearful of later exposure and prosecution. This type documentation is most effective in competitions where two or more individuals would be fishing together.

Observers placed aboard each fishing vessel can be the most effective method to document released fish when properly handled. The observer's role is that of a referee, to closely watch all fishing activities aboard their vessel to insure compliance with all rules, and to verify identity and proper release of all fish. The exact role observers play during the fishing day should be made perfectly clear to everyone. The best policy is for observers to take no part in the boat operation or fishing. They should also maintain visual contact with fishing activity at all times during the actual competition period. A quick nap or several mixed drinks are absolutely taboo. Observers should never be put on the same boat twice. There should always be a different observer each day. Additionally, observers must be thoroughly versed in the tournament rules and experienced in the identification of the target species. These individuals should not be prone to motion sickness.

There are three sources for observers. 1) each boat provides a person specifically for this purpose; 2) arrange volunteers from the community; or 3) hire experienced people to work. Utilizing the first source puts the burden of finding competent people on the fishermen saving time and money for the tournament. Unfortunately, these individuals may not possess the desired knowledge, dedication or personality for the job. Volunteer observers can provide the opportunity for the tournament to screen potential observers and ensure quality personnel, but this works only when sufficient qualified volunteers are available. When volunteers are used, the tournament should provide recognition and appreciation, such as providing free food and a tournament shirt. The primary drawback to their use is that the tournament has little control over volunteers. Morning "no-shows" are common, especially during periods of bad weather. A simple way to counteract this is to maintain a surplus of observers. Paid observers are the logical choice when they can be afforded. It allows the tournament not only to screen applicants but also to set strict guidelines for their behavior and duties. The major problems are cost and the effort required to interview and hire the individuals.

A final method to authenticate the release of fish is through the use of the polygraph. Competitions regularly require all potential winners of large prizes to take and pass a polygraph examination. Such testing would be just as effective for verifying released fish. Arranging for the test and its associated costs are the primary deterrent to this method of verification.

The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department recognizes the valuable assistance provided by science through tag and release of gamefish. Scientific tags generate needed life history information vital to proper management of our fishery resources. Tournaments, by adopting minimum size limits, limiting daily entry of fish, and featuring awards for tagged and released fish, serve to stimulate anglers into practicing conservation while helping fishery managers. A gamefish returned to the water with a tag implanted represents a potential scientific gold mine of information upon recapture. A competition featuring tag and release is an appealing product readily marketed to both print and electronic media,

Because of the ever increasing demand on gamefish stocks, and the concern to conserve these stocks, release tournaments will play an increasing role in the future of competitive saltwater sportfishing.

Weigh Station

Weigh stations are one of the most critical points of a tournament. An efficient, professional weigh station takes careful planning and preparation. It is here that the outcome is decided. No other phase of a competition comes under such close scrutiny from both the fishermen and the public as does the weigh station.

Location of the weigh station is the first consideration. In choosing a site, accessibility to the fish to be weighed must be considered first. If sharks or marlin weighing hundreds of pounds are targeted, then the site must be close to where the fish will be off loaded. Using a fork lift or boom truck to lift fish allows more flexibility. With fish such as spotted seatrout, red drum, or flounder, all easily transported by the fishermen, there is more latitude for location of the scales. Working areas should be roped off to keep spectators at a safe distance, while allowing room for the fishermen. When large numbers of anglers and fishermen are expected, it may be necessary to delineate entry and exit to the scales to allow a smooth flow of traffic to and from the site.

Often several hundred spectators turn out to watch weighins. Most are family and friends of participants, but many are novice anglers representing next year's participants as well as the general public. Catering to this segment of tournament attendance provides excellent public relations, and is good business. Spectators should be restrained from entering the actual weighing areas for their own safety, but allowed close enough to the action for good viewing and photographic opportunities.

Hundreds of photos are often taken during weighins and, with a little attention, each can become a promotion for the tournament. First, the viewing area should be on the west side of the scales to avoid shooting pictures into the setting sun. Second, the backdrop to the weigh scales and any fish display should be aesthetic, not dumpsters, junk piles or petroleum tanks. Third, a banner or billboard with the tournament name and/or sponsors should be strategically placed so that it will form the immediate background for most photos. This latter point is extremely important in large promotional events.

Staff working the weighins can make or break a competition. A weighmaster who is inebriated, unsociable, or ignorant of the task will at best lose participants for next year's program, and at worst land everybody in court over a lawsuit for a mis-weighed or mis-identified fish. The news media usually provides all too much public exposure on such matters. The first rule should be absolutely no alcoholic beverages for the weigh in staff during operating hours. Staff impaired with alcohol may produce errors in the records, or in the weighing. There is also a possibility of an accident when handling large fish. A drinking ban is more easily imposed upon a paid staff.

The staff should consist of a weighmaster, a data recorder and at least one additional person to help handle fish. Larger competitions may require a person to control the crowd, dock hands to secure boats and help unload fish and extras to handle fish at the scales. One person from the rules committee should be present at all times to answer questions and receive any protests that may be filed.

The weighmaster is the central figure at the scales. Everyone else is there to aid him in accurately weighing fish and he should be in command to provide the most efficient operation. The individual should present a professional, courteous image. This person carries a great responsibility, serving frequently as judge and jury on all fish entered and his decisions may have to stand up in court. Weighmasters should not only be thoroughly familiar with the species of the competition, but should be able to scientifically identify the proper species. They should be knowledgeable of any idiosyncrasies of the scales being used to avoid mechanical or human error in weighing fish. Above all, the weighmaster should be calm, careful and methodical to insure accuracy the first time a fish is weighed. He should set the pace, never allowing the crowd to pressure him into working beyond his limits which can introduce errors. Spectators as well as fishermen only hear the first weight announced, it is therefore imperative that it be corrected for any tail rope or platform tare. If a weighmaster errs and is publicly corrected, the credibility of the whole weighing operation is damaged.

Weighmasters, especially volunteers, may wish to allow others to decide the eligibility of a fish. Eligibility decisions can severely alter the course of a tournament. Eligibility is extremely sensitive and important and has to be explained in a court of law more often than any other decision. Because of its profound importance, this decision is often left to the tournament rules committee director or other appointed committee established specifically for this purpose.

To further protect themselves from any legal liability, some volunteers have resorted to using liability waivers. Through this document, the tournament sponsor or director assumes the full responsibility of any judgement against the weighmaster or other volunteer. Be advised however, unless the tournament is incorporated, the person signing for the tournament could find themselves personally responsible for any judgement. The following is one such waiver.

In consideration of personnel assistance provided or to be provided by _____ I hereby agree to indemnify, protect, and save harmless said person, their successors, agents, servants, and employees from all damage, liabilities and costs, expenses, and fees in connection with or arising from the furnishing of such assistance. Signed _____ Tournament Chairman/Sponsor

The score keeper or entry recorder is the second most important person at the scales. While avoiding distractions, they must be acutely aware of what fish the weighmaster is handling, and cognizant of his voice to record the weight when announced. While the weighmaster is weighing the fish, the recorder should be collecting other data pertinent to judging the awards on a prepared data form to ensure all needed information is obtained on each entry. The recorder and weighmaster should be in agreement on what weight units will be used (pounds; pounds and ounces; pounds and decimal equivalents of pounds; pounds and fractions of pounds; etc.), and the exact format to be recorded.

The most important factor in achieving an accurate comparison of the fish entered is consistency in processing. However the first fish is handled and weighed, all others should be processed identically.

The first step in processing an entry is always to determine if it is eligible using whatever freshness test or criteria the tournament has adopted. All fish having dirt, gravel or other foreign matter on them should be rinsed down. Any tackle or bait used to catch the fish should be extracted before weighing except where its removal will lead to excessive blood loss. Then it should be removed after weighing the fish, weighed, and subtracted from the original weight. Any other foreign material such as rags packed in a gaff wound or organisms not permanently attached such as remoras should be removed. The same tail rope should be used on each fish and its weight subtracted from the gross weight to give the net weight of the fish. The tail rope should be checked periodically to make sure it hasn't absorbed water thereby gaining weight. Likewise, the pan or platform should be regularly cleaned to remove any slime buildup that would add weight. Weighing scales should also be checked to make sure they continually indicate zero when at rest throughout the weighing period. When reading a scale it is critical the weighmaster have his eye at the same level as the scale and be directly in front. Standing off to one side, having to look up, etc. will introduce an automatic error because of the angle, or may require the weighmaster to guess. Neither are acceptable.

A wide variety of scale types, capacities and graduations are available on today's market. Not all are suited for every task. The first rule in selecting a scale is to have one with a capacity to handle the largest fish envisioned. It would be embarrassing to have a world record brought in but unable to be weighed. Secondly, the smaller the fish being weighed, the smaller the graduations needed to aid in avoiding a tie. While four to eight ounce graduations work for a 300 pound tuna, they are far too coarse for a four pound sheepshead. For fish under sixty

pounds, a scale graduated in one ounce increments is recommended. Whatever scale is selected, it should be certified as accurate by the appropriate state agency. In South Carolina, the Consumer Protection Division of the Department of Agriculture is responsible for this service. They may be contacted by writing: Consumer Protection Division, P.O. Box 11280, Columbia, SC 29211.

Everything from century-old cotton scales to state-of-the-art electronic scales have been used by fishing tournaments. The biggest advantage of digital scales is that they remove most subjectivity from reading the weight. However, they are extremely expensive. Balance beam scales and spring tension scales are the most commonly used devices in today's tournaments, primarily due to their reliable accuracy and moderate price. Normally tournaments utilize balance beams with capacities of 600 to 1100 pounds and graduated in four ounce increments to weigh large fish. These are permanently mounted on special frames. Such scales should have at least fourteen feet of clearance under the hook to accommodate long fish. Mid-range events utilize hanging scales with capacities of 60 to 100 pounds and graduations of one to eight ounces. Tournaments focused on smaller varieties of fish like seatrout and flounder will commonly employ platform scales having 20 pound capacities and one ounce discrimination.

Multiple weigh stations are a problem faced by very large competitions and those allowing boats to fish from multiple ports. Much preparation and work is required to ensure uniform operations among the locations. First, all equipment should be uniform. Second, all procedures used in registering and checking a fish should be consistent at every station. Third, all weighmasters must read the scale exactly the same way, either rounding off to the nearest whole graduation or estimate the fraction of graduation indicated. To achieve this uniform base of competition, a meeting should be held with all weigh station personnel together at one time. All procedures should be explained in detail so that everyone uses identical methods. Additionally, all equipment should be checked for synchrony at this time. Never assume!

Site Selection

Where to hold a tournament can become a complex problem. Most events are based out of marinas or boat landings. However, this is not absolutely necessary. If targeted fish are easily transported and boats entered are all trailerable, then a tournament could be based anywhere.

Each tournament's requirements will be different (See Table 2). A program calling for a fish fry and live band will have complex needs compared to a club event where weighing fish is the only consideration. Large events must consider water access, weigh in facilities, parking, outdoor space requirements, indoor facilities, inclement weather facilities, electrical requirements, restroom access, and the ability to maintain safe, efficient pedestrian and auto traffic flow. Tournaments cramming too much into too small an area with inadequate facilities risk negative public relations.

A point often forgotten is disposal of fish carcasses. It is imperative that the remains of fish taken in the tournament be disposed of properly. Old fish carcasses surfacing in the view of the public can present an embarrassing situation.

Tournament organizers must know the basic requirements of the planned event when scouting for a site. While a tournament may increase traffic and sales for a business, it also adds liabilities and costs. One big advantage a business can offer is having the tournament's

activities covered by its liability insurance. If inadequate or unavailable, then a separate policy should be purchased to protect all connected with the tournament from any legal liabilities. After a location has been selected meeting the basic requirements, the event should be tailored to maximize use of the facilities. Safety of the participants and spectators should be paramount in this planning.

Table 2. Points for Consideration in Choosing a Location:

1. Convenient, safe access by water and/or highway.
2. Safe, adequate parking.
3. Safe, adequate corridors for pedestrian traffic.
4. Liability insurance covering all tournament functions.
5. Sufficient space to allow set up of functions without interfering with other activities.
6. Adaptability to handle inclement weather plans.
7. Restroom facilities.
8. Inside facilities for awards, banquets, etc.
9. Electrical power supply for equipment.
10. Proper lighting for night functions.
11. Proper scales for weighing fish and site to set up a weigh station.
12. Facilities for cleaning fish and subsequent disposal of carcasses.
13. Access to support amenities; restaurants, motels, night clubs, stores, etc.
14. General aesthetic appearance of site.

Tournament Liabilities

Every person associated with a fishing competition may be liable for damages stemming from a wrongful act. Accidents can and do happen. The volunteer as well as the director can find themselves embroiled in litigation stemming from a transgression within the tournament. The responsible tournament director will act to minimize any legal risks to the tournament, its employees and volunteers. Large competitions may elect to bear the expense of incorporating for the personal liability protection it offers.

All liabilities can be minimized. Tort liabilities involve monetary compensations for damages, injuries or losses to person or property by spectators, participants, employees or volunteers in a competition. These involve cases of slander, libel, negligence, and assault. Other liabilities faced are through property loss, contract violation, and fidelity losses.

To reduce risks, the tournament director should treat the tournament as he would any business. Proper supervision and control over the program must be provided. Workers should be carefully selected and properly trained. Adequate equipment and facilities must be provided. Also, rules for safety on the job should be developed and adherence required. Tournaments with paid employees may need workers compensation coverage and even longshoreman and harbor workers and Jones act coverage. Advice should be sought from legal counsel or your insurance agent.

Disgruntled fishermen who feel that they have been deprived or have suffered a loss due to a decision by the tournament committee may, on occasion, ask a court to settle the issue. Such litigations usually involve the question of breach of contract.

The tournament rules and guidelines under which a participant enters may be considered a contract. The tournament has agreed that if the contestant meets all requirements, then he will receive a set prize. When an angler presents what he believes to be the winning fish only to have it disqualified, he may accuse the tournament sponsor, director, and all associated people with breach of contract. Clear, concise and prudent rules are the best deterrent to such accusations. These rules will hold up in court only if fair and administered equitably to all participants.

Tournaments frequently utilize waivers or disclaimers in an attempt to avoid lawsuits from participants (See Appendix 7). Such documents are printed on the entry form whereby the act of the person completing and signing the form agrees to the terms of the waiver or disclaimer. These statements declare that the participant will not hold the tournament responsible for injuries or losses sustained during the tournament or sue for breach of contract. Such items are not cure-alls. They are helpful in discouraging participants from suing but frequently do not stand up in court. However, a clear, concise disclaimer that informs the participant of known risks preclude the participant from claiming lack of knowledge of these hazards.

As with any business, the best risk management plan for a tournament will include legal counsel. An attorney can best advise as to what the legal responsibilities the tournament and its employees have to participants, spectators and workers. It is an asset to have legal counsel already on staff should a legal problem arise.

Calcuttas

Some tournaments have assorted calcuttas or side bets among participants. This is classified as gambling, and is illegal in South Carolina. Gambling may offer higher stakes than the tournament itself and has become a major incentive in attracting fishermen to participate.

Calcuttas are usually solely for the benefit of the fishermen with none of the monies going to the tournament. These are usually organized and operated by the fishermen totally outside the framework of the tournament. Such side bets are in the form of various priced categories allowing each angler or boat to enter none, one, or all. In a billfish tournament, the categories may be \$200, \$500 and \$1,000, while in an inshore competition the categories may be \$10, \$20 and \$50. Normally, the calcuttas pay the first three place finishes at the rate of 60% first, 30% second and 10% third place. While most calcuttas adopt the same guidelines for winning as the tournament, some have slightly different rules so that the astute fishermen should be alert to variations.

Another form of calcutta is where the boats are bid off at an auction. At such auctions, a boat with a good chance of winning may go for three or four times the price of a boat considered to have little chance of winning. Some tournaments may collect 10 percent of the calcutta for tournament expenses or charity.

Tournaments who operate calcuttas are required by the Internal Revenue Service to report each winner's earnings. A proper report must be filled out and filed with the Internal Revenue Service. The tournament must withhold 20 percent of each winner's earnings and turn it in to the I.R.S. with the appropriate forms. Any tournament considering operating a calcutta should first consult local and state laws regarding legality and secondly, with the Internal Revenue Service.

APPENDIX L

PRIMARY GAME FISH IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Common Inshore Species

Black Drum
Red Drum (Channel Bass)
Spotted Seatrout
Weakfish
Kingfish (Whiting)
Atlantic Croaker
Spot
Southern Flounder
Summer Flounder
Sheepshead
Striped Bass
Bluefish
King Mackerel
Spanish Mackerel
Cobia
Tarpon
Crevalle Jack
Sandbar Shark
Sandtiger Shark
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark
Lemon Shark

Common Offshore Species

Blue Marlin
White Marlin
Sailfish
Swordfish
Blackfin Tuna
Skipjack Tuna
Yellowfin Tuna
King Mackerel
Little Tunny
Wahoo
Dolphin
Amberjack (4 species)
Barracuda
Mako Shark
Silky Shark
Hammerhead Shark (3 species)
Dusky Shark
Tiger Shark
Lemon Shark
Sandbar Shark

Common Coastal Species

King Mackerel
Spanish Mackerel
Cobia
Barracuda
Amberjack (4 species)
Crevalle Jack
Blue Runner
Atlantic Spadefish
Black Sea Bass
Little Tunny
Sheepshead
Red Drum
Black Drum
Spotted Seatrout
Tarpon
Bluefish
Sandbar Shark
Sandtiger Shark
Hammerhead Shark (4 species)
Lemon Shark
Blacktip Shark
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark
Bull Shark
Tiger Shark

Scamp Grouper
Red Grouper
Speckled Hind Grouper
Snowy Grouper
Gag Grouper
Yellowtail Snapper
Vermillion Snapper
Blackfin Snapper
Silk Snapper
Red Snapper
Gray Triggerfish
Whitebone Porgy
Red Porgy
Jolthead Porgy
Hogfish
Queen Triggerfish
White Grunt
Margate (grunt)
Blueline Tilefish
Black Sea Bass

APPENDIX 2.

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE RECORD MARINE GAME FISH PROGRAM

Information and Rules Concerning State Saltwater Game Fish Records

Anglers whose fish have been verified as new state records will receive certificates acknowledging their state records. The following rules pertain to anglers submitting possible record fish:

1. Record fish must be caught using conventional rod and reel and the fish must be hooked and played by one person only. Fish that are shot, snagged, harpooned, gilled, caught on electric reels or in any other unsportsmanlike manner shall be ineligible for record status.
2. Only all-tackle records are recorded and kept. Tackle size is not a consideration for state records.
3. Record fish must be caught in accordance with all state and federal laws. Boats fishing offshore must depart and return to South Carolina waters without entering any other state's or nation's port within this period.
4. To establish a new state record, the following weight requirements must be met:
 - a) A fish weighing less than fifty (50) pounds must exceed the old record by four (4) ounces to be regarded as a new record. A weight difference of less than four ounces will result in a tie.
 - b) A fish weighing fifty (50) pounds, but not exceeding 100 pounds, must exceed the old record by eight (8) ounces to be regarded as a new record. A weight difference of less than eight ounces will result in a tie.
 - c) A fish weighing more than 100 pounds must exceed the old record by sixteen (16) ounces to be recognized as a new record. A weight difference of less than sixteen ounces will result in a tie.
5. Estimated weights are not acceptable. All fish must be weighed on state-certified scales and the weight must be verified by two witnesses not associated with the catch of the fish.
6. All entries must be inspected and verified by a marine fisheries biologist of the South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department.

Report your catch to:

State Record Marine Game Fish Program
P. O. Box 12559
Charleston, S. C. 29412
(803) 795-6350

The South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources Department reserves the right to refuse any questionable entry. The decision of the Finfish Management supervisor is final. In the event a biologist is not readily available, the fish should be frozen or otherwise preserved intact until a biologist can be notified.

APPENDIX 2. CTD**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE RECORD SALTWATER GAME FISH**

COMMON NAME (AFS)	WEIGHT	PORT	DATE	ANGLER
Albacore	37-4	Charleston	7/76	W. Crump, Johns Island
Amberjack	98-8	Fripp Island	6/81	J. Dariano, Tiffin, OH
Barracuda, Great	65-0	Georgetown	7/48	Henry Shelor, Sumter
Bass, Black Sea	7-12	Charleston	8/75	L. A. Noisette, Charleston
Bass, Striped	44-8	Beaufort	3/83	J. M. Dowling, Sr., Beaufort
Bluefish	21-0	Charleston	4/75	J. A. Curtis, Charleston
Bonito, Atlantic	6-3	Little River	5/73	G. McLaughlin, Westchester, PA
Cobia	83-3	Broad River	5/76	H. D. Moon, Athens, GA
Croaker	4-9	Charleston	9/79	C. I. Frasier, Charleston
Dolphin	69-10	Mt. Pleasant	6/88	R. Fox, Charleston
Drum, Black	89-0	Port Royal	4/78	W. P. Buquet, Port Royal
Drum, Red	75-0	Murrells Inlet	1965	A. J. Taylor, Conway
Flounder, Southern	17-6	South Santee	9/74	L. C. Floyd, Florence
Flounder, Summer	3-8	Murrells Inlet	5/82	J. Wallace, Charlotte, NC
Grouper, Gag	46-7	Murrells Inlet	7/86	C. A. Carrington, Richmond, VA
Grouper, Red	30-2	Charleston	5/76	G. Frost, Belvedere
Grouper, Scamp	23-10	Charleston	8/72	R. E. Tobin, Mt. Pleasant
Grouper, Snowy	30-0	Murrells Inlet	8/81	R. Perdue, Murrells Inlet
Grouper, Speckled Hind	45-0	Little River	7/73	H. R. Murray, Little River
Grouper, Warsaw	310-0	Murrells Inlet	9/76	C. D. Pratt, Knoxville, TN
Grunt	18-8	Murrells Inlet	9/71	J. L. Flowers, Charlotte, NC
Hogfish	20-8	Murrells Inlet	6/88	J. Cline, Pawley's Island
Houndfish	9-4	Murrells Inlet	8/74	W. Kirby, Pittsburgh, PA
Jack, Crevalle(tie)	37-2	Charleston Harbor	6/79	W. Ferguson, Mt. Pleasant
Kingfish (Whiting) (tie)	2-10	Pawley's Island	11/68	C. Micheau, Georgetown
Ladyfish	4-8	Bulls Island	8/68	W. A. Silcox, Charleston
Mackerel, King	62-0	Charleston	5/76	J. Brownlee, III, Charleston
Mackerel, Spanish	11-0	Myrtle Beach	6/83	W. Deas, Jr., Myrtle Beach
Marlin, Blue	738-8	Johns Island	7/90	J. Pedersen, Jr., Yonges Island
Marlin, White	108-0	Charleston	5/81	D. C. Critz, Jr., Savannah, GA
Pompano, Florida	8-12	Charleston	6/75	C. Mullinax, Sr., Charleston
Porgy	18-4	Charleston	6/84	J. Currie, N. Charleston
Porgy, Red	10-8	Murrells Inlet	6/85	J. F. Duffer, Myrtle Beach
Runner, Rainbow	14-14	Georgetown	10/85	W. D. Harder, Orangeburg
Sailfish	75-0	Georgetown	7/68	G. A. Reid, Clinton
Seatrout, Spotted	11-13	Murrells Inlet	11/76	A. Pendergrass, Murrells Inlet
Shark, Bigeye Thresher	406-0	Edisto Island	6/78	J. H. Mixson, Johns Island
Shark, Blacktip (tie)	133-0	Port Royal	6/68	B. Weldon, Beaufort

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COMMON NAME	WEIGHT	PORT	DATE	ANGLER
Shark, Bull	477-12	Stono Inlet	7/85	C. P. Faust, Folly Beach
Shark, Dusk	466-12	Charleston	9/81	M. Almond, Charleston
Shark, Lemon	332-0	Charleston	9/83	J. Weirman, Charleston Hgts
Shark, Hammerhead	588-3	Charleston	8/89	B. Bass, Charleston
Shark, Sandbar	199-4	Charleston	6/84	T. McGuiness, Charleston
Shark, Sand Tiger	304-8	Charleston	8/84	S. Leasure, Charleston
Shark, Shortfin Mako	302-12	Georgetown	5/78	L. F. Howell, Beaufort
Shark, Silky	248-0	Charleston	7/81	R. Keenan, Charleston
Shark, Spinner	105-0	Charleston	7/85	D. E. Favero, Johns Island
Shark, Tiger	1780-0	Cherry Grove	6/64	W. Maxwell, Charlotte, NC
Sheepshead	15-4	Charleston	6/69	J. Percival, Hanahan
Snapper, Red	37-8	Little River	8/64	K. Henry, Rock Hill
Snapper, Vermilion	6-10	Charleston	5/75	D. H. Long, Charleston
Spadefish, Atlantic	9-11	Fripp Island	8/89	B. R. Hamaker, Fayetteville, AR
Spearfish, Long bill	53-0	Mt. Pleasant	4/86	H. L. Johnson, Jr., Mt. Pleasant
Spot (tie)	1-1	Charleston	8/67	J. Stehmeyer, Charleston
Swordfish	500-0	Georgetown	8/78	B. H. Peace, III, Pawleys Island
Tarpon	154-10	Hilton Head	8/87	S. Kiser, Hilton Head
Tilefish, Blueline	14-6	Murrells Inlet	10/82	O. Cockerfield, Ft. Wayne, IN
Triggerfish, Gray	13-9	Murrells Inlet	5/89	J. Hilton, Lake Wylie
Tripletail	25-8	Mt. Pleasant	10/71	R. Hanckel, Jr., Charleston
Tuna, Blackfin	33-0	Isle of Palms	5/91	M. Kirkpatrick, Augusta, GA
Tuna, Skipjack	25-14	Charleston	6/86	D. L. Stubbs, Charleston
Tuna, Yellowfin	241-12	Charleston	5/79	T.C. Lewis, Mt. Pleasant
Tunny, Little	29-7	Charleston	5-75	C. Edwards, Jr., Columbia
Wahoo	108-8	Charleston	5/79	A. Arnold, Mt. Pleasant
Weakfish	11-13	Parris Island	5/81	J. M. Coppinger, Jr., Parris Island

APPENDIX 3.

TOURNAMENT PROMOTION OUTLETS

National Magazines

Southern Saltwater
5845 Carmichael Rd.
Montgomery, AL 36117

Sport Fishing
P O Box 2456
Winter Park, FL 32790

Field and Stream
1515 Broadway
New York, N. Y. 10036

Tournament Digest
280 summer St.
Boston, MA 02210

Carolina Game & Fish
2250 New Market Parkway
Marietta, GA 30067

Daily State Newspapers

The State
P.O. Box 1333
Columbia, SC 29202

News Greenville
P.O. Box 1688
Greenville, SC 29602

Augusta Chronicle
P.O. Box 1928
Augusta, GA 30913

Anderson Independent
P.O. Box 2507
Anderson, SC 29622

Times & Democrat
P.O. Box 1766
Orangeburg, SC 29115

Saltwater Sportsman
280 Summer St.
Boston, MA 02210

Southern Outdoors
5845 Carmichael Rd.
Montgomery, AL 36117

Outdoor Life
380 Madison Avenue
New York, N. Y. 10017

Marlin Magazine
P.O. Box 12902
Pensacola, FL 32576

Tide Magazine
4801 Woodway, Suite 220W
Houston, TX 77056

Union Daily Times
P.O. Drawer 749
Union, SC 29379

Beaufort Gazette
P.O. Box 399
Beaufort, SC 29902

Greenville Piedmont
305 South Main Street
Greenville, SC 29602

Index-Journal
P.O. Box 1018
Greenwood, sc 29648

Sun News
P.O. Box 406
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578

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Journal
P.O. Box 1567
Spartanburg, SC 29301

Daily Mail
P.O. Box 2507
Anderson, SC 29622

Aiken Standard
P.O. Box 456
Aiken, SC 29801

Wilmington Star
P.O. Box 840
Wilmington, NC 28402

Florence Morning News
F - 11
Florence, SC 29501

Savannah Morning News
P. O. Box 392
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Weekly State Newspapers

Horry Independent
P. O. Box 704
Conway, SC 29526

Press and Banner
P. O. Box 769
Abbeville, SC 29620

Calhoun Falls News
P. O. Box 645
Calhoun Falls, SC 29628

Evening Herald
P. O. Box 11707
Rock Hill, SC 29731

Lancaster News
P. O. Box 640
Lancaster, SC 29720

Rock Hill Herald
P.O. Box 11707
Rock Hill, SC 29731

Post & Courier
134 Columbus Street
Charleston, SC 29402

Charlotte Observer
P.O. Box 2138
Charlotte, NC 29233

Hilton Head Island Packet
P. O. Box 5727
Hilton Head, SC 29938

York Observer
135 South Oakland Ave.
York, SC 29730

Sumter Daily Item
20 North Magnolia
Sumter, SC 29150

People-Sentinel
P. O. Box 1255
Barnwell, SC 29812

Twin-City News
P. O. Box 311
Batesburg, SC 29006

Marlboro Herald-Advocate
P. O. Box 656
Bennettsville, SC 29512

Lee County Observer
P. O. Box 567
Bishopville, SC 29010

Tribune
P. O. Box 218
Blacksburg, SC 29702

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Santee Stripper
P. O. Box 929
Bamberg, SC 29003

Citizen Leader
Old Barnwell Road
Allendale, SC 29810

Belton News
P. O. Box 606
Belton, SC 29627

Honea Path Chronicle
P. O. Box R
Honea Path, SC 29654

Journal
P. O. Box 369
Williamston, SC 29697

Kilgus Printing Company
P. O. Box 929
Bamberg, SC 29003

James Island Journal
P. O. Box 12110
Charleston, SC 29412

Moultrie News
P. O. Box 12110
Charleston, SC 29412

Chronicle
P. O. Box 191
Cheraw, SC 29520

Chesnee Tribune
P. O. Box 158
Chesnee, SC 29323

News and Reporter
P. O. Box 250
Chester, SC 29706

Chesterfield Co. Shopper
25 Chesterfield Rd.
Cheraw, SC 29520

Chronicle-Independent
P. O. Box 1137
Camden, SC 29020

Times
P. O. Box 268
Chapin, SC 29036

The Chronicle
P. O. Box 20548
Charleston, SC 29413

Coastal Times
701 E. Bay St., Suite 123
Charleston, SC 29403

Edisto Islander
101 C Jungle Rd.
Edisto Island, SC 29438

Citizen's Journal Cour.
P. O. Box 145
Newberry, SC 29108

Fort Jackson Leader
% Editor, Public Affairs
Fort Jackson, SC 29207

Richland Northeast
P. O. Box 6578
Columbia, SC 29260

Star-Reporter
P. O. Box 292
Columbia, SC 29202

Field And Herald
1025 Third Avenue
Conway, SC 29526

Santee Scene
Rt. 1, Box 189
Santee, SC 29142

News and Press
P. O. Box 513
Darlington, SC 29532

APPENDIX 3. CTD

Clemson Messenger
P. O. Box 549
Clemson, SC 29633

Clinton Chronicle
P. O. Box 180
Clinton, SC 29325

Clover Herald
P. O. Box 38
Clover, SC 29710

Black News
P. O. Box 11128
Columbia, SC 29211

Florence County News
146 W. Evans Street
Florence, SC 29501

Times
P. O. Box 250
Fort Mill, SC 29715

Ledger
P. O. Box 670
Gaffney, SC 29340

Georgetown Times
Drawer G
Georgetown, SC 29440

Goose Creek Gazette
P. O. box 304
Goose Creek, SC 29445

Lake Murray News
P. O. Box 11546
Columbia, SC 29211

Greer Citizen
P. O. Box 70
Greer, SC 29652

Guardian
200 Lee Avenue
Hampton, SC 29924

Dillon Herald
P. O. Box 1288
Dillon, SC 29536

Easley Progress
P. O. box 708
Easley, SC 29641

Edgefield Advertiser
P. O. Box 628
Edgefield, SC 29824

Citizen-News
P. O. Box 448
Edgefield, SC 29824

Hartsville Messenger
P. O. Box 1865
Hartsville, SC 29550

The Weekly Observer
P. O. Box 306
Hemingway, SC 29554

Holly Hill Observer
P. O. Box 715
Holly Hill, SC 29059

News Leader
P. O. Box 9
Landrum, SC 29356

Inman Times
P. O. Drawer 7
Inman, SC 29439

Independent News of Irmo
P. O. Box 1003
Irmo, SC 29063

Citizen-News
P. O. Box B
Johnston, SC 29832

Kershaw News -ERA
P. O. Box 398
Kershaw, SC 29067

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Hanahan News
P. O. Box 60580
North Charleston, SC 29419

Cowpens Tribune
P. O. Box 280
Cowpens, SC 29330

Lancaster News
P. O. Box 640
Lancaster, SC 29720

Berkley Independent
P. O. Box 427
Moncks Corner, SC 29461

Laurens Advertiser
P. O. Box 490
Laurens, SC 29360

Dispatch-News
P. O. Box 1317
Lexington, SC 29072

Liberty Monitor
132 Front St.
Liberty, SC 29657

Loris Sentinel
P. O. Box 326
Loris, SC 29569

Manning Times
P. O. Box 576
Manning, SC 29102

Marion Star
P.O. Box 36
Marion, SC 29571

Tribune-Times
P. O. Box 1179
Simpsonville, SC 29681

McColl Messenger
P. O. Box 656
McColl, SC 29512

Kingstree News
P. O. Box 574
Kingstree, SC 29556

News & Post
P. O. Box 428
Lake City, SC 29560

McCormick Messenger
P. O. Box 98
McCormick, SC 29835

Enterprise
135 N. Main St.
Mullins, SC 29574

Myrtle Beach Journal
P. O. Drawer 8309
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Beachcomber
P. O. Drawer 8309
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577

Newberry Observer
1716 Main St.
Newberry, SC 29108

Times
P. O. Box 725
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29597

Progressive-Journal
P. O. Box 218
Pageland, SC 29728

Coastal Observer
P. O. Box 1170
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

Pickens Sentinel
P. O. Box 95
Pickens, SC 29671

Jasper County News
P. O. Box 726
Ridgeland, SC 29936

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Sand Flea Coastal News
P. O. Box 231
Murrell's Inlet, SC 29576

Dorchester Eagle-Record
P. O. Box 278
St. George, SC 29477

Calhoun Times
P. O. Box 176
St. Matthews, SC 29135

Saluda Standard-Sentinel
P. O. Box 676F
Saluda, SC 29138

Seneca Journal-Tribune
P. O. Box 547
Seneca, SC 29679

Spartanburg Tribune
P. O. Box 5474
Spartanburg, SC 29304

The Spartan Weekly News
P. O. Box 2502
Spartanburg, SC 29304

Journal-Scene
P. O. Box 715
Summerville, SC 29484

Travelers Rest Monitor
P. O. Box 247
Travelers Rest, SC 29690

The Press & Standard
P. O. Drawer 1248
Walterboro, SC 29488

Hilton Head News
P. O. Box 5446
Hilton Head, SC 29936

Keowee Courier
P. O. Box 538
Walhalla, SC 29691

Ware Shoals Observer
730 N. Greenwood Avenue
Ware Shoals, SC 29692

The Journal
P. O. Box 1317
Lexington, SC 29072

Westminster News
P. O. box 278
Westminster, SC 29693

The Paper
P. O. Box 3124
Spartanburg, SC 29304

Herald-Independent
P. O. Box 90
Winnaboro, SC 29180

Woodruff News
P. O. box 249
Woodruff, SC 29388

Yorkville Enquirer
P. O. Box 30
York, SC 29745

Santee Cooper Country
P.O. Box 525
Santee, SC 29142

Lowcountry Ledger
715 Bay Street
Beaufort, SC 29902

Bluffton Eccentric
P.O. Box 707
Bluffton, SC 29910

APPENDIX 3, CTD.

Television Stations Serving South Carolina

WPDE-TV
Box F-15
Florence, SC 29501

WSOC-TV
P.O. Box 34665
Charlotte, NC 28234

WYFF-TV
P. O. Box 788
Greenville, SC 29602

WRDW-TV
P. O. Box 1212
Augusta, GA 30903

ETV SC
P O Drawer L
Columbia, SC 29250

WCSC-TV
P. O. Box 186
Charleston, SC 29402

WSPA-TV
P.O. Box 1717
Spartanburg, SC 29304

WOLO-TV
P. O. Box 4217
Columbia, SC 29240

WLOS-TV
P.O. Box 2666
Greenville, SC 29602

WIS-TV
P. O. Box 367
Columbia, SC 29202

WLTX-TV
P. O. Drawer M
Columbia, SC 29250

WELY-TV
P. O. Box 6136
Florence, SC 29502

WBTW
1 Julian Price Place
Charlotte, NC 29208

WJMJ-TV
P. O. Box 1165
Beaufort, SC 29902

WBTW-TV
3420 TV Rd.
Florence, SC 29501

WTOC Savannah
410 Newcastle St.
Beaufort, SC 29902

WCBD-TV
P. O. Box 879
Charleston, SC 29402

WTAT-TV
4401 Arco Lane
Charleston Hgts. SC 29405

WCIV-TV
P. O. Box 22165
Charleston, SC 29413

WFBC-TV
P. O. Box 788
Greenville, SC 29802

WGSE-TV
P. O. Box 1243
Myrtle Beach, SC 29578

WGGS-TV
P. O. Box 1616
Greenville, SC 29602

WACH-TV
1221 Sunset Blvd.
Columbia, SC 29169

WECT-TV
P. O. Box 4029
Wilmington, NC 28406

APPENDIX 4

INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION

International Angling Rules

The following angling rules have been formulated by the International Game Fish Association to promote ethical and sporting angling practices, to establish uniform regulations for the compilation of world game fish records, and to provide basic angling guidelines for use in fishing tournaments and any other group angling activities.

The word "angling" is defined as catching or attempting to catch fish with a rod, reel, line, and hook as outlined in the international angling rules. There are some aspects of angling that cannot be controlled through rulemaking, however. Angling regulations cannot insure an outstanding performance from each fish, and world records cannot indicate the amount of difficulty in catching the fish. Captures in which the fish has not fought or has not had a chance to fight do not reflect credit on the fisherman, and only the angler can properly evaluate the degree of achievement in establishing the record.

Only fish caught in accordance with IGFA international angling rules, and within the intent of these rules, will be considered for world records.

Following are the rules for freshwater and saltwater fishing and a separate set of rules for fly fishing.

RULES FOR FISHING IN FRESH AND SALT WATER

Equipment Regulations

A. Line

1. Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament lines may be used. For line classes, see World Record Requirements.
2. Wire lines are prohibited.

B. Line Backing

1. Backing not attached to the fishing line is permissible with no restrictions as to size or material.
2. If the fishing line is attached to the backing, the catch shall be classified under the heavier of the two lines. The backing may not exceed the 130 lb. (60 kg) line class and must be of a type of line approved for use in these angling rules.

C. Double Line

The use of a double line is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

1. A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish.

APPENDIX 4.CTD

2. Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double to the farther most end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line.

D. Leader

The use of a leader is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

1. The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device. The leader must be connected to the line with a snap, knot splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited. There are no regulations regarding the material or strength of the leader.

Saltwater species: In all line classes up to and including 20 lb. (10 kg), the leader shall be limited to 15 feet (4.57 meters). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 20 feet (6.1 meters). The leader on all classes of tackle over 20 lb. (10 kg) shall be limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters). The combined length of the double line and leader shall be limited to 40 feet (12.19 meters).

Freshwater species: The leader on all classes of tackle shall be limited to 6 feet (1.82 meters). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 10 feet (3.04 meters).

E. Rod

1. Rods must comply with sporting ethics and custom. Considerable latitude is allowed in the choice of a rod, but rods giving the angler an unfair advantage will be disqualified. This rule is intended to eliminate the use of unconventional rods.

2. The rod tip must be a minimum of 40 inches (101.6 cm) in length. The rod butt cannot exceed 27 inches (68.58 cm) in length. These measurements must be made from a point directly beneath the center of the reel. A curved butt is measured in a straight line. (The above measurements do not apply to surf casting rods.)

F. Reel

1. Reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs.

2. Power driven reels of any kind are prohibited. This includes motor, hydraulic, or electrically driven reels, and any device which gives the angler an unfair advantage.

3. Ratchet handle reels are prohibited.

4. Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

G. Hooks for Bait Fishing

1. For live or dead bait fishing no more than two single hooks may be used. Both must be firmly imbedded in or securely attached to the bait. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than a hook's length (The length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 18 inches (45.72 cm) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook.

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2. The use of a dangling or swinging hook is prohibited. Double or treble hooks are prohibited.

3. A two-hook rig for bottom fishing is acceptable if it consists of two single hooks on separate leaders or drops. Both hooks must be imbedded in the respective baits and separated sufficiently so that a fish caught on one hook cannot be foulhooked by the other.

4. All record applications made for fish caught on two-hook tackle must be accompanied by a photograph or sketch of the hook arrangement.

H. Hooks and Lures

1. When using an artificial lure with a skirt or trailing material, no more than two single hooks may be attached to the line, leader, or trace. The hooks need not be attached separately. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than an overall hook's length (the overall length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 12 inches (30.48 cm) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. The trailing hook may not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt of the lure. A photograph or sketch showing the hook arrangement must accompany a record application.

2. Gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use. Gang hooks must be free swinging and shall be limited to a maximum of three hooks (either single, double, or treble, or a combination of any three). Baits may not be used with gang hooks. A photograph or sketch of the plug or lure must be submitted with record applications.

I. Other Equipment

1. Fighting chairs may not have any mechanically propelled devices which aid the angler in fighting a fish.

2. Gimbals must be free swinging, which includes gimbals that swing in a vertical plane only. Any gimmel that allows the angler to reduce strain or to rest while fighting the fish is prohibited.

3. Gaffs and nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 8 feet (2.49 meters) in overall length. (When fishing from a bridge, pier, or other high platform or structure, this length limitation does not apply). In using a flying or detachable gaff, the rope may not exceed 30 feet (9.14 meters). The gaff rope must be measured from the point where it is secured to the detachable head to the other end. Only the effective length will be considered. If a fixed head gaff is used, the same limitations shall apply and the gaff rope shall be measured from the same location on the gaff hook. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff. Harpoon or lance attachment are prohibited. Tail ropes are limited to 30 feet (9.14 meters).

4. Floats are prohibited with the exception of any small flotation device attached to the line or leader for the sole purpose of regulating the depth of the bait. The flotation device must not in any way hamper the fighting ability of the fish.

5. Entangling devices, either with or without a hook, are prohibited and may not be used for any purpose including baiting, hooking, fighting or landing the fish.

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6. Outriggers, downriggers, and kites are permitted to be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device.

7. A safety line may be attached to the rod provided that it does not in any way assist the angler in fighting the fish.

Angling Regulations:

1. From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook, fight and land or boat the fish without the aid of any other person, except as provided in these regulations.

2. If a rod holder is used and fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, the angler must remove the rod from the holder as quickly as possible. The intent of this rule is that the angler shall strike and hook the fish with the rod in hand.

3. In the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished by a single angler, only the fish fought by the angler will be considered for a world record.

4. If a double line is used, the intent of the regulations is that the fish will be fought on the single line most of the time that it takes to land the fish.

5. A harness may be attached to the reel or rod, but not to the fighting chair. The harness may be replaced or adjusted by a person other than the angler.

6. Use of a rod belt or waist gimbal is permitted.

7. When angling from a boat, once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate, or the end of the leader is wound to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to hold the leader.

8. One or more gaffers may be used in addition to persons holding the leader. The gaff handle must be in hand when the fish is gaffed.

9. The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighted.

The following acts will disqualify a catch:

1. Failure to comply with equipment or angling regulations.

2. The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device during the playing of the fish, or in giving any aid other than that allowed in the rules and regulations. If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, floatline, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.

3. Resting the rod in a rod holder, on the gunwale of the boat, or any other object while playing the fish.

4. Handlining or using a handline or rope attached in any manner to the angler's line or leader for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.

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5. Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish (including shark and halibuts) at any stage of the catch.

6. Chumming with or using as bait the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals other than hair or pork rind used in lures designed for trolling or casting.

7. Using a boat or device to beach or drive a fish into shallow water in order to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim.

8. Changing the rod or reel while the fish is being played.

9. Splicing, removing or adding to the line while the fish is being played.

10. Intentionally foul-hooking a fish.

11. Catching a fish in a manner that the double line never leaves the rod tip.

12. Using a size or kind of bait that is illegal to possess.

13. Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.

14. If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.

The following situations will disqualify a catch:

1. When a rod breaks while the fish is being played in a manner that reduces the length of the tip below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics.

2. Multilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. (Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries). Any multilation on the fish must be shown in a photograph and fully explained in a separate report accompanying the record application.

3. When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.

Rules Taken From 1991 IGFA World Record Book
(Subject to Modification)

For Further Information Contact:
International Game Fish Association
1301 East Atlantic Blvd.
Pompano Beach, FL 33060
(305) 941-3474
FAX (305) 941-5868

APPENDIX 5

TOURNAMENT RULES

A. Billfish Tournament Rules

Tournament One:

All radio calls and information will be transmitted on VHF 71. Boats hooking billfish must report to a committee boat or to another boat that can relay the message to a committee boat. All IGFA rules apply. Maximum line class is 80 pounds. Boats are responsible for their own tagging kits. A release has occurred when the angler has fought the fish to the boat, the swivel has touched the rod tip, and the leader has been cut or the hook has been removed.

Scoring for the tag/release award will be based on 200 points for all tagged and released billfish (Blues, Whites, and Sails), and 100 points for all released billfish which are not tagged. In case of a tie, the boat with the earliest release will win.

The Blue Marlin cash awards are based on weight of each eligible fish. The minimum legal lengths for billfish are as follows: Blue Marlin 86 inches, white marlin 62 inches and sailfish 57 inches. This is measured from the fork in the tail to the tip of the lower jaw.

A boat may win more than one place in the tournament if it catches more than one eligible blue marlin. Fishing days will be Friday and Saturday. Small craft advisory at 4:00 A.M. will cancel that day's fishing. One day constitutes a tournament. If both

Friday and Saturday are cancelled for weather, Sunday will be fished as a weather day. If no days are fished, entry fee will be refunded.

All fish to be weighed must be on the dock by 9:00 P.M. on Friday, and by 8:00 P.M. on Saturday. Fish must be brought to the dock aboard the boat on which it was caught.

Boats may leave out of any port on Friday, but must return to the host marina. No lines of any description will be allowed in the water before 8:00 a.m. each day. This includes no fishing for live bait before 8:00 a.m. No boats can leave the dock before 3:00 a.m.

Tournament Two:

1] Minimum boat size is 21 feet.

2] Each boat is limited to six (6) anglers.

3, Minimum sizes to qualify are as follows:

Blue Marlin: Minimum length 86"

White Marlin: Minimum length 62"

Sailfish: Minimum length 57"

All measurements are from lower jaw to fork in tail. Fish not meeting eligibility length are ineligible for entry.

4. Fishing will be according to IGFA rules. All tournament radio calls and information will be on VHF Channel 71.

Boats may leave the dock anytime after 3:00 a.m. Each day's fishing will officially start at 7:00 a.m. with an announcement from the committee boats. No lines or teasers may be in the

water from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m. Scales open at 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. on Friday, June 23 and 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 24. Overnight fishing is not permitted.

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6. Small craft advisory/warning at 4:00 a.m. will cancel that day's fishing. One day's fishing constitutes the tournament. In the event that the tournament is cancelled because of weather (both days), a drawing will be held on Saturday, June 24 at 8:00 p.m. for 6 equal places. Drawing to be net, no guaranteed \$10,000 prize.

7. Fishing line must be one of the approved lines in accordance with IGFA.

80 lb. MONO	80 lb. DACRON
Ande Tournament Green	Courtland dacron
Courtland Plion	Berkley dacron
Amilan T IGFA	Murray Brothers dacron
Trilene Big Game	Gladding Trident
	Gudebrod

8. Report all billfish hook-ups to a committee boat via VHF Channel 71. The committee boats must be notified as soon as possible of the boating of an eligible billfish. Please give the following information to one of the committee boats and make certain that the committee boat has confirmed your data: (1) Name of boat, (2) Name of angler, (3) Time of boating billfish and (4) Identify type of billfish. Any boat that has reported a hook-up before lines-up time, must notify a committee boat to receive permission to continue the fight and must make it to weigh in before scale close for that day. Note: If conditions are overcrowded at the scales, entrant will be considered to be in line provided he is in the marina and has contacted the weighmaster and has been visually recognized.

9. Acceptable Fish: All billfish entered must be in edible condition. The weighmaster reserves the right to reject any fish entry because of poor condition or being frozen. The condition of the fish will be left to the scrutiny of the weighmaster. His decision is final.

10. Fish must be brought to the dock aboard the boat on which it was caught. All fish will be weighed in at Marina.

11. All boats are required to leave from and return to Marina each fishing day.

12. Official Tournament Scales: Official tournament scales are state certified. Scales will be open as stated. Marina will be the official weigh-in station.

13. Liability: Participants in the tournament enter at their own risk. All sponsors, officials, committee members, and all persons directly or indirectly connected with the operation of the tournament shall be exempt from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm or injury suffered by a participant, entrant, sportsfisherman, his companions, boat captains, crew members, vessels, and equipment which may occur during the tournament.

14. In the event that no eligible billfish are weighed in according to the rules during any of the scheduled fishing days, cash prizes will be divided up into 6 equal drawings based on net and given out at the Awards Ceremony as scheduled on Saturday, June 24 at 9:00 p.m. NOTE: No guaranteed \$10,000 prize.

15. Official Tournament Judges: The official tournament judges are the tournament rules committee. Violations of any of the tournament rules will subject the boat and angler to disqualification from the entire tournament without refund. Unsportsmanlike conduct at any time during the tournament or at any function of the tournament will be grounds for immediate disqualification. Tournament Directors reserve the right to reject any entry.

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16. Protests: All protests will be presented to a committee member in writing along with a \$100.00 non-refundable deposit, at tournament headquarters within 24 hours of the entry or weigh-in of the fish in question. However, no protests will be acceptable after the closing of the scales on the final day of the tournament. All decisions of the tournament committee will be final. Please note: The tournament committee encourage the release of all small billfish.

17. Committee boats will be named at the Captain's Meeting on Thursday, June 22.

18. Live Bait is permitted.

	PRIZES	
	1st Place	2nd Place
Largest Blue Marlin (86" min.)	\$ 7,000	\$ 3,000
Largest White Marlin (62" min)	1,750	1,250
Largest Sailfish (57" min.)	1,250	750
Tag & Release	2,000	
Largest Yellowfin Tuna	500	
Largest Wahoo	500	
Largest Dolphin	500	

*Order of placing is: Blue, White, Sail

Tournament Three:

Dates: The tournament will be conducted on Thursday, June 8th; Friday, June 9th; and Saturday, June 10th. Each boat may fish any two days of the three days (Captain's choice). Any day that your boat leaves the dock will be counted as a fishing day UNLESS you report withdrawal by radio to a committee boat and/or Marina by 7:00 a.m. IGFA rules apply.

Fishing Hours: Thursday, June 8th; Friday, June 9th; Saturday, June 10th. Each day's fishing will officially start at 8:00 a.m. with an announcement from the committee boats. The fishing hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. No lines or teasers may be in the water prior to 8:00 a.m. or after 3:00 p.m. Scales open at 3:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Overnight fishing is not permitted. Boats must return to marina each day.

Exceptions: In the event of a hookup prior to the closing of fishing hours on any day of the tournament, the fish may be fought and counted only if a committee boat has been contacted and permission received to continue the fight. Also, the fish must be brought to the dock and weighed before the scales close at 8:00 p.m.

Reporting of Fish - Billfish Only: The committee boats must be notified as soon as possible of the boating of an eligible billfish. Please give the following information to one of the committee boats and make certain that the committee boat has confirmed your data; (1) Name of boat; (2) Name of angler; (3) Time of boating billfish, and (4) Identify type of billfish. Note: If you are hooked up just prior to closing of the fishing hours, be certain to notify one of the committee boats at once to receive permission to continue fighting the fish.

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Committee Boats: Committee boats will be named at Captain's meeting, Wednesday, June 7th. These boats will be monitoring VHF Channel 68. Please allow your committee boats and other boats calling in their fish report or catch to communicate without interruptions. Please show radio courtesy at all times.

Entry Fee: The entry fee will be \$1,000 per boat which allows unlimited anglers as the captain may choose. There will be no registration of anglers. Each boat will be provided six (6) guest badges and giveaway packages at the captain's registration. Entry fees are fully refundable if your boat is withdrawn from the tournament prior to captain's registration. Tournament Director reserves the right to reject any entry.

This tournament is "By Invitation Only" and will be restricted to invitees who submit completed entry forms. Tournament officials reserve the right to replace unanswered invitations with additional invitees after May 15th.

Acceptable Fish: All billfish entered must be in edible condition. The weighmaster reserves the right to reject any fish entry because of poor condition or being frozen. The condition of the fish will be left to the scrutiny of the weighmaster. His decision is final.

Liability: Participants in the tournament enter at their own risk. All sponsors, officials, committee members, and all persons directly or indirectly connected with the operation of the tournament shall be exempt from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury suffered by a participant, entrant, sportsfisherman, his companions, boat captains, crew members, vessels and equipment which may occur during the tournament.

Official Tournament Scales: Official tournament scales will be state certified. Scales will be open at 3:00 p.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. Marina will be the official weigh in station. All fish shall arrive by boat.

Weather Hazards: If one successful day of fishing is completed with one or more eligible billfish brought in and weighed according to the rules, this will constitute a tournament. If it is necessary to cancel the tournament, it will be rescheduled.

In the event that no eligible billfish are weighed in according to the rules during any of the scheduled fishing days, the prize money may be divided among participating boats OR placed in an escrow account to be awarded in the following year's tournament.

The decision as to the disposition of the prize money will be made by the Tournament Directors and their decision will be final.

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Official Tournament Judges: The official tournament judges are the tournament rules committee. Violation of any of the tournament rules will subject the boat and anglers to disqualification from the entire tournament without refund. Unsportsmanlike conduct at any time during the tournament or at any function of the tournament will be grounds for immediate disqualification.

Protests: All protests must be presented to a committee member in writing at tournament headquarters within 24 hours of the entry or weigh in of the fish in question. However, no protest will be accepted after the closing of the scales on the final day of the tournament.

ALL PRIZE MONEY BASED ON NUMBER OF BOATS ENTERED

All decisions of the tournament committee will be final. Please Note: The tournament committee and tournament officials encourage the release of all billfish not eligible for an award. One prize per boat.

B. General Offshore Tournament Rules

Tournament One:

Registration: \$50.00 per boat.

Late entries may be paid at specified businesses prior to 7:00 p.m. Friday, July 8, or contact **Person at Phone Number.**

Tournament Date: Saturday, July 9.

Weigh In: Several specified marinas.

Rules

1. Boats may leave any port at captain's discretion.
2. No lines or teasers in the water prior to 7:00 a.m. July 9
3. Weigh In 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
4. Fish must be delivered to Weigh In area by boat.
5. No mutilated fish will be accepted.
6. Modified I.G.F.A. Rules will apply (Tournament Director will explain).
7. Artificial, natural, or live bait may be used.
8. GOTCHA-RIGS - Not Allowed.
9. Bungi-Chord/Planer meat lines cleated to transom. Not allowed.
10. Fish must be caught on rod and reel.
11. Teasers with hooks cleated to transom - Not Allowed.
12. Explosives Prohibited.
13. Any protest must be put in writing and presented to Tournament Director prior to 12:00 Noon of the day following tournament.

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14. All decisions of the Tournament Committee are final.
15. Small Craft Warning Advisory, or Caution issued by midnight will cancel next day's fishing. Sunday will be a weather day. Call Weather Bureau for marine forecast.
16. Allowances for towing a disabled craft will be explained at Captain's Meeting.

Eligible Species:

Blue Marlin	Yellowfin Tuna	King Mackerel
White Marlin	Wahoo	Barracuda
Sailfish	Dolphin	Other Tuna

Awards

Outstanding Boat	Outstanding Youth Angler
Outstanding Male Angler	Outstanding Light Tackle Award
Outstanding Female Angler	Outstanding Tag & Release Award
	Outstanding Guest Angler

NO CASH PAY BACK

Awards will be presented to winners at our regularly scheduled meeting. Monday, July 11 - 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Committee boats

Multiple boats listed

Communications

VHF Channel 68

C. King Mackerel Tournament Rules

Tournament One:

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Thursday, September 1	
Specified Location	
6:00 p.m. VIP Captain's Meeting	
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	VIP Cocktail Party
Friday, September 2	
Yacht Harbor	
7:00 a.m.	VIP Check-in
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.	VIP Weigh-in (Open to public)
4:30 p.m.	VIP Awards Presentation

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Thursday, cont.

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Tournament Registration

8:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Tournament Captain's Meeting

8:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Tournament Cocktail Party & Registration Dinner

Saturday & Sunday, September 3 - 4

7:00 a.m. Tournament Check-in

3:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Tournament Weigh-in (Open to public)

Monday, September 5

FISH FRY AND AWARDS DAY PRESENTATION:

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tournament Raffles and Awards Presentation

12:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Labor Day Celebration and Awards Party

Entry Fee:

Entry fee is \$250 per boat postmarked or received by Friday, August 26th. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** \$300 per boat thereafter. All are non-refundable and become the property of the tournament. Each boat will receive six Awards Day tickets, six registration dinner and party tickets and one captain's t-shirt. Additional tickets may be purchased in advance or at the event. Captain's Meeting:

All Captains (or their representatives) are expected to be present at the Captain's meeting at 8:00 p.m. to discuss and clarify the rules of the tournament. **ALL ENTRANTS** will be responsible for knowing all matters discussed at this meeting. **ONLY TWO PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH BOAT MAY ATTEND THE CAPTAIN'S MEETING.** A complete set of rules will be distributed at the Captain's Meeting.

Fish Days and Hours:

Fish days are Saturday, September 3rd and Sunday, September 4th. Mandatory check-out is from 7:00 - 9:00 a.m. each day. The committee boat will be conducting the check-out until 9:00 a.m. After 9:00 a.m., you must check-out at the marina.

You may fish as long as you wish, as long as you weigh in by 7:00 p.m. at the Yacht Harbor entrance. Location of blast-off and committee boats to be announced at the captain's meeting.

VIP Fish Day:

On Friday, September 2, the Tournament Committee will hold a one day VIP Tournament. The entry fee is \$125.00 and you must be entered in the regular tournament to be eligible for this event. The purse for the VIP Tournament will be 70% of entry fees collected, winner take all. The VIP Captain's meeting and party will be held Thursday, September 1st at Yacht Harbor.

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Boat and Crew Sizes:

There is a minimum boat length of 16 feet, sailboats are encouraged. All boats must meet both U.S.C.G. and State of South Carolina safety requirements to qualify for competition. Maximum crew size is 6 anglers per boat.

Weigh In:

The Weigh Master will be at Yacht Harbor between 4:00 and 7:00 P.M. each day. No late arrivals will be accepted. All fish submitted for weigh-in must be in edible condition, free of foreign matter in the internal cavity and iced down externally. No ice or other foreign substance is to be forced into the mouth or internal cavity of the fish. No mutilated fish will be accepted at weigh in. All fish submitted become the property of the tournament. All fish must be weighed in on the day of the catch and be brought to the weigh-in by the boat catching them via water. All fish are subject to inspection by Rules Committee and Weigh Master.

Weather:

If you feel that a Fish day may be canceled due to weather, check with Yacht Harbor by 6:00 a.m. on the 3rd or 4th. (One Fish Day constitutes a tournament. If the tournament is canceled due to weather, a drawing will be held for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes).

Tournament Two:

1. Eligible Fish: King Mackerel Only.
2. All boats must leave and return from the inlet which they indicated on their registration form.
3. Boats must be a minimum of 15 ft.
4. Only 6 lines per boat.
5. All boats should have a V.H.F. radio and channel 68.
6. Only one grand prize per boat.
7. No boats out of the inlet before 6:00 a.m.
8. No fish will be weighed in before 3:00 p.m. and all boats must have weigh-in tickets at weigh-in station before 5:30 p.m.; No fish will be weighed without weigh-in ticket.
9. All winning fish will be cut open for inspection and must pass Torrymeter Test.
10. All non-winning fish will be given back to the fisherman weighing it in.
11. All decisions made by the rules committee are final.
12. No refunds on entrance fees.
13. Tournament will monitor V.H.F. channel 68 only.
14. If tournament is not fished on designated day due to weather, tournament will be fished on the following weekend.
15. One day fishing constitutes a full tournament. All boats must pass check out point (and check out) before leaving inlet, or you will be disqualified for that day's fishing.
16. Entry fee \$250.00 per boat for non-members and \$200.00 per boat for members.

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Tournament Three:

1. Eligible Fish: King Mackerel Only.
2. Shotgun start begins at 7:00 a.m. off Yacht Club dock. Check-out committee remains on dock until 8:30 a.m. You must check-out at dock to be eligible to fish.
3. No more than 6 lines per boat. All fish must be caught on rods and reels or hand lines. No wire lines.
4. Only one cash prize per boat except for door prizes.
5. All fish weighed in will become property of the tournament fish fry committee.
6. All winning fish will be cut open for inspection and must pass Torrymeter Test.
7. All decisions made by the Rules Committee and/or grievance Committee are final.
8. No refunds of entry fees.
9. Tournament will monitor VHF Channel 68 only.
10. If tournament is canceled due to weather, net monies will be held in trust and added to next year's tournament prize money.
11. This is a one day fishing tournament. It is not a captain's choice tournament. A decision will be made at 6:00 a.m. for fishing and announced on VHF 68 or by calling the Yacht Club.
12. One member from each boat must attend the Captain's Meeting at the Yacht Club. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Each competing boat will receive a boat entry ID number that must be displayed to the starting line (Check-out Committee) on the Yacht Club dock the next morning. Boats not checking in will be ineligible for prizes.
13. In the event of ties for awards, the earliest time of weigh-in will determine the winner.
14. All boats will leave and return through Charleston Harbor.

Tournament Four:

Entry Fee: \$275.00 per boat. Beginning September 1, \$300.00 (Postmarked or Walk-in).
No Refunds.

Dates of Tournament: October 7-10

Captains Meeting: October 7. At specified location at 3:00 p.m. At least one representative from each competing boat must be present to receive Boat Entry Identification Card (required to be displayed at all times), complimentary gifts, Schedule of Events, Official Rules Review, questions and answers, etc. Special intra-tournament registration closes at 5:00 p.m., October

Fishing Days: October 8 and 9.

Weather: Captain's Choice. Fishermen fish at their own discretion and accept full responsibility for their respective crew and boat.

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Size of Boat: Minimum - 16 ft. Maximum - Unlimited.

Number of Fishermen Per Boat: Maximum - six.

Number of Lines in Water: Maximum - six.

Deadline For All Entries: October 7, 3 p.m.

Deadline For All Entries: October 7, 3 p.m. Headquarters will be closed all day Wednesday, but registration will be held at specified locations beginning 10:00 a.m.

Hours of Fishing: Start - 8:00 a.m. End - 3:30 p.m.

Fishing competition shall begin each day at 8:00 a.m. with a signal from the Committee Boat. Any boats leaving later must check by the marina and show identifying card. Boats coming in early must check in with the marina and cannot go back out for competition fishing. Competition ends at 3:30 p.m. each day. Any competing vessel not past the Committee Boat by 3:30 p.m. will be disqualified for that particular day. All competing boats must leave from and return to respective inlet. The Rules Committee boat will monitor CB 3 and VHF 68 during tournament hours. Competition fishing will be permitted only during tournament hours.

Eligible Fish: Eligible species limited to King Mackerel only. All fish entered in competition must be presented for weigh-in each day between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. and become the property of the tournament to be disposed of at its discretion. Live bait down riggers and planers may be used. There shall be no restrictions on the line test. Wire line is prohibited.

Awards: Saturday, October 10, at specified location. Awards Day will begin with a Fish Fry at 11:00 a.m. Tickets will be on sale beginning at 10:00 a.m. Entertainment will begin at approximately 12:00 p.m. Awards presentations will immediately follow the entertainment.

Official Winners will not be announced until Awards Presentations (unofficial results will be continually updated on the Tournament Scoreboard). In the event of a poundage tie, winner will be selected by length. In the event of a poundage tie in Daily Prizes, the value of respective places will be combined and split. Daily Prizes (10 per day) will be awarded for the most pounds (up to five fish.) Each competing boat is eligible for only one Grand Prize. Grand and Inlet Prize Winners are not eligible for Daily Prizes. All other competing boats are eligible for only one Daily Prize per day. Special intra-tournament will conclude the activities of the tournament. Winners must be present.

- o Major winners will be polygraph tested.
- o Winning fish must pass A Tory Meter test.

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- o Decisions of the Rules Committee as to Winners shall become the final decision of the tournament.
 - o Protests must be in written form and registered with the Rules Committee no later than 6:00 p.m. on the day of alleged infraction. All protests must be accompanied with a \$100.00 deposit which will be refunded if the protest is upheld. Otherwise, the deposit will be forfeited.
 - o The rules Committee reserves the right to inspect all boats entered in competition without notice.
 - o This tournament is held in strict compliance of the laws governing the State of S. C., United States of America, and its territorial waters.
 - o The Tournament and its Sponsors are not responsible for the conduct, personal injury, damages, or negligence on the part of any participant.
 - o If canceled by national disaster or Act of God, purse will be added to next year's event.
- No rain checks.
- o Fishing either day or partial day constitutes a tournament.
 - o All catches must be iced and properly maintained.
 - o All fish must be transferred directly from the participating boat to the scales.
- Prizes: All merchandise values based on suggested retail prices.

D. Inshore Tournament Rules

Tournament One:

Registration: Thursday, October 15th at (specified location) from 6:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Entry Fee: Adults \$15.00 per angler/Children 12 and under \$10.00 per angler.

Late entries will be taken up until 7:00 p.m. Friday, October 16th at specific area businesses.

Fishing Schedule: Boats may leave any boat landing at Owner's discretion. The tournament will begin at daylight Saturday, October 17th and will end when the scales close at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, October 17th.

Weigh In: All entries must be weighed in at the Scales located at the specified locations. The scales will open Saturday at 3:30 p.m. and close at 6:00 P.M. Fish may be delivered to scales by boat or automobile. A South Carolina Wildlife and Marine Resources representative will be on hand during weigh in. Entries must be weighed in no later than 6:00 p.m. Saturday.

Rules:

1. All fish must be caught on hook and line.
2. Artificial or natural bait may be used.
3. No restrictions on number of anglers or lines per boat.

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4. Eligible Species:

King Mackerel	Black Drum
Tarpon	Sheepshead
Jack Crevalle	Flounder
Bluefish	Trout
Channel Bass	

5. All decisions of the Tournament Committee are final.
6. In the event of a severe weather forecast, tournament will be rescheduled.
7. Outstanding awards will be determined by club inshore point system.
8. All Federal and State Fisheries Laws will apply.
9. No mutilated fish will be accepted for weigh in.

Awards: Cash awards for the 1st place fish in each eligible species. 100% net payback.

Trophies Awarded To:

- o Outstanding Female Angler
- o Outstanding Male Angler
- o Outstanding Youth Angler
- o Outstanding Boat
- o Ecology Award for Tag & Release

Awards will be presented to the winners at the October 19th meeting at the specified location at 8:00 p.m.

For More Information Call: Phone Number

Tournament Committee: Names Listed

Tournament Two:

1. The species of fish will be trout only.
2. Date of Tournament - November 15
 - A. Fishing Hours: 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 p.m.
 - B. Weigh-In Time: 4:00 P.M. to 6:00 p.m.
3. Registration
 - A. Registration forms will be available at the following locations: (specify locations)
 - B. Registration Party will be Friday, November 13, at specified location from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
 - C. Raffles will be held during Registration night and during weigh-in time for various fishing tackle.
 - D. Registration Fee:
 - A. Entry fee \$20.00 per adult Angler, \$5.00 per youth angler (12 years & under).

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4. Prizes

- A. Outstanding Boat will be determined by the aggregate weight of the six (6) heaviest fish - prizes will be a boat cooler, plaque & a \$50 gift certificate.
- B. 1st Place Angler will be determined by the heaviest fish weighed in.
- C. 2nd Place Angler will be determined by the second heaviest fish weighed in.
- D. Female Angler 1st Place will be determined by the heaviest fish weighed in for a female angler.
- E. Female Angler 2nd Place will be determined by the 2nd heaviest fish weighed in for a female angler.
- Youth Angler
- F. 1st Place for the heaviest fish weighed in by youth - 12 and under.
- G. 2nd Place for the 2nd heaviest fish weighed in by youth - 12 and under.

All 1st place winners will receive a custom built rod and reel with winning anglers name on the rod and a 1st place plaque.

All 2nd place winners will receive a plaque. There will be only one winner per category. Automatic disqualification of any Boat or Angler with any trout under 12".

Special prizes from specified businesses.

*The largest fish caught by any Angler while fishing from a specific type of boat.

*Largest fish caught by any Angler fishing from a boat powered by a specific motor. 100% of all entry fees and raffle sales will be donated to a charitable foundation of South Carolina.

E. Promotional Recognition Tournament Rules

Tournament One:

1. **Entry Blanks:** All entries must be on official entry blanks available at all certified weighing stations and mailed to Tournament Headquarters promptly. All entry cards must be postmarked no later than thirty days after weigh in. No entry received after November 14, will be considered. All entry cards must be completed in full for eligibility.

2. **Ecology Award:** Release entry blanks are available at all official weighing stations and at Tournament Headquarters. Recognition is given at the end of the tournament to anglers accumulating release points over a minimum of 100. The point score is doubled for each released fish that is tagged. Fish must be alive and in good condition when released. There will be an Ecology award for both saltwater and freshwater species. A release occurs when the hook is physically removed or wire is cut by the angler or mate.

Fish	Point Value
Marlin.....	50
Swordfish.....	50
Sailfish.....	30

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Fish, cont.	Point value
Wahoo.....	20
King Mackerel.....	10
Cobia.....	10
Dolphin.....	5
Sheepshead.....	5
Tuna.....	5
Striped Bass (18" minimum)...	5
Channel Bass.....	5
Largemouth Bass.....	5
Trout (Summer & Winter).....	5
Jack Crevalle.....	5
Amberjack.....	5
Barracuda.....	5
Shark (over 4').....	5
Spadefish.....	5
Black Drum.....	5
Flounder.....	5

3. Angling Methods: All fish entered must be caught on rod and reel except for freshwater species and sheepshead; cane poles permitted for these species. No handlines are permitted. Fish snagged, giggered, shot, or harpooned are ineligible. Anglers must hook, play, and land fish without assistance except for handling leader, chair, net or gaff.

4. Tackle Divisions:

Saltwater: Ultra Light Tackle - 8 lb. test line or less. Light Tackle - Over 8 lb. through 20 lb. test line. General Tackle - Over 20 lb. test line.

Freshwater: Ultra Light Tackle - 8 lb. test line or less. Light Tackle - Over 8 lb. through 14 lb. test line. General Tackle - over 14 lb. test line.

5. Official Waters: Fish must be caught in waters of specified counties. Offshore catches must be made in boats leaving from and returning to waters between River and county boundary lines. It is permissible to enter fish caught in the boundary line rivers and their tributaries and the Santee River provided boats launch from and return to the specified area.

6. Weigh-in Stations: All fish must be weighed at an official Tournament Weigh-in Station. Certified personnel of weigh stations will conduct weigh-in; however, angler will, by his signature, attest that an official weighmaster performed the weigh-in.

7. Judging: All entries will be approved and judged by the Tournament judges and winners notified. Selection to be based on overall performances as determined from valid entry forms and participation in the tag-release program. Questionable entries will be disqualified. Decision of the judges is final.

8. Ties: No duplicate awards will be made. Earliest entry will be named winner.

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9. **Awards:** Plaques will be awarded for heaviest eligible fish in each tackle division.

Special Awards:

Outstanding Saltwater Angler

Outstanding Freshwater Angler

Outstanding Lady Angler

Outstanding Junior Angler (12 through 16)

Outstanding Light Tackle Award

Ecology Award (based on release points)

Outstanding Out-of-the-Area Catch (based on the outstanding catch by an out of the tri-county area angler.)

Boat Award (awarded to the boat with the most outstanding record during the Tournament period. Selection to be based on over in all performance as determined from valid forms and participation in the tag-release ecology program).

Special Recognition Awards (special awards based on merit). No minimum weight required for certificates for youth (12 and under).

10. **Enter All Eligible Fish:** Anglers are encouraged to enter all eligible fish as this will count toward selection of outstanding anglers, outstanding boats and special awards.

11. **Certificates:** A Master Angler's certificate will be awarded monthly during the course of the tournament to each angler entering an eligible fish meeting or exceeding minimum weight requirements. Certificates will be presented for each eligible fish entered.

12. **Tournament Patches:** An official shoulder patch of the tournament will be awarded each angler entering an eligible fish - one patch per angler.

13. **Associated Tournaments:** (Local tournaments listed chronologically).

Tournament Two:

1. Entries:

All entries must be made on the mailable, official entry cards available at all weigh stations. Entry cards may be mailed or left at entry station at time of weigh in. To be eligible for consideration, the entry card must be postmarked within five (5) days after the last day of the month the entry was caught, meet the minimum weight requirement, be caught within the specified division(s), and be completely filled out. No entry fee.

2. Angling Methods:

All fish must be caught on rod and reel by the angler making the entry. Assistance with gaff or net is allowable.

3. Eligible Waters:

The coastal water lying from the South Carolina line to the county line. Where boats are involved, only the fish caught from those that depart and return to port with the above named area are eligible.

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4. Weigh Stations:

Only certified personnel of the weigh station may conduct weigh-ins and attest to the result with their signature.

(1) They shall:

- A. Weigh fish to the nearest ounce only.
- B. Enter pertinent information concerning the catch on the entry card.
- C. See that it is witnessed.
- D. Hand the card to the angler for full completion.

Credit for the catch will go to the angler and the weigh station making the entry. To help ensure that all scales for weighing fish are accurate. The Tournament Committee shall have the authority to have them inspected by the S.C. Dept. of Agriculture, Consumer Protection Division, at the beginning of the Rodeo or at a later date during the Rodeo so desired by the Tournament Committee.

5. Judging:

All entries will be subject to the approval of the Tournament Committee who conduct the final judging and notification will be made to award winners. A written complaint to the Tournament Committee will enable the committee to declare any entry controversial and therefore out of consideration. There will be no duplicate awards for tied entrants. The winner of a tied situation will be decided by blind draw. The decision of the Tournament Committee is final.

6. Awards:

(A) Decals

From April 1st to October 31st, every eligible entry received in every category that meets all the necessary requirements will qualify its angler to receive an official Tournament decal.

(B) Rodeo Shoulder Patches

During each month of the Tournament, an official shoulder patch will be awarded to the anglers entering the three heaviest fish of each species in each division for that month.

(C) Fish-Of-The-Month Rodeo Awards

During each month of the tournament, various prizes will be awarded to the anglers entering the six heaviest fish out of all eligible entries for the specified species.

(D) Division Awards

The following awards will be made in the Pier, Surf/Inlet and Deep-sea divisions: Outstanding Man's Catch, Outstanding Women's Catch, Outstanding Young Angler's Catch.

(F) Grand Prize Award

The selection process for the grand prize award will consist of nine outstanding catches, the 30 top (heaviest fish) winners for the year and the 10 names drawn at random from all the shoulder patch winners for the entire year. The winner will be drawn from those 49 semi-finalists during the tournament luncheon in December. The winner must be present to win the Grand Prize!

APPENDIX 6.

RELEASED FISH AFFIDAVIT

We the undersigned do hereby swear and attest to the authenticity of the below described tagged and released billfish. We further swear and attest that the fish was: (1) caught in full accordance with all rules of the individual tournament being fished; and (2) properly tagged and released in as good of condition as possible without having been harpooned, gaffed, shot or otherwise injured other than what may have occurred during the fight on rod and reel and that the information contained hereon is true and correct.

I understand that to sign this form attesting to a tag and release falsely will constitute aiding and abetting an act of fraud.

Date of Release: _____

Species: _____

Vessel Name: _____

Angler Name: _____

Angler Address: _____

City, State: _____

Attested by: (All parties over age of 18 years aboard vessel required to sign)

Name (Printed)	Signature	Date
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____

Witnessed by:

Name (Printed) Signature Date

APPENDIX 7

WAIVERS AND DISCLAIMERS USED BY TOURNAMENTS

A. Liability: Participants in the tournament enter at their own risk. All sponsors, officials, committee members, and all persons directly or indirectly connected with the operation of the tournament shall be exempt from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm or injury suffered by a participant, entrant, sportsfisherman, his companions, boat captains, crew members, vessels, and equipment which may occur during the tournament.

B. For and in consideration of the right to participate in this tournament the undersigned boat owner and operators agree to be responsible for this boat and crew at all times and does hereby release Tournament Committee, the Marina, their owners and individual committee members and sponsors from all liability whatsoever as a result of this tournament.

This release applies to all members of my crew and all parties from my boat. By signing the entry form and paying my entry fee I acknowledge that I have read this release and am bound by the same. This release shall also be binding on my heirs, executors, administrators or assignees.

C. It is expressly understood that all participants in this tournament enter at their own risks, and that its officers and directors and all persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of said tournament shall be exempt from any liability for libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury or death suffered by any participant, entrant, sportfisherman, their companions, boat captains, mates, crew members, vessels and equipment which may occur during the tournament.

By signing the entry blank, the angler consents that the tournament and its officers may use without payment or restriction, any photographs in which he or she appears for any purpose whatsoever, including, but not limited to resale, advertising, commercial or promotional material. The angler further releases the tournament, its officers, directors and members from any liability for any injury, loss or damage which may result while participating in this competition. All anglers are required to sign their entry blank as certification that they have read and agree to abide by all rules inclusive. No entry will be accepted unsigned.

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- Goadby, Peter. 1991. Saltwater Gamefishing. Offshore and Onshore. Angus & Robertson Book; Harper Collins Publishers, North Ryde, NSW, Australia, 342p.
- Otwell, W. Steven and G. H. Burgess. 1982a. Judging Tournament Fish. University of Florida Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program. Gainesville, MAP-24. 7p.
- Otwell, W. Steven, J. C. Deng, and R. W. Taylor. 1982b. Verifying Freshness of Tournament Fish. University of Florida Sea Grant Program. Gainesville, TP-22.
- Snider, Rhonda ed. 1987. Tackling Tournaments: The Saltwater Fishing Tournament Director's Guide. Texas A & M University Sea Grant College Program. College Station, TAMU-SG-88-603, 162 p.