

Read the following rules prior to submitting your entry form

1. Tournament Entry Fee: \$15, non refundable.

2. Angler Numbers: Angler numbers will be assigned by the rules committee based on the day and time of registration and will be texted to the angler within 24 hours of receipt of your entry.

3. Pictures: When you get your angler number, write it big and legibly with a dark marker on the back side of a dollar bill. **You and the \$1 bill with your angler number on it must appear with, or near, the fish in your picture.** Blurry pictures may be rejected by our computer length-verification program. Pictures that appear to have been manipulated in any way will be disqualified. If you lose the bill you can simply make a new one.

4. Measuring Fish: This tournament is based on fish length, not weight. Lay the fish out naturally. Do not spread or compress the tail. Don't try to stretch it. Use a ruler or measuring board to measure your fish. Measure down the middle of the fish in a straight line from the tip of the nose to a point aligned with the longest end of the tail. Measure to the closest 1/8 inch.

5. Fish Entries: Fish may be caught anytime during the tournament, **but no more than two fish may be submitted for judging during each fishing period.** Entries may not be substituted. Your two fish do not have to be submitted at the same time. Misidentified fish will be disqualified.

6. Texting your fish: Text one fish picture at a time to the special phone number we provide when we issue your angler number. Text In this order, **include only: fish species, measured length, your name, your angler number** (example: **redfish, 38inches, John Brown, #143**) That's all we will be looking at. **Your pictures must be received in our phone on or before noon of the last day of the Fishing Period.** Late entries will not be notified or returned.

7. Fishing Tournament Periods: There are four tournament Fishing Periods:

Period #1 May 21 - June 20 **photos due** on or before noon June 20

Period #2 June 21 to July 20 **photos due** on or before noon July 20

Period #3 July 21 to August 20 **photos due** on or before noon August 20

Period #4 August 21 to Sept 20 **photos due** on or before noon September 20

8. Acceptable Saltwater Species: redfish, snook, trout, black drum, cobia, red grouper, gag grouper, amberjack, bluefish, jack crevalle, triggerfish, hogfish, Key West grunt, spadefish, sail catfish, ladyfish, pompano, barracuda, mangrove snapper, lane snapper, Spanish mackerel, tripletail, pinfish

8a: Acceptable Freshwater Species: bass, crappie, tilapia, sunfish, catfish, gar, Mayan cichlid

9. Eligibility: Anglers must be at least 7 years old, but not yet 16 years old during the entire course of the tournament.

10. Mandatory Registration: Every angler is an individual contestant and must be individually entered. Anglers may register any time from May 1 to September 19, but only fish caught and photographed after the angler is issued his angler number may be entered.

11. Fishing Time: Anglers may fish at any time, day or night, after receiving their angler number.

12. Bait and Tackle: Any legal bait or legal tackle is allowed.

13. Hook and Line: Only fish taken with a hook and line are permitted. No spearing, no snatching, no gigging and no netting is allowed.

14. Release: Fish must be released alive, unless legal for harvest. Scientists tell us one minute is the safe amount of time for a fish to be kept out of water, more than that and the gills dry out.

15. Tournament Boundaries: From the North Venice Jetty south to Cape Sable and from 50 miles offshore in the Gulf to the easternmost point on Lake Okeechobee.

16. Permitted Fishing Locations: Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters from shore, wading, or by boat, except areas design-

ated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state, Federal officials or by tournament official personnel. No fishing in marinas, boat basins, near cleaning stations, or other places fish congregate unnaturally.

17. Required Practices: The Angler is the only person allowed to catch fish in the competition. The angler must hook the fish and reel it in on his own, but may have help casting or landing a fish, tying knots and baiting the hook.

18. Monthly Winners: At the conclusion of each fishing period the longest three fish in each species will be posted in Water LIFE magazine. There will be a picture of the angler with the first place fish and the names of the second and third place anglers for each of the 30 species.

19. Prizes: In each fishing period, first place winners for each species receive a rod and reel combo, 2nd place winners receive top water or diving plugs, 3rd place winners receive t-shirts. Winners will be contacted via text at the end of each fishing period with further instructions. Anglers with the longest of each species over all, at the end of the tournament, receive trophies.

20. Grand Prize Winner: A Tracker model 1032 Topper Boat will be awarded to the angler who has accumulated the most points by September 20.

21. Points Scoring: Every month: First Place fish = 10 points. Second place fish = 5 points. Third place fish = 3 points.
After 4 fishing periods have been completed: Longest in each species = 25 points.
Fish-Quiz points: = 15 points for each completed quiz returned by deadline.

22. Fish Quizzes: *Anglers are not required to take the four quizzes to win other prizes, but it will probably be more difficult to win the boat if you don't.* – At the beginning of each of the four fishing periods we will post a 5 question, multiple choice quiz about local fishing on our website **www.waterlifemagazine.com**. Print out the quiz, mark the correct answers (answer honestly, don't guess. If you don't know, mark 'I Don't Know') then return it by mail to the address provided. Your quizzes must be post-marked before the end of that current fishing period. (RULE ADDITION*) You can also text your answers. See the online registration section of this website for information on texting your Fish Quizz answers.

23. Tie Score: In the event of a tie, the angler with the earliest fish picture received, wins.

24. Safety: You are responsible for your own safety. Please do not endanger yourself or others in attempts to reach or catch fish.

25. Federal, State and Local Laws: All contestants are required to follow all applicable Federal, State and Local regulations and laws. Any violation of such will result in your disqualification.

26. Sportsmanship: Be an Ethical Angler and do the right thing even when no one else is watching. All contestants are required to practice courtesy, safety and respect. Anyone displaying poor sportsmanship will be disqualified.

27. Protests: The decision of the Tournament Director is final. There will be no protests, there will be no whining and there will be no complaining! We will always do our best to be honest, ethical and fair. Remember at all times, this is supposed to be a FUN event!

Michael Heller Tournament Director, Charlotte Harbor Reef Association President
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