

17th Annual Mar-Va Offshore Tournament Official Rules

1. **ENTRY FEE:** \$200.00 per boat
2. **TOURNAMENT DATES AND LOCATIONS:** August 22, 23 and 24, 2008. Ocean City, Maryland and Wachapreague & Chincoteague, Virginia. You can fish any or all 3 days of the tournament, however, you can only weigh-in fish 2 out of the 3 days of the tournament.
3. **ELIGIBLE FISH SPECIES:** Tuna, dolphin and wahoo. All boats fishing in the tournament will follow the angling category possession limits for all tunas that is determined by regulations set by NMFS for that year. Each boat will be allowed to weigh-in 3 of each species each day.
4. **SIGN-UP MEETINGS:** Thursday, August 21, 2008 at 6 to 8 PM at the Martin Club in Ocean City or you can sign up at the Seaside Marina in Wachapreague.
5. **AWARDS CEREMONY:** All cash prizes will be mailed.
6. **WEATHER:** Participants enter tournament at their own risk and discretion and accept full responsibility for boat, crew and anglers. There is no "Weather Committee" Captain and crew must decide on each individual boat as to their participation and their boat capabilities to fish each day of the tournament.
7. **REFUNDS:** In the event there are no available fishing days due to an Act of God or natural disaster, 70 percent of all entry fees and 100 percent of all skill level fees will be returned.
8. **WEIGH-IN: FISH MUST BE BROUGHT TO OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN STATION BY BOAT DIRECTLY FROM FISHING BY WATER. Participants weighing in fish will be issued a receipt, when Captain agrees with weighmaster's recording.**
9. **PROTEST:** Any protest must surface verbally at the time of incident at an Official Weigh-In Station and followed up in writing within 48 hours of the Tournament at the MSSA Office.
10. **FISHING HOURS:** No lines in the water before 6:30 AM and all lines out of the water by 3:00 PM.
11. Only one (1) day is needed to be fished in order to make the tournament official.
12. All fish must be brought to the Official Weigh-In Scales at Wachapreague Marina, Captain Bob's Marina in Chincoteague or Ake Marine in Ocean City. Scales will be open from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM. A contestant may transfer his fish to another boat in order to bring the fish to the Official Weigh-In Scale. No fish will be weighed after 6:30 PM unless you are in line with fish in hand or have been recognized by the Weigh-Master as being in the boat weigh-in line.
13. Each boat will prominently display a boat number issued by the MSSA. This number must be visible at all times during the Tournament.
14. Participants entering the Tournament agree that all decisions made by the Tournament Committee shall be final and binding in any matter requiring their action.
15. A fish is considered released when swivel touches rod tip or mate grabs the leader.
16. Catch and release report forms must be turned into the Official Weigh Master at each location by 6:30 PM on August 24, 2008.
17. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to disqualify any boat at anytime for suspicious activity or unsportsmanlike conduct. Any boat disqualifications are for the entire tournament and cause forfeit of all tournament fees. There will be no refunds after August 21, 2008.
18. Any and all prize winners must be prepared to submit and pass a polygraph test, at the discretion of the Tournament Committee, prior to receiving their prize.
19. Fishing boundaries have been designated as 100 miles from the Ocean City or Wachapreague inlet.
20. Any additional rules and regulations shall be clarified at the Sign-Up Meeting in Ocean City on Thursday, August 21, 2008.
21. VHF channel #78 will be the Official Tournament Channel. Any and all communications will be on this channel.
22. Offshore boats will be permitted to chum or chunk.

23. In the event of weight tie in any segment of the entire tournament, the places will be combined and the prize money will be divided equally.

24. Tournament is open to private or charter boats.

25. **ALL BOAT CAPTAINS MUST BE A CURRENT MEMBER OF THE MARYLAND SALTWATER SPORTFISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION.**

26. Minimum length for weighing-in any tuna will be 30 inches, dolphin will be 24 inches (curved fork length).

27. All fish must be caught on hook and line.

28. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to board any boat at anytime for inspection. Refusal will result in disqualification. No uncleaned fish (category species) can be on the boat before the start of the day.

29. As participants in the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's 17th Annual MAR-VA Offshore Tournament to be held in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean, knowing the risks and dangers involved in such activities and that any unanticipated or, unexpected dangers may develop, agree to hold harmless, namely the Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association and Boater's World, their assigns, lessees, agents, employees and directors, against and all claims, damages, demands, actions, costs and/or expenses by or on our behalf arising out of personal injury, property damage, and/or accidents incurred by use while engaged in the MSSA's 2008 17th Annual MAR-VA Offshore Tournament.

2008 MAIN TOURNAMENT OFFSHORE CASH PRIZES

Winners will be selected based upon the heaviest fish weighed-in at one of the MSSA Official Weigh-In Scales (Ake Marine, Captain Bob's Marina or Wachapreague Marina) for each category. Boats can only win one place in each category.

CATEGORY: TUNA (ALL SPECIES)

CASH PRIZE: 50% of pool.... 1st Place 70%, 2nd Place 30%

CATEGORY: DOLPHIN

CASH PRIZE: 25% of pool.... 1st Place 70%, 2nd Place 30%

CATEGORY: WAHOO

CASH PRIZE: 25% of pool.... 1st Place 70%, 2nd Place 30%

A Special Award will be presented to the boat captain with the heaviest tuna and who is a first time entry. It is the responsibility of the captain to turn this form in by August 24th, at 6:30 PM at the weigh station.

PRIZE FOR MARLIN

Marlin will be included in our tournament as a special Catch & Release Division. The Marlin Division will be won by the boat that has the highest amount of accumulated points which will be calculated as follows:

MARLIN POINTS

BLUE MARLIN - 500 POINTS PER RELEASE

WHITE MARLIN & SAILFISH - 200 POINTS PER RELEASE

In case of a tie, the winner shall be declared by a lottery. This report must be turned in by 6:30 PM on August 24th.

SKILL LEVEL CATEGORIES

\$50 SKILL LEVEL: Winner will be determined based on the largest tournament species weighed-in at scale by boat that is entered into this skill level. Pool will be divided: 1st Place 70%, 2nd Place 30%.

\$100 SKILL LEVEL: Winner will be determined based on the total weight of the two (2) heaviest tuna checked-in during the tournament by those who entered this skill level. Pool will be divided: 1st Place 70%, 2nd Place 30%.

\$200 SKILL LEVEL: Winner will be determined based on the total weight of the six (6) heaviest tuna checked-in during the tournament by those who entered this skill level. Pool will be divided: 1st Place 70%, 2nd Place 30%.

\$300 SKILL LEVEL: Winner will be determined based on the largest tournament species weighed-in during the tournament. **THIS IS A WINNER TAKE ALL - ONE WINNER.**