

2017 FERNANDINA BEACH FISHING RODEO TOURNAMENT RULES

FISHING DIVISIONS: The Fernandina Beach Fishing Rodeo consists of two (2) Divisions: Kingfish Division and Fishing Rodeo Division. There will also be a “Redfish with the Most Spots” prize awarded, regardless of which Division you enter. See these rules at the end of page 3.

REGISTRATION: Kingfish Division (formerly Tournament of Champions) Donation: \$350 through July 21, 2017, then \$400. Fishing Rodeo Donation : \$100 through July 21, 2017, then \$125. Registration closes at 8:00 pm August 4, 2017. All participating boats will be assigned an official boat number. No refunds will be made after July 21, 2017. **Florida & Georgia require a SALT WATER ANGLERS LICENSE.**

CAPTAIN’S MEETING: There will be a mandatory Captain’s Meeting on Friday, August 4, 2017, the eve of the Tournament. It will be held at FERNANDINA HARBOR starting at 7:00 pm. All captains or their representatives must be present. Any statements or rules may be amended at the Captain’s Meeting prior to the Tournament. **It is up to the captains or their representatives to be well informed on all rules.**

SKA: The Kingfish Division (formerly Tournament of Champions) is sanctioned by the SKA and conducted in accordance with SKA Code of Conduct and Angling Rules amended to meet local conditions. **We reserve the right to refuse entry to any person or team.** SKA has made it mandatory that all SKA tournament participants who are competing for SKA points must have a functional EPIRB and/or PLB onboard their boat. Anglers not fishing as SKA contestants are not required, but are encouraged, to meet this requirement.

BOATING SAFETY: Each participating boat must meet all federal, state, and local safety rules for its size. **All offshore boats must be equipped with a working minimum 25 watt VHF-FM radio. Channel 69 will be monitored by Tournament Headquarters.** Hand held VHF radios will not be allowed as the primary radio. Backwater boats may have on board hand held VHF radios. Any boat operating in a dangerous or unsportsmanlike manner in the sole opinion of the Tournament Committee can and will be disqualified and will be ineligible for any prizes, awards, or other compensation offered by the Tournament. The boat captain is at all times responsible for the action of his crew, the operation of his boat, and the consequences of his wake. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to board any boat registered in this Tournament at any time. **No Wake Zones will be strictly enforced at all times.** No Wake Zones may be modified by special announcement by the Coast Guard or other enforcing agencies. Any boat receiving a citation from any law enforcement agency will be disqualified from the Tournament.

CONSERVATION: The NASSAU SPORT FISHING ASSOCIATION urges all participating fisherman to respect the bag limit and to release those fish that are not to be entered in this Tournament. The release of fish should be in keeping with the best conservation methods to ensure the best chance for continued life. **ONLY ONE (1) KINGFISH WILL BE WEIGHED IN FROM EACH BOAT. Kingfish measuring less than 30 inches will not be weighed.** All other species of fish weighed in must meet legal size requirements. Contestants weighing in live redfish will be credited 4 ounces (.25 pounds) for live fish.

CHECK-OUT: There will be NO CHECK-OUT for this year's tournament. No lines in the water until 6:30 AM. Any and all fish must be weighed at Fernandina Harbor. In the event any two boats come together for any reason after the day's fishing has begun, those two boats will be disqualified. As safety is the prime concern, certain exceptions based on an emergency will be granted by the Tournament Committee and will pertain to the attending boat only. Boats receiving assistance will be disqualified. No boat will make landfall or pass anything between boats from the time of boat launch until after weigh-in for those boats. These activities will result in disqualification.

FISHING: Hours of fishing will be from 6:30 AM until 5:00 pm unless terminated by the Tournament Committee. Beginning with the Captain's Meetings, no lines shall be in the water except during Tournament hours. In the event the Tournament is cut short due to bad weather, if at least four hours fishing has been accomplished that will complete the tournament. The Tournament Committee has the authority to cancel or shorten the fishing day. This is a sporting event. No hand lines or electric reels are permitted. Outriggers and downriggers may be used as fishing line carriers only. Special exceptions may be made for the handicapped by the Tournament Committee. The maximum number of lines that may be fished at one time is SIX (6). **NO PARTICIPANT MAY RECEIVE THE ASSISTANCE OF ANY AERIAL OBSERVATION DEVICE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 pm JULY 29th AND 5:00 pm AUGUST 4th, 2017.** Any boat utilizing aerial observation will be disqualified, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

BOUNDARIES: All fishing from Kingfish and Rodeo boats must take place between the north boundary of latitude 31°45' and the south boundary of latitude 29°40'.

CHECK-IN and WEIGH-IN (See note below regarding additional weigh-in options for Rodeo anglers): All boats wishing to weigh-in fish may return through the St. Mary's inlet or the ICW and proceed to the weigh-in line at Fernandina Harbor. All fish will be accepted from a registered boat only. All kingfish must be brought to the dock by the boat on which they were caught. The boat must be under its own power and in the water. **All fish must be in a fresh, edible condition with no signs of freezing or mutilation. Any questionable fish will not be weighed. The Tournament Committee has the final say based on the recommendation of the biologist. All fish weighed become the property of the NASSAU SPORT FISHING ASSOCIATION except live redfish. Live redfish will be released, while dead species that are weighed will become the property of the NSFA. Contestants weighing in live redfish will be credited 4 ounces (.25 lb.) for live fish.** Weigh-in begins at 2:00 pm. All boats wishing to weigh-in fish must be checked-in by 5:00 pm. The committee boat designated as the "END OF THE LINE" boat will fall in line with a sign designating such. No boats will be allowed to weigh-in after this boat. Any boat breaking in the weigh-in line will be disqualified. **Only one Kingfish per boat will be eligible for the official weigh-in.** Kingfish must be brought to the weigh master by a crew member of the boat on which the fish was caught. This crew member must stay with the fish to verify weight. He/she will then be given a weigh slip as a receipt of the fish and as an official verification of the weight. Boats must come to the dock prepared to give a dock line to the Tournament personnel on the dock. No crew member may leave their boat with a fish to be weighed until their boat is secured by Tournament personnel. Boats will not tie up to the weigh dock and must depart as soon as they are off loaded. Any fish dropped in the water will not be weighed. In the event of a tie, the earliest weigh slip will determine the winner. **Rodeo Anglers are eligible to claim prizes in more than one species!** For example, an angler may have the largest flounder and the largest sea trout or the largest kingfish and the largest cobia (if also entered in Rodeo) and will be awarded prizes in both categories.

POLYGRAPH: All entrants agree to a polygraph at the request of the Tournament Committee in the event of a protest involving that entrant. Failure to submit to a polygraph will result in disqualification of that particular boat for the entire Tournament and forfeiture of any and all prizes or awards.

LADY ANGLER: Prizes will be awarded for the two (2) largest kingfish caught by Lady Anglers (age 16 or older). Lady Anglers must be on board to be eligible, but do not have to be the angler on the fish. Prize is awarded for being a part of the team. **The Lady Angler must accompany the fish to the scale. The weigh slip will indicate a Lady Angler was on board. NOTE: Only one prize paid out per fish weighed in.** For example, one fish cannot receive multiple payouts for youth, lady angler, small boat class, and tournament placing. The largest eligible payout on the individual fish will determine the award.

YOUTH ANGLER: Prizes will be awarded for the two (2) largest kingfish caught by Youth Anglers (age 15 & under - boy or girl). Youth Anglers must be on board to be eligible, but do not have to be the angler on the fish. Prize is awarded for being a part of the team. **The Youth Angler must accompany the fish to the scale. The weigh slip will indicate a Youth Angler was on board. NOTE: Only one prize paid out per fish weighed in** (i.e. one fish cannot receive multiple payouts for youth angler, lady angler, small boat class, and tournament placing). The largest eligible payout on the individual fish will determine the award.

SINGLE ENGINE BOAT CLASS: Prizes will be awarded for the two (2) largest kingfish caught by Single Engine Boat Class anglers. **NOTE: Only one prize paid out per fish weighed in** (i.e. one fish cannot receive multiple payouts for youth angler, lady angler, single engine class, and tournament placing). The largest eligible payout on the individual fish will determine the award.

Note: The SKA has changed the "Class of 23" to "Small Boat Class." The maximum boat waterline length of 23'11" **is still the same** but the change in wording allows boats that are advertised as being larger but still meet the waterline length requirement to compete in the SKA SMALL BOAT category.

REDFISH WITH THE MOST SPOTS: This prize is open to all anglers, regardless of which division you are fishing; the prize can be won by any tournament entrant. The category is exactly what the name suggests. The redfish brought in by any angler, dead or alive, in any division with the most spots, wins. The fish **must physically be brought to the weigh-in** by the deadline to be eligible for the prize. The number of spots will be counted and verified by the biologist. If the fish is brought to the biologist alive, you will be awarded one (1) extra spot. All live redfish will be immediately released.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, August 4, 2017

5:00 pm	Registration Opens
5:00-8:00 pm	Public Barbeque
7:00 pm	Captain's Meeting
8:00 pm	Registration Closes

Saturday, August 5, 2017

6:30 AM	Fishing Opens
2:00 pm	Public Barbeque
2:00 pm	Weigh-in Opens
5:00 pm	Weigh-in Line Closes
7:30 pm	Awards and Raffles

Bad Weather Date: Sunday, August 6th, 2017

Tides for Fernandina Beach, Nassau River Entrance August 5, 2017.

High /Low	Tide Time	Height Feet
Low	2:21 AM	-0.5
High	7:26 AM	+4.7
Low	2:18 PM	- 0.7
High	8:02 PM	+ 5.7

Tidal Coefficient: 69 AM 73 PM

Kingfish Division (formerly Tournament of Champions)*

- 1st Place Overall - \$10,000
- 2nd Place Overall - \$3,500
- 3rd Place Overall - \$2,500
- 4th Place Overall - \$2,000
- 5th Place Overall - \$1,500
- 6th Place Overall - \$1,000
- 7th Place Overall - \$850
- 8th Place Overall - \$750
- 9th Place Overall - \$600
- 10th Place Overall - \$500

Single Engine Class: 1st Prize- \$1,300; 2nd Prize-\$450

Youth Angler: 1st Prize- \$1,200; 2nd Prize- \$400

Lady Angler: 1st Prize- \$1,100; 2nd Prize- \$350

* Based on 100 paid boats with 80% of donations paid out. Tournament will pay out 80% of donations and one place for every ten boats entered.

NOTE: Only one prize paid out per fish weighed in. One fish cannot receive multiple payouts for Youth Angler, Lady Angler, Small Boat Class, and Overall tournament placing. The largest eligible payout on the individual fish will determine the award. For example: A Lady Angler weighs in a fish that put her in 1st place for Lady Angler at \$1,100. However, the fish weighed in at 5th largest overall in the tournament. The Lady Angler would then be awarded 5th place overall at \$1,500, not 1st place Lady Angler at \$1,100.

PRIZE SCHEDULE

Fishing Rodeo**

1st Place per Species - \$650

2nd Place per Species - \$350

Redfish
Wahoo
Dolphin
Sea Trout

Flounder
Cobia
Sheepshead
Sea Bass

NOTE: Anglers are eligible to claim prizes in more than one species! An angler may have the largest flounder and the largest sea trout or the largest kingfish and largest cobia and will be awarded prizes in both categories.

** Based on 100 paid boats with 80% payout. Prizes will be adjusted up or down based on number of entries. Tournament will pay out 80% of donations.

Redfish with the Most Spots

One (1) prize will be awarded. It will be announced at the Captain's Meeting