

Summerville Saltwater Anglers Tournament Rules

Entry Fee: \$10 Member \$20 Non-member

Non-member participants must be accompanied by a member from SSWA.

TOURNAMENT FORMAT: As of 2017, our Tournament format is CPR (Catch, Photo, Release). Anglers will receive a unique identifier at the Captains Meeting. This will be a word or phrase, written on any item, that must be in the photo of the fish being submitted. **IDENTIFIER WORD or PHRASE MUST BE VISIBLE IN YOUR PICTURE!** All entries need to be emailed to the club tournament account sswacpr@gmail.com. Only the entries that are posted to this address will be considered as entrees for the competition. To qualify, all entries **MUST** be photographed clearly against a ruler. The ruler must have contrasting scribe lines so the length can be determined by the Tournament Director. The entire fish must be within the photo to be eligible. Total length is with tail pinched. The Tournament Director shall have final say in adjusting official length for cases of poor quality photographs. In the case of a tie, the first entry submitted will be the tiebreaker.

The following tips will help you measure your catch. It helps to have a measure-stick at the ready. These consist of an accurate ruler with a 90-degree stop on one side. The fish is pressed nose first to the 90 deg stop. The tail should fall on the ruler for easy determination of length. A photograph should be taken from directly overhead such that the nose is clearly at 0, and the tail and ruler are in focus. Sometimes it may help to take several photos to ensure that you get a good one. Below is an example of a good picture.



Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place fish of each category, with points being awarded to the top 5 anglers of each division. Points are based on 10 points for 1st place 8 points for 2nd place, 6 points for 3rd place, 4 points for 4th place, 2 points for 5th place. All other participants receive 1 point. Anglers may accumulate multiple points in one tournament by weighing fish in each category. Points will accumulate throughout the year to determine the club's Youth and Adult *Angler of the Year* Award.

CAPTAIN'S MEETING: Wednesday, at the club meeting before the tournament, anglers are encouraged to attend the meeting and pay the entry fee. At this time, rules of the tournament will be explained and any questions answered. Anglers have until 10

PM Friday the night before the tournament to enter. Anglers must notify the Tournament Director in writing. Email to sswacpr@gmail.com or text message to (843) 324-4272. **Notifying Tournament Director of entry into the tournament commits you to paying the entry fee regardless of whether you participate in the tournament!**

FISHING RULES: The tournament will be fished consistent with and enforced pursuant to the laws of the state. Any violation of South Carolina State Statute will result in the disqualification for the angler. It is the responsibility of the anglers to review South Carolina State Statutes, S.C. Wildlife Commission Laws. Since this is a CPR tournament, OVERSLOT fish are eligible to be entered, but must be released alive. All vessels shall be equipped with the minimum United States Coast Guard requirements for that vessel.

SPORTSMANSHIP: All anglers will exercise good sportsmanship, safety, and courtesy whether at dock, under way or fishing. **Remember these tournaments are for FUN!**

BOATING SAFETY: While operating, moored, anchored, fishing, safe boating practices shall be adhered to at all times.

WEATHER CONDITIONS: The Tournament Director has the right to cancel the days fishing depending on the forecast. If small craft advisory is in effect for the Charleston Harbor as of 10:00 PM on Friday, the tournament will be postponed. Cancellations will be posted on the web site by 10:00 PM the day before the tournament. It will be the responsibility of the anglers to check the web site for cancellation if inclement weather is approaching. If tournament cancellation is the result of inclement weather, the Tournament Committee will notify all registered anglers of the rescheduled date.

AUTHORIZED FISHING TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Live or cut bait and artificial lures are permitted in the tournaments. All fish must be caught on rod, reel and line. Snatching with multiple hooks, gigging and using multiple hooks (Treble Hooks) with any natural bait is prohibited. Treble hooks are permitted for lures only.

FISHING HOURS: The tournament will start at safe light on the day of the event. This is approximately 30 minutes before official sunrise. No anglers are allowed to fish prior to safe light. All submissions must be received at sswacpr@gmail.com by the designated end of tournament time or it will not be recorded as a tournament catch.

REQUIREMENT FOR ELIGIBLE FISH: Eligible fish must be caught fresh within the stated boundaries the day of the tournament. Fish must be of legal state length to be considered in these tournaments. SSWA encourages catch and release after photographing your catch.

FISHING BOUNDARIES: Anglers may fish anywhere on waters accessible to the public. Anglers may not enter waters deemed closed by South Carolina Department of Natural Resources or are private.