

Billfish Bonanza

TOURNAMENT RULES

Catch & Release Division entry Fee will be **\$750**

Meatfish Division entry Fee will be **\$350**

Swordfish Division entry Fee will be **\$750**

- Winner of Catch & Release Division will be determined by the highest total score accumulated over 2 days of fishing.
- Winner of Meatfish Division will be determined by the heaviest 3 fish aggregate (Eligible Species: Mahi, Cobia, Wahoo, Tuna, African Pompano, and Kingfish.)
- Winner of Swordfish Division will be determined by the heaviest Swordfish over the course of 2 days of fishing.
- Prize payouts will be 80% of entry fees collected.
- Catch & Release Division - Payout structure is based upon 25 boats – 1st place **\$10,000** – 2nd place **\$2,000**
3rd place **\$1,500** – 4th place **\$1,500**
- Meatfish Division - Payout structure is based upon 25 boats – 1st place **\$5,500** – 2nd place **\$1,500**
- Swordfish Division - Payout structure is based upon 25 boats – 1st place **\$12,500** – 2nd place **\$2,500**
- You must pay the main entry fee to fish optional entries for each division. **You must enter the Catch & Release Division to fish in the Meatfish Division.** You do not have to enter the C & R or Meatfish Division to fish in the Sword Division.
- Optional Entries payouts to 1st place only, except for Top 2 category.

CATCH & RELEASE DIVISION OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

- Conch Republic Big Cash Stash - **\$500- \$5,000** entry fee (payout with 15 boat entries at Level 3) **\$60,000**
- Top 2 - **\$2,500** entry fee (payout with 15 boat entries at Level 3) **\$30,000**
- First Blue Marlin Release - **\$1,500** entry fee (payout with 15 boat entries at Level 3) **\$18,000**
- Most Sailfish Released - **\$500** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 20 boat entries) **\$8,000**
- Inboards Only - **\$500** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 10 boat entries) **\$4,000**
- Outboards Only - **\$500** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 10 boat entries) **\$4,000**
- Big Finish - **\$500** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 20 boat entries) **\$8,000**
- Day 1 – First Sailfish release - **\$250** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) **\$5,000**
- Day 2 – First Sailfish release - **\$250** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) **\$5,000**
- Day 1 – Angler with most Billfish releases - **\$250** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) **\$5,000**
- Day 2 – Angler with most Billfish releases - **\$250** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) **\$5,000**
- Day 1 – Youth Angler with most Billfish releases - **\$150** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) **\$3,000**
- Day 2 – Youth Angler with most Billfish releases - **\$150** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) **\$3,000**
- Day 1 – Female Angler with most Billfish releases - **\$250** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) **\$5,000**
- Day 2 – Female Angler with most Billfish releases - **\$250** entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) **\$5,000**

MEATFISH DIVISION OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

- Meat Money - \$1,500 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 10 boat entries) \$12,000
- Heaviest Mahi - \$400 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 20 boat entries) \$6,400
- Heaviest 2 Mahi Aggregate - \$350 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 20 boat entries) \$5,600
- Heaviest Wahoo - \$300 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 20 boat entries) \$4,800
- Heaviest 2 Wahoo Aggregate - \$200 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 20 boat entries) \$3,200
- Heaviest Kingfish - \$150 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 20 boat entries) \$2,400
- Heaviest Tuna - \$150 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 20 boat entries) \$2,400

SWORDFISH DIVISION OPTIONAL CATEGORIES

- Sword Wish - \$1,000 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) \$20,000
- Day 1 – Heaviest Sword - \$250 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) \$5,000
- Day 2 – Heaviest Sword - \$250 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) \$5,000
- Heaviest 2 Swordfish Aggregate - \$500 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) \$10,000
- Heaviest 3 Swordfish Aggregate - \$350 entry fee (payout with 25 boat entries) \$7,000
- Heaviest 4 Swordfish Aggregate - \$250 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) \$5,000
- First Swordfish to weigh in 200 lbs or more - \$200 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) \$4,000
- Wildcard - \$250 entry fee (payout to 1st place with 25 boat entries) \$5,000

*If an additional category has only one entry, being the only entry in that category by the start of the tournament, that team will be refunded their additional entry fee.

*If an additional category has more than one entry and doesn't have a team that wins the category, that money will not be refunded and will be donated to charity to benefit the Veteran Community.

*If there are more than 30 entry fees the payouts will be higher, if there are less than 30 boat entries the payouts will be less, payouts are based upon total boat entries.

#1 RULES ACCEPTANCE

- It is the sole responsibility of the Captain, crew and anglers to read, understand and abide by the Tournament rules; including any and all special instructions and/or modifications announced during Captain's meeting.
- At least one designated representative from each team must attend the captains meeting.
- Warriors on the Water expects the highest level of integrity and sportsmanship from its participants.

#2 ENTRY DEADLINE

- 9:00 PM, Thursday, November 16th, 2023

#3 ENTRY FEES & Qualifying Species

- **Catch & Release Division entry Fee will be \$750** -Winner will be determined by the highest total score, over the course of 2 days of fishing. Must have cards & Video footage turned in by 6pm each day. Lines in at 6am

Catch & Release Scoring

Blue Marlin: 501 points

White Marlin: 200 points

Spearfish: 150 points

Sailfish: 100 points

Meatfish Division entry Fee will be \$350

- Winner will be determined by the heaviest 3 fish aggregate weight. Must have fish weighed in before 6pm daily. (Eligible Species: Mahi, Cobia, Wahoo, Tuna, African Pompano, and Kingfish.)

Swordfish Division entry Fee will be \$750

- **Winner of Swordfish Division will be determined by the heaviest Swordfish over the course of 2 days of fishing.**
Lines in 6am – Weigh in before 6pm - Weigh-in daily

#4 CAPTAINS MEETING & TOURNAMENT START

- Onsite registration will be available at 6:00pm Thursday November 16th, 2023.
- There will be mandatory captain's meeting Thursday November 16th, 2023.
- At least one member of each team **MUST** be present. All anglers are encouraged to attend the captain's meeting.
- Weigh in from 3pm-6pm at **Perry Marina, Key West**
- **LINES IN AT 6 am – Lines out 4pm - weigh in closes at 6pm**

#6 BOAT NUMBERS

- Boat numbers will be assigned in order of registrations received and paid in full.
- There will be no deviation from the numbering system. Each tournament vessel will receive their Boat number at registration and shall be required to display that number in a manner easily visible to tournament officials at check-in.

#7 HOURS OF COMPETITION

- Lines in 7am daily for Catch & Release Division - Line out 4pm – Video Footage & C&R Sheet must be turned in before 6pm
- Sword Division lines in on Friday Nov 17th 6am – weigh in daily Nov 17th - 18th before 6pm
- Scales will close and the competition will end at 6:00pm daily, November 17th-18th, 2023.
- Official time will be kept by Weigh Master and will correspond with time displayed on Weigh-Master's Cell Phone.
- Fish caught daily will qualify to be submitted for the weigh-in, any fish prior to initial 7am lines in for start day will not qualify for weigh-in.

#8 FISHING RULES & BOUNDRIES

- Angling gear and methods should comply with the spirit of the International Game Fish Association (IGFA).
- Electric reels are allowed for teasers during the tournament for Catch & Release. Electric reels are permitted for use during Sword competition.
- No Live bait chumming.
- All boats must launch out of Monroe County

- Fish up to 7 lines in the water at a time for the Catch & Release Division and 3 Sword rods at a time for the Sword Division
- All fish must be caught rod & reel. Once a fish is hooked it must be fought by the angler that is in control of the rod when the fish is hooked, and starts taking line off the spool once the drag engages.
- Nothing stronger than 20 lbs test
- Double line & leader can not exceed 20 ft total, Leader 15ft max. Bimini Leader limit is 5ft. must touch leader past the Bimini to count four points
- Must include boat number in all footage and footage must be continuous after number is shown, if there is any break in footage number must be shown again and shown in every release.
- In your video release you must verbally state what number species release and whether it was day 1 or 2 of the competition.

#9 PERMITS AND LICENSES

- Registered boats and anglers must comply with all Federal and Florida State Laws regarding fishing licenses, size limits, bag limits and any other applicable regulations.
- For information regarding Florida Saltwater Fishing Licenses refer to
- www.FloridaConservation.org or call 850-487-0554. For information regarding NMFS permits refer to www.NMFSpermits.com or call 888-872-8862.
- A citation or written warning of any local, state or federal regulation during the tournament will result in disqualification.

#10 OFF-LOADING CATCH

- All fish must be weighed-in off the boat from which they were caught. After checking in with Weigh-Master, anglers will be permitted to use personal vehicle to transport catch to the weigh in
- Fish must be off-loaded only at the designated dock

#11 WEIGHING IN FISH

- Weigh-in begins at 3pm November 17th- 18th, 2023 and closes precisely at 6:00pm. Once a fish is entered, it may not be substituted for a larger fish that day. (Entrants will be allowed one trip to the scales, you may not resume fishing after weigh-in.) WEIGH IN STATION at **Perry Marina**.
- A fish can be submitted into multiple categories even if it wins a category.
- Failure to be recognized and checked in by appropriate Weigh-Master will disqualify fish.
- All fish are weighed to the hundredth of a pound.
- Fish must be in edible condition, and not marred or mauled in any way.
- No fish should leave the boat until they are in line to be weighed.
- All fish to be weighed must be listed on the Weigh-In Form. Before leaving the scale area, the presenting angler must sign the Official Tournament Weigh-in form.
- The Weigh Master and the Tournament Official reserve the right to refuse to weigh any fish that does not meet the tournament requirements.

#12 PRIZE PAYMENTS

- All prize payments will be mailed directly to the captain of the boat. All checks will be issued to the Captain of the team and will require a W-9.
- The tournament will only submit the 1099's of the winners of any prize money that exceeds the amount of the entry fee of that category by \$600. If less than a \$600 difference, no W-9 is needed.
- Captains may then distribute winnings to the anglers on their boats as appropriate.
- **First Place BIG CHECKS** will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony immediately following the tournament. Stay around for your photo op.

#13 BOAT SUBSTITUTION & PROCEDURES

- Boat substitutions are permitted for mechanical failure only.
- Any substitutions must be reported to tournament officials PRIOR to the start of fishing.
- Boats are not permitted to have any physical contact with other boats during the fishing hours of the tournament except for emergency or safety reasons and must be reported to a tournament official as soon as possible.

#14 PROTEST

- All protests concerning the determination of the tournament winners shall be made in writing to the tournament rules committee and shall be accompanied by \$1000 cash.
- All protests shall be made prior to closing of the scales November 17th- 18th, 2023. In the event, that a protest is made and upheld by the rules committee, the \$1000 cash deposit shall be returned. Otherwise, the \$1000 cash deposit becomes the property of the tournament.
- Any protest resolutions are based on committee decisions, which are final.

#15 INSPECTION OF BOATS

- The rules committee reserves the right to inspect all boats entered in the competition.

#16 PROCEDURES IN THE EVENT OF TIES

- If two or more entries in any category are the exact weight or weights, the winner shall be determined by earliest check in time.

#17 RAIN DATE

- To be determined only under Small Craft Advisory.
- There shall be no refunds.

#18 CONDITION OF FISH

- Fish shall not be mutilated in any way other than hook/gaff marks and must be in edible condition.

#19 RULES VIOLATION

- The penalty for any violation of any of the rules is disqualification, with tournament fees not refundable.

#20 DISCARDING FISH

- The captain will be responsible for properly disposing of fish.

- ***NO DEAD FISH OR FISH PARTS WILL BE TOSSED INTO THE WATER AT VENUE!***

#21 LIABILITY RELEASE

- It is expressly understood that all registered participants and their companions, crew members and observers (the Participants) participate in the Bottom Blast Tournament at their own risk.
- The participants hereby indemnify and agree to save harmless the Bottom Blast Tournament, Warriors on the Water, and all Directors, Volunteers, agents, partners, members, sponsors, attorneys or any other person associated with this tournament from and against all claims that arise from or in connection with any negligent act or omission of the Tournament Indemnified Parties.
- All persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the Warriors on the Water tournament and Sunrise Marina, whether individual or corporation, shall have no liability whatsoever for any special, incidental, consequential, punitive, exemplary and/or any other damage including without limitation, any damages arising from libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury and death.
- Participants specifically consent to the use of any photography in which they appear, or audio recording by the tournament for any reason whatsoever including, but not limited to resale, advertising and promotional material without compensation or restriction of any kind.
- This Liability Release shall be binding upon the participants and their heirs, representatives, successors and assigns. By entering the above stated tournament and paying entry fee, participants acknowledge that they have read and are bound by same.
- Any Tournament related questions ? Call Evan Fernandez (941) 225-3256 Or email evan@warriorsfish.org