

2023 Rules and Regulations - Offshore Division

1. A North Carolina Recreational Saltwater Fishing License is required. The NC Division of Marine Fisheries requires a recreational fishing license for anyone 16 years or older participating in fishing aboard a non-charter boat vessel. These individual licenses can be purchased on a 10 day, annual or lifetime basis. For more information or to acquire a license, go to <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-licenses-and-permits> or call 252-726-7021.
2. Anglers, boats, or teams must abide by all state and federal regulations.
3. To qualify for the tournament, each boat must be registered with the Tournament Committee and tournament entry fee (\$1000.00) must be paid by 7:00 pm on Friday, May 5th. Any boat may be substituted before the tournament, but must be registered with the Tournament Committee before lines in on Saturday May 6th.
4. There is no boundary for where you can fish but you must be in sight of the scales by 6:00 pm or the boat will be disqualified. The scales/weigh-in will be located at the public dock on Morehead City Waterfront, next to Carolina Princess.
5. Fishing hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and all boats must be in sight of the weigh-in station by 6:00 pm. The scales at the weigh-in will open at 4:00 pm. The weigh-in is located at the public dock on Morehead City Waterfront, next to Carolina Princess. Look for the Reelin' for Research banner.
6. Boats/Teams will be notified the evening of Friday, May 5th if the tournament is going to be canceled or altered due to weather. Tournament registration fees are nonrefundable but still tax deductible. 100% of tournament registration fees will go to Reelin' for Research, Inc.
7. The committee boat (to be announced) will be monitoring channel 72. No fish need to be called into the committee boat.
8. The winner is determined by the total weight of three (3) meat fish. These can be all the same species or a combination of species as defined by the next rule. Reelin' for Research is not responsible for determining a team's largest (3) meat fish.
9. Meat fish are defined as dolphin, wahoo, tuna (yellowfin or blackfin). One point per pound for all meat fish.
10. All fish must be caught from a conventional rod and reel. J-Hooks or Circle hooks are allowed, as well as lures and artificial baits. No electric reels or bandit reels or "Green sticking" will be permitted. All boats must be trolling.
11. A rod may be passed from one angler to another angler as long as it is immediate and that the receiver fights the fish. A rod may not be handed off to more than two anglers.
12. In the case of a tie in total weight of the teams 3 fish, the winner will be determined by a coin toss. The boat that weighed in first will make the heads/tails call.
13. Any protest must be made immediately at the end of the day's fishing in writing to the Tournament Committee.

2023 Rules and Regulations - Inshore Division

1. A North Carolina Recreational Saltwater Fishing License is required. The NC Division of Marine Fisheries requires a recreational fishing license for anyone 16 years or older participating in fishing aboard a non-charter boat vessel. These individual licenses can be purchased on a 10 day, annual or lifetime basis. For more information or to acquire a license, go to <http://www.ncwildlife.org/Licensing/Hunting-Fishing-Trapping-Licenses> or call (888) 248-6834.
2. Anglers, boats, or teams must abide by all state and federal regulations.
3. To qualify for the tournament, each boat must be registered with the Tournament Committee and tournament entry fee (\$1000.00) must be paid by 6:00 pm on Friday, May 5th. Registration must be made online and the registration form must be turned in via mail or email (charters@reelinforresearch.org). Any boat may be substituted before the tournament, but must be registered with the Tournament Committee before lines in on Saturday, May 6th.
4. There is no boundary for where you can fish. The scales/weigh-in will be located at the public dock on Morehead City Waterfront, between Jack's Restaurant and the Carolina Princess. Look for the Reelin' for Research Banner!
5. Fishing hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The scales at the weigh-in will be open from 2:00 pm to 3:15 p.m. or until all qualified teams have weighed in. Fish may be weighed in dead or alive. Teams may weigh in by land or water.
6. Team Captains will be notified the evening Friday, May 5th if the tournament is going to be canceled or altered due to weather. Tournament registration fees are nonrefundable but still tax deductible. 100% of tournament registration fees will go to Reelin' for Research, Inc.
7. Maximum of 4 registered anglers per boat.
8. The winner is determined by the total weight of four (4) qualifying fish. These can be a combination of species as defined by the next rule but a team cannot have more than two of the same species of fish. Reelin' for Research is not responsible for determining a team's largest four (4) qualifying fish. A tie will be settled by whichever team has the largest fish.
9. Qualifying fish are defined as bluefish, trout (speckled or gray), striper and drum (black and/or red). Maximum of 2 red drum per boat. One point per pound for all qualifying fish. See NC 2023 Saltwater Regulations for size and creel limits.
10. All fish must be caught on rod and reel, maximum of six rods in the water at a time. Artificial and/or live bait is permitted.
11. Any protest must be made immediately at the end of the day's fishing in writing to the Tournament Committee.