

North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament Regulations



Scan the QR
code to submit an
online citation
application!

The tournament begins January 1 and ends midnight, December 31 each year. **TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD, ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 15 OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR.** Fish must be caught in accordance with North Carolina state and federal laws and regulations as well as the NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament rules. Everyone is eligible except a charter boat, captain, a crewman of a for-hire boat, or anyone who offers fish for sale. One angler per citation, there are no associated fees or costs. Eligible waters include all North Carolina sounds, estuaries, surf, and the Atlantic Ocean. All fish must be caught on hook and line. Snagged, mutilated, scaled, speared, frozen, or shot fish are not eligible. All applications must be complete and legible including anglers' information, date, species, catch info, and submitted via mail to the address below or through the online citation application. Harvested fish citation rules: Fish must be weighed by an authorized weighmaster (or his/her representative) at an official weigh station. Application must include fish weight and length. Weighmaster reserves the right to cut, open, or mark the fish after it has been weighed. Release citation rules: Angler or mate must touch the fish or the leader. Application must be completed with the number of fish released, length (see exceptions below), and signed by the angler.

Mail applications to: NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament, PO Box 769, Morehead City, NC 28557

Species	Min. Weight (lbs)	Min. Length (inches)	Species	Min. Weight (lbs)	Min. Length (inches)
Amberjack	50	53	Pigfish	1.5	14
Atlantic Bonito	8	24	Red Drum	Release only, 43 inches	
Atlantic Croaker	1.5	14	Red Porgy (Silver Snapper)	4	20
Barracuda	20	45	Sailfish	Release only, any length	
Bigeye Tuna	100	54 (FL)	Sharks	Release only, 80 inches	
Black Drum	30	40	Sheepshead	8	23
Black Sea Bass	4	18	Spadefish	4	16
Blackfin Tuna	25	32 (FL)	Spanish Mackerel	6	25
Blue Marlin	Release only, any length		Spearfish		
Bluefin Tuna	200	70 (FL)	Spot	1	12
Bluefish	15	34	Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout)	6	26
Blueline Tilefish (Gray)	10	28	Swordfish	50	70
Cobia	40	50	Tarpon	Release only, any length	
Crevalle Jack	15	32	Triggerfish	5	20
Dolphin (Mahi)	35	57	Vermilion Snapper (Beeliner)	3	19
False Albacore	20	34	Wahoo	40	56
Florida Pompano	2	17	Weakfish (Gray Trout)	5	24
Flounder	6	24	White Grunt	2	16
Kingfish (Sea Mullet)	1.5	15	White Marlin	Release only, any length	
King Mackerel	30	54	Yellowfin Tuna	70	50 (FL)

For additional information or questions about

- NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament
- Saltwater State Records
- Carcass Collection Program

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