

North Carolina Saltwater Fishing Tournament Regulations



Scan the QR code to submit an online citation application!

The tournament begins January 1, 2024 and ends midnight, December 31, 2025. **TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD, ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 15, 2025.** 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 and be signed by the angler and weighmaster. 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 (pounds)	Min. Length (inches)	Species	Min. Weight (pounds)	Min. Length (inches)
Amberjack	50	53	Pigfish	1.5	14
Atlantic Croaker	1.5	14	Red Drum	40 inches, release only	
Barracuda	20	45	Red Porgy (Silver Snapper)	4	20
Bigeye Tuna	100	54 (FL)	Sailfish	Any length, release only	
Black Drum	30	40	Sharks	80 inches, release only	
Black Sea Bass	4	18	Sheepshead	8	24
Blackfin Tuna	25	32 (FL)	Spadefish	4	16
Blue Marlin	Any length, release only		Spanish Mackerel	6	25
Bluefin Tuna	200	70 (FL)	Spearfish	Any length, release only	
Bluefish	15	34	Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout)	5	24
Cobia	40	50	Spot	1	12
Dolphin (Mahi)	35	57	Swordfish	50	70
False Albacore	20	34	Tarpon	Any length, release only	
Florida Pompano	2	17	Triggerfish	5	20
Gray Tilefish	10	28	Vermilion Snapper (Beeliner)	3	19
Gray Trout (Weakfish)	5	24	Wahoo	40	56
Jack Crevalle	15	32	White Grunt	2	16
Kingfish (Sea Mullet)	1.5	15	White Marlin	Any length, release only	
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
- or additional outreach provided by NCDMF please contact

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