



2018 OFFICIAL BILLFISH RELEASE FORM

Please complete the form for each billfish released. The information from this form will be used to inform fishery management agencies about the billfish fishery in NC. This information will help NC anglers continue to enjoy the off-shore fisheries in NC. Release data is needed regardless of the size of the fish or the gear used by the angler.

J-Hooks may be used with entirely artificial lures only. Circle hooks MUST be used on any natural bait or natural-artificial bait combination.

Boat Name _____ Captain (Name/Signature) _____

Date _____ Mate (Name/Signature) _____

Complete your release form and turn into the correct tournament official, and incomplete form may disqualify releases.

Form must be turned in to the Weigh Station or photographed and emailed to forms@thebigrock.com no later than 10:00 p.m. on the day the fish is released to qualify. If you do not receive an email confirmation, call The Big Rock Office at 252-247-3575 ext. 1 to confirm.

Angler	L/A ¹	Release Time	Fight Time	Species ²	Est. Size	Hook Type ³	Hook Location ⁴	Rig Type ⁵	Bait Type ⁶	Leader ⁷	Main Line ⁸
1.											
2.											
3.											
4.											
5.											
6.											
7.											
8.											
9.											
10.											

Filling in your release form:

1. L for Lady Angler.
2. Species—Blue marlin (BM), white marlin (WM), sailfish (SF), spearfish (SP), roundscale spearfish (RS)
3. Hook type—Circle (C) or J-hook (J). Also note the hook size (i.e. circle 7/0)
4. Hook location—Jaw (J), Bill (B), Mouth Cavity (M), Gills (G), Deep/Gut (D), Fowl (F), Unknown (U)
5. Rig Type—Natural Dead (ND), Natural Live (NL), Combo-Natural/Artificial (C), Lure (L)
6. Bait Type—Ballyhoo (B), Spanish Mackerel (SM), Squid (S), Mullet (M), or Other (O). **If rig is a lure, note the number of hooks in Bait Type.**
7. Leader—Size of mono (Leader will be considered mono unless wire is noted)
8. Main Line—Size of backing



11. MANDATORY HOOK REQUIREMENTS - Non-offset circle hooks are mandatory when deploying natural bait or natural bait/artificial lures. "J" hooks are allowed on artificial lures only.

12. RELEASE POINTS - A cash prize will be awarded to the boat that scores the most number of points first. In order for a billfish to be counted as a release, a member of the fishing team or a crewmember must touch the leader. A fish is boated when any portion of the fish or gaff breaks the plane of the boat.

Release points are awarded as follows:

Blue Marlin 400 points, White Marlin 125 points, Sailfish 125 points, Spearfish 125 points and Hatchett Marlin 125 points.

In the event of a tie in total release points, the tie breaker shall be the largest single gamefish (yellowfin tuna, dolphin, wahoo) by weight. If no gamefish are caught, the winner will be determined by the first boat to achieve the winning total. Gamefish scales close at 6:00 pm. Released fish must be attested to by signature of the female angler, captain and two witnesses (if available) on board the boat at the time of the release on the Official Release Form provided by the Tournament Committee. This form shall be turned in to the OFFICIAL WEIGHMASTER, TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS. Release forms must be turned in (no later than 10:00 pm on the day the fish is caught) to qualify. Forms may also be photographed and emailed to forms@thebigrock.com. If you do not receive an email confirmation, please call tournament headquarters to confirm.

Reporting Stations:

Morehead City:

Tournament Headquarters
710 Evans Street
opens 6:00 am on fishing days

Hatteras:

Hatteras Harbor Marina