

# **CAPTAIN'S HANDBOOK**



**BIG ROCK**™  
**BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT**  
*Conservation • Innovation • Charitable Giving*

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# THE BIG ROCK TOURNAMENT APP

- 1) **DOWNLOAD** from the App Store / Google Play
- 2) **LOGIN** using account associated with tournament registration



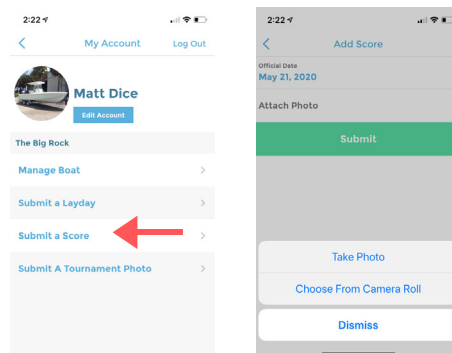
**USERNAME:**

**PASSWORD:**

## RELEASE FORMS

Completed release forms can be submitted two ways:

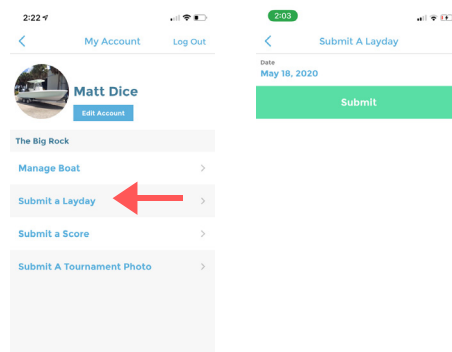
- 1) Upload a photo of the complete release form to the **Big Rock App** using the account associated with boat registration; however, release forms can also be 2) turned in to **Big Rock Headquarters** or **Hatteras Harbor Marina**. Release forms must be submitted one of the two ways by 10PM on day of release.



## LAY DAY FORMS

Lay day forms may be submitted two ways:

- 1) Submit lay day using the **Big Rock App** account associated with boat registration
- 2) Submit completed form in person at **Big Rock Headquarters**. *Lay days must be submitted by 9AM on the declared day.*



## TOURNAMENT-TO-PARTICIPANT COMMUNICATION

Introducing Big Rock's newest form of tournament to participant communication- a reliable way to deliver up to date information exclusively to our boat owners, captains, & crew. As a participant, expect to receive important updates & urgent messages from the Big Rock throughout the week of the tournament.

Have a question? You can simply reply to original text message to start a "chat" and we will get back to you ASAP. If you'd like to subscribe a new crew member to the list, text **PARTICIPANT** to (855) 481-5737 from their mobile device. To unsubscribe, text **STOP**.

# NC Governor's Cup Weigh Station Protocol

through June 13, 2020 (Swansboro, Cape Fear, Big Rock)

- Weigh station area will be roped off with signage stating for people not to enter, an inner perimeter will be established to warn staff when they are getting within 6 feet of the roped perimeter. The area inside of the roped off area will be limited to weigh station staff and designated tournament staff recording weigh-in data; no more than 9 people will be allowed in the weigh station area at one time (9 combined staff plus one angler = 10) . Areas will be designated for angler/team representatives to stand to maintain social distancing.
- Weigh station and designated tournament staff will stay six feet apart when possible, wear face coverings when 6 feet of separation cannot be maintained and wash/sanitize hands frequently; anyone not feeling well or showing symptoms will be asked to leave the weigh station area immediately
- Weigh station staff and designated tournament staff will provide their own face coverings, necessary PPE, disinfectant, and hand sanitizers; scales, tables and other frequently touched surfaces will be disinfected frequently
- Only one angler/team representative, with their fish to be weighed, will be allowed in the weigh station area at a time; the angler/team representative must remain in a marked designated angler area at least six feet away from weigh station staff and designated tournament staff
- Vessels in weigh-slip – the crew will remain on the vessel until the Weigh Master directs the angler/team representative to the marked designated angler area
- Chase boats - only one angler/team representative at a time will be allowed on the chase boat with their fish to be weighed; angler/team representatives will have spaced (6 foot apart) and marked designated areas to wait until directed by the Weigh Master to enter the weigh station area
- Weigh-in photographs – after the fish has been weighed and data recorded the angler may be photographed beside the fish at the direction of the Weigh Master and only after weigh station and designated tournament staff have left the area; in the event of a weighed blue marlin (or other significant catch), after the area is cleared of staff - only the Weigh Master may invite the boat crew inside the weigh station area for photographs; anglers/crew shall not touch any weigh station equipment
- Videographers, researchers and other tournament staff will have their own designated areas and will remain outside of the weigh station area unless directed by the Weigh Master
- Anyone not obeying these protocols will be asked to leave the weigh station area immediately
- Everyone is encouraged to wear face coverings, stay six feet apart and wash/sanitize hands often

# TOURNAMENT RULES

\* 2020 changes are printed in red.

**1. REGISTRATION** - All boats must be registered with the Tournament Committee and entry fee paid to qualify for prizes and trophies. Any boat may be substituted during the week but must be registered with the Tournament Committee prior to fishing. Registration forms will be accepted at the Big Rock Office, the Saturday Captain's Party or the Sunday Pig Picking. Any boat entered in the Big Rock tournament shall not be entered in another tournament simultaneously, except for 1) NC Governor's Cup and 2) King of the Hill. The tournament reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to deny entry to anyone for any reason. No entries or upgrades will be accepted after 9:00 am, Monday morning.

**2. RULES MEETING** - At least one person from each boat should attend the Captain's Meeting for the Tournament, which is usually held on the Saturday evening prior to the first day of fishing. Regardless, all participants in the Tournament are responsible for knowing all Tournament Rules, including any changes to the Rules that may take place at the Captain's Meeting.

**3. ROD & REEL RULES** - This is a rod and reel, hook and line tournament. Double line and leader combined may not exceed 40 ft; neither of which may exceed 30 ft. The following practices are illegal in this tournament: a) use of handline or rope attached to the line or leader; b) shooting, harpooning, or lancing; and c) the transfer of any participant from one boat to another to aid in the landing of the fish. Bill rope/"snooter" is allowed. Drones are not allowed in this tournament.

**4. BOUNDARIES** - All boats fishing in Tournament must fish between LORAN coordinates North 40275 and South 39200. All fish must also be hooked within those coordinates.

**5. 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.

**6. FISHING TIME AND LAYDAYS** - No lines or teasers are permitted in the water before official fishing hours each day. Official time will be GPS time. Fishing days for all eligible boats shall be any four out of the available six days, captain's choice. No single boat can fish more than 4 total days during the Tournament. Lay Day forms may be submitted in person at the Big Rock Office, Hatteras Harbor Marina or by using your Big Rock App account. Lay Day forms must be submitted prior to 9 AM on the day declared as a non-fishing day. There will be no exceptions on time. If a boat does not declare a day as non-fishing, the Tournament Committee will automatically count the day to be a fishing day for that boat.

**7. REPORTING** - All billfish must be reported to the Tournament Headquarters when hooked, lost, boated or released. Radio frequency shall be VHF CHANNEL 71 and alternate channel 78a. Fish hooked prior to or after fishing hours are not eligible.

**8. QUALIFYING BLUE MARLIN** - To be eligible for prize money, a blue marlin must weigh at least four hundred pounds or measure at least one hundred and ten inches. In the event of a tie by weight, the marlin having the largest total measurement of girth plus length shall be declared the winner. Length shall be measured from the V-notch in the tail to the tip of the lower jaw. No official weigh slip will be given for any disqualified fish. **NC State Law states that you may only boat one blue marlin per day. If no qualifying gamefish are caught in Level I, the tournament will retain the money.**

**IF NO QUALIFYING FISH IS WEIGHED IN LEVEL II, III, IV OR V, THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE PRIZE MONEY IN EACH LEVEL WILL BE PAID TO THE BOAT ENTERED IN EACH LEVEL WITH THE MOST RELEASE POINTS. LEVEL VIII WTA TOTAL PAYOUT WILL BE DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF DAYS THAT A QUALIFYING FISH IS RELEASED.**

## 9. DISQUALIFICATION

Boat will be disqualified from the tournament if:

1. The boat, captain and/or crew violates any rules of the tournament unless otherwise specified in these rules.
2. If a billfish has been boated and not presented to the Weigh Master. A fish is considered boated when any portion of the fish breaks the outside vertical plane of the boat.
3. If a fish escapes before gaffing and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules. No free gaffing allowed.

## 10. 400 POUND PENALTY

Boat will be penalized four hundred pounds from the weight of the largest blue marlin weighed in by the boat during the week by said boat if:

1. Blue Marlin does not meet tournament minimum length and/or weight requirements
2. Fish does not adhere to State and Federal Fisheries regulations
3. The gaff breaks the outside vertical plane of the boat and the fish is not presented to the Weigh Master. When the gaff breaks the vertical plane of the boat, it shows intent to gaff the fish. Under no circumstances can you gaff the fish in order to measure the fish and then release the fish.

## 11. RELEASE POINTS

1. Cash prizes will be awarded to the boats that score the most number of points first. **No release points will be awarded if the gaff breaks the outside vertical plane of the boat. In order to qualify as a release, the billfish must remain in the water. (Federal Law).**

125 Release Points will be awarded:

1. For all billfish including blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, hatchet marlin and spearfish
2. When mate touches the leader before the fish is released and
3. Team turns in a release form provided by the Tournament Committee attested to by signature of the captain and mate or angler on board the boat at the time of the release. This form may be submitted to the OFFICIAL WEIGH MASTER AT TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS, Hatteras Harbor Marina or submitted **electronically with the Big Rock App**. Release forms must be turned in no later than 10:00 p.m. on the day the fish is released to qualify. Other than blue marlin, billfish forms may also be photographed and **uploaded to the Big Rock App**. In the event of ties, the first boat to achieve the winning totals shall be declared the winners.

400 Release Points will be awarded for:

1. Blue Marlin if the team provides indisputable video or photo evidence to the Rules Committee. To qualify for the 400 points, teams must turn in a Release Form in person along with the SD Card, Micro SD Card or Compact Flash Card from their camera. Forms and Media Cards can be turned in at the Official Weigh Station in Morehead City or to the tournament representative at Hatteras Harbor Marina. The Media Card and Release Form must be turned in no later than 10:00 p.m. on the day fish is released to qualify. The Media Card must show continuous video or a clear single photo of the mate touching the leader and clear and indisputable evidence that the fish is a blue marlin. It is the responsibility of the participants to ensure that their camera's Clock/Date is set accurately to reflect the time and date of the Releases to qualify for the 400 points. Date and time stamp must be 100% accurate. All videos will become property of the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament. If the rules committee is unable to see indisputable evidence that the fish is a blue marlin, the release will be scored at 125 points. The tournament will NOT allow photos or video from cell phones.

**12. LEVEL V FABULOUS FISHERMAN'S LEVEL** - The Winner of Level V will be the first blue marlin reported and boated weighing 500 lbs. or more. Qualifying fish must meet all tournament rules. All boats participating in this level must be entered in Levels I, II, III and IV.

**13. OUTBOARD LEVEL \$1000** - Entry in this level is restricted to outboard boats only. No inboards, inboard-outboards, jet powered or airboats permitted. No sailboats permitted. Any hybrid or combination engine boat will not be eligible for prizes in this level. To be eligible for prize money, a blue marlin must weigh at least 400 pounds or measure at least 110". If no blue marlin are caught, the winners will be determined by release points. If no billfish are caught or released, winners will be determined by the largest gamefish, (yellowfin tuna, dolphin, wahoo). Prize money for the Outboard Level is a guaranteed purse of a minimum of \$10,000. Prizes will be divided as follows:

50%/first place, 30%/second place and 20%/ third place or 60/40 for two places. Winners may be polygraphed (See Rule #21). All other Big Rock rules are enforced for this level. Entrants must enter Level I and may enter additional levels as stated in Big Rock rules.

**14. FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS** - All vessels and participants shall comply with North Carolina and Federal Fisheries laws and regulations regarding fishing licenses, vessel permits, fishing gear, season size limits and bag limits. Participants shall also adhere to all Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament rules as contained herein.

**15. GAMEFISH** - Winning gamefish will be determined by weight. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the first fish weighed-in. Fish must be in fresh edible condition and fit for human consumption. All gamefish must be weighed in the day they are caught. Hookup time for gamefish should NOT be reported to Tournament Headquarters. Level VI - "Winner take all - dolphin" prize money will rollover to the next year's tournament if no qualifying fish is weighed. Gamefish are defined as yellowfin tuna, dolphin and wahoo.

**16. WEIGH-IN** - All blue marlin and gamefish eligible for prizes must be off-loaded and weighed at the official Tournament weigh station from the boat landing the fish unless authorized by the Weigh Master at the weigh station. The fish must be entered on the official entry form by the Tournament Weigh Master. Blue marlin take priority over gamefish at the scales. The same scales and weigh station will be used for all fish including those entered in the Governor's Cup Series. Gamefish scales will close at 7:00 p.m. during the week and 6:00 p.m. on Saturday. The weigh station is located on the Morehead City Waterfront. All billfish weighed in shall be donated for research. The Weigh Master has the right to refuse any fish in his sole discretion.

**17. PRIZE PAYOUT SCHEDULE** - Prize money checks will be made payable to the person or entity so indicated on the registration form of the winning boat. Social Security number or Taxpayer I.D. number of the recipient must be provided on the entry form. All undisputed funds will be distributed 10 days after the tournament.

**18. PROTEST** - Any protest by any participant against the catch of another participant must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Rules Committee. No protests are allowed against the tournament. Any protest must be received by 9:00 a.m. on the day following the catch of the disputed fish and by 7:00 p.m. on the last day of the tournament. Any member of the Rules Committee or the Weigh Master (in their sole discretion), retains the right to hold and keep any fish deemed questionable by him with respect to being qualified for any prize or cash award. If retention of the fish is refused, the fish is automatically disqualified.

**19. DISPUTE RESOLUTION** - A protest by one participant against the catch of another must be submitted in accordance with Rule 18. All other disputes, controversies, or claims of any kind arising out of or relating to the Tour-



nement (hereinafter, "dispute" or "disputes"), including, but not limited to, all disputes concerning decisions by Tournament Officials, Boards, or Committees, must be submitted in writing to the Rules Committee no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last fishing day of the Tournament. Failure to submit any such disputes in writing by that date and time shall constitute a waiver and release of any and all such disputes.

In the event of any dispute arising out of or relating to the Tournament in any way, the interested parties shall use their best efforts to settle such dispute by mutual agreement. To this effect, responsible, authorized representatives of the interested parties shall meet, consult, and negotiate with each other in good faith (with or without a third-party mediator, as they may choose) and attempt to reach a mutually satisfactory solution. In the event they do not reach such a solution within a period of five (5) days after the first notice by any party to any other of the existence of the dispute, then without waiving any other provisions in these Rules concerning the absolute discretion and finality of decisions made by the Tournament Officials, Boards, or Committees, the sole and exclusive means for resolution of any dispute shall be the procedures set forth below:

- a) The dispute shall be submitted to arbitration under the North Carolina Revised Uniform Arbitration Act, Chapter 1, Article 45C of the North Carolina General Statutes.
- b) All negotiations, mediations, and arbitration hearings shall take place in Morehead City, North Carolina, or such other places the interested parties may agree upon in writing.
- c) The arbitration shall be conducted by a single arbitrator who is a retired North Carolina state or federal judge or an attorney whose practice experience includes commercial litigation. The arbitrator must be a resident of the State of North Carolina. In the event the interested parties cannot agree upon an arbitrator, the decision shall be made by a Resident Superior Court Judge of Carteret County, North Carolina.
- d) Prior to any arbitration hearing, limited discovery shall be permitted for the purpose of obtaining production of documents and taking depositions. All discovery shall be governed by the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. All issues regarding discovery requests shall be decided by the arbitrator. All discovery shall be completed within 90 days after the selection of the arbitrator; provided, however, that the arbitrator shall have the authority to extend or reduce the time for discovery in a manner consistent with a general desire for expedited resolution of the dispute.
- e) All fees and expenses for the arbitration shall be borne by the parties equally. However, each party shall bear the expense of said party's own counsel, experts, witnesses, and preparation and presentation of proofs. Only in the case of extreme abuse of the procedure may the arbitrator reallocate such costs and expenses among the parties.
- f) Any arbitral award may be enforced by an action in the Superior Court of Carteret County.

The terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be construed, interpreted, and enforced under the laws and judicial decisions of the State of North Carolina, notwithstanding any principle of conflicts of law. In the event any part of this Agreement shall be declared illegal, invalid, or void, such declaration shall not affect the validity of any of the other terms or provisions of this document.

**20. WEIGHT ALTERATION** - Attempted weight alteration of any blue marlin or gamefish will be subject to disqualification and automatically disqualify the boat from the tournament. IGFA rules apply regarding mutilated fish. The Rules Committee reserves the right to cut open any fish for inspection of suspected weight altering efforts such as inserted weights, ice, water, etc.

**21. POLYGRAPH** - Polygraph Tests shall be administered to the top money winners, release winners, (captain), and others as deemed necessary by Tournament Officials. Participants must make themselves available for polygraph testing in Carteret County within 24 hours following notice from Tournament Officials. Individuals that are required to take the polygraph test must not consume alcohol or any controlled substance within eight hours prior to the test. A participant's refusal to take a polygraph test or failure to answer test questions in a manner satisfactory to Tournament Officials, in their sole discretion, may result in disqualification. By entering the Tournament, participants consent to the admissibility of polygraph results in any dispute or proceeding arising out of the Tournament.

**22. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TOURNAMENT** - No Level I fees will be refunded. 100% of all other levels will be refunded 14 days after the tournament and following collection and clearing of all funds paid. All refund requests must be received in writing by 12:00 noon Sunday prior to the tournament at Tournament Headquarters.

**23. VIOLATION OF RULES** - Any boat violating any of these Tournament Rules or any boat containing a participant violating any of these Tournament Rules is subject to disqualification from the Tournament (unless another sanction for a particular violation is expressly set forth herein). By participating in the Tournament, all participants acknowledge that all Tournament Rules are material and that disqualification is a permitted and appropriate sanction for any violation of any Tournament Rules. Decisions regarding the interpretation of Rules, violation of Rules, penalties, and the suspension of any Rules or penalties will be made by Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors in their sole and absolute discretion. All decisions by Rules Committee and/or Board of Directors are final and are not subject to further challenge by participants.

**15% OF FEES RETAINED BY TOURNAMENT EXCEPT FOR LEVEL I. (SEE PRIZE SCHEDULE FOR LEVEL I)**

## 2020 NORTH CAROLINA RECREATIONAL COASTAL WATERS GUIDE FOR SPORTS FISHERMEN – May Version

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\* CHECK WITH DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES FOR MOST CURRENT MINIMUM LENGTHS AND CREEL LIMITS.**

252-726-7021 OR 800-682-2632 OR [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net)

You can also download the Fish Rules Mobile App at <https://fishrulesapp.com/>

Persons engaged in recreational fishing in North Carolina coastal waters are required to possess a Coastal Recreational Fishing License in accordance with G.S. 113-174.1

FINFISH SPECIES (note symbols)	STATE COASTAL WATERS (Internal and 0-3 miles)		FEDERAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
	Minimum Length	Bag Limits (per person)	
Bluefish (M)	None	3/day (M)	<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks</a>
Cobia	See the most recent Cobia DMF proclamation at <a href="http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net">www.ncmarinefisheries.net</a>		<a href="http://www.asafc.org/species/cobia">http://www.asafc.org/species/cobia</a>
Wahoo	None	2/Day	<a href="http://safmc.net/regulations/">http://safmc.net/regulations/</a>
Dolphin (B)	None	10/Day	
King Mackerel (H)	24" FL	3/Day	
Spanish Mackerel (H)	12" FL	15/Day	
Tuna: Bluefin, Bigeye and Yellowfin (G)	Bigeye and Yellowfin tuna 27" Curved FL	Yellowfin tuna 3/Day	<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species</a>
Smoothhounds, Smooth Dogfish and Spiny Dogfish	None	None	<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks</a>
Sharks (G)	See most recent DMF proclamation at <a href="http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net">www.ncmarinefisheries.net</a>		<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/atlantic-highly-migratory-species</a>
Blue Marlin (G)	99" LJFL	1 per vessel per trip, either blue marlin or white marlin	
White Marlin (G)	66" LJFL		
Sailfish (G)	63" LJFL		
Red Drum (Channel Bass, Puppy Drum) (C) ▲	18" – 27" TL		1/Day
Flounder ▲	<b>SEASON CLOSED UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS</b>		<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks</a>
Spotted Seatrout (Speckled Trout) ▲	14" TL	4/Day	No Federal Regulations
Weakfish (Gray Trout) ▲	12" TL	1/Day	<a href="https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2017-title50-vol13/pdf/CFR-2017-title50-vol13-sec697-7.pdf">https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2017-title50-vol13/pdf/CFR-2017-title50-vol13-sec697-7.pdf</a>
Sheepshead	10" FL	10/Day	No Federal Regulations
Black Drum (C)	14" – 25" TL	10/Day	No Federal Regulations
Tarpon	None	1/Day	No Federal Regulations
Striped Bass	(A)	(A)	<a href="https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2017-title50-vol13/pdf/CFR-2017-title50-vol13-sec697-7.pdf">https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2017-title50-vol13/pdf/CFR-2017-title50-vol13-sec697-7.pdf</a>
American Shad (D)	None	(D)	No Federal Regulations
Hickory Shad (D)	None	(D)	No Federal Regulations
Alewife and Blueback Herring	<b>UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS</b>		No Federal Regulations
American Eel (E)	9" TL	25/Day	No Federal Regulations
Scup (North of Cape Hatteras only)	8" TL	50/Day	<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks</a>
Black Sea Bass (North of Cape Hatteras)	12 ½" TL	15/Day	<a href="https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks">https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/fish-sharks</a>
Black Sea Bass (South of Cape Hatteras)	13" TL	7/Day	<a href="http://safmc.net/regulations/">http://safmc.net/regulations/</a>
Snappers, Groupers, Porgys, Triggerfish, Jacks, Tilefish, Grunts, Spadefishes, Wrasses and Sea Basses (H)	See the most recent Snapper/Grouper Complex recreational DMF proclamation at <a href="http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net">www.ncmarinefisheries.net</a>		<a href="http://safmc.net/regulations/">http://safmc.net/regulations/</a>
Mullet (striped and white)	200/Day (species combined)		No Federal Regulations

### PROHIBITED FINFISH SPECIES

#### COASTAL WATERS (Internal waters and Atlantic Ocean out to 3 miles)

Sharks: whale, basking, white, sand tiger, bigeye sand tiger, Atlantic angel shark, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sandbar, silky, sevengill, sixgill, and smalltail. Other finfish: river herring, Atlantic sturgeon, shortnose sturgeon, Nassau grouper, Goliath grouper, Warsaw grouper, speckled hind and red snapper.

SHELLFISH and CRUSTACEANS		STATE COASTAL AND EEZ WATERS (Internal and 0-200 miles)	
		Minimum Size	Bag Limits (per person)
BLUE CRAB (F)		5" Carapace Width	50 Crabs/Day not to exceed 100 Crabs/Vessel/Day
STONE CRAB CLAWS (J)		2 ¾ Propodus Length	<b>UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS from June 15 – August 15</b> (no possession limit during open season)
SPINY LOBSTER (K)		3" Carapace Length (L)	2/Day
HARD CLAM (I)		1" Thick	100 Clams/Day not to exceed 200 Clams/Vessel/Day
OYSTER (I)		Season Closed	<b>SEASON CLOSED – UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS</b>
BAY SCALLOP			<b>SEASON CLOSED – UNLAWFUL TO POSSESS</b>
CONCHS and WHELKS		None	10/Day not to exceed 20/Vessel/Day
MUSSELS		None	100/Day not to exceed 200/Vessel/Day
SHRIMP	<b>Closed Shrimping Area</b>	None	4 quarts (heads on) or 2 ½ quarts (heads off) of shrimp per person per day ( <b>Cast Net Only</b> )
	<b>Open Shrimping Area</b>	None	48 quarts (heads on) or 30 quarts (heads off) of shrimp per person per day or if vessel is used, per vessel per day (RCGL max. limit of 2/Vessel)

**SYMBOLS TO LOOK FOR:**

- (A) Albemarle Sound Management Area: contact DMF for seasons, areas or other limits; Atlantic Ocean year-round: 1 per person per day at 28" up to, but not greater than 35" TL; Central Southern Management Area: Unlawful to possess, the CSMA is closed to the recreational harvest of striped bass (including hybrid bass).
- (B) Limit of 10 per person per day or 60 per trip, whichever is less. On head boats, limit is 10 per person per day. No sale of recreational bag limit on vessels operating as charter or head boats.
- (C) Unlawful to possess red drum greater than 27" TL. Unlawful to gig, spear, or gaff red drum. One **black drum** per person per day over 25" TL is allowed.
- (D) For aggregate creel limits for American shad and hickory shad, **see the most recent DMF proclamation at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net)**. Unlawful to take or possess American shad from the Atlantic Ocean.
- (E) Season open January 1 – August 31, except year-round when taken by baited pots.
- (F) It is illegal to possess immature female crabs at any time and it is illegal to possess dark sponge crabs from April 1 – April 30.
- (G) In state or federal waters, federal permit required for Highly Migratory Species, tunas, billfishes, swordfish and sharks (excluding Atlantic bonito, little tunny (false albacore), and blackfin tuna): <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/> 978-281-9370. Prior to removal from vessel, all billfishes, swordfish and bluefin tuna must be reported at NC HMS reporting stations. DMF website for more details. For seasons, bag limits, size limits or closures for tunas, billfishes, and sharks contact NMFS Highly Migratory Species Division 800-894-5528.
- (H) For seasons, bag limits and size limits on snapper, grouper, and mackerels contact the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council 843-571-4366 or [www.safmc.net](http://www.safmc.net), and **see the most recent Snapper Grouper recreational DMF proclamation at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net)**
- (I) Contact DMF or visit [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net) to **see the most recent DMF shellfish and polluted area proclamations** for seasons, areas, or other restrictions. An interactive map of areas closed to the harvest of shellfish due to water quality monitoring by DMF's Shellfish Sanitation section can be viewed at, <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5759aa19d7484a3b82a8e440fba643aa>. Oyster season is October 15 – March 31 unless closed earlier by proclamation.
- (J) Propodus (forearm) length is measured by a straight line from elbow to the tip of the lower immoveable finger. The propodus (forearm) is defined as the largest section of the claw assembly that has both a moveable and immoveable finger and is located farthest from the body of the crab. Unlawful to possess stone crab bodies or fail to immediately return to the waters from which taken. Unlawful to use a device to take stone crabs that can puncture, crush, or injure the crab body, such as gigs, spears, grabs, hooks, or similar devices. Unlawful to remove, take or possess stone crab claws from June 15 through August 15 (no possession limit during open season).
- (K) In accordance with N.C. Marine Fisheries Commission Rule 15A NCAC 03L .0302 it is unlawful to possess an egg bearing spiny lobster or a spiny lobster which eggs have been scrubbed or removed. It is unlawful to possess aboard a vessel or land detached spiny lobster tails, or to use a gaff hook, spear, or similar device to take spiny lobsters.
- (L) The carapace is measured beginning at the forward edge between the rostral horns and eyes, excluding any soft tissue, and proceeding along the middle to the rear edge of the carapace.
- (M) Creel limit for bluefish is set by proclamation **see the most recent DMF proclamation at [www.ncmarinefisheries.net](http://www.ncmarinefisheries.net)**. The recreational creel limit for bluefish is 3 fish per person per day in all private (non for-hire) recreational fisheries. Recreational anglers engaged on a for-hire vessel can possess up to 5 bluefish per person per day.
- ▲ Size and creel limits for spotted seatrout, flounder, red drum and gray trout taken in inland waters are the same as the recreational limits for those species in adjacent joint and coastal waters.

Total length (TL) is measured from tip of snout with mouth closed to top of compressed tail. Fork length (FL) is measured from tip of snout to middle of fork in tail. Lower jaw fork length (LJFL) is measured from lower jaw to middle of fork in tail. Curved fork length (CFL) is the measurement of the length taken in a line tracing the contour of the body from the tip of the upper jaw to the fork of the tail. Anglers cannot catch both a federal and state bag limit for the same species on the same trip.

Ocean boundary is defined as water seaward of the COLREGS Demarcation Lines as indicated on National Ocean Service navigations charts.

No one may possess aboard a vessel or while engaged in fishing any fish subject to limits without head and tail attached, except for mullet when used for bait and hickory shad when used for bait provided not more than two fish per boat/operation may be cut at any one time – Reference 15A NCAC 3M .0101

Morehead City Office (24 hours) 800-682-2632 or 252-726-7021	Elizabeth City Office 800-338-7805 or 252-264-3911	Manteo Office 252-473-5734	Washington Office 800-338-7804 or 252-946-6481	Wilmington Office 800-248-4536 or 910-796-7215	NMFS (Fed. Reg.) 301-427-8505
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THIS FLYER IS EFFECTIVE May 1, 2020 AND IS FOR GENERAL INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES AND HAS NO LEGAL FORCE OR EFFECT. **FISHERY RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.** THESE RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO FISH TAKEN FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES AND INCLUDE HOOK AND LINE. Updated State regulations can be found at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-fishing-size-and-bag-limits> and updated Recreational Commercial Gear License information can be found at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/recreational-commercial-gear-license>.

FOR INLAND WATER FISHING REGULATIONS, CALL WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION 919-707-0220 OR [WWW.NCWILDLIFE.ORG](http://WWW.NCWILDLIFE.ORG)

**STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS CAN ALSO BE FOUND AT [www.FishRulesApp.com](http://www.FishRulesApp.com)**



# **FISHING DAYS**

## **Available fishing days and hours: (EDT)**

June 8, 2020	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 9, 2020	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 10, 2020	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 11, 2020	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 12, 2020	9:00 am-3:00 pm
June 13, 2020	8:00 am-2:00 pm

**Scales close at 7:00 p.m. daily for gamefish, 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.  
Boats may fish four out of the six available fishing days.**

## **RULES COMMITTEE**

Howard Basnight, Dale Britt,  
Dew Forbes, Randy Gregory, Randy Ramsey, Casey Wagner

**Committee Boat:** To Be Announced

**Weigh Master:** Randy Gregory

**Tournament President:** Joy Bell

**Tournament Director:** Crystal Hesmer

## **TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS**

**(opens 6:00 am on fishing days)**

## **ENTRY FEES**

You must enter Level I before you can enter any other level.

# THE OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT CHANNEL IS 71

**TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS RADIO** - The Tournament Headquarters will monitor VHF Channel 71 (alternate 78a) from 9am to 3pm Daily and Saturday from 8am to 2pm. Alternate COMMITTEE Boats will be announced at the Captain's meeting virtually on June 6, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Facebook LIVE. All billfish hook-ups must be reported at the time of hook-up to qualify. You will NOT need to report gamefish hook-ups. However, we ask that you call the weigh-station to announce that you'll be weighing in a gamefish at least 30 minutes prior to arrival.

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## FISHING BOUNDARIES

**BOUNDARIES** - All boats fishing in Tournament must fish between LORAN coordinates North 40275 and South 39200. All fish must also be hooked within those coordinates.

# DAILY RADIO SCHEDULE

**VHF-CHANNEL #71**  
**Alternate CHANNEL #78a**

8:30	Announce leader board and announce days radio schedule
8:45	Announce 15 minutes to fishing time
9:00	Call fishing time - LINES IN THE WATER
AFTER 9:00	Report number of boats fishing today
11:30	Announce today's catch and tag & releases
DURING DAY	Report any marlin weighed in today
1:30	Announce today's catch and tag and releases
2:45	Report 15 minutes to quitting time
3:00	Call time - ALL LINES OUT OF THE WATER
3:15	Announce leader board and today's catch and tag & releases
AFTER 3:00	Report blue marlin weighed in as occurs

OFFICIAL TIME IS GPS TIME -

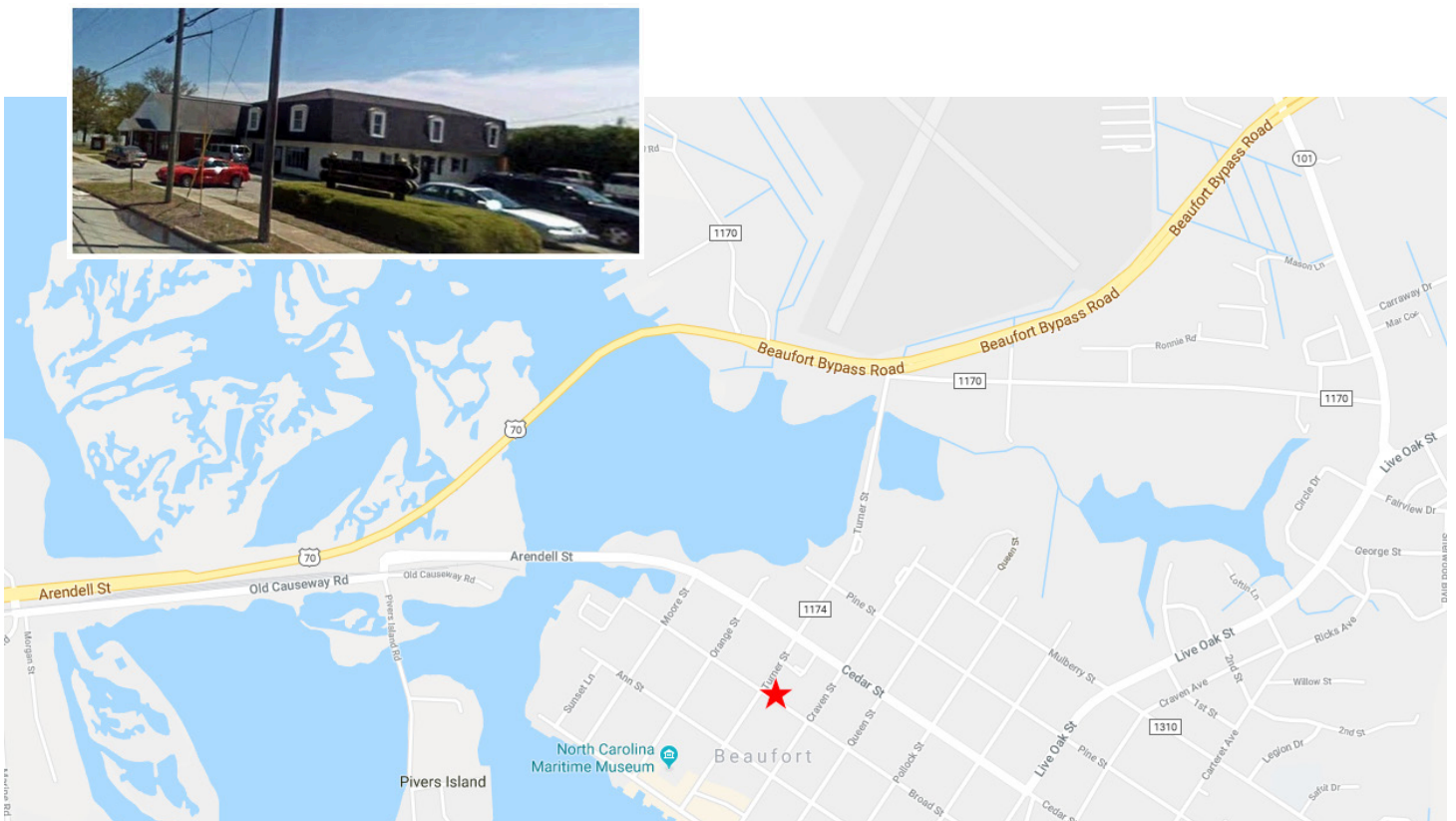
\*\* SATURDAY DAILY SCHEDULE WILL BE ONE HOUR EARLIER

# POLYGRAPH REQUIREMENTS

All prize winners are subject to be polygraphed at the Law Office of Mr. Roger Crowe 402 Turner St. on Hwy. 70 in Beaufort, NC.

Participants must make themselves available for polygraph testing in Carteret County within 24 hours following notice from Tournament Officials. Individuals that are required to take the polygraph test must not consume alcohol or any controlled substance within eight hours prior to the test. A participant's refusal to take a polygraph test or failure to answer test questions in a manner satisfactory to Tournament Officials, in their sole discretion, may result in disqualification. By entering the tournament, participants consent to the admissibility of polygraph results in any dispute or proceeding arising out of the tournament. If discrepancies are found, an additional appointment will be made before any prize money can be awarded.

\*\*Please allow for schedule changes based on fish caught.



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**FRIDAY, JUNE 5**

7:00 PM

KWLA Virtual  
Captain's Meeting  
via Facebook LIVE





# SATURDAY, JUNE 6

8:00 AM-2:00 PM

23rd Annual Keli Wagner Lady Angler Tournament

Gamefish weigh-ins will begin around 3:30 pm,  
scales close at 6:00 PM.

*Sponsored by:*



| Now Truist

3:00 PM-6:00 PM

Tune in to **Big Rock TV** & Stream  
LIVE audio from the app or website  
for live KWLA action.



2:00 PM-6:00 PM

Tune in to the virtual **BIG ROCK Broadcast**  
via Facebook LIVE



7:00 PM

Big Rock virtual **Captain's Meeting** via Facebook LIVE

**SUNDAY, JUNE 7**  
**9:30 AM-9:45 AM**

Virtual **Big Rock Prayer Message**  
**with One Harbor Church**  
via Facebook LIVE



*Sponsored by:*

**TOWNE BANK**  

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**TOWNE INSURANCE**  
A Towne Family Company



# MONDAY, JUNE 8-13

Begins 6 Days of Fishing,  
2 Lay Days Required –  
Captain's Choice

Daily Weigh-Ins  
Monday thru Saturday

Live Broadcast  
2:00 pm-7:00 pm

710 Evans Street  
Morehead City  
at approximately 4 pm (Sat. 3 pm.)



JARRETT BAY  
BOATWORKS

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10**  
**6:00 PM-8:30 PM**

**TO-GO Porkchop Dinner**  
Pre-Registered meals for pickup

Crystal Coast Civic Center  
3505 Arendell St, Morehead City, NC 28557  
8 tickets per boat

***Sponsored by:***



***Pork Chops by:***

**Smithfield**  
*Good food. Responsibly.*

**SUNDAY, JUNE 14**  
**1:00 PM**

**Awards Ceremony**

Big Rock Landing  
Broadcasted virtually on  
Big Rock Facebook LIVE



*Sponsored by:*





**BIG ROCK BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Joy Bell, President  
Emery Ivey, Vice President  
Richard Crowe, Secretary  
Mike Thompson, Treasurer  
Jim Bailey  
Howard Basnight  
Tommy Bennett  
Dale Britt  
Les Collins  
Roger Crowe  
Dew Forbes  
Jack Jordan  
Billy Kornegay  
Carol Lohr  
Caroline Petrilli  
Randy Ramsey  
Curtis Strange  
Casey Wagner

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Crystal Hesmer  
director@thebigrock.com  
252-241-1515

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/KWLA TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR**

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madison@thebigrock.com

**RETAIL RELATIONS & MARKETING COORDINATOR**

Carlee Sharpe  
carlee@thebigrock.com

**ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE & BOOKKEEPER**

Sarah Kuncik  
sarah@thebigrock.com

**TOURNAMENT ASSISTANT**

Rowanne Robertson  
rowanne@thebigrock.com

**RETAIL AND EVENTS MANAGER**

Teresa Holcombe  
teresa@thebigrock.com



# 2020 Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament OFFICIAL LAY DAY FORM

See Rule #6  
on Official  
Entry Form

Nonfishing days must be reported on this form prior to 9 am on the declared day

Please submit your lay day by using your Big Rock App account or submit this form in person at the Big Rock office.

Today's Date: June \_\_\_\_\_ 2020

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_

I declare \_\_\_\_\_ to be a nonfishing day.

Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature



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Today's Date: June \_\_\_\_\_ 2020

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Authorized Signature



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Today's Date: June \_\_\_\_\_ 2020

Boat Name \_\_\_\_\_

I declare \_\_\_\_\_ to be a nonfishing day.

Time \_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature





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 BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT  
 Conservation • Innovation • Charitable Giving

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**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) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Once form is complete: We strongly suggest you take a picture of it and upload to the Big Rock App using the account associated with boat registration; however, release forms can still be turned in to Big Rock Headquarters or Hatteras Harbor Marina by 10:00 pm on the day of release.**

Angler	L/J/G/JB/A <sup>1</sup>	Release Time	Fight Time	Species <sup>2</sup>	Est. Size	Hook Type <sup>3</sup>	Hook Location <sup>4</sup>	Rig Type <sup>5</sup>	Bait Type <sup>6</sup>	Leader <sup>7</sup>	Main Line <sup>8</sup>
1.											
2.											
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4.											
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Filling in your release form:

1. L/J/G/JB/A—L for Lady, J/G for Junior Girl, JB for Junior Boy, A for angler hooked. If it is a junior angler you must also include their age (16 years of age and under).
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)
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7. Leader—Size of mono (Leader will be considered mono unless wire is noted)
8. Main Line—Size of backing

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