

BASS PRO SHOPS

MID-ATLANTIC ROCKFISH SHOOTOUT

JANUARY 7-9, 2010 • 757.319.5146

The intention of this tournament is to promote overall good fellowship and to promote fishing in Virginia Beach. In addition, the Bass Pro Shop's Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shootout also benefits our local charities through our sponsorship of the Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters and the Southeastern Foodbank of Virginia.

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS, PAGE 1 OF 4:

- 1.) This is a team tournament and there is no limit to the number of anglers/team members per entry, however, there must be at least 2 team members per entry. All anglers/team members must be registered in writing with the tournament prior to 10:00pm, January 6th, 2010, unless the tournament chooses to extend the time. Each team shall designate in writing a team captain, and only the team captain or designee shall be authorized to sign the entry registration form and score sheets. This is a team tournament format, not a boat tournament, and each team shall submit a team name with their entry. Any boat may enter all eligible days so long as it enters as a different team name each day. This is a one day tournament, however, you may fish three days if you pay three entry fees and enter under a different team name on each of the three days. Tournament entry fee is \$499.00. If your registration and payment is received before December 28, 2009, each team is eligible for 1 of 5-\$1,000 in cash raffles (total of \$5,000 in Early Bird Raffles). All entry fees and additional skill level entries must be received/paid no later than 10:00pm, January 6, 2010 to be eligible for prizes and awards (unless the time is extended by the tournament). The entry fee includes five banquet tickets and five breakfast tickets from Waterman's Surfside Grille at 5th & Atlantic Avenue.

- 2.) Each team is eligible to weigh-in their three (3) largest Striped Bass/Rockfish (*Morone saxatilis*) that measures over 28" fork length and shall be awarded 1 point per pound. All boats must display a tournament issued flag as high as possible on the starboard side of the vessel. Boats will be patrolling the 3 mile line and the Chesapeake Bay/Ocean line otherwise known as the "Territorial Sea Line." Any boat not displaying a tournament issued flag will be automatically disqualified. No more than 8 rods may be fished at the same time. ***There are two divisions in this tournament - the Artificial Division and the Open Division. In the Open Division, you may use either artificial bait or live bait. In the Artificial Division, you may only use artificial bait. A team must declare what division they are fishing in by 10pm the night of the Captain's Meeting.***

- 3.) ASA RULES PORTION: To qualify for ASA awards and points, you must check in at the ASA booth during the Captains Meeting on Wednesday, January 6th, 2010. For the tournament you will still need to check in at the tournament registration table. ASA will count points for 2 fish from the day of your choice during the Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shootout. You are not limited to one day of fishing. For example, if an ASA team decides to fish 2 days, the team can pick the best day's points to count toward the team's ASA Angler of the Year standings. You may weigh up to 3 fish per day to count towards your Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shootout tournament totals.

- 4.) The tournament reserves the right to refuse entry to any person or team.

- 5.) Checkout and Check-In: All boats may depart from any Virginia port, but must return for weigh-in at the Virginia Beach Fishing Center at Rudee Inlet

- 6.) Fishing Hours & Boundaries : Lines in at 8:00am and lines out at 2:00pm. The Northern boundary is Wachapreague sea buoy and the Southern boundary is the sea buoy at Oregon Inlet. Only fish caught between 8:00am and 2:00pm will be eligible for weigh-in. You may not be in illegal waters during tournament hours. If you get a late start, or decide to go in early and are running in or out of the bay, you must contact the tournament director at 757.319.5194.

- 7.) Weigh-In Procedure : The procedure for weigh-in is critical - please read carefully! The official weigh station - the Virginia Beach Fishing Center, will be open at 1:00pm on January 7th, 8th and 9th, 2010, and will remain open until all eligible teams have weighed in. An eligible team is described as a team in line at the scales by 5pm. You may NOT drive your fish in. We will only weigh your fish one time. Only the designated team captain will be permitted to accompany the team's fish to the official scale, and must sign the scorecard. Fish will be checked for freshness and subject to inspection of stomach contents.

OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS, PAGE 2 OF 4

There will be a sign at the fuel dock at the Virginia Beach Fishing Center labeled “Drop Off” and “Pick Up.” Quickly and safely drop off your “Team Captain” or his designee with your three heaviest fish. We will immediately shove you off. You may then proceed to the pick up area around the West side of the fuel dock, or you may pick up your team captain by car. Please follow Rudee Inlet Protocol. Efficiency is very important!

8.) Inlet Protocol : To enable prudent and safe passage for all boats within the boundaries of both inlets, all tournament boats shall abide by the posted speed/no wake regulations and Rules of the Road. Any boat observed for violating this rule and operating in a reckless or unsportsmanlike manner may be penalized (10) ten points from their total score, or all points, if deemed appropriate by the rules committee. All tournament boats that weigh in at Rudee Inlet must proceed West towards Owl’s Creek/Marine Science Museum, as per diagram provided (Diagram to be displayed and distributed at the Captain’s Meeting and also available on the tournament website), until further instructed to proceed to weigh station. The tournament may announce on the tournament channel that you may proceed directly to the weigh station. If you feel that the area that we have drawn is not navigable for your vessel, please contact the tournament for alternate routes at 757.319.5146.

9.) After the tournament begins, two or more boats congregating (close enough to pass fish) or touch land or a dock other than weigh-in dock will be disqualified. The only exception is in the case of a life-threatening emergency.

10.) Scoring : One (1) point per pound. In case of a tie, the fish that are weighed first shall be deemed the winner.

11.) All fish submitted for weigh-in become the property of the tournament, and must be in suitable condition for human consumption. Please ice your fish properly. Donated fish will be utilized for tournament banquet, and the remainder will be processed and donated to a selected charity. The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia gladly accepts additional donated fish at the dock.

12.) This is a rod and reel tournament only. The tackle is unlimited, and live bait may be used only if you are entered in the live bait division. Power driven reels of any kind are prohibited. This includes motor, hydraulic, or electrically driven reels, and any device that gives the angler an unfair advantage.

13.) Mutilated/Injured Fish: IGFA rules shall apply. The decision of the tournament rules committee shall be final.

14.) Registration and Captain’s Meeting : Registration will be between 3:00 and 10:00 pm, January 6th, 2010. PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY TO BEAT THE CROWDS. WE RECOMMEND STOPPING BY REGISTRATION BETWEEN 3 & 5 PM AND COMING BACK FOR THE CAPTAIN’S MEETING AT 7:30PM. The Captain’s Meeting will be at 7:30pm. Location: Surfside Inn, 12th Street and Atlantic Avenue, 2nd Floor, Tel: 757.428.1183

15.) Mechanical Breakdown : Your boat’s condition, electronics and efficiency are equally as important as your fishing skills. All boats/teams are responsible for getting their fish to the weigh station aboard their own boat, even if it is towed. (All ASA boats must make weigh-in on their own power to qualify for ASA points and prizes).

16.) Weather : The tournament does not provide a weather committee and it is a Captain’s choice tournament. All team captains, members, boat owners and all other participants are responsible to determine that their craft is sea-worthy, and are advised and encouraged to be familiar with the current local weather conditions and forecasts to determine if conditions permit the safety of the boat, crew, anglers and guests to proceed to depart to sea and return in a safe and prudent manner. The tournament reserves the right to cancel the tournament. If all three days are cancelled, the tournament director reserves the right to hold the tournament on Sunday, January 10th, 2010. The tournament will determine by 5pm, Saturday, January 9th, if Sunday, January 10th will be fished. For updated messages, please call 757.319.5146. If one of the three eligible days of fishing is declared fishable, it shall constitute the tournament. In the event that all 3 days are cancelled and Sunday is declared a fishing day, and the same has entered more than one day, and can find another boat to use, they must let the tournament know which team is fishing on what boat. You must call the tournament phone for specific instructions. In the above scenario, the team can split up and use two boats.

17.) Cash Awards: Prize money awards checks will only be paid out upon proof of identification including social security number or Taxpayer ID number and will be issued within one week of the conclusion of the tournament. A 1099 will be issued for all prize money to the person or company to whom the check is made payable. The '10 Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shootout will payout a guaranteed CASH prize of \$100,000 plus calcuttas based on 250 teams being registered. The payout will be distributed between the two divisions (artificial bait and open bait) according to the percentage of participation in each division. (For example: If there are 250 teams entered and 200 are artificial bait and 50 are open/live bait teams the payout would be distributed as follows. Out of the \$100,000 jackpot - \$5,000 Early Bird Payout = \$95,000 to distribute. Open Bait Distribution = \$19,000 and Artificial = \$76,000. If you didn't catch it in the example, yes - this year's Early Bird Raffle will consist of \$5,000 in cash raffles so enter by December 28, 2009 for a chance at the Early Bird Raffles - which will be drawn at the Captain's meeting Wednesday, January 6th. A team representative must be present to win. If no registered team member is present within 5 minutes of their team's number being drawn, the tournament will keep drawing until a winner is selected.

If you pre-register you still have the option to change your category to open bait or artificial the night of the Captain's meeting. There will be \$100,000 max cash payout (less \$5,000 early entry raffle) based on 250 teams. In the event that there are less than 250 teams, the cash payout will be at a rate of \$275 per team less the \$5,000 Early Bird Payout. The cash payout will go as follows: 1st Place: 50%, 2nd Place: 20%, 3rd Place: 12%, 4th Place: 8%, 5th Place: 6%, 6th Place: 3%, 7th Place: 1%.

If you pre-register you still have the option to change your category to live bait or artificial the night of the Captain's meeting. There will be \$100,000 max cash payout (less \$5,000 early entry raffle) based on 250 teams. In the event that there are less than 250 teams, the cash payout will be at a rate of \$275 per team. The cash payout will go as follows: 1st Place: 50%, 2nd Place: 20%, 3rd Place: 12%, 4th Place: 8%, 5th Place: 6%, 6th Place: 3%, 7th Place: 1%.

In the event of a natural disaster, or act of God, or no eligible fish are weighed in, or the tournament cancels all eligible days of fishing due to adverse weather conditions, the tournament will have a drawing from the registered tournament team numbers to award the Guaranteed First Place Prize. For example: If there are 60 teams entered, the prize money will be raffled off at the rate of \$275 per team entered, minus the \$5,000 Early Bird Raffle, at a payout the same as the tournament (1st Place: 50%, 2nd Place: 20%, 3rd Place: 12%, 4th Place: 8%, 5th Place: 6%, 6th Place: 3%, 7th Place: 1%). For example, if there are 60 teams entered, the prize money shall be awarded in the following manner. 60 teams x \$275 = \$16,500 - \$5,000 for the Early Bird Raffle. 1st Place=\$5,750, 2nd Place = \$2,300, 3rd Place = \$1380, 4th Place = \$920, 5th Place - \$690, 6th Place = \$345, and 7th Place = \$115. There will not be a split between two divisions should this occur. The drawing will be held at 9:00pm at the banquet at Waterman's Surfside Grille on January 9, 2010. A team representative must be present to win. If no registered team member is present within 5 minutes of their team's number being drawn, the tournament will keep drawing until a winner is selected.

18). Additional Skill Levels : There will be four optional skill levels based on a progressive method, you must enter level 1 to be eligible for level 2, Level 2 to be eligible for Level 3, and so on: \$100 - Winner take all. *Not mandatory to enter levels 1&2 Level 1: \$250.00, Pays: 50% 1st place / 30% 2nd place / 20% 3rd place Level 2: \$500.00, Pays: 50% 1st place / 30% 2nd place / 20% 3rd place Level 3: \$1,000, Pays: 50% 1st place / 30% 2nd place / 20% 3rd place Additional skill levels will be paid out according to divisions entered. For example, when you enter live bait additional skill levels the money paid goes directly to the Live Bait Additional Skill Levels Payout. In the event that only (2) teams score points in each level, then the basis shall be 65% 1st place and 35% for 2nd place and if only (1) team scores, it shall be a 100% to the winner basis. *The tournament will retain 10% of additional skill levels to be applied to tournament expenses and charity donations.

19.) Cancellation Policy: All additional skill level monies will be refunded 100% if the tournament is declared unfishable or canceled. There is no refund on paid entries.

20.) LAY DAY FORMS: You must declare what day your team chooses to fish at the Captain's meeting. If you change the day that you have selected to fish, you must submit a lay day form by 8am at the Virginia Beach Fishing Center on the day that you declared that you were going to fish. A duplicate of the form will be provided for you. No exceptions!

21.) Polygraph Tests : All registered participants (Team captain, boat captain, mate, anglers and guests) of any eligible tournament prize monies or awards agree to submit to a polygraph examination if requested to do so by the Tournament, Tournament Rules Committee or Official Weigh Masters. Failure to submit to a polygraph test by any member aforementioned will result in disqualification of any or all awards to the team or team member. You must have a valid phone number for us to contact you between 3pm and 6pm on Saturday, January 10th, to let you know if you must submit to a polygraph. If we request that you be polygraphed and you are unavailable, you must, at your own expense and by January 17, 2010, submit to a professional polygraph in order to receive the prize money. The results of the tests will be final.

22.) Federal and State Regulations : The weight and/or length of the eligible fish submitted for weigh-in are subject to State and Virginia and/or Federal laws. All tournament boats must possess current and valid Virginia Saltwater Fishing Licenses and any other permits as required by applicable law at time of weigh-in. Any team without valid permitting and/or in violation of State and/or Federal law may have their fish disqualified at time of weigh-in.

23.) Protests : Protests must be submitted in writing and presented to the Tournament Rules Committee (contact the tournament at 757/319-5146) accompanied with a fee of \$250.00 (refundable if protest is upheld) prior to 6:00pm of that day's fishing. The Tournament Rules Committee (to be announced at the Captain's Meeting) at their discretion may utilize polygraph tests. By virtue of signing the Tournament entry form all participants agree to the final decision of the Tournament Rules Committee. It is understood that the spirit intended of the tournament is to be enjoyable and in good fellowship for all participants.

24.) Waiver/Disclaimer : It is expressly understood that participants in this tournament enter at their own risk, and that the Mid-Atlantic Rockfish Shootout, Tournament Directors, Officers, Tournament Sponsors, Committees and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of said tournament, shall be exempt from any liability whatsoever for liable, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury or death suffered by any participant, entrant, vessel and equipment, companions and guests, boat captains, mates, crew members, which may occur during or in conjunction with this tournament. By signing the official tournament registration form, the boat owner, captain and mate(s), anglers and guests, consent that the tournament may use without payment or restriction any photographs, video footage, in which he or she may appear for any purpose whatsoever, including but not limited to resale, advertising, commercial or promotional material.

25.) Venue : It is expressly understood that all participants consent and agree that the City of Virginia Beach General District Courts shall be the sole venue for litigation arising out of participation in the Tournament.

26.) NEW for 2010 - GPS TRACKING! The tournament reserves the right to designate a Garmin Handheld GPS unit on each boat or rely on each vessels approved GPS Chart Plotter. The tournament believes that we have enough GPS units for each boat, but if we run short, an approved GPS chart plotter that clearly shows the federal three mile line and records the vessels tracks will be used by the tournament to verify that a vessel has fished in legal waters. The GPS must be turned on upon departure from the inlet and may not be turned off until after it is reviewed at the weigh station. Upon declaring your fishing days at the Captain's meeting, Thursday boats will be given the GPS unit at the Captain's meeting. All others can pick up their GPS units at the Virginia Beach Fishing Center Weigh Station between 3pm and 5pm prior to the team's declared fishing day or at the Virginia Beach Fishing Center starting at 5:30am on your declared fishing day. You will sign a form stating that you will be responsible for the handheld unit on your boat. All units will be sealed and may not be opened. All track lines must be erased prior to leaving the dock, or your previous track lines must not show the vessel beyond the federal 3-Mile EEZ line or inside the territorial sea line once you have entered the legal fishing zone. If you choose to fish Magothy Bay and you are weighing in a fish, you may only exit Magothy Bay through the ocean. In addition, your track line must NEVER show an interruption and be continuous from start to finish. The priority order in which GPS units will be distributed is as follows: 1.) Vessels with no chart plotter with 3 mile line clearly defined 2.) Previous years winners. 3.) Randomly chosen vessels. A credit card deposit will be held for all GPS units & not charged upon return if the unit is returned undamaged and in proper working and cosmetic order. In the case that the unit is not returned or is returned in a damaged or unworking condition, your credit card will be charged the full retail cost of the unit. Please note: you must change the GPS batteries each day (fresh batteries will be provided) and you must check the battery level each day prior to leaving. You must be in an open area to acquire satellite. If there is a problem, you must immediately contact the tournament at 757.319.5146.