



ZEKE'S LANDING-MARINA'S 2ND ANNUAL CHARTER BOAT BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

2024 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Tournament Directors: Jordan Wright, Tyler Creel Grand Marshall- TBD Weigh-Master- Tyler Creel

Tournament Committee: Jordan Wright, Tyler Creel, Lynn Early, Jared Jones

Rules are Subject to change without notice. Changes to the rules and final instructions are given at the mandatory Captain's Meeting which takes place Thursday, September 5, 2024, 9:00 am on site at the The Port, Zeke's Marina's Event Venue. It is the responsibility of the captains, anglers, mates, and guests to know and abide by the tournament rules that are posted and as amended in the captains meeting. By registering for the Zeke's Landing-Marina Charter Boat Billfish Tournament and paying the registration fee; all captains, anglers, crew, and guest acknowledge and agree to all tournament rules.

Tournament Entry Fee is \$1,000 per boat with registration beginning June 1, 2024. The deadline is 8 am on Thursday September 5th. The captain, mates, and crew can attend all functions. There will be no refund of any fees once the tournament officially begins.

Tournament Dates: 12pm September 5, 2024 – 7pm September 7, 2024

Registration Begins	June 1, 2024, with \$1,000 entry fee for each Charter Boat
Registration Ends	8:00 am on September 5 th , 2024
Captains Meeting	9:00 am on September 5 th , 2024
Tournament Begins	Shotgun Start at 12:00 pm September 5, 2024
Tournament Ends	All vessels must return under Perdido Pass Bridge by 7:00 pm
Weigh-In Party	Live Music will begin at 5pm September 7, 2024
Award Ceremony	After last fish is weighed pending results

1. Rules, Registration, and Mandatory Captain's Meeting

The owner, captain, registered angler, or tournament designator must attend the mandatory captains meeting. It is the responsibility of the owner, captain, registered angler, or tournament designator to verify that all information on the registration form is correct and that all required documents are correct and turned in to the tournament committee. Federal law requires that you be in possession of a Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit to land or possess any tuna or billfish or to catch and release billfish. A valid (HMS) permit must be available to tournament officials at the mandatory Captains meeting and at weigh-in.

Understand that all participants are fishing at their own risk. Zeke's Landing-Marina, marina staff, the tournament committee, HHG, sponsors and their agents, and all persons connected directly and indirectly are not responsible for any liability, loss, personal injury or personal damage, including Attorney's fees they may suffer arising from participation in the tournament.

All registered boats and anglers must adhere to all Federal and Alabama State Laws and Regulations regarding fishing licenses, size limits, seasons, bag limits, and permits. No boat or angler may possess more than one (1) Blue Marlin per day. Violations of this rule will result in disqualification without refund, banned from the tournament and all future tournaments held by Zeke's Landing-Marina.

No refunds will be made at the time the Captain's Meeting has adjourned. Rules presented in the captain's meeting overrule any written rules. All tournament entries must be verified before leaving the weigh station. The captain, angler, crew are responsible for verifying the species, weight, and other information required by the tournament committee. Tournament begins at 12pm September 5, 2024; fishing may begin any time after that with boats allowed to depart from any port, but all boats must have entered Perdido Pass and have passed the Perdido Pass Bridge no later than 7pm Saturday, September 7, 2024, at tournament's end. Upon arrival, all boats must immediately contact tournament officials via VHF channel 72. Tournament committee members will be waiting at Perdido Pass to verify the time of arrival and issue a weigh-in number to determine which order you will proceed to the weigh station. If you return before the weigh station opens, you will need to dock and wait for the weigh station to open at 6:00 am.

Minimum Grand Prize is \$10,000 for biggest Blue Marlin. If no Blue Marlin is caught, the tournament committee will then meet to decide how the Grand Prize will be awarded. All rulings made by the tournament committee, in regard to awards, are final. The Grand Prize is based on participation.

2. Billfish Reporting

You are required to report any Blue Marlin or Catch-and-Release billfish immediately after the fish is brought onto the boat. You can report the Blue Marlin or billfish to the tournament committee or tournament representative. Tuna, Wahoo, and Dolphin (Mahi) do not need to be reported. Tournament committee members will monitor VHF Channel 72. When reporting fish to tournament committee, it is your responsibility to give the following information:

1. Boat Name
2. Name of Angler
3. Species of Billfish
4. Time of catch or release.
5. Size and length of landed fish

3. Weigh Station

The weighmaster retains the right to refuse any mutilated fish or fish considered to be in poor condition. All fish must be in fresh condition. Evidence of freezing will result in disqualification from the tournament without refund. All fish must be brought to the weigh station on the boat in which they were caught unless otherwise granted permission by the tournament committee. A member of each boat must always accompany the fish during weigh-in. Catch cards for weighed fish and released fish, and a valid HMS permit, licenses, permits, videos, and fish must be provided at the time of arrival to the weigh station. Upon arrival at the marina each boat will back into the forklift loading zone, located on the west end of the property, where the fish will be removed from the boat by forklift then carted to the weigh station for official weigh-in. Fish mutilation is up to the discretion of the tournament committee. Fish with shark bites or prop cuts will be considered, but ruling is ultimately based on the discretion of the tournament committee.

4. Weigh-in Instructions

Upon arrival at the marina, follow the instructions of the Dock Master or tournament official. The tournament committee will be monitoring VHF Channel 72 to assign weigh-in numbers for boats needing to weigh fish. Once you have received your weigh number, you may position the boat in the channel at the mouth of the loading zone entrance on the west side of the marina, where you will wait for your name/number to be called for weigh-in. Each boat that is called will then back (reverse) into the loading zone where the fish will be lifted out of the boat (if needed) with a Wiggins Marina Bull forklift. All required documents, licenses, HMS permit, and videos need to be ready to be provided to tournament officials waiting at the dock. From there the fish will be carted to the scale for official weigh-in. All results will be audited, which could delay the award ceremony. The weighmaster reserves the right to refuse any mutilated fish or fish that appears to be in poor condition. All results are final.

5. Protesting

All protests must be presented in writing along with a \$1,000 deposit by the team captain to the tournament committee no later than 30 minutes after the last fish is weighed and recorded on the final day of the tournament. Successful protest will receive a refund of the \$1000 deposit. All participants agree and acknowledge the tournament rules. Poor sportsmanship will be grounds for disqualification from this tournament. All decisions of the tournament director and rules committee are final. Any violation of these rules resulting in disqualification will result in forfeiture of entry fee and prize money.

6. Tournament Cancellation/Withdrawal

All participants will receive a 90% refund, in the event the tournament is cancelled due to inclement weather, or forces beyond the control of the tournament directors. Participants shall make no claim against Zeke's Landing-Marina, its employees, tournament committee, sponsors and their agents.

Tournament rescheduling/cancellation will be at the discretion of the tournament committee. If inclement weather arrives on the starting date of the tournament with safe conditions approaching, the tournament will then be delay until 12:00 am Midnight, September 5, 2024, to allow (2) days of fishing with tournament deadline remaining at 7:00 pm Saturday, September 7, 2024. If weather conditions are slower to improve, the committee will then delay the start of the tournament until 12:00 pm September 7, 2024, with the tournament ending 7:00 pm September 8, 2024. A new tournament designator must be received by participants in order to submit and weigh eligible fish.

If you pre-register and withdraw before 8:00 am September 5, 2024, you will be given a full refund. No refunds will be given once the Captain's Meeting has adjourned.

No refunds will be given to teams that are disqualified.

Acceptable Fish

The following species are eligible for the Zeke's Landing- Marina Charter Billfish Tournament when caught by registered anglers in accordance with the tournament rules and regulations. Each boat will be given a tail tag and it must be attached to any boated blue marlin along with photograph and reporting of fish.

Zeke's Landing-Marina has set a Lower Jaw Fork Length minimum of 102". Above the federal minimum of 99". The minimum for White Marlin and Spearfish is 66". The minimum size for Sailfish is 63". Big Eye Tuna and Yellowfin tuna must have a minimum curved fork length-CFL- of 27 inches.

Video verification is required for all eligible billfish, both catch and release and weighed Blue Marlin. Video requirements will be defined below. ****NO LIVE BAIT FOR BILLFISH****

ELIGIBLE CATCH AND RELEASE:

Blue Marlin- min. 102"

White Marlin- min. 66"

Sailfish- min. 63"

Spearfish- min. 66"

ELIGIBLE FOR WEIGH-IN AT SCALE:

Blue Marlin- min. 102"

Tuna- min. 20lbs. (Big Eye Tuna and Yellowfin Tuna must have min. 27" Curved Fork Length-CFL)

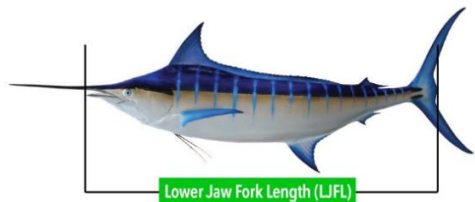
Wahoo- min. 20lbs.

Dolphin (Mahi)- min. 20lbs.

Swordfish- min. 47" Lower Jaw Fork Length

****NO LIVE BAIT FOR BILLFISH****

ELIGIBLE CATCH AND RELEASE:



BLUE MARLIN- MIN 102"



SAILFISH-MIN 63"

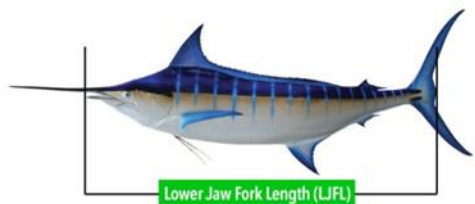


WHITE MARLIN-MIN 66"

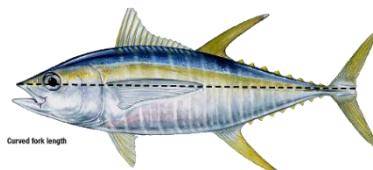


SPEARFISH- MIN 66"

ELIGIBLE FOR WEIGH-IN AT SCALE:



BLUE MARLIN- MIN 102"



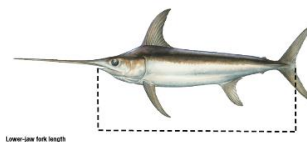
TUNA- MIN 20LBS
(Big Eye Tuna and Yellowfin Tuna
must have min. 27" Curved Fork Length-CFL)



WAHOO- MIN 20LBS



DOLPHIN-MIN 20LBS



SWORDFISH- MIN 47" LJFL

7. Video Verification

Billfish Catch Definition

A billfish is considered caught when the leader connection is shown wound to the tip of the rod, or a team member is shown touching the leader.

Billfish Release Definition

The billfish is considered released when, after being caught by the above definition, the rod and angler are shown with the fish no longer connected to the line or the billfish is shown in the water, no longer connected to the line.

Tournament Designator/Identification Marker

Designators will be assigned at the mandatory Captain's meeting. These markers must appear in all video submissions.

Billfish Scorecard

All billfish released or boated must be logged on the Billfish Scorecard in the sequence in which they were caught; scorecards must be signed by the Boat Captain indicating they agree to the information as recorded.

Detailed instructions are printed on the billfish scorecard which is included in the team packet handed out at registration.

Video Verification and Points Awarded for Catch & Release

Points for catch and release are awarded when, in the process of the catch and release as defined above, all technical elements are shown on video. Tagging is not required for points and billfish removed from the water or boated will be disqualified. **NO DECK CHECKING**

****For catch and release, billfish may not be removed from the water and any billfish removed from the water will result in an ineligible catch and forfeits all points for that fish.**

Video submitted for consideration for points must include the following technical elements:

- * Angler fighting fish, including video of rod and reel.
- * Full View of cockpit
- * Tournament designator.
- * The Catch (swivel at rod tip or crew member touching the leader).
 - Catching fish may include:
 - Swivel at rod tip
 - Mate touching the leader
 - Wind-on leader on the rod tip
- * Video of Billfish for species identification. (Judges use Dorsal, Anal and Pectoral Fins for fish identification).
- * The Release (the Billfish being released or video of the rod and angler with the fish no longer connected to the line).

Hold camera steady for several seconds to allow clear focus of GPS Date & Time. This is critical. GPS must display in CDT. Show designator alongside GPS if possible.

Note – Verification Videos become the property of the tournament. Verification videos and billfish scorecards must be turned in to the video judges at designated video judging location near the weigh station.

Any of the following elements can result in videos becoming ineligible for Catch and Release verification and therefore are ineligible for Catch and Release points:

1. Failure to show tournament designator.
2. Failure to show tournament designator in any additional videos.
3. Failure to show fish being caught.
4. Failure to show that fish was released in healthy conditions.
5. Turning video "OFF" before fish is released.
6. Removal of billfish from water.

Points Values Awarded for Release

Catch & Release placements are determined by points awarded as follows:

- 500 points for Blue Marlin release.
- 250 points for White Marlin, Sailfish, Spearfish release.
- 200 points for any unidentifiable marlin release.

Only billfish caught and released according to these Rules are eligible for Tournament Awards.

The Billfish Scorecard must accompany the Catch & Release video to the weigh-in dock. The form must include boat name, angler's name, species, date and time of release. Catch & Release verification videos and Billfish Scorecard must be turned in to the tournament committee at the weigh-in dock before the closing of the scales on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at 10:00pm

8. Boated Billfish/Video Verification

All Boated Blue Marlin videos should show the following elements:

1. Angler fighting the fish.
2. Rod and Reel being used for the catch.
3. Tournament designator
4. Once the fish is brought on the boat, the video must remain on until time and date are clearly shown. Failure to show date/time could result in penalties or disqualification. If multiple cameras are being used, tournament designator must be shown in all videos.
5. Tail tags must be placed on each Blue Marlin as they are landed on the boat.

9. Disclaimer

All Participants agree to adhere to all tournament rules and state laws. All participants agree to enter the tournament at their own risk. Zeke's Landing-Marina, its employees, tournament committee, tournament officials, sponsors and their agents, and persons directly and indirectly connected with the tournament are not responsible for any loss, damage, negligence, harm or injury to any participant, boat captains, crew, guests, vessels, and equipment which may occur during the tournament. All participants should exercise good sportsmanship and courtesy at the dock. Failure to submit all required documents, permits, and licenses will result in disqualification. Rules are Subject to Change without notice. Changes to the rules and final instructions are given at the mandatory Captain's Meeting which takes place Tuesday, September 5th 9am on site at the The Port, Zeke's Marina's Event Venue. It is the responsibility of the captains, anglers, mates, and guests to know and abide by the tournament rules that are posted and as amended in the captains meeting. By registering for the Zeke's Landing-Marina Charter Boat Billfish Tournament and paying the registration fee; all captains, anglers, crew, and guest acknowledge and agree to all tournament rules.

10. Video/Photo Release

All Participants specially agree and consent to the use of any photos, videos, and audio recordings for use of advertising and promotional use without compensation or restriction of any kind.



Partnering with the Alabama Charter Fishing Association to benefit the members and families of The Orange Beach Fishing Association through the Compassion Fund in times of distress.