



2011



**HOT CURRENT GAME
FISHING
TOURNAMENT**



COFFS HARBOUR

**11th to 15th November
2011**

TOURNAMENT RULES

A. PRIZES

Tournament trophies/awards are listed in the brochure and suitable mementos will be presented at the completion of the tournament.

B. ENTRIES

Anglers entering the tournament must be financial members [or life members] of a club affiliated with NSWGFA or GFAA or a bona fide member of IGFA and be able to produce proof of membership. There must be a minimum of 2 anglers per boat with a maximum limit to the number of anglers on each boat to comply with NSW Waterways Authority vessel capacity plate.

NB: The Skipper or any person involved in affecting capture or T&R must be a paid angler.

- 1. ENTRY FEES.** Entry fees are \$180.00 adult angler; \$90 junior angler [includes GST and cost of presentation dinner].
- 2. ENTRIES CLOSE:** 18:00 hrs [6.00pm] **THURSDAY 10th November 2011.**
- 3. LATE ENTRY.** Entries, alterations and/or additions to entries [boats and anglers] must be registered before the tournament briefing on Friday 11th November 2011 and will be accepted only at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. **NOTE:** *There will be a \$100.00 "Late Entry Fee" for each boat entry submitted after 18:00 hrs [6.00pm] on Thursday 10th November 2011.*

C. TOURNAMENT RULES

1. A BRIEFING of all boat skippers will be held at the Deep Sea Fishing Club on Friday 11th November 2011 at 18:00 hrs [6.00pm]. It is mandatory that every boat be represented at the briefing by at least one registered tournament angler. An attendance register will be in operation and it is therefore necessary that the representative[s] present themselves by 18:00 hrs.

2. NO REPLACEMENT of boat or competitors for whatever reason will be allowed after the start of the briefing. Anglers may not transfer or affect a capture or T&R on any other vessel than the vessel he/she is registered on. **NOTE:** *In the interests of safety and with the prior approval of the Tournament Committee, a boat may assist in transportation of a fish back to harbour for weigh in.*

3. SEAWORTHINESS OF BOATS. It is the responsibility of individual skippers to ensure that all craft are seaworthy and carry all safety equipment as laid down by the Statutory Authorities. *It is mandatory for all boats to carry Third Party Property Damage and Third Party Personal Injury Insurance to a minimum value of \$5,000,000 and a copy of policy details must be supplied with entries before they can be accepted. The organizers reserve the right to sight full Insurance policies at any time during the conduct of the Tournament.*

4. BOAT NUMBERS (2) supplied, are to be prominently displayed on both port and starboard sides of the vessel.

5. SAIL PAST - The first day of the tournament will commence with a "Sail Past" of the "Jetty" commencing at 06:30 hrs. All boats must be assembled on the southern side of the harbour prior to 06:25 hrs. No boats will be permitted to cross in front of the jetty after 06:25 hrs on this day and after this time must remain on the northern side of the jetty till after the "Sail Past" is completed. Boats will be called by radio, according to their allocated competition number for their position in the "Sail past". Boats will travel in "**single file**" up the harbour and must maintain this positioning till clear of the harbour entrance. **Any boat breaking this rule will incur an immediate loss of 5,000 Capture and 5,000 T & R points.**

NOTE: *It is not intended to fire flares or to encourage any inappropriate behavior for this important "Opening Ceremony".*

6. RADIO LOG ON. All boats must log on to Tournament Base before commencement of fishing at 07:00hrs.

7. FISHING DAYS AND TIMES. The Club Marine Insurance Hot Current Game Fishing Tournament will be fished from 07:30 hrs to 16:00 hrs on Saturday 12th November 2011; 07:00hrs to 16:00 hrs on Sunday 13th November 2011; 07:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs on Monday 14th November 2011; and 07:00 hrs to 15:00 hrs on Tuesday 15th November 2011. **NOTE:** *On the final day, 15th November 2011 all capture and T&R certificates shall be handed to the Weigh master by 17:00 hrs [5.00pm] to be eligible for the competition.* On all days no burleying shall take place before starting time is called by Tournament Base. Any fish hooked and reported to Tournament Base before finish time may be played out and if caught will be eligible for the Tournament provided the fish is presented to Weigh Station by 17:00 hrs [5.00pm] on last day.

8. LEAVING AND ENTERING PORT. Boats must leave Coffs Harbour on each Tournament day and return to Coffs Harbour on completion of fishing. The safety organisation for competing boats is considered paramount. Any boat in transit and not present at opening day start is required to enter Coffs Harbour and report to Tournament Base before leaving to commence fishing. All boats must report by radio to Tournament Base on return to port. If unable to make radio contact then they must make contact with another competing boat and have them relay Tournament Base before going to moorings. Failure to report on return to port will invoke a penalty or loss of points for the day by the boat concerned [a minimum of 5000 capture points & 5000 tag & release points penalty will apply].

9. FLAGS. All boats are to display the appropriate Capture and/or T&R Flags on return to port.

10. MISCONDUCT. The Tournament Committee may on its own initiative investigate and act upon any incident occurring during the Tournament. The Committee may invoke penalties or loss of points or disqualification of fish, angler or boat where misconduct is deemed to take place.

11. COURTESY. All anglers, particularly boat captains, are asked to display a degree of courtesy regarding burley trails and troll patterns behind boats. All anglers are reminded that as members of a Club they are regarded as representatives of their Clubs. As such any unbecoming behaviour reflects adversely on the Club. Hence the Tournament Committee reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary in these circumstances.

12. PROTESTS. Any protests relative to Captures or Tag & Release must be submitted in writing by the Skipper to the **Tournament Director**. Protests must be lodged no later than 21:00 hrs [9.00pm] on the day of the incident concerned except on the last day when the time limit will be 18:00 hrs [6.00pm] on 15th November, 2011. **The decisions of the Tournament Committee are final.** Each protest must be accompanied with \$100.00 [refundable in the event of a successful protest].

13. TIES. In the event of a tie for a prize category, the angler or boat to reach the winning score first will be deemed to be the winner on the count back system.

14. BAD WEATHER. That the declaration of a Gale Warning by the appropriate government weather authority will automatically require the cancellation of any tournament or event conducted under the auspices of the New South Wales Game Fishing Association and its member clubs. In the event of a declaration whilst vessels are at sea, such vessels are required to cease fishing immediately and return to port. To avoid taking unnecessary risks in the event of bad weather, the Tournament Committee will decide whether the day will be a competition day or not. Boats should establish early morning contact with Tournament Base or members of the Tournament Committee at the Weigh Station. In the event of bad weather developing after the start of fishing then the Tournament Committee will confer and will decide whether or not the competition will be called off for the remainder of the day. Any fish captured/tagged prior to the tournament being called off would be eligible for the competition. The ultimate decision on return to port remains with the competitors. The Committee accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals whether to put to sea or not, having regard to the committee's decision on the suitability of the day.

15. INDEMNITY. The Coffs Harbour Game Fishing Club accepts no responsibility for actions by entrants in this Tournament and shall not be held liable for any damage or loss to any property or person during the Tournament. In that regard all competitors indemnify the Tournament Director, Tournament Committee, Tournament Coordinators, the Coffs Harbour Game Fishing Club and all voluntary workers against any claim for loss or damage to property or person.

16. NSW GFA MEDIA POLICY. All participants in the tournament are reminded to strictly observe the requirements of the NSW GFA Media Policy.

- Only the Club President can make comment to the media
- Competitors must NOT approach the media or answer any queries from the media. If a competitor is approached by the media they are to contact the Club President with the details who will then carry out the requirements of the NSW GFA Media Policy

D. FISHING RULES

The 2011 Club Marine Insurance Hot Current Game Fishing Tournament will be fished under the 'Fishing Rules and Tackle Regulations' of the NSWGFA and GFAA as are in effect at the time. **NOTE:** Line Class Tag & Release rules also are published by NSWGFA and will apply. **Both the time & line class must be listed on the tag card. If there is no time then the time of tag will be deemed to be at end of fishing or when the last fish is tagged whichever is the latest and if there is no line class listed then the line class will be deemed to be 60kg.**

In addition to the NSWGFA Point Scores, Fishing Rules and Minimum Weights will apply.

- 1) LINE CLASSES** which will be recognised are 4kg (no sharks), 6kg, 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg and 60kg.
- 2) MINIMUM WEIGHT TO QUALIFY:**
 - a) MARLIN-** a minimum of 60 kg on line classes 8kg and 10kg and a minimum of 80 kg on 15kg line class and over.
 - b) YELLOWFIN and SOUTHERN BLUEFIN TUNA** 15kg on line classes up to and including 15kg line, equal to line class for over 15kg line and for junior anglers equal to the line class in all cases.
 - c) SHARKS-** a minimum of 60 kg on line classes 8 kg & 10 kg and a minimum of 80 kg on line classes 15 kg to 37 kg and a minimum weight of 120 kg on 60 kg line class.
 - d) OTHER GAME FISH and BROADBILL-** minimum weight to be equal to line class.
- 3) CAPTURES.** Must be accompanied with completed capture certificates to be handed to the Weigh Person at the Weigh Station upon return to harbour. Points shall be awarded using the current scoring NSWGFA 'factor' system.
- 4) MEASURING OF FISH.** All competitors must use the Weight/Length curve graph in determining the estimated weight of fish. A copy of the Weight/Length curve graph is included in tournament kit bags.
- 5) NO SHARKS** to be weighed with restrictive device on jaws. Sewing up of shark jaws will automatically disqualify capture. No shark will be weighed with a choker in place.

6) LINE CLASS TAG & RELEASE. All tag cards must be completed and handed to the Weigh Person at the Weigh Station immediately on return to harbour on the day of capture along with a completed Certificate of Capture/T & R as supplied to all entries in the tournament.

Note 1: *Anglers must use the “Billfish Tag” to tag all billfish species. This is the only tag that will be recognised for billfish in this tournament. Billfish tags not to be used for any other species.*

Note 2: *CIRCLE HOOKS ONLY are permitted to be used for live baiting and trolling natural bait whether live, dead, mutilated or dissected. No points will be scored for any species caught while using live baits and/or trolling natural baits with ‘J’ hooks.*

Note 3: *The method to be used for releasing tagged fish – the hook is to be removed or the leader cut as close as possible to the fish.*

7) IDENTIFICATION OF SPECIES. In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final.

8) DISPOSAL OF FISH. Unwanted fish may **not** be left at the Weigh Station but must be taken by captor’s boats and sunk at sea outside 30 fathoms .Fish should be disposed of in an appropriate manner. Competitors must not clean or fillet fish or remove shark jaws in the vicinity of the Weigh Station or beaches frequented by the public.

Note: **No fish can be disposed of in a marine park.** Penalties will be imposed for any breaches of these rules.

9) SALE OF FISH. Competitors are reminded that it is illegal for recreational or unlicensed anglers to sell their catches. The following rule has been adopted by the Association “That any fish weighed for NSWGFA Trophies shall not be sold. Such fish will be ineligible for any trophies or awards of the Association.”

10) BAG LIMITS. All anglers must obey the current NSW Fisheries laws on bag limits.

11) KAWA KAWA & STRIPED TUNA FOR JUNIORS. These species are eligible for junior point score trophies and prizes but **WILL NOT** be totaled in any boat point score or boat trophies.

E. OPERATIONS

As per NSW GFA Guidelines for Radio Schedules for Tournaments as are in effect at the time.

1. COMMUNICATIONS. ‘Tournament Base’ will operate on 27MHz Channel 94 and VHF channel 10 from 06:00 hrs until all vessels have returned to port and signed off. Tournament Base will announce “Start Fishing” each morning and will relay latest weather information whenever available. Radio schedules will be conducted every two (2) hours with the first Sched at 8.10am and final Sched at 4:10pm on 12th, 13th & 14th November 2011. First Sched on 15th November will be 9:10am with last Sched at 3:10pm. If a vessel(s) is still at sea fighting a fish after the last Sched, the base, when it is clear of sign offs should contact the vessel(s) hourly noting their grid position until signed off. Grid maps will be supplied to all vessels to report position on each Sched. Boats are required to log on each day with tournament base providing (i) Boat Number. (ii) Boat Name. (iii) Number of persons on board prior to leaving the harbour.

2. REPORTING PROCEDURES. On each day, boats will be called in numerical order and will sign on by reporting the following: [i] Boat number [ii] Boat name [iii] Position in reference to grid map [iv] Fishing activity [traveling, anchored, drifting, trolling] [v] Accurate fishing report using the “0 0 0” system, [i.e. Strikes, Hook-ups and Captures] plus details of species, Tag and Release or Capture [with estimated weight], line class, anglers name and number. If possible boats are to give Species for Strikes and Hook-ups which are not landed. Tournament Base will acknowledge each Sched by repeating the report so that the competitors will be aware of all reports. Following Sched shall be as above less P.O.B. Last Sched as above but will include E.T.A. [Estimated time arrival in port].

NOTE 1: *Boats must maintain RADIO SILENCE for 10 minutes before FINISH FISHING TIME to allow for all reports of late hook-ups. All boats are to sign off with Tournament Base when they enter port at the end of their days fishing before proceeding to their moorings.*

NOTE 2: All boats are requested to avoid chatter on tournament frequencies. If competitors wish to talk to each other please use frequency 27MHz channel 96 and leave the Tournament frequencies clear for safety and/or business only.

3. FAILURE TO REPORT ON SCHEDS: It is mandatory for all vessels to report on each Sched. Failure to report on two consecutive Schedules or within two hours of the last Sched will activate an emergency procedure. A penalty of 5000 Capture points and 5000 T&R points will be imposed on boats failing to report on two consecutive Schedules unless a satisfactory explanation is given.

4. VESSEL RESPONSIBILITY: [i] Vessels must answer each Sched with the required details. [ii] If a vessel has radio failure and cannot contact radio base or relay through another vessel, it must return to port and notify radio base of their actions by other means [phone etc]. Remember that if two Schedules are not answered the emergency procedure will be activated. [iii] All boats MUST log on before they commence fishing. Any boats not logged on will be deemed to be not fishing.

5. WEIGH IN TIME will be from 16:00 hrs [4pm] daily except for Tuesday 15 November 2011, when the Weigh Station will operate from 14:00 hrs [2pm]. On the final day, "Cease Fishing" will be called at 15:00hrs [3pm]. All boats must have returned to the inner harbour by 17:00 hrs [5pm].

F. PENALTIES

PENALTIES WILL APPLY TO BOTH CAPTURE AND TAG & RELEASE POINTS for:

Briefing: Non-attendance – loss of 2000 capture & 2000 T&R points.

Fish Disposal: Failure to dispose of fish carcasses in a manner acceptable, cleaning or dissecting fish in inner harbour, on beach or nearby – loss of points for the day of 5000 Capture and 5000 T&R points, whichever is greater.

Misconduct: Penalties at the discretion of the Tournament Committee – [up to disqualification].

Sale of fish: Disqualification from Tournament.

Failure to report on two consecutive Schedules: loss of 5000 Capture and 5000 T&R points.

Failure to attend or observe start regulations: Loss of 1000 Capture points and 1000 T&R points [other than genuine reason, at Committee's discretion].

Failure to observe the "Dispatch to Sea", single file rule on the first days fishing: loss of 5,000 Capture and 5,000 T & R points.

Failure to observe the NSW GFA Media Policy: loss of 2000 Capture and 2000 T&R points.

NOTE: Notwithstanding the above penalties, the Tournament Committee reserves the right in any particular circumstance to disqualify any Capture, T&R, Angler or Boat for disregarding any Tournament Rule or Instruction.

G. PRESENTATION DINNER

At the conclusion of the Tournament on Tuesday 15th November 2011, an Award Presentation Dinner will be held at the Coffs Harbour Deep Sea Fishing Club Ltd commencing at 6.30pm.

At this function the provisional winners will be announced and presented with Tournament Trophy Mementos. Boat Captains/anglers are encouraged to purchase their dinner tickets for themselves and friends when filling out Entry Forms. All Presentation tickets must be paid for no later than 6pm Friday 11th November 2011

– Adult \$35; Junior \$15.