



Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club

Established in 1936

2020 MRMTC Offshore Open

Tournament Rules and Awards

While the COVID-19 Pandemic remains a legitimate consideration in conducting our daily lives, some of New Jersey's restrictions relating to the pandemic have been relaxed. Among the relaxed restrictions is New Jersey's May 27th update to its COVID-19 Fishing Guidelines (see below). As the COVID-19 Pandemic is a dynamic situation with associated restrictions undergoing frequent changes, MRMTC members are advised to monitor NJ's COVID-19 Website (covid19.nj.gov/) for any changes in the fishing guidelines and make adjustments accordingly.

COVID-19 Statement

The safety, health and well-being of our officers, trustees, members, families, friends, guests, and the general public will always be our primary goal. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposures at Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club (MRMTC) member events, tournaments and gatherings (functions), we have developed a MRMTC COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan. That plan is available for viewing at: mrmtc.com/covid19/

NJDEP/ NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife

COVID-19 Fishing Guidelines (Updated May 27, 2020)

Consistent with Governor Murphy's latest Executive Orders regarding social distancing in order to limit the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), **"non-family/household member" fishing is permitted in groups of fewer than 25 persons provided six-foot social distancing is maintained and the recommended infection control procedures (face coverings, hand washing) are followed.**

Anglers **MUST NOT** congregate in parking areas, boat ramps or at popular fishing locations. Conservation Police Officers, New Jersey State Park Police, and DEP staff are actively monitoring our parks and natural areas to ensure that individuals enjoying our natural resources are maintaining social distance. **Any groups encountered will be instructed to disperse to maintain social distance, and if they do not comply, tickets will be issued by law enforcement.**

Excerpts from Dave Golden, Director of NJ Fish & Wildlife YouTube Video

- A. Click Here for video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ms3eLwoLiz4>
- B. Do not fish if you are not feeling well. Stay at home if you exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms listed on CDC website
- C. Fish close to home, reducing travel
- D. Fish by yourself or with members of immediate family members ONLY
- E. Maintain safe physical distance from other anglers and do not share gear
- F. Use your rod as an easy measure to provide a 6' distance
- G. Avoid crowds and groups
- H. Buy licenses online



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1) TOURNAMENT DATES

- A) Captains meeting-**Friday August 28, 2020 6:30PM to 8:00 PM**- Crystal Point Yacht Club. This will be a drive-up sign-up only.
- B) Fishing days- **Saturday, August 29, 2020 through Saturday, September 5, 2020** **Extended now until September 8, 2020.**
- C) Results will be posted after **6:00PM Saturday September 5, 2020.**

2) TOURNAMENT RULES

A) Boat Entry Guidelines

- 1) Tournament Entry Fee is \$500. An individual, group of individuals, hull, corporations, partnerships or any other entities having any financial interest in more than one vessel is allowed a maximum of one entry.
- 2) Only one day needs to be fished by one boat to make the tournament official and for awards to be presented.
- 3) The tournament may be altered, canceled, postponed or extended to other dates by the MRMTC.
- 4) Cash and checks are acceptable forms of payment.
- 5) Each boat entered in the tournament will be assigned a Boat Number. Upon registration, the Entrant will be provided with two placards with the Boat Number. These placards must be firmly affixed to the starboard and port sides of the boat during their declared fishing day(s), from prior to departure from Manasquan Inlet through completion of weigh-in or release reporting. The placards shall be placed in an unobstructed location with the Boat Number being visible away from the boat.
- 6) THE MRMTC reserves the absolute right to deny entry to any vessel for any reason. Any vessel or entrant involved in past or pending litigation against any fishing club or tournament in the continental US will not be entered.

B) Federal Legislation and IGFA Rules Apply

- 1) All State and Federal Regulations and Rules apply to participants of this tournament.
- 2) All-tackle IGFA Rules apply to participants of this tournament except as follows:
 - (a) Spreader bars are permitted.
 - (b) A fish may be hooked by anyone on board the boat provided that the rod is immediately transferred to the angler after hook-up. From that time on, the angler must fight the fish alone until the fish is boated or released.
- 3) Federal law mandates that all anglers participating in a tournament that bestows points, prizes or awards for Atlantic billfish (blue marlin, white marlin, spearfish, and sailfish) must deploy only non-offset circle hooks when using natural bait and/or natural bait/artificial lure combinations. Anglers in these tournaments may use J-hooks only on artificial lures.
- 4) Participants are assumed to have all necessary permits and registrations required by law. For permit and registration information, visit www.nmfspermits.com or call the HMS Management Division at (727) 824-5399, and visit www.saltwaterregistry.nj.gov/

C) Fishing Days, Fishing Times, and Distance Parameters

- 1) All boats must leave from and return to Manasquan Inlet.
- 2) There is a fishing distance limit of 125 nautical miles from the Manasquan Inlet Sea Buoy.
- 3) Each boat is allowed to fish a maximum of 2 days. The options for fishing those 2 days are as follows:
 - (a) Option 1 - The boat may fish any 2 separate fishing days. On each of those days, the boat must return to the inlet on the same day the boat departed the inlet.
 - (b) Option 2 - The boat may fish one overnight (two consecutive days) fishing trip. In this case, the boat must return to the inlet on the day after the boat departed the inlet.
- 4) The times for departure from and return to the inlet are as follows:
 - (a) Boats may not depart the inlet earlier than 12:00 AM the evening prior to a fishing day.
 - (b) Boats must return to the inlet by 7:45 PM on the days from **Saturday, August 29th to Friday September 4th.**
 - (c) Boats must return to the inlet by 4:45 PM on **Saturday, September 5th.**
- 5) Any boat leaving the inlet early will be disqualified for the fishing day(s).
- 6) All boats must declare their fishing day(s) by 12:00 Midnight the evening before each day the boat is fishing.



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- 7) To declare a fishing day, a representative from the boat must call (732) 612-8052 and leave a message with the following information: Entrants Name, Boat Name, Boat Number, time of call, selection of whether fishing a single day trip or an overnight trip as described in 3a and 3b above and the day(s) fishing. Should there be a problem with that phone number or it's recording of your message, the alternate phone number for calling is (732) 423-6520 . Fishing days cannot be declared via the MRMTC website. If no message is received, the boat will be considered NOT fishing that day.
- 8) Once declared, an overnight (two consecutive day) fishing trip (Option #2) cannot be converted to a day trip (Option #1) Likewise, a day trip cannot be converted to an overnight trip. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification of the boat.
- 9) In the event of a participant boat disability prior to a fishing day, participants may transfer to a substitute boat and assume the disabled boats number without paying an additional entry fee. Any/all Calcutta's entered by the disabled boat would then also apply to the substitute boat. The disabled and substitute boat must be reported to the MRMTC prior to departure for that days fishing by contacting MRMTC officials Joe Harriman 908-902-4982 or Jim Carton at 732-829-5567.
- 10) In the event of a boat breaking down after departure from Manasquan Inlet, that boat will be granted a substitute fishing day as long as the following conditions are satisfied:
 - (a) The boat must commence its' return to Manasquan Inlet as soon as safety of the crew is addressed.
 - (b) The boat must call in to report its' breakdown as soon as communication can be made with an MRMTC Official. The report shall include the boat name, boat number and a description of the breakdown including time, location, return progress and estimated time of arrival at Manasquan Inlet.
 - (c) The boat must return to Manasquan Inlet by 10:00 A.M. on the same day it departed. The boat must call in to an MRMTC Official as soon as it enters Manasquan Inlet.
 - (d) Fishing lines shall have not been placed in the water.

D) Reporting and Weigh-In Procedures

- 1) All boats having fish for weigh-in and/or billfish release(s) to report must return from sea through Manasquan Inlet. All boats having fish to weigh-in and/or billfish release(s) to report must call-in to the MRMTC Weigh Master (VHF #65, VHF #71, phone (732) 423-6520 upon entering the inlet. Boats not having fish to weigh-in or billfish release(s) to report are also requested to call in to the MRMTC Weigh Master upon entering the inlet so that the weigh scale does not need to remain unnecessarily open.
- 2) An MRMTC observer may be at Manasquan Inlet to monitor the arrival of participant boats returning from sea. Any boats entering the Manasquan Inlet later than the time deadline will not be eligible to weigh-in fish or report billfish release(s).
- 3) To be eligible for awards, all fish must be weighed-in and all billfish release slips must be submitted on the day the boat is required to return from a separate day fishing trip (Option 1) or from an overnight fishing trip (Option 2). All fish must be weighed-in and/or all billfish release slips must be submitted at the MRMTC Weigh Scale at Brielle Yacht Club **between 5:00 PM and 8:00 PM for the days Saturday, August 29th through Friday September 4th, and between 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM on Saturday September 5th.**
- 4) All fish must be brought to the weigh scale by the participant boat upon which the fish was caught. Billfish release slips can be submitted from the participant boat while at the MRMTC Weigh Scale or can be submitted via the angler and entrant traveling by vehicle to the MRMTC Weigh Scale. They must be submitted before the scale closes on the declared fishing day.
 - (a) **Only One person from each boat will be allowed onto the weigh dock to witness the weigh-in.**
- 5) Upon submitting a fish for weigh-in, the angler responsible for landing the fish will be required to fill out an MRMTC Weigh/Release Slip that must be signed by the angler and the MRMTC Weigh Master. Similarly, upon reporting a billfish release, the angler responsible for fighting/releasing the billfish will be required to fill out an MRMTC Weigh/Release Slip that must be signed by the angler and the MRMTC Weigh Master. For billfish releases, the MRMTC Weigh/Release Slip must include the time of release.
- 6) MRMTC Weigh/Release Slips will be available at the Captains Meeting and at the MRMTC Weigh Scale at Brielle Yacht Club.
- 7) All billfish releases must be reported to a MRMTC member boat immediately after being released along with the Boat Name, Boat Number, fish species and time of release. If a MRMTC member boat is not available, the fish must be reported to another participant boat.
- 8) The official radio channels for reporting fish are: VHF #65, VHF #71.
- 9) All weights will be rounded off to the nearest 1/10th of a pound.
- 10) All release times are to be reported in hours and minutes.
- 11) The MRMTC Weigh Scale closure time allows 15 minutes from the deadlines for entering Manasquan Inlet for boats to navigate to Brielle Yacht Club. Should a participant boat encounter a situation (such as a RR bridge closure, extreme river congestion, etc.) whereby the participant boat suspects that the 15 minutes may not be sufficient time to get to Brielle Yacht Club, the participant boat shall immediately contact the MRMTC Weigh Master (VHF #65, VHF #71, phone (732) 423-6520 and advise of the Boat Name, Boat Number, its location and the prevailing circumstances.
- 12) Observers are not required for weigh-in or release entries.



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E) Fishing Guidelines

- 1) This is a trolling, jigging and/or chunking tournament.
- 2) Fish species available for weigh-in awards are yellowfin tuna, longfin tuna, bigeye tuna, dolphin, wahoo and swordfish. Bluefin tuna are not eligible for awards.
- 3) Fish species available for release awards are blue marlin, white marlin and hatchet marlin/round scale spearfish. For the purpose of this tournament, hatchet marlin/round scale spearfish will be counted as white marlin.
- 4) A maximum of twelve (12) hooked lines may be used for fishing.
- 5) For release purposes, a fish will be considered caught when the mate grabs the leader, when the swivel touches the rod tip, or when a wind on leader passes through the rod tip.
- 6) This is a recreational fishing tournament. No commercial gear such as green sticks, bandit gear, etc. or similar recreational gear may be used. Use of spotter planes, drones or any other types of aerial surveillance is also prohibited.
- 7) Use of harpoons is prohibited.
- 8) Once a boat leaves the inlet, no outside assistance of any nature may be rendered to that vessel. The providing of fuel, bait, tackle or mechanical assistance etc. to allow for the enhancement or continuation of fishing is prohibited and will result in disqualification of that entry.

F) Protest

- 1) Protests must be made on the day of the alleged infraction and reported to the MRMTC Weigh Master prior to closure of the MRMTC Weigh Scale or, in the event of an infraction observed at sea by a boat doing an overnight trip (C. 3b option 2), a protest may be made upon the day of return prior to closure of the scale.
- 2) The protest must be officially submitted in writing, with cash or a check in the amount of \$250 made payable to MRMTC. The protest must include the Boat Name, Boat Number, anglers name and phone number, a detail description of the protested matter and include all supporting evidence available. The protest must be signed by the protesting angler and submitted to the MRMTC Weigh Master. If the protest stands, the \$250 will be returned.
- 3) The MRMTC Weigh Master may protest any catch.
- 4) Any protested catches may be retained by MRMTC for further evaluation.
- 5) MRMTC retains the right to engage a Marine Biologist to determine fish species, freshness and condition of a fish in dispute.
- 6) Protests will only be entertained for violations of IGFA/MRMTC Offshore Open Tournament Rules. MRMTC will not entertain protests for failure to have necessary permits and/or registrations. It is the participating Entrant's responsibility to ensure compliance with all applicable state and federal regulations.
- 7) All properly submitted protests will be reviewed by MRMTC. The MRMTC decision will be final.
- 8) In the event a lawsuit or any claim of any nature is filed requiring the MRMTC to prosecute or defend same, all legal fees, expert witness fees and all litigation costs will be paid from first- the general award fund; second- the Calcutta prosecuting or defending the claim and third- from any available Calcutta or award category.

G) Money Payout Procedures

- 1) In the event of a tie on weight, the award for the tied placements are combined and averaged for awards determination, i.e. if there is a tie for first place, the first and second place awards (50% & 30%) are combined and each winner will receive 40%.
- 2) In the event of a tie for the number of billfish released, the following rules apply:
 - (a) One fish tie -the boat having the first release wins, i.e. Boat A fishing on its day one has a release at 2:00 p.m. Boat B fishing on its' day two has a release at 7:30 a.m. Boat A wins. If both boats had their release on their same respective day one or same day two of fishing, the boat having the earliest time of release wins.
 - (b) Two or more fish tie- the boat accomplishing its' total releases first wins i.e. Boat A has two releases on its' fishing day one and two releases on its' fishing day two. Boat B has four releases on its' fishing day one. Boat B wins. If Boat A and B both have the same number of total releases on their respective same day one or same day two fishing days, the boat releasing its last fish at the earliest time wins.
 - (c) The time of release must be recorded on the MRMTC Weigh/Release Slip.
- 3) Award money will be paid by check in the name of the Entrant whose name appears on the Offshore Open Entry Form or any individual crewmember.
- 4) All anglers winning \$5,000 or more and all anglers winning any amount in the billfish release categories may be required, at the discretion of the MRMTC, to take a polygraph test prior to the distribution of awards. The determination of the polygraph administrator as to the authenticity of a particular catch, weigh slip/release form accuracy or any rule infraction will be final. A participant's refusal to



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take a polygraph test or failure to answer test questions in a manner satisfactory to MRMTC Officials or polygrapher, in their sole discretion, may result in disqualification.

- 5) MRMTC Officials will notify participants of the need to take a polygraph test. Participants must make themselves available for polygraph testing in the Manasquan River area within 48 hours following notification from MRMTC Officials. In the event that the polygraph test cannot be taken at the scheduled time and location, MRMTC reserves the right to reschedule the test within 30 days of the tournament end date. The rescheduled test will be at the angler's expense. All polygraph tests will be administered by an MRMTC approved examiner.
- 6) All winners will be required to submit federal/state tax information before any award will be presented. A 1099 tax form will be issued to all award recipients.
- 7) Awards will be mailed Fourteen Days after the treasure receives the entrance 1099 completed form. If a protest or polygraph test has not been resolved by that time, the disputed award will be made as soon as the issue is resolved.

H) MRMTC

- 1) The MRMTC Offshore Open Rules have been established for the best interest of all concerned. In the event of necessity, any rule may be altered at the discretion of the MRMTC.
- 2) All interpretation of the Rules and final decisions will rest with the MRMTC.
- 3) If the official MRMTC Weigh Scale at Brielle Yacht Club becomes malfunctioning, the MRMTC will establish an alternate official scale for continuation of weigh-ins until such time as the MRMTC Weigh Scale is repaired or replaced.

3) TOURNAMENT AWARDS

A) Tournament Entry Fee Awards

- 1) The distribution of Entry Fee award money will be as follows:
 - Heaviest Tuna – 50%
 - Second Heaviest Tuna – 30%
 - Third Heaviest Tuna – 20%

B) Calcutta Awards

- 1) The entry fee for each Calcutta is per entry and the distribution of Calcutta award money will be as follows:

Tuna – Skill Level A:	Entry Fee – \$1,000
Awards:	Heaviest Tuna – 50% Second Heaviest Tuna – 30% Third Heaviest Tuna – 20%
Tuna – Skill Level B:	Entry Fee - \$500
Awards:	Heaviest Tuna – 50% Second Heaviest Tuna – 30% Third Heaviest Tuna – 20%
Tuna – Skill Level C:	Entry Fee - \$200
Awards:	Heaviest Tuna – 50% Second Heaviest Tuna – 30% Third Heaviest Tuna – 20%
Tuna-Skill Level D	Entry Fee- \$500
Award:	Heaviest Tuna- Winner Take All



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Two (2) fish Tuna Stringer:	Entry Fee-\$500	Two (2) fish are required to be weighed (no big eye or Bluefin)
Awards:	First Place – 60% Second Place – 40%	
Marlin:	Entry Fee - \$500	
Awards:	Blue Marlin Releases 1st, 2nd –35% / 15% White Marlin Releases 1st, 2nd – 35% / 15%	
Swordfish:	Entry Fee - \$100	
Awards:	First Heaviest—70% Second Heaviest—30%	
Mahi Mahi:	Entry Fee - \$100	
Awards:	First Heaviest—70% Second Heaviest—30%	
Mahi Mahi Stringer:	Entry Fee - \$100	Two (2) fish minimum required and Three (3) fish maximum to be weighed (Mahi Mahi)
Awards:	First place – 60% Second place – 40%	
Wahoo:	Entry Fee-\$100	
Awards:	First place – 70% Second place – 30%	
Boats 35' and under	Entry Fee- \$100	
Award:	Heaviest Tuna- Winner Take All	
Daily Jackpot (Tuna only):	Entry Fee - \$100	In order to join this Calcutta, the Entrant must enter at least one of the Tuna Skill Levels (A, B, C, D or Stringer) above.
Awards:	Largest tuna weighed on the day – Winner takes all (See B.8 below)	

- 2) Registration for the Calcutta's will be drive-up : Captains Meeting, (**See SECTION 1: TOURNAMENT DATES ABOVE**)
- 3) Each boat may enter as many Calcutta's as desired.
- 4) If no Blue Marlin is released, the money in the Blue Marlin Category will go into the White Marlin Category. If no White Marlin is released, the money in the White Marlin Category will go into the Blue Marlin Category. If no Marlin is released, the monies will be rolled over into the general Entry Fee awards pool.
- 5) If no Swordfish is caught, the monies will be rolled over into the general Entry Fee awards pool
- 6) If no Mahi Mahi is caught, the monies will be rolled over into the general Entry Fee awards pool.
- 7) If no Wahoo is caught, the monies will be rolled over into the general Entry Fee awards pool.
- 8) The Daily Jackpot purse will be 1/8th of the money collected in the Daily Jackpot Calcutta. For any particular day in which no tuna are brought to the scale, that day's purse will be evenly distributed amongst all Daily Jackpot winners.
- 9) **All awards must be claimed within (1) year or be forfeited.**