

WBST 2024 EVENT AND DETAILS

Date ,Time and Rules General Information

September 6-7th 2024 · 6am – 6pm

September 8th, 2024 · 6am - 3pm

Location: SeaPath Marina Yacht Club

Refund Policy

NON REFUNDABLE due to the cost of diver packages and in consideration of prize level and budget is determined according to number of participants in advance.

WBST 2024 General Info

Dates: Friday- Sunday Sept 6-8th, with awards on Sunday, Sept 8th at 3pm.

Weigh-Ins: Fri 4-6pm - Sat 4-6pm - Sun 12-2pm at the **SeaPath Marina**

Awards Celebration: Sunday 3:00pm at SeaPath Marina.

Waivers and Parking Passes: They will be sent by email or available here, after you register. Your registration will remain incomplete until the forms are returned electronically.

Veterans Memorial Reef & FryingPanTower.org designated as Non Profits for Fish Proceeds at the weigh-in for tournament entered fish

If 2 of the 3 day tournament days have a Small Craft Advisory Issued Tournament will be rescheduled for October 18-20th. If only 1 day of the tournament has a small Craft Advisory issued tournament entrants can dive inshore or choose not to participate that day.

Scoring

9 fish maximum weight in per boat to fill all the categories per boat.

Tournament officially changed from an individually scored tournament to a Team Boat tournament with the same scoring rules.

Each diver on a tournament entered vessel must be entered in the tournament to dive and spearfish.

Each Entrant must Declare Boat name on Tournament Entry form.

There are 3 Divisions: Inshore, Bottomfish and Pelagic, each with a unique species list. 1pt per pound.

- **Divisional scoring** is based upon the combined weight of up to 3 heaviest fish of different species
- **Overall score** is based upon the total weight of your 3 Divisional scores Multiplied by the # of different species encountered.
 - **Example John Doe** speared a total of 9 different fish over the course of the tournament weighing 10lbs each that qualify for each of the 3 in each category.
 - His score is calculated as $9 \times 10 \times 9 = 810\text{pts}$
- **Prizes** will be awarded for Divisional and Overall placing

Scoring Rules

- Previous scores may only be replaced by heavier fish within a division
- Competitors must weigh fish the day of harvest and may not trade fish
- Scores will be posted online at the close of weigh-in each day
- Final scores are determined by the best total over 3 days, it is not aggregate scoring Divisional Species List
 - **Inshore:** Black Drum, Sheepshead, Tautog, Black Sea Bass, Porgy, Spadefish, Trout (weakfish)
 - **Bottomfish:** Grouper (all legal species), Hogfish, Snapper (all legal species), Trigger Fish
 - **Pelagic:** African Pompano, Mackerel (all), Permit, Mahi Mahi, Wahoo, Tuna (all, with Federal permit), Rainbow Runner, Cobia

Prize Distribution

Divisional

1st: Large Sponsor Package + Trophy + 8% Cash
2nd: Medium Sponsor Package + 4% Cash
3rd: Small Sponsor Package
Top Scuba: Sponsor Package + Trophy + 8% Cash
Top Freediver: Sponsor Package + Trophy + 8% Cash

Overall

1st Place Overall: Trophy + Grand Prize + 20% Cash
2nd Place Overall: Sponsor Package + 10% Cash
3rd Place Overall: Sponsor Package

Women's Division Overall:

1st Place Freedive Combined Categories Large Sponsor Package + Trophy + 4%
2nd Place Freedive Combined Categories
3rd Place Freedive Combined Categories

Huntress Award : Top Overall Woman Trophy + Grand Prize +10% of cash

Women's SCUBA Diving Overall:

1st Place SCUBA Combined Categories Large Sponsor Package + Trophy + 4% cash
2nd Place SCUBA Combined Categories
3rd Place SCUBA Combined Categories

**If there are less than 10 women competing in the tournament only 1st place will be awarded for the women's divisions.*

Most Lionfish Per Boat: There will be a cash Lionfish Pot thanks to Dan Johns of Wrightsville Beach. Show us 500 Lionfish!

Largest Lobster: Prizes

Best U/W Photo: Prizes

Sportsmanship: Patrick Johnson Perpetual Trophy

Tournament Rules

- A valid **NC Recreational Fishing License** administered from the NC division of Marine Fisheries must be obtained prior to the tournament and may be required to show to the tournament organizer before, during, or after the final weigh in and before the tournament awards are presented. **Applicable Federally Managed species permits** for Highly Migratory Fish must be obtained prior to the tournament to present at weigh-in.
- NC Fishing Licenses are compulsory for each diver or Charter/Commercial license covering that vessel
- NMFS Highly Migratory Species license required for weighing in Federally Managed Pelagic fish
- Flounder is NOT a valid inshore category as Flounder season is closed in Coastal Waters governing NC.
- Like fish species can be upgraded each weigh in day until 2pm Sunday
- In the event of a break-down a crew may change vessels once declared to tournament organizer and may carry over their fish to declared vessel for the remainder of the tournament
- This is and has always been a Gentleman's Tournament, meaning that competitors are expected to play by the rules on their honor, and to report any activity that is contrary to the tradition of sportsmanship.
- **Legal spearfishing** time begins at civil dawn.
- **Tournament Boundaries:** Cape Lookout Shoals to the South Carolina border. See the below graphic for more detail. If ANY complaint is lodged by a competitor about a vessel leaving boundaries it will be investigated. The tournament directors will reserve the right to inspect the suspected vessels GPS. Refusal to allow the inspection will result in a DQ for all divers on the vessel. This will be a quick inspection unless boat trails leave the boundaries. We would prefer if the boat owner was there to operate the GPS to ensure security of your dive sites.
- All applicable local, state and federal fishing, boating and diving regulations must be observed at all times. You must have a **valid NC Fishing License** at the time of the Tournament. All NC and Federal size limits must be adhered to. Due to the constant rule changes by fisheries we recommend you double check species and sizes the day before the tournament. All federal and state requirements must be met to hunt and boat Tuna.
- **Safety is the first and foremost concern.** Please do not blemish our perfect record with negligence, poor decision making or irresponsible/inappropriate behavior.
- **Accepted diving disciplines are limited to open circuit scuba and traditional apnea.** Rebreathers, staged deco, mixed gas breathe-ups and anything else you can conjure that is not considered a "traditional" method, is likely not acceptable.
- **Scuba divers must be certified by an accredited agency and adhere to their training.** Freedivers are encouraged to take a certification course from an accredited agency prior to the tournament.

- **A Speared fish that has been mutilated** as a result of being speared first and predation is acceptable for weigh in unless it's in unrecognizable conditions for the species for weigh-in. It must have more than half of it's original body weight.
- **Accepted spearfishing equipment** includes any device using a rubber band driven metal shaft or self propelled pointed object deployed from below sea level. This includes pneumatic spearguns. Rod and reels, handlines, harpoons, powerheads, bow fishing rigs and any other device that is non-standard may not be used at any time for the purposes of this tournament.
- It is requested that competitors boat their fish unassisted, however, if the situation dictates, assistance may be provided to ensure diver safety or the secure capture of the fish.
- **Charter boats are allowed.** However, all hunters must be working from the NCDMF recreational limits. During the tournament the charter boats cannot engage in fishing operations other than the activities of our competitors. In other words, they cannot operate under their commercial license during the tournament.
- **All cash and prizes will be distributed according to the above breakdown.** However we will also have a raffle at the awards ceremony to put prizes in the hands of more divers.
- It is mandatory that competitors weigh their fish on the day it was harvested and within the set weigh in times and locations without exception. If a fish is suspected of unethical preservation or spoiling the associated competitor can be disqualified.
- **Competitors that are not within speaking distance of weigh station at the close of weigh in will not be eligible to weigh their fish for that day.** We can not give consideration for boat trouble, traffic or defective timepieces.
- Violation of any tournament rule will be reviewed and may result in disqualification.
- Violation of any law or regulation may result in appropriate action by local authorities.
- Failure to report any violation will be considered conspiring and can result in disqualification.

Any and all questions can be addressed with Mark Labocetta mark@maverick-america.com

Additional Information:

- Each contestant will receive a tournament t-shirt if they sign up by August 15th. Additional Shirts may be available for purchase after the event.
- **North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries will** have agents from the research division taking ear bones for research purposes, though not mandatory, we ask you to please participate in their study.

- **Participation in the weigh-ins and the awards ceremony** is highly encouraged to promote the community atmosphere of the event.
- **Lionfish are a venous species**, if you decide to hunt them please take proper precautions. If you do not know how to hunt them safely then please do not. They are edible and delicious however.
- **Pre-size your fish** on the boat and bring only your biggest fish to the scales. Please do not bring multiple fish of nearly the same size to the official scales. Invest in your own hand scales or share one with others on your boat.
- **Please be respectful on the dock and do not spread out your catch**, it can stain the wood and some may find it offensive.
- **Respect other boats**, both in the tournament and those that are not. If you are diving make allowances for others trying to work the same area.
- **Because of personal relationships**, Sea Path Yacht Club is proud to host this event and kindly asks that you patronize the marina as much as possible for such things as ice, drinks, fuel, etc. Let's support who supports us!
- Please display the parking pass on your vehicle dashboard while on the Sea Path Yacht Club property if parking passes are allotted. If an attendant is present let them know you are in the tournament. Anyone not entered in the tournament must use the public parking across the street.
- Please respect all marina rules. Carts are available for use at the marina entrance and are for equipment only. Fish must be transported in a cooler. Please return the carts to the cart storage location at the marina entrance in a clean working order.
- Fish cleaning stations are available at the dock. Please be respectful of other marina patrons. If non-tournament patrons wish to clean fish please do not monopolize the cleaning stations. Also, please clean the area after you clean your fish.
- The dock staff will try to find us room to dock our boats during weigh-in. Try to bring extra fenders for your boats in case we need to "raft" at the dock. They can likely find an empty slip for you to use while you are there for weigh-in or the awards ceremony. Do not use a slip that the Marina staff has not permitted you to use.
- If you need dockage for your boat for the weekend you can arrange this with the
- No spearfishing around the docks or boats at the Sea Path Yacht Club or USCG Station in Wrightsville Beach during tournament hours.