12/17/2019

FISH OF THE SEASON CONTEST

The Fish of the Season Contest is a tournament in which only NSFA members can participate (Note exception for Youth Category). There is no charge to be in the contest.

2020 OFFICIAL RULES

1.Three species of fish will be pursued for a "Season". There are 4 two-month seasons, and 1 three-month season. Please see the chart below. The tournament runs from January 1 through November 30. Prizes will be awarded for each species at the next monthly social or dinner following each season.

2. Boats must leave out of Nassau, Duval & Camden County waters.

3. Charter captains and crews are not eligible when engaged in charter operations.

4. All fish entered must meet the FWC definition of legal size. (see exception below for Black Drum). Updated FWC regulatory changes will be enacted when adopted. Each fish must be weighed and measured at Atlantic Seafood, Amelia Island Bait & Tackle, Leaders and Sinkers or Amelia Island Marina as soon as possible. If an employee or owner of one of these four shops wish to enter fish in the contest, they must be weighed and witnessed at a different shop.

5. Members fishing on charter outings are eligible except as mentioned above. Anglers are responsible for catching their fish, from setting the hook to landing the fish. Help is allowed for netting and gaffing.

6. The angler or their spouse if a family member, must present all weigh slips in person to the tournament director, their delegate or NSFA Board Member at or before, the first business meeting following the conclusion of the season for the appropriate species. Any exceptions will be reviewed and ruled on by the FOS committee. If approved, the angler will receive appropriate points and monetary awards. Any angler not meeting the requirements of this rule will have their entry removed and all anglers eligible for that species during that period will move up to fill their new place in the standings.

7. Fish presented for fish of the Season cannot have been entered in another contest/tournament.

8. In the event of a duplicate weight or tie, the winner will be decided by the earliest weigh-in date/time on the weigh slip.

9. All adult anglers submitting weigh slips will accumulate points toward the Men's or Women's Division Angler of the Year. 1st place seasonally will be awarded 4 points, 2nd place 3 points, and 3rd place 2 points and all others, 1 point. Seasonal fish winners will receive $50.00 1st place, $40.00 2nd place and $30.00 3rd place. Only one fish per species, per period, per angler is eligible for prizes and points.

Anglers that weighed a fish in any period that did not receive at least one monetary prize during the year, will automatically be entered into a $100.00 drawing to be made at the annual awards dinner. New for 2020, each qualifying fish weighed will result in an additional chance to win the "lottery". A qualifying fish is your largest of the species for the Season. So, the more fish you weigh, the more chances you will have to win.

10. All club records for each species in the tournament can be broken at any time during the Seasonal tournament. Any angler who breaks a record and holds the record on December 1st for a species will receive an additional 3 bonus points towards the Men's or Women's Angler of the Year as well as an additional $25 payout. Club records broken outside of the tournament will be recorded and recognized but no bonus points or cash will be awarded. Where new species or slot rules are incorporated, new records established will not receive bonus points or cash.

11. Winners must be members in good standing (dues paid or a Lifetime Member) before they can receive their cash awards.

12. Men's Angler and Women's Angler of the Year Honors-The total cumulative point winners for the year at the end of November, three male and three female, will be presented the following awards at the Annual Christmas Party: 1st Place Men's Angler and Women's Angler of the Year -$200; 2nd Place - $100; 3rd Place - $50 In the case of any point ties the order of finish will be determined by points comparison. Each species weighed by the anglers in the same season, will be compared to each other with the total weight of those fish only, determining the winner.

13. Tournament Within Tournament - Anytime between January through November, a grand slam can be weighed in consisting of 1 Redfish, 1 Trout and 1 Flounder caught on the same day. All fish must be on the same weigh-in slip with the weight and length of each species shown on the slip and turned in anytime during the year at a business meeting or monthly social. $100 will be given at the Christmas party to the winner, and $50 will be awarded to the 2nd place finisher, based on total weight of the Slam.

14. Youth Category (16 and under): All youth are eligible and do not have to be a member or related to a member to compete. Weigh slips must be presented in person or by their sponsor at the monthly business meetings or socials during the period or the first business meeting following the season for the appropriate species. A 1st place award of $25 will be presented to the winner of each species. A Youth of the Year award ($100 value), based on greatest number of seasonal awards won will be presented at the Christmas party. In case of a tie the youth anglers will equally divide the prize. To be eligible for Youth of the Year, the Youth must enter at least 3 fish during the year in the seasonal tournaments.

The target species for each Season in 2020 are:

Winter	Jan-Feb	Whiting	Sheepshead	Trout
Early Spring	Mar-Apr	Black Drum*	Whiting	Pompano
Late Spring	May-Jun	Cobia	King Mackerel	Redfish
Summer	Jul-Aug	King Mackerel	Sea Bass	Whiting
Fall	Sep-Nov	Redfish	Flounder	Trout

Note (*): In the case of Black Drum, fish must be in the slot of 14 - 24 inches. Even though FWC rules permit one fish over the slot, only fish in the slot will be eligible for the Seasonal tournament.