

12/12/2023



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.

2024 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 Season at the next monthly social or dinner following each Season.
2. Boats must leave out of and/or shore-based anglers may only fish in Nassau, Duval & Camden County waters. All fish must be caught via legal hook and line.
3. It is the anglers’ responsibility that fish entered meet the FWC/SAMF definitions of legal size limits and season. (see exception below for Black Drum). Updated FWC/SAMF regulatory changes will be enacted when adopted. Each fish must be weighed and measured at Amelia Island Bait & Tackle, , Old Town Bait and Tackle, Renn Works Outdoors or Care Free/Amelia Island Boat Rentals (Marina) as soon as possible. If an employee or owner of one of these shops wish to enter fish in the contest, they must be weighed and witnessed at a different shop.
4. Charter captains and crews are not eligible when engaged in charter operations.
5. Anglers should retain a copy of all weigh slips to ensure proper credit is received for fish entered. These copies may be turned into the committee or held. As fish are posted to the “standings spreadsheet” on the NSFA website. Anglers should review and make sure their entries are correct. Any discrepancies should be addressed ASAP, and before the end of the Season.
6. 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.
7. Fish presented for fish of the Season cannot have been entered in another contest/tournament. NSFA member outings and the Fernandina Beach Kingfish Rodeo are not included in this rule.
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. Fish of the Season- Seasonal fish winners will receive the following monetary awards for each species: First place-\$50, Second place-\$40 and Third place-\$30. Additionally, anglers weighing fish will accumulate points as follows; First-4 pts, Second-3 pts, Third-2 pts with all others who weighed a legal fish will receive 1 pt per species toward the Angler of the Year contest. 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. Each

qualifying fish weighed will result in an additional chance to win the “lottery”. A qualifying fish is your single largest of the species for the Season.

10. All club records for the 8 species in the tournament can be broken at any time during the Seasonal tournament. Any angler who breaks a club record and holds the record on December 1st for a species will receive an additional 3 bonus points towards the Angler of the Year as well as an additional \$50 cash award. Club records for fish 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. Angler of the Year Honors-The total cumulative point winner for the year at the end of November, will be the overall club **Master Angler of the Year** and receive a commemorative gift. As well, three men and three women, will be presented the following awards at the Volunteer Appreciation 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. Most Species Award – Catching all 8 species in the correct season is a challenge worthy of recognition. Anglers must be adept at offshore, inshore and surf fishing. The angler that weighs the most species during the contest will receive the Most Species Award for the year and will be awarded \$50. If a tie occurs, it will be decided by the total weight of the same fish for each angler. Should an angler catch every species in all 5 seasons, they will also be awarded 3 bonus points toward Angler of the Year.

14. Tournament Within Tournament - Anytime between January through November, a 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. Fish cannot be entered into the Seasonal contest also. Any fish weighed for a Slam is eligible for a Club Record. Winner determined by total weight of the 3 fish. First place wins \$100 and Second wins \$50 to be presented at the Volunteer Appreciation Party.

15. Youth Category (16 and under): All youth are eligible and do not have to be a member or related to a member to compete. A 1st place award of \$25 will be presented to the winner of each species, each Season. A Youth of the Year award (\$100 value), based on greatest number of seasonal awards won will be presented at the Awards party. In case of a tie the youth anglers will equally divide the prize. To be eligible for Youth of the Year, the Youth angler must enter at least 3 fish during the year in the seasonal tournaments.

The target species for each Season in 2024 are:

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

