



2021 NIAN TIC SHARK WEEK TOURNAMENT RULES

FINAL VERSION - UPDATED 7-2-21

Tournament Dates and Hours: July 3rd –July 11th, 2021, A Captains meeting will be held on Friday Night July 2nd 2021 via FACEBOOK live (@Tristatecanyonshootout) Rules, Captians Buckets and T-Shirts Can be picked up at J&B Friday July 2nd after 3pm or at the Dock Restuarant from 5:30 to 6:30. Awards Cocktail Party will be held at the DOCK Restaurant, Waterford on Sunday July11th following the fishing hours.

Boats have the option of picking two consecutive days staying overnight or two separate day trips. Overnight trips may not exceed 36 hours and Day trips my not exceed 14 hours. Boats are not permitted to leave the check-in point prior to 5am on any fishing day (Overnight or Day Trip). Weigh-in will be at the The Dock Resturant in Waterford, CT. All boats wishing to weigh fish must be inside the Niantic River Bridge prior to 7pm on a day trip or 5pm on an overnight. (If a boat is locked outside the bridge due to a bridge closure the boat must contact the Tournament Committee via cell phone or Tournament Channel (VHF Ch.69) for exception. Boats fishing overnights may weight a fish on the first day and return to the fishing grounds immediately following the weigh-in. Scales close at 7pm on all days. All fish must be at the scales prior to 7pm any on a day trip or 5pm on the second day of an overnight or will not qualify.

Captain's Meeting: All boats are required to have a representative sign that they acknowledge responsibility for any rules, changes or clarifications made at the Captains meeting. The captain's meeting will be held on Friday July 3rd via a YouTube video. Link will be made available via online posts and emails to participants. Any questions and comments should be sent to Tristateshootout@gmail.com.

The Tri-State Niantic Sharkweek Tournament will not be responsible for any penalty or fine incurred by any angler or boat who boats a species which does not meet Fedral and/or State size limit requirements or other restrictions. It is the resposibiliy of the angler and team to be aware of current Federal and/or State regulations regarding catching and/or boating species of fish eligible in this tournament. Fish which do not meet the Federal and/or State regulations may no be brought back to the dock regardless of weight and will not be elidgable for any prizes. As a NMFS Permitted Tournamnet all anglers must used circle hooks on all baits while fishing in this Tournament!

ELECTRONIC CHECK-IN INFORMATION

Dockage and Check-in point: Boats are permitted to leave from any Marina, one of two check in points Check-in Point #1 Montauk point showing Montauk light, Check-in Point #2 Block Island windfarm towers (any tower). Fog Safety option: In the event of thick fog for the safety of the vessels a picture on the GPS with the check-in card showing the proximity to the check-in point will be accepted. GPS units must show the vessel and the vessels position. Check in will be done via text message. Boats are required to have a designated phone for the check-in purposes and that phone must be operational and capable of the check in procedure for check-in as well as weigh-in. Any boat with weighing a fish without the designated phone operational and containing the required tournament information for check-in and weigh-in will have their fish disqualified. Check-in will consist of: 1) An initial text to the Tournament committee announcing your departure. Texts must be from Check-in point. 2) A return text from the committee containing an authorization code. 3) A text from the Tournament boat back to the committee containing a picture of the code on the boat# Card with choice of check-in point in the background. 4) A confirmation text from committee sending you off. All texts must be present at the time of weigh-in. 5) Upon returning the Tournament committee must be notified at least 30min prior to your arrival at the Niantic via text or voice to the committee cell#. Cell #'s will be given at the Captains meeting on June 28th.

RULES & RELEASE INFORMATION

Tackle Specification:

1. The Tri-State Tournament will follow International Game Fish Association Rules and additional rules specified herein.
2. 130 lb line class is the maximum allowed in this tournament.
3. Any member of the tournament committee reserves the right to inspect tackle at their discretion.
4. Leaders are to be no longer than 40 ft. in total. This 40 ft. shall include any double line, wind-on, or any other type of leader.
5. Line tests may be required at Judge's discretion.
6. Harpoons will be allowed to dart a fish brought to boat side by rod and reel. The harpooning of a free swimming fish is strictly prohibited.

Fishing Regulations:

1. All fish must adhere to the state and federal regulations to qualify for this tournament.
2. The fishing territory is limited to a 135 nautical mile radius from Race Rock Light.
3. The angler must hook, fight, and bring the fish to the gaff or tag stick unaided by any other person (excluding gaff and leader man).
4. This is a rod and reel, hook and line tournament. The use of hand lines, rope, nets, harpoons, and other means of fish capture other than rod and reel are strictly prohibited.
5. Fish must be hooked, fought, and landed or tagged from the same boat without outside help.
6. No mutilated fish will be eligible for competition.
7. There shall be no use of aircraft of any kind for spotting or baiting fish.
8. There shall be no use of outside assistance for landing or acquiring fish.
9. The use of mammal blood or flesh of any type is prohibited.
10. The use of any bang sticks or guns is prohibited in this Tournament

Minimum Lengths and Weights:

1. Fish not meeting the minimum lengths set by the tournament will not be weighed or acknowledged by the tournament.
2. Minimum lengths and weights for all sharks will be strictly enforced.
3. Minimum lengths are all measured in fork length, not overall length.
 - Mako Sharks – 83” for Females and 71” for Males
 - Thresher Sharks – 150 lbs.
 - Bluefin Tuna - Greater than 27” but less than 73”

General Tournament Conduct:

1. The official clock of the tournament will be kept on continuous GPS time.
2. All fish must be hooked during designated fishing hours.
3. Tackle inspection may be required at the time of weigh-in.
4. Official radio announcements will be made over channel 69.
5. All boats entering or leaving the harbor should adhere to the “NO WAKE” speed limit.
6. The Tri-State Tournaments, LLC resumes no responsibility for the conduct or safety of any boats or entrants. All participants enter the tournament at their own risk.
7. Any participant whose action causes the Tri-State Tournament's officers, directors, sponsors, employees, or participants to incur expenses shall be held responsible and shall be responsible to reimburse said persons or entities for financial damages.
8. All boats are responsible for making decisions regarding weather, and do so at their own risk.
9. If the tournament is cancelled due to any circumstances, or in the instance that no qualifying fish are caught, prize money will be raffled accordingly.
10. Boats must be inside the Niantic River train bridge by the hours designated above at the end of their fishing day. If a boat cannot enter because of a bridge closure it is the responsibility of the participant to contact the tournament committee on VHF Ch69 or via cell phone for exception.

Weigh-in:

1. All tournament boats must weigh fish in at the official weigh stations (The Dock Restaurant dock, The Niantic River, Waterford, CT)
2. Any and all protests must be filed in writing with the judges by 9am, the morning following the incident, except on the last day, when the protest must be filed within 1 hour after the conclusion of the weigh-in on the last day of the tournament. Protests that are hearsay will not be accepted without a written statement from the witnessing party. Said witness must also be a registered tournament angler. All protested crew members as well as protesting crew members may be subject to polygraph testing by Tri-State Tournaments polygraph contractor (Truth Detection Labs). Prize money may be withheld pending the outcome of any protest.
3. After the weigh master releases the fish, its disposal is to meet the guidelines reviewed at the Captain's Meeting.
4. If anyone wants to have a fish re-weighed, it must be done while the fish is still hanging. After the fish has been removed from the weigh station, the weight stands.
5. If a dart cannot be removed from a fish without causing mutilation the weighmaster will weigh the fish with the dart and an avg. dart weight of 5oz will be deducted from the weight of the fish.
6. No mutilated fish shall be eligible for competition. Mutilation shall be defined as damage which would impair the fighting ability of the fish.
7. The weigh master reserves the right to retain any fish that is deemed questionable. If retention is refused, the fish is automatically disqualified.

8. The weigh master and the committee reserve the right to cut open any fish for inspection of any suspected weight altering. Insertion of weights, ice, water, etc., is not permitted.

Releases:

1. To qualify as a caught fish, the leader must be brought to within the grasp of the mate or the end of the leader must be wound onto the rod tip. A release affidavit must be completed for all released Shark and presented to the weigh master during scale hours on or electronically before Midnight on Saturday July 12th
 2. The Shark release affidavit must be accompanied by a time & date stamped digital image of the fish (video) that clearly shows the shark species reported. The Shark must be photographed within 30ft (leader length) from the boat. The video must clearly show the release of the fish. The digital image verifies the affidavit, therefore, no points will be awarded if the species shown in the digital image does not match the species reported on the affidavit. The time stamp of the digital image is the official release time and will be used to determine the winner in the event of a tie. In the event of a points tie, the first released shark or tuna will add an additional 50 points to the tied boat's total, making them the winner. It is the first released from the 5am start on the boats fishing days
 3. Anyone who submits a shark or tuna release affidavit that is false will be committing a violation of tournament rules, as well as an act of fraud and will not be eligible for any tournament winnings. The winner of the Most Points for Billfish Releases will be subject to a polygraph test prior to being awarded the winnings.
 4. Use of a time date app downloaded on a smart phone is the recommended way to shoot video releases. If your team would like a placard to show in GoPro or other video one will be available at the captains meeting.
5. Scientific tagging cards will be accepted as well as tournament release cards to document releases.
6. All releases must meet IGFA regulations to count as a release.
7. It is at the discretion of the Tournament Committee to post or not post video releases on the Catch Stat Scoring Site. All videos will be available for Tournament participants if they wish to view them.
8. Release cards must be presented to the Tournament Committee at weigh, at J&B, or electronically before Midnight Saturday July 6th

Protests

1. Any and all protests must be filed in writing and signed by the protestor; with the judges by 9am, the morning following the incident, except on the last day when protest must be filed within 1 hour after the conclusion of the weigh-in.
2. Protests will only be accepted that pertain to boats that have competing fish.
3. Protests must include the protesting boat, the boat being protested, details of the event including time and location the protested event took place.
4. Protests must be brought on specific rule violations and not personal beliefs and will be vetted based on current rules in place.
5. Hearsay protests will not be accepted without written statement from the witnessing party. Witnessing parties must be an entered boat or angler in the current years Tri-State Canyon Shootout.
6. Members of the protesting boat, protested boat, and any witnesses providing statements may be subject to a polygraph test to determine the validity of the claims put forth.
7. Prize money may be withheld up to 48hours to allow for all information to be collected regarding protested events.
8. All decisions of the Tournament Directors are final.

Polygraph Testing

1. Polygraph Testing will be conducted to determine the outcome of any written protest.
2. The Captain will be tested and he/she must have knowledge of the vessel position, IGFA rules and have been present during the fight of the winning fish. In the event that the Captain is deemed not able to take the polygraph, the Tournament Directors reserve the right to choose the next member of the registered crew to take the test.
3. Polygraphs will be administered based on the Polygraph Companies available schedule within 7 days of the Tournament Conclusion.
4. No Cash Prizes will be awarded to protested parties until Polygraph test is completed.
5. Any boat required to take a polygraph test in accordance with the rules of the Tri-State Sharkweek Tournament but is unable to complete the polygraph test during the polygraph testing time on July 7th is required to make arrangements to complete polygraph testing at Truth Detection Labs in Massachusetts. Failure to complete the polygraph within 7 days of the conclusion of the tournament will result in disqualification. Prize money will be withheld until testing is completed and the polygraph test is passed. *Any additional fee associated with polygraph testing outside of the designated polygraph times are at the expense of the selected boat.*

Prizes:

1. Prize money checks will be made payable to the person indicated on the entry forms.
2. All prizes will be awarded to winning boats, not individual anglers.
3. In the event of a tie, the prize money will be divided equally between the winning boats.
4. All Calcutta's are a 98% payout. All Tournament winnings are subject to 1099 Reporting.

2021 BASE PAYOUTS

Trophies and Cash Prizes will be awarded to the following categories:

First Place Most Points
Second Place Most Points

First Place Largest Bluefin
Second Place Largest Bluefin

Trophies and Calcutta Money will be awarded to the following categories:

Most Points
1st Place Largest Mako
2nd Place Largest Mako
1st Place Largest Thresher
2nd Place Largest Thresher
Jackpot Winner - Thresher
Jackpot Winner - Mako

****BLUEFIN****

1st Place Largest Bluefin 27"-47"
1st Place Largest Bluefin 47" - 73"
Most Bluefin Releases

**CASH PAYOUTS ARE ADJUSTED
BASED ON BOAT COUNT**

SHARK POINTS SYSTEM

*Mako Thresher or Porbeagle over 68" 300pts
Mako Thresher or Porbeagle under 68" 100pts
Tiger Shark Release 200pts
Hammer Head, Dusky, Brown 75pts
Blue Sharks & Undistinguishable 15pts*

The 2021 Points for Weighed Sharks are the following:

*Only Mako and Thresher Sharks qualify to be weighed,
must meet minimum requirements
Mako or Porbeagle 1pt per pound
Thresher 3/4pt per pound*

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

*Mako 71" for Males & 83" for Females
Thresher Shark 150lbs or greater*

*** New ***

Bluefin Tuna 27" - 47" (2) 47"-73" (1)

*Tuna are measured using the curved fork length method
All boats fish under HMS Angling rules while entered
in a Tournament*

Shark Min Lengths are Calculated as linear fork length (**not curved fork**) from the tip of the snout to fork of the tail.
All fish must adhere to all State and Federal fisheries regulations to be eligible for competition

