

# NEFMA BLUEWATER TOURNAMENT • MAY 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

## TOURNAMENT RULES

THIS TOURNAMENT WILL BE FISHED IN COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS, EXCEPT IN THOSE INSTANCES WHEREIN TOURNAMENT RULES ARE MORE RESTRICTIVE.

### PART 1 - GENERAL FISHING RULES AND PROCEDURES

#### CHECK-OUT PROCEDURES:

- 1.1 All boats must depart and return via the St. Augustine Inlet.
- 1.2 You must be west of the St. Augustine Inlet Sea Buoy at 4:00 a.m.
- 1.3 Check-out will commence at 4:00 a.m.
- 1.4 All boats must check out and receive confirmation from "Marlin Base" on VHF Channel 72, giving your boat name and tournament number. Alternate contact -weigh master 904-459-8383.

#### DAYS AND HOURS OF FISHING:

- 1.5 FISHING DAYS: Captain's Choice: Boats may fish any two (2) of the five (5) fishing days. Fishing days are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Once a boat checks-out, that day is considered a day fished unless the tournament committee is notified of cancellation prior to lines-in (7:00 A.M.). If a boat fishes but fails to check-out or check-in, the boat is disqualified for the day, however, that day is still considered a day fished.
- 1.6 "Lines In" at 7:00 a.m. to "Lines Out" at 4:00 p.m. each fishing day unless modified by the Tournament Committee because of weather. In case of bad weather, four hours of fishing constitutes a "day" and any one "day" of fishing will constitute a full tournament.
- 1.7 "Lines In" and "Lines Out" will be announced over VHF Channel 72. No teasers are allowed in the water prior to "Lines In".

#### EXTENSIONS:

- 1.8 Any tournament boat must notify a committee boat that they are "hooked-up" prior to "Lines Out" and receive confirmation. They may then continue to fight the fish until it is either: lost, boated, or released. This requirement shall remain enforced for all fishing days.
- 1.9 Boats who continue to fight a fish after "Lines Out" shall notify a committee boat or marlin base as soon as the fish is lost, boated or released and will then be authorized an extension.
- 1.10 There will be no check-in extensions granted on Saturday.

#### CHECK-IN PROCEDURES:

- 1.11 All boats must check-in on VHF Channel 72 when abeam of the St. Augustine Sea Buoy (SA) not later than 6:30pm unless granted an extension. Boats that have fish to weigh will receive a weigh number at check-in and will be directed to Ch 69 for instructions.

#### WEATHER:

- 1.12 The tournament committee shall cancel either the tournament or a day's fishing when a small craft advisory is issued or forecasted.
- 1.13 If a fishing day is terminated after "lines-in" has been announced, the following will apply:
  - (a) The announcement will be made over VHF Ch.72. Boats will cease fishing and proceed to port.
  - (b) Any boat that is hooked-up at the time fishing is terminated shall contact a committee boat and will be allowed to continue to fight the fish until it is lost, boated, or released in accordance with the rules entitled "EXTENSIONS".
- 1.14 Go or no go decisions will be made as soon as possible, but not later than 6:30 a.m. of the scheduled day of fishing. The revised "check-out" and "lines-in" time will be announced at that time.

#### WEATHER DAYS:

- 1.15 There are no designated "weather days". In case all scheduled fishing days are cancelled, the tournament committee reserves the option to fish Sunday with awards that evening. In the unlikely event that the entire tournament is completely blown out, all parties and social functions will go on as scheduled. Refunds will be limited to entries in the tournament-within-a-tournament.

### PART 2 - SPECIFIC FISHING RULES

#### TACKLE:

- 2.0 Each boat may fish a maximum of six (6) rods at one time.
- 2.1 No passing of rods.
- 2.2 No wire lines or electric reels permitted for angling.
- 2.3 No live bait is permitted.

#### SIZE LIMITS:

- 2.4 Only boated billfish (Blue Marlin, White Marlin, or Sailfish) that exceed the following minimum size limits will receive tournament points. Billfish are measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail. Note: All Exceed Federal Minimum Limits
  - (a) Blue Marlin - 115 inches (b) White Marlin - 75 inches (c) Sailfish - 70 inches
- 2.4 Billfish brought to the weigh master that are less than the above minimums will not be weighed and are the responsibility of the boat captain. Any Blue Marlin that exceeds the existing NEFMA club record weight will receive one (1) point per pound. All other billfish, including blue marlin that do not exceed the club record, will receive first place points for their species.
- 2.5 All Wahoo and Dolphin weighed prior to the Friday Fish Fry are property of the Tournament.

#### BILLFISH RELEASE PROCEDURES:

- 2.6 All billfish releases must be reported to a committee boat as soon as practicable.
- 2.7 To qualify as a "Released" fish and receive points, a photograph or video of the fish must be submitted. The photo(s) must allow the tournament committee to identify the species of the fish and to determine that the fish is "under control" of the crew. "Under control" means that the crew has leader in hand.
- 2.8 When a release is completed, immediately inform a committee boat for a "release time".
- 2.9 All tournament participants must supply their own digital and/or video camera with a time and date stamp. No picture, no date & time on the picture, no points. Failure to comply with this rule will disqualify the fish. The photo(s) must allow the tournament committee to identify the species of billfish. Photos that show a billfish, but are unidentifiable as to the species of billfish, will receive 125 points. Unless otherwise instructed, when the catch is completed, take a picture of the angler who caught the fish. You may be asked, at any time, to take additional photos for verification.
- 2.10 A fish may not be removed from the water in its entirety at any time. The head of the fish may be lifted to facilitate its release.
- 2.11 Release certificates, along with the camera, must be turned in to the weigh master as soon as possible, but no later than the day's close of the weigh station.

#### MUTILATED FISH:

- 2.12 Fish damaged by sharks, other fish, mammals or propellers that remove or penetrate flesh prior to boating or releasing will be considered cause for disqualification. The tournament committee will have sole discretion in the matter, and all decisions shall be final.

### PART 3 – SCORING

#### POINT SYSTEM:

- 3.1 Releases and weighed-in fish:
  - (a) RELEASED: Each released billfish will be awarded the following points: Blue Marlin @ 500 points each; White Marlin, @ 200 points each; and Sailfish @ 125 points each. These points will count in the Billfish Category and for the three overall grand prizes.
  - (b) WEIGHED-IN:
    - (1) Points for Wahoo, Tuna, and Dolphin weighed-in will be awarded as follows. (1<sup>st</sup> 250pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> 200pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> 150pts, 4<sup>th</sup> 100pts, 5<sup>th</sup> 50pts) These points will count for the three overall grand prizes.
    - (2) Billfish: Any Blue Marlin that exceeds the existing NEFMA club record weight will receive one (1) point per pound. Other billfish (Blue Marlin (not exceeding the club record), White Marlin, or Sailfish) that exceed the minimum size limits will receive RELEASE points. These points will count for the billfish category and the three overall grand prizes.
- 3.2 Points for released billfish are considered awarded at the time of release. In the case of tied points for a billfish category, the boat that accumulates its points first is the winner. i.e., 2 Sailfish released (250 pts) on your 1st day will win over 2 Sailfish released (1 on 1st day & 1 on 2nd day) (250 pts).
  - (a) In order to determine when points are earned, ALL weighed-in fish will receive a weigh in time. Weigh-in times will be used to determine earliest fish weighed in case of identical weights. The earliest weigh-in time wins.
  - (b) In the case of tied overall points for the grand prizes, the boat that accumulates its points first is the winner. If tied points include both released and weighed fish and weighed fish are the same day, the released fish are the tiebreaker. i.e. If weighed fish points are tied on the same day, the sailfish tagged and released (125 pts) at 10:00 a.m. on the 1st day will win over a Sailfish weighed in at 5:00 p.m. on the 1st day (125 pts).
- 3.3 For scoring purposes, the first day you fish will be considered "Day One" even though the calendar day may be different from another boat's "Day One".

#### TIES:

### PART 4 - BREAKDOWN

- 4.1 Any substitute boat must be registered with the tournament director prior to fishing and will be permissible only if the original boat becomes disabled.
- 4.2 Any boat taken under tow after "Lines In" is announced will be disqualified for that day's fishing. Boats who return to the dock under their own power may make repairs and continue that day's fishing.
- 4.3 The Tournament Committee will assign Assistance Boats if required. However, in the case of an emergency situation requiring rapid response, by the law of the sea, the nearest boat must respond. Do so and contact a committee boat as soon as practicable. The committee boat will then either appoint you as the assistance boat or notify you that one is on the way to relieve you as soon as possible. No designated assistance boat will incur any penalty.

### PART 5 - PROTESTS

All protests must be presented to the Tournament Chairman in writing along with \$300 cash prior to the closing of the weigh station on the day of the alleged infraction. The tournament committee will make all decisions, and their decision shall be final. If the protest is upheld, the \$300 will be refunded. If the protest is not upheld, no refund will be made.

### PART 6 - DISQUALIFICATION

A boat may be disqualified for a day's fishing or for the entire tournament. If a boat is disqualified for a day's fishing, no fish caught or released on that day shall count for any tournament awards. If a boat is disqualified for the entire tournament, no fish caught or released will be awarded points for any tournament award. Reasons for disqualification include, but are not limited to, unsportsmanlike conduct or violation of tournament rules. The tournament committee will make all decisions, and their decision shall be final. No moneys will be refunded.

### PART 7 - POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION

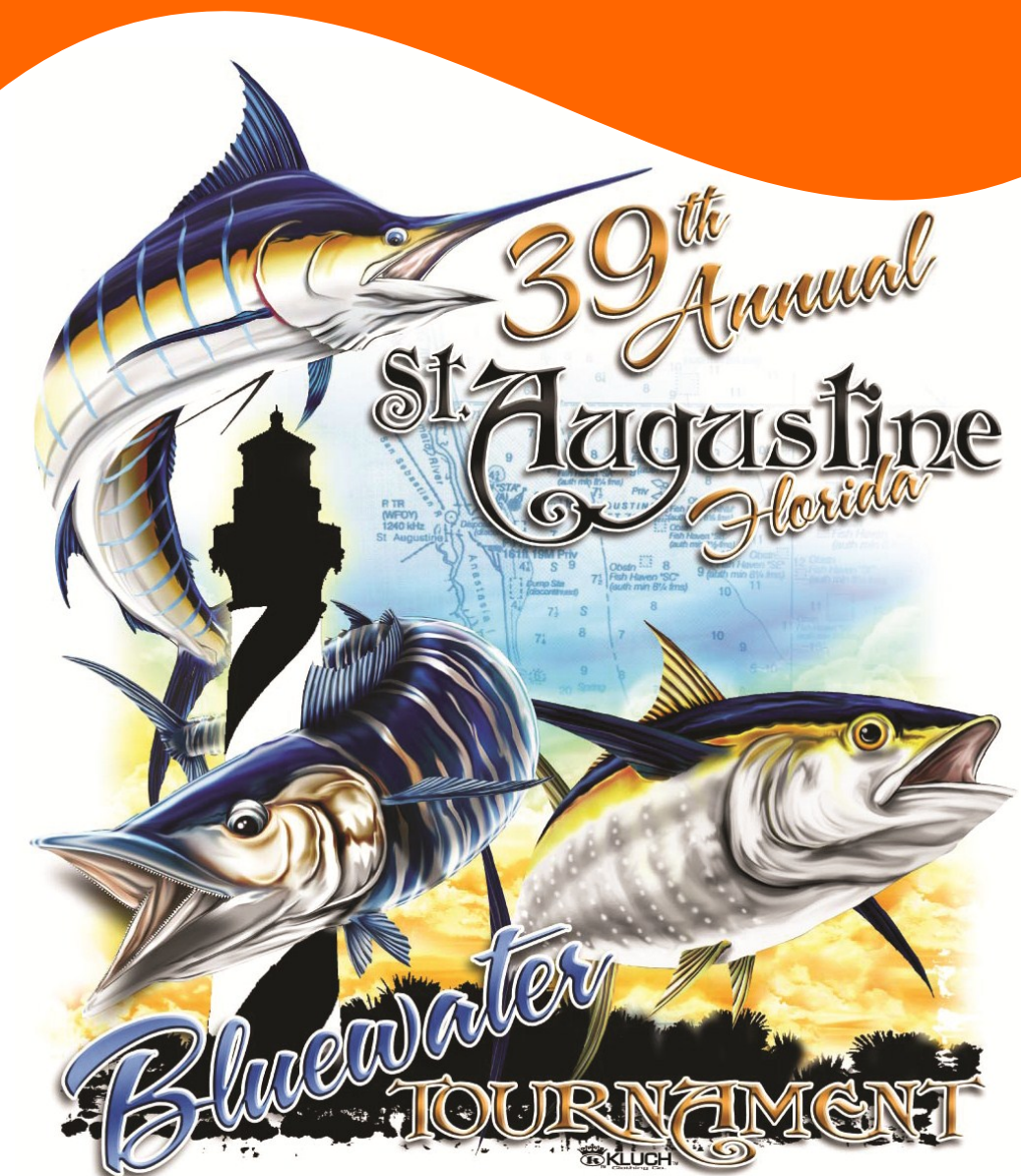
Polygraph Testing: Registered participants agree to submit to a polygraph examination if requested to do so by the Bluewater Tournament Committee. Failure to comply will result in disqualification of the participant and, at the discretion of the Bluewater Tournament Committee, the participants' entire team. Disqualified Participants/Teams or Participant/Teams that fail the polygraph examination forfeit any and all entry money, prizes or prize money, and are refused entry to future Blue Water Tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Committee is final. BY VIRTUE OF SIGNING THE ENTRY FORM, PARTICIPANTS AGREE TO THE FINAL DECISION OF THE POLYGRAPH TEST.

### PART 8 - RULES FOR PRIZES

- 8.1 **OVERALL (FIRST PLACE, SECOND PLACE, THIRD PLACE):** Paid to the top three boats with the most points accumulated for released and weighed-in billfish and weighed in board fish.
- 8.3 **BOARD FISH CATEGORIES:** Cash will be awarded to the top three places in each category.
- 8.5 **TOP ANGLER:** The Tournament Angler that accumulates the most Points (Board and Release) will win \$500 in cash and/or prizes Top Angler Award plus a trophy. If there is a tie, the Angler that accumulates the points first wins.
- 8.6 **LADY ANGLER:** The lady angler who accumulates the most Points (Board and Release) will win \$500 in cash and/or prizes Top Lady Angler Award plus a trophy. If there is a tie, the lady angler who accumulates her points first wins. If there is no lady angler with a release or fish remaining on the entire Board, the prize will be awarded to the Lady Angler weighing the heaviest Board fish.
- 8.7 **JUNIOR ANGLERS:** The junior angler that accumulates the most points (Board and Release) will win \$500 in cash and/or prizes, Top Junior Angler Award plus a trophy. If there is a tie, the Junior Angler who accumulates his or her points first wins. If there is no junior angler with a release or fish remaining on the entire board, the prize will be awarded to the Junior Angler weighing the heaviest Board fish. A junior angler is defined as anyone who is 16 years old or younger.

**THESE ARE THE BLUEWATER TOURNAMENT RULES. ANY LAST MINUTE ADDITIONS OR CHANGES DEEMED NECESSARY BY THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE FURNISHED, AT THE CAPTAIN'S MEETING. All decisions of the Tournament Committee are final and irrevocable. The Tournament Committee will make all Go/No Go weather decisions, HOWEVER, the decision to take the Boat to sea is left to the Captain of the vessel, who is legally responsible for the safety of the vessel and its crew.**

## NORTHEAST FLORIDA MARLIN ASSOCIATION Presents



May 16th - 21st • 2011



Northeast Florida Marlin Association Clubhouse  
Camachee Cove Yacht Harbor



**CAPTAINS CHOICE FORMAT  
FISH 2 OF 5 DAYS  
"MORE WAYS TO WIN"**

Open Entry - Don't Miss It!

# Entry Form

Entry fee includes:

- ◆ 6 tickets to each dinner
- ◆ 12 drink tickets
- ◆ 4 T-shirts
- ◆ Bluewater Captains Package

39th Annual NEFMA Bluewater Tournament

Owners Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Captains Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Numbers



Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Make: \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Registration # \_\_\_\_\_ Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Beam: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check all that apply**

- Inboard     Outboard     Gas     Diesel  
 VHF     Yes     No

This is an open tournament. NEFMA reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone.  
Entry Fee (tax included)

- On/or Before May 8th: \$689.00 tax included  
 After May 8th: \$795 tax included

### Optional Tournament within a Tournament Categories

TWT entry is available through the Captain's Meeting on Monday, May 16, 2011.

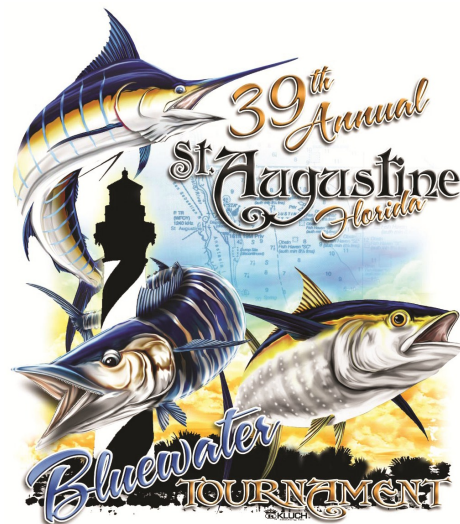
- Top of the Board Overall - \$ 600.00 (pays 3 places)
- Top of the Board Daily - \$ 450.00 (pays 3 places each day)
- Bills Only - \$ 450.00 (pays top overall points for Blue, White and Sail)
- Biggest Meat Fish - \$ 400.00 (pays out largest D/W/T overall, each species)
- Screamin' Reel Aggregate - \$ 250.00 (pays out 50/30/20 for highest aggregate D/W/T)
- Members Only - \$ 300.00 (pays 50/30/20 overall points, NEFMA members only)

Please make check payable to NEFMA Bluewater and return to: 3030 Harbor Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084

### Waiver:

As the Captain of the above named vessel, this is to acknowledge that my crew and I are participants in the NEFMA Bluewater Tournament and enter at our own risk. I confirm that I have read and fully understand the rules of the Tournament and agree to abide by these rules and consent to the terms of this waiver. I agree that in consideration for the acceptance of my entry and participation in the NEFMA Bluewater Tournament, for my crew and myself, I hereby release and forever discharge the Northeast Florida Marlin Association, Inc., its representatives, successors, and assigns, all tournament sponsors, contributors, participants, producers, directors, their employees, agents, representatives, successors and assigns of all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, or expenses which I may have against them arising out of or in any way connected with my participation and the participation of my crew in this tournament. I understand that this waiver includes any claims based on negligent action or inaction of any of the parties being released. I understand that I am responsible for my boat and its crew. Their safety and well being is solely my responsibility. I hereby authorize the use of mine and my crews names, my Boat's name and/or likeness, free of consideration, for promotion and advertising purposes in any media form or reproduction, including, but not limited to radio, television, newspaper, brochure, web-site or video.

Owner/Captains Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



May 16th - 21st • 2011

## More Ways to Win

All Billfish, Wahoo, Dolphin and Tuna will pay out Top Three Places!  
 1st Place \$500, 2nd Place \$300, 3rd Place \$200

Cash for Top Overall Angler, Top Lady and Top Junior

## Trophy Prizes

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place Overall Award!

Top Overall Angler Award  
 Top Lady Angler Award • Top Junior Angler Award

## Schedule of Events

### Monday May 16<sup>th</sup>

- 3:00 pm Tournament Site opens
- 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm On site registration  
Captains Bag Pickup
- 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Kickoff Party begins  
Bar is Open  
Live Entertainment on stage
- 6:00 pm Opening Ceremonies  
and recognition of sponsors
- 6:30 pm Captains Meeting in Clubhouse  
(Captain and 1<sup>st</sup> mate only)
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Captain and Crew Dinner  
(Tickets available to the public)

### Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>

### Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup>

### & Thursday May 19<sup>th</sup>

- 4:00 am Boats may leave the Sea Bouy
- 7:00 am Fishing may begin
- 4:00 pm Fishing ends - Lines out
- 4:00 pm Tournament site and weigh in opens  
Dock Party - Food, Fun and Drinks  
Bar is open
- 8:00 pm Tournament site closes

### Friday May 20<sup>th</sup>

- 4:00 am Boats may leave the Sea Bouy
- 7:00 am Fishing may begin
- 4:00 pm Fishing ends - Lines out
- 4:00 pm Tournament site and weigh in opens  
Dock Party - Food, Fun and Drinks  
Bar is open
- 6:00 - 9:00 pm Tournament Fish Fry  
(Tickets available to the public)  
Everyone Welcome - Live Entertainment

### Saturday May 21<sup>st</sup>

- 4:00 am Boats may leave the Sea Bouy
- 7:00 am Fishing may begin
- 4:00 pm Fishing ends - Lines out
- 4:00 pm Tournament site and weigh in opens  
Dock Party - Food, Fun and Drinks  
Bar is open
- 8:00 - 9:00 pm Awards Dinner  
(Tickets available to the public)  
Everyone Welcome - Live Entertainment
- 9:00 pm Awards Ceremony and Party

Over 25,000 in  
Cash and Prizes

### Overall Cash Payout

1st Place - \$7,000 & Awards/Trophy

2nd Place - \$4,500 & Awards/Trophy

3rd Place - \$2,500 & Awards/Trophy



PLEASE SUPPORT

OUR SPONSORS

39th Annual Bluewater Tournament

### GOLD



### SILVER



### BRONZE



WWW.NEFMA.COM