

Information and Rules

21st Annual MBARA Kingfish Tournament

Saturday, August 26, 2017

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Tournament Information

We are getting ready for our 21st Annual Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association Kingfish Tournament. Expect another great tournament. We have a new Miss Kingfish, new sponsors, new T-shirt with another beautiful color, and new prizes. ***There are a lot of changes to the tournament. Be sure to read all the information and rules before you register!***

Purpose of the Tournament

This is charitable fundraising event to build artificial reefs. All proceeds will be used to create more wonderful marine habitat and improve our fishery for everyone to enjoy.

Date, Time, and Location

All times are **Central Standard Time (CST)**. This tournament is *ALWAYS the full weekend before Labor Day weekend*--a full weekend, not the Saturday before. This is a ONE DAY tournament.

Captain's Party : Friday, Aug 25, 2017, 5:00 pm--9:00 pm, Beacon Hill Park

Fishing: Saturday, Aug 26, 2017, 5:00 am--5:00 pm

Weigh-In: Saturday, Aug 26, 2017, 1:00 pm--5:00 pm, Mexico Beach Marina

Tournament Divisions

There are two divisions; Recreational and Professional/Masters. Any boat that has a person on board that is (past or present) a professional tournament fisherman or recreational for hire/commercial Captain, guide, crew member, or fisherman in the business of fishing or harvesting seafood must register and compete separately in the Professional/Masters division. **Note**, charter boats with recreational fishermen must also register in the Masters Professional division. Any boat fishing in the Recreational division reported and found to have a person on board meeting criteria of the Professional/Masters division will be disqualified for fraudulent entry and forfeit all entry fees and prize money.

Prizes for the Recreational Division:

King Mackerel: 1st \$3,000, 2nd \$2,000, 3rd \$1,000

Wahoo: 1st \$1,000

Spanish: 1st \$500

New! Prize for the Professional/Masters Division:

King Mackerel: 1st **\$3,000** for the heaviest King Mackerel.

Registration

Registration is **\$175** per boat, as many people on your boat as you would like.

You may register at the Captains' Party on Friday, Aug 25, 2016, 5:00 to 9:00 pm CST. The Captains' Party will be held at the Beacon Hill Park/Veterans Memorial Park. Registration closes at 9:00 pm.

Preregistration will be available online at www.mbara.org . Please print out a copy of your online registration for your records. You can also preregister starting 1 July 2017 at the locations below. Please bring your yellow registration form to the Captains' Party for the door prize drawing. You may also register at the Captains' Party.

Mexico Beach Marina, Mexico Beach
Half Hitch Tackle, Port St. Joe

Blue Water Outriggers, Port St. Joe

Preregistration at Bluewater Outriggers and Half-Hitch Tackle closes at **Noon, 25 August 2017** (EST). Preregistration will close at Mexico Beach Marina will close at **5:00 PM (CST), 25 August 2017**. However, you can still register at the Capt's Party from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm CST on 25 August. You may also register at the Captains' Party.

Captain's Party:

Friday, Aug 25th, 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm CST, **Beacon Hill/Veterans Memorial**

Park. *Food and drinks are served from 5:00-7:00 pm. Door prizes will be given out at 7:00 pm at the Beacon Hill Park/Veterans Memorial Park on Friday night.*

Directions: Beacon Hill Park is on Hwy 98 on the left as you leave Mexico Beach and head toward Port St. Joe. It is one-half mile from the Mexico Beach city line.

Door Prizes

The Captains' Meeting is not mandatory, but T-shirts and door prizes will be given out at the meeting. You must be present for all door prizes except the MBARA membership prize. Door prize drawing begins at 7:00 pm CST.

If you preregistered online or at one of the tackle shops, you must check-in at the registration table at the Captain's Party to claim your door prize ticket and drop it in the container provided to compete for door prizes.

If you register at the Captains' Party, claim your door prize ticket and drop it in the container provided to compete for door prizes.

Tickets will be drawn out of the container and prizes awarded at the Captains' Party at 7:00 pm CST.

Weigh-In

Date: Saturday, Aug 26, 2017

Time: 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm CST

Location: Mexico Beach Marina.

You must be in line to weigh-in, either in the canal or in the parking lot, by 5:00 pm CST. You must sign your weigh-in results.

All winners will be subject to a lie detector test administered at the weigh-in site by the Gulf County Sheriff's Department. Any angler failing the test or refusing to take the test will be automatically disqualified as well as the boat used by that angler.

Sally Childs is the Weigh Master. She is a veteran of 20 Kingfish Tournaments and was the Weigh Master for the City of Mexico Beach Ling Tournament.

She works at Sundance Realty if you want to contact her. We use Official Tournament Approved Scales measuring in increments of 1/100th of a pound.

After Party

There will be a dance at TOUCANS on Saturday night with a live rock and roll band. A super live band at Toucans plays music starting at 8:00 pm until late in the morning. It is a blast!

Bad Weather

In case of bad weather, monitor the MBARA website at www.mbara.org. We will announce any change of date by noon on the Wednesday before the tournament date. That way everybody will know where to get information about tournament changes if there is a change due to bad weather and/or bad sea conditions.

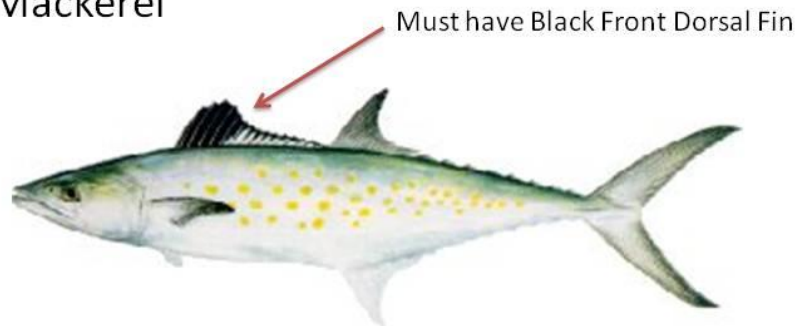
Tournament Rules

1. There are two divisions; Recreational and Professional/Masters. Any boat that has a person on board that is (past or present) a professional tournament fisherman or recreational for hire/commercial Captain, guide, crew member, or fisherman in the business of fishing or harvesting seafood must register and compete separately in the Professional/Masters division. **Note**, charter boats with recreational fishermen must also register in the Masters Professional division. **Any boat fishing in the Recreational division reported and found to have a person on board meeting criteria of the Masters Professional division will be disqualified for fraudulent entry and forfeit all entry fees and prize money.**
2. All times are in Central Standard Time (CST).
3. Participants must abide by State of Florida Recreational Fishing Rules.
4. No mutilation of any fish is allowed.
5. No fish may be transferred from one boat to another.
6. Fish weighed must be caught on the day of the tournament.
7. All boat registrations are \$175; you may fish as many people as you like.
8. Regardless of your departure time, fishing begins at 5:00 am CST.
9. Fish Weigh-in ends at 5:00 pm CST. At the sound of the horn, boats in line at Mexico Beach Marina and fishermen in line at the scales are allowed to weigh. If you are late, you do not weigh.
10. Participants may preregister online, at the Mexico Beach Marina in Mexico Beach, Half Hitch in Port St. Joe, or at Blue Water Outriggers in Port St. Joe.
11. Keep a copy of your registration form in your possession in case there is a question about your registration. We will use a registration roster at weigh-in to check for your registered boat name. Yellow or online copy is not required to weigh in, but you must be able to produce a copy if questioned.
12. Any and all disputes will be settled by the Tournament Committee. Any protest must be in writing and submitted to the Tournament Director. Protests must be submitted prior to presentation of awards that commence at the end of the weigh-in. Upon presentation of awards, protests will no longer be accepted.
13. Only one prize per boat.
14. All fish are subject to inspection.

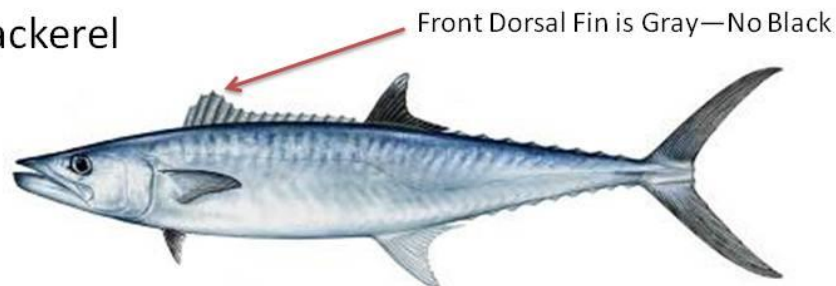
15. In case of a tie (two fish weigh the same), the first fish to the scale wins.
16. Winners of prizes over \$500 are required to fill out an information form for tax purposes.
17. All boats must depart from the waterways Mexico Beach, St Joe Bay, Indian Pass, or Saint Andrews Bay. No exceptions!
18. Spanish Mackerel must have a sufficient amount of the **black front dorsal fin** present for positive and unquestionable identification by the weigh-master. Fish with an insufficient amount the front dorsal fin present, making positive identification questionable, will be classified as mutilated and not weighed! No exceptions!

Know the Difference!

Spanish Mackerel



King Mackerel



19. Properly care for fish to be weighed. All fish to be weighed in the tournament must be well preserved as a fresh catch of the tournament day. It's highly recommended that fish be immediately chilled, handled, and stowed to prevent deterioration, damage, and mutilation prior to weigh-in. Fish showing signs of improper care will be suspected as fish caught prior to the tournament day and rejected by the weigh-master.
20. All winners will be subject to a lie detector test administered at the weigh-in site by the Gulf County Sheriff's Department. Any angler failing the test or refusing to take the test will be automatically disqualified as well as the boat used by that angler.

Commonly asked questions:

1. Can I leave early from dock? When you leave is up to you. You can leave very early on Saturday morning, but you may not start fishing until 5:00 am on Saturday. You are on your honor not to fish before 5:00 am.
2. Can I leave from another dock somewhere outside of Mexico Beach? Yes, you can leave from the waterways Mexico Beach, St Joe Bay, Indian Pass, or Saint Andrews Bay. No exceptions! That is up to you.
3. Do I have to weigh my fish at the Mexico Beach Marina? Yes.
4. Can I park my boat at another place and bring my fish to the scales by truck or car? Yes, as long as you make it to the scales before 5:00 pm CST.
5. Can I get assistance getting my fish to the scales? No, you are responsible for getting your fish to the scales to weigh. That is a part of the tournament itself. Getting back from off shore and getting the fish to the scales is the responsibility of the fishermen. Your boat and equipment are a part of the tournament process. The tournament staff cannot help you get in to weigh your fish.
6. My boat is too big to get under the bridge in the canal at Mexico Beach. What can I do? You have several options. Park a truck on the canal for use when you get to the canal, then take fish out of boat and put into truck and drive over to the Mexico Beach Marina. If your boat is too big to use the canal, park the boat wherever you left from and put your fish in your truck and bring the fish to the canal. Bringing the fish to the weigh station is the responsibility of the fishermen on each boat. You can drive a truck up to the scales or come in by boat. Be on time--scales close at 5:00 pm CST on Saturday.
7. If I am in line at the weigh-in and it gets to be 5:00 pm, can I still weigh my fish? Yes. The tournament director will blow a horn at 5:00 pm and any boat or truck visually sighted and registered by the director will be allowed to weigh if they are in line to weigh. You can be in the canal right behind Mexico Beach Marina or in the parking lot as well. You have to be able to be seen from the dock in the canal at the Mexico Beach Marina. That is not anywhere in the canal; it means in the canal close to Mexico Beach Marina so an official spotter on the Mexico Beach Marina dock can see you.

8. How do I secure my place at the weigh-in if there is a line at closing time? We will have official spotters to sight boats in the canal and trucks in parking lot. You must be sighted and noted by an official spotter. We have never made an exception to this rule and we will not. Some people have been angry that they were late and could not weigh. This is a rule. You must follow it. There will be no exceptions.

9. What time will the Mexico Beach Marina open for gas and bait? Mexico Beach Marina is scheduled to open at 5:00 am CST; however, their schedule is not controlled by MBARA. If you want to get an early start we highly recommend you make your purchases prior to the tournament date. Mexico Beach Marina is on Highway 98 on the Mexico Beach canal.

10. Will someone open early for breakfast? Yes, Sharon's will open up at 5:00 am for breakfast on Saturday morning.

11. Can I come down Saturday morning and register? NO. If you anticipate a problem pre-register online this summer or at one of the listed tackle shops in August.

12. Do I have to be a member of MBARA to fish in the tournament? No, but we encourage you to join, helping us to build more reefs. You can go to the website at www.mbara.org to print and mail in a membership form, or join online. You can also sign up to be a member at the Captains' Party. Membership is only \$40 a year. All current members are entered in a special prize drawing at the Captains' Party and you do NOT have to be present to win. MBARA is an all-volunteer organization and no one receives compensation for the work they do, maximizing the funds that go to reef building, education, and research.

13. Do I get a free T-shirt when I register? The free T-shirt is given out at the Captains' Party. Bring your receipt if you registered early. Pick up your T-shirt at the Captains' Party and registration on Friday night at the Beacon Hill Park. If you preregister, just bring your yellow copy of registration or your online registration receipt to the Captains' Party and pick up your T-shirt.

14. How can I get more T-shirts? T-shirts are sold in Mexico Beach at Mexico Beach Marina, Emerald Coast Jewelry, Beachwalk, and Gulf Foods. You can also order them online at www.mbara.org. Get 'em while they last!

15. Can I get a refund? NO. This is a charity event to raise money to help MBARA build more reefs, conduct research, and provide education to the public on the benefits of the reef building effort.
16. Where can I get an official tournament magazine? Tournament magazines will be available in May. They can be found in Mexico Beach at the Mexico Beach Marina, Gulf Foods, and Emerald Coast Jewelry, and in Port St. Joe at Blue Water Outriggers, Port St Joe Marina, and Half Hitch Tackle.
17. How do I get my picture taken with Miss Kingfish? You come to the weigh-in from 1:00 to 5:00 and we have three photographers taking pictures for next year's magazine. Bring your camera. Get lots of pictures with Miss Kingfish—you don't even have to have a fish. We take over 300 pictures and our tournament committee goes over the pictures and selects the best ones for next year's magazine. We take lots of photos to get good shots for next year's magazine. Photos are also posted at ww.mbara.org.
18. How does the payment count for who is fishing? Registration is \$175 per boat. You can fish as many people as you like on each boat.
19. What about the parties? On Friday night we have a great sausage cookout with beer at the Beacon Hill Park. The MBARA Cooking Team will grill up huge quantities of sausage made fresh for our event. *Sausage and beer are served from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm at the Beacon Hill Park.* There is registration, door prizes, and lots of talking and meeting old friends. The Captains' Meeting is at 7:00 pm. Rules are clarified and questions answered.
20. Is there a dance? There is a dance at TOUCANS on Saturday night.
21. Where is the weigh-in? The weigh-in is at Mexico Beach Marina on Highway 98. There is a big board with leaders posted. The weigh master is Sally Childs who has been doing this for 20 years and she is super. Also, we have a beautiful Miss Kingfish for some really great pictures.
22. How many prizes or places can I win? Only one cash prize per boat for the MBARA Tournament. This allows more winners.
23. I would like to donate a door prize. Please contact Bob Cox at rcox@mchsi.com to make your request no later than 30 days prior to the tournament for approval.

24. Can I register early? Yes. Starting 1 July 2017, you can preregister at Blue Water Outriggers or the Half Hitch Tackle in Port Saint Joe, or the Mexico Beach Marina in Mexico Beach. They are all open 7 days a week. You can also preregister online during the summer. Go to www.mbara.org and click on banner. The cost is \$175 per boat.

25. How much fun can I have? This is one of the best weekends of your life. It is so much fun you won't believe it. We even have people who register a boat just to join the party and support MBARA; they don't even fish in the tournament.

26. If I am late to the scales on Saturday afternoon, can I still weigh and enter my fish? No. Being on time is a part of the rules of the tournament. This is not hard to understand, yet every year we get one or two people who do not understand this and get very upset when they cannot weigh. Scales are unplugged and loaded in a truck and driven away at 5:00 pm after all in line weigh. This is a very important rule and there is never an exception. This is the one area that always causes one or two people to get angry, but, we make no exceptions. Be on time, or you will not be weighed.

27. How do you keep from having a tie? That may happen, but, we use professional scales certified for tournaments which are calibrated in to increments of 1/100th of a pound. We can weigh a fish to 100th of a pound, for example, 26.37 pounds. If a tie does occur, the fish are ranked in the order they are weighed. So a 40.33-pound kingfish weighed in at 2:00 pm will rank higher than a 40.33-pound kingfish weighed in at 2:30 pm.

28. What if I have a protest or complaint? Put it in writing and hand it to the Tournament Director who will immediately meet with the Tournament Committee for a resolution. The decision of the committee is final.

29. What if I have a suggestion? Any and all suggestions are welcome. We want this to be a friendly tournament. Contact Bob Cox, President of the MBARA with any suggestions or comments.

30. Do I get a T-shirt? Yes. You pick it up at registration on Friday night with your yellow copy of your registration or online registration receipt at the Beacon Hill Park. One per registration. Others are only \$17.00. Each one you buy helps support our organization's efforts to build more reefs.

31. What about door prizes? Door prizes are given out on Friday night at the Captains' Party at 7:00 pm CST. You must be there to win (except for the Membership prize). Last year over \$4,000 in door prizes were given out.
32. Can I help? We usually have a crew lined up, but some help may be needed.
33. Will there be any pretty ladies at the registration? Yes, there will be pretty ladies and lots of handsome men as well.
34. If I am late, can I still weigh a fish? NO. No exceptions. Take this one to the bank. But you can still get your photo taken as long as our photographer is still on site.
35. How do you monitor starting time of fishing? There is no way we can monitor the entire fishing area. All participants are on the honor system and we trust you to do the right thing. Winners will also be subject to lie detector tests.
36. Where can I read about the tournament? Several magazines and newspapers cover the event. The STAR is coming this year for pictures and a story. Look for it on the shelves.
37. If I win, will my picture be on the front of the next year's magazine which is all over the area? Yes.
38. Can I buy a shirt now? Starting 1 Mar 2017, you can buy them at Mexico Beach Marina, Emerald Coast Jewelry, Beachwalk down by Mango Marley's Restaurant, and Gulf Foods, all in Mexico Beach; also Bluewater Outriggers in Port St. Joe.
39. What are the T-shirt sizes? S, M, L, XL, XXL, and XXXL.
40. How much are they? \$17.00 if purchased at the Captains' Party. We keep them priced low and they are top quality.
41. What about the Seafood Cookbook? We have printed it again. They are available at local merchants and online at www.mbara.org.

42. How can I find the artificial reef sites? You can find a list of all our reefs on the MBARA web site, www.mbara.org. We also have new GPS site cards with the numbers of all known artificial reefs in our permit sites. They are waterproof and very high quality. In addition, you can order SD cards containing our waypoints for many GPS devices. Check our online store at www.mbara.org.

43. Where do I put my boat? This question has several answers. Mexico Beach has an excellent boat ramp where you can launch your boat and park your trailer. Also, you can call the City of Mexico Beach and reserve a slip or a space along the canal walkway where you can tie up (850 648 5700). Port St. Joe also has a boat ramp at Frank Pate Park, and you can call the Port St. Joe Marina and request one of their wet slips (850 227 9393).

44. If we lose our registration form, can we still weigh a fish? Yes. Unlike past years, you can weigh your fish without showing a copy of your registration. We will have a list of all registered boats and captains and you will sign it when you weigh your fish. However, you are still required to keep your yellow registration form or online receipt in case there is a question about your registration. Be prepared to produce your registration if requested.

45. Who do I contact if I have another question? Contact Bob Cox, President of the MBARA and he will get back to you ASAP (fundraising@mbara.org).

46. What if my boat blows an engine on Friday while I am catching bait and I have already pre-registered, can I change my registration to another boat? Yes, as long as you do it on Friday before close of registration, or any day before Friday. You CANNOT change boats on Saturday, the day of the tournament. Just contact the tournament director.

47. How can I help MBARA build more reefs? You can become a member of MBARA or donate; we are a tax-deductible organization. We use your donations as matching funds to get larger grants. We are building reefs all the time, and our latest project is 18 to 25 miles out. Remember us in November and December when you are giving to your charities for tax purposes. Also, consider sponsoring a reef which you will get to name, or building a memorial reef to honor your loved ones.