



30TH ANNUAL MBARA KINGFISH TOURNAMENT SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026

IMPORTANT INFORMATION, DATES, AND TIMES

SCHEDULE

All times are Central Daylight Time (CDT). This is a ONE-DAY tournament in Mexico Beach, FL.

Captains' Party

- Friday, July 24, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm at the Mexico Beach Boat Ramp

Fishing

- OPEN Division Saturday, July 25, 12:01 am-6:00 pm CDT
- RECREATIONAL Division Saturday, July 25, 5:00 am-6:00 pm CDT

Weigh-in

- Saturday, July 25, 3:00 pm-6:00 pm CDT at the Mexico Beach Boat Ramp

REGISTRATION

- Registration is \$250 per boat and closes July 22, 2026, at 11:59 PM CDT. Online registration can be found at <https://www.mbara.org/tournament-registration.cfm>.
- Late registration is \$300 per boat and is only available at the Captains' Party on July 24 from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm CDT.
- Senior Division is optional, \$25 per boat in addition to the RECREATIONAL or OPEN registration fee.
- Ladies Division is optional, \$25 per boat in addition to the RECREATIONAL or OPEN registration fee.
- Junior Division is optional, \$25 per boat in addition to the RECREATIONAL or OPEN registration fee.
- King Mackerel Target Weight Calcutta is optional, \$50 per boat in addition to the RECREATIONAL or OPEN registration fee. Register and pay at the Captains' Party.
- Red Snapper Target Weight Calcutta (if in season) is optional, \$50 per boat in addition to the RECREATIONAL or OPEN registration fee. Register and pay at the Captains' Party.
- Registration and late registration qualify you for a tournament t-shirt.
- Please print out a copy of your online registration for your records.

CAPTAINS' PARTY

Time: Friday, July 24, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm at the Mexico Beach Boat Ramp

- Food served 5:00 pm-6:00 pm CDT
- Door prizes begin after 6:00 pm CDT

Parking: We anticipate the Boat Ramp Parking Area to be congested with vehicles and boat trailers. Additional parking for vehicles will be available at the Mexico Beach Pier Parking Area.

Door Prizes: The Captains' Party is not mandatory, but you must be present to win door prizes. If you register online, your door prize ticket will automatically be deposited in the door prize raffle container. If you register late at the Captains' Party, claim your door prize ticket and drop it in the container provided to compete for door prizes.

KINGFISH TOURNAMENT PRIZES

RECREATIONAL Division

King Mackerel

- 1st Place - \$5,000 sponsored by Eastern Shipbuilding
- 2nd Place - \$2,000 sponsored by Marsayl Media
- 3rd Place - \$1,000 sponsored by Caribbean Coffee & Mexico Beach Sweets
- 4th Place - \$500 sponsored by Wallace Lamb
- 5th Place - \$250 sponsored by Harmon Realty

Spanish Mackerel

- 1st Place - \$2,000 sponsored by Point Broadband

Gray (Mangrove) Snapper

- 1st Place - \$500 sponsored by Kristi Purcell

OPEN Division

King Mackerel

- 1st Place - 6,000 sponsored by Grander Marine & Reefmaker
- 2nd Place - \$2,000 sponsored by Dermatology Specialists of Florida & MBARA
- 3rd Place - \$1,000 sponsored by 360 Blue

Pelagic Purse

- 1st Place - \$6,000 sponsored by Mexico Beach Marina & Holiday Builders

Senior Division (Optional Entry Fee)

King Mackerel

- 1st Place - \$1,000 sponsored by John Ingram

Ladies Division (Optional Entry Fee)

King Mackerel

- 1st Place - \$500 sponsored by Infinity Luxury Woven Floors & Custom Rod by Kevin and Angela Lanier

Junior Division (Optional Entry Fee)

King Mackerel

- 1st Place - \$500 sponsored by Todd Krause
- 2nd Place - \$300 sponsored by Todd Krause
- 3rd Place - \$200 sponsored by Todd Krause

WEIGH-IN

Parking: We anticipate the Boat Ramp Parking Area will be highly congested with tournament fishermen's vehicles, boat trailers, and spectators. Spectators will be redirected to use the Mexico Beach Pier Parking Area. Tournament anglers should be prepared for increased congestion/traffic delays and plan accordingly to weigh in on time.

Weighmaster: We use Official Tournament Approved Scales measuring in increments of 1/100th of a pound.

MBARA Kingfish Tournament Committee

Capt Mitch Coleman, Tournament Director

Donnie Walker, Weighmaster

Bonita Thompson

Blake Anderson

Kwyn Jenkins

30th ANNUAL MBARA KINGFISH TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT RULES

REGISTRATION

1. Entry fees are non-refundable. This is a charity fundraising event.
2. Payment of the entry fee constitutes a representation of each Captain that the Captain has read the Tournament Rules and Procedures, and that the Captain and crew will abide by such rules.
3. Boats must register for either the RECREATIONAL or OPEN Division.
4. Any boat fishing in the RECREATIONAL Division reported and found to have a person on board meeting the criteria of the OPEN division will be disqualified for fraudulent entry and forfeit all entry fees and prizes.

DIVISIONS

5. RECREATIONAL Division is composed of boats smaller than 26 feet in length (determined by your state registration form) AND does not meet the criteria of the OPEN Division.
6. OPEN Division is composed of boats 26 feet or larger (determined by the state registration form), OR any boat wishing to register in OPEN Division regardless of size, OR has a person on board that is or was (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, OR charter boats with recreational anglers on board.
7. There are three optional divisions – Senior, Ladies, and Junior. Both RECREATIONAL and OPEN boats may enter any or all of the Optional Divisions.
8. Senior Division is composed of anyone 65 years or older on the scheduled tournament date.
9. Ladies Division is composed of females 16 years or older on the scheduled tournament date.
10. Junior Division is composed of anyone under the age of 16 on the scheduled tournament date.

CALCUTTA (Optional Entry Fee)

11. King Mackerel Target Weight Calcutta
12. Red Snapper Target Weight Calcutta (if in season)
13. Both RECREATIONAL and OPEN boats may enter one or both of the Calcuttas. Register and pay at the Captains' Party.
14. Target Weight for each Calcutta will be announced at the Captains' Party.
15. Payout of 50% of the total pot to the winner (closest to target weight, over or under). Remaining 50% goes to MBARA to Build More Reefs.
16. All other rules follow the Kingfish Tournament Rules.

CAPTAINS' PARTY

17. The Captains' Party is not mandatory.
18. Captains are responsible for being informed of all Tournament Rules and Procedures.
19. The Tournament Committee may amend the Tournament Rules at any time prior to the start of the Captains' Party.

PRIZES

20. All prizes, except the Calcuttas, are as advertised and based on weight.
21. RECREATIONAL categories are King Mackerel, Spanish Mackerel, and Gray (Mangrove) Snapper, with optional Senior, Ladies, and Junior King Mackerel.
22. OPEN categories are King Mackerel and Pelagic Purse with optional Senior, Ladies, and Junior King Mackerel.
23. RECREATIONAL and OPEN boats may win more than one prize, but may only win once in each category.
24. Seniors can win three prizes with the same King Mackerel (Senior, Ladies, and OPEN/RECREATIONAL Divisions).
25. Ladies can win three prizes with the same King Mackerel (Ladies, Senior, and OPEN/RECREATIONAL Divisions).
26. Juniors can win two prizes with the same King Mackerel (Junior and OPEN/RECREATIONAL Divisions).
27. Winners of prizes \$600 or over are required to fill out an information form/W-9 for tax purposes.

BOATING SAFETY

28. The number of anglers per boat is unlimited up to the boat's maximum capacity.

DEPARTURE

29. Boats must depart from waterways of or between East Pass Panama City, Mexico Beach, St Joe Bay, and Indian Pass.
30. Boats may depart anytime, but no fishing until the designated start time.

FISHING

31. Fishing begins at 5:00 am CDT for the RECREATIONAL Division and at 12:01 am CDT for the OPEN Division.
32. Participants must abide by the State of Florida Fishing Rules.
33. IGFA rules apply; only the angler claiming the catch can touch the rod or fishing line at any time from hook-up to landing. Another angler can gaff fish, but cannot help with the rod.
34. No fish may be transferred from one boat to another.
35. Fish weighed must be caught during the day and at designated times of the tournament.
36. Spanish Mackerel must have a sufficient amount of the black front dorsal fin present for positive and unquestionable identification by the weighmaster.

WEIGH-IN

37. Weigh-in ends at 6:00 pm CDT. At the sound of the horn, all anglers must be in line at the scales with their fish to weigh in and be recognized by the Weighmaster/Staff. If you are late or don't have your fish in line, you are not allowed to weigh.
38. You may only weigh one fish in each category, except in the OPEN division for Pelagic Purse.
39. Pelagic Purse in the OPEN division includes King Mackerel, Mahi, Blackfin Tuna, and Wahoo. Weigh **UP TO** two (2) of four (4) fish. If a King Mackerel is weighed in the OPEN Division, the same fish must be part of the aggregate weight. The winner is determined by the largest aggregate weight.
40. All fish are subject to inspection.
41. All fish must be well preserved as a fresh catch on the tournament day. It is recommended that fish be immediately chilled and properly 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 tournament day and rejected by the Weighmaster.
42. In the event of a tie in fish weight, the winner is determined by the earliest time the fish is weighed.
43. Anglers must collect their weight tickets from the Weighmaster prior to departing the scales. Review your tickets to verify that your fish weights and Captain/Boat's name were recorded accurately. Once you depart the scales, you will not be allowed to weigh again or request corrections.

PROTESTS

44. Protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director in writing prior to the presentation of prizes. Only a Captain registered in the Tournament may file a protest. A \$200 cash deposit must accompany each protest. In the event the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded; however, if the protest is not upheld, the deposit will be forfeited. The final decisions of the Tournament Committee are binding regarding any protest. Disqualified boats will be ineligible for all tournament prizes.

POLYGRAPH

45. Winners may be subject to a lie detector test administered by the Bay 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

46. The tournament committee reserves the right to postpone/cancel the tournament due to inclement weather, small craft warnings, or advisories. Changes will be announced by noon on the Wednesday before the tournament date. The postponement date is the first Saturday in August.
47. Entrants/participants agree to allow tournament officials to use photos for media and promotional purposes.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Can I leave early from the dock? When you leave is up to you. You can leave very early on Saturday morning, but Recreational boats may not start fishing until 5:00 am CDT on Saturday. You are on your honor not to fish before 5:00 am CDT. Open Division starts fishing at 12:01 am CDT on Saturday.
2. Can I leave from another dock somewhere outside of Mexico Beach? Yes, you can leave from the waterways of East Pass Panama City, Mexico Beach, St Joe Bay, and Indian Pass.
3. Do I have to weigh my fish at Mexico Beach Boat Ramp? 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 6:00 pm CDT.
5. Can I get assistance getting my fish to the scales? No, you are responsible for getting your fish to the scales to weigh. The tournament staff cannot help you get in to weigh your fish. You must make decisions on which fish to weigh.
6. If I am in line at the weigh-in and it gets to be 6:00 pm, can I still weigh my fish? Yes. The tournament director will blow a horn at 6:00 pm CDT, and any fishermen in line at the scales with their fish and recognized by the Weighmaster/Staff will be allowed to weigh their fish.
7. 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.
8. I would like to donate a door prize. Please contact Captain Mitch Coleman at mcoleman54@yahoo.com.
9. How do you keep from having a tie? Ties are not possible. Fish are ranked in the order they are weighed. The first fish of equal weight takes precedence. So a 40.33-pound kingfish weighed in at 3:00 pm will rank higher than a 40.33-pound kingfish weighed in at 3:30 pm.
10. What if I have a protest or complaint? Protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director in writing prior to the presentation of prizes. Only a Captain registered in the Tournament may file a protest. A \$200 deposit must accompany each protest. In the event the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded. If the protest is not upheld, the deposit will be forfeited. The final decisions of the Tournament Committee are binding regarding any protest. Disqualified boats will be ineligible for all tournament prizes.
11. Where do I put my boat? 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.
12. If we lose our registration form, can we still weigh a fish? Yes. 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.
13. What if my boat blows an engine on Friday while I am catching bait, and I have already registered? Can I change my registration to another boat? Yes, as long as you do it on Friday before the close of registration or any day before Friday. Just contact the tournament director. You CAN NOT change boats on Saturday, the day of the tournament.
14. If I register in the Senior, Ladies, and/or Junior Divisions, can my boat win more than one prize? Yes, for example, dad caught the big king in the recreational division, but mom and kids are entered and also have kings to weigh from the same boat entry; those can be weighed in the division caught and will be eligible to win. Seniors, Ladies, and Juniors aboard boats in both the Open or Recreational divisions are eligible to register and compete in the Senior, Ladies, and Junior Divisions. Seniors must be 65 or older, Ladies must be 16 years or older, and Juniors must be under 16 as of the scheduled day of the tournament.

Know the Difference!

Spanish Mackerel

Must have Black Front Dorsal Fin



King Mackerel

Front Dorsal Fin is Gray—No Black

