**2022 Hamptons Offshore Invitational
“Rules for Engagement”**

***CONTACT INFORMATION:***

Tournament Chair: Captain Scott Horowitz- (631) 921-3944

Tournament Coordinator: Brian Stellabotte- (631) 960-2560

**Tournament Objective:**The Hamptons Offshore Invitational is intended to provide a competitive and enjoyable fishing tournament. It also seeks to provide a benefit to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island. We intend to be respectful of our community, our resources, and each other. Good sportsmanship is paramount.

* Transient Dockage: Boats from other areas are required to make their own dockage arrangements. There are many marinas that provide dockage and services in the local area.
* All categories are competing for the same prize. No separate winnings.

**The 3 Ports of Departure** allowed in this tournament are Shinnecock Inlet, Moriches Inlet and Lake Montauk Inlet. No vessel may depart the inlet earlier than 5:00am.  Departing vessels must do the following: On each fishing trip, all Captains are required to send an email prior to departure on or after 5:00am to HOI@bbbsli.org containing 2 Photos: PHOTO 1: must include GPS Coordinates, location of boat on chart plotter and time stamp. PHOTO 2: fully completed Boat Card (type of fishing day must be checked off) All Captains are required to save their check-in photos on their phone, in the event there is a protest during the tournament. Please note, that if you end any of your fishing trips early, they will still count as whatever was submitted.

***Fishing Days:*** *All boats entered into the HOI Tournament can use any combination of the choices below that* ***equal up to 4 days of fishing.***

1. **DOUBLE OVERNIGHTER -** Boat leaves the dock at 5 a.m. then goes into the next day and the day after until 7 p.m. Consisting of 62 hours offshore. (Counts as **3 days** of fishing)
2. **SINGLE OVERNIGHTERS -** Boat leaves the dock at 5 a.m. and returns the next day at 7 p.m. (Counts as **2 days** of fishing)
3. **DAY TRIPS -** Boat leaves at 5 a.m. and returns that day at 7 p.m. (Counts as **1 day** of fishing)

**Weigh In:** All boats from all 3 ports must weigh in at Oaklands Marina by 7pm on each day accept for the last day, Sunday, August 21st they will need to weigh in by 12 noon.

* **All vessels must return and be within 100 yards of Oakland’s fuel dock prior to 7 p.m. to be eligible to weigh in ON THEIR REQUIRED DAY (except Sunday 8/21/22 when check-in is no later than 12:00 noon) even if they have no fish to weigh-in.  Check–in with the “WeighMaster” via VHF Channel 68.  The Coast Guard will be notified of any boat that fails to report in.  The vessel, its owner and crew will be responsible for whatever expenses are incurred for a search.  Violations of this procedure can affect future participation in this event.**
* If a participating boat becomes disabled for any reason and must be towed, the towing boat must report its location and number/species of fish on board. Estimated time of arrival MUST BE GIVEN. In the event that both boats arrive after the official deadline, ONLY the towing boat can qualify, THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. There will be no transferring of fish.
* Boat must come back to dock under its own power to qualify
* The Committee boats will Monitor VHF 68.
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**Boundaries:** All boats shall be limited to an eastern and southern boundary determined by a latitude and longitude “fence”. The **eastern boundary** is the 69°W longitude line, which approximately runs down the eastern side of Hydrographer’s Canyon. The **southern boundary** is the 38°30’N latitude line, which approximately runs across the southern edge of Spencer Canyon. The tournament committee reserves the right to inspect the on-board GPS units on all participating vessels. GPS paths (aka. “bread crumb trails”) must be saved until the conclusion of the tournament

**SPECIES:** Tuna-Bigeye, Tuna-Yellowfin, Tuna-Bluefin, Albacore, Mahi

* The boat may weigh UP TO the two (2) biggest fish in each category on board.
* The weighmaster and tournament committee reserve the right to retain any fish that they deem questionable. If retention is refused, the fish is automatically disqualified. In addition, they may cut open any fish for inspection if weight altering is suspected.
* No boat shall leave an inlet and commence a fishing day if the NOAA Forecast contains the wording “SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY” or “WARNING.” No fish may be weighed in or entered in violation of this rule.
* Each vessel Captain and Crew is responsible for the seaworthiness of their crew and vessel. The final decision on the sea conditions and safety always remains with the captain and crew of each individual vessel. The SMTC, Tournament Committee, and BBBSLI assume no liability in the event of inclement weather, sea conditions, or any hazard or peril maritime in nature.  Captains are expected to do whatever is responsible and prudent to secure the safety of their crew, passengers and property.  Tournament Committee, and BBBSLI have no responsibility in this situation and all decision-making rests within each vessel.  NOAA Forecast should be monitored regularly, and NOAA advisories and warnings should be adhered to.
* In consideration of the acceptance of an entry, the captain and all those in the vessel’s crew hereby release and discharge and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the individual officers, directors and membership, the members of the Tournament Committee and other committees, the sponsors and BBBSLI and each of them, from any and all liability, claims, expenses (including attorney’ fees) of any nature whatsoever arising out of, or because of, or during the participation in this Tournament.
* The Captain and Crew hereby permit the release of information concerning the captain’s involvements and that of the crew and boat with the Tournament and the taking and publication of any photographs and moving pictures of the boat and the individuals thereon.
* The Captain and Crew agree to abide by all rules, regulations, laws and ordinances, and decisions of the Rules Committee, Judges and Tournament Committee.
* Refunds for boats that withdraw PRIOR TO the Captains Meeting will be allowed.
* There will be no prorated refunds or tournament refunds issued after the Captains Meeting.
* The committee requests that all vessels observe radio courtesy and in case of an emergency CLEAR THE CHANNEL.  The committee will monitor VHF 68.
* Each vessel is required by Federal Law to possess a Valid HMS Permit from NOAA.  (Acquired at <https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/>) Any vessel fishing under a commercial HMS permit will abide by the angling permit category for bag limits while fishing in this officially registered HMS tournament. Any vessel violating this rule will be disqualified.
* Each crew member by LAW MUST BE registered in the New York State Saltwater Registry Program from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).  (Info at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html>)
* All fish captured must comply with ALL Federal and State regulations.  Any mutilated, harpooned or shot fish will be disqualified.  The tournament committee will examine any mutilated fish and their decision as to eligibility to qualify is final.
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* Fishing Instruments

    (a) Rubber snubbers, handlines, and harpoons may not be used – harpoons are not allowed on any boats.  All fish must be caught on rod and reel.  All fish must be caught either “stand-up,” floating gimble, or in a fighting chair.  Fish caught out of a rod holder will be disqualified.

    (b) Vessels with large rod/reel set-ups designed for fighting chair use should be removed from vessels not equipped with such chair.

    (c) Use of a “Green Stick” in any capacity will NOT be allowed. Any vessel fishing in this tournament with an installed “Green Stick” shall remove hydraulic/bandit reel and tie off stick in a manner to clearly display non-use.

* NO fighting fish from swivel rod holders or fighting stations with pins inserted. Fish caught on heavy gear out of a rod holder will be disqualified.  The decision to disqualify a fish is the sole responsibility of the Tournament Committee.
* Spreader bars WILL BE ALLOWED in the 2022 Hamptons Offshore Invitational.
* Any winning teams may be subject to polygraph examination.
* Any Formal Protest must be submitted in writing, within 1 hour of the final weigh-in on the day of the subject fish.  Protest shall only be entered by the official tournament entity accompanied with a check paid to Hampton Offshore Invitational in the amount of $250.00.  Protestors shall be responsible for all polygraph fees.
* ANY decision of the Contest Committee is FINAL.
* A rod may be passed off to another angler immediately upon hook-up or while moving angler to a fighting chair.  A single angler must fight a fish single handedly from start to finish without assistance besides having the rod initially passed to him/her.
* Any manufacturer’s marked line test is accepted.  You do not have to use tournament line.  Maximum running line permissible is any manufacture labeled 130lb line but backing line may exceed 130lb test.
* There will be NO use of aircraft of any kind for the purpose of spotting or baiting fish. If drones are utilized for the purpose of filming, they must remain behind the bow of the vessel. Any vessel spotted with a drone flying past the bow is subject to disqualification.
* The official clock of the tournament will be kept on continuous GPS time.
* By signing the entry form, BBBSLI/tournament staff have permission to take and publish photographs and moving pictures of your boat and individuals on it. Use may include but not limited to press release, newsletters, and website.
* In the event of a tie, the First Fish weighed will be the leader/winner.
* Distribution of unfilled categories will be distributed in the calculation among all the filled categories within each division- day and overnight.
* ALL IGFA rules apply except the modifications listed in these rules.

**Replacement Boat Policy:**
In the event of a mechanical breakdown, a replacement boat may be substituted if:

* The tournament committee is satisfied that a replacement boat is warranted.
* The TOURNAMENT APPLICANT listed on the entry form of the disabled vessel must fish on the substitute vessel.
* The committee reserves the right to have the final determination of the substitution.