

**2020 NORTH CAROLINA SALTWATER FISHING TOURNAMENT
MANAGED BY NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES**

**The Tournament begins January 1, 2020 and ends Midnight, December 31, 2020.
TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD, ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 15, 2021.**

Fish shall be caught in accordance with North Carolina State and Federal laws and regulations as well as the NC Saltwater Fishing Tournament rules. Everyone is eligible except a charter boat captain or a crewman of a for-hire boat or anyone who offers fish for sale. Weighmasters or their employees are eligible for awards, provided a witness signs verification. Eligible waters include all North Carolina sounds, estuaries, surf, and the Atlantic Ocean. No registration fee is required.

Certificate Qualifications: All fish must be caught on hook and line and landed or brought to gaff or net by the angler. No electric or hydraulic equipment is allowed. Fish must be weighed by an authorized weighmaster (or his/her representative) at an official weigh station. Each fish must be recorded on an official application form, signed by the angler and by a weighmaster. Snagged, mutilated, scaled, speared, frozen, or shot fish are not eligible. The weighmaster reserves the right to cut, open, or mark the fish after it has been weighed.

Release Rules: Angler or mate must touch the fish or the leader. Application must be completed with exception of length and weight (false albacore, amberjack, atlantic bonito, barracuda, cobia, black drum, jack crevalle, king mackerel, shark, striped bass, gray trout, speckled trout and red drum must have the length recorded). A witness must sign the application.

**The Official 2020 North Carolina
Saltwater Fishing Tournament Minimum Weights & Release Lengths**

SPECIES	MINIMUM WEIGHT	SPECIES	MINIMUM WEIGHT
Albacore, False	Release Only E	Porgy (Silver Snapper)	4 lbs
Amberjack	50 lbs H	Sailfish	Release Only A
Atlantic Bonito	8 lbs B	Shark	150 lbs J
Barracuda	Release Only G	Sheepshead	8 lbs
Bass, Black Sea	4 lbs.	Spearfish	Release Only A
Bluefish	15 lbs E	Spot	1 lb
Cobia	40 lbs D	Striped Bass	35 lbs G
Croaker	3 lbs	Swordfish	50 lbs A
Dolphin	35 lbs	Tarpon	Release Only A
Drum, Black	35 lbs F	Tilefish, Gray	10 lbs
Drum, Red	Release Only F	Triggerfish	5 lbs
Grouper	20 lbs	Trout, Gray	5 lbs B
Jack, Crevalle	Release Only C	Trout, Speckled	5 lbs B
Mackerel, King	30 lbs G	Tuna, Bigeye	100 lbs
Mackerel, Spanish	6 lbs	Tuna, Blackfin	20 lbs
Marlin, Blue	400 lbs A	Tuna, Bluefin	200 lbs I
Marlin, White	Release Only A	Tuna, Yellowfin	70 lbs.
Mullet, Sea	1 1/2 lbs	Wahoo	40 lbs.
Pompano, Florida	2 lbs		

- A = Award for live release of fish, regardless of size
- B = Award for live release of fish, 24 inches or longer
- C = Award for live release of fish, 32 inches or longer
- D = Award for live release of fish, 36 inches or longer
- E = Award for live release of fish, 34 inches or longer
- F = Award for live release of fish, 40 inches or longer
- G = Award for live release of fish, 45 inches or longer
- H = Award for live release of fish, 50 inches or longer
- I = Award for live release of fish, 70 inches or longer
- J = Award for live release of fish, 80 inches or longer