

17th Annual Lower Susquehanna Rockfish Tournament Rules

June 3, 2023

Pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations, 08.02.15.12D, the 17th Annual Lower Susquehanna Rockfish Tournament is authorized by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to be held on June 3, 2023.

There are two different tournament divisions in 2023. They are as follows:

1) CASH PRIZE TOURNAMENT

For Anglers of all ages wishing to participate in the Regular Cash Prize Tournament, there is a non-refundable \$55.00 entry fee per angler. This is an "open" tournament, and the public is invited. The deadline for registration is 11:59 PM on June 2, 2023 through the Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce website. In-person registration and t-shirt pick up will take place at the Captain's Meeting on June 2, 2023.

2) YOUTH DIVISION – PRIZE TOURNAMENT

This division is for any angler under the age of 16 accompanied by an adult who wishes to participate in the tournament at no cost. Only the length of the fish will be taken into account. All fish caught may be submitted but only the longest fish per person will be counted. All species may be caught. Youth may keep fish based on Maryland State and Federal fishing laws. People 12 years of age and younger must wear a PFD if fishing from a boat and it is suggested that they wear a PFD if fishing from land. Prizes will be awarded for the top 3 fish.

CAPTAINS' MEETING

The Captains' Meeting will be on June 2, 2023 from 6 PM until 8 PM at Lee's Landing Dock Bar in Port Deposit. Happy Hour specials available.

BOATER SAFETY

VHF Marine Channel 68 will be the working channel for the tournament. Tournament boats operated in an unsafe or un-sportsman like manner shall be deemed ineligible to receive prizes. Boats must be equipped with all U.S. Coast Guard required safety equipment. The tournament will take place rain or shine.

Anglers enter tournament at their own risk. The boat's captain must accept full responsibility for boat and crew. In the event of a Small Craft Advisory the boats captain must determine whether to launch or not. However, if there is an Act of God or Natural Disaster in the area or if more than 5 floodgates are open on the Conowingo Dam, the event will be postponed until conditions are considered safe and the committee reschedules the date.

BOAT FISHING RULES

Boats may be launched anywhere although fishing may only occur within the boundaries of the tournament. All anglers are responsible for following all Maryland State and Federal fishing laws. Fishing may begin at 5:30 a.m. and will conclude at 4:00p.m. All fish must be taken on a conventional rod and reel. Changing boats or passing objects between boats is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification. Irregularities may be reported by committee members or by others in the tournament. Verified and documented emergencies are exempt.

LAND BASED FISHING RULES

There is no land based fishing allowed.

WEIGH IN

All anglers must be at Marina Park, Port Deposit weigh-in station between 10 AM and 4 PM on the day of the tournament to weigh in. There will be no exceptions to this rule. The tournament director at the weigh-in station will keep official time. Anglers are strongly urged not to wait until the last minute to submit their catch for weigh-in. All fish submitted for weigh-in must be fresh and caught on tournament day. The Weigh Master will make decisions on accepting fish for weigh-in. His decision is final. Fish may be electronically scanned for freshness and evidence of tampering. Any attempt to enter fraudulent catch, tamper with catch, or to hamper or threaten any official of the tournament will result in immediate disqualification. The weigh-in stations will open at noon on the day of the tournament. Only authorized persons will be allowed in the station. Fish

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will be weighed in the order in which they are checked in; The largest fish will be determined by weight only.

In the event of a tie, the first fish weighed will be considered the winner, and the other will be dropped to the next position. Winning fisherman may be required to take a polygraph test at the judges' request, and entry constitutes agreement that the examination results are binding. All fish to be weighed in must be brought to the weigh-in station by boat and in the boat in which they were caught. Or in the case of land-based fishing to the weigh station at Marina Park, Port Deposit.

Consistent with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources authorization, all Rockfish (striped bass) will be measured in total length to the nearest ¼ inch and weighed to the nearest ¼ pound. Culling of striped bass is prohibited by DNR regulations. Culling, as defined in regulation, means "after a person has a striped bass in possession, the person discards or exchanges that striped bass to possess another striped bass".

PROTEST

Any protest must be given, in writing, to the tournament committee within 15 minutes of the closing of the weigh-in. The decision of the tournament weigh-in judges is final on all matters.

PRIZES

Winners are responsible for their own taxes. Prizes will be awarded at Marina Park weigh-in station following weigh-in provided there are no written protests received. In the event a written protest is received, prize money will be issued by check within 14 days of the tournament. Each angler may only receive one prize with the exception of special prizes such as raffles and drawings. Door prizes will be awarded only to participants and only to those present at weigh-in.

BOUNDARIES

Fishing boundaries are the tidal waters within the lower Susquehanna River and the Upper Chesapeake Bay in the state of Maryland. **The North boundary** line is 400 yards south of the **Conowingo Dam**; No one can be on a boat within 400 yards of the Conowingo Dam. There are shoreline signs and buoys below the dam. **The Southern boundary** is a line from **Turkey Point**, (defined by Lat. 39°26.97N and Long. 76°00.56W) to **Sandy Point**, (defined by Lat. 39°26.87N and Long. 76°03.65W) Committee boats will patrol the area. Land based fishing is permitted in Marina Park, Port Deposit.

RISKS and WAIVERS

Tournament participants accept the risks and dangers involved in such activity, and they acknowledge that unanticipated or unexpected dangers may occur. Participants agree to indemnify and hold harmless: Port Deposit Chamber of Commerce, its officers, directors, members, committee members, its assigns, sponsors, lessees, agents, and employees from any and all liability for any: claim, loss, injury, damage, demands, actions, chooses in action, costs, accidents, libel, slander, negligence and/or death suffered by any member, family, crew boat and/or other persons which may occur during their participation in the Tournament.

This tournament is authorized by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and is subject to the most current CDC and MDH guidance regarding Covid 19 prevention.