

Information and Rules

24th Annual MBARA Kingfish Tournament

Saturday, August 29, 2020

Updated 3 January 2020, 0700 Central



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Tournament Information

We are getting ready for our 24th Annual Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association Kingfish Tournament. Expect another great tournament. We have 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 28, 2020, 5:00 pm--9:00 pm, Beacon Hill Park

Fishing: Saturday, Aug 29, 2020, 5:00 am--5:00 pm

Weigh-In: Saturday, Aug 29, 2020, 1:00 pm--5:00 pm, **Beacon Hill Park**

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 prizes.

Prizes for the Recreational Division:

King Mackerel:

1st Place prize **TBD**

2nd Place prize **TBD**

3rd Place Prize **TBD**

Wahoo Prize **TBD**

Spanish: Prize \$500

Prize for the Professional/Masters Division:

King Mackerel: 1st Place prize **TBD**

Registration

Registration is \$200 per boat, as many people on your boat as you would like. **Help us plan the event better by reregistering early online for \$175 and SAVE \$25.** Because this is primarily charity fundraising event, no refunds.

You may register at the Captains' Party on Friday, Aug 28, 2020, 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.

Captain's Party:

Friday, Aug 28th, 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. Door prize drawing begins at 7:00 pm CST.

If you preregistered online, your door prize ticket will automatically be placed in the door prize raffle container. All you need to do is be present to win when your ticket is pulled and called.

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 29, 2020

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

Location: **Beacon Hill/Veterans Memorial Park**

New! You must be in line to weigh-in and recognized by the Weigh-Master/Staff by 5:00 pm CST. You must collect your weight results ticket.

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 23 Kingfish Tournaments. 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.

Bad Weather

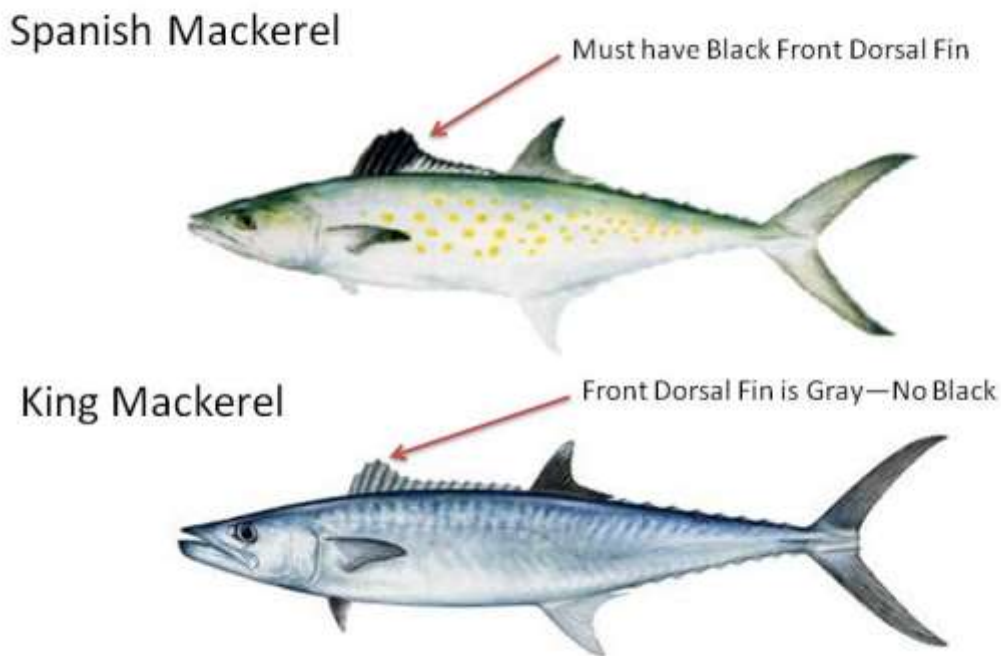
In case of bad weather, monitor the MBARA website at www.mbara.org. We will announce any change of date by noon on the Wednesday before the tournament date. That way everybody will know where to get information about tournament changes if there is a change due to bad weather and/or bad sea conditions.

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 prizes.**
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 **\$200 (\$175 if you register early online)**; 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, all fishermen in line and recognized by the Weigh-Master/Staff at the scales are allowed to weigh. If you are late, you do not weigh.
10. Participants may preregister online at www.mbara.org and save **\$25**.
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 with a \$200 deposit. 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. Protests judged as valid resulting in a disqualification of a boat by the Tournament Committee will receive refund of the deposit. Protests judged as invalid by the Tournament Committee will forfeit refund of the deposit. Disqualified boats will be ineligible for all tournament prizes.
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!



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.

21. The traditional 3rd place Recreational Kingfish prize has been replaced by a Recreational SLOT King Mackerel Prize sponsored by **TBD**. The SLOT weight will be a target weight ranging from 9-19 pounds. The target weight will be random and announced at the Capt's Party.
22. All entrants/participants agree to allow tournament officials to use photos for media and promotional purposes.
23. All entrants/participants must collect their weight tickets from the Weigh Master prior to departing the scales. You must review your tickets to ensure your fish weights, boat/Captain's name was recorded accurately prior to depart the scales to ensure tournament scoring credits are correct. Once you depart the scales after weighing your fish, you will not be allowed to weigh again or request corrections.

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 Beacon Hill/Veterans Memorial Park? 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 **Beacon Hill/Veterans Memorial Park**. 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 fisherman inline at the scales and recognized by the Weigh-Master/Staff will be allowed to weigh their fish. No exceptions!

8. How do I secure my place at the weigh-in if there is a line at closing time? Be in line at the scales and recognized by the Weigh-Master/Staff by 5:00 PM CST. 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. Can I come down Saturday morning and register? NO. If you anticipate a problem pre-register online this summer.
11. 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. 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.
12. 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.
13. How can I get more T-shirts? T-shirts are sold in Mexico Beach at Mexico Beach Marina, Emerald Coast Jewelry, Piggly Wiggly and Bluewater Outriggers. You can also order them online at www.mbara.org. Get 'em while they last!
14. 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.
15. 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 and in Port St. Joe at Blue Water Outriggers.
16. How does the payment count for who is fishing? Registration is **\$200 (\$175 preregistration online)** per boat. You can fish as many people as you like on each boat.

17. 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 will be clarified and questions answered.

18. Where is the weigh-in? The weigh-in is at **Beacon Hill/Veterans Memorial Park on the north side of Highway 98 in Beacon Hill/St Joe Beach.** There is a big board with leaders posted. The weigh master is Sally Childs who has been doing this for 23 years and she is super.

19. How many prizes or places can I win? Only one prize per boat for the MBARA Tournament. This allows more winners.

20. 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.

21. Can I register early? Yes. Starting **3 January 2019**, you can preregister online. Go to www.mbara.org and click on banner. **The cost is \$175 per boat if you preregister early online saving \$25 on the \$200 fee at the Capt's Party.**

22. 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.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. What if I have a protest or complaint? Put it in writing and hand it to the Tournament Director **with a \$200 deposit**. He will immediately meet with the Tournament Committee for a resolution. The decision of the committee is final. **See Rule 12 above for more important details regarding refund/forfeiture of deposits.**
26. 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.
27. 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. **Additional T-shirts will be available at the current retail cost of \$20 each.** Each one you buy helps support our organization's efforts to build more reefs.
28. 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.
29. Can I help? We usually have a crew lined up, but some help may be needed; especially with teardown and cleanup.
30. 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.
31. 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.
32. 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.
33. If I win, will my picture be on the front of the next year's magazine? No. It will go on our annual winners pages inside the magazine each year as a tournament legacy.
34. Can I buy a shirt now? You can buy them at Mexico Beach Marina in Mexico Beach and Emerald Coast Jewelry and Bluewater Outriggers in Port St. Joe.
35. What are the T-shirt sizes? S, M, L, XL, XXL, and XXXL.
36. How much are they? **\$20.00** if purchased at the Captains' Party. We keep them priced low and they are top quality.

37. What about the Seafood Cookbook? We have printed it again. They are available at local merchants and online at www.mbara.org.
38. 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.
39. 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.
40. 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.
41. Who do contact if I have another question? Contact Bob Cox, President of the MBARA and he will get back to you ASAP (fundraising@mbara.org).
42. 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.
43. 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 3 to 18 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.