



# 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid Atlantic Flounder Tournament

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## 7<sup>th</sup> Mid Atlantic Flounder RULES AND REGULATIONS

- ENTRY FEE:** \$150 per boat before September and \$200 in September. Applications paid with a dishonored check or credit card shall automatically void the registration.
- MSSA MEMBERSHIP:** Tournament anglers do not have to be current members of the MSSA. By registering as a participant in a MSSA tournament, the individual agrees to abide by the Rules & Regulations of the tournament and agrees to them without exception. The Tournament Committee in its sole discretion may refuse entry of any registrant.
- ELIGIBLE FISH SPECIES & FISHING METHODS:** Summer Flounder, also known as "fluke." All fish must be caught by hook & line as dictated by the Maryland DNR. ALL ANGLERS & BOATS COMPETING IN THE TOURNAMENT MUST FOLLOW THE ANGLING POSSESSION LIMITS DETERMINED BY Maryland DNR (17 inch minimum & 4/person/day).
- FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing is permitted in the coastal waters and the Atlantic Ocean
- FISHING HOURS:** Lines in the water 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Any boat with lines in the water before 7:00 AM or after 3:30 PM will be disqualified.
- MEASURE:** Summer Flounder (fluke) will be measured by WEIGHT. Ties in weight will be determined by earliest time of weigh-in. You may weigh three flounder and one misc. fish per boat/per day
- WEIGH-IN:** MUST BRING FISH BY BOAT, BY WATER. All fish weighed-in will be issued an official weigh ticket bearing the catch weight. Anglers must object to the catch weight BEFORE the weigh ticket is issued. Upon receipt of the weigh ticket, the catch weight shall be deemed accurate, final & agreed upon by the captain. All fish are subject to examination, internally & externally, as the Weigh Master deems necessary. Weigh Masters are authorized to require proof of tournament registration and/or photo identification at the time of weigh-in. All decisions by the Weigh Master are final.
- WEIGH STATION:** Atlantic Tackle (old Ake Marine), 12930 Sunset Avenue, Ocean City, MD 21842; Hook'em & Cook'em, Indian River Inlet, DE; Curtis-Merritt Harbor, Chincoteague, VA
- WEIGH STATION HOURS:** Weigh-in 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM. NO fish will be weighed-in after 5:30 PM unless the angler is in line and/or has been recognized by the Weigh Master. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- WEATHER & RISK OF LOSS:** There is NO Weather Committee. Anglers enter & participate in this tournament at their own risk. All anglers, whether fishing by beach or by boat, must make their own judgment based on any & all relevant factors whether to fish under the prevailing weather conditions.
- RULE CHANGES:** Tournament rule changes may be made by the Tournament Committee at any time up to the Captains'/Anglers' Meeting. It is the responsibility of all participants to know & abide by all of the rules & regulations.
- REFUNDS:** In the event the tournament is canceled due to an Act of God or natural disaster, 50% of all entry fees & TWT fees will be refunded. In the event that you are unable to participate, a WRITTEN request stating the reasons therefore must be received at the MSSA Office no later than 5:00 PM on September 12.
- Main Tournament Prizes** (determined by single heaviest fish): 1<sup>st</sup> Place \$1,000; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place \$500; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place \$250
- Tournaments Within Tournament (TWT's):** TWT entry is OPTIONAL. Anglers must be registered in the tournament to be eligible to register for TWT's. TWT payout is based on 70% of monies received. TWT's, like the main tournament are based on weight. All ties determined by time weighed-in.
- FREE YOUTH DIVISION:** Determined by heaviest flounder. Age limit, 16 years and under. 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> place – Prizes TBD
- CAPTAIN NUMBER:** Each Captain MUST have in their possession the captain number issued by the MSSA. This captain number should be included in your Captain's Package and must be presented to the Weigh-Master before weighing fish.
- FISHING PORTS:** You may fish from any port, but you must weigh-in at official weigh stations. Atlantic Tackle - Ocean City, MD; Curtis-Merritt Marina-Chincoteague, VA; Indian River Int, DE
- DISQUALIFICATION:** The Tournament Committee reserves the sole and absolute discretion to disqualify any angler, crew, captain, registrant or vessel at any time. Persons may be disqualified from the tournament because of a rule violation, regardless of the severity of the violation. All participants agree to abide by tournament rules and decisions of the Tournament Committee. Decisions as to the disqualification or eligibility of any vessel, crew, or fish weighed in shall be made solely by the Tournament Committee and its decisions shall be final and incontestable. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to disqualify any boat at any time for misrepresentation made on any application or registration form by any member of the boat, any suspicious activity or unsportsmanlike conduct. Any boat disqualified shall be for the entire tournament, and shall result in the forfeiture of all tournament fees and prize money even if the disqualification was made after the prize money was awarded.
- POLYGRAPH:** In consideration for the MSSA's acceptance of an entry form for a Tournament, each registered Captain and angler specifically agrees and consents to voluntarily submit to a polygraph examination or examinations. The MSSA reserves the right to polygraph tournament winners as well as random tournament participants in any tournament. Each registered Captain or angler agrees to obtain the agreement and consent of each and every occupant of the boat from which he or she fishes during the tournament (including but not limited to the captain and crew) to submit to a polygraph examination or examinations as described above. The method and conduct of all polygraph examinations, and the interpretation of the results thereof, shall be in the sole judgment of the polygraph examiner appointed by the MSSA, whose opinion shall be final. If any registered captain, angler or occupant of a vessel refuses to submit to a polygraph examination, or if any registered Captain, occupant, or angler gives a response which, in the sole opinion of the polygraph examiner, is untruthful, then all registered persons on the boat shall be immediately disqualified without further notice from the MSSA. Any registered Vessel, Captain or angler so disqualified shall not be entitled to any prize, award, or entry fee refund.
- FISH ONBOARD:** No uncleaned tournament fish can be on the boat before the start of the day, unless marked by Weigh-Master. Transient boats must keep with them at all times, captain number, marina receipt, and any other documentation explaining their situation to avoid law enforcement violations. The MSSA shall not be responsible for any citations or other law enforcement violations during tournament hours.
- SEPARATION OF VESSELS:** At no time during tournament fishing hours is a vessel permitted to approach another boat or structure unless authorized by an MSSA Weigh-Master or in emergency situations. Participants may not return with fish for weigh-in after landing or leaving their vessels without Weigh Master approval. Refusal or error may result in disqualification.
- DISABLED VESSEL:** At no time during Tournament Fishing Hours is a vessel permitted to approach another boat or structure unless permitted by MSSA Weigh Master or in emergency situations. In the event a vessel becomes disabled during the Tournament, the Captain must notify a Tournament Weigh-Master as soon as possible that their vessel is disabled. Boats being towed into port must notify a MSSA Tournament Director (443-613-5109) that their vessel is under tow to remain registered. Only registered tournament participants may be on board a disabled vessel under tow. Upon returning to port, the Captain must first check-in with the Weigh-Master to affirm to the Weigh-Master that their vessel was towed to port and that no one boarded their vessel during the tow. Captain must notify the MSSA Tournament Director prior to transferring to another vessel
- 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: the MSSA, 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, choses 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 term of membership or participation in a Tournament or MSSA Sponsored activity. The member further releases the MSSA, its officers, directors, committee members and sponsors from any liability for libel, slander, loss, damage, negligence, injury and / or death suffered by any member, family, crew, boat and/or other person which may occur during any term of membership.
- FUTURE PROMOTION:** MSSA members consent to the MSSA's use without payment or restrictions of any photographs taken during an MSSA event, the angler's name, boat name, crews names, or vessel for any purpose whatsoever. All photographs submitted to the MSSA shall be the sole property of the MSSA after submission and maybe used without compensation
- SPORTSMANSHIP:** The MSSA may disqualify any Vessel, Captain, crew, participant, angler or member who is involved in unsportsmanlike conduct; a knowing violation of the Rules, or for any reason that the MSSA believes the acts warrant disqualification. Members are also subject to termination of their membership for similar violations. At no time shall any boat captain or crew make verbal or written contracts that in anyway involve the splitting of prize money with another boat or registered captain