

# ORANGE BEACH



LURES ONLY  BILLFISH RELEASE

The Wharf ~ June 25th – 27th, 2020 v6-23

The Orange Beach Open tournament is designed for fun fishing with family and friends in a less stressful environment while enjoying the best the Gulf has to offer.

**Note: The tournament is restricted to trolling with dead-bait and artificial lures.**

Species: Tuna, Wahoo & Dolphin gamefish and video-recorded catch & release Billfish.

Optional Jackpots available for gamefish and catch & release Billfish.

Fishing begins early on Thursday and ends Saturday evening with weigh-in at The Wharf Marina.

Boats may depart from any location in the Gulf of Mexico.

**ENTRY FEE: \$3,000** per boat (50% contributed to tournament cash awards, 50% to Catch & Release cash awards). (50/30/20 split)

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*Potential cash award payouts (based upon 40 teams entered):*

Tournament Cash Awards:

1<sup>st</sup> \$24,000

2<sup>nd</sup> \$14,400

3<sup>rd</sup> \$9,600

Tournament Catch & Release Cash Awards:

1<sup>st</sup> \$24,000

2<sup>nd</sup> \$14,400

3<sup>rd</sup> \$9,600

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## **TOURNAMENT RULES:**

- Two fish per species per boat may be weighed.
- No Live Bait allowed. Only dead bait and artificial lures.
- Withdrawal / Refund Policy – Entry fees will be refunded up to the Rules Recap meeting.
- Boats may depart from any location in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Weigh-in by water at The Wharf Marina.

## **TOURNAMENT SCORING:**

### **Tournament Cash Awards:**

Winners are determined by the sum of their cumulative points scored across all three Game Fish Species plus eligible catch & release points and Wharf Slam Bonus Points.

### **Wharf Slam Bonus:**

Teams which weigh an eligible gamefish of each specie (Tuna, Dolphin & Wahoo) and a single eligible video verified Billfish Catch & Release, will be awarded **250 bonus points** in addition to their cumulative gamefish score and their single highest value catch and release score.

- **Gamefish minimum weight:** 15 pounds. Yellowfin/Bigeye Tuna 27 inches Curved Fork Length (Federal Minimum).

### **Multipliers:**

- **Dolphin** will receive a weight multiplier of 2.0 Points per Pound (a 20 pound Dolphin would score 40 points, for example).
- **Wahoo** will receive a weight multiplier of 1.5 Points per Pound (a 30 pound Wahoo would score 45 points, for example).
- **Blackfin and Yellowfin/Bigeye Tuna** will be scored 1.0 Points per Pound (a 17 pound Blackfin Tuna would be scored 17 points, a 80 pound Yellowfin Tuna would be scored 80 points, for example). **Tuna is one category**. Each team's heaviest tuna will be scored regardless of species.
- Teams may weigh two fish of each species; however, only their heaviest entrant will be scored.

## **CATCH AND RELEASE SCORING:**

### **Point values awarded per species:**

- Blue Marlin: 175 points
- White Marlin/Sailfish/unidentified: 87 points

**\*\*\* Catch and Release ties will be broken by the team which reaches the highest total points first.\*\*\***

### ***Scoring Example 1:***

Species caught: **Tuna, Dolphin & Wahoo** + **Highest C&R Point Value** + **Bonus Points** = Total Points Scored

<b>Species</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Points</b>
Tuna	70 lbs.	70
Dolphin	35 lbs. x 2.0 weight multiplier	70
Wahoo	40 lbs. x 1.5 weight multiplier	60
Blue Marlin Release	(single highest C&R point value scored)	175
	Points Scored:	375
	Bonus Points:	250
	<b>Total Score:</b>	<b>625</b>

### ***Scoring Example 2:***

Species caught: **Tuna, Dolphin & Wahoo** + **Highest C&R Point Value** + **Bonus Points** = Total Points Scored

<b>Species</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Points</b>
Tuna	130 lbs.	130
Dolphin	40 lbs. x 2.0 weight multiplier	80
Wahoo	50 lbs. x 1.5 weight multiplier	75
White Marlin Release	-----	87
	Points Scored:	372
	Bonus Points:	250
	<b>Total Score:</b>	<b>622</b>

## **Catch and Release Rules:**

Only Billfish caught and released according to the following rules are eligible for the Grand Slam and Optional Jackpot cash awards. Billfish are considered caught when the leader connection or swivel touches the tip of the rod or the mate touches the leader. Billfish removed from the water or boated will be disqualified.

### **Video must include:**

- Angler fighting fish including video of rod and reel.
- Tournament designator – Tournament Designator will be sent to the Team Contact prior to departure.
- Video of swivel at rod tip or mate touching the leader.
- Video of Billfish for species identification.
- Video of release of Billfish.
- Clear video of GPS date & time of release. Hold camera steady for several seconds to allow clear focus of GPS Date & Time. GPS must display in CDT.

### **Eligible Billfish:**

- Blue Marlin
- White Marlin
- Sailfish

## **OPTIONAL JACKPOTS:**

*These Optional Jackpots are not part of the General Tournament entry. Boats which enter these optional jackpots will be eligible to win in these categories. Minimum of 3 entries required per jackpot. Jackpots pay 1<sup>st</sup> place only. There is no second or third place payout.*

### **GAMEFISH OPTIONAL JACKPOTS:** (Tuna, Dolphin, Wahoo)

- \$500, \$1,000 & \$2,500 per specie. Pays first place only.

### **BILLFISH CATCH & RELEASE OPTIONAL JACKPOTS:**

- \$500, \$1,000 & \$2,500. Pays first place only.

## **SCHEDULE:**

### **Thursday, June 25<sup>th</sup>:**

Kickoff and Optional Registration at The Wharf Marina Outfitters Store 9 am – 11 am.

Rules Recap meeting **9 am**. Facebook Live on the Orange Beach Open Facebook page.

Boats may depart from any Pass in the Gulf of Mexico.

Lines in: 1PM (Central)

## **Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>:**

Boats with fish to weigh-in are required to be clearly within sight of the weigh-in dock by 7:00 pm Saturday evening and recognized by Tournament Officials on VHF channel 72.

Weigh Scales are open from 5 pm to 8 pm on Saturday evening only (no Friday weigh-in) or until last eligible fish is weighed as long as tournament boat is in line.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP:**

Participants agree to compete in the spirit of IGFA rules with one exception: Rod may be transferred (handed off) one time within the first minute of the fight.

## **POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION:**

Orange Beach Open winning captains will be polygraphed. Failure to comply will result in disqualification of the participant and, at the discretion of Tournament Officials, the participant's entire team. Disqualified participants and/or teams forfeit any and all entry money or prize money and will be refused entry to future OBO tournaments.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Credit Cards are subject to a 3.5% convenience fee. Tournament (cash and jackpot) payouts 80%. All fish must be caught on rod and reel by registered boats during tournament hours and weighed in before scales close on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. Fish Handling: All fish that appear to have been altered, spoiled, mutilated or frozen will be disqualified from the tournament. Any team submitting a fish that is proven to have been weight-altered or frozen will be immediately disqualified. It is the Team's responsibility to comply with all applicable State and Federal laws regarding fishing licenses, permits, size limits, bag limits or any other regulations which may apply. In the event of a tie in weight, the first fish weighed wins. In the event of a tie in total points, the tie will be broken by the team which reached the total tied point's level first (i.e., the team weighing their last fish first wins). All rulings and final judgment are based on the discretion of weigh-master and tournament officials. There are no disputes or protests of judge's rulings.

## **WEATHER CANCELLATION POLICY:**

An assessment of sea conditions will be made prior to the tournament. If conditions are forecasted to be 3' – 5' seas or greater, the tournament may be rescheduled. If cancellation is deemed necessary, 100% of deposit, entry fees and optional jackpot entries will be refunded within one week.

**RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS:**

Participants in the Orange Beach Open hereby release, forever discharge, and agree to hold harmless the Tournament Committee, Sponsors, Wheels Up Special Events, LLC, The Wharf Marina, Wharf Entertainment Properties, LLC, Coastal Marina Management, LLC and their respective officers, directors, employees, agents, volunteers, partners, members, the and/or attorneys for any and all losses, claims, or demands of any kind or character whatsoever arising from the negligence or gross negligence of the Releases or from any other cause connected with or occurring during the Tournament. The Participants expressly acknowledge that he/she has received, reviewed, and agrees to abide by the Tournament Rules and this Release. Furthermore, the Participants expressly acknowledge that activities relating to deep sea fishing are extremely dangerous and involve the risk of serious injury or death. Having so acknowledged, the Participants hereby assume full responsibility for the risk of bodily injury or death due to the negligence or gross negligence of the Releases or any other cause connected with or occurring during the Tournament.