

# 2021 King of the Inlet Official Tournament Rules

**DATE: June 2021-Kingfish Tournament (Entry Fee \$500 per boat)**

Registration Begins- Thursday Night @ 6:00 p.m. /Captain's Meeting to follow

Fishing- Saturday (Leave and Return via Ponce Inlet ) No Check Out- You can leave Ponce Inlet any time after 12:01 a.m. at your leisure.

Weigh-In starts from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. – **There is No Committee Boat, you must be in front of the KOTI Committee on the Pier at Off the Hook, Ponce Inlet**

Awards Banquet- Sunday 5:00 P.M.

**HEADQUARTERS & WEIGH STATION:** Inlet Harbor Marina & Off the Hook Restaurant in Ponce Inlet, Florida

**Final Registration & Captain's Meeting:** The final registration and Captain's meeting will be held Thursday before the fishing day at Off the Hook @ Inlet Harbor. A representative from each boat entered in the tournament must pick up your boat number and should attend the captain's meeting. At that time, rules governing the tournament will be explained and any questions answered.

**Tackle & Equipment:** NO Electric reels allowed. All tournament fish must be caught on rod and reel (no hand lines).

The use of a cast net is allowed before 6:00 a.m. **The official tournament time to start fishing is 6 a.m. No fishing lines in the water before 6:00 a.m., including teasers and bait rigs.**

**Fish Species & Requirements for eligible fish to be weighed in:** Kingfish (**minimum weigh 10 pounds**). Each boat can weigh 1 fish per species. Cash & prizes will be awarded for the three heaviest Kingfish. In case of a tie, first to be weighed in is the winner. All catches must be legal according to current State and Federal rules. The weighmaster reserves the right to hold and examine internally and externally any fish weighed in as a tournament catch to determine if the fish is eligible for an award. Any fish that has an unnatural material in or on it will be disqualified. No mutilated/half eaten fish will be allowed for weigh-in. The tournament committee will determine if a fish is mutilated.

***\*\*PLEASE REMOVE ALL HOOKS, LURES AND LINES BEFORE TAKING YOUR FISH OFF THE BOAT\*\****

**Communications:** VHF Radio/Cell phone- **The official tournament control and weigh-in Channel is 72.** All boats must be equipped with a VHF radio. If for any reason VHF Channel 72 is off the air, communications will move to VHF Channel 68 temporarily.

**Tournament Rules:** All boats must leave and return via Ponce Inlet. The tournament will start on Saturday and is a 1-day tournament for Kingfish only. There will be NO check out time prior to the start of fishing. You may leave the inlet any time after 12:01 a.m. Eligible fish must be caught during tournament hours. If the U.S. Weather Service issues a Small Craft Advisory or greater at the 5:00 a.m. forecast, fishing is automatically postponed to an alternate date. **A picture of your fish must be captured on the water with your weigh # and visual in the photo. Before you weigh your fish, this picture must be submitted (Texted picture to 386.822.3427) This is mandatory! There is NO committee Boat this tournament. The KOTI Committee will be at the end of the pier at OFF THE HOOK by the weigh scale.**

**Weigh-In:** Upon returning from fishing, all boats must report to Off the Hook Restaurant where the KOTI Committee will be standing at the end of the Pier by the Weigh-In scale. **CHECK IN** by showing your boat number and then inform the committee on Channel 72 if you have fish to weigh. You will receive radio confirmation that you have checked in we will then give you a weigh number. Wait your turn to be called to the dock to weigh your fish.

**Check-in MUST be acknowledged.** If you **do not** have fish to weigh, please check in anyway- it is important for the tournament to know that each boat is back to port with all participants present and accounted for. Send us a text 386.822.3427 with your boat name & boat # and let us know you made it in safe or we will call your emergency contact if not heard from!

After you have checked in with the KOTI Committee at the end of the Pier (Channel 72) proceed to Channel 68 if you have fish to weigh-in. Stage up in the water and wait your turn to be called to the dock from the dock master. All fish considered for awards must be weighed in at the official weigh-in station. All fish must be caught during tournament hours. Fish must remain on and be removed directly from the entered boat by registered entrants/team member. **The weigh station opens at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. Boats must be checked in with the committee by 6:00 p.m.** Please plan accordingly 6:01p.m. you will be disqualified.

**Fishing Rules/ Sportsmanship:** All anglers (or boat if chartered) must be properly licensed. The tournament will be fished consistent with an enforced to the laws of the State of Florida. Any violation of Florida State Statutes will result in disqualification for that angler and/or the vessel the angler is fishing from. It will be the responsibility of the angler to review FL. State Statutes and FWC Rules & Regulations. All vessels shall be equipped with the minimum Coast Guard safety requirements for that vessel. *All participants will exercise good sportsmanship whether at the docks, underway or fishing.* Violators will be subject to disqualification without refund. Violations will be at the sole discretion of King of the Inlet management.

**Disqualification:** **If any boats come together or anything is passed between boats or docked or stops at a dock and/or trailered for any reason after the official start of the tournament and before each boat has weighed in their fish, you will be disqualified.** However, as safety is of prime importance to the operation of the tournament, exceptions may be granted by tournament management for emergencies. All boats must remain under their own power and fuel supply for the entire fishing day. Special exception could be granted to a tournament boat lending aid to a distressed boat.

**Protest:** All protest must be presented in writing to the tournament director at the weigh-in station on the day of the alleged infraction, prior to the closing of the weigh-in station on the day it occurs. A \$500.00 cash deposit, refundable if the protest is upheld, must accompany protest. Tournament management will make all decisions, and their decision is final. If the protest is not upheld, then such deposit will be forfeited to the tournament.

**Polygraph:** Participants in the tournament are subject to a polygraph at the request of tournament management. Failure to take or successfully pass such an examination may result in a second team member; second failure results in automatic disqualification of the team. This is at the sole discretion of tournament management.

**A copy of tournament rules and your boat number must be on-board with you at all times. Have fun and catch'em up!**