



13th Annual St.Maarten Wahoo Tournament

Version 1.1 dated: October 20th, 2024

THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Sergio Hodge: President / Judge
Dean Hodge: Treasurer/ Weighmaster
Angus Hodge : Secretary / Advisor
Nicole Chianese : Board member / Judge
Michel Williams : Board member/ Judge / IT

Ralph Chianese : Board member / Judge
Ryan Hassell (Saba) Foundation Rep./ Advisor

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: Sxm.sportfishing.foundation@gmail.com Website: www.sxmsportfishing.com

REGISTRATION FEES

- **Level 1:** Basic tournament entrée (Mandatory) : **USD \$ 300,-** per fishing boat.
- **Level 2:** Wahoo Challenge (*Optional*) : **USD \$100,-** per fishing boat.

HOSTING VENUE - DOCKAGE - FUEL- LODGING OPTIONS

The hosting venue for this year's event is **Dock Maarten** in Philipsburg.

T: (+1-721) 542-6100 E: info@dockmaarten.com Website: www.dockmaarten.com

Dock Maarten is offering complimentary dockage to all participating fishing boats, starting from Friday November 1st, throughout Sunday November 3rd.

Utilities, such as shore power and water are not complementary, marina utility rates do apply.

Overseas boats are requested to contact Dock Maarten on channel 16 upon arrival, for docking assistance.

Fuel will be available at Bobby's Marina throughout the weekend, as per their opening times.

LODGING

Lodging available at the following locations:

Sea Palace Resort (+1721) 5422700 web: seapalaceresort.com

Holland House Beach Hotel (+1721) 542-3588 E: reservations@hollandhousehotel.com

Horizon View Beach Front Hotel (+1721) 5432120 web: www.horizonviewhotel.com

Sea View Beach Hotel (+1721) 5422323 (available on booking.com)

Pasanggrahan Royal Guest House (+1721) 542-2572 E : info@pasanhotel.net

Alicia's Inn (+1721) 5861522 E: info@aliciasinn.com Web: www.aliciasinn.com



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PROGRAM AND TOURNAMENT TIMES

Friday, November 01st, 2024

Captains Briefing & Registration at Grumpy's Sports Bar

- Registration 17:00hrs until 19:00hrs
- Captains briefing 18:00hrs

Saturday, November 2nd, 2024

Tournament day

- Departure to fishing grounds 00:01hrs
- Lines in: 05:00hrs
- Lines out: 16:30hrs
- Weigh station opens at 16:00hrs
- Return to dock no later than 17:00hrs (rules apply)
- Weigh station closes at 17:30hrs (**regardless**)
- (BBQ) Food and drinks will be on sale.
- Awards ceremony 18.00hrs on location.
- DJ performances & live band starting from 15:00 till 20:30hrs

2024 PRIZE CATEGORIES

- Most weight Overall (of WAHOO ONLY) (Champion Boat)
- Second most weight (of WAHOO ONLY) (Runner Up)
- Third most weight (of WAHOO ONLY)
- Largest Qualifying Wahoo
- Winner of Wahoo Challenge (Level 2 entrée required to qualify)
- Largest Qualifying Yellowfin Tuna (min. 10lbs)
- Largest Qualifying Mahi Mahi (min. 10lbs)
- Best Female Angler
- Best Junior Angler (15yrs)
- Best Dressed Crew

QUALIFYING FISH AND MINIMUM WEIGHTS :

Wahoo	20 lbs
Dolphin (Mahi Mahi)	10 lbs
Yellowfin Tuna	10 lbs



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THE TOURNAMENT RULES

- To be eligible to participate in the tournament each entrant must have completed an entry form and paid the registration fee no later than **Friday, November 1st at 19.00hrs**
- Upon registration all boats will be issued a unique **A-4** laminated sheet with a **team TAG**, with listed tournament information.
- All participating boats/ teams must be present at skippers briefing.
- All boats must depart from St.Maarten. (** in event of bad weather, an exception will be made by committee on thursday October 31st **)
- All boats must have a mobile device/camera capable of taking photographs with date and timestamp.
- When registering each team must list what device/ camera will be used on fishing day. Also at registration, each team must take a picture with the same device of their captain holding the issued TAG, so officials can confirm date and time stamps are correct.
- To ensure all fish are caught on the competition day, and within the timeframe allotted for the tournament when a wahoo or multiple fish are caught, a photo with the fish and the designated TAG is to be taken.
- Pictures taken before or after the allotted date and time frame will not be counted.
- When you or your team arrives at the weigh station, you must provide judges with mobile device/camera photo proof of your catch.
- The angler must set the hook and bring the fish to gaff unaided: However, assistance in moving the rod from the Gunnel holder to the fighting chair is permitted.
- Harnesses may be used, and may be replaced or adjusted by another person.
- One or more gaffers are permitted to boat a fish.
- Once the catch is weighed by officials, all tails of fish brought to the weigh station will be cut.
- The heaviest wahoo of the event will be gutted with judges in attendance.
- All boats must be in Port (waterways of the Dock Maarten) by **17:00hrs** on the fishing day, failure of doing so will result in disqualification from the competition.
Upon arrival, you must seek radio contact with the SSFF committee, on VHF channel 06. (Judge(s) will be present with stop-watch and camera)
- The location of the weigh station will be close to the event stage.
- Protest must be filed in writing within 30 minutes after weigh-in time and will be entertained by the committee after receipt of payment of \$ 50,- and a case of cold AMSTEL BRIGHT. The payment of \$ 50 is nonrefundable.
- The committee has the right to inspect any participating boats and gear at any time.
- **ALL BILLFISH MUST BE RELEASED, FISHERMEN THAT BRING BILLFISH BACK TO THE DOCKS, WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THIS TOURNAMENT.**
- The official tournament Headquarters + Weigh Station will be appointed during skippers briefing.
- All boats must be at the designated declared point of departure on the Island of St. Maarten, unless requesting special written permission by the committee minimum **48hrs** in advance of the tournament. (see contact info)
- Fishing of FAD's is prohibited. (**pictures of vessel doing such are required**)



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THE TOURNAMENT RULES (continued)

- The entrant of the boat or someone so delegated will be responsible to ensure that these rules are enforced under pain of disqualification from the tournament.
- It shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee to adjudicate the written rules and to make necessary decisions where the situation has not been anticipated by the written rules. The Decision of the Judges committee is Final.
- All fish caught will be weighed and recorded on arrival at the designated Weighing-in-Station by an appointed Judge of Scales and duly witnessed by the entrant or his delegate.
- Any boat in distress must fly a Red Flag.
- All boats must have all standard safety equipment, also must have a VHF radio and standby and monitor channel 16.

EQUIPMENT

- No lines exceeding 80 lbs are permitted. (Monofilament or Braided)
- Wire (Monel) lines are permitted.
- Power driven reels are not permitted.
- Ratchet handle reels are not permitted.
- Reels designed for cranking with both hands are prohibited.
- Hand lines are not permitted.
- Not more than two hooks are permitted, per line.
- Live bait is permitted.
- Gang hooks are permitted only on plugs and artificial lures.
- Artificial and any other baits are permitted.
- Rosary (Rosario) is not permitted.
- Buoy (commercial) fishing is not permitted.
- Harpooning, lancing or shooting to assist in boating of fish is not permitted.

DISQUALIFICATION ACT

- Failure to comply with above listed rules and other regulations.
- Pictures taken before or after the allotted date and time frame will not be counted.
- Failure to provide pictures to judges of each fish landed, will result in disqualification of the catch. (example 4 pictures, yet 6 fish...only 4 fish will count)
- Boats not within the Dock Maarten waterways at cut off times, will result in disqualification of their catch of that day. (judges will be monitoring this closely)
- Jigging & Drift Fishing is prohibited.
- Fishing of FAD's is prohibited. (**pictures of vessel doing such are required**)
- Mutilation of fish caused by propellers, attacks of other fish, shooting and harpooning.
- No Wahoo under 20lbs, or other mentioned sport fish under 10lbs will be recognized.
- Any and all billfish killed during participation in this event.
- Spear guns, guns, missiles, dynamite or any type of commercial fishing gear such as long lines, nets, spotter planes or mother ships is prohibited.

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