## 2015 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 'REEF BUILDERS' FISHING TOURNAMENT

## **RULES & REGULATIONS**

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- 1. The tournament is open to all interested in entering. This is a sporting event. All fish must be taken on a rod and reel NO boat lines, NO electric reels will be allowed in harvesting fish. Downriggers are permitted if used as fishing line carriers. Cast nets are permitted for catching baitfish only. Number of lines shall be limited to six. Limit of two (2) Teasers without hooks will be allowed. Live bait, dead bait, any bait and artificial lures are permitted.
- 2. Jr. Division: The winner of the Jr. Angler Division will be determined by the heaviest fish in any of the 6 categories among those designated as Jr. Angler. (Jr. Angler is defined as 15 years of age or younger)
- 3. All fish being harvested must adhere to all Local & Federal Regulations. Fish not within regulations are not eligible for prizes. Release of undersize species is highly encouraged. <u>A copy of this tournament "Rules & Regulations" document must be onboard all tournament vessels.</u> All FWC Regulations & Licenses apply.
- 4. Fishing will begin at 7:00AM. Bait fishing cannot begin before fishing begins at 7:00AM. Boat must be checked into the weigh station queue by 4:00PM to weigh fish. There are No Boundaries to this tournament.
- 5. All Boats MUST have a VHF radio with Channel 78 which is the official Tournament channel. All Boats must check out by radio with the Committee Boat beginning at 6:45 AM. Committee Boat will read list of all boats checked in for departure at 7:00AM. Check out with Committee Boat if your boat has not been cleared for departure, delayed, or will not participate in the tournament for any reason. Departures from other inlets are permitted; qualifying inlets will be clarified during the Captain's meeting. Returning, all boats must check in to the Committee Boat no later than 5:00PM, even if you have no fish to weigh in. All boats weighing fish for a prize must report to the Committee Boat upon entering the St. Lucie Inlet.
- 6. Weigh-in will be at the Northeast corner dock at THE TWISTED TUNA Waterfront Restaurant between 12:00PM and 4:00PM. Instructions will be given via radio as to the queue order. Boats waiting in queue to weigh-in must be within sight of THE TWISTED TUNA Waterfront Restaurant NE Dock. Scales will remain open until all weigh-ins (in queue by 4:00PM) are weighed.
- 7. To qualify, all fish weighed must be whole.
- 8. Fish categories are: Snapper, Grouper, Dolphin, Kingfish, Wahoo and Cobia. Each boat will log the time, species, longitude and latitude of each fish caught on the Angler Log. The following are minimums for fish to be entered into tournament: Wahoo 15 lbs, Cobia 33", Dolphin 22", Kingfish 24", Grouper & Snapper FWC Reg. In the event of a tie, the earliest catch time recorded on the Angler's Log will be used to determine the winner's prize. Top Boat prize is defined as "Heaviest Prize Qualifying Fish" from all categories on a boat not chartered for this event.

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- 9. Only one fish per angler per category will be weighed. It will be the angler's decision which fish to weigh.
- 10. Any billfish caught will be recognized as a release species only. All released billfish should be reported to the Committee Boat. Billfish are not tournament species fish for award or prizes.
- 11. Any boat in direct physical contact with another boat without permission of the committee boat will be disqualified. If a boat intends to give aid or rescue to another vessel, the committee boat should first be notified of location and purpose....conditions permitting.
- 12. The Tournament Committee (TC), in its sole discretion, reserves the right to refuse awards and to make changes, additions, deletions, or modifications to these rules, regulations or awards being posted, announced, or otherwise disseminated. The Tournament shall be governed by the TC of the MCAC Artificial Reef Fund, Inc. and the TC has the full authority to prescribe and interpret the rules and regulations of this Tournament. Nothing in any of these rules and regulations shall be construed to limit or restrict the TC's authority in these matters.
- 13. The TC reserves the right to subject any and all winners and/or crew, in its sole and absolute discretion, to a polygraph examination and/or voice stress test to be administered by such person or persons as the TC, in its sole and absolute discretion may choose, and further reserves the right in its sole and absolute discretion, to disqualify any winner failing said test. The TC shall have the right to inspect any and all boats, tackle, and equipment.
- 14. Any unsportsmanlike behavior by an angler or crew member shall disqualify the angler involved as determined by the TC.
- 15. Participants in the Reef Builders Tournament enter at their own risk. Officials, committee members and all persons directly or indirectly connected with the Reef Builders Tournament or with the operation of the tournament will be exempt from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm or injury suffered to any participant, entrant, angler, sport fisherman, their companions, boat captains, crew members, boats and equipment which may occur during this tournament.