

2017 John Thompson Memorial
Mexico Beach - Ling Ding Tournament

TOURNAMENT RULES

Registration:

Anglers must register at Mexico Beach Marina and pay by cash or check. If you pay by check and place, your award check will be mailed once your entry check has cleared. Anglers can register up to 8:00 am CST, Friday, April 14th. * See below on potential progressive tournament dates.

Tournament Dates:

(Potentially Extended): This year's Tournament will begin as a three day tournament on Friday, April 14th and run through Sunday, April 16th. The Tournament will end on Sunday April 16th if we have three qualified (1st, 2nd and 3rd place) Cobias on the board. However, if the board is not full, the Tournament will continue the following weekend beginning on that Friday at the same time and again run that Friday through Sunday. Assuming the board is full after the weigh in on Sunday, April 23rd, the tournament will end. If for some reason we still do not have a full board, it will once again move to the following weekend and progress each weekend until we have a qualified 1st, 2nd and 3rd place Cobia on the board.

* If the tournament goes past the first weekend, any anglers that missed registration for the first weekend may enter the following weekend. They must do so before 8:00 am CST on that Friday. If it goes to a third weekend, the same offer remains.

* PLEASE BE SURE TO ASK NATE ODUM ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ABOVE OR ANY OTHER RULE BEFORE REGISTERING FOR THE TOURNAMENT IF YOU HAVE ANY CONCERNS OR ARE NOT CLEAR WITH THIS RULE OR ANY OTHERS.

Captain's Meeting

Thursday, April 13th, 2017 at El Governor Motel, 6:00 - 8:00pm CST.

Launch Locations:

All boats must launch no further West than the Mexico Beach city ramp and no further East than the Indian Pass boat ramp.

Eligible Fish Categories:

Ling (Cobia)

Weigh In Times:

3pm – 5pm CST each day of the tournament (Mexico Beach Marina)

Entry:

Tournament entry fee will be \$175.00 per boat. Entry fees are not refundable.

Upon receipt of your entry form, and your tournament entry fees – you are then eligible to enter fish for weigh-in at this tournament. At registration, each boat captain will be given a registration sheet to be turned in when presenting fish for weigh-in. Only officially registered boats can compete in the tournament.

BASIS OF AWARDS:

Each boat/entry can only win once. You can weigh a fish each day but only your best will make or remain on the board.

AWARDS:

1st Place \$2,000.00, 2nd Place \$1,000.00, 3rd Place \$500.00.

FISHING RULES:

Lines in water at dawn each day of the tournament. Fish must be weighed on the day they are caught (no exception and do not bring a frozen fish to the scales). All tournament fish must be caught by rod and reel. Tournament management reserves the right to modify/change the rules prior to any tournament. Any fish frozen, mangled, injected, containing foreign matter, mauled, or showing signs of preservation such as discolored eyes, gills or soft flesh will be disqualified at the prerogative of the tournament director. Expressly prohibited fishing methods for purposes of this tournament include: mounted winch devices ("one-armed bandits"), motor-driven long lines, spearing, gigging, snatch hooks/snagging, netting, shooting (including use of bang sticks), or any method of catch in violation of State or Federal laws. Evidence of prohibited methods will disqualify the catch and all entrants fishing aboard the vessel on which such rule violations were committed. All fish weighed in may

be subject to random gutting after weigh-in. Failure to allow a tournament committee member to gut a fish will result in the disqualification of the fish in question. This tournament will be fished in accordance with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission rules for size and catch limits for the state of Florida. Undersized fish will not be weighed. All anglers are responsible for knowing and abiding by state laws and United States federal laws governing fishing in this tournament.

POLYGRAPH:

All participants in the tournament are subject to a polygraph at the request of the tournament management. Failure to successfully pass such an examination may result in automatic disqualification of entrant. This is at the sole discretion of the tournament management.

WEIGH IN:

After presenting your registration form for weigh in, a photograph of each fish weighed will be taken by the weigh master(s). **FISH MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE WEIGH-MASTER AT MEXICO BEACH MARINA DURING WEIGH IN TIMES (3PM - 5PM CST).** In the event of a tie by weight, the first entrant to check in and weigh will break the tie.

REQUIREMENT OF ELIGIBLE FISH:

All fish must be of legal length to be considered in this tournament. Participants are expected to follow all applicable laws pertaining to the taking of marine fish. The weigh-master 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 the fish will be disqualified. If it is determined that the fish was caught prior to the start of the tournament start time the fish will be disqualified.

SPORTSMANSHIP & SAFETY:

This will begin as a three day tournament with no plans for cancellation due to weather. The Tournament Director, however, reserves the right to make a decision to cancel or alter the event due to inclement weather. We discourage fishing in unsafe conditions and are not responsible for actions of fishermen during this tournament. Participants are expected to follow all applicable laws and rules for safe boating, including those regarding USCG equipment requirements. All participants will exercise good and courteous sportsmanship whether at the dock, underway, or fishing. Any participant who exhibits threatening behavior or who otherwise engage in disorderly, illegal or improper conduct of any kind is subject to immediate disqualification by the Tournament Director. Willful violations of marine laws or other violations of safe and proper conduct may lead to disqualification.

OFFICIAL PROTEST PROCEDURE:

Any registered angler wishing to file an official protest of any weighed fish is required to present a detailed statement outlining why the fish in question is under protest. The person(s) filing protest will also submit a fee of \$100 in cash or check to the tournament board. The tournament board will review all information given and vote on a decision to allow or disqualify the fish in question. If the tournament board has a majority vote to allow the fish to remain on the board as a legal catch, the fee provided by the person(s) protesting will be donated to the Mexico Beach Artificial Reef Association. If the board votes to disqualify the fish the fee provided by the person(s) protesting will be refunded. **It is the sole responsibility of the person(s) filing the protest to present all information in writing at the time of the tournament board's special meeting to review the protest. Any information that is not presented in writing will not be taken into consideration during the tournament board's review of the protest.** Any fee for any protest paid by check must be written out to the Mexico Beach Marina.

AMENDMENTS:

The statement and rules contained herein may be amended by additional verbal instruction and/or printed matter distributed by the tournament management.

PROCEEDS:

The Marina makes annual donations to local charities, non-profits, etc. Any proceeds remaining help make these donations possible.