

**OCEAN REEF SEA SPORTS CLUB**

# **BOAT FISHING**



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**MONTHLY BOAT FISHING COMPETITION RULES**  
**SEASON 2021 / 2022**

**1. BOAT FISHING CAPTAIN.**

The Boat Fishing Captain has complete charge of monthly Boat Fishing Competitions and may vary the rules or arrangements to contribute to the smooth running of the competition.

**2. MONTHLY BOAT FISHING PROGRAMME.**

The competition year commences in October of each year.

Generally, unless otherwise advised, monthly boat fishing competitions are held on the first Saturday of each month. In the event of inclement weather or insufficient competitors, the competition will be held on the carry-over day, which is the Sunday of the same weekend. Should the weather on this day be inclement, or there be insufficient competitors, the competition will be cancelled for that month (See Postponements and Cancellations). Refer to the Club magazine for upcoming events, locations, dates and times.

**3. JURIEN BAY OCTOBER TWO DAY COMPETITION.**

The October boat fishing competition is a two day competition held in Jurien Bay. This competition will be held on the Queen's Birthday long weekend, which is usually in late September. Competitors may start as usual from 5am Saturday, with a single weigh-in at 4pm on Sunday. As this event is fished over the 2 days, including through the night, competitors may weigh-in two (2) days bag limit, but still only one (1) of any species. In practical terms, this means competitors can weigh in 4 different category 1 species. All other boat fishing competition rules apply. Should the weather on Saturday be inclement, or there be insufficient competitors, the competition

will be run on Sunday. If that day is inclement, or there be insufficient competitors, the competition will be cancelled for that month. If run on the Saturday and a strong wind warning is issued for Sunday, only beach fishing is permitted on the Sunday.

All bags must be deposited in the pre advised weigh-in area by 4:00pm, and the weigh-in will commence at 4:00pm. To ensure your bag is in by 4:00pm, please remember to allow sufficient time as the boat ramps are especially busy during this long weekend. Bags deposited after 4:00pm are automatically disqualified

#### **4. MAY 2 DAY COMPETITION.**

The May boat fishing competition is a two day competition with the weigh-in at Ocean Reef. Competitors may start as usual from 6am Saturday, with a single weigh-in at 4pm on Sunday. As this event is fished over the 2 days, including through the night, competitors may weigh-in two (2) days bag limit, but still only one (1) of any species. In practical terms, this means competitors can weigh in 4 different category 1 species. All other boat fishing competition rules apply. Should the weather on Saturday be inclement, or there be insufficient competitors, the competition will be run on Sunday. If that day is inclement, or there be insufficient competitors, the competition will be cancelled for that month. If run on the Saturday and a strong wind warning is issued for Sunday, only beach fishing is permitted on the Sunday.

**5. DECEMBER COMPETITION.**

Where possible, the December boat fishing competition is scheduled to be outside of the demersal closure period, generally the third Saturday of December. The beach fishing competition for December will be run on the first weekend of December.

**6. MARCH COMPETITION.**

The March boat fishing competition is swapped with the usual beach fishing weekend to allow the beach fishing to be held on the long weekend at an alternate away location.

**7. DIVISIONS.**

Monthly boat fishing competitions shall have five divisions; Men's, Ladies, Veterans, Juniors and Mini Juniors. At the commencement of the Club year (1st October), Mini Juniors must be under twelve (12) years, Juniors must be under sixteen (16) years and Veterans must be over sixty (60) years to be eligible for that category. Mini Juniors, Juniors and Veterans can be either male or female. Once a division has been nominated by a competitor, they must remain in that division for the entire club year.

**8. SIGN-ON.**

All competitors must have signed-on prior to starting. Sign-on is by logging all the boat's competitors on the ORSSC Angling Section Facebook/Messenger Group or phoning/texting the Boat Fishing Captain with those details. Competitors wishing to fish from an alternate marina must sign-on in the same way.

No registration fee applies.

All competitors must be financial members of the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club. Visitors may register and enter the

competition a total of 3 times (lifetime limit). They are eligible for species and monthly prizes, but not annual awards.

Competitors from a minimum of four (4) boats are required to have signed-on prior to 8pm the previous night to constitute a competition. The Boat Fishing Captain will declare the competition “on” if 4 or more boats have signed on by 8pm or “off” if not. This will be posted by the Boat Fishing Captain around 8:15pm on the ORSSC Angling Section Facebook/Messenger Group. If competitors from less than 4 boats sign-on, the competition will be cancelled for the day.

Competitors may fish from the shore, but must still sign-on.

#### **9. POSTPONEMENTS and CANCELLATIONS.**

In the event of inclement weather, skippers who have previously signed-on who decide that they no longer are fishing must post that on the ORSSC Angling Section Facebook/Messenger Group prior to the start time.

In the event this results in less than four (4) skippers indicating a willingness to compete, the competition for the day will be cancelled and posted by the Boat Fishing Captain prior to the start time on the ORSSC Angling Section Facebook/Messenger Group.

If inclement weather or insufficient competitors cancels the competition on the Saturday, the competition will be held on the carry-over day, which is normally the Sunday of the same weekend. Should the weather on this day be inclement or there be insufficient competitors, the whole competition for that month will be cancelled.

**10. STRONG WIND WARNING.**

For local run events, if a strong wind warning has been issued for Perth Local Waters at 4:30am on the competition day for any period on the competition day (04:30am to 12:00midnight), the competition for that day shall be automatically cancelled. For other events (e.g. Jurien), the appropriate forecast for that area shall be used.

**11. START TIME.**

Start times are from 5:00am during the summer half of the year (October to March) and from 6:00am during the winter half of the year (April to September). Competitors may start at any time during the competition hours, but must have signed-on prior to commencing fishing.

**12. START PROCEDURE.**

The competition will commence at the start time. No boats shall leave any marina waters prior to the start time. Shore based competitors may not commence fishing until the start time.

Competitors may launch from other locations (e.g. Two Rocks Marina, Mindarie or Hillarys Boat Harbour), provided they have signed-on either by phoning/texting the Boat Fishing Captain or registering via the ORSSC Angling Section Facebook/Messenger Group. It is their responsibility to ensure the competition is being run and to advise the Boat Fishing Captain that they are launching from an alternative location.

**13. FINISH TIME.**

All bags should be tagged for identification and deposited in the weigh-in area at the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club premises by 4pm. Alternative arrangements will be advised for away competitions (e.g. Jurien Bay). Bags deposited after the finish time are automatically disqualified.

All competitors aboard a vessel towing a boat in distress will be exempt from this rule, provided they have made radio or mobile phone contact for confirmation.

**14. FINISH PROCEDURE.**

For safety purposes, all competitors can attend the weigh-in or **MUST SIGN OFF** by posting on ORSSC Angling Section Facebook/Messenger Group.

**15. WEIGH-IN.**

All competitors fish catches must be individually bagged, tagged for identification and deposited in the weigh-in area at the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club by the Finish Time. The weigh-in will commence 15 minutes after the Finish Time. Other arrangements will be advised for away locations.

Undersize (as per ORSSC or Department of Fisheries minimum sizes) or protected fish deposited in the weigh-in area will automatically disqualify the bag. It is the sole responsibility of the competitor to ensure that their fish are at least the minimum size before depositing their bag in the weigh-in area. The Weigh-in Officer or any other member of the Angling Committee cannot rule on fish sizes prior to the weigh-in.

Competitors are responsible for checking their weigh-in slip prior to the conclusion of the weigh-in.

**16. BAGS.**

All fish to be weighed must be presented in a hessian or cloth based bag, preferably in an esky with ice. Fish presented in plastic, woven plastic or woven fibreglass bags will be disqualified. Bags should be damp, but must not be immersed in water in the weigh-in area.

Bags must contain only fish caught during the competition hours by the competitor weighing in, and must be washed and identified as belonging to the competitor. Bags containing more than one competitor's catch or not appropriately identified will be disqualified. Bags containing undersize (as per ORSSC or Department of Fisheries minimum sizes) or protected fish will be automatically disqualified.

**17. CONDITION OF FISH.**

Any fish presented in a rotten, badly deteriorated or generally unfit for consumption state shall not be eligible for weigh-in. Fish must be whole and clean.

Fish that have their necks broken will be pushed back into original shape and must be 1cm longer than the listed minimum size. Note this **does not** apply to gilled and/or gutted fish, and fish with the throat cut for bleeding, as long as the neck has not been broken.

**18. MONTHLY POINT SCORES.**

Point scores for monthly competitions are awarded based on 10 points per eligible species weighed. An additional 6 bonus points are awarded to the competitor with the heaviest fish of each species within their division (e.g. Men's, Ladies, Veterans, Juniors and Mini Juniors). A further 2 points per kilogram (or part thereof) of total bag weight is also added.

For example, a junior competitor with 6 species and 3 heaviest in the juniors division weighing 2kgs would achieve 82 points (60 for the species,  $3 \times 6 = 18$  for the heaviest and  $2 \times 2 = 4$  for the weight).

In the event of more than one competitor having fish of equal weight being the heaviest in their division, each shall receive the bonus points.



In the event of any fish being hooked in or through the mouth by more than one competitor, the points attained for that fish must be shared.

In the event of any competitors scoring equal points, the determining factor shall be the highest bag weight.

**19. ANNUAL POINT SCORES.**

For the purposes of determining the overall annual champions for each division, total points will be calculated by tallying an individual's best "n" monthly scores, where "n" is the number of monthly competitions held during the year minus 2. For example, if eleven competitions are held during the year (i.e. one is cancelled because of bad weather) then an individual's best 9 monthly scores will count.

**20. BAG AND BOAT LIMITS.**

Each competitor may only weigh ONE fish of the eligible species groups below. Other species will not be weighed unless a record is being sought.

If more than one of any species group is present in a competitor's bag, the bag will be disqualified.

If a competitor's bag exceeds the Department of Fisheries one day bag limit (or two days bag limit for 2 day events), the bag will be disqualified.

The Department of Fisheries has introduced a boat limit for Dhufish. If competitors on a boat exceed the one day combined boat limit, all competitors on that boat will be disqualified.

The Department of Fisheries has introduced a closed season for high risk demersal scale fish from 15<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup>

December inclusive. The high risk scale fish in the ORSSC boat fishing eligible species list are denoted with asterisks (\*\*\*) below. If a competitor weighs in a high risk demersal scale fish during the closed season, their bag will be disqualified.

All competitors must make themselves aware of the current Department of Fisheries bag and boat limits.

## 21. ELIGIBLE SPECIES.

Plate references are a guide only and are from Sea Fishes of Southern Australia (Barry Hutchins and Roger Swainston). Plate references in ***bold Italics*** are from The Marine Fishes of North Western Australia (Gerald R. Allen and Roger Swainston).

**Minimum sizes are correct at time of printing. Should a Department of Fisheries minimum size be greater than the ORSSC minimum size, then the Department of Fisheries size limit applies. Bag and minimum size limits are those applicable to the weigh-in location.**

<b><u>BOAT SPECIES</u></b>	<u>Min Size (mm)</u>	<u>Plate Reference (Guide Only)</u>
Bonito	300	592-594
Cod, Breaksea ***	300	228
Dhufish ***	500	247
Emperor (Red & Spangled) ***	410	<b><i>(Northern 502)</i></b> , 315
(Blue-lined) ***	320	<b><i>(Northern 529)</i></b>
(Other) ***	280	<b><i>(Northern 525-527, 530-534)</i></b>
Flathead	300	194-206
Flounder	250	615-619

<b><u>BOAT SPECIES</u></b>	<b><u>Min Size (mm)</u></b>	<b><u>Plate Reference (Guide Only)</u></b>
Foxfish ***	300	441,442
Garfish ###	200	119, 120, 123, 124
Goatfish	250	323-327
Groper, Baldchin ***	400	491
Groper, Bass ***	300	238
Hapuka ***	300	237
Harlequin ***	300	230
Herring, Australian	200	307
Leatherjacket	250	627-652
Mackerel (Blue)	220	588
Mackerel - (Shark),	500	587
(Spotted, Queensland)	500	<b><u>(Northern 956, 957)</u></b>
(Spanish Narrow-barred)	900	589
(Spanish Broad-barred)	750	<b><u>(Northern 955)</u></b>
Mahi Mahi (Dolphinfish)	500	304
Mulloway	500	316
Pigfish ***	300	440
Pike or Seapike	300	263, 437
Rockcod, Grey-banded ***	300	232
Salmon	300	305
Samson Fish or Amberjack *	600	300, 301
Shark *	600	1, 18, 22-33, 35-37
Snapper, Pink ***	500	310
Snapper, Queen ***	410	425
Snapper, Red ***	300	143-145
Snapper, Ruby ***	300	<b><u>(Northern 483)</u></b>
Snook	300	436
Swallowtail ***	300	142
Sweep	300	351-354
Sweetlips	300	322, <b><u>(Northern 507-513)</u></b>

<b><u>BOAT SPECIES</u></b>	<u>Min Size (mm)</u>	<u>Plate Reference (Guide Only)</u>
Tailor	300	273
Tarwhine	250	311
Trevalla, Blue-eye (Deepsea) ***	300	582
Trevally	250	278-286, 290, 292, 293
Tuna	300	595-602
Whiting, King George	280	270
Whiting, Others	200	264, 266-267, 269
Yellowtail Kingfish *	600	298
Other Category 1 (not listed above)	300	Various

- \* - Weight points for Samson Fish, Amberjack, Sharks and Yellowtail Kingfish are limited to a maximum of 10kg
- \*\*\* - These species are in the Department of Fisheries high risk demersal scale fish category, which has a closed season from the 15<sup>th</sup> October to the 15<sup>th</sup> December inclusive.
- ### - Southern Garfish (Plate 122) cannot be taken in metropolitan waters between 31° south (just north of Lancelin) and 33° south (near Lake Preston/Myalup) until further notice. They may be weighed if the competition weigh-in is outside these boundaries (i.e. Jurien Bay).

At the competitor's discretion, Sharks may be caught, landed in the boat, measured, photographed and released. The competitor will be awarded species points, and will be given a standard 5kg for weight. Sharks must be legal size and eligible species in accordance with all other Fisheries and ORSSC rules.

The following sharks are excluded from the competition: Piked Dogfish (Green-eyed Sharks), Wobbegong, Carpet, Port Jackson, Cat, Leopard, Grey Nurse, Speartooth, Whale, White Pointer and Tiger Sharks.

At the competitor's discretion, Samson Fish, Amberjack, Mulloway and Black Bream may be caught, measured, photographed with daily code and released. The competitor will be awarded species points and points for weight based on a predefined length/size ratio table developed by the Angling Section.

For the purposes of calculating the heaviest bag for the annual award and for determining winners on count backs, Sharks, Samson Fish, Amberjack and Yellowtail Kingfish are limited to a maximum of 10kg.

## **22. TACKLE AND LINE RESTRICTIONS.**

A competitor must not use more than two (2) rods or handlines at any one time and each rod or handline must not have more than two (2) hooks (A flight of hooks to be considered as one hook). Additional rods, handlines may be carried but competitors must not have more than two (2) lines in the water at any time. A competitor may use any gauge line. Trolling is allowed at the skipper's discretion. A competitor must hook and land their own fish, but may receive assistance in gaffing, gilling or landing which does not entail the assistant handling their rod, reel or line. No power winches, electric reels, setlines, drones, droplines, traps or hooks on marker floats are to be used by competitors. Possession of any drop lines or set lines on any boat will lead to immediate disqualification of all competitors on that boat.

Competitors must carry an appropriate 'release weight' device on board when line fishing for or landing demersal scalefish.

**23. SAFETY.**

All skippers shall be the holder of a current Western Australian Recreational Skippers Ticket.

Safety equipment (as per Navigable Waters Regulations) must be carried by all boats and may be subject to inspection by the Department of Transport.

Two-way radio Mhz 27.90 is the Club operating frequency. Boats should log on with the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group or other local sea rescue groups where appropriate. Frequency Mhz 27.96 or 27.72 must be used for boat-to-boat communication. Distress frequency is 27.88 Mhz.

All skippers operating a VHF radio shall be the holder of a current MROVCP (Marine Operators VHF Certificate of Proficiency), as required by the Radio Communications Act 1992.

It is the responsibility of the skipper of each participating vessel to make themselves aware of the current weather forecast and sea conditions before putting to sea. It is also the responsibility of each skipper to be confident with their own ability to safely handle their vessel in the conditions forecast. It is highly recommended that the skipper regularly recheck the forecast throughout the day.

Boat pairing is recommended for safety reasons.

**24. DISPUTES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS.**

ANY dispute must be submitted in writing to the Boat Fishing Captain no later than ten (10) minutes after the completion of the weigh-in. A Disputes Committee shall adjudicate on all disputes within these rules and their decision shall be final.

Any competitor found to breach these rules shall be liable to disqualification.

The Disputes Committee will be chaired by the Boat Fishing Captain and shall comprise three other members chosen on the day by the Boat Fishing Captain, excluding any competitors materially affected by the outcome. The decision will be by majority vote of the three members.

**25. ALTERATION TO RULES.**

The Angling Committee shall have the power to vary the rules or arrangements to contribute to the smooth running of the competition.

**26. LIABILITY.**

All competitors and persons taking part in the competition do so entirely at their own risk and the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club and/or the Angling Committee; will not be held responsible for any loss or damage sustained by any competitor or any other persons to their persons or effects.

**27. BOUNDARIES.**

No limit, but boats must not depart to sea prior to the start time.

**28. PRIZES.**

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- Individual Awards - Best score in Mens', Ladies, Veterans, Mini Juniors and Juniors divisions.
- Heaviest Species - Heaviest of various species as requested by prize donors.
- Interboat - Total of the 2 highest species counts on a boat. Where 2 boats are equal, the count back is on total bag weight.
- Participation - Drawn from competitors weigh-in slips. Winner must have weighed-in and be

present at the presentations to claim the prize.

Visitors are eligible for the above prizes a lifetime maximum of three times.

**29. PRIZES PRESENTATION.**

Prizes will be presented at the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club, or other venue as advised, as soon as practical following the conclusion of the weigh-in on the competition day.