

OCEAN REEF SEA SPORTS CLUB

BEACH FISHING



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BEACH FISHING COMPETITION RULES
SEASON 2021 / 2022

1. BEACH FISHING CAPTAIN.

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

2. BEACH FISHING PROGRAMME.

The competition year commences in October of each year.

Generally, unless otherwise advised, monthly beach fishing competitions are held on the Saturday and Sunday of the third weekend in the month, although some exceptions do occur due to other events in the calendar. One event per year is designated as an away competition, and the weigh-in will be conducted at that location. Refer to the Club magazine and calendar for upcoming events, locations, dates and times.

3. DECEMBER COMPETITION.

The December beach fishing competition is swapped with the usual boat fishing weekend to allow the boat fishing competition to be held outside the demersal closure period.

4. 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.

5. DIVISIONS.

Beach 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.

6. SIGN-ON.

No sign-on is required for beach fishing competitions and 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.

7. START TIME.

Start times on the Saturday of the competition weekend are from 5:00am all year round. Competitors may start at any time during the competition hours.

8. START PROCEDURE.

The competition will commence at the start time. Competitors may travel to their fishing location and set-up, but may not commence fishing until the start time. Any competitor fishing before the start time shall be disqualified.

9. 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 on the Sunday of the competition weekend, unless otherwise advised (i.e. the away competition).

10. FINISH PROCEDURE.

No specific requirement, other than the requirement to have the competitor's bag in the weigh-in area by the finish time.

11. 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 (or other location as advised) by the Finish Time. The weigh-in will commence at the Finish Time, or as otherwise advised.

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.

12. 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 competitors 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.

13. 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.

14. 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, Juniors and Mini Juniors). A further 4 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 86 points (60 for the species, $3 \times 6 = 18$ for the heaviest and $2 \times 4 = 8$ 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.

15. 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 12 competitions are held during the year, then an individual's best 10 monthly scores will count.

16. BAG 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, the bag will be disqualified.

The Department of Fisheries has introduced a closed season for high risk demersal scale fish from 15th October to 15th December inclusive. The high risk demersal scale fish in the ORSSC beach 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 limits.

17. 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.

<u>BEACH SPECIES</u>	<u>Min Size (mm)</u>	<u>Plate Reference (Guide Only)</u>
Barracuda	200	435
Blackfish, Western Rock	200	343
Bream - Black or - Yellowfin	250 300	308 309
Cobbler or Catfish	430	89-91
Cobia	750	274
Cod - Breaksea ***	300	228
Cod - Other incl Wirrah ***	200	212, 213, 232
- Chinaman ***	200	233
- Estuary ***	400	235
Coral Trout ***	450	<i>(Northern 318,320)</i>
Dart (all)	250	287-289
Dhufish ***	500	247
Emperor - Spangled ***	410	315
Emperor - Blue-lined ***	320	<i>(Northern 529)</i>
Others ***	280	<i>(Northern 525-527, 530-534)</i>
Flathead	300	194-206

<u>BEACH SPECIES</u>	<u>Min Size (mm)</u>	<u>Plate Reference (Guide Only)</u>
Flounder	250	615-619
Foxfish ***	200	441,442
Garfish ###	200	119, 120, 123, 124
Goatfish	200	323-327
Groper, Baldchin ***	400	491
Groper, Blue ***	500	439
Harlequin ***	200	230
Herring, Australian	200	307
Herring, Giant	200	63
Leatherjacket	250	627-652
Mackerel (Spanish, narrow-barred)	900	589
(Spanish, broad-barred)	750	<u>(Northern 955)</u>
Mackerel - (Shark, Spotted)	500	587, 590
- (Queensland School)	500	<u>(Northern 957)</u>
- (other)	200	586, 588
Mahi Mahi (Dolphinfish)	500	304
Mullet (all)	200	431-434
Mulloway	500	316
Parrotfish, Blue-barred Orange	300	521, <u>(Northern 795)</u>
Pigfish ***	200	440
Pike (Long-finned, Striped Seapike) or Snook	300 300	263, 437 436
Salmon	300	305
Samson Fish or Amberjack	600	300, 301
Seaperch (all)	300	<u>(Northern 493-501, 503-596)</u>
Shark (all)	600	1, 18-19, 22-23, 35-38
Snapper, Pink ***	500	310
Snapper, Queen ***	410	425
Snapper, Red or Swallowtail ***	300	142-145

<u>BEACH SPECIES</u>	<u>Min Size (mm)</u>	<u>Plate Reference (Guide Only)</u>
Sweep (all)	250	351-354
Sweetlips (all)	300	322 (<u>Northern 507-513</u>)
Tailor	300	273
Tarwhine	250	311
Trevally (all – incl skipjack)	250	278-286, 290, 292, 293
Tuna (all)	200	592-602
Whiting, King George	280	270
Whiting, Yellow-finned	200	269
Whiting, Others	200	264, 266, 267
Wrasse	200	443-490, 492-509
Yellowtail	200	294
Yellowtail Grunter	200	251
Yellowtail Kingfish	600	298

*** - These species are in the Department of Fisheries high risk demersal scale fish category, which has a closed season from the 15th October to the 15th 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, 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: 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.

18. 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. 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, traps or hooks on marker floats are to be used by competitors. Drones are permitted.

19. DISPUTES AND DISQUALIFICATIONS.

ANY dispute must be submitted in writing to the Beach 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 Beach Fishing Captain and shall comprise three other members chosen on the day by the Beach Fishing Captain, excluding any competitors

materially affected by the outcome. The decision will be by majority vote of the three members.

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. BOUNDARIES.

No limit.

23. MONTHLY PRIZES.

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

- Individual Awards - Best score in Mens', Ladies, Juniors and Mini-Juniors divisions.
- Heaviest Species - Heaviest of various species as requested by prize donors.
- 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.

24. 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.