

77th Annual Suncoast Tarpon Roundup

Tournament Changes

In an effort to grow the tournament, and after receiving feedback from numerous anglers, your Board of Directors has made a significant format change to the tournament; one we hope you will embrace and that will ultimately level the playing field for every angler. This year the STR will be a “weekend only” tournament beginning on Fridays at 5pm and ending Sundays at midnight (except where noted). Additionally, “weekly” payouts will be slightly smaller and 1st Place Finale Day is expected to be \$5000 based on 75 anglers.

Preface

The rules of the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. have been established in the interest of friendly competition, fairness, sportsmanlike conduct and conservation. Unsportsmanlike conduct, WILL NOT be condoned and will be grounds for disqualification of any entrant by final decision of the Board of Directors. Each angler, upon signing the registration form, agrees to abide by the tournament rules and the laws of the State of Florida, and also absolves the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. for any injuries or accidents while participating in the tournament. IN CASE OF DISPUTES, THE DECISION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SUNCOAST TARPON ROUNDUP, INC. WILL BE FINAL. The Board of Directors of the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. strongly urges all participants to release fish as quickly as possible so as not to endanger them.

Boundaries

Tarpon entered in the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup must be caught in the Gulf of Mexico and inland waters adjacent to Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. Marker number 4 defines the northern boundary, approximately 2 miles north of Anclote Key. The Southern boundaries are delineated by markers C3 and C5 on the North side of New Pass, south of Long Boat Key.

General Rules

1. A completed and signed registration form along with all entry fees must be mailed prior to fishing. Postmark determines date of entry.
2. The first weekend of the tournament starts on Friday May 20th 2011, at 5:00 PM. All other weekends start at 5 PM Friday. The last weekend of the tournament ends on Saturday July 23rd 2011 at Midnight.
3. No angler will be eligible for more than one (1) weekly prize, except for additional recognition given in the Specialty Divisions. For example: An angler winning a 3rd place trophy in week one could win a 2nd or 1st place trophy in a subsequent weekend and would then forfeit the 3rd place trophy.
4. In the event of a tie, the first fish released and called in will be adjudged the winner. The time caught is the time at which the DNA scrub was administered.
5. Formal Protests - Any angler wishing to report an infraction of the rules or any act of dishonesty or discourtesy, must do so in writing to the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. within seven (7) days of the act. Additionally, a \$300 deposit must also be submitted with the protest. In the event the protest is upheld, the deposit will be returned. If not upheld the deposit will be forfeited. THE DECISION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL BE FINAL.
6. Tarpon must be caught on manually operated tackle by the reporting angler. The rod must be in the exclusive possession and control of the angler from the time the fish first strikes until it is released. Anyone other than the angler of record touching any part of the rod, reel, or line, either bodily or with any device during the playing of the tarpon or in giving aid, other than taking the leader for release purposes, will disqualify the fish. Modification or replacement of tackle (rod, reel, splicing of line) during the playing of the tarpon will automatically disqualify the fish. If a rod holder is used, and a fish strikes,

the angler must remove the rod from the holder as quickly as possible. A harness may be attached to the reel or rod and the harness may be replaced or adjusted by a person other than the angler.

Use of a rod belt or waist gimbal is permitted.

In the event of extenuating circumstances (i.e. physical challenges, small children) exceptions may be allowed for the angler by written request to the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. prior to fishing.

7. All Release stations/masters shall be registered with the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. Release master instructions will be posted at his/her place of business and participants of the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup shall abide by these rules. No release master can report releases at his own release station.

Anglers are responsible for making sure their release forms are submitted correctly and completely.

Release slips not containing all required information will be disqualified.

8. A fish shall be considered "released" when the angler or his designee brings the fish boat side, **leader in hand**, and performs a valid and verifiable DNA sampling. **Tarpon released without a verifiable DNA sample will be subject to disqualification.** In the case of a Landlubber, when the leader is touched with a gaff and confirmed by a witness, the fish will be considered a release. A release slip must be completed by the angler and signed by a release master for every fish reported as released. Name and phone number of the witness to the release must be recorded for each release reported. This **witness must have viewed the release of the fish.** Fish under 48 inches estimated length are not considered eligible.

9. Time of catch will be reported by phone call to the 24 hour a day - 7 day a week answering service within one hour of the release. Once a verifiable DNA sampling is performed, an angler can call in his/her release for time verification (Calling in a release without having a DNA sample first is grounds for disqualification except for the Land Lubber Division.).

10. The angler must call in and report the release of a fish to the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc.'s answering service, at 727-346-4353 within one (1) hour of the actual release. A release slip must be completed within 24 hours of the release and the associated DNA sample left with the release master.

A copy of the completed release slip must be mailed to the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. at P.O. Box 7762, St. Petersburg, FL 33734, No Later Than the Monday following the release.

NOTE: Postmark is the accepted date. Angler's fish may be disqualified for non-compliance. Exceptions due to mail problems will be considered on an individual basis by the Board of Directors. **Anglers are responsible** for making sure the **release forms are completed correctly.**

11. The Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. does not consider a release slip complete and official until received and approved by the Board of Directors. Any decision of the Board of Directors overrides those made by its agents and are not subject to rebuttal.

12. The Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. shall make known all other rules and regulations not covered in this rules book, upon request. Decisions of the Board of Directors as to the interpretation of the rules is FINAL. It is the responsibility of the participant to check the daily standings phone line, at 727-822-1300, each day for standings and other important announcements as well as the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup web site at: www.suncoasttarponroundup.org.

Divisions

1. **REGULAR DIVISION** – Three places will be awarded per weekend (1st, 2nd and 3rd) to the adult angler with the most releases. Winners will be decided by most releases. In the event of a tie, the recorded time of release will be the deciding factor.

2. **JUNIOR DIVISION** – A first place trophy will be awarded to the junior angler with the most releases for a given weekend. In the event of a tie, the recorded time of release will be the deciding factor. All anglers 14 years of age or under, inclusive as of the date of registration, shall compete in the Junior Division. The "Captain" of the boat (or on the pier or bridge), using prudent judgment, may assist the junior if it is absolutely necessary, keeping in mind that the junior is the one who must bring the fish to boat, pier, or bridge. The type of assistance that may be given would be removing the rod from the rod holder, adjusting the drag, maneuvering the fish around the motor, anchor rope, shed braces or outriggers. A junior shall not be eligible for any of the Specialty Trophies as listed, except for the Junior Finale Day Trophies. We want to encourage all our Juniors to fish this tournament, to promote sportsmanship and good stewardship of the resources we enjoy.

3. **WOMEN'S DIVISION** - Will be incorporated into the Regular Division. As such, women anglers will compete with all of the adult anglers and be eligible for weekly prizes, trophies and qualification into Finale Day. Additionally, a trophy will be awarded to the woman with the most releases during the 10 weekends of the tournament.

4. **LANDLUBBER DIVISION** - Will be incorporated into either the Regular or Junior Division. As such, Landlubber anglers (adult or junior) will compete with all of the anglers in their respective divisions and be eligible for weekly prizes, trophies and qualification into Finale Day. Additionally, a trophy will be awarded to the Landlubber with the most releases during the 10 weekends of the tournament.

5. SENIOR DIVISION – Will be incorporated into the Regular Division. As such, senior anglers (65 yrs and older) will compete with all of the adult anglers and be eligible for weekly prizes, trophies and qualification into Finale Day. Additionally, a trophy will be awarded to the senior angler with the most releases during the 10 weekends of the tournament.

6. DOUBLES DIVISION – Two trophies (one each) will be awarded to the Regular Division pair that registers the most releases during the ten weekends of the tournament. Both anglers must be entered in the Regular Division and their partner named before either angler releases a tarpon to be eligible for this award. If a husband and wife win this trophy it will be annotated as such.

7. ADULT/JUNIOR DIVISION – Two trophies (one each) will be awarded to the Adult / Junior pair that registers the most releases during the ten weekends of the tournament. Both anglers must be entered in their respective divisions and their partner named before either angler releases a tarpon to be eligible for this award. If a parent and child win this trophy it will be annotated as such.

8. JACKPOT DIVISION - (Optional Division, \$100 Entry Fee) - The Jackpot division is split into 2 halves, 1st – 5th weekend and 6th – 10th weekend, and is available to anglers participating in the STR. Each half pays 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place. Payout is based on the number of entrants into the Jackpot Division. The same angler can share in both halves of the Jackpot division. Cash is paid out for the most releases during each half.

Specialty Trophies

1. THE DAVE CRISP MEMORIAL DAY TROPHY – Awarded to the angler releasing the most tarpon during the 24-hour period of Memorial Day, May 30th 2011.

2. THE JIM MASTRY FATHER’S DAY TROPHY - Awarded to the angler releasing the most tarpon during the 24-hour period of Father’s Day, June 19th 2011.

3. THE FULL MOON IN JUNE TROPHY - Awarded to the angler releasing the most tarpon during the 24-hour period of June 15th, the Full Moon in June.

4. THE RALPH AND GENE GELL 4TH OF JULY TROPHY - Awarded to the angler releasing the most tarpon during the 24-hour period of the 4th of July, 2011.

5. THE JOY CUP - Awarded to the first regular female angler to release a tarpon.

6. OVERALL RELEASES - The Overall Release Trophies (Perpetual’s) will be given to the anglers recording the most releases during the tournament in the Regular, Women’s, Junior, and Landlubber divisions.

7. FIRST FISH CERTIFICATES - Any registered angler who catches and releases their first tarpon will receive a certificate if requested. Please indicate on your release slip if you would like to receive this certificate.

8. HARD LUCK AWARD - An Award(s) will be presented to the angler considered to have had the hardest luck during the tournament. Letters should be submitted to the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. at P.O. Box 7762, St. Petersburg, FL 33734

9. EARL GRESH AWARD - An Award will be presented to the angler considered to have exhibited outstanding sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Nomination letters should be submitted to the Suncoast Tarpon Roundup, Inc. at P.O. Box 7762, St. Petersburg, FL 33734

Finale Day

1. Anglers winning one of the weekly first, second, or third place trophies, and the top 30 anglers registering the most releases and not winning a weekly trophy will qualify to fish Finale Day (i.e. 60 anglers possibly eligible for Finale Day).
2. Anglers can fish a maximum of 8 rods.
3. Finale Day begins at 6:00 AM, Saturday July 30th and ends at 3:00 PM.
4. Anglers must return to the Finale Day Release Station (TBD) by 3:30 PM. If an angler has not checked in by 3:30, their releases will not count for Finale Day Awards.
5. Anglers and Witnesses/Judges may return to the Finale Day Release Station by land or by water.
6. The angler registering the most fish released on Finale Day will be declared the winner. If no tarpon are released during Finale Day or the fishing day is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, anglers will try again at a later date.
7. Any angler who qualifies for participation into Finale Day must make available a Witness/Judge to accompany another participating angler. If you are unable to provide a Witness/Judge or they do not show up, your releases will not count for Finale Day awards.

(Please, choose wisely!!!)

Junior Finale Day

1. Junior anglers winning one of the ten weekly trophies and the top 10 anglers registering the most releases and not winning a weekly trophy will qualify to fish Finale Day (i.e. 20 anglers possibly eligible for Junior Finale Day).
2. Anglers can fish a maximum of 8 rods.
3. Finale Day begins at 6:00 AM, Sunday July 23rd and ends at 2:00 PM.
4. Anglers must return to the Finale Day Release Station (TBD) by 2:30 PM. If an angler has not checked in by 2:30, their releases will not count for Finale Day Awards.
5. Anglers may return to the Finale Day Release Station by land or by water.
6. The angler registering the most fish released on Jr. Finale Day will be declared the winner. If no tarpon are released during Finale Day or the fishing day is cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, anglers will try again at a later date.