

2021 OFFICIAL BILLFISH RELEASE FORM



Please complete the form for each billfish released. The information from this form will be used to inform fishery management agencies about the billfish fishery in NC. This information will help NC anglers continue to enjoy the off-shore fisheries in NC. Release data is needed regardless of the size of the fish or the gear used by the angler.

J-Hooks may be used with entirely artificial lures only. Circle hooks MUST be used on any natural bait or natural-artificial bait combination.

Boat Name _____ Captain (Name/Signature) _____

Date _____ Mate (Name/Signature) _____

Complete your release form and turn into the correct tournament official, and incomplete form may disqualify releases.

The form must be turned in to the Weigh Station or photographed and uploaded to your Big Rock KWLA App account no later than 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 12th, 2021 to qualify.

Angler	L/JG ¹	Junior Age	Release Time	Fight Time	Species ²	Est. Size	Hook Type ³	Hook Location ⁴	Rig Type ⁵	Bait Type ⁶	Leader ⁷	Main Line ⁸
1.												
2.												
3.												
4.												
5.												
6.												
7.												
8.												
9.												
10.												

Filling in your release form:

1. L for Lady Angler, JG for Junior Girl (16 years and under)
2. Species—Blue marlin (BM), white marlin (WM), sailfish (SF), spearfish (SP), roundscale spearfish (RS)
3. Hook type—Circle (C) or J-hook (J). Also note the hook size (i.e. circle 7/0)
4. Hook location—Jaw (J), Bill (B), Mouth Cavity (M), Gills (G), Deep/Gut (D), Fowl (F), Unknown (U)
5. Rig Type—Natural Dead (ND), Natural Live (NL), Combo-Natural/Artificial (C), Lure (L)
6. Bait Type—Ballyhoo (B), Spanish Mackerel (SM), Squid (S), Mullet (M), or Other (O). **If rig is a lure, note the number of hooks in Bait Type.**
7. Leader—Size of mono (Leader will be considered mono unless wire is noted)
8. Main Line—Size of backing



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8. QUALIFYING BILLFISH - All participants, fish, and boats must adhere to all State and Federal fishing regulations to qualify for prizes in this tournament. This is an all release tournament. No billfish shall be boated. A fish is boated when any portion of the fish or gaff breaks the plane of the boat. In the event a billfish is boated, the boat will automatically be disqualified from the tournament.

9. RELEASE POINTS - A cash prize will be awarded to the boat that scores the most number of points. No release points will be awarded if the gaff breaks the outside vertical plane of the boat. In the event of a tie in total release points, the tie breaker shall be the largest single gamefish (yellowfin tuna, dolphin, wahoo) by weight. If no gamefish are caught, the winner will be determined by the first boat to achieve the winning total. ***In order to qualify as a release, the billfish must remain in the water (Federal Law).***

125 Release Points will be awarded:

1. For all billfish including blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish, hatchet marlin and spearfish and
2. When mate touches the leader or leader touches the rod tip before the fish is released and
3. Team turns in a release form provided by the Tournament Committee attested to by signature of the captain and mate or angler on board the boat at the time of the release. This form may be submitted to the OFFICIAL WEIGH MASTER AT TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS, Hatteras Harbor Marina, or submitted electronically with the Big Rock app. Release forms must be turned in no later than 10:00 p.m. on the day the fish was released to qualify. Other than blue marlin, billfish forms may also be photographed and uploaded to the Big Rock App.

400 Release Points will be awarded for

1. Blue Marlin if the team provides indisputable video or photo evidence to the Rules Committee. To qualify for the 400 points, teams must turn in a Release Form in person along with the SD Card, Micro SD Card or Compact Flash Card from their camera. Forms and Media Cards can be turned in at the Official Weigh Station in Morehead City or to the Tournament Representative at the Hatteras Harbor Marina. The Media Card and Release Form must be turned in no later than 10:00 p.m. on the day the fish was released to qualify. The Media Card must show continuous video or a clear single photo of the mate touching the leader or leader touching the rod tip and clear and indisputable evidence that the fish is a blue marlin. It is the responsibility of the participants to ensure that their camera's Clock/Date is set accurately to reflect the time and date of the Releases to qualify for the 400 points. All videos will become property of the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament. If the rules committee is unable to see indisputable evidence that the fish is a blue marlin, the release will be scored at 125 points. The tournament will NOT allow photos or video from cell phones. Date and time stamp must be 100% accurate.

10. DISQUALIFICATION - A boat will be disqualified from the tournament if the boat, captain and crew violate any rules of the tournament.