

# South Haven Steelheaders 2011 Pro-Am Official Rules

## **I. ELIGIBILITY**

- A. The Tournament is open to any boat whose captain is a member of the Michigan Salmon and Steelhead Fishermen's Association.
- B. There will be three separate divisions – Pro, Amateur, and Under 24 Foot. Each boat can be entered in only one division. Any boat with a captain or crewmember who has a charter license or has held one within the last two years must fish the Pro division. All other boats may fish in the division of their choice; boats fishing Under 24' must be under 24' by length as listed on the boat title.
- C. Boats must be 18 feet or longer (length as listed on the boat title).

## **II. ENTRY FEES**

### ***Pro Division:***

- The basic entry fee is \$400; after May 6, 2011, the fee is \$425.

### ***Amateur Division:***

- The basic entry fee is \$200; after May 6, 2011, the fee is \$225.

### ***Under 24 Foot Division:***

- The basic entry fee is \$100; after May 6, 2011, the fee is \$125.

- A. In case of a last minute emergency that prevents an entrant from participating in the Tournament, said entrant may apply to the Tournament Committee for a refund of his entry fee. The decision to refund shall be made by the Tournament Committee and its decision shall be final.
- B. In the event of the cancellation of the Tournament due to weather or other reasons beyond the control of the Tournament Committee, said Committee reserves the right to retain up to 10% of the entry fees paid in order to cover costs incurred. All entry fees not retained will be returned to the entrants. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in this regard.

## **III. PRIZES**

### ***Pro Division:***

Prize money is based on 20 boats. Approximately 80% of entry fees will be awarded.

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$5000; additional prizes may be awarded

### ***Amateur Division:***

Prize money is based on 35 boats. Approximately 80% of entry fees will be awarded.

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$2000; additional prizes may be awarded

### ***Under 24 Foot Division:***

Prize money is based on 25 boats. Approximately 80% of entry fees will be awarded.

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$1250; additional prizes may be awarded

- A. The remainder of the entry fees will be retained by the Tournament Committee to help defray the costs incurred in running the Tournament.
- B. In case of ties, the prize money between the two or more places the participants would have won will be divided equally between the tied contestants.
- C. All prize money will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony on May 15, 2011.

#### **IV. SCORING**

- A. All winners will be determined by the Tournament Committee and its decision shall be final.
- B. Winners will be determined on the total accumulation of points based on the following:
  - 1. Ten points per legal fish weighed.
  - 2. One (1) point per pound of total weight, rounded to the nearest hundredth.
- C. There will be a maximum of twelve (12) fish weighed per Pro boat and a maximum of ten (10) fish weighed per Amateur and Under 24 boat each official day of the tournament, of the maximum numbers of fish weighed, **no more than six (6) may be Lake Trout.**
- D. The contestant accumulating the highest number of points in their division over all of the hours of the Tournament shall be the winner; the contestant with the second highest accumulation of points shall be second; and so on.
- E. The following species shall be eligible:

Coho Salmon	Chinook Salmon
Lake Trout	Brown Trout
Atlantic Salmon	Steelhead or Rainbow Trout
- F. A Traveling Trophy will be awarded as follows. Only the first place boat in each class is eligible for the award. For the winning Pro boat, the total weight of their Tournament catch will be divided by 12 for each day the Tournament is held (e.g., divided by 24 if two days are fished). For the Amateur and Under 24' boats, the total weight of their Tournament catch will be divided by 10 for each day the Tournament is held (20 if two days are fished). The boat with the largest resulting number is the winner of the Traveling Trophy.

#### **V. OBSERVER SYSTEM**

- A. **Only Pro boats will be required to furnish observers.**
- B. Observer assignments will be made by random draw. Boat assignments will be announced after registration at the Captain's meeting. Each Captain must report the location of his boat to his assigned observer at registration. Observer re-assignment maybe exercised at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- C. The Captain of each team shall be responsible that his observer be on board the assigned boat 30 minutes prior to the start of each fishing period. Failure to do so without just cause as ruled by the tournament committee, may result in the disqualification of the team supplying the observer.
- D. Observers must be at least 18 years of age. It will be their responsibility to see that all Tournament rules and DNR regulations are obeyed on the assigned boat. He/she shall report infractions to the Tournament committee.
- E. An "Official Tournament Observers" sheet will be provided for each fishing period. At the conclusion of the day's fishing the log sheet must be signed by both the observer and the Captain. The observer of his/her assigned boat shall accompany each day's catch until it has been officially weighed and scored.
- F. Observers can only use cell phones for emergency issues or with permission of the Captain
- G. Observers may be assigned to any boat in any division at any time as determined by the Tournament Committee.
- H. If Observer is not on board by 6:10 AM please contact the tournament committee at 269 214-8880

## **VI. BOAT IDENTIFICATION**

- A. The Tournament Committee will furnish to each contestant a colored flag and a boat identification number.
- B. The flag must be flown from a place in full view from all directions at all times during the Tournament.
- C. The boat number must be prominently shown on the starboard side of the participant's boat at all times during the Tournament.

## **VII. DATES & HOURS**

- A. The Tournament will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2011, and Sunday, May 15, 2011.
- B. The official Tournament start is 6:00am of Day One (unless the Tournament start is delayed by the Tournament Committee); the official Tournament end is the end of the fishing period on Day Two. All boats may fish only during times established by the Tournament Committee.
- C. The Tournament schedule will be as follows:
  - 1. Friday, May 13, 2011:
    - 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Registration
    - 7:30 p.m. - Captains Meeting
  - 2. Saturday, May 14 & Sunday, May 15, 2011:
    - 6:45 a.m.- Begin fishing period (**no run-time**). All boats must remain within 500 yards of the breakwater prior to 6:45 a.m.
    - 1:30 p.m.- End of fishing period; boats must be inside pier heads
  - 3. Sunday:
    - 3:00 p.m.- Awards Ceremony and Payoffs
- D. The Tournament will be considered official if a total of three (3) hours are fished between Saturday and Sunday and prizes will be awarded based on the point accumulation during the fishing time that was available.
- E. **If a fishing day is cancelled before three (3) hours have elapsed, the catch is not weighable for that day.**
- F. Unless declared otherwise by the Tournament Committee, there shall be no fishing on either day of the Tournament by any boat or any participant in the Tournament except during Tournament hours. In addition, no Tournament boat may leave the harbor at any time once the Tournament has started except during Tournament hours.
- G. Tournament Control will start and end each Tournament period by radio communication on **FM Channel 78**.
- H. All boats must be inside the pierheads at 1:30 p.m. of each day fished; no more fish are to be boated. All lines are to be pulled and the entrant must proceed directly to the weigh-in station. Boats must report to Tournament Control upon reaching the pierheads. Alternate fishing times may be established by Tournament Control according to circumstances.

## **VIII. FISHING RULES**

- A. There is no distance limit set on where a tournament boat can fish. **All boats must leave and return to South Haven Harbor, the trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited**
- B. All fish must be fairly caught on hook and line in accordance with the conservation laws. **All**

**effort must be made to land all fish in a timely manner, dragging of fish will not be permitted, and is cause for immediate disqualification.** No meat lines or similar devices may be attached to any part of a boat or downrigger. **Meat Lines may be defined as any baited line placed in the water that is not affixed to a fishing rod and reel. The use of strip/plug-cut/whole bait is allowed and is not a meat line.**

- C. There will be a maximum of nine (9) lines in the water at any one time, with no more than two (2) lures per line in use. Dodgers, attractors or other similar hookless devices do not count as lures. Sliders or Add-A-Lines shall not exceed 6' length.
- D. There will be a limit of fifteen (15) fish caught per boat in all divisions each official day of the Tournament. There will be a maximum of twelve (12) fish weighed per Pro boat and a maximum of ten (10) fish weighed per Amateur and Under 24 boat each official day of the Tournament, of the maximum numbers of fish weighed, **no more than six (6) may be Lake Trout.** . The number of fish caught and the number of fish weighed may not exceed the DNR legal limit for the number of licensed fishermen on board.
- E. When the 15 fish limit is reached, the boat must cease fishing immediately and proceed to the weigh-in. **NO CULLING OF FISH IS PERMITTED.**
- F. After check-in, no further fishing is allowed.
- G. From the start of a fishing period until the catch is deposited at the weigh-in station, no boat entered in the Tournament may run gunwale to gunwale with any other boat nor may any objects of any kind be passed between any participants in the Tournament and any other person. Violation of this rule is automatic disqualification.
- H. There will be a Committee boat on the lake observing and spot-checking boats at random throughout the Tournament. Any rules infractions observed by the Committee boat may result in disqualification from the Tournament.
- I. Random cooler checks will be made.

#### **IX. WEIGH-IN**

- A. At the close of each Tournament period, each captain must proceed immediately to the weigh-in station. There, he/she will deposit one crewmember, the fish and the Score Sheet.
- B. If the number of fish brought for weigh-in exceeds the twelve (12) fish limit for Pro boats, or the ten (10) fish limit for Amateur and Under 24 boats, the catch is disqualified for the day. **If any boat brings more than six (6) Lake trout to the weigh-in, that catch will also be disqualified for the day.** If the catch exceeds the DNR species limit for licenses on board, the fish out of species plus the largest fish shall be removed from the catch prior to weighing.
- C. A crewmember must remain with the catch until it has been officially scored.
- D. After making the drop-off at the weigh-in station, the boat must be returned to its slip, trailer, etc. Boats must leave the seawall immediately.
- E. The boat number must be returned on Sunday to be eligible for door prizes.
- F. Failure of a boat to proceed directly to the weigh-in station (whether or not any fish have been caught) will result in disqualification.
- G. All fish weighed become the property of the Tournament Committee that may, at their discretion, return said fish to the entrant.

#### **X. RADIO PROCEDURE**

- A. Every boat must be equipped with an operating FM Marine Radio. This radio must include Channels 09 and 78.
- B. Radio silence has been eliminated.
- C. After the start of the Tournament, all boats must monitor Channel 78.
- D. Be aware, important Tournament announcements will be made on Channel 78. Participants who miss these announcements will still be held accountable.

### **XI. DISQUALIFICATION OR PENALTY**

- A. **The Tournament Committee reserves the right to utilize polygraph technology as it deems appropriate and necessary.**
- B. Any participant who violates any of the rules of the Tournament or acts in an **uncooperative, disorderly or unsportsmanlike manner** shall be disqualified or penalized at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. The Committee may also at their discretion deduct any number of earned points from any contestant for a violation of the Tournament rules or improper conduct.
- C. Automatic disqualification shall result from the following:
  - 1. Running gunwale to gunwale with any other boat or passing objects of any kind between a participant in the Tournament and any other person at any time between the start of the Tournament and the time the catch is dropped off at the weigh-in station.
  - 2. Failure to report directly to the weigh-in station after the 15 fish limit is reached or at the close of each fishing period.
  - 3. Possession of fish during Tournament hours other than fish fairly caught while participating in the Tournament.
  - 4. Any participants who are disqualified may not be invited back to future Tournaments.
- D. All boats must be within the pierheads and checked off by Tournament Control at the end of the fishing period. A PENALTY OF 10 POINTS PER MINUTE will be assessed after that time. **NO EXCEPTIONS**
- E. All Tournament participants shall be duty bound to report any and all violations of the rules they observe on any boat.

### **XII. CANCELLATIONS**

- A. The Tournament Committee may cancel the Tournament at any time when, in their opinion, it feels that fishing conditions could be dangerous to persons or property. **EACH CAPTAIN IS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS CREW AND VESSEL.** The Committee will announce by radio before each Tournament period their decision as to whether or not the Tournament shall be run. Announcements will be made on FM-78.
- B. The Tournament Committee may also decide to delay the start of any fishing period or to shorten any period due to deteriorating weather conditions. A delay in the starting time will be announced on FM-78. The shortening of a fishing period will be announced by radio and there will be at least a 15 minute warning by Tournament Control before the shortened period is announced.
- C. Weather boats will be used in each division at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. If a fishing period is shortened, all boats at the end of said period must proceed to and be within the pierheads within one (1) hour.
- D. The decision of the Tournament Committee to cancel, delay or shorten the Tournament shall be final.

### **XIII. PROTESTS**

- A. Any and all protests must be made in writing to the Tournament Committee before 3:00 p.m. on the day of the alleged infraction that is being reported. There is a \$150 fee to register an official protest. The fee is refundable at the discretion of the judges' panel.
- B. A panel of five (5) judges appointed by the Tournament Committee will resolve all disputes. Their decision shall be final and binding.

#### **XIV. RULE CHANGES**

The Committee may change or modify any of these rules, but changes must be in writing and posted forty-five (45) minutes prior to the start of the Tournament.

#### **XV. LIABILITY**

- A. Every reasonable precaution will be taken by the South Haven Steelheaders Fishing Chapter to protect persons and property during the Tournament; however, neither the Tournament Committee, nor judges, nor any officers, directors or employees of the same are responsible for the safety of persons or property of participants as regards accident, theft, damage by fire, vandalism or any other cause.
- B. All participants further understand and agree to hold harmless the aforementioned groups and individuals from damages incurred as a result of participation in the Tournament in whatever form or manner said liabilities or damages might be incurred.

**GOOD LUCK!**

**REMEMBER: EACH CAPTAIN IS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE  
FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS CREW AND VESSEL.**