

Stuart Sailfish Club

Light Tackle Tournament

December 17th - 20th, 2025

1. Eligible Species: The Light Tackle Tournament is a sailfish catch and release tournament.
2. Fishing Days:
 - 2.1. Eligible Fishing Days – December 18th, 19th and 20th, 2025
 - 2.2. Each Boat May Select Two (2) of Three (3) Eligible Fishing Days as Tournament Fishing Days
3. Award Categories:
 - 3.1. Release Points – applies to sailfish releases only
 - 3.1.1. Top Boats - 1st, 2nd, 3rd Overall
 - 3.1.2. Top Boat Daily (One Each of the 3 days, must have at least one sailfish release to qualify)
 - 3.1.3. Top Overall Captain & Crew
 - 3.1.4. Top Overall Member Boat
 - 3.1.5. Top Overall Member Angler
 - 3.1.6. Top Overall Lady Angler
 - 3.1.7. Top Overall Junior Angler (Junior angler is age 17 and under)
 - 3.2. Meat Fish
 - 3.2.1. Largest Dolphin
 - 3.2.2. Largest Wahoo
 - 3.2.3. Largest Tuna
 - 3.2.4. Largest Kingfish
4. Captain's Meeting – December 17th, 2025, The Pearl, 4745 SE Desoto Ave, Stuart, FL 34997. Registration 4pm-6pm, Reading of Rules at 6pm. Meeting is mandatory for at least one representative of each participating boat.
5. Anglers and Crew Members
 - 5.1. Registration includes four (4) anglers.
 - 5.2. Additional Anglers can register for an additional \$750 per angler. There is no limit on the number of anglers registered per team.
 - 5.3. Professional Angler Definition and Restrictions:
 - 5.3.1. A Professional is Defined as someone who has been paid for their professional services as a captain, mate, or crew member, while engaging in fishing within the last twelve (12) months.
 - 5.3.2. A boat may have a maximum of four (4) paid professionals on board during fishing time

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5.3.3. Only one of the paid professionals may be a Professional Angler should the team choose to have one.

5.3.4. This chosen professional angler must be registered by name in advance of fishing

5.3.5. Final determination of an angler's eligibility will be made by the Tournament Rules Committee.

6. Tackle, Rules and Catch Regulations

6.1. Bait: The Light Tackle Tournament is exclusively a dead bait trolling tournament and the use of live bait is prohibited. Lures are permitted.

6.2. Line Test: Anglers are mandated to use a manufacturer stated 20lb line or lower.

6.3. Maximum Lines: All boats are permitted a maximum of four (4) hook baits in the water

6.4. Leader Compliance: Leaders must meet the 30lb line class. International Game Fish Association (IGFA) limits the length of a leader for conventional tackle used to catch saltwater species to 20 feet, including bimini and double line. Leader alone cannot be longer than 15'.

6.5. Catch Method: All fish must be caught using a conventional rod and reel. Spinning reels are prohibited.

6.6. Wire Line: The use of wire line is prohibited.

6.7. Chumming: Chumming of any form is prohibited.

6.8. Pitching Baits: Pitching bait to sailfish balling bait or into bait schools is prohibited.

6.9. Hooks: Non-offset circle hooks are mandatory

6.10. Hook and Hand: Teams are not permitted to use the "hook and hand" method. All fish must be hooked, fought and released by a single registered angler.

6.11. Dredges and Teasers: Four (4) teasers without hooks are allowed, two (2) of which may be dredges. Teasers cannot be placed in the water until the official lines-in time has occurred.

6.12. Electric Reels: Electric reels may be used for teasers only.

7. Kites: The use of kites is prohibited.

8. Releases Definition: A fish is officially released when the leader knot or swivel touches the rod tip, or when the mate takes control of the leader. This proof must be clearly visible on video or it is not a valid catch.

9. IGFA Rules Applicability: All rules specified by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) apply, except where otherwise specified in these tournament rules as stated in this document.

10. Scoring: All sailfish released earn 100 Points per legal release

11. Catch Reporting: To qualify for points, each release must be reported to the Tournament Committee at the time of release using one of the following options.

11.1. VHF – Boats are required call in ALL releases using the VHF Channel 80, Backup 71

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- 11.2. Text – Boats may text releases to the Tournament Mobile Phone # 561-254-8240 if they cannot reach the tournament committee via VHF
- 11.3. If using the text option, the tournament committee will also relay text messages back out over the VHF.
- 11.4. The Tournament Committee will acknowledge catch, record the official time of release and assign a catch number.

12. Reporting Hookups:

- 12.1. It is not required to call in hookups except in the last ten (10) minutes of each fishing day. Anglers are required to notify the Tournament Committee of hookups in the last 10 minutes of each fishing day via the Tournament's VHF Channel or via text to the Tournament's Mobile #, as listed in these rules.
- 12.2. Failure to comply with this reporting requirement may result in the disqualification of the catch.

13. Daily Identification Markers

- 13.1. Each team will receive colored identification markers with their registration materials
- 13.2. Each morning the Tournament Director or designate will send a notification of the color marker of the day via VHF and post on the Tournament's App.

14. Release Verification

- 14.1. All releases must have corresponding video footage, as outlined, below
 - 14.1.1. Boat provides verifiable video footage of each billfish release. Provide video evidence of each sailfish catch and release. Video proof must include:
 - 14.1.2. Angler fighting the fish
 - 14.1.3. Sufficient footage of the fish to accurately determine the species, clearly show the date and time as recorded when released and proper release evidence.
 - 14.1.4. Proper daily color identification marker
 - 14.1.5. All recordings submitted must be easily viewed by the committee. It is the team's responsibility to have these items and the video cued up for immediate viewing. Failure to do so will delay the verification process.
 - 14.1.6. Presentation of video footage
 - 14.1.6.1. Upload video via app
 - 14.1.6.2. Text video to tournament director
 - 14.1.6.3. Physically present memory card to tournament director/committee member

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14.1.7. Each video will be acknowledged by the tournament director to confirm acceptance

15. Release Affidavits:

- 15.1. Each billfish release must be recorded on the Daily Boat Release Log and be submitted with your release videos to the committee each fishing day by 6PM at Sailfish Marina Dock in Manatee Pocket
- 15.2. Failure to turn in your affidavit will disqualify that day's catch(s).
- 15.3. Affidavits are supplied with your registration package. If you do not have one for each day, please see the committee for a replacement.
- 15.4. The official time and catch number as supplied by the Tournament Committee, must be entered for each release on the boat's catch log.

16. Random leader samples will be conducted as needed. Be prepared to provide this upon request of the Tournament Committee.

17. Inlets

- 17.1. All Boats MUST present and check out from the Crossroads inside St Lucie Inlet
- 17.2. Once Checking Out for a Fishing boats may depart from the Inlet of their choice

18. Declaring a Fishing Day Morning Check Out

- 18.1. Check Out begins at 6:00am each day
- 18.2. All Boats Must Check Out if Declaring a Fishing Day by 7:30AM (You can revoke fishing day before lines are in)
- 18.3. Non-fishing days do not need to be declared. If you do not check out, you did not fish.
- 18.4. Contact Committee Boat by either of two methods
- 18.5. VHF Channel 80 (back up is 71)
- 18.6. Text the Tournament Mobile Phone 561-254-8240

19. Afternoon Day Daily Check-In

- 19.1. ALL Boats Must be Checked In by 5PM
- 19.2. Contact Committee Boat upon reaching the Crossroads by either of these two methods
 - 19.2.1. VHF Channel 80 (back up is 71)
 - 19.2.2. Text the Tournament Mobile Phone 772-888-6637
- 19.3. ALL BOATS Must physically pass thru the Crossroad west of St Lucie Inlet to Officially Check In with the committee boat after each official boat day of fishing for Scores to Count

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20. Geographic Boundaries:

20.1. The boundary is 50 Miles from the St Lucie Inlet Sea Bouy - Any Direction

20.1.1. Coordinates

20.1.1.1. North boundary is N27.55,

20.1.1.2. South boundary is N26.25

20.1.1.3. East Boundary is W79.40.

21. Fishing Time

21.1. Lines-in at 8:00 AM.

21.2. Lines-Out at 3:00 PM

22. All hookups must be called in beginning at 2:45pm each fishing day. Confirmation of release or loss of fish must be subsequently called in.

23. Weigh-in/Video Verification – Open from 3:30PM-6PM at Sailfish Marina Stuart

24. State and Federal Regulations

24.1. Participants are expected to comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to licenses, bag and size limits, speed limits etc.

25. Change of Boats: Changing Boats: Teams may substitute Boats if approved in writing by the Tournament Rules Committee.

25.1. Requests to substitute boats should be emailed to the Tournament Committee at the Email address, listed at the bottom of these rules. The Committee will approve or deny the request via the same email.

26. Weather: It is agreed by all parties that the captain of each boat / team has the ultimate responsibility to determine if conditions are unsafe for the vessel. No refunds will be given if a Captain chooses not to fish.

27. Refunds will not be issued.

28. Protests

28.1. Rules protest must be filed in writing by the captain by 6:00 PM the same day as the infraction.

28.2. Angler Status Protest: Amateur vs Professional Status protest must be filed in writing by 10:00 PM December 17th, 2025. After 10:00 December 17th, 2025, no protest of angler status classification will be allowed.

28.3. Protest must be accompanied by a \$500 cash deposit fee.

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- 28.4. All decisions of the tournament committee regarding protests are final. Participants agree and acknowledge by their participation that this protest will be the sole remedy for all disputes arising from the competition.

29. Polygraphs

- 29.1. Your entry into the Stuart Light Tackle implies expressed approval that you and all anglers and crew members will submit to a polygraph test if requested by the Tournament Committee.
- 29.2. Any crew member or angler of the winning boats is subject to polygraph testing at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

30. Polygraph tests will include but will not be limited to questions on angling and release

- 30.1. Failure of a polygraph test by any team member or failure to submit to a polygraph test requested by the Tournament Rules Committee May result in disqualification. Any registered boat or angler so disqualified will not be entitled to any prize, award, or entry fee refund.

31. Tournament Release Agreement

- 31.1. The Captain or Owner must accept the tournament's release agreement as part of the registration process using the Reel Time App, Tournament Website or Written Form.

32. Communication Methods

- 32.1. All boats must have a working VHF. Primary Channel is 80; Alternate Channel will be 71
- 32.2. Email - Tournaments@stUARTSailfishclub.com
- 32.3. Mobile Phone - 561-254-8240

33. Agreement By registering for a tournament, the captain and/or owner agrees that all anglers and occupants of their boat will abide by all tournament rules.