



# *Saltwater Charter Fishing Guidelines*

## *2026 – 2027 Season*

### **I General Guidelines**

1. Fishing on the club's charters is open to all club members, associates and their guests.
2. The cost of our charters will be determined by the Ocean Committee Chairman or the club's President. The fee for guests will generally be \$5 more than members. Guests under the age of 16 years fish for free!
3. Any changes to the cost will be announced in advance.
4. A saltwater fishing license is required for all persons fishing over the age of 16. Contact a Club representative if you have questions about obtaining a license that fits your needs.
5. The boat is required to have a manifest which each passenger, fishing or not, must sign.
6. There is no "fishing preference" afforded to anyone at any time unless specifically designated by the boat's Captain or Club Charter Master. People with special needs will be accommodated first to make sure they are not obstructed from the opportunity to enjoy their fishing experience.
- 7. REMEMBER: All rods are to be stowed in the rod racks on the side of the boat whenever the boat is underway unless you are in direct contact with them.**

### **II Rotational Fishing Guidelines:** (Generally used when fishing coastal waters for bass)

1. When we fish while anchored, we will usually use a rotation system to offer each fisherperson an equal opportunity to fish from the stern.
2. These rotation guidelines apply to all fisherpersons. Rotation will take place every 30 minutes!
3. An even number of colored clothespins (red, white, blue) will be selected based on the number of people fishing. For example: if we have 24 people, the Charter Master will fill a draw bag with 8 clothespins of each color. Each fisherperson will draw a colored clothespin, which will be worn where it is easily seen.
4. The color displayed on the arrow pointing to the stern of the boat will be the designated color fishing that sector of the boat during that period of rotation. Numbers will not be used.
- 5. The Stern area will be clearly marked with colored bungee cords.**

6. The remainder of the boat is divided as:

**Zone 1** which starts at the stern marker and represents the area from the marker to the Bow edge of the bait tank (Sum Fun) and

**Zone 2** which applies to everywhere else on the boat. Colored bungees will designate the separation of Zone1 and Zone 2.

7. Fisherpersons possessing colors, not fishing the stern, are OK to fish anywhere else on the boat but *casting jigs and other heavy lures is restricted to only Zone 2.*

8. In cases where the stern of the boat has open positions, but your assigned color is not designated for the stern at that time (lunch breaks and later in the day) then you are free to move to the stern to fish but must relinquish the spot to ensure room for a qualified color if presented.

**III Leaving Rods at the Rail:** (This differs by type of fishing and species targeted and the Charter Master will adjust as conditions and fish selection changes)

1. A case can be made for taking your rod to the bait tank with you, and one for leaving it at the rail tied down. A rod at the rail is potentially dangerous for people tripping and hinders a fisherman trying to follow a fighting fish. Conversely, when fishing rockfish, there is an argument that also can be made about many fisherpersons swinging 16 oz's of lead and 2 or 3 bare 2/0 hooks in the air as they take their rods to the bait tank.

2. Consequently, our guideline is that **when at anchor leave your pole secured at the rail and go and get your bait.** If you are leaving the rail for any other reason, such as lunch or a restroom break, please remove your rod from the rail and secure it in a rod rack on the side of the boat.

3. If your tackle system/box/bag has rod holders, please don't use them to store your rods while on the boat. Use the rod holders on the sides of the boat. **Rods sticking up in the tackle box area** always are in the way for those trying to cast especially when casting heavy jigs.

**IV Casting jigs and other heavy lures: (Zone 2 only)**

1. It is always critical to be safe, and to be aware of what is going on around you. Before casting, please look behind you and keep your eye on the jig all the way to the water. Please do not watch the water. You will not miss the water if you look behind you.

2. Anybody walking around on deck should also be vigilant of those who are casting. This includes casting live bait. **Please NEVER cast from the "2nd row" or behind others.**

**V The Jackpot:** (The jackpot only applies to game fish and does not include sharks, rays, eels etc.)

1. The jackpot will go to the person who weighs in the heaviest fish. Claiming the jackpot requires the fisherperson to bring the fish to gaff or net unassisted. A deckhand can assist you at maneuvering around objects such as the anchor or anchor line, other fishermen, or other obstacles.

2. A crew member cannot play the fish for you and have it still qualified for the prize. Fish caught at the dock, the bait barge, in the harbor or on the troll will not count (unless trolling is part of a coordinated rotational sequence as is often used for offshore tuna fishing). Unqualified fish will be marked by cutting off one lobe of the tail.

3. The Charter Captain will have the final say on all matters concerning the jackpot. Please keep in mind that it is a common practice to give part of the jackpot to the crew as a tip. This is not a requirement.

**If you are new to all of this, just ask for help either from another club member or a crew member.**

You might need help with tying on a hook, casting, choosing the correct bait, etc. We all want to make everyone's day a pleasant and relaxing one. We will all try to help you and each other.....