

2021



TOURNAMENT PACKET

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Welcome,

The Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge was a new addition to the tournament series on Eastern Basin of Lake Erie in 2016. The event will include the state of the art weigh-in system as seen at the Sunset Bay Walleye Shootout last year. Successful tournaments in other ports have shown a need for this style of event in Dunkirk, NY. This is one you don't want to miss!

Innovative Outdoors is a family-owned business based in Western New York that is dedicated to meeting the needs of hunting & fishing enthusiasts everywhere, this is another aspect of supplying the demand.

Enclosed is your official 2021 INNOVATIVE OUTDOORS Walleye Challenge tournament package. Please take time to review the packet that includes:

- 1.) Big Fish Friday Information (optional)
- 2.) Captain's Meeting Requirements
- 3.) Payout Structure
- 4.) Calcutta Options
- 5.) Marina/Docking Information
- 6.) Lodging Information
- 7.) Tournament Rules & Regulations
- 8.) Tournament Waiver and Release Form

More information can be found online at <https://lakeeriewalleyetournament.com/>. If you have additional questions, call Innovative Outdoors at (716) 481-5348 or email at info@innovative-outdoors.com.

Sincerely,

Jim Steel

Capt. Jim Steel
Tournament Chairman

CAPTAIN'S MEETING INFORMATION

Registration and meeting will be held at Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina, Dunkirk, NY.

Tournament/Team registration starts at 6:00pm on Friday, August 20th, 2021

The Captain's meeting is mandatory and begins at 6:30pm Sharp!

It is mandatory that one member of each team has registered and is in attendance for the captain's meeting. Failure to register for the tournament/captain's meeting will result in a two (2) hour delay in departure for fishing of the main event. Your team's start time will be 9:00am.

"BIG FISH FRIDAY" INFORMATION

Big Fish Friday (BFF) will be held on Friday, August 20, 2021.

- You must register by August 10, 2021 to participate.
- Registration fee can be paid by the registration deadline.
- Fishing time begins at 6:00am. You can depart any port or marina at anytime, however lines cannot be entered in the water until 6:00am.
- Weigh in will take place at Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina, Dunkirk, NY beginning at 3:30pm.
- You must be in the Official "Cooler Line" by 3:30 pm Sharp! Your team is responsible for bringing your cooler/fish to the "Cooler Line".
- Only one (1) fish shall be presented in the cooler, no other walleyes or species allowed in cooler.
- No loose ice or water baths allowed in cooler, bagged or block ice is acceptable.
- A maximum of nine (9) rods can be used at anytime.
- All waters of Lake Erie and upper Niagara River are legal fishing waters, including Canadian waters.
- All state and Federal Laws apply.
- All fish weighed for Big Fish Friday will be gill clipped.
- The top three (3) walleyes will be paid.
- All BFF prizes will be paid at the captain's meeting Friday, August 20, 2021.

❖ **Please reference enclosed Rules/Regulations for Weather Cancellations**

PAYOUT STRUCTURE

(based on a field of 54 boats)

Saturday, August 21st, 2021

(BLOW Day – Sunday, August 22nd)

MAIN EVENT

1 st	\$ 6,500
2 nd	\$ 3,600
3 rd	\$ 3,100
4 th	\$ 1,800
5 th	\$ 1,600
6 th	\$ 1,400
7 th	\$ 1,200
8 th	\$ 1,000
9 th	\$ 800
10 th	\$ 500

LARGEST WALLEYE

1 st	\$ 1,300
2 nd	\$ 900
3 rd	\$ 600

All winnings are paid in US Funds by check payable to the team captain. Any teams that are paid more than \$599.99 will be required to complete IRS Form W-9 and will receive a 1099-MISC no later than January 31, 2022. See the tournament staff after the weigh-in show to complete to collect your prize. **All team members must sign the release waiver & declaration prior receiving the payout.** If the tournament committee is made aware of any team or team member that violated any of the rules, an investigation will take place. In the event that the investigation finds that the rules were violated, the team must return any of the funds they received within 72 hours of being notified.

CALCUTTA OPTIONS

Below are our calcuttas for this year's event. *These calcuttas are optional item, fish none, one, two, three or all four; completely up to your team. Sign-up and payment for these options can take place with registration or at the Captain's meeting on Friday, August 20, 2021. All payments must be in US funds.*

#1 Big Box Calcutta	\$250.00
#2 Big Box Calcutta	\$100.00
#3 Big Box Calcutta	\$50.00
#4 Biggest Walleye Calcutta	\$100.00

All Calcutta winnings will be paid out in 100% CASH (US Funds).



MARINA INFORMATION

Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina

263 Lake Shore Drive & Central Avenue, Dunkirk, NY 14048

(716) 366-1774

All slip fees, launch fees, lodging fees and all other associated fees are the responsibility of each team.

Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina is offering discounted rates. To receive these rates on Thursday and/or Friday, you will need to show this email (either printed or on your smartphone) to the marina staff. They will cross check the information against the captains list. On Saturday, your boat number must be displayed on your boat to receive the discount.

The transient dock fee is \$25/night. This rate is good for Thursday night - Saturday night. We are working on a discounted daily launch fee of \$5 for Friday and Saturday. Please ask the attendant when you launch to see if this has been arranged.

The marina will have extended hours on Friday (6:00am – 7:00pm) & Saturday (5:30am-8:00pm). They will have ice, beverages, bait & lures, diesel & non-ethanol 91 octane gas. Trailer parking in the lot next to Demetri's (overnight parking is okay).

LODGING CONTACT INFORMATION



Clarion Hotel Marina & Conference Center

30 Lake Shore Dr. E., Dunkirk, NY 14048

(716) 366-8350

Special room rates have been negotiated. Standard rooms with (2) Queen beds at \$129.99. If you are booking after July 24, 2021, we suggest asking to speak group reservations. Call to make your reservations and book with Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge group.



City of Dunkirk Camping

(between Clarion and Tim Hortons)

342 Central Avenue, Dunkirk, NY 14048

(716) 366-0452

We are unaware if camping is allowed due to COVID restrictions. Previously, you needed to apply for camping permit in person between 9am – 4:30pm Monday – Friday at the City of Dunkirk town clerk's office. Must complete application and provide a valid driver's license. 2019 Rates were: (1) night \$45 – (2) nights \$80 – (3) nights \$110

2021



OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1.) Fishing hours will be from **7:00am to 3:30pm, August 21, 2021.**
(Foul weather date will be Sunday, August 22nd, same fishing hours)
*Should the weekend be a total loss, deemed unfishable, the payouts will be by lottery draw for the main event, largest walleye and calcuttas. This will be done at 12:30pm on Sunday, if required.
- 2.) There will be a shotgun start from the **lighthouse at Chadwick Bay**, Dunkirk, NY. There will be starting/location device or boat (to be announced at the captain's meeting). The shotgun start will be specifically **7:00am** sharp. Monitor VHF Channel 68 for the official countdown and call.
 - **If you depart prior than our official shotgun start at 7:00am, you will be immediately disqualified.**
- 3.) **ALL** waters of Lake Erie and the Niagara River are legal fishable tournament waters, this includes Canadian waters.
- 4.) Each boat will utilize a maximum of up to **nine (9) rod/reels per boat - total**. All other USA and Canadian laws apply.
- 5.) Boats may have from two **(2) to (5) anglers** per boat.
- 6.) Two team # signs will be provided (port and starboard); it is the team captain's responsibility to clearly post them visible to other tournament officials and tournament boats. If these numbers are not visibly displayed, you will not be identifiable therefore disqualified from the competition. Please make sure the signs are posted before your boat is inspected.
- 7.) Each Team will present up to **six (6) walleyes** in their box. The largest being identified with the ZIP-TIE provided. The only species allowed in the box are walleyes.
 - **Any more than six walleyes or any other species in the box will immediately disqualify the box and the team for the event. All culling is to be completed prior to entering the cooler check in station.**
 - **The fish will be presented in a cooler with bagged or blocked ice only. No loose ice or water baths allowed.**
- 8.) The walleyes presented must be a minimum of **20" from nose to tail**; any fish short of 20" will be removed from the boxes total weight; the remaining limit can be weighed without penalty. An official tournament measuring board will be on stage to measure any questionable short fish. To expedite the weigh in show, please do not bring fish smaller than 20" in your cooler. There will be a .500lb (one ½ pound) penalty assessed per fish that is under the tournament minimum. The box weight will be adjusted accordingly.
- 9.) Any fish found being altered in any manner is unacceptable and will result in immediate disqualification. **Fish should be handled in a manner that does not change the national digression or increase the fish's weight.** This includes but is not limited to water bath, injection of any materials (ice, water, bait, lead, etc.), rubber banding of the fish's mouth, plugging of the anus, weight clipping of the gills, and clubbing or instantly killing the fish. Bagged or block ice is permissible. A live well (by Webster's definition - a well for keeping fish alive in a fishing boat by allowing seawater to circulate through it) is permissible, but dead fish cannot be kept in a live well with water in it (this would be considered a water bath).

2021 OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS (CON'T)

- 10.) The team “puck” will be issued upon completion of the morning boat check. EVERY boat will be checked prior to departure at the **Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina**. Bring your boat check slip to the marina pavilion to pick up your puck. If you depart without your puck, you will not be able to weigh your fish.
- 11.) The team “puck” is returned to the cooler check in station at the tent at **Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina** when you drop off your fish cooler with tournament officials. It would be appreciated if you would please return you puck regardless if you are presenting a cooler for weigh in or not to help with the accountability that the entire fleet has returned safely.
- 12.) Boat checks will begin at 5:30am, **NO boat/team** can depart the docks or launch prior to having boat checks completed and team puck in hand. Monitor VHF Channel 68.
- 13.) Tournament boats cannot make contact with each other at any point or time once your boat check is complete. No boat is allowed to float or pass equipment, fish, bait, ice, coolers, food or drink between them; at any point throughout the day after you boat has been check. This includes at the dock, leaving Chadwick Bay, on the lake during traveling or fishing, or returning back to Chadwick Bay. Any noted or witnessed contact between boats will result in an immediate disqualification for any/all boats involved.
- 14.) There is **NO stop** fishing time, HOWEVER, your cooler must be turned in to the check in station at **Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina** by **3:30 PM Sharp! (NO EXCEPTIONS)**. Coolers will be transported by tournament staff to weigh-in. Once the coolers are dropped off and in the possession of the tournament officials, they will be sealed and labeled. Tournament coolers cannot be re-opened by the team from this point on. If any access to the cooler is attempted by the team, the cooler/team will be disqualified.
- 15.) Fish will be weighed in at **Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina**. Weigh-In will begin at 5:00pm. Teams will be called to get their cooler and present their fish to be weighed.
- 16.) In the event of a tie for the largest walleye (for Big Fish Friday & Main Event), the respective prize will be split equally. During the main event, if there is a tie in box weight, the big fish weight will be used first to break the tie. If the tie still cannot be broken, the respective prize money will be equally split.
- 17.) All slip fees, launch fees, lodging fees and all other associated fees are the responsibility of each team.
- 18.) Liability & Rules Waiver must be signed by all participating anglers. Waivers must be handed in no later than at registration before the captain’s meeting.

Any teams that are paid more than \$599.99 will be required to complete IRS Form W-9 and will receive a 1099-MISC no later than January 31, 2021. See the tournament staff after the weigh-in show to complete the form and collect your prize.

- 19.) The tournament is an **OPEN** communication event.
- 20.) All boats must depart and return under their own power. Jumping boats or transferring coolers is a violation of rule #13 and therefore not allowed.
- 21.) As the event will have a professional weigh in, it is mandatory that each team will be properly dressed. Ideally team t-shirts or jerseys are the best choice; as they look professional and show well for pictures and videos. No Ripped, bloody t-shirts, tank-tops or cut off sweat pants are allowed. No alcohol or smoking is allowed on stage.

No profanity, unsportsmanlike conduct, actions or deliberate vulgarity will be allowed on stage, this will result in immediate disqualification.

2021 OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS (CON'T)

- 22.) Tournament team registration begins at 6:00pm on **Friday, August 21st** at **Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina, Dunkirk, NY**. Each team must be checked in no later than 6:30pm. Additional tournament information will be presented at that time.
- 23.) **Captain's Meeting (Mandatory)** - At least one member of each team must be checked-in/registered and be present for the captain's meeting on **Friday, August 20th, 2021**. Captain's meeting starts at **6:30 pm sharp**; registration begins at 6:00pm. Registration and captain's meeting will be at **Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay Marina, Dunkirk, NY**.

Teams not registered by 6:30pm and present for Captain's meeting will be penalized 2 hours for departure for the day of fishing (9:00 am departure time will be enforced).
- 24.) **Big Fish Friday** - Big Fish Friday (BFF) is not part of the payout structure or a requirement of the main event. Our tournament scales will be utilized for weighing of the fish for this portion of the event. Rules are provided separately for Big Fish Friday portion of the fishing. It is each participating team's responsibility to know, understand and abide by the rules that apply for Big Fish Friday if they so choose to fish this portion. Please reference the Big Fish Friday information sheet provided.
- 25.) Unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind will not be tolerated. Abuse, verbal or otherwise directed towards the tournament committee members, its volunteers or supporting staff will result in immediate disqualification, NO Exceptions.
- 26.) The intent of the rules is to promote good sportsmanship and good competition. Any infraction of the rules in the opinion of the tournament committee will result in disqualification. The tournament committee's decision will be final for all matters pertaining to the interpretation of the rules.
- 27.) **Protest/Challenge Submittals** - In the event a team wishes to enter a protest to formally challenge a competitor conflict, a formal document will be available for submittal. This form, in addition to a charge of \$200 will be presented to Tournament Officials. Submittals must be made no later than 15 minutes after the weighing in of the last team on the day of the event. Should the challenge be awarded in favor to the protest submitting team, the \$200 fee will be refunded to the challenging team. Should the challenge be invalid, the \$200 fee will be forfeited.
- 28.) The Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge maintains zero tolerance of cheating or misconduct within **ANY** tournament venue anywhere throughout the USA or Canada. The Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge will prohibit participation of any captain or team member(s) found/documented as cheating or misconduct within **ANY** tournament event.
- 29.) Polygraph testing and/or legal deposition will be utilized for winning teams (this could include any or all members of the team) within various portions of the tournament payout structure. This includes Big Fish Friday and the Main Event. Refusal or being unable to participate when called to test will result in automatic disqualification. All test results will be considered final with no exceptions. Any form of deception recorded by the test will be considered a failure and result in disqualification.
- 30.) Teams/boats cannot go ashore once they have departed boat check. All boats must leave the harbor by water and return by water.

2021 OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS (CON'T)

- 31.) **Weather CALL** - In the event we have unfavorable weather conditions for the event, the following process will be followed for both Big Fish Friday and Main Event Saturday.

Big Fish Friday

- a.) Tournament officials will monitor <http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/data/Forecasts/FZUS51.KBUF.html>. Monitor VHF channel 68.
- b.) If there is a *Small-Craft Warning* posted for Dunkirk, NY prior to opening fishing hours (6:00am) for anytime during the days event, the Big Fish portion of the event will be cancelled. The monies/prizes will be determined via lottery draw for all teams entered into this section of the weekend.
- c.) If weather is rough or unfavorable conditions are present, but no *Small-Craft Warning* has been posted, Big Fish Friday will be considered OPEN and fishable. It is the team captain's responsibility to make the judgment/decision if he feels his team/vessel can safely fish the conditions.
- d.) In the event, a *Small-Craft Warning* is posted once fishing hours have started (past 6:00am), fishing will be considered OPEN and fishable. It is the team captain's responsibility to make the judgment/decision if he feels his team/vessel can safely fish the conditions.

Main Event

- a.) Tournament officials will monitor <http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/data/Forecasts/FZUS51.KBUF.html>. Monitor VHF channel 68.
 - b.) If there is a *Small-Craft Warning* posted for Dunkirk, NY prior to opening fishing hours (7:00am) for anytime during the days event, the Main Event Saturday, the day will be considered officially cancelled and the fleet will prepare for Sunday as the make-up blow day.
 - c.) Should Sunday be utilized as the tournament main event day, all rules, times and processes will apply as Saturday.
 - d.) In the event the weather is rough or unfavorable conditions, but no *Small-Craft Warnings* are posted; the Main Event will be considered OPEN and fishable. It is the team captain's responsibility to make the judgment/decision if he feels his team/vessel can safely fish the conditions.
 - e.) In the event, a *Small-Craft Warning* is posted once fishing hours have started (past 7:00am), fishing will be considered OPEN and fishable; It is the team captain's responsibility to make the judgment/decision if he feels his team/vessel can safely fish the conditions.
- Monitor and use VHF Channel 16 for safety and emergency information, monitor VHF Channel 68 for Tournament updates and information.

The rules are presented to be clear, understood by teams captain/team members and provide an even playing field for each team. If you have any questions, please see a tournament official at the captain's meeting for clarification.

The tournament officials have the final decision in any/all reported or identified situations/incidents that require attention.



INNOVATIVE OUTDOORS WALLEYE CHALLENGE
RELEASE WAIVER & DECLARATION

THE FOLLOWING MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY ALL ANGLERS

In consideration of acceptance of this entry, to participate in the 2021 Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge (August 21, 2021 – blow day August 22nd, 2021) including the Big Fish Friday portion (August 20th, 2021) I, for myself, my heirs, my teammates, executors, administrators and assigns, waive, and release absolutely and unconditionally any and all claims I may become entitled to for injury or damage, and release all organizing groups, and any other organizers, sponsors, and their active members, servants, agents or employees, from any claims, demands, damages, actions or causes of actions arising out of any loss, injury or damage to my property incurred while attending at or participating in this tournament, notwithstanding any such loss, injury, or damages which may arise by reason of negligence of any other organizers, sponsors and their respective members, servants, agents, or employees. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, I further release any recourse which I may now or hereafter have resulting from any decisions of the Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge and/or organizers, sponsors, and their respective members, servants, agents, or employees.

The undersigned release (give permission) that any/all video/photographs collected by professional and amateurs filming/photography groups can be utilized by the Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge committee as they see fit.

The undersigned, participated in the Innovative Outdoors Walleye Challenge (including Big Fish Friday on August 20, 2021) on August 21, 2021 (blow day, August 22, 2021). The anglers below declare that followed all tournament rules including but not limited to catching the tournament fish during tournament hours in the waters of Lake Erie or the Niagara River by rod & reel and followed all federal and state regulations. All team members possess a valid fishing license in NY and any other state/country where they fished. All team members followed the rules of the tournament including but not limited to a maximum of 9 rods in the water, did not make contact another boat, did not alter the fish in any way and allowed the fish to naturally die. If a live well was used, they did not knowingly keep dead fish in the live well.

If the tournament committee is made aware of any team or team member that violated any of the rules, an investigation will take place. In the event that the investigation finds that the rules were violated, the team will return any of the funds they received within 72 hours of being notified.

I CONFIRM I HAVE READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE AND UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS AND EFFECT ON MY LEGAL AND EQUITABLE RIGHTS, AND AM SIGNING IT VOLUNTARILY.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Signature: _____

(Signature of parent/guardian if applicable)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Signature: _____

(Signature of parent/guardian if applicable)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Signature: _____

(Signature of parent/guardian if applicable)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Signature: _____

(Signature of parent/guardian if applicable)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

Signature: _____

(Signature of parent/guardian if applicable)

Waiver must be turned in to tournament official's possession at registration on Friday, August 20, 2021. This will cover both Big Fish Friday and Main Event.