

**6<sup>th</sup> Pan American Surf Fishing Championship**  
**Sebastian Inlet State Park**  
**Indian River County, Florida, USA**  
**November 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 2026**





## ***2026 PAN AMERICAN SURF FISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS OFFICIAL INVITE***

**US Angling, the USA Surf Fishing Team, and the Pan American Sportfishing Federation invites you to the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Pan American Surf Fishing Championships – to be held at Sebastian Inlet State Park located in Indian River County, Florida, USA.**

This document contains important information about the selected venue, registration, travel logistics, accommodations, and other event details. We look forward to hosting you for a great event between November 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 2026. We will also release an event program nearer the time with further details for competitors.

### **About Sebastian Inlet State Park & Beach**

Sebastian Inlet State Park and beach, located in Indian River County, spans a breathtaking stretch of barrier island along Florida's central east coast — where pristine beaches meet the Atlantic Ocean. At its center is Sebastian Inlet, a manmade passage that connects the open Atlantic to the renowned Indian River Lagoon – one of the most biodiverse estuaries in North America.

Covering more than 1,000 acres and stretching across three miles of beautiful sandy shoreline, the beach offers a spectacular Championship setting. Expansive beaches and clear coastal waters provide an unforgettable backdrop for athletes and visitors alike. Beyond the beach and world-class fishing, the park offers surfing, swimming, snorkeling, diving, and beachcombing.

### **About Indian River County, Florida**

Welcome to Indian River County – one of America's most inviting seaside destinations. With more than 100,000 acres of protected conservation land and 22.4 miles of pristine, uncrowded beaches, the county offers an exceptional coastal experience for visitors and competitors alike.

Here, unspoiled natural beauty meets refined coastal living. Sun-drenched shores, abundant wildlife, fresh local cuisine, and a thriving arts and cultural scene create a destination that is both relaxed and sophisticated. Indian River County seamlessly blends small-town warmth with world-class amenities, delivering an atmosphere that is welcoming, vibrant, and unforgettable.

Whether you come for competition, recreation, or relaxation, you'll discover a place where the beach, the water, and the community come together to create something truly special.

**<https://visitindianrivercounty.com>**



## **A Welcome Message from the USA Surf Fishing Team & US Angling**

**It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2026 Pan-American Surf Fishing Championships at Sebastian State Beach in Florida, USA.**

I have the honor of serving as President of the USA Surf Fishing Team – and it is a privilege to welcome the athletes, officials, volunteers and supporters who have traveled here to compete and support this event.

Fishing is one of life’s great unifiers and is central to many of the coastal communities we represent – and through responsible catch-and-release practices and strong competitive standards, we help ensure the long-term sustainability of both our increasingly-popular sport and the waters that sustain it.

These championships are about growing those unifying connections; connections to the ocean and beach, connections with our fellow anglers, and connections between nations across the Americas. As those connections grow, so will our sport and these Championships.

We all owe a sincere thank you to the Costa Rican Federation for their leadership in hosting previous Pan-American Championships with professionalism, warmth and hospitality in their great country. Their outstanding efforts have helped build the strong foundations on which this event now grows.

The 2026 tournament marks an important milestone as the first Pan-American Surf Fishing Championship ever hosted in the United States, and the first outside of Costa Rica. We hope it represents continued growth for the sport – promoting increasing levels of intense-but-fair competition and camaraderie between an expanding number of nations. We also look forward to visiting Panama in 2027.

We are especially thankful to the countries and competitors that will make the journey to Florida from distant lands. International travel is not always simple – especially with large amounts of expensive equipment and a complex world – but we deeply appreciate the effort, sacrifice, and commitment required from everyone involved. Thank you for attending.

Finally, I would like to recognize the USAngling team – including Neil Krauter, Tony Forte, Michael Brand, and many others – whose tireless work behind the scenes has made this tournament possible. We are fortunate to have an amazing group putting this event together, and I’m confident that this will be an outstanding Championship with many fine fish caught and released.

I wish all competitors and supporters a safe, fair, and successful competition; tight lines and straight casts – Ben Hervey-Murray



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### **Welcome & Opening Ceremony: Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup> 2026**

Foreign delegations will be officially received on **Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup>** at the event operating base to be located in the **Tiffany Room at Capt. Hiram's Resort**. We will enjoy dinner over an opening ceremony and team presentations at **7:30pm ET**. Capt. Hiram's Resort is located at 1580 US Highway 1, Sebastian, FL 32958 and situated on the Sebastian Riverfront.

**Venue:** Tiffany Room @ Capt. Hiram's Resort (1580 US-1, Sebastian, FL 32958)

**Menu:** Captain's Choice Menu: Chicken Piccata or Flank Steak + Sides.



### **Practice Day, Friday November 6<sup>th</sup>**

- Coach/Captains Meeting @ 9:00am VENUE TBC
- Practice Session Times To Be Confirmed - The state park is open to the public and teams can come and go as they please.

### **Tournament Days: Saturday November 7<sup>th</sup> & Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Day One (7<sup>th</sup>):**

- Session 1: Saturday 6:00 am to 11:00 am
- Break & Boxed Shore Lunch (supplied): 11:00am to 1:00pm
- Session 2: Saturday 1:00pm to 6:00pm

#### **Day Two (8<sup>th</sup>):**

- Session 3: Sunday 6:00 am to 11am
- Break & Boxed Shore Lunch (supplied): 11:00am to 1:00pm
- Session 4: Sunday 1pm to 6pm

### **Closing Ceremony & Awards Banquet: Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup>**

Closing Ceremony, Dinner & Awards Banquet will occur on **Sunday November 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm** at **Capt. Hiram's Resort (1580 US-1, Sebastian, FL 32958)** in the Bimini Beach area.

Menu: Whole Pig Roast with sides & Cash Bar.

**Note on Meals: Meals will be provided for opening ceremony (Thurs PM), closing ceremony (Sunday PM) and beach box lunches on the two tournament days (Saturday and Sunday) All meals outside of these mentioned will be the responsibility of each team or individual**



## TRAVEL & LOGISTICS

### ***Recommendations for Arrival and Departure – International & Domestic Flights***

We would recommend arriving at one of the international airports listed below no later than 2pm (local time) on Thursday November 5<sup>th</sup>. Departure recommended Monday November 9<sup>th</sup> in the morning. We would suggest planning arrival at the airport at least 2.5 hours before international flights and 2 hours before domestic flights.

- **Orlando International Airport** – This is the closest large international airport which is approximately 84 miles from Sebastian. Approximately one hour fifteen minutes away from the recommended accommodations
- **Palm Beach International Airport** – 97 miles away from Sebastian. Approximately one and a half hours from the accommodations
- **Melbourne International Airport** – 24 miles from Sebastian but has primarily domestic flights

### ***Ground Transportation Upon Arrival & During Event***

- Upon arrival in the US, each team and/or individual angler will be responsible for their own ground transportation from the airport to the hotels near the beach venue.
- For transportation to and from the beach front daily for practice and competition we recommend teams rent their own cars, vans, and buses etc.
- The recommended hotels are either a short walking distance or short drive between each other for team meetings, and ceremony evenings.
- 12 to 15 passenger vans, trucks, and cars are available to rent at the airports



## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Permitted accommodations are hotels and short-term house rentals in Sebastian & Vero Beach, Florida. US Angling has secured discount codes for the recommended local hotels in close proximity to the tournament beach front and the ceremony venues at Capt Hiram's.

Teams must provide US Angling with confirmation of their booked hotel/rental locations and number of nights once reservations are made. Please ensure you book hotels and accommodation no later than Tuesday October 5<sup>th</sup> in order to receive the discounted rates. Rooms are not blocked and availability is on a first-come first-serve basis at the following hotels:



**Best Western Plus** - 21 minute drive to beach. We have a minimum of 30 rooms being held

- Rate Secured of \$109.99 Per Night Plus Taxes & Fees.
- Address: 1655 US-1, Sebastian, FL 32958 ;
- [www.bestwestern.com](http://www.bestwestern.com) (772) 388-9300
- Booking Instructions: Please have guests call the Best Western Plus directly at 772-388-9300; mention the dates of November 5-9, 2026, and the block of Pan Am Surf Fishing.

**Spring Hill Suites by Marriot** – Vero Beach. 22-minute drive to beach, 19 minute drive to opening and closing ceremony location at Capt. Hiram's Resort.

- Rate Secured of \$149.00 Per Night Plus Tax.
- Address: 5115 Indian River Blvd, Vero Beach, FL 32967
- [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com) (772) 978-9292
- Complimentary Breakfast, Complimentary Parking
- Booking Link To Make Reservation: [Hotel Booking Link Pan American Surf Fishing Championship](#)

**Airbnb** – Homes, apartments and condos are permitted for rental by teams and individuals as well through Airbnb or other booking services. There are no discounted rates secured for rentals. [www.airbnb.com](http://www.airbnb.com)

**Other Lodges & Hotels** – Any hotel or lodge of our choice is available for booking as long as it is located within Indian River County, FL.



## **OTHER RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES**

If you are arriving early or staying late, we recommend visiting the following attractions:

**Bass Pro Shops** - 750 Bass Pro Dr NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905

Bass Pro Shops is a valued sponsor of US Angling and Bass Pro Shops, is a premier sporting goods retailer that offers hunting, fishing, camping, and other related outdoor recreation equipment, marine manufacturing, and outdoor resorts.

**Mel Fisher Treasures** – 1322 US-1, Sebastian FL 32958 [www.melfisher.com](http://www.melfisher.com)

Walking distance from the recommended hotels. Small museum of a well-known local treasure hunter displaying gold objects and treasures found from wrecked Spanish Galleon ships off the local beaches.

**McLarty Treasure Museum** – The McLarty Museum will be open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays.

**Sebastian Fishing Museum** – 9700 S Hwy A1A, Vero Beach, FL 32963

The Sebastian Fishing Museum showcases the rich history of Sebastian and the local Indian River Lagoon fishing industry by showcasing pictures, video presentations, fishing gear, and replicas of a commercial fish house and dock. Admission is free. Hours of Operation: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.





## **FISHING LICENSES**

**We are actively working with the Florida Wildlife Commission to assist with ease of administration of purchasing fishing licenses for the event.**

A three-day fishing license to purchase a 3-day license anglers must visit one of the local tax collector and licensing general agent locations. A 3 Day Non-Resident Fishing License costs \$17.00.

**Please ensure you go visit the tax collectors office to purchase your license upon your arrival on Thursday, or Friday before the practice session:**

- Tax Collector's Office of Indian River County - Sebastian Branch
- 1921 US-1, Sebastian, FL 32958
- [\(772\) 226-1338](tel:7722261338)
- Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5pm.

**NOTE BEFORE: You do also have the option of purchasing an annual license online in advance which for non-residents costs \$47. This would prevent you from needing to visit the tax collectors office Annual fishing license can be purchased here: <https://myfwc.com/license/recreational/saltwater-fishing/>**

**If in the coming weeks we are successful in purchasing licenses for the entire group and receive a special event license, we will update all Federations and participants prior to arrival with this information. Otherwise, please use the above information to purchase licenses as needed.**



## **COSTS, FEES & CONTACTS**

### **Summary of Costs Per Athlete Individual – \$399 per participant**

**This includes:**

All tournament fees and beach park entry fees  
Opening Ceremony Dinner  
Lunches for both tournament days  
Closing Ceremony Dinner  
All trophies & medals

**This does not include:**

Accommodation  
Transportation  
Lunch on practice day  
Fishing licences (although we are working on this as per previous note)

### **Cost Per Non-Competing Companion (Ceremonies & Meals-Only) – \$199 per person**

**This includes:** Opening Ceremony Dinner & Closing Ceremony Dinner

**This does not include:** Accommodation, Transportation, Park entry fees

### **Wire Transfer Details & Payment Instructions:**

**We ask that each participating country remit payment of the appropriate amount (\$399 or \$199 x number of participants / companions) by 9/1/2026 in order to allow for timely payment and reservations, deposits required for the venues, meals, permits, fees etc.**

Payment instructions are listed below:

**Business Name:** US Angling Confederation

**Business Address:** 8 Forest Oak Ct, Fenton, MO 63026

**Bank Name:** Chase Bank

**Bank Account Number:** 690887255

International Wire Routing Number use SWIFT Code CHASUS33

Domestic Wire Routing Number use 021000021

Domestic ACH Routing # 071000013

### **Mailing Address for Checks:**

US Angling Confederation

c/o Michael Brand

8 Forest Oak Ct, Fenton, MO 63026

### **ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACT FOR CONFIRMING EVENT ATTENDANCE & QUESTIONS:**

**[bhervey-murray@usangling.org](mailto:bhervey-murray@usangling.org) / WhatsApp: +1 (714) 642-5770**



## 2026 TOURNAMENT RULES & GUIDELINES

### 1) General Rules

- Representation by country: Each country active in the Pan American Fishing Federation contributes a maximum of adult men 10 anglers and a total of 15 anglers when at least three are women and two are under 21 years of age
- People between the ages of 11 and 21 on the date of the tournament are considered under 21 anglers
- Under 21 participants must be accompanied by a guardian
- This is a 100% catch and release tournament
- The minimum size for scoring will be 35 centimeters and may be modified after the tournament begins at a captains' meeting for the next competition day or session. The decision will be communicated to the entire team by the captain of each team
- The fishing areas or zones will be demarcated by flags on the beach and will not be changed once the competition block begins
- Fishing outside the area marked by the boundary flags is prohibited
- Tournament registration closes on October 1st, and this is the deadline for Federations to announce team members.

### 2) Fishing Days & Sessions

- **Friday, November 6th: practice day [Times TBC - info to follow in event brochure].**
- **Saturday, November 7th: 6:00 am to 11am, and 1pm to 6pm**
- **Sunday, November 8th: 6:00 am to 11am, and 1pm to 6pm**
- Schedules are governed by the official time zone of the country and location
- The tournament is divided into morning and afternoon blocks each day, with a total of four blocks spread over two days of competition
- Anglers must be out of the water on dry sand, waiting for the starting horn before entering the water when each block starts, and exit immediately at the sound of the session-closing horn

### 3) Equipment Rules

- Free-length rod (pole)
- Free line strength, in pounds and material
- Mechanical reels must be used (not electric or power assisted)
- Artificial lures with single, double, or treble hooks only must be used (snagging, gang and quadruple hooks are excluded)
- Fishing will be with artificial lures only
- The use of an additional leader or line is permitted, but must not exceed the total length of the rod



#### 4) Courtesy Rules

- Crossing fishing lines, casting over and / or impeding another competitor's fishing is prohibited
- Obstructing a hooked angler's fishing is prohibited. Competitors around a hooked angler must stop fishing and move out of the way immediately to facilitate the angler's fishing

#### 5) Catch and Release Rules

- The fish must be fought only by the competitor from the moment it is hooked until it is on the shore (a stranded fish)
- Once stranded on land, the angler may receive assistance holding the fish while gaining control.
- The rod and line must not be cleaned, touched or handled by anyone else during the fishing and catching process
- The fish must be hooked in the area from the furthest edge of the gills to the mouth area
- The use of a net, gaff, harpoon or spear is not permitted
- The lure must not be detached from the fish until the Beach Judge indicates that a photograph of its hooking has been taken. If for any reason the lure comes loose after the fish is stranded, the angler must wait for the judge to arrive and reattach it to take photos and measure it.
- Once the angler has stranded the fish, he must keep it alive so that the Beach Judge can photograph it and accurately record:
  - the species
  - the length
  - the lure used
  - the hook placement
- All fish must be released, handled, and unhooked by the competitor
- All fish must be released alive
- A catch hooked before the end time is valid if landed no more than 15 minutes after the tournament ends, as measured from the finishing horn

**Note:** If a tarpon or large goliath grouper is hooked, the angler may receive assistance in subduing it when the other angler is in water below the angler's knees. The tarpon and large goliath grouper must be released without leaving the water to avoid damaging its internal organs. Therefore, the judge will measure it on the shore without removing it from the water. For hooked Sharks, the angler can also receive assistance with subduing, unhooking, measuring and releasing.

#### 6) Measurements:

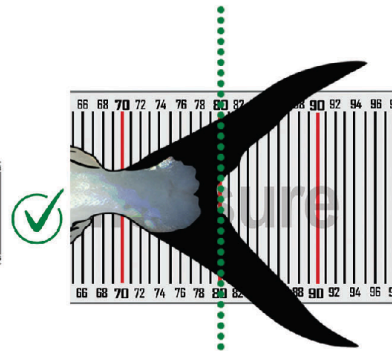
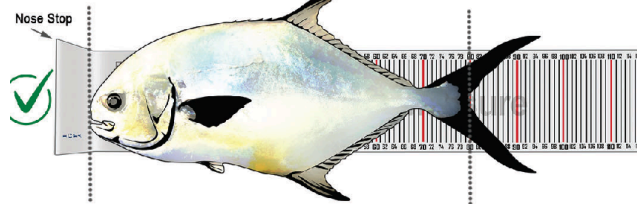
- Measurements will be in accordance with IGFA Rules



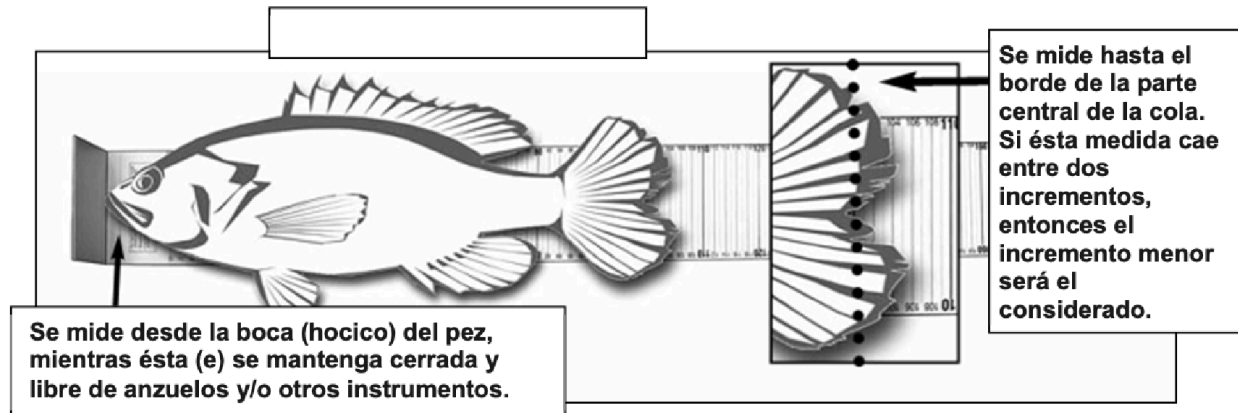
- The fish is measured from the tip of the mouth to the fork of the tail according to international measurement rules and each centimeter is considered a point, the centimeters are rounded to the lowest unit..

With the fish lying on top of the measuring device, measurements must be taken from the most forward part of the fish's snout to the **rear center edge** of the tail.

The fish's snout **must be touching** the nose stop and free of hands, flies or lifting devices.



All measurements must be made in centimeters. Fish measuring between centimeter increments shall be recorded at the lower of the two increments. For example, a fish that measures between 79 and 80 centimeters will have a recorded length of 79 centimeters.



## 7) Winner Determination

- The commissioner (Chief Judge) receives the photos of the judges on the beach, assigns the sum of the points obtained by each fisherman, and filters them in a table in descending order.
- The angler with the highest number of points (length in cm + species points) wins the individual category, second and third place etc are determined by the next anglers in the table.
- To determine the gold, silver and bronze by country, the number of points of the three best fishermen per country is added. The table will reflect in descending order the teams with the greatest number of points obtained, with first place being the team with the most points. obtained, and so on for second and third place
- To determine the tiebreaker in individual points, the rule of “whoever ties loses” is applied, with the last one to remove a fish from the water being the one who ties and loses.
- To determine a tiebreaker by nations, the rule of “the last angler to present loses for the entire team” is applied.



- All aspects not contemplated in these regulations will be discussed in a commission of judges and the decisions will be unappealable. Temporary Tournament Suspension In the event of an emergency, such as a thunderstorm, tsunami warning, or shark advisory, requiring the tournament to be immediately suspended, the Tournament Director will repeatedly blast the air horn four times to indicate that the tournament is suspended and that all competitors must return to shore and immediately return to the tournament base. The organizing committee will assess weather conditions during the tournament to determine whether to resume or permanently suspend the tournament. Appeal Jury A remote (online) appeals jury will be in charge of reviewing the photographs in case of doubt or appeals.

## Penalties

### 8) Fish Disqualification

- Dead or mutilated fish.
- Assistance from another angler during fishing (unless Tarpon or Shark).
- Fish hooked anywhere other than from the mouth to the gill.

### 9) Disqualification of the angler

- Obstructing another angler's fishing.
- Fishing with natural bait.
- Impersonating another angler.
- Any angler fishing outside the flagged area.

### 10) General Best Handling Practices

When removing your fish from the water to document it for scoring purpose, large fish should not be hoisted vertically out of the water, as this can cause damage to jaw muscle and bone as well as to internal organs. Tarpon and large Grouper must remain in the water. The best method for removing fish from the water by hand is to grip the fish or the lower jaw and support the fish's underside. Again, the point is always to hold fish horizontally and not vertically. Considerable care should be exercised when releasing fish. Fish should be placed in the water and held by the base of the tail. If the fish does not swim away from your grasp on its own, gently move it forward in the water to get water flowing over the gills. For best results, move the fish in the forward direction only instead of back and forth. Moving the fish in a slow circle or gently holding into current for water flow over the gills in the correct direction.

### 11) Beach Judges:

Local Company and supporter, NLBN has offered their employees to serve as beach. We expect to have 5 beach judges available and on the beach each day. There will be one "Beach Master" overseeing the judges, who will be responsible for record keeping and consolidating scoring. Scoring updates will be available to team captains at the end of each session.

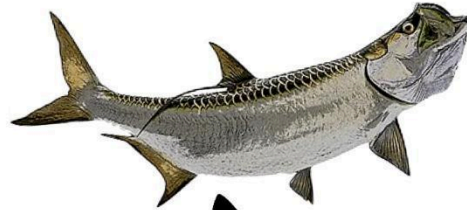
**12) Tournament Boundaries (subject to change – To Be Confirmed in the weeks leading up to the event by 10/1/26.**



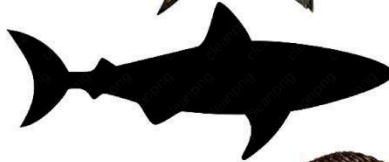
## 2026 Target Species

**SPECIES POINTS WEIGHTING + FORK LENGTH IN CM = TOTAL POINTS**

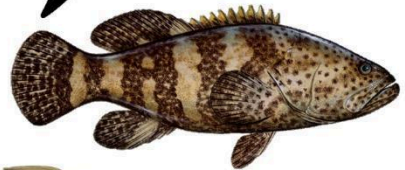
**1. Tarpon + 100 Points**



**2. Sharks + 100 Points**



**3. Goliath Grouper + 50 Points**



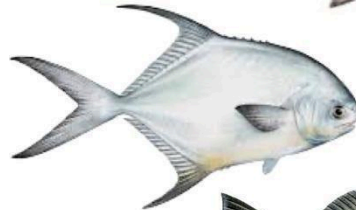
**4. Snook + 25 Points**



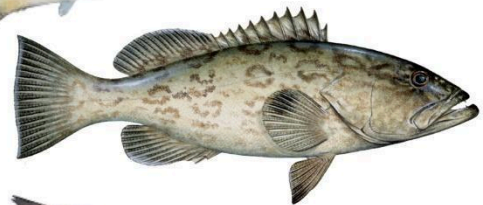
**5. Cobia + 25 Points**



**6. Permit + 25 Points**



**7. Gag Grouper + 25 Points**



**8. Jacks + 15 Points**



**9. Redfish + 15 Points**

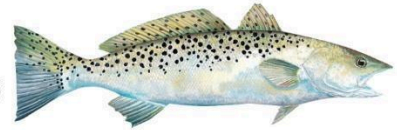


**10. Barracuda + 15 Points**





**11. Speckled Sea Trout + 10 Points**



**12. Bluefish + 10 Points**



**13. Flounder + 10 Points**



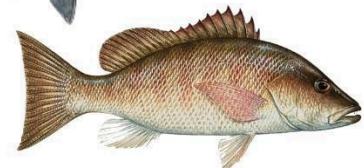
**14. Croakers + 10 points**



**15. Sheepshead + 5 Points**



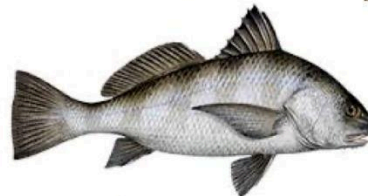
**16. Mangrove Snapper + 5 Points**



**17. Spanish Mackerel + 5 Points**



**18. Black Drum + 5 Points**



**19. Ladyfish + 5 Points**



**20. Pompano + 5 Points**



**21. All other species + 2 points**



**RAYS AND SKATES ARE NOT ELIGIBLE SPECIES**



## Local Bait & Tackle Shops Near Sebastian Inlet – Indian River County, Florida

### **Black Dog Bait & Tackle**

Sebastian Inlet State Park

207 Ocean Ave, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

### **Reel em in Bait & Tackle**

821 US-1, Sebastian, FL 32958

Phone: (772) 581 1027

### **Wabasso Bait & Tackle**

8456 US-1, Vero Beach, FL 32967

Phone: (772) 571 5144

### **Bass Pro Shops**

750 Bass Pro Dr NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905

Phone: (321) 674 3700

### **Strike Zone Fishing**

2235 14th Avenue

Vero Beach, FL 32960

Phone: (772) 569-2251

### **Whitey's Bait & Tackle**

9030 S Hwy A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

Phone: (321) 7241440



## Emergency & Visitor Information Sebastian Inlet – Indian River County, Florida

### Tournament Venue

**Sebastian Inlet State Park**  
**9700 S Hwy A1A, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951**  
**Melbourne Beach, FL 32951**  
**Phone: (321) 984-4852**  
**[www.floridastateparks.org/Sebastian-Inlet](http://www.floridastateparks.org/Sebastian-Inlet)**

### Emergency (Police / Fire / Medical)

**Dial 911 for immediate emergency assistance anywhere in the United States.**

### Hospital / Emergency Room

Sebastian River Medical Center  
13695 US-1, Sebastian, FL 32958  
Phone: (772) 589-3186  
24-hour Emergency Department

### Police Department

Sebastian Police Department  
1201 Main Street  
Sebastian, FL 32958  
Non-Emergency Phone: (772) 589-5233  
Emergency: 911

### County Sheriff

Indian River County Sheriff's Office  
4055 41st Avenue  
Vero Beach, FL 32960  
Phone: (772) 569-6700

### Local Emergency Services (Non-Emergency Dispatch)

Indian River County Emergency Services  
Phone: (772) 226-3900

**Non-Emergency USA Team Contact:** Ben Hervey-Murray +1 (714) 642-5770 /  
[ben@americanseafishing.com](mailto:ben@americanseafishing.com)



### Special Thank You To:

- Play Treasure Coast Sports
- Indian River County
- Florida State Parks
- Florida Fish & Wildlife
- US Angling Confederation
- Capt. Hiram's Resort
- Tony Forte – US Angling President
- Michael Brand - US Angling Vice President
- Neil Krauter – US Surf Fishing Team - General Manager
- Ryan Lambert – US Surf Fishing Team Vice-President