

St Mary's Fishing Classic Official Kayak/Canoe Rules

1. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY. Participation is open to anyone 18 years of age or older, but youths can fish with written consent of a parent.

2. A Captain's/anglers Meeting will be held from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Friday, June 6, 2025 at Seagle's Saloon, St. Mary's. Canoe and Kayak anglers should be in attendance as we will be addressing the finalized rules before the start of the competition. If you fail to attend, you will still be responsible for knowing and following all of the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic Rules and Regulations.

3. SAFETY. Safe boating must be observed at all times. During competition each contestant is required to comply with US Coast Guard regulations including the possession of a PFD and sounding device. All USCG and FWC regulations are in effect at all times.

4. CHECK IN. Fishing opens at 6:00 am Saturday morning. Kayakers can check in any time after 10:00 a.m., Saturday, June 1, competitors must check in their cameras and measuring devices by 4:00 p.m. to be eligible for fishing prizes. At check in you must indicate whether or not you are submitting your scoring fish pictures for review. Awards ceremonies will begin shortly after final check in on Saturday. At the close of Saturday's fishing, those anglers who are in line at the Check in Station, or identified by Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic official as being inside the green marker in St. Marys Harbor, will be allowed to have their catch entered.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP. All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. All anglers must conform to local, state, and federal laws. Because this is a catch, photo, release tournament, anglers must comply with the laws of the state in which they fish. Unsportsmanlike conduct will result in disqualification without refund of registration.

6. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS. All fish must be caught via hook and line. The selection of baits is up to the discretion of the participant. All fish must be caught from the kayak. No wade fishing or shore fishing is permitted unless the kayak is tethered to the angler. All rod holders with rods being fished must be on the kayak or the angler. No exceptions are made. Flounder may **NOT** be gigged.

7. NO MOTORS. The use of a boat or motorized water vehicle to transport your boat on the water is prohibited. All craft must be self-propelled – no engines are allowed. Canoes and paddle vessels designed to be paddled (not powered by motor) are permitted.

8. FISHING LOCATIONS. Any inshore location is permitted, including locations in Duval, St. Johns, Nassau, Flagler, Camden, and Glynn counties. This includes the St. Johns River and Intracoastal Waterway. No offshore ocean fishing is allowed, however jetties, inlets and the offshore sides of land masses are permitted. All fishing locations must be in waters accessible according to the law, USCG, and FWC regulations.

9. OTHER. During competition contestants may not obtain or receive assistance including but not limited to following a non-competitor's boat, the placing of markers by a non-competitor, being towed or riding motorized vessels, being paddled or propelled by a non-contestant, or receiving electronic, voice, or data communications from non-competitors.

10. SCORING. The event uses catch photo release scoring determined by the length of each fish individually for each class. The Classic will cover three species of fish: Flounder, Redfish, and Speckled Trout. Each angler will be issued a unique scoring marker/token at the Captain's Meeting. The first photo on the camera must be of your rigged boat as put in at launch with measuring device and scoring marker visible. Fish must be photographed in or on the boat, clearly showing the length of the fish with the scoring marker visible. More than one photo of a fish may be taken. Length is determined from the forward most point of the fish to the natural un-pinched top of the tail. Fish must be above FWC minimums to count – caught fish may be above the slot limit. In the event of a tie the entry checked in earliest will be declared the winner. The judging committee will review the photos to verify reported results and determine place winners. The Tournament Director is responsible for the final call in all matters. Official Check-in for anglers is at the Howard Gilman Memorial Park Gazebo.

11. DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY. Participants may only use digital cameras for recording scoring fish. Entrants must bring the storage chip from their camera to check-in or bring the download cable for their camera so that pictures may be retrieved. Phones are not recommended. Cameras may be shared – in the event of camera sharing both entrants' kayaks at launch must be initially on the roll, and each entrant will use a different unique scoring token as directed at the captains meeting, both in the launch picture and the fish scoring pictures. In the scoring fish pictures the appropriate entrant's kayak must also be in the picture.

12. TANDEMS/SHARING. It is permissible for more than one entrant to share the same paddle vessel. Each paddler must be a registered participant and is scored separately. Fish may NEVER be shared among entrants. If more than one person is in a tandem both must be registered anglers – use of an extra person strictly as a paddler/motor is forbidden.

13. PROTESTS. Protests of any nature must be submitted in written statement form and personally turned into the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's decision will be final

14. RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE. A waiver, release of liability, and covenant not to sue are part of the entry form. It is required that all contestants take responsibility for themselves while participating in event activities.

15. PHOTO RELEASE. Scoring photos remain the sole ownership of The Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic (HSMFC) to be used at their discretion. Contestants grant HSMFC and the sponsors the unconditional right to use their name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information in connection with future HSMFC events, production, promotion, and/or articles and press releases, and shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

16. RULE CHANGES. Rules interpretation is exclusively left to the Tournament Director. The decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

17. PRIZE STRUCTURE. Prizes will be given at the end of Saturday's scoring. 1st and 2nd place prizes will be given in each of the three species of fish (redfish, trout and flounder). An angler will be permitted to hold and win only one place per category at any one time but may place in more than one category simultaneously. Prize money will be based on number of registered kayak anglers, and will be announced at the captains meeting. YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN AN AWARD; and have photo identification. All prizes not claimed at the awards ceremony on Saturday, June 3, 2023 will become property of the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic.

18. Jr. Anglers under the age of 18 are not eligible to win cash prizes unless accompanied by a guardian.

19. All participants are subject to a polygraph test. Failure to submit to or pass a polygraph test will subject the participant to disqualification. Every participant must be registered prior to fishing. Any matter not specifically covered by these rules may be decided by and at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Disclaimer: The Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic is not responsible for typos within the awards package and rules, and reserves the right to amend or substitute prizes due to events beyond the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic control. Agree to hold harmless all tournament officials and staff, sponsors, vendors and the City of St Mary's for any liability resulting from negligence on the participant's part. A copy of the rules shall be made available to each participant. Each participant shall read and thoroughly familiarize him or herself with the rules. Any participant who violates any rules of the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic, whether intentional or not, could possibly disqualify him or herself. A disqualification shall prevent a participant from collecting prizes for fish registered. To contact tournament base call 912-882-3512.

ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR READING THE RULES OF THE TOURNAMENT!

St Marys, Georgia