



Marco Sportfishing Club

Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout

April 16 - 21, 2012

Official Rules



posted 2/1/12

Marco Sportfishing Club (MSC) welcomes all participants in the first *Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout*. Our goal is for everyone to have a safe and fun-filled tournament experience.

- The *Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout* is a **Boat and Individual Event**, and is open to MSC members and their guests.
- Two divisions have been established for this tournament:
 - “15-Mile Division”: For Captains who prefer to stay within 15 nautical miles of shore. A minimum of 2 people are required per vessel in this division.
 - “50-Mile Division” division: For captains of vessels who prefer going up to 50 nautical miles from shore. A minimum of 3 people per vessel are required per vessel in this division.
- If you are the Team Captain of your vessel entry, please be sure to read the Captain's Corner at the end of the Tournament Rules for your responsibilities.
- The “15-Mile” and “50-Mile” Divisions will compete for boat prizes for red grouper
- Individual awards will be given out for “Wildcard Fish” in each division
- All “winning” fish in this tournament will be measured at a post-fishing event, and the biggest (longest) fish will be declared the winners. For purposes of this tournament, the measuring process will be referred to as the “weigh-in” (even though fish will not be weighed on a scale)
- MSC thanks you and wishes a good fishing experience to all.

1. *Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout* Facts:

- **Fishing Days:**
 - For planning purposes, Thursday, April 19th has been selected as the day of the fishing tournament.
 - Tuesday (4/17) Wednesday (4/18) or Friday (4/20) will be alternate days based on weather conditions
 - **All boats will fish on the same day.**
 - The Tournament Committee will make the final decision as to the “fishing day” and will advise all entrants no later than Monday, April 16th.
- **Fishing Hours:** “Lines in” for the Tournament is 7:30 AM. Fish as late as you want, but in order for your Red Grouper or Wildcard fish to qualify for an award, your fish **must be presented for measuring at the “weigh-in” site by 6:30 PM sharp!** No exceptions, no excuses!

- **Tournament Fishing Waters:**
 - All boats in the 15-Mile Division must fish in waters no further than 15 nautical miles from either Capri Pass Marker R2 (GPS coordinates: N25 58.25 W 81 46.27) **or** Caxambas Pass Light "C" (GPS coordinates: N25 54.28 W81 44.23)
 - All boats in the 50-Mile Division must fish in waters no further than 50 nautical miles from Capri Pass Marker R2 or Caxambas Pass Light "C."

- **Tackle, equipment and fishing methods:** The selection of baits used is up to the discretion of each participant. All fish must be caught by hook and line. Spearing is not allowed.

- **Eligibility:**
 - Team Captains must be members in good standing of the Marco Sportfishing Club.
 - No team may hire an offshore charter captain to operate a vessel or give instructions during the Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout.
 - Maximum number of anglers allowed on any boat in this Tournament (including the Captain) is 6.
 - The *Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout* Committee reserves the right to not accept an entry to the tournament (MSC member or non-member) if they have reason to believe the entry will be detrimental to the tournament.

- **Cancellations:** If, for any reason, an entered vessel is unable to compete in the *Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout*, the Captain must notify the Tournament Director or a Committee member ASAP. Vessel cancellations will not be accepted after 12:00 noon on Monday, April 16th 2012.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances, if a vessel is not able to operate during the Tournament, the Tournament Director must be contacted immediately. If an alternate vessel is available, the alternate vessel may be used by the Captain, only if the Tournament Director is notified and approves of the replacement.

Note: If a Crew member or Captain is a last minute cancellation or needs to be replaced, they may be added only if approved by the Tournament Director. In addition, the new Crew member or Captain will be responsible for paying the appropriate entry fee.

- **Awards**
 - 15-Mile Division**
 1. Vessel with the largest Red Grouper (\$75 prize per registered angler on the boat)
 2. Vessel with the second largest Red Grouper (\$50 prize per registered angler on the boat)
 3. Vessel with the third largest Red Grouper (\$40 prize per registered angler on the boat)
 4. Vessel with the fourth largest Red Grouper (\$25 prize per registered angler on the boat)

The maximum number of awards a boat can win is 1

- If a boat has already won a boat award, they are not eligible to win another one. That award will go to the next eligible boat in the 15-Mile Division.

50-Mile Division

1. Vessel with the largest Red Grouper (\$75 prize per registered angler on the boat)
2. Vessel with the second largest Red Grouper (\$50 prize per registered angler on the boat)
3. Vessel with the third largest Red Grouper (\$40 prize per registered angler on the boat)
4. Vessel with the fourth largest Red Grouper (\$25 prize per registered angler on the boat)

The maximum number of awards a boat can win is 1

- If a boat has already won a boat award, they are not eligible to win another one. That award will go to the next eligible boat in the 50-Mile Division.

“Wildcard Fish”

- A “Wildcard Fish” will be selected and its identity will be made known at the Kickoff meeting
 - There will be a \$75 prize for the **individual in each division** who catches the largest “Wildcard Fish.”
 - An individual will be eligible to win the “Wildcard Fish” award even if he/she has won a boat award in the 15-mile or 50-mile division.
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- In the event of a tie with Red Grouper or Wildcard fish measurements, earliest check-in time at the “weigh-in” will be used as the tie-breaker.

- “Weigh-in”

- **Only legal Red Grouper (larger than 20”) and legal “Wildcard Fish” can be brought to the “weigh in.”**
- All vessels competing in the “Rootin’ Tootin’ Red Grouper Shootout” **must check in with their largest legal Red Grouper and largest legal Wildcard fish** at the official “weigh-in” location. That location is:
Old Marco Lodge
401 Papaya Street
Goodland, FL

The “weigh-in” will be held in a separate, private area on the back deck/patio

- The “weigh in” will open at 4:30 PM on the designated day of fishing
- **All Red Grouper and “Wildcard Fish” must be “weighed-in” by 6:30 PM in order to be eligible for prizes.**
- Please bring your vessel’s largest legal Red Grouper (one fish only) and largest legal Wildcard Fish (one fish only), intact, on ice, to the “check-in” location. The fish will be measured, and these measurements will become the “official” measurement for your boat’s Red Grouper and your individual’s Wildcard Fish in the tournament.
- All fish that are presented at the “weigh-in” will be measured to the nearest 1/8 inch by the Rootin’ Tootin’ Measuring Committee

- 2. Safety.** Safe boating must be observed at all times. During the tournament all Captains and anglers are required to comply with US Coast Guard, FWC, and local regulations and laws. Violation of such rules may result in disqualification from the tournament.

Tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. The decision to shorten or to cancel will be left totally to the discretion of the Tournament Director and *Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Tournament* Committee. A 4-hour period shall constitute a day of fishing. Cancellations, shortening or any other important announcements will be communicated via VHF radio on channel 68 and/or cell phone. In the event of unsafe weather conditions for the entire week, the Tournament Committee reserves the right to postpone the event until the weather improves.

- 3. Rule changes and final decisions:** Interpretation of the rules is left exclusively to the *Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout* Committee. The decisions of the Committee are final. The Tournament Committee can make a change to the rules when safety is in question or by a unanimous decision of the Tournament Committee. If there are any changes to the rules as printed, they will be communicated to participants at the Kickoff meeting. If a change occurs after the Kickoff meeting, it will be sent via email to each Captain. Each Captain will be responsible for communicating the rule change to his/her Crew.

4. Captain's Corner

- The Team Captain must submit the team entry form.
- It is the responsibility of the Captain to ensure that his/her boat's largest legal Red Grouper and largest legal Wilcard fish are brought to the official "weigh-in" site by **6:30 PM** after their day of fishing.

Good luck and good fishing to all you landlubber greenhorns!

Yosemite Sam

and his bush wackin' buddies....

Allan Bristow

Howard Laskau