

# Fish of the Month Contest Rules

(Revised 5/1/2014)

## Who

- Limited to members of the PGI Fishing Club (Club).

## General Rules

- Species for each Fish of the Month Contest are determined by the Fishing Events Director and approved by the Board of Directors.
- Fish caught out of season and illegal length fish are eligible for prizes, but must be returned to the water after a picture is taken. Goliath grouper are not eligible entries, and should be released immediately.
- To be eligible, fish must be hooked and fought by the same member, without assistance from others. Assistance can only be provided by others in landing or boating a fish, including netting, gaffing and/or touching the leader, as appropriate, given the species, season and all applicable Federal and State regulations. For example, a fish hooked by an individual and passed on to another person to fight is not eligible for this contest, nor is a fish that is fought by more than one individual. A fish that is hooked while the rod is in a rod holder can only be claimed as eligible under this contest by the person removing the rod from the rod holder if that person also brings the fish to the boat, pier or shore for landing or boating it. If the rod is removed from the rod holder by one person and passed on to another person, that fish is not considered eligible for this contest regardless of the time each person possesses the rod.
- All entries must be caught in local waters accessible to the general public that are within a 50 nautical mile radius of Charlotte Harbor.
- Fish caught when using **any** paid Charter Captains or paid Guides may not be used for this contest or Club records.
- Winning entries will be based on total length, measured in a flat straight line from the nose to the end of the pinched tail, except for amberjack, cobia, king mackerel, shark and Spanish mackerel, which are to be measured in a flat straight line from the nose to the fork of the tail (fork length).
- The length of an eligible fish shall be measured to the closest ½ inch. The total length of a tarpon and the fork length of a shark may be estimated using your fishing rod, leader or other reference of known length while the fish is in the water.
- Your Club encourages CPR (catch, photograph, and release).

## When

- The Fish of the Month Contest will run from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> of a calendar year.

## Prizes

- There will be three places awarded each month to both male and female anglers. For all species except tarpon and shark, 1<sup>st</sup> place will be awarded for the longest fish, 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the second longest fish and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the third longest fish caught in the award month.

- Tarpon and shark awards will be based on the total number of points accumulated for these species caught in their respective award months: 1<sup>st</sup> place for the most points, 2<sup>nd</sup> place for the second most points and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the third most points. Any tarpon or shark estimated to be 5 feet or longer to the pinched tail or fork, respectively, is awarded 3 points, whereas any smaller fish will only be awarded 1 point.
- The Spring Slam is the added length of two fish: total length of the longest redfish added to the total length the longest spotted seatrout caught by a member during the month.
- Club members can only win one award per contest.
- Winners' prize certificates will be presented at the following month's general meeting. Notification of Fish of the Month Contests can be found in the Club's monthly Newsletter and will be discussed at each monthly general meeting.

### **Recording/Reporting Fish**

- A digital photograph in jpeg format of you with the fish, identified with your last and first name, length of fish, fish species and date caught, attached to your email, will be your entry form (honor system must prevail).
- Large tarpon and shark should be photographed while they are in the water and not brought on board unless they are being kept in accordance with all applicable State and/or Federal regulations and requirements. Note that minimum legal length limits for harvesting shark vary in State and Federal waters according to subspecies, and there are many no-harvest subspecies as well.
- Your submittal is now your entry form for all Club fishing events (Master Angler Tournament, Ladder of Angling Achievement Program, Fish of the Month Contest, and Isles Trophy Race).
- Since paid Charter Captains or paid Guides may **only** be used for the Ladder of Angling Achievement, fish caught with paid Captains/Guides **must** be identified as such when submitting an entry. Also, if your entry was not caught in accordance with the General Rules for determining eligibility under this contest, please state that in your submittal as well. Under such circumstances, your submittal will only be considered for your Ladder of Angling Achievement.
- Eligibility for each program will be determined by the Club's appointed Fishing Events Record Keeper and Director. Their decision is final.
- All entries must be submitted no later than the first day of the month following the event month.
- All submittals must be emailed to the Club at [fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org](mailto:fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org)

<b>Fish of the Month Contest Schedule</b>	
<b>January</b>	SHEEPSHEAD
<b>February</b>	SPOTTED SEATROUT
<b>March</b>	PGI SPRING SLAM - Redfish & Spotted Seatrout
<b>April</b>	SPANISH MACKEREL
<b>May</b>	COBIA
<b>June</b>	TARPON
<b>July</b>	SHARK
<b>August</b>	MANGROVE SNAPPER
<b>September</b>	SNOOK
<b>October</b>	REDFISH
<b>November</b>	GROUPE
<b>December</b>	BLACK DRUM