

Fish of the Month Contest Rules

(Revised 6/16/26)

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 closed mouth to the end of the pinched tail, except for Jack Crevalle, Cobia, Shark, Spanish Mackerel and Tarpon, which are to be measured in a flat straight line from the closed mouth to the fork of the tail (fork length). Fish either estimated or measured to the fork, must be so noted in the declaration.
- The length of an eligible fish shall be measured to the closest ½ inch. Estimated lengths of partial fish are not acceptable. The fork length of tarpon and shark are estimated using your fishing rod, leader, or other known reference length while the fish is in the water.
- Your Club encourages CPR (catch, photograph, and release). Large Tarpon, Sharks, Rays and Barracuda 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. Note that minimum legal length and limits for harvesting shark vary in State and Federal waters according to subspecies, and there are many non-harvest subspecies as well. The angler does NOT need to be in the photo for aforementioned species photographed in the water.

When

The Fish of the Month Contest will run with a new species each month from January 1st through December 31st of a calendar year.

Fish of the Month Contest Schedule

January	Sheepshead
February	Grouper (Red, Black, or Gag)
March	Spanish Mackerel (fork-length)
April	Snook
May	Cobia (fork-length)
June	Jack Crevalle (fork-length)
July	Shark (estimated fork-length)
August	Tarpon (estimated fork-length)
September	Black Drum
October	Redfish
November	Mangrove Snapper
December	Spotted Seatrout

Prizes

- There will be three places awarded each month to both male and female anglers. For all species except tarpon and shark, 1st place will be awarded for the longest fish, 2nd place for the second longest fish and 3rd 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: 1st place for the most points, 2nd place for the second most points and 3rd place for the third most points. Any tarpon or shark estimated to be 55 inches or longer to the fork is awarded 3 points, whereas any smaller fish will only be awarded 1 point.
- 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 your face in the same photo 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 non-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 midnight on the last day of the event month.
- All submittals must be emailed to the Club at fishphotos@pgifishingclub.org