



**Marco Sportfishing Club**  
***Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout III***  
**April 2 - 10, 2014**  
***Official Rules***



posted 3-19-14

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

- *Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout III* is a **Boat Event**, and is open to MSC members and their guests. Only "Boat Prizes" will be distributed for this event.
- There will be two separate divisions in this event:
  - "20 nautical mile division": For Captains who prefer to stay within 20 nautical miles (23 statute miles) of shore. A minimum of 2 people are required per vessel in this division.
  - "60 nautical mile division": For captains of vessels who prefer going up to 60 nautical miles (69 statute miles) from shore. A minimum of 3 people per vessel are required in this division.
  - Competition will be within divisions, not between divisions.
- The "20-nm" and "60-nm" Divisions will compete for boat prizes for red grouper and "Wildcard Fish" in each division
- All "winning" fish in this tournament will be weighed at a post-fishing event, held on the day of the tournament.
- MSC thanks you and wishes a good fishing experience to all.

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

- **Fishing Days:**
  - For planning purposes, Monday, April 7th has been selected as the day of the fishing tournament.
  - Tuesday (4/8) Wednesday(4/9), and Thursday (4/10) will be alternate days based on weather conditions
  - **All boats in both divisions will fish on the same day.**
  - Decision as to the "fishing day" and will made no later than Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- **Fishing Hours:** "Lines in" for the Tournament is 7:30 AM. "Lines out" at 4 PM. Please see time limits for "check-in" in "Weigh-in" section.

- **Tournament Fishing Waters:**
  - All boats in the 20-nautical mile Division must fish in waters no further than 20 nautical miles (23 statute miles) from the center of Resident's Beach.
  - All boats in the 60-nautical mile Division must fish in waters no further than 60 nautical miles from the center of Resident's Beach.
  
- **Change of Division**
  - If a Captain wishes to change the Division they are in, changes will be allowed until 8 PM on Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Howard Laskau or Keith Wohltman must be notified of the change. After that time, the Division lineup will be considered final.
  
- **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. The Team Captain's boat must be used during the tournament.
  - No team may hire an offshore charter captain to operate, ride along on a vessel in the tournament, or give instructions during the Rootin' Tootin' Red Grouper Shootout III.
  - MSC members must be current, in good standing, and on the current roster as of the date the Team entry is submitted. Otherwise, they will be regarded as "guests" and required to pay the guest entry fee. Non-members may not enter the tournament as members with the "intent-to-join." They must pay the guest entry fee.
  - During the tournament, Captains may not bring passengers on their boat who are not entered in the tournament
  - Charter guides/captains who have run 6 or more charters in the past 12 months are not eligible to compete in this tournament.
  - 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 III*, the Captain must notify Howard Laskau or Keith Wohltman ASAP. Vessel cancellations will not be accepted after 12:00 noon on Sunday, April 6th. If a Vessel cancels, and the captain/crew do not participate in the

tournament, the Captain will be refunded the Calcutta entry (if previously paid). No other refunds will be given to Captain/crew.

**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/Committee. No refunds will be given by the committee. All financial arrangements must be worked out between the Captain, new crew member, and old crew member.**

- **Awards**

- No boat is eligible to compete in more than one division. To be eligible to win, red grouper/wildcard fish must be presented at the “weigh-in.”
- A total of \$2,000 in awards (not including the Captain’s Calcutta) will be distributed during the tournament. This amount can be increased by the tournament committee if there are significantly more entrants than planned, or can be decreased by the committee if there are significantly less entrants than planned.
- Awards within each division (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> for Red Grouper, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for wildcard) are planned to be equal. However, if there is a **significantly larger** number of boats competing in one division compared to the other, the monetary value of the awards within the divisions will be adjusted accordingly.
- Note: A minimum of five boats are required to compete in each division.

**“Wildcard Fish”**

- A “Wildcard Fish” will be selected and its identity will be made known at the Kickoff Meeting on April 2nd.
- There will be first and second place boat prizes for the “wildcard” fish in each division, **based on weight.**
- A boat will be eligible to win a “Wildcard Fish” award in its division even if the boat has won an award for Red Grouper in its division.

**20-nautical mile division**

- Boats in the 20 – nautical mile division will be required to check in with their single heaviest legal size red grouper and heaviest “wildcard” fish at the designated official “weigh-in” station (see time and location, below)
- Captains will only be allowed to bring one red grouper and one “wildcard” fish to the scales to be weighed
  - Boat with the heaviest legal Red Grouper will win first place
  - Boat with the second heaviest legal Red Grouper will win second place
  - Boat with the third heaviest legal Red Grouper will win third place

- Boat with the heaviest legal Wildcard fish will win first place for Wildcard
- Boat with the second heaviest legal Wildcard fish will win second place for Wildcard

### **60-nautical mile Division**

- Boats in the 60-nautical mile division will be required to check in with their two heaviest legal size red grouper and heaviest “wildcard” fish at the designated official “weigh-in” station (see time and location, below)
- Captains will only be allowed to bring two red grouper and one “wildcard” fish to the scales to be weighed
  - Boat with the 2 heaviest legal Red Grouper will win first place
  - Boat with the second heaviest 2 legal Red Grouper will win second place
  - Boat with the third heaviest 2 legal Red Grouper will win third place
  - Boat with the heaviest legal Wildcard fish will win first place for Wildcard
  - Boat with the second heaviest legal Wildcard fish will win second place for Wildcard
- “Weigh-in”
  - **Only legal Red Grouper (larger than 20”) and legal “Wildcard Fish” can be brought to the “weigh in.”**
  - All boats competing in “*Rootin’ Tootin’ Red Grouper Shootout III*” **must check in with their heaviest legal Red Grouper and heaviest legal Wildcard fish** at the official “weigh-in” location. That location is:

Walker’s Hideaway Marina  
705 East Elkcam Circle  
Marco Island, FL 34145

If necessary, Captains may bring their boat to the dock to unload their catch, but it is preferred that each Team bring their catch to the weigh-in via car, in a cooler that is clearly labeled with the Team/Captain’s name

- The “weigh in” location will open at **6:00 PM** on the designated day of fishing
- Weigh-in times for each division are as follows:
  - “Catch” from boats in the 20 nm division will be weighed in from 6:15 PM – 6:45 PM. Any boat in the 20 nm division that has not checked in with their catch by **6:30 PM** will be disqualified from the tournament.

- “Catch” from boats in the 60 nm division will be weighed in from 6:45 PM – 7:30 PM. Any boat in the 60 nm division that has not checked in with their catch by **7:00 PM** will be disqualified from the tournament.
  - Please bring your boat’s heaviest legal Red Grouper (one fish for 20-nm division and 2 fish for the 60-nm division) and heaviest legal Wildcard Fish (one fish only), intact, on ice, to the “check-in” location. (The fish will be weighed, and the recorded weight will become the “official” weight for your boat’s Red Grouper and your boat’s Wildcard Fish in the tournament.)
  - All fish that are presented at the weigh-in will be weighed to the nearest 0.01 pound.
  - If a Red Grouper less than 20” in length is submitted for weigh-in, the team that submits it will be disqualified from the “Red Grouper” competition.
  - If a boat submits a Wildcard fish that is not “legal” that boat will be disqualified from the “Wildcard” competition.
  - The “Official Rootin’ Tootin’ Weighmaster” reserves the right to examine (externally, and internally, if necessary) any Red Grouper and/or Wildcard fish presented for weigh-in that appear to be mutilated, altered or tampered with. If the “Weighmaster” determines that alteration/tampering is present, that fish will not be weighed and the boat that presented it for weigh-in will be disqualified from the Tournament
  - The decision of the “Official Rootin’ Tootin’ Weighmaster” is final
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 Shootout* 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 Calcutta:** A separate "Captain's Calcutta" is being established in both the 20 nm and 50 nm divisions.
- The "Captain's Calcutta" is optional
  - There will be one winner of the "Captain's Calcutta" in each division.
  - 100% of the "Captain's Calcutta" pool in each division will be distributed to the winner in each division
  - The "Captain's Calcutta" prize will be paid to the eligible captain
  - The total amount in the "Captain's Calcutta" pool in each division will be determined by the number of Captains who "opt-in" in each division
  - The names of the Captains who "opt-in" in each division **will not** be made public until the awards are distributed.
  - The winner in the 20-nm division will be determined by the heaviest legal red grouper (1 fish)
  - The winner in the 60-nm division will be determined by the total weight of the 2 heaviest legal red grouper
  - Captains who are winners of boat prizes in either division are eligible to win the "Captain's Calcutta"

#### **5. Captain's Corner**

- The Team Captain must submit the team entry form.
  - All entries must be matched with a boat
  - Entry fees must be paid in full for a Team to be entered in the tournament
  - Individual entries with no vessel will not be accepted
- Once the entry form has been submitted, any questions, changes, cancellations, can only be made by the Captain, and not by Crew members
- It is the responsibility of the Captain to ensure that his/her boat's heaviest legal Red Grouper and heaviest legal Wildcard fish are brought to the official "weigh-in" site by 6:30 PM (20 nm division) or 7:00 PM (60 nm division). Teams that do not check in by the designated time will be disqualified from the tournament.
- Captains have until 8 PM on Thursday, April 3rd to enter the "Captain's Calcutta".
- Tournament entries close March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

**Good luck and good fishing!**