

COFFS HARBOUR DEEP SEA FISHING CLUB

2015 EASTER FISHING CLASSIC – April 3rd, 4th and 5th COMPETITION RULES

1. The Constitution of the Coffs Harbour Deep Sea Fishing Club Ltd shall apply.
2. All NSW State Fisheries, NSW Waterways and Solitary Island Marine Park regulations apply. **Note:** Fishing licenses are required in NSW (unless exempt). Anyone caught in breach of these regulations shall be disqualified from the entire competition with no refund of entry fee.
3. Nominations will be accepted from Monday 12th March until 8pm Thursday 2nd April 2015.
4. Competition briefing will be held at the Coffs Harbour Deep Sea Fishing Club on Thursday 2nd April at 7pm. All anglers must attend the briefing unless prior arrangements have been made with the Easter Classic Committee. Angler numbers, boat numbers and shirts will only be issued at the Club on briefing night.
5. Competition starts 6am Friday 3rd April 2015 and runs continuously until 12 midday Sunday 5th April 2015. Competitors are not permitted to fish, including bait fish, prior to 6am Friday 3rd April 2015, at which time all fishing can commence. This also includes removal of bait from live bait tanks or keepers. Times will be in accordance with radio officer's clock. (**NB** refer also to Rule No.2-Additional Rules for Offshore Deep Sea).
6. Entry Fees are \$60.00 per adult, \$10.00 per junior and sub-junior. A Junior is a person under 18 years of age as of Friday 3rd April 2015. A Sub-junior is a person 10 years of age or under as of Friday 3rd April 2015.
Parental / Guardian permission and supervision is compulsory at all times whilst fishing the event. Juniors and Sub-juniors are eligible to win species prizes, however are ineligible to win major senior prizes or cash. In this instance, vouchers will be awarded to an equivalent value.
7. All fish to be caught on normal lines or rod method according to Beach, Rock & Estuary and Deep Sea Section Rules. **i.e.** Gaffing, gilling or netting is the **only assistance** permissible to a competitor in the capture of a fish.
8. All fish must be in competitors tubs, (iced down and fit for human consumption) **weighed in whole, uncleaned & unscaled**, and presented in person to the Weighmaster within 24 hours of capture. All fish must comply with NSW Fisheries minimum lengths. Only listed species, as per Rules 10&11 below, are to be weighed in. Any angler who presents undersized fish in the weigh-in area will be disqualified from the day's competition. Mutilated fish will not be accepted in the weigh-in area. No vermin, billfish, sharks, rays or protected species accepted.
9. The event will be conducted as 2 separate competitions: Offshore Deep Sea Fishing, and Beach Rock & Estuary. Both competitions will be run conjointly with separate prize categories. Anglers must indicate which competition section they are entering and can only weigh fish in that section. If in the event you wish to change your nominated section on your entry, you must do this before 9pm, Thursday 2nd April 2015.
10. Eligible species to be weighed in Offshore Deep Sea:

FLATHEAD	KINGFISH	MULLOWAY	MORWONG
PEARL PERCH	SAMSON	BARRED MACKEREL	SPOTTED MACKEREL
SNAPPER	TERAGLIN	VENUS TUSK	TAILOR
COBIA	AMBERJACK	MAORI COD	SPANGLED EMPEROR

11. Eligible species to be weighed in Beach Rock & Estuary:

WHITING	BREAM	BLACK DRUMMER	FLATHEAD
SNAPPER	TAILOR	MULLOWAY	LUDERICK

12. Anglers are only permitted to **present and weigh one only** of each of the above species per daily weigh-in. Each fish shall be eligible to be entered into the relevant section only.
Only the listed species above (Rules 10 & 11) are to be donated to the Charity Fish Auction.

13. Daily weigh-in times: **Friday & Saturday between 1 PM and 3 PM**
Sunday between 11 AM and 1 PM

All competitors weighing fish must be in the weigh-in area no later than **3 PM on Friday and Saturday** and by **1 PM Sunday**.

Failure to do so will lead to **disqualification** from the day's competition.

14. In the event of a tie, the winner of the category will be determined by a draw from the competitors on equal weight.
15. For safety reasons, **ALL ANGLERS** must attend daily weigh-ins and have their ID cards checked, failure to comply will lead to disqualification.
16. Trophies not awarded may be re-allocated at the discretion of the Easter Classic Committee.
17. Any angler is eligible to win multiple species prizes, **other than** heaviest & runner-up of the **same** species.
18. All protests must be submitted in writing with a fee of \$50-00 (redeemable if successful) and be received by the Easter Fishing Classic Committee by **1.30pm** Sunday 5th April 2014.

19. Any competitor found guilty of fraud or acting in defiance of the goodwill and Rules of the competition will be disqualified immediately. (The relevant Authorities will be notified).
20. In the event of the Deep Sea competition being abandoned, a mystery draw will be conducted at the Sunday presentation for any unallocated prizes.
21. Professional fishermen may enter, provided they only fish from amateur or recreational vessels & charter boats using amateur & recreational fishing gear.(Excluding Licensed Fishing Boats)
22. Boat washing facilities will not be available at the Club for the duration of the competition.
23. Should any anomalies or issues arise, not already covered in these rules, they will be addressed by the Easter Classic Committee. The decision of the Committee will be absolute, final and binding.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR BEACH ROCK & ESTUARY

1. The competition will be mainland based or enclosed waters. Land-tied islands and/or rocks may be fished if accessed unaided. (i.e. not by water-borne means). The harbour at the port of Coffs Harbour may be fished.
2. Competition boundaries are Minnie Waters in the North, the Nambucca River in the South, and salt water limits to the west.

ADDITIONAL RULES FOR OFFSHORE DEEP SEA FISHING

1. All boats must leave from the port of Coffs Harbour for the start of the competition on Friday 3rd April 2015, for out of port boats skippers must report in person to the event organizer at 5.30am at the Coffs Harbour boat ramp for the Friday morning session. Following the weigh-in on Friday 3rd April 2015, ie. 1pm, off-shore competitors can leave from their home ports. The boundaries for launching are Minnie Waters in north to Nambucca River in south.
2. A harbour start will take place on Friday 3rd April 2015 at 6am. On no circumstances will a boat be permitted to leave the Harbour prior to the 6am commencement of the competition. Any boat (and crew) proven to be in breach of this will be automatically **disqualified**. In the interests of safety there will be **no "shotgun start"**: The Water police will lead competing boats out of the harbour at 6am in an orderly fashion. No boat is permitted to overtake the Start Vessel until clear of the harbour.
3. All boats must have a minimum of two (2) competitors on board; all persons on board must be competing anglers (excepting Licensed Charter Boats).
4. All boats must be NSW Maritime safety compliant.
5. All boats must Log On with Marine Rescue Coffs Harbour on Ch 27.94 or VHF 19, **using allocated Easter Classic Boat No.** prior to leaving the harbour, and upon return. Marine Rescue Coffs Harbour will be not only monitoring boats for safety reasons, but are also the official monitors for the competition. It is therefore paramount that you advise no. of anglers on board (including juniors), area of operation, and estimated time of arrival (ETA) back in port. In the interests of safety, any change in area of operations or ETA must be notified to Marine Rescue Coffs Harbour. **Failure to adhere to this rule will lead to disqualification from the day's competition and no points will be awarded to the boat or anglers aboard.**
6. **All boats must be back in the port of Coffs Harbour and logged off by 12.00 midday Sunday 5th April 2015. In the event of a boat returning late or not signing off on time the boat and crew will be disqualified.**
7. In the event of a break-down and the boat rendering assistance has a possibility of returning late, that boat must radio Marine Rescue Coffs Harbour (channel 19) and advise of the situation. In this case the boat rendering assistance will not incur a penalty.
8. The offshore competition will be called off for that day if a strong wind warning issued by the Bureau of Meteorology is current for that day unless otherwise advised by the Committee. Any skipper putting to sea after the offshore competition is cancelled must understand any fish caught will be ineligible to win prizes. The Committee reserves the right to inspect any boat that puts to sea when a daily competition is called off. Any fish found will be marked and disqualified from further competitions.
9. In the event of adverse weather conditions, (in addition to a strong wind warning) the Committee will meet and make a decision on whether the offshore competition for that day will go ahead. The Committee's decision will be final.