

OCMC

Fishing Committee Meeting

Minutes

November 4, 2023

Attendees:

Pat Svehla	Kayvon Bahromi	Chris Watkowski	Ryan Freese	Steve Poore	Sue Siefert
Bob Althausen	Boz Jefferson	Dale Withers	Brent Hoffman	Jeremy Blunt	Austin Ensor
Renee Lessman	Chris Little	Andy Helms	Chris Evans	Pam Hess	Pam Taylor
Rob Moroney	Chris Watkowski	Frank Goodhart			

-Meeting came to order at 10AM at the OCMC in Restaurant area.

-Minutes from former meeting were read with some discussion.

-**10 Mile speed limit:** NOAA to make decision by December 31, 2023 as reported by Jeremy Blunt.

-**Sonar Rules:** After some discussion, it was determined to leave the point system at it's current level for 2024 Tournaments. Boats not equipped with sonar receive 50% more points for released billfish. For instance, WM normal 100 points would mean 150 points to non-sonar boats.

-**Annual Rules Brochure:** After nominal discussion, Pat Svehla volunteered to work with Renee and others on devising a brochure for each tournament rules and seasonal awards rules.

-2024 Tournament set up:

Memorial Day Tournament- After much discussion, it was determined to disband this tournament and possibly come up with a format for fishing around the *opening party* weekend. Further discussion was deferred to the February meeting. It was also determined to move the name, Frank Pettolina, to the Heels and Reels tournament.

Small Boat Tournament- Nominal discussion, remain with same format and same chairpersons, Boz Jefferson and Bill Regan. Sign up on Friday, June 21 with fishing one of 2 days, June 22-23 unless you entered both the inshore and offshore division which would allow fishing for 2 days with different formats.

Canyon Kick Off Tournament- Some discussion on dates led to Wednesday, July 3 for sign up night and captain's meeting with late registration taken at the club through 6PM, July 4. Recorded Captains meeting available. Fishing 2 of 3 days on July 5-6-7 with awards at the club on Sunday, July 7. Tournament chairs of Yoni and Bob Althausen.

Kid's Classic Tournament- Friday, July 19 was set for sign up. Fishing one or two days, July 20-21. Carnival on Sunday evening under the club. Tournament chairs, Dale Withers and Brandon from Pure Lure. Ryan and Monica Freese along with Pam Hess to head up the Wish-A-Fish division. Their party on Saturday night at the club.

Frank Pettolina Heels and Reels Tournament- Thursday, August 1 for sign up. Fish one of two days, August 2-3 with award banquet on Saturday evening, August 3. It was determined to move fishing time to 8AM to 3PM. Pat suggested that the club dining room be closed for this event as space was at a premium. Ryan indicated that the BOD would take that up.

White Marlin Labor Day Tournament- After much discussion concerning weather, fishing and format, it was determined to defer further discussion to the February meeting. It was hoped that by that time, solid ideas for the tournament could be assembled. Otherwise, due to all the August tournaments, it was felt that most everyone had had enough, financially and otherwise. Weather had been a major factor as the tournament has not been held for 3 years now. It may be that the club drop the labor day tournament after its long run of almost 65 years.

Challenge Cup- Although this tournament has not been held for the former 4 years, Andy Helm indicates that it's been tough trying to assemble 6 boats for the tournament for same reasons as Labor Day tournament. Although, Cape May will want to bring their fleet down for 2024, and we need to form a team of at least six boats.

Shootout- OCMC vs OCLTC will take place this year, Nov. 30- Dec. 2 in Guatemala with each club fielding 8 anglers. 2024 tournament expected to be roughly same dates.

-**Calcutta monitor:** Boz Jefferson suggested a designated compensated party to monitor and calculate each tournament's calcutta. Idea was well received and Boz would pursue that person.

-**Wind Farm:** Austin Ensor suggested that a concerted unified effort between a number of businesses and fishing clubs be formed to show strong opposition to the planned wind farm off of Ocean City. His idea was well received. The committee would advise BOD of the club's position on the matter as a rough poll was taken from the 20 members at the meeting which indicated 100% opposition to the WF. Further, it was suggested that Mark Cropper be contacted regarding the matter.

Tournament Sponsors: Below is an outline for the solicitation of tournament sponsors.

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- 1) Contact is made with tournament Chairman regarding sponsorship of specific tournament.
- 2) Discussion regarding monies that sponsor would provide and what objectives that sponsor *may* have for the respective sponsorship. Sponsor may leave entirely up to the tournament chair.
- 3) At a minimum, \$3,000 sponsorship, where we supply sponsor logo and limited advertisement with specific *tournament brochure* both paper copy and website for that specific tournament. We allow sponsor to attend club sign up and awards free of charge, maximum 4 people. Banner and or signage created and supplied by sponsor, approved by tournament chair, displayed at the *weigh in area* daily.
- 4) Next level up from minimum, \$4,500 (level 2) which would include all minimum sponsor benefits, allows sponsor to award a specifically designated trophy to a winner at awards...*1st place tuna sponsored by...*
Allow sponsor a designated area at the club sign up and awards ceremony to display their business products or expertise such as real estate, insurance etc.
- 5) Level 3 as *further designed* by the chairman *and* the sponsor, which would include all benefits of level 2, could add a specifically designed award with trophy and added prize money maybe even with sponsor logo on trophy (all at sponsor cost). OR a specific kids award etc. etc. The additional cost to level 2 (made up of trophy, prize money and whatever) would be born by the sponsor.
- 6) Beyond everything discussed above, the chairman would know or learn strategies appropriate for their particular tournament that may be employed to further benefit the tournament and effectively the club.

-MISCELLANEOUS:

- Next meeting was set for Saturday, February 17, 2024 at the OCMC at 10AM.
- Motion was made and meeting was adjourned at 12:45PM.

Submitted by Pat Svehla November 6, 2023.