

# Anchor Marina Fishing Tournaments

Anchor Marina, through Edward Trainer and Fred Cocciolone has installed two aerated dipping tanks to be used prior to weighing fish, a wash tub, water thermometers, a recuperation tank with Oxygen bubblers, oxygen meter, dipping net and a release pipe with running water. Two canopies are also available to cover the tanks – these must be assembled by tournament directors and taken down at the conclusion of each day. This equipment has made Anchor Marina an approved release site for fishing tournaments in Maryland waters.

We thank Joe W. Love, tidal base manager at DNR for his help, patience and guidance during this changeover. Stephen Weimar of Chester County Bass Masters has also helped with technical advice.

Proper use of our facilities will allow tournaments held here to qualify for option 2 permits allowing normal state limits, rather than the slot limit imposed in June, 2016. (<http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/pages/bass/ta.aspx>) It is recommended that all tournament directors contact Anchor and arrange for training on the system prior to holding option 2 tournaments. Anchor Marina phone - [410-287-6000](tel:410-287-6000) or [aboats@verizon.net](mailto:aboats@verizon.net) for e-mail.

## System Overview:

1. Touch base with Freddie or designated Anchor staff, in the am on arrival, to arrange for tanks to be filled and aeration and oxygen equipment to be in place at time of weigh in. Tents should be erected by tournament director at this time over aerated tanks as well as oxygenated tank.
2. At weigh in time, water temperature of tanks should be checked to ensure it is within 5 degrees of bay water temperature. If needed, bags of ice to cool the water can be purchased for \$2.00 per bag at Anchor. Ice should remain in bags. Two bags of ice will bring the temperature down about 5 degrees in a 100 gallon tank until melted. A 5 degree cooler temperature than the bay water is preferred over a 5 degree warmer temperature, but it must remain within 5 degrees of bay temperature.
3. Mesh bags, supplied by the tournament director, should be used in conjunction with weigh bags. Mesh bags should be pushed to the bottom of the weigh bag and filled with maximum level of water for transporting to weigh station. Mesh bags allow for minimum handling at weigh in since fish can be weighed in the mesh bag.
4. Arriving at the weigh station, mesh bags will be removed and held in the aerated tanks until their turn to be weighed. **Do not dump water from weigh bag.** Once weighed, fish in mesh bag will be returned to weigh bag filled with water and transported to recuperation tank.
5. Fish will be released in the oxygenated tank for a minimum of 10 minutes. Tank needs to be tested with the oxygen meter on a regular basis to maintain correct levels. An easy to use (but expensive,) meter is supplied for use. Training beforehand is required to qualify for use of the system. Someone should be assigned to monitor the tanks temperatures and oxygen levels. Bass will begin to die if oxygen levels drop to 5ppm; however there is no added benefit

to levels above 15 ppm. The more fish added to the tank, the greater rate of oxygen infusion is needed.

6. A general rule of thumb is a pound of fish per gallon of water. Depending on the size of the fish, there may be limits before some must be removed from the tank. Fish must demonstrate recovery (closed mouth, erect fins, evading capture) before being removed from the tank. A large dipping net is provided for retrieving fish from the recuperation tank. The water pump needs to be plugged in to start the flow of water down the chute. Once a fish is removed from recuperation, she/he should gently be placed in the pipe, head first and released.

Tournament directors will be responsible for providing:

1. Notice to Fred (at the ramp) of weigh in time and number of boats
2. Set up ready prior to weigh in time
3. Scales and measuring devices
4. All record keeping as required
5. Mesh bags (or ensuring their participants have them)
6. Adequate help to weigh and release fish
7. Ice as needed to maintain tank water temperature within 5 degrees of current bay water temperature (Ice is available at our store for \$2.00 per bag)
8. Collection of fees for use, payment to marina
9. Dead fish will be returned to the participant and properly disposed of offsite.

All boats using the weigh station will be required to launch at our facilities and pay the launch fee. To help defray the cost of use and maintenance, the following fees will be charged per tournament.

**FEES:** Up to 24 boats - \$2.00 per boat  
25 – 49 boats - \$60.00 flat fee  
50 – 100 boats - \$80.00 flat fee

Anchor personnel will spot check, making sure guidelines are followed and will make corrections as needed. We will not have available personnel for weighing and releasing of fish.

Weigh in times must be strictly enforced. Directors who also fish will need to be in, set up and ready to start weighing fish at the time announced. This is necessary as others will also be using the site.

Tournament directors will be required to ensure that all fish are safely released and none are left in the tank when the tournament is over.

Anchor will have the tanks filled and oxygen levels set 1/2 hour prior to the first weigh in time.

Directors will help in the morning to install canopies and take them down at the end of the tournament.

Anchor Marina is undertaking the expense and time for the tournaments to continue fishing in the manner they have been accustomed to. Keeping this in mind, your cooperation and assistance in set up, use, keeping the area clean and closing up is needed and expected.

### **Off Limits for Tournament Fishing**

An imaginary line drawn from the fixed pier at the town park to the east side of the first canal on the left as you leave the marina will be set as a no fishing zone for tournaments. This will allow released fish sufficient time to recuperate and find their way out of the marina before being caught a second time.