



2026 Conch House Wahoo Challenge Rules

1. The Conch House Wahoo Challenge is February 28th – March 1st, 2026.
2. Standard entry fee is \$600.00 per boat. Entry fees and Calcutta's will be accepted up to **8:00 pm February 27th at the Captains' meeting**. All entry fees are non-refundable.
3. The heaviest 2 fish aggregate will be the winner. The winner does not have to weigh 2 fish to win. If a boat's single fish is heavier than another boat's 2 fish then the boat with the most weight will be declared the winner.
4. The tournament pays out to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners (if over 50 entries).
5. If less than 50 entries the tournament pays out 70% to 1st place and 2nd place pays out 30% with posted picture from total entries minus tournament expenses. If over 50 entries the tournament pays out 60% to 1st place, 25% to 2nd place, and 15% to 3rd place minus tournament expenses. Proceeds to be distributed 48 hours after conclusion of tournament.
6. All prizes are awarded solely on basis of fish weight. In the event of identical weights, the first fish weighed shall be declared the winner.
7. The Captain and crew of all entrants are subject to a polygraph test prior to being awarded any prizes. Failure to submit to a polygraph test automatically revokes all claims to prizes and disqualifies the Captain and crew from the tournament.
8. The fishing days are **February 28th and March 1st, 2026 from 7:00am until 3:30pm**. All registered tournament boats may only fish one of the two days. The declared fishing day form must be turned in by 7:00am the day of intention. Report changes to phone # **904-824-4347**.

9. This is a no checkout tournament. All boats must leave from St. Augustine Inlet, Mayport Inlet, or Ponce Inlet no earlier than 5:00am. Boats must return to the St. Augustine Inlet only.
10. Official fishing times are per GPS. No lines or teasers in the water before or after official fishing hours each day. No catching of live bait before 7:00am. All fish entered for competition shall be hooked and fought during official tournament time.
11. Official weigh master will be located at the Conch House Marina. **Scales will open at 3:30 p.m. and close at 6:00 p.m.** No fish will be accepted after the official scheduled closing of the scale.
12. Only 2 wahoo will be weighed per boat. Hooks must be removed from fish. No wahoo less than 15lbs. will qualify. Fish shall not be mutilated in any way other than hook or gaff marks. Only Wahoo may be weighed in.
13. A maximum of 6 lines with hooks are allowed. No electric reels permitted for trolling any hooked bait or lure. Electric reels may be used for hookless teasers. Wire Lines are allowed. No participant may transfer a fish from one boat to another. Flying drones, shooting and harpooning are illegal.
14. All eligible winners must take a digital photograph of their wahoo with the official tournament photo card after the fish has been landed. The photo must be posted by **March 2th 6:00 pm** (24 hours of the tournaments conclusion) to the Conch House Tournament Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/conchhousefishing or texted to [904-545-2499](tel:904-545-2499).
15. All fish will be returned to the boat from the tournament.
16. There will be no boundaries to fish.
17. Boats must be **inside the channel to Salt Run between markers 1 & 2 by 5:30pm** the day of declared fishing. If the boat has not passed markers 1 & 2 of the Salt Run Channel by 5:30pm the fish will not count!!
18. Fish must be weighed in on the same day it is caught from the boat on which it was caught.
19. A boat may be replaced after entry deadline due to breakdown or loss of seaworthiness but is subject to approval by tournament committee.
20. This is a Captain's choice tournament. Each captain is solely responsible for the safety of his or her vessel and crew at all times. Captains and crews are responsible for following any federal, state and local fishing or boating laws. We encourage all Captains to heed any weather warnings or dangerous weather conditions. **SAFETY ALWAYS COMES FIRST.**
21. Only the first 100 entries will receive a Captains Bag.
22. No refund of entry fees, unless the Tournament Committee cancels the Tournament. In that case, prorated entry fees will be returned after expenses.
23. All decisions by tournament committee are final.