



PDO Recreation Centre



RAHBC

Fishing Competition Rules

Name	RAHBC Fishing Competition Rules	Revised By	Suleiman Al hajri, Faisal Riyami, Pascal Richard, Kamal Busaidi
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1 - General Rules

- 1.1 All power boats parked in RAHRC shall have a valid permit from the Ministry of Fisheries and carry all mandatory life-saving equipment.
- 1.2 Handling and maneuvering of boats at the Boat Club and within Ras Al Hamra bay shall be undertaken with utmost caution and in compliance with prescribed PDORC Boat section procedures. Speed limits in force, area restrictions and launch restrictions are of particular importance.
- 1.3 Prior to departure, crews shall enlist on the sign-out board and the sign-in sheet and note down all the information required. Upon return do not forget to remove your name from the board.
- 1.4 Each participating Fisherman shall carry a valid dated fishing license, which can be either an annual license or a day ticket (if applicable). Day tickets are available from:
 - PDORC office during office hours
 - Boat Club Bar during opening hours
 - Winch Room prior to the start of the competition (Captains responsibility to ensure of the availability of the licenses prior to competition). The licenses can be obtained in advance.

At the weigh-in each registered participant shall produce a valid Fishing License. Failing to do so will automatically result in being disqualified from the day's event.
- 1.5 The PDO bay and SBM area is a Restricted Area. Various ROP policies exist by which this is enforced, from: total prohibited entry to 200 meter distance from tankers and SBM's, to simply no mooring to the SBM or flexible hose. Any boat being within 200 meter distance from tankers and SBM's will be disqualified.

It should be remembered at all times that misconduct in this area could have far-reaching implications for all Fishermen.
- 1.6 Before starting the competition, all fishermen must obtain a copy of the rescue map. This can be either supplied by the captain or downloaded from the RAHBC fishing website.
- 1.7 Non PDORC members are allowed to participate provided they are fishing together in a boat with one or more PDORC members.

2 - General Competition Rules

- 2.1 The competition will normally be run alternately every first Thursday of the month. The competitions will run from 06:00¹hrs to 12:00 hrs unless stated otherwise. The competition start and finish line is the line between the two outermost floating buoys points surrounding the PDORC beach (those joining the competitions outside the PDORC may start at their own bay, but must finished at the PDORC bay, see section 2.6)
- 2.2 There will be **nine** events per year and the dates are published in the Fishing Calendar, RAHBC Fishing website and in the PDORC Bulletin's agenda. The winner in the respective Classes will be the one with the highest score of the best **six** out of **nine** events. In case the numbers of events fished are **eight** or below for any reason, the best **five** out of **eight** or below will apply. No event will be carried forward into the next year.
- 2.3 Each registered participant shall pay OR 2.000 per event with a bar chit and 0.500 baisas for the fishing license. **No cash payment.**
- 2.4 The Fishing Captain (or the Committee Member's) may postpone the competition should weather conditions/forecast be unsafe. This will normally be done on the advice of the posted Weather Forecast from the PDO Marine Terminal. The competition will be rescheduled to a convenient time as quickly as possible and if possible usually the following day.
- 2.5 In addition to enlisting on the sign-out board, all Anglers must register before the competition on the sign-up sheet for the competition (No sign in – No weighing); one person per row (i.e. if three people are registered in on a boat, then three separate rows should be used). The sign-up sheet and "Daily Fishing Licenses" are available at the winch room on the morning of the competition and the week before. Only those persons registered on the list and having paid the "Entry Fee" and in possession of a valid Fishing License as applicable, will be eligible for the weigh-in.
- 2.6 Fishermen launching from outside the RAHBC must NOT leave their bay before 06:00 It is taken for granted that all fishermen will comply with the rules of the competition in all fairness. All boats must return to the RAHBC bay before 12:00 or otherwise stated by the fishing captain in order to qualify their catch for the weigh in.
- 2.7 Anglers may fish with rods or hand-lines only. It is recommended (for conservation reasons) to limit the tackle on a single fishing line to a single artificial lure with hooks or a maximum of three baited hooks.

N.B. Using hand-lines requires skill in particular when trolling for large Game-fish.

- 2.8 Live bait is not allowed. Spear gun, fish-net, electrical reels (and other similar devices) and any illegal devices are strictly prohibited. Any boat SEEN with one of these will be disqualified.
- 2.9 The use of depth sounders/fish finders is allowed.
- 2.10 Eligible fish are those normally recognized as edible fish. No sharks, no rays, "aquarium" fish will be allowed. Fish partly eaten will be allowed providing they would otherwise qualify. Final decision by Captain or in his absence his Deputy in

¹ All times stated are using the 24 hour format

case of doubt over eligible fish. All weights of fish qualify with the exception to the bait fish "Umma or Sima " Sardines

2.11 A maximum of 5 fish per specie per angler for both bottom and game classes will qualify. In order to preserve the fish stock, Anglers are requested to change technique when the numbers are reached.

2.12 To qualify released fish for the competition, you need to produce a photo of the released fish along with its measurements (Appendix A, Length and Girth²). All Billfish **must** be released; any Billfish brought in will NOT qualify for weighing.

Anglers are advised to take all precaution when catching Billfish. All efforts must be taken to revive any exhausted Billfish upon their release.

2.13 No dead or injured fish will be returned to the sea or otherwise disposed of for the purpose of improving the division of catch ruling. However, the immediate careful catch and release of fish for reasons of conservation or personal taste is allowed.

2.14 GPS time is the official time of the competition. All Boats will have to be back, no later than 12.30 or otherwise stated by the captain (as displayed on GPS screen), in the PDORC bay. Late returning boats will be disqualified. All fishermen must present their fish at the scale for weigh-in immediately after their boat has arrived on the top of the ramp (then they go and clean their boat). The weigh-in will commence at approx. 12:45 hrs. - 13.15 hrs. Any catch brought to the scales later will not be weighted in and will not be counted in the competition. Weighing-in and recording of the catch will be conducted by the Weigh Master and/or his appointed Assistant only. The Fishermen are responsible for separating their Game and Bottom fish prior to weighing and to select the heaviest fish and/or for the Species category.

Fishermen are requested to give the Weigh Master and Fishing member priority, without him asking, in landing his boat first in order to enable them to timely prepare for the weighing.

2.15 **Catch Rules** are the same for Bottom-Fishing and Trolling.

The total catch per category will be divided by the number of people in the boat (Kids at 13 years old or below will not count), irrespective whether those persons are fishermen or not.

The boats anglers will have to decide on their rank.. If there is only one person in the boat, the catch will nevertheless be divided by two; this rule is introduced to discourage people to go out on their own for safety reasons. In case of equal catches between people in different boats the following criteria are used to rank them:

1. The single heaviest fish in the boats concerned, and in case those are equal
2. The two heaviest fish in the boats concerned, and in case those are equal
3. Throw a dice

NO Single catch rule.

2.16 **Cephalopods (Cuttlefish, Octopus, Squids** etc) are not included. Any Cephalopod type fish brought in for weighing will be rejected.

² Formula: Length x Girth² / 800

- 2.17 **Miscellaneous species:** To avoid any misunderstanding of what specie(s) would be included in the competition; members will be requested to vote on the specie(s). Following after the species will be included on future competitions. In an event of a tie, the Capitan will decide.

3 - Single Event Prize Distribution

A total of seven prizes will be awarded. The choice sequence is as follows:

- 1st Choice** Winner of the Overall Class
- 2nd Choice** Runner-up of the Overall Category
- 3rd Choice** Either the Winner of the Bottom-Fishing Category or the Winner of the Game-Fishing Category; decision is made based on the highest overall score or, in case of equal points, the highest total weight of the catch
- 4th Choice** Either the Winner of the Bottom-Fishing Category or the Winner of the Game-Fishing Category; decision is made based on the next highest overall points score or, in case of equal points, the highest total weight of the catch.
- 5th Choice** Similar ruling as of Choice 3 and 4
- 6th Choice** Similar ruling as of the choices 3 and 4
- 7th Choice** Finally a prize will be awarded to the Fisherman who caught the heaviest fish on the day.

No more than one prize can be won by one Fisherman, with the exception of the Heaviest Fish of the Day. The next highest Fisherman in the ranking of that Category becomes eligible.

4 - Annual Competition Structure

4.1 Game Class

This competition is for Game Fish only. The first 10 catches descending in weight in any of the 9 events will get 10 to 1 match points. The Fisherman with the highest points total score e.g. 6 best out of 9 will become the "PDORC Game Class Champion". Eligible "Game Class" fish like Kingfish, Dolphino, Cobia, Tuna, Marlin, Sailfish, Barracuda, Queenfish, Trevally/Jacks, Bonito, Milkfish, rainbow runner and Pompano. Other fish caught trolling may qualify at the discretion of the Fishing Captain.

In the event of a tie in match points the Fisherman with the highest average score of the total points of all fished events divided by the number of all events fished is declared winner. There will be a minimum of 3 prizes for this Class.

N.B: It is realised, that at times typical bottom fish i.e. Grouper and Snapper are caught trolling, but cannot be verified as such, hence always bottom fish.

4.2 Bottom Class

This competition is for Bottom Fish only. The first 10 catches descending in weight in any of the 9 events will get 10 to 1 match points. The Fisherman with the highest points total score i.e. 6 best out of 9 will become the "PDORC Bottom Class Champion". Eligible fish is fish caught at the sea bottom like Grouper, Bream, Emperors, and ("Reef") Snappers etc. Other fish caught on bottom may qualify at the discretion of the Fishing Member.

In the event of a tie in match points the Fisherman with the highest average score of the total points of all fished events divided by the number of all events fished is declared winner. There will be a minimum of 3 prizes for this Class.

N.B: Typical game fish such as Tuna, Kingfish, Barracuda, QueenFish etc. is occasionally caught on or near bottom, but will count as game fish only.

4.3 Overall Class

The Game Class and Bottom Class match points in each event will be totalled per Angler. The Fisherman with the highest total score i.e. 6 best out of 9 will become the "PDORC Angler of the Year".

4.4 Single Heaviest Fish of the Year

The Fisherman with the single heaviest fish caught in any of the 9 events will become the "Heaviest Fish Champion".

4.5 Heaviest Species of the Year

There will be a prize for the Fisherman, who has caught the heaviest fish of any eligible species. The heaviest 10 fish (1 per species) will be eligible for a prize at the end of the year.

N.B: It is the responsibility of the individual Fisherman to present the fish for weigh-in and requesting the Weigh Master to check it, whether it qualifies.

4.6 Annual Prize Distribution

There will be a minimum of 3 prizes in the Overall, Game fishing and Bottom fishing Classes. In the event of a tie in match points the Fisherman with the highest average score of the total points of all fished events divided by the number of all events fished is declared winner

- 1st Choice** **First** Overall Category
- 2nd Choice** **Second** Overall Category
- 3rd Choice** The winner of the Bottom-Fishing Category or the Winner of the Game-Fishing Category; decision is made based on the higher ranking fishermen in the overall category.
- 4th Choice** The winner of the Bottom-Fishing Category or the Winner of the Game-Fishing Category; decision is made based on the lower ranking fishermen in the overall category.
- 5th Choice** **Third** Overall Category
- 6th Choice** The runner-up of the Bottom-Fishing Category or the Runner-up of the Game-Fishing Category; decision is made based on the higher ranking fishermen in the overall category.
- 7th Choice** The runner-up of the Bottom-Fishing Category or the Runner-up of the Game-Fishing Category; decision is made based on the lower ranking fishermen in the overall category.
- 8th Choice** **Third** of the Bottom-Fishing Category or the third of the Game-Fishing Category; decision is made based on the higher ranking fishermen in the overall category.
- 9th Choice** **Third** of the Bottom-Fishing Category or the third of the Game-Fishing Category; decision is made based on the lower ranking fishermen in the overall category.

Fishermen with the biggest fish of the ten heaviest fish will get the famous biggest fish of the year T-shirt.
Depending of sponsorship level, prizes might be extended to the top 5 ranks in the 3 categories.

Appendix A

Estimating the weight of a fish is pretty simple once you know how to obtain the numbers necessary. All that is needed is the girth at the widest part (usually at the dorsal fin) and the measurement known the "Short measurement" (length of the fish).

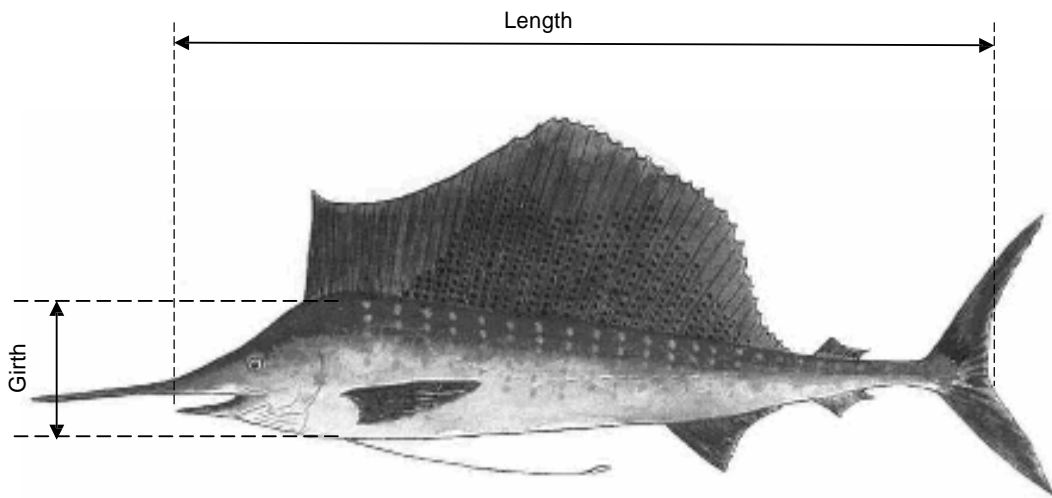
The short measurement is the distance in inches from the tip of the lower jaw to the inner fork of the tail, whereas the "Long measurement" is the overall length of the fish.

Once you have the information you need, simply plug it into the following formula and you should be able to calculate a fish's weight:

Formula: $(\text{Length} \times \text{Girth}^2) / 800 = \text{Weight (in pounds)}$

Girth = In inches (measured all the way around the fattest part – note: if you can only measure the fish on one side, simply take the full measurement from top to bottom and double it)

Length = Short measurement in inches



Conversion: lbs to kg:

1lbs = 0.4536 kg

1kg = 2.2 lbs