

Big Mahi Challenge Unofficial Rules Revised 4.7.26

- 1) **Registration** is by boat not by angler. Max 6 anglers per boat. Captain and mate(s) are eligible anglers.
- 2) Basic boat registration fee: **\$600**. Basic Entry Fee entitles teams to compete for Cash prizes (\$10,000). Cash prizes will be prorated if we have less than 40 boat entries. Top 3 places: Heaviest Mahi, 2nd Heaviest Mahi, 3rd Heaviest Mahi (10lb. minimum weight to qualify for cash prizes). Registration is completed online at www.bigmahichallenge.com or at Captains' meeting. Registered boats are not permitted to compete in any other "Offshore" fishing tournament while competing in the Big Mahi Challenge. Further explained at Captains' meeting.
- 3) **Optional & Additional:** Added Skill Level Entry Fee for separate cash prizes are available at Captains' meeting ONLY. You must register the Basic Boat Entry & pay the fee in order to enter the optional added skill levels: (Heaviest, Wahoo, Blackfin Tuna, Kingfish & Mahi). Also, Jr division (Under 16) and a Lady's division: (Heaviest Mahi-10lb minimum).
- 4) The captain or a team member on each boat must attend an individual captain's meeting (Thursday, April 23rd, 2026) anytime between 5pm-9pm. **at Lazy Lobster Restaurant (102770 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo, FL. 33037)** & be responsible for relaying any last-minute changes to their team. A captain's bucket will be given to a member of each team including a validation card for your 2 days of fishing. All anglers must possess a valid fishing license and follow all Federal and local laws and follow the recreational regulations for Mahi, Wahoo, Blackfin Tuna & Kingfish: <http://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-50/chapter-VI/part-622#subpart-M>
- 5) Each team's captain chooses 2 of 4 available fishing days: (Friday 4.24 thru Monday, 4.27.26) to compete.
 - A) The captain representing each team must text the Director (Lenny) 609.377.0529 or 732.351.6363 the morning and before they depart for their 2 chosen fishing day and submit a team photo with their day's validation card. To clarify: Text before you leave your slip or before boat leaves boat ramp the days you commit to compete. You will receive a confirmation text or call from Lenny (Director).
 - B) A member on each team must use his or her cell phone to take a photo of every Mahi, Wahoo, Blackfin Tuna & King Fish immediately after fish has been boated with the angler holding validation card next to their fish. All photos of every fish should be texted to Lenny (Director) before weigh in.
- 6) **Fishing Times: Lines in 7 am, Lines out 3 pm.** You do not have to fish the entire time frame. Any fish hooked up prior to 3pm deadline may be fought until caught or lost and must have a continual video from a team's cell phone filming before 3 pm: the "hook up," the angler fighting the fish and the fish secured in boat or lost. Fish will not qualify if video is not submitted to Lenny (Director) before your weigh-in. **Make sure you have phone charged.**
- 7) **Boundaries, Departure & Arrival for fishing:** **Vessels must depart & return from the "Upper Keys" (Ocean Reef to Channel 2 Bridge) and fish within the designated boundaries: North boundary line: Ajax Reef 25.24N, 80.08 W out to the EEZ Line 25.13N,79.41W, and South Boundary Line: Long Key Reef 24.4N, 80.49W out to the EEZ line 24.23 N, 80.37 W.**
- 8) A max. of 6 lines may be fished at one time, Electric reels are allowed, Planers, wire lines, trolling, kite fishing, chumming, jigging and live baiting are allowed. **NO SPEAR FISHING.** You may fight fish out of the rod holder. No commercial gear is permitted.
- 9) Tournament channel is VHF 71, alternate 69.
- 10) Hook & hand is permitted with one pass as soon as possible.
- 11) Be sure to remove all Mahi, Wahoo, Blackfin Tuna & Kingfish from day(s) prior to your competition day or you will be disqualified. Your boat may be subject to a visual inspection via FaceTime or the presence of committee.
- 12) **Scales open at 4:00 pm each day.** Each Team chooses a maximum of 3 Mahi & 1 of their Wahoo, Blackfin Tuna & Kingfish to bring to scales for weigh-in. In order for fish to qualify and be eligible for cash prizes, Mahi, Blackfin Tuna, and Kingfish must meet a 10lb minimum weight and Wahoo a 15lb minimum weight. You may bring your fish to the scales via boat and dock at JD Outdoors Adventure Marina or transport all eligible species with 1 vehicle to **JD Outdoors Adventures Marina (104100 Overseas Hwy, Key Largo FL 33037) Phone #: 305.517.6522**, no later than 7pm that same day. A staff member will confirm arrival of vehicle with fish to weigh at designated area. (Further explained at Captains' meeting.) If vehicle with fish is not at drop off area by 6pm that day, all fish for that day will be disqualified.
- 13) In case of a tie in weight, winner will be decided by the first to weigh. Order of weigh in will be based on time of arrival **JD Outdoors Marina**. For example, an arrival time of 5:15 pm on day 2 would beat an arrival time of 5:40 pm on day 1 assuming a tie in weight.
- 14) Only participants of tournament may submit a dispute or protest with a signed document and a \$500 fee paid to director the day of the alleged infraction. All disputes will be settled at the discretion of the committee. All decisions of the committee are final. Tournament Director has the right to cancel, postpone event or refuse any boat or participant from participating in this event.
- 15) Rules are subjected to change & will be made official at Captains' Meeting 4.23.26.
- 16) Participants of this tournament enter at their own risk. Officials, committee members, sponsors and ALL persons connected directly or indirectly with the operations of this Mahi Challenge, shall be exempt from any & all liability for loss, damage or negligence, harm or injury suffered by any participant, entrants, sportfishing vessel and equipment which may occur during the tournament. By checking box in registration, you agree to adhere to all tournament rules.
In order to be eligible for awards & cash prizes, fish must be caught in compliance with all Challenge rules. Said rules include conformance to state and federal size limits and possession.

In the event no winning fish are/is caught, the prize money that would have been paid to the winning Team(s) will be donated to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.