DAYTONA BEACH FISHING RODEO
Official Rules

Updated: 10/26/26
Changes marked in red.

1. Program Overview

The Daytona Beach Fishing Rodeo is presented by the Daytona Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The program is designed to showcase the area's fishing opportunities and help generate business for participating charter captains during a traditionally slow season.

There is no additional fee to enter the Fishing Rodeo. Anglers must book and pay the regular rate for a fishing trip with a participating charter captain to compete.

Participation is optional. Booking a trip with a participating captain does not automatically enter an angler into the Fishing Rodeo.

2. Rodeo Period

The Daytona Beach Fishing Rodeo begins on November 1, 2026, and ends on November 30, 2026.

Only fish caught during the official Rodeo period are eligible.

All entries must be submitted by Midnight on November 30, 2026.

3. Eligibility

To enter a catch, an angler must:

- Fish aboard a charter operated by a participating captain
- Catch the fish during the official Rodeo period
- Catch the fish within the established fishing boundaries
- Follow all Rodeo rules
- Follow all applicable federal, state and local fishing and boating laws
- Provide all information required by the official entry form

Employees, officers and board members of the Daytona Beach Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, along with members of their immediate households, are NOT ELIGIBLE.

4. Participant Divisions

The Fishing Rodeo will include two divisions:

Adult Division: Anglers age 16 and older
Junior Division: Anglers under age 16

A participant's age on the date of the qualifying catch will determine the participant's division.

5. Eligible Species

The eligible species are:

- Redfish
- Snook
- Sheepshead

Winners will be determined by the longest verified eligible catch in each species category and division.

6. Fishing Boundaries

All qualifying catches must be made within the following boundaries:

- Northern boundary: The northern Volusia County line
- Southern boundary: The South Causeway in New Smyrna Beach
- Western boundary: Interstate 95
- Eastern boundary: Three nautical miles offshore from the Atlantic coastline, within Florida state waters

Fishing may take place in eligible inland, Intracoastal and coastal waters located within these boundaries.

For purposes of the southern boundary, catches must be made in waters at or north of the South Causeway. Catches made south of the South Causeway are not eligible.

Catches made west of Interstate 95, north of the Volusia County line or more than three nautical miles offshore are not eligible.

The participating captain is responsible for confirming that each submitted catch was made within the eligible fishing area. The program organizer may request location information or other reasonable verification. An entry may be rejected if its location cannot be verified.

7. Participating Charter Captains

A participating captain must:

- Register with the Daytona Beach Fishing Rodeo
- Sign the Charter Captain Participation Agreement
- Maintain all licenses, credentials, permits and insurance required for the charter operation
- Continue using the captain's regular customer waiver
- Follow all official Rodeo rules
- Follow all applicable fishing and boating regulations
- Measure, photograph, verify and submit qualifying catches properly
- Support safe and responsible fishing practices

Participating captains are independent businesses. They manage their own schedules, reservations, prices, payments, vessels, equipment and safety decisions.

The program organizer does not guarantee charter availability, fishing conditions or the quality or safety of services provided by an independent charter business.

8. Catch Requirements

To qualify, a fish must:

- Be caught by the entered angler
- Be caught during a paid trip with a participating charter captain
- Be caught during the official Rodeo period
- Be caught within the established fishing boundaries
- Be one of the three eligible species
- Be caught using legal recreational hook-and-line fishing methods
- Be measured and photographed according to the official guidelines
- Be verified and submitted by the participating captain
- Comply with all applicable fishing regulations

A fish may only be submitted once. The same catch may not be entered by more than one angler.

Fish must be released when required by law. All fish should be handled carefully and returned to the water as quickly as reasonably possible when they are not legally harvested.

Participation in the Fishing Rodeo does not authorize an angler or captain to violate any season, size, bag, vessel, gear or protected-species requirement.

9. Measuring a Catch

Winners will be determined by fish length rather than weight.

Each fish must be:

- Placed flat on an approved measuring board or device
- Positioned with the nose against the measuring board's stop
- Measured using the official measurement method
- Photographed with the entire fish and measurement markings clearly visible
- Photographed before the fish is released or legally retained
- To correctly measure, the tail must be compressed or squeezed together to determine its **Total Length (TL)**
- Measured in inches to the nearest ONE-QUARTER INCH

The measurement photograph must clearly show:

- The entire fish
- The fish's nose against the measuring board's stop
- The tail and final measurement
- The approved Rodeo identifier
- Any other verification element included in the measuring instructions

Fish Measurement Requirements

- All fish entered into the Daytona Beach Fishing Rodeo must be measured using the official measuring ruler provided to participating charter captains.
- The maximum recorded measurement for all fish categories (Redfish, Snook, and Sheepshead) is **36 inches**.

- All measurements must be documented with a clear photograph showing the fish on the official measuring ruler. Participating charter captains are responsible for verifying measurements and submitting accurate catch information.
- All fish must be handled in accordance with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) regulations, including applicable harvest restrictions and catch-and-release requirements.
- The Daytona Beach Area CVB reserves the right to reject submissions that do not provide sufficient photographic evidence to verify the reported measurement.

The program organizer may adjust a claimed measurement based on what can be verified in the photograph.

10. Photograph Requirements

Photographs must be clear, original and unaltered.

Entries may be rejected if:

- The complete fish is not visible
- The measurement cannot be read
- The fish is not positioned correctly
- The photograph does not contain a required Rodeo identifier
- The photograph appears edited, altered or manipulated
- The camera angle makes the fish appear longer
- The entry contains inconsistent or unverifiable information

The program organizer may request the original photograph file and its available date, time or location information.

11. Submitting a Catch

The participating captain will submit the catch through the official online entry form using the QR code provided by the program organizer.

Each entry must include:

- Angler's full name
- Angler's age or division
- Parent or guardian information when required
- Angler's Contact Information
- Participating captain's name
- Charter business name
- Eligible species
- Claimed length
- Date and time of the catch
- Required measurement photograph
- Confirmation that the catch was made within the established boundaries

An entry is not complete until all required information and photographs have been received.

Submitting an entry does not guarantee that the catch will be accepted.

12. Scoring and Winner Determination

The longest verified eligible catch in each species category and division will be declared the winner.

Categories are:

Adult Division

- Longest Redfish
- Longest Snook
- Longest Sheepshead

Junior Division

- Longest Redfish
- Longest Snook
- Longest Sheepshead

All measurements are subject to review and verification by the program organizer.

13. Tiebreakers

If two or more verified catches have the same official length, the catch with the earliest complete online submission will receive higher placement.

If tied entries were submitted at the same recorded time, the winner will be determined by a random number generator.

14. Adult Division Prizes

The winner of each Adult Division species category will receive a travel prize.

- Each travel prize is expected to include:
    - One three-night stay at a participating Daytona Beach area hotel
    - One fishing experience for the winner's return visit
- Hotel stays may:
    - Be valid for one year following the conclusion of the Fishing Rodeo
    - Include blackout dates
    - Be subject to availability
    - Include occupancy limits and other hotel restrictions
- Fishing experiences may be subject to:
    - Captain availability
    - Weather and water conditions
    - Passenger limitations
    - Scheduling restrictions
    - The captain's standard waiver and safety requirements

Unless specifically stated otherwise, winners are responsible for transportation, meals, gratuities, taxes, fees and other expenses associated with accepting or using a prize.

Final prize providers, restrictions and approximate prize values will be announced before the Fishing Rodeo begins.

15. Junior Division Recognition and Prizes

The angler with the longest verified fish in each Junior Division species category will receive a brand-new rod & reel, as well as a tackle package. All provided by Southern States Fishin' & Huntin' Magazine.

A parent or legal guardian must accept a prize on behalf of a winner under age 18 and complete any required documents.

16. Prize Conditions

Prizes:

- Have no cash alternative
- May not be transferred without written approval
- Must be used within the stated redemption period
- Are subject to the individual prize provider's rules and restrictions

A participant may win more than one prize during the Fishing Rodeo, if they qualify in each category.

Failure to respond, provide the required documentation or accept the prize within the 30 days of the program end may result in disqualification and selection of the next eligible entry.

17. Conduct and Sportsmanship

Participants and captains must conduct themselves safely, legally and respectfully.

The following are prohibited:

- Providing false or misleading information
- Altering a measurement or photograph
- Stretching or manipulating a fish
- Entering a fish caught by another person
- Entering the same fish more than once
- Fishing outside the established boundaries
- Violating fishing or boating laws
- Harassing another participant, captain or program official
- Engaging in unsafe or unsportsmanlike conduct
- Attempting to interfere with the administration of the Rodeo

18. Disqualification

The program organizer may reject an entry or disqualify a participant or captain for:

- Violating these rules
- Submitting an incomplete or unverifiable entry
- Submitting false or altered information
- Failing to comply with applicable laws
- Fishing outside the eligible boundaries

- Engaging in unsafe or unsportsmanlike conduct
- Interfering with the fair operation of the Rodeo
- Failing to provide requested verification
- Conduct that could harm participants, the program or the reputation of the program organizer

19. Weather, Safety and Trip Decisions

Fishing and boating involve changing weather, water and wildlife conditions.

Each captain is independently responsible for determining whether a trip can be conducted safely. The captain may delay, shorten, reschedule or cancel a trip because of weather, vessel conditions or other safety concerns.

No participant is guaranteed a completed charter, qualifying catch, accepted entry or prize.

The program organizer may modify, postpone, suspend or cancel the Fishing Rodeo or any category when necessary for safety, legality, fairness or proper program administration.

20. Rule Changes and Interpretation

The program organizer may clarify or update these rules before or during the Rodeo when reasonably necessary to protect safety, comply with the law, address circumstances outside its control or preserve the fair administration of the program.

Material changes will be communicated to participating captains and posted on the official Fishing Rodeo website.

The program will develop a rules committee, made up of knowledgeable fishing professionals that are not participating Captains or an employee of the Daytona Beach Area CVB. This committee will make final decisions regarding eligibility, measurements, boundaries, scoring, rule interpretation, disqualification and prize awards. All decisions are final to the extent permitted by law.

21. Publicity and Privacy

Entry information will be collected and used to administer the Fishing Rodeo, verify catches, contact potential winners and award prizes.

Submitted photographs, names and related information may only be used for promotional purposes in accordance with the participant's consent and the program's approved privacy and publicity terms.

22. Limitation of Responsibility

Participating charter captains, hotels and prize providers are independent businesses responsible for their own services.
The program organizer does not own, operate, maintain or control participating vessels or hotels and is not responsible for their independent operational or safety decisions.