



Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permit Application

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Division of Marine Fisheries Management
620 S. Meridian St., Mail Station 4B3, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600
Ph: 850-487-0554 • Fax: 850-487-4847

Complete all information that is applicable to your permit request. If additional space is required other than what is provided on this form, you may provide additional attachments as long as they are clearly marked and identifiable. Documents submitted separately from an application form must be marked (or files named) with the applicant's name and affiliation. Applications will not be evaluated until all requested information and reporting documentation required by previously issued Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permits have been submitted.

(Please Print or Type)

A. GENERAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name: _____ Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____
Organization Name: _____
Tournament Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone Number: () _____ Fax: () _____
Alt. Phone Number: () _____
Email Address**: _____ @ _____

****To provide more timely exchange of information please check this box:**

I authorize FWC to send me future correspondence regarding this application, including requests for additional information and final agency permitting actions by either e-mail or express delivery. Future agency actions will be provided henceforth by either e-mail or express delivery.

Have you ever had a fisheries or wildlife related permit suspended or revoked? YES NO
If yes, please explain:

Applicant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
Certification: I hereby swear and affirm by signature that the information submitted in this application and supporting documents is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that any false statement herein may subject me to criminal penalties. I further state that I will abide by all applicable State, Federal, and local laws. Any false statements or misrepresentations when applying for this permit may result in felony charges and will result in revocation of this permit. By signing this document, I also agree to comply with the reporting requirements outlined in section "G" of this application form.

- B. ELIGIBILITY.** A Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permit may only be issued to the director of a catch-and-release fishing tournament that agrees to the following permit conditions:
- 1) Tournament anglers and tournament staff must release all bonefish free, alive, and unharmed, including those fish that are weighed-in.
 - 2) Bonefish may be transported to shore only to be weighed, measured, and recorded at a certified scale.
 - 3) No tournament angler shall possess more than one bonefish at any one time and no more than two bonefish may be possessed aboard a vessel at any one time.
 - 4) All vessels used in the tournament must contain recirculating or aerated live wells that are at least 2.67 cubic feet or 20 gallons in capacity. Any bonefish that are possessed or transported in association with tournament related activities must be transported in such a live well.

- 5) Organized tournament staff shall maintain at least one recirculating or aerated recovery tank at each certified scale and tournament check-in location. Tournament staff may hold up to one bonefish per 10 gallons of seawater in a recirculating or aerated recovery tank prior to release. Bonefish must be released by official sunset each day of the tournament, as established and published by the U.S. Weather Service, and may not be possessed longer than 16 hours. Recovery holding tank requirements will be specified in the tournament exemption permit by the FWC in a manner to ensure increased survival of released bonefish.
- 6) The tournament must provide the FWC in the tournament exemption permit application with a description of the recirculating or aerated recovery holding tank(s) used to maintain bonefish alive after weigh-in.
- 7) Dead bonefish possessed by a tournament angler may not be discarded. Tournament anglers shall report and surrender any bonefish that die after capture or during transport to tournament staff. The disposition of dead bonefish may be specified in the tournament exemption permit at the FWC's discretion.
- 8) The organized tournament must suggest to the FWC in the tournament exemption permit application a location where tournament-caught bonefish will be released after they are weighed-in. In order to increase survival of released bonefish, release locations shall be approved or specified in the tournament exemption permit.
- 9) The tournament must allow FWC staff the opportunity to collect research data and conduct research and monitoring during the tournament.
- 10) The tournament must submit a post-tournament report to the FWC indicating the number of fish weighed-in each day of the tournament, the number of fish weighed-in dead each day, and the number of fish that died after being weighed-in, but prior to release each day. The FWC may specify additional tournament reporting requirements as a condition of the tournament exemption permit.
- 11) Permits are subject to the provisions of Rule 68A-5.004, F.A.C., such as denial of future tournament exemption permits.

C. SCOPE OF AUTHORITY. Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permits do not authorize activities:

- 1) Within any state or federal park.
- 2) Within the following areas of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS): Western Sambo and Tortugas North Ecological Reserves; Cheeca Rocks, Eastern Dry Rocks, Hen and Chickens, Newfound Harbor Key, Rock Key, and Sand Key Sanctuary Preservation Areas (SPAs); or Eastern Sambo Research Only Area.
- 3) Within any Manatee Limited Entry Area (No Entry or Motorboat Prohibited Zones).

D. TOURNAMENT INFORMATION.

- I. Number of active participants. Tournaments must have 10 or more active participants for a Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permit to be valid.

Number of Active Participants: _____ Number of Boats: _____

If the tournament will have fewer than 10 active participants on any given day of a multiple-day tournament, please explain: _____

- II. Entry fee. Does the tournament require an entry fee? *Check one:* YES NO

- III. Prizes. Does the tournament award prizes? *Check one:* YES NO

- IV. When will the tournament occur? List the dates and start and finish times when tournament-related fishing activities will occur: _____

- V. Tournament location. Where will the landing and weigh-in take place? Provide location name(s) and physical address(es) if applicable.

- VI. Counties where fishing will occur. List all counties in Florida where fishing will occur:

E. RECOVERY AND HOLDING TANKS. *Organized tournament staff shall maintain at least one recirculating or*

aerated recovery tank at each certified scale and tournament check-in location. Organized tournament staff may hold up to one bonefish per 10 gallons of seawater in an aerated recovery tank prior to release. Bonefish must be released by official sunset each day of the tournament, as established and published by the U.S. Weather Service, and may not be possessed longer than 16 hours. Recovery holding tank requirements may be specified in the tournament exemption permit at the FWC's discretion in order to increase survival of released bonefish.

- I. How many recovery/holding tanks will the tournament use? _____
- II. List the shape and dimensions (in inches) and capacity (in gallons) for each recovery/holding tank. _____

- III. Target recovery holding tank temperature (°F): _____
- IV. Target recovery holding tank salinity (in ppt): _____
- V. Describe the aeration system to be used in recovery holding tank(s): _____

F. RELEASE INFORMATION.

- I. Where will fish be released? List release location(s) as specifically as possible. _____

- II. How will fish be released? Please describe release methods. _____

- III. How far is (are) the release location(s) from the weigh-in location/recovery holding tank(s)?

G. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. *Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permits will not be issued unless all conditions of prior Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permits held by the applicant were met, and the reporting requirements were submitted properly and timely.*

The holder of a Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permit must submit the following information to the Commission within 30 days after the tournament to fulfill reporting requirements:

- 1) Complete tournament results and standings.
- 2) The exact number of anglers and boats that fished in the tournament, and number of anglers that did not qualify to operate pursuant to a Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permit (based on qualifying live well size).
- 3) Numbers of bonefish weighed-in each day of the tournament and their individual weights.
- 4) Total number of bonefish which were dead each day prior to weigh-in.
- 5) Total number of bonefish that died between weigh-in and release each day.

H. PERMIT COPIES. All anglers participating in a bonefish tournament for which a tournament exemption permit has been issued must have a copy of the Bonefish Catch, Hold and Release Tournament Exemption Permit signed by both FWC and the license holder (applicant) in his/her possession at all times while conducting tournament-related activities during tournament operating hours.

I. APPLICATION SUBMISSION. Please note that every application for a license or permit shall be approved or denied within 90 days after receipt of a completed application. We make every effort to review applications within 30 days to find them complete and have an additional 60 days to decide whether to issue or deny the request. **Applications must be submitted at least 45 days prior to the start of a tournament to allow time for the application to be reviewed and a permit to be issued or denied.**

Applications may be submitted electronically to the Special Activity License Program Coordinator (email to SAL@MyFWC.com), faxed to (850) 487-4847, or mailed to the following address:

FWC – Special Activity License Program
620 S. Meridian St., Mailbox 4B3

Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Documents submitted separately from an application form must be marked (or electronic files named) with the applicant's name and organization.