

# **“Man Bites Shark” Tournament**

## **Captains’ Fact Sheet**

**Captains Meeting – Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, The Sand Bar @ 4:00**

**Fishing day – Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00am to 3:00 pm**

**Alternate/bad weather day – Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**Picnic – Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at Sarazan Park, noon. Open to all members.**

**\$5.00 per person, Capt., crew or spouse.**

### **Rules:**

**(1) Go sharking wherever you want. However, as in past years, many of the boats will likely fish in the Mud Hole area of Gullivan Bay.**

**(2) Fishing hours are 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM.**

**(3) All boats are to use marine radio channel 78 to communicate.**

**(4) Blacktip Sharks and Atlantic Sharpnose Sharks are the target species for both picnic table fair and potential cash prizes. There is no size limit on these two species and the daily recreational bag limit (both species combined) is 1 per harvester or 2 per vessel per day, whichever is less. Hammerhead Sharks and Tiger Sharks are “catch and release” target species for cash prizes only. Per FWC “It is unlawful to harvest, possess, sell, or exchange these species”.**

**(5) Cash Prizes: Prizes are based on species and the time of day the sharks are caught. To be considered “caught”, the leader must be touched by the captain or a crew member and a picture submitted with the “Man Bites Shark’ Tally Sheet. A picture is required for all sharks reported.**

Most Sharks Caught (Any and all shark species)	\$150
First Blacktip Caught	\$100
Second Blacktip Caught	\$ 50
First Atlantic Sharpnose Caught	\$75
Second Atlantic Sharpnose Caught	\$25
First Hammerhead or Tiger Caught	<u>\$100</u>
Total	\$500

\*Maximum of two prizes per boat. If no Hammerhead or Tiger Sharks are caught, the \$100.00 prize will be equally divided over the other 5 categories.

**Caution! Sharks must be handled carefully as they can inflict serious injury.**

(6) What to do if you catch any of the four targeted sharks (Blacktip, Atlantic Sharpnose, Hammerhead, Tiger) :

a. Using your marine radio on channel 78, call Mark Milici (boat name “Finster”) or contact him by cell phone (973-219-7757) and report the species and time caught.

b. Immediately upon harvesting a Blacktip or Atlantic Sharpnose for the table, bleed the shark, gut it, and put it on ice. The Shark can be easily bled by putting a tail rope on the shark, slitting the gills while the shark is alive, and letting the blood drain over the side of the boat.

c. Back at the dock, fillet the shark, and keep the fillets on ice. Bring the fillets to John Baker’s home at 443 Trent Court by 6:00 PM. John will have, on his driveway, a cooler in which you can put your fillets.

**(7) Shark Identification:**

**a. IMPORTANT – If you are unable to positively identify a hooked shark as one of the species that can legally be harvested, touch the leader, take a picture, record the catch, and REALEASE it unharmed.**

**b. Blacktip Sharks – These sharks have black tips on all fins, except the anal fin. This is the easiest way to distinguish a Blacktip from a Spinner Shark which has black tips on all fins. Do not harvest Spinner Sharks.**

**c. Atlantic Sharpnose Sharks – These sharks are characterized by a brown to olive –gray color with a white underside and distinctive small white spots on sides.**

**d. Hammerhead – The shape of the head says it all.**

**e. Tiger Shark – distinctive vertical stripes along the body.**

**f. Lemmon Shark –This is a protected (do not harvest) species fairly common in Southwest Florida. The distinguishing feature on this shark is that the front and back dorsal fins are about the same size. If you hook a Lemmon Shark, touch the leader, take a picture, and record the catch in the “All Other” category.**

**1/4/2024**

**Revised 1/6/2024**

**Revision 2 – 1/6/2024**

**Revision 3 – 4/5/2024**