

Gimme Shelter Eighteenth Annual Kayakfishing Tournament - Saturday, May 11th, 2024

Rules and Schedule: No Motors Allowed - Sails OK

1. All CDFW rules must be followed - you are obligated to know them. The group will not defend irresponsible/illegal actions by a participant. Over-harvest, wasting of fish, or illegally assisting others will be grounds for disqualification. "Floaters" due to failure to either descend or retain affected rockfish reflect very poorly on the community and the individuals exhibiting a lack of sportsmanship. Don't be that person. Descending devices are required for all.
2. Safety must be a priority for all participants - never fish or paddle without your team. Teams are at least 2 paddlers. Each participant must dress for immersion and have a waterproof VHF radio, a compass and a GPS in possession while on the water. There is a long list of other recommended safety gear available within the forums at NCKA - be familiar with those recommendations. Coast Guard rules must be followed, of course.
3. Please be considerate of other paddlers and powerboaters at the launch and OTW.
4. Be aware of the tides, winds and swell forecasts. Sunrise at 604AM will have a medium tide receding toward an 843AM -1.4 foot low. A high tide of 4.4 feet will occur at 349PM. Factor this in to your plans, and wheel your boat to the launch if possible. Do not block access for powerboats or the launch tractor. Launch and land up close to the breakwater - NOT to the east along the beach. Clear your boat and gear from the launch quickly upon landing and be aware of others. We must all help each other in this focus.
5. Do not paddle to the west of Pilot Rock - this is a wash rock approximately 10' in diameter that is located about 50 yards outside the breakwater. Sets of dangerous swells can pickup and break to the west of Pilot Rock without warning. Do not fish in close to the reef. Teams must have at least one member with prior boating experience at Shelter Cove, and participants lacking any Shelter Cove experience must not paddle alone. Guided group trips on Thursday and Friday before the event may be offered like past years. Watch the NCKA thread for that opportunity.
6. **Big change this year: all participants are to use barbless hooks due to the likely presence of species that cannot be retained.** The scoring is by total inches and is based only on catches of lingcod, rockfish and the two halibut species. Three fish can be turned in, and no more than 1 of any given species can score. If Pacific halibut is open, one of each halibut species can score. The winner will be awarded trophies that are traditional to this tournament as well as two seats on Seahawk Sportfishing on Sunday, May 12th or a future date to be arranged with Capt. Jake Mitchell. Other catches and fun facts can be tracked on scoreboards provided.
7. Tournament director reserves the right to alter the format based on season structures or other circumstances. All decisions are final and are completely at the discretion of

the tournament director. Poor weather may keep us inshore, but the event will not be canceled.

8. \$35 entry gets you a t-shirt, tackle and entry in the tournament. Additional clothing can be pre-ordered - see registration form.

9. There will not be any catch and release bonus in this year's tournament format.

10. Score individually by bringing your catch to the Tournament Check-in. Participants must acknowledge that the check-in is NOT the place to sort fish - that must be done prior to check-in or you may be disqualified. Check-in only once or run the risk of being disqualified. All decisions of the check-in crew will be final.

12. Fish ID skills - bring them! You will be responsible for knowing the species and the regulations governing their retention. If you don't have the skills I suggest you find teammates who have it down pat.

13. Because we highly value the resource and we are good sportsmen/women, for fish to be released best practices should be used. These include:

a. Do not keep fish out of the water longer than necessary.

b. Handle fish gently and with a wet hand.

c. If a fish exhibits signs of barotrauma (swim bladder activated) get it back down as soon as you can using a descender (required), or keep the fish (if it's legal). ***Fishing in less than 60' of water will minimize barotrauma.

d. Catch and release is encouraged, but it's not required of anyone. Being a conscientious sportsman is expected of everyone. Let's show the Cove community and anyone else who follows NCKA that we respect the fish and we don't take abundance for granted.

14. Schedule:

a. Friday evening from 5 to 6PM we will have a safety seminar and general tournament check-in at the cleaning station. Tournament packets will be handed out - including t-shirts and other schwag. If you can't be there Friday evening then you must fend for yourself - see you at the potluck!

b. Saturday from dawn to 1:00 is fishing time. Scorecards will be available at the check-in station, location to be announced.

c. Saturday 12:00 to 2:00PM is check-in at the check-in station at the ramp or the cleaning station. Based on conditions and the nature of dealing with the horde, tournament director reserves the right to alter that time and location. You must allow event staff to measure and record your fish at that time. No entries will be accepted after the check-in station is dismantled. Being unprepared at check-in may result in disqualification - ONLY measure your best fish.

d. Annual Gyotaku Extravaganza will be on Sunday this year - time and location to be announced. Shirts for Gyotaku are available by pre-order or may be purchased at the

event - limited availability. Kids print for free - limited availability. There will be prizes for the kids.

e. Saturday at 5:15PM the potluck begins at the campground pavilion. Bring a dish to share with friends. The event provides limited plates and utensils - it's best to bring your own. Bring chairs if you can. Should be some badass tacos cooking too!

f. Awards and prizes will be handed out during the festivities. Other kayakfishing related gear will be part of a raffle to be held concurrent with the awards and potluck, and proceeds will go to the local non-profit: Shelter Cove Fishing Preservation Inc. - this entity is locally run and keeps fishing alive at Shelter Cove for all of us.

g. This event is about getting together with friends to enjoy this sport and each other in a world class setting. The usual trophies will be awarded, but prizes will be at a minimum. If you're focused on winning something more than just gathering to celebrate each other and the community then you may want to skip this event. *Must be present to win raffle prizes and must take possession of prizes immediately upon winning.

h. Other Event Weekend activities TBA on the tournament thread at NCKA.ORG.

i. If wind, swell or other weather factors prevent boating on tournament day the competition will be altered at the discretion of the tournament director - this has only occurred once, and it's important to remember that no competition is worth risking the lives of the competitors. The potluck would still go on along with the raffle, and prizes would still be awarded based on criteria at the discretion of the tournament director. Don't stay home and miss the good time we'll have in any conditions that occur.

k. There are no refunds after the registration deadline of April 20th. Entries **MUST BE RECEIVED** by 4/20/24.

l. Late registration may be possible, but there will be a penalty, you may not get a t-shirt, and you may be ineligible to win.