



New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

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Dear Bass Tournament Director:

Enclosed is your fishing tournament application(s) for 2017, which will be accepted at New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD) Headquarters (by mail or in person) between October 1 and December 1, 2016. All permit applications received between October 1 and December 1, 2016 will be ranked by individual tournament request via a computer generated random number drawing. Permit applications submitted to Headquarters after December 1, 2016 will be ranked by individual tournament request via assignment of a sequential number (not inclusive of the random numbers already generated for permit applications received between October 1 and December 1) on a first come first served basis. All requested tournament permit applications (club, rank, date, and water body) will be entered into a database. Conflicts between requests to hold a tournament on the same water body/section of river and date will be resolved by issuing the permit to the club with the lowest assigned number.

***Please be advised that the fee to conduct a fishing tournament occurring in 2017 shall be \$49 and catch measure and release tournaments will be \$10. Clubs may still list up to 12 tournaments per application provided they are less than 15 boats.**

**** Also, if a bass tournament report form is not submitted to the Inland Fisheries Division within 30 days after completion of a fishing tournament, any future tournament applications will not be granted permits and will be returned until all tournament report forms have been received. The NHFGD's Executive Director has the authority to deny a club's future tournament permit applications.**

Although the bass tournament record form requests information on total and average weight of largemouth and smallmouth bass, we do not want you to estimate the total or average weight if these species are not weighed separately. **If you do not weigh largemouth and smallmouth bass separately, please leave the data entry boxes for total weight by species and average weight by species blank and write in the comments that you do not weigh these species separately.**

Please remember, clubs may only conduct a bass tournament on the specific water for which they are permitted, even if a navigable channel exists between that water body and other water bodies. For example Ossipee Lake and Danforth Ponds, Big Squam Lake and Little Squam Lake, Crescent Lake and Wentworth Lake.

It is legal to hold your weigh-in on a connected water body as long as all bass are released back into the water body in which they were angled. For example, clubs with a permit for Big Squam Lake may hold their weigh-in on Little Squam Lake as long as all bass are released back into Big Squam Lake.

Due to the ongoing bass tagging radio telemetry study, clubs fishing Big Squam Lake and holding their weigh-in on Little Squam Lake will receive a special permit to release bass into Little Squam Lake. These permits will be received separately from their permit around the first of April.

Keep in mind when a permitted fishing tournament uses a NHFGD owned or controlled boat access facility, no more than 50% of the facility's designated parking spaces shall be used by participants in the tournament. It is the responsibility of the responsible party for the organization holding the fishing tournament to notify us in writing of arrangements made for the alternate parking, which indicates a name, address, and contact number of the parking location. Clubs holding tournaments on **Crescent or Wentworth Lake** (Wolfeboro), Hopkinton Lake (aka Stumpfield Marsh), Newfound Lake, Sunapee Lake, Bow Lake, or Spofford Lake special circumstances apply and information is available upon request.

If a club is utilizing a launch not owned or controlled by the NHFGD (see <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/access/access-sites.html> to determine launch ownership), the club **must** contact the owner of that launch to ensure there is adequate parking, to arrange for alternate parking if needed, and to ensure there is no conflicting event occurring at the launch on that day.

Due to the negative impacts that exotic invasive plants and animals can have on NH's aquatic communities, it is imperative that all anglers check their boats and trailers for aquatic invasive species prior to launching **and** when leaving a waterbody. This includes checking boats and trailers for aquatic plants as well as making sure that live wells and other equipment is completely dry after use. Not only is it illegal to transport exotic plants and animals in New Hampshire but also as of January 1, 2017 boaters are required to drain conveyances when leaving a waterbody including live wells and bilges per RSA 487:16-d. Additionally, exotic invasive plants have the potential to lead to impacts to native plant communities and the fish that depend on them.

It's important to note that in addition to submitting your application for a fishing tournament permit, you must also submit an application for a "Water Event Permit", which is issued by the Department of Safety, Division of Safety Services. The permit form can be downloaded at <http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/nhsp/forms.html> or you can request one at (603) 293-2037 (ext 4). If you have any questions concerning fishing tournaments, please contact Vikki Leonard at (603) 271-2501 or Fisheries Biologist Jason Carrier at (603) 352-9669. Have a safe and successful fishing tournament season.

Sincerely,

Jason M. Smith
Chief Inland Fisheries