

27th Hennessy Kingfish Tournament Rules & Regulations

- Mandatory Captain's Meeting for all Captains at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, 4/24/25
- Fishing begins at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, 4/26/2025. No lines in the water before 6:00 a.m. Rain Date is Sunday, 4/27/2025 Rain Date will be determined by 0600 Small Craft Advisory/Warning on the day of the tournament. An advisory/warning is issued when sustained wind speeds or frequent gusts have reached 20 to 33 knots and/or seas or waves are 4 feet and greater. Hennessy reserves the right to cancel or postpone the tournament based on the weather forecast.
- TOURNAMENT BOUNDARIES: NORTH: N 28.55 (Crystal River) SOUTH: N27.07 (Venice Inlet) WEST: W83.27 (35NM)
- All fish must be caught with handheld rods and reels. No electric reels, spear fishing or netting allowed.
- All boats must check in **NO LATER THAN 3:00 p.m.** to be eligible to weigh fish and to receive tickets for prize drawings. Weigh-In begins at 4:00 p.m. Fish may be brought to Weigh-In by boat or by car (If by car, GPS must be present).
- There will be two check in stations, one on the water and one at the weigh in table, Each boat must check in by 3:00 pm sharp with your boat number. Any boats not checked in by 3pm will not be eligible for place prizes. Weigh in will begin at 4pm. All fish can be weighed, only 1 winning place can be won by each angler for Kingfish and 1 winning place can be won by boat/team for Calcutta.
- Fish presented at the Weigh-In must be fish caught on the day of the tournament, by the respective team presenting the fish and be a legal fish per FWC rules and regulations. No mutilated or frozen fish will be weighed. 1 Kingfish per angler will be weighed, 1 Calcutta fish per boat/team will be weighed.
- All winning Kingfish/Calcutta will be determined by the weight of the fish when weighed at the Weigh-In. In the event of a tie in any category, the prize money will be split evenly.
- TWO DIVISIONS: Registrants enter only ONE division. All rules stated herein apply equally to both divisions. LARGE BOAT - Boat length 24' & Over (as noted on title/registration);
 SMALL BOAT – Boat length Under 24' (as noted on title/registration) and single engine (outboard or inboard).
- 100% of entry fees will be paid out in prize money. All awards are subject to the number of registrations. Winners must be present to win.
 - 1st Place King Large Boat- Heaviest Kingfish will receive the total of all Large Boat entry fees up to \$4,999. If the total of the entry fees exceeds \$4,999, 1st place will receive \$4,999, and 2nd place will receive the balance of the entry fees.
 - 1st Place King Small Boat Heaviest Kingfish will receive the total of all Small Boat entry fees up to \$4,999. If the total of the entry fees exceeds \$4,999, 1st place will receive \$4,999, and 2nd place will receive the balance of the entry fees.
 - **1st Place Calcutta** Heaviest Calcutta (1 place total) for all boats entered will receive the total of all Calcutta entry fees. Calcutta is defined as any fish other than a Kingfish, Amberjack (will be out of season) or in the Shark/Ray family.
 - o Additional \$250 Kingfish Place Prizes may be added by sponsors and will be updated on <u>www.hennessykingfish.com</u>.
- All anglers are responsible for following all local, state, and federal fishing and boating laws, and each participant must have a valid saltwater fishing license.
- It is the responsibility of each captain to determine whether his craft is seaworthy for existing conditions. Participants are encouraged to scan the standard weather channel & channel 16 to keep abreast of any marine or weather warnings. Tournament sponsors will monitor channel 73.
- The Hennessy Tournament was created as a friendly competition between associated anglers on an honor system. We have recently established a boundary system. To maintain the spirit of friendly competition, we encourage all anglers to reset their GPS tracking the morning of the tournament to defend their fishing within the tournament boundaries, if necessary. The boundaries apply to the boat, whether baiting or competing in both the Kingfish and Calcutta divisions. Protests are discouraged, but will be considered only after posting a \$50 cash fee, refundable if proven justified by the judges. All judge's decisions will be final.

Participants in this tournament enter at their own risk. Each boat's captain, crew and all guests agree and understand that by the submission of their HCS Kingfish Tournament Entry Form and associated payment of the entry fee, that this tournament is run by volunteers of Hennessy Construction Services for the sole purpose of friendly competition, and that Hennessy Construction Services shall not be held liable under any circumstances for any damage or injury to any person, physical or otherwise, or damage to any property arising out of the negligence or negligent omission of Hennessy Construction Services, any participant, any guest of participants or by any other reason or cause whatsoever, and hereby releases and forever discharges from any claims Hennessy Construction Services, its officers, employees, respective heirs, administrators, legal representatives, successors, assigns, or any organization associated with this event.



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