

# 23<sup>rd</sup> Manhattan Cup Rules & Regulations

***The Manhattan Cup is strictly catch & release. The penalty for killing or keeping a fish is disqualification. All fish must be released immediately after measuring, tagging and photo documentation. To be eligible for any award, clear photo documentation of the measurements of the curved fork length and girth of the fish (see # 12), along with a photo of the angler with the fish must be provided to the scoring committee upon return to the dock.***

1. Participants must comply with all Coast Guard regulations, local laws and New York State DEC and New Jersey DEP fishing regulations. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
2. IGFA rules apply unless otherwise stated. It is the responsibility of each team and crewmember to know, understand and abide by the IGFA and Manhattan Cup Tournament rules. For a complete list of the IGFA rules go to [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org)
3. For any fish to qualify for any prize category you must photograph the angler with the landed fish, and the measurement of the curved fork length and girth of the fish. Photo documentation is required for all fish you tag and release to be eligible for the Gray Taxidermy Most Fish Tagged award.
4. Use of non-offset circle hooks is required when using live or dead bait.
5. Trolling is prohibited with the exception of slow bump trolling when using live bait.
6. Live bait boats are limited to no more than six lines in the water at any time.
7. "Hook and hand" is prohibited. Anglers must hook and bring their fish to the boat unassisted.
8. Captains and mates may use a rod and reel to demonstrate casting or retrieving techniques. If a fish is caught by the captain or mate, it must be immediately released and may not be included in team scoring. All captain's awards are for guiding their anglers. Captains and mates are not permitted to fish.
9. Captains of donated boats and team leaders on Sportfishing Division boats are responsible for presenting Catch Sheets properly filled out on both the front and back for their boat and anglers. Sheets must be turned in at the Catch Sheet table in the banquet room immediately after docking. Your cooperation is vital to complete scoring in a timely and accurate manner.

The Catch Sheet must be filled out completely including the first and last names of every angler for every catch. The "Top Catch" portion on the back should include only those fish you determine to be considered for a prize in any of the categories that apply to your anglers. This must be filled out and photo documentation must be readily available for these fish to be considered for an award.

The Weigh Master will only accept the official Catch Sheets. NO CATCH SHEET, NO PHOTO DOCUMENTATION, NO ENTRY, NO EXCEPTIONS!

10. All fish must be recorded on the Catch Sheet at the time of release. Do not fill out Catch Sheets back at the dock!
11. Illegible or incomplete Catch Sheets will be excluded from the official results. Please be certain to include all the required information.

**(CONTINUED ON BACK OF PAGE)**

12. The heaviest fish in each category will be determined using the following formula: Curved Fork Length X Girth Squared ÷ 800. **Measurements are determined using the official tape provided. The curved fork length is measured from the lower lip to the fork in the tail with the tape laid on the body. Girth is determined around the deepest part of the body. Both measurements must be photographed clearly to validate the catch.**

13. The largest overall fish will be the Manhattan Cup winner, but that fish can only be counted once. It cannot win both the Cup and the division trophies. Example: If the winner of the Manhattan Cup was caught on bait, the second largest fish in the bait division would move into first place in that division. The only exceptions is if no other fish were caught in that division, the fish wins both trophies.

14. Trophies will be awarded to the captain and angler in each of the following categories.

- **Largest Striped Bass Overall (Any method) wins Manhattan Cup**
- Bait Division – Largest striped bass
- Bait Division – Largest bluefish
- Lure Division – Largest striped bass
- Lure Division – Largest bluefish
- Fly Fishing Division – Largest striped bass
- Fly Fishing Division – Largest bluefish
- High Hook – Angler catching and releasing the most striped bass
- VIP Division – Largest striped bass (any method)
- VIP Division – Largest bluefish (any method)

15. Trophies in the Warrior Division awarded to the angler and captain. Warriors are eligible to win any trophies in the categories above.

- Christopher J. Raguso Memorial Cup – Largest striped bass
- Warrior largest bluefish

16. Trophies in the Sportfish Division are presented to the anglers only.

- Sportfish Division – Largest striped bass
- Sportfish Division – Largest bluefish

17. The Gray FishTag Research Tagging award (striped bass mount) goes to the boat that tags the most striped bass or uses up all its allotted tags first so be sure to include release time on your Catch Sheets.

18. All prizes shall be awarded starting at 7:30 PM at the Liberty House Restaurant.

19. VHF Channel 72 is designated as the official Tournament Channel or (609) 576-4421.

20. All decisions by the Scoring Committee are final.

*All participants, captains and crews in the Manhattan Cup Charity Striped Bass Tournament enter at their own risk. Committee members and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of the tournaments shall be exempt from any liability for loss, damage, negligence, harm or injury to any participant, boat captain, crew member, vessel and/or equipment, which may occur during the tournament.*