



## 2021 WINTER Lake Worth Lagoon Fishing Challenge General Rules and Definitions

### Overview

**Interested in helping collect valuable fisheries information while getting a chance to win a prize? If so, you'll want to participate in the 2021 WINTER Lake Worth Lagoon Fishing Challenge (LWLFC) and it's FREE!**

By taking a photo of your catch from the lagoon and reporting it as part of the challenge, you can win some great award prizes and at the same time, contribute to the data collection needs related to lagoon habitat restoration.

**First and most importantly, REGISTER for the 2021 LWL Fishing Challenge at [iAnglerTournament.com](https://www.lwli.org/anglertournament).**

Between February 13 and February 28, 2021, when you catch a fish in Lake Worth Lagoon, take a photo that includes the fish and the [assigned challenge identifier](#). NOTE: The identifier will be posted on the LWLI FC website (<https://discover.pbcgov.org/erm/LWLagoon/Fishing-Challenge.aspx>) at the start of the challenge, and on the @PBCERM Facebook page. Then, log the fish you catch (including details and a photo of your catch) by using the free iAnglerTournament app on your smartphone or by signing into your online account.

Whether you fish once or every day, you could be eligible to win a prize! Anglers are given points based on the quantity of their catches, and will be entered into the weekly random prize drawings.

### Registration

Register online at [iAnglerTournament.com](https://www.lwli.org/anglertournament) to participate. There is also a registration link with easy instructions at [lwli.org](https://www.lwli.org). Anglers must register before entries will be counted. If you are having issues registering, please contact the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management at 561-233-2400 for assistance.

### Eligibility

The challenge is open to anglers 5 years of age or older. Staff members of the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management and their family members are not eligible for awards or prizes.

Anglers 5 to 15 years of age are eligible for drawings and youth division prizes. Anglers 16 years of age or older are eligible for drawings and adult division prizes.

## **Scoring**

Registered anglers are scored by submitting photos and information (detailed below) about the fish they catch during the challenge.

- Anglers will receive one (1) point for each individual fish caught, logged and verified during the challenge. All catch and species identifications will be verified by fish expert staff prior to awarding of points.
- Catches made prior to the start of the challenge are not eligible for points.
- Photos must clearly show a profile view of the fish and include the [assigned challenge identifier](#).

To receive points, anglers must log the following details with each photo submitted:

1. Acceptable photo (Photos that do not meet the requirements as stated above are not eligible for points)
2. Date of catch
3. Location of catch (GPS coordinates via app preferred; location information is gathered for habitat, not for sharing purposes)
4. Species caught, [FWC Fish ID Guide](#).

## **Prizes and Categories**

Prizes will be awarded for YOUTH and ADULT Divisions in the following categories:

- Overall Top Total Points NOTE: Points awarded in this category are limited to a maximum of 25 points per species (non-sportfish). Catches greater than 25 fish of the same species are not eligible for additional points.
- Sportfish Top Total Points NOTE: No tournament limit to any sportfish identified in this category. (Sportfish: Snook, red drum, spotted seatrout, tarpon, permit and bonefish)

**Additional prizes** will be awarded through random drawings based on the criteria defined below:

- **Weekly Drawing** – Anglers will receive 1 entry into the weekly random drawing for each day the angler logs a valid catch during that week (limit 1 entry per day). The more days you log a valid catch, the better your chances of winning!

Week 1: February 13 through February 21, 2021

Week 2: February 22 through February 28, 2021

## **Challenge Boundaries**

To count toward prizes and/or drawings, fishing activity must take place and fish must be caught within Lake Worth Lagoon in Palm Beach County, Florida as defined below for the purpose of this challenge (also see [map view](#)):

- The northern boundary is Jack Nicklaus Drive/AIA in the town of North Palm Beach. (Also see note below regarding western boundary in North Palm Beach).
- The southern boundary is the Ocean Ridge Natural Area in Ocean Ridge, which is located a half mile south of the Boynton Bridge at Ocean Avenue.
- The eastern boundary is the inlet/inside side of the eastern end of the north and south jetties located at Lake Worth Inlet and South Lake Worth Inlet.
- The western boundary at the C-17 (Earman River) Canal is U.S. 1 in the town of North Palm Beach, at the C-51 (West Palm Beach) Canal and the C-16 (Boynton) Canal it is the eastern side of the spillway (water control structure) closest to the eastern end of the canal (the canal's mouth). The western boundary where the water body narrows to the width of the Intracoastal Waterway in North Palm Beach is the Parker Bridge (U.S. 1).

## **Other Requirements**

All participants must abide by **all** state of Florida laws including fishing-related (and boating-related, if applicable) rules and regulations. This includes the requirement to possess a valid Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) fishing license, unless exempt. Visit [www.MyFWC.com/Fishing](http://www.MyFWC.com/Fishing) and [www.MyFWC.com/Boating](http://www.MyFWC.com/Boating) for more details, including how to purchase a saltwater recreational fishing license [online: [www.MyFWC.com/License](http://www.MyFWC.com/License); by phone: 888-FISH-FLORIDA (347-4356)].

All fish must be caught by hook and line, no netting, spearing or sabiki rig. Proper Fish Handling Techniques for Photos:

- Anglers should handle their catch with wet hands only (do not use a towel), be careful not to poke fingers into eyes or gills and fully support the body weight of the fish by cradling it horizontally.

Submissions of photos and other data constitute a release for the Snook & Gamefish Foundation, the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management, FWC and its partners in the Lake Worth Lagoon Initiative to use them without compensation or further notice for research, information, promotion and other public purposes, such as posting on websites or via social media.

## **Additional Details**

Fish do not have to be harvested for the purpose of this challenge. Participants are encouraged to practice catch-and-release and follow the [Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's fish handling guidance](#), especially related to species that are protected from being harvested.

Participants may also be eligible and wish to participate in the FWC's Grand Slam tournament or the FWC's Saltwater Reel Big Fish program by the following links:

<http://catchafloridamemory.com/programs/saltwater-grand-slams>

<http://catchafloridamemory.com/programs/reel-big-fish>

Participants are asked to keep a measuring device/ruler on hand to ensure they report accurate measurements of their catches.

Anglers may save the email receipts they receive for each catch, and keep the photos on their phone or computer during the challenge, in the event of any scoring discrepancies.

**The 2021 Winter LWLFC Winners will be notified via email and telephone provided on the iAngler registration. Prizes and award certificates must be picked up at PBC ERM, 2300 North Jog Road, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, WPB, FL. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and public health safety, no Awards Ceremony will be held for this Challenge.**

*It is the responsibility of every participating angler to know, understand, and abide by these challenge rules. Any participant who violates these rules will be disqualified. Only registered participants are eligible for points and any potential qualifying prizes. Participating anglers and their guardians, as appropriate, are solely responsible for their safety during the challenge, and safety should be the first consideration in all aspects of this challenge.*