



2023 WINTER Lake Worth Lagoon Fishing Challenge General Rules and Definitions

Overview

The **FREE** Lake Worth Lagoon Fishing Challenge is a unique opportunity for anglers to be “citizen scientists” by helping to collect valuable fisheries information from Lake Worth Lagoon. Utilize your keen angling skills this winter by logging your catches and have a chance to win fabulous prizes!

HOW? Go Fishing in Lake Worth Lagoon! Take a photo of your catch, ID your catch, note the date and location and report it in the iAngler Tournament app, (2023 WINTER Lake Worth Lagoon Fishing Challenge page) from your phone or home computer. ianglertournament.com

Registration

FIRST and most importantly, REGISTER online for the LWL Fishing Challenge at ianglertournament.com. Anglers must register before entries will be counted. Now you are **IN** the tournament! Eligible to win really cool prizes and be a part of contributing to local science fisheries data! Now that’s especially COOL!

STARTING on Friday, February 11th at 12:00 am through Saturday, February 25th at 11:59 pm, when you catch a fish in Lake Worth Lagoon:

- **TAKE** a photo that includes the fish and the [assigned challenge identifier](#). The LWLFC tournament IDENTIFIER is a hand sign or a visible number or letter in your photo. The 2023 WINTER Identifier will be posted at the beginning of the challenge on:
 - LWLI website at <https://discover.pbcgov.org/erm/LWLagoon/Fishing-Challenge.aspx>,
 - ERM’s Facebook and Instagram page [@PBCERM](#)
 - iAngler LWLFC 2023 WINTER Tournament Page ianglertournament.com

Now **LOG** the fish you catch, including the photo, **WITH THE PHOTO IDENTIFIER**, by using the free iAnglerTournament app on your phone or sign into your online account on your home computer. It’s only 2 weeks so get those LINES IN Lake Worth Lagoon!

Eligibility

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.

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.

Staff members of the Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management and their family members are not eligible for awards or prizes.

Scoring

Registered anglers are scored by submitting **PHOTOS** (with the 2023 WINTER Identifier) and information about your fish catch. To receive **POINTS**, anglers must log the following details with each photo submitted:

1. **ONE** (1) point for each individual fish caught, logged and verified during the challenge. ERM staff will verify all catch and species identifications prior to awarding of points.
2. Acceptable photos must clearly show a profile view of the fish and include the [assigned challenge identifier](#).
3. **DATE AND LOCATION** of each catch (GPS coordinates via app preferred; location information is gathered for habitat, not for sharing purposes)
4. Species caught, [FWC Fish ID Guide](#).
5. Photos that do not meet the requirements as stated above and/or catches made prior to the start of the challenge are **NOT eligible** for points.
6. 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.

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)

2023 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, 4th Floor, WPB, FL.

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 11 through February 18, 2023

Week 2: February 18 through February 25, 2023

WAIT there is **MORE!** Participants may also be eligible for FWC's Grand Slam program 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>

Challenge Boundaries

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 and Angling Details

Participants must abide by **ALL** state of Florida laws including fishing-related (and boating-related, if applicable) rules and regulations. Participants must have a valid Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) fishing license, unless exempt. Visit www.MyFWC.com/Fishing and www.MyFWC.com/Boating for more details and how to purchase a saltwater recreational fishing license [online: 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 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.

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 at MyFWC.com/FishHandling](https://www.myfwc.com/fish-handling), especially related to species that are protected from being harvested.

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. 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.