



## ALL RELEASE PHOTO FORMAT TARPON TOURNAMENT INFORMATION AND RULES

**May 31 & June 1, 2019**

Join us May 31 & June 1, 2019 for the Tampa Bay Watch Tarpon Rodeo, Honoring founding board member Ed Alber! The Tarpon Rodeo is an all catch-and-release tournament on Tampa Bay to benefit the restoration projects and education programs. The exciting post-tournament Castaway Soirée includes a silent auction, live auction, vendors, and great food and drinks at the TradeWinds Island Resort on St. Pete Beach. It's your turn to bring home the trophy—are you ready to join the mission of restoration for the Silver King?!

### All-Release Tarpon Tournament Friday, May 31.

**11:30 am:** Mandatory Captain's Meeting and Rules Reading by CCA at Tampa Bay Watch. Lunch provided by Bonefish Grill. 3000 Pinellas Bayway South, Tierra Verde, FL 33715

**1:00 pm:** Tarpon Rodeo Shotgun Start, Fort De Soto Boat Ramp\*

**7:00 pm:** Tournament conclusion- Anglers do not need to return to dock at 7pm. Winners are announced the next day, June 1st, at the Castaway Soirée, TradeWinds Island Resort

### After-Party Saturday, June 1.

## *Castaway Soirée*

**5:00 pm:** Exclusive VIP cocktail hour by invitation only

**6:00 pm:** Castaway Soirée after-party at TradeWinds Island Resort Pavilion 5500 Gulf Blvd, St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

\* Please note that the tournament times are according to GPS time.

**Tournament Headquarters Tampa Bay Watch Marine Center**  
3000 Pinellas Bayway South Tierra Verde, FL 33715

Tournament Coordinator: Michelle Andersen [mandersen@tampabaywatch.org](mailto:mandersen@tampabaywatch.org)



## RULES

Please see the detailed rules below but in summary:

1. Submit team photo\*
2. Catch fish
3. Hold leader with competition bracelet visible and take photo
4. Submit photo to [ccascoring@outlook.com](mailto:ccascoring@outlook.com) with boat number on subject line.
5. Receive email confirmation

\*Your **first submission MUST BE a photo of your team** to include the captain and anglers – you must email the photo to [ccascoring@outlook.com](mailto:ccascoring@outlook.com). Please include Team photo and boat number on subject line.

Please read through the below rules for more details. These can also be found on our website at [Tampabaywatch.org/tarponrodeo](http://Tampabaywatch.org/tarponrodeo)

### Hookup & Legal Release

Each boat shall have a smart phone with camera and email capabilities. A photo showing the angler, with an official Tarpon Rodeo wristband, holding the leader within 48" of the fish and must include the head of the fish to verify tarpon or shark.

Wristbands will be distributed at the Captain's Meeting Lunch at Tampa Bay Watch prior to the start of the tournament.

The angler must immediately email photo to the CCA at [ccascoring@outlook.com](mailto:ccascoring@outlook.com) and include boat number on subject line. **No release will be confirmed without a boat number on subject line.**

Your **first submission MUST BE a photo of your team** to include the captain and anglers – you must email the photo to [ccascoring@outlook.com](mailto:ccascoring@outlook.com). Please include Team photo and boat number on subject line.

CCA Scoring committee will confirm receipt of email back to you. If you do not receive a confirmation back right away, please call scoring committee phone number **(813)735-6975**.

To avoid confusion, please submit each photo taken on a separate email. All fish must be caught on a manually operated rod and reel. Every effort should be made to insure a safe, live release.

### Eligible fish

Tarpon (minimum 48" overall) and any species of shark (minimum 36" overall)

### Fishing area

All of Tampa Bay to any distance offshore running north to Clearwater Pass and south to Sarasota Big Pass.

# Tournament Winners

## Overall Tournament Prize:

**Name engraved on the perpetual trophy - will be awarded for the most Tarpon releases from *either* division.**

**Guardian Division** - Includes Presenting Sponsor, Gold and Silver-level boats ONLY. The 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the Guardian Division is \$3,000.

**Sport Division** - Open to anglers *not* registered in the Guardian Division. All Bronze Entries will be automatically entered in the Sport Division. The First Prize for the Sport Division is \$1,500.

**Shark Division** - All participants are eligible to participate in the Shark Division. The first prize for the Shark Division is a trophy plaque.

## Winners

1. The winner will be determined by total **number** of certified photos of tarpon or sharks legally released per boat within the legal fishing hours.
2. **Ties** shall be broken by time. Time is defined as the e-mail recorded time of the release of the last fish caught first.

## Prize money and prizes

**Overall Winner** from either Guardian or Sport Division- Name on the perpetual trophy

### **Guardian Division (Includes Presenting, Gold and Silver Sponsors only):**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place Guardian Tarpon	\$ 3,000 prize and trophy plaque Trophy plaque
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Guardian Tarpon	Trophy plaque
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Guardian Tarpon	Honorable Mention

### **Sport Division (Includes Bronze Entries only)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place Sport Tarpon	\$1,500 prize and trophy plaque
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Sport Tarpon	Trophy plaque
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Sport Tarpon	Honorable Mention

### **Shark Category (all Divisions eligible)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Place Shark	Trophy plaque
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Shark	Honorable Mention
3rd Place Shark	Honorable Mention

## **Important Timeline Rules**

1. All boats will check in at the Captain's Meeting held at Tampa Bay Watch. Registration will open at 11:00am followed by lunch.
2. A shotgun start at 1:00pm will take place at the Fort Desoto Boat Ramp. Any boats that start after 1:00pm must check in at the Tampa Bay Watch Marine Center prior to fishing.
3. All anglers must wear an official Tampa Bay Watch wristband distributed at the Captain's Meeting on the day of the tournament; the wristband must be visible on the angler holding the leader for the photo to be eligible.
4. A Release Form must be signed by all persons aboard any boat participating in this tournament. Two persons minimum aboard any boat for safety purposes.
5. Boat and Angler Registration is closed at 5pm on Thursday, May 30, or whenever tournament capacity sells out (Sell-out announced on Tarpon Rodeo Website: [www.tampabaywatch.org/tarpon-rodeo](http://www.tampabaywatch.org/tarpon-rodeo))

## **Disqualification**

Disqualifications for any disputes or rule violations will be determined by the judges committee at the time of the incident. Disqualification may occur, but will not be limited to, the following reasons:

1. Any boat NOT starting from the Fort De Soto boat ramp, or NOT checking in at the Tampa Bay Watch Marine Center (if starting after 1:00pm)
2. Fishing outside the designated area
3. Intentionally foul hooking a fish
4. Less than two anglers on a boat
5. Interfering with another angler that has a fish on
6. Fishing from any shoreline, bridge or landlocked body of water

