

2010 Fish-Off Plan

Again in 2010 all should be aware of the fact that the split fish off concept has been suspended via a motion and vote taken at a Federation Delegates Meeting and will not be reinstated until both the participation numbers increase significantly and another vote to reinstate takes place. This vote would need to take place prior to the fish off packet distribution to take place in any one calendar year. The body of water scheduled in 2010 is China Lake. When your club registers its anglers, all anglers must be willing to compete on this water.

It needs to be stated that every federation member in good standing with the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (Bassmaster magazine), the National B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, the Maine B.A.S.S. Federation Nation and their Maine Federation Nation Bass Club will be allowed/is encouraged to participate in the 2010 fish off. The good standing designation will be required at the same time that the Fish-Off registration forms/funds are required to be turned in.

The federation will make registration forms/tournament rules available to clubs at the May meeting and will require them to be returned completed, with full non refundable payment attached prior to the adjournment of the July meeting. These documents should be available on the Federation Web Site "MEBASS.COM" as well. The registration forms will need listed (the clubs name, members name, B.A.S.S. membership numbers, contact phone numbers, current available E-Mail addresses and with the members listed with regards to Boater and Non Boater status as well as order of qualification). With regards to Boater and Non Boater status, each club will be required to list/send no more than one odd boater or non boater. Stated again, each club must send an equal number of Boaters and Non Boaters with no more than one extra of either designation. Regarding the words Non refundable, it is just that, please anticipate family functions. We understand that emergencies and other unexpected issues do develop however this organization going forward will not be refunding fish off funds once the draw process has begun. The idea of individuals changing their desire to fish the fish off as the event draws near has been a bone of contention for many years. We are all adults and as such have to understand that your personal issues however unfortunate should not disrupt the flow of business at the State level.

At the July meeting the Tournament Director will collect the required documents and checks. The only extenuating circumstances to be considered at that time would be new issues (an access issue, previous fish kill on the lake, etc).

It will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director to than complete in an obviously unbiased fashion (complete with more than one witness) the fish off pairings. This will be completed, documented and made available to the club contact list (list currently used by the Federation Secretary to send business minutes too), in a timely manner. Again as in the past no anglers will be allowed to be paired with individuals from the same club and/or allowed to be paired with the same angler on two consecutive days. In 2010 during the second day pairings the field will be split in half assuring initially that each member will have the opportunity to blast off in the first half of the field one of the two days. It should be expected by the Federation Body that these pairings lists will be sent out attached to the July Federation Nation Business meeting minutes.

New this year during the pairings drawing, the Tournament Director will provide preferential treatment to your clubs order of qualification. The design here will be to assure that the top 50% of boaters qualifying at your club level will never be in a position to be asked to become a non boater. Should they have to become a non boater due to their own desire (engine failure, boat damage, etc.), they will continue to be handled as listed in this document.

Once this document(s) has been made available it will be known as the Federations Official 2010 Pairings List. Historically when anglers drop out of the fish off the subsequent disruption has never been handled in any consistent manner. The pairings list should any participants have a change of availability to fish the fish off, will be handled in the following manner.

Each list will be handled independently of any other lists in existence at the time. Up until the morning of the event should an angler drop out of the fish off for any reason the Tournament Director will fill the vacancy to that individuals position by taking the last name on the same list (same boater/non boater status). If the individual moving up the list, is from the same club as the individual to be paired with, than the next to bottom name on the list will be moved up the list and that individual will only be moved up the one position. All changes to the list will be completed as they are discovered. All changes will be documented by the Tournament Director (dates, times, individuals name and club orientation).

As the tournament date draws very near (less than two days out), the Tournament Director will have to even the playing field with regards to any off sets in the number of non boaters and boaters. Should there be more than one boater or non boater listed to be fishing alone, the Tournament Director will if boaters pair them up and notify them of the pairing (boat to be used if not decided amiably will be via a coin toss). If non boaters the Tournament Director will contact them and if available one will bring a boat. Consideration will be given to participants from the same club (they will and cannot be paired together), thus if this is an issue the Tournament Director will move up the list one individual at a time until the situation is resolved. On the actual tournament day if an issue were to arise, the Director and/or his appointee will take these final pairings into consideration when determining the pairings prior to blast-off.

No participants trailering a boat to the tournaments will be asked to leave it on the shore unless they have previously been notified that they will not be fishing as a boater due to the final pairings as described above.

Tournament Day no shows (first or second day), will put the organization in a serious dilemma. Thus unless life is lost, life is in jeopardy or a catastrophic incident were to occur less than 10 hours prior to the blast off all no shows will be without appeal disallowed entry into the following years Divisional Qualifier. All that is required is a phone call to eliminate the no show penalty from being invoked.

For the 2010 Fish-Off, a call and discussion with Jimmy Lowe @ 583-6945, cell: 232-7570 or Steven Wilson @ 247-2522, cell: 671-2571 would be appropriate.

In this manner several advantages will be realized.

- All individuals listed if moved will only be moved forward in the blast off order.
- There will be a consistent manner in which all changes will be made.
- There will never be more than one angler scheduled to be fishing alone at the fish off.
- The Maine B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Anglers will be better able to take advantage of the Skeeter Real Money, the Triton Gold Programs and other reward programs offered by manufacturers (require minimum numbers of boats).

In this manner two disadvantages are realized.

- You may have first been paired with an angler that you would have preferred to have fished with.
- It may not be conducive to pre-fishing with another angler based upon the current pairings list.

The intent of this document is to provide a concise and equitable flow to the fish-off pairings of the Maine B.A.S.S. Federation Nation going forward. This document is in place prior to any participant's acknowledgment or any fund transfers, thus all entering into the Maine B.A.S.S. Federation Nation fish-off accepts this format, will abide by its intent and understands that the decisions of the Tournament Director

and his appointee(s) will be final. By design this format should assure that no more than one angler at any tournament location is scheduled to fish alone. Incidents the morning of the tournament may develop requiring adjustments to this plan however every attempt will be made to follow this plan if and when applicable.

2010 Specific Data:

(Not part of the above document however talking points for Delegates at your next club meeting).

The fish off dates will be:

- All anglers - September 11th and 12th, the followings years State Team Roster will be determined by this one round.
- We will be using the shoreline at the Pellerin Campground on China Lake.
SABATINICABINS@YAHOO.COM

The fish off entry fee will be \$100.00. (Non refundable once the July Meeting has adjourned).

The following optional pools will be collected and paid for each event. Only those participating will be eligible for subsequent payouts.

The fish off lunger fee will be \$10.00, (split lunger both days - four big fish winners per event).

The fish off optional pool fee will be \$20.00. Payout based on total accumulated weight and paid after the completion of the second day of event.

Payment needs to be in the form of two checks, one from the club for the fish-off funds and one from each club for the optional pools. All declarations need to be made at this time, you will not be able to enter any of the optional pools once the July meeting was adjourned.