

2026 Salmon Unlimited Open Tournament Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Cell Phone _____
(Emergency contact number)

Email _____

Boat Name _____

Boat Length _____
(22' and under qualifies for bonus prize)

Description _____
(Make/Model, Color)

To register, please make checks payable to: **Salmon Unlimited Conservation and Charitable Trust** & bring to the captain's meeting.

Registration can also be completed online with a credit card before June 26, 2026, at:

<http://www.salmonunlimitedinc.com>

Registration will be accepted in-person on Friday, June 26, 2026, from 6pm-7pm. Captain's meeting at 7:00pm.

For more information, contact Steve at sruggiero5@comcast.net

OFFICIAL RULES

I. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY FEE

- A. This tournament is open to everyone. Membership in Salmon Unlimited is NOT required.
B. All participants will compete in one, open division.
C. The entry fee is \$150 per boat.
D. All applications and payments must be received no later than June 26, 2026, at 7:00pm.
E. You must leave and return to Northpoint Marina
F. Entry fees are non-refundable after June 26, 2026, 7:00pm, except in the event of the cancellation of the tournament.
G. In the event a captain feels the weather conditions would be unsafe for his vessel, he may apply to the tournament committee for a refund up to the official start of tournament run time.
H. To be eligible for the Small Boat Award, the participant's boat must have a hull length of 22' or less.
I. All boats must be equipped with a VHF marine radio capable of operating on channels 16 and 68.

II. DATES AND HOURS

- A. The tournament will be held on Saturday, June 27, 2026.
B. The tournament schedule will be as follows:
1. Captain's Meeting – Friday, June 26, 2026, at 7:00pm.
Location: SU Pavilion, North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor
2. Fishing Period - Saturday, June 27, 2026, from 5:00am to 12:00pm.
C. Each boat and crew must have at least one member in attendance at the Captain's Meeting.
D. The contest will be considered official if a total of three (3) hours are fished.

III. START AND FINISH

- A. Boats must leave and return from Northpoint Marina
B. Check in will begin at 4:45am. Tournament Control will conduct a roll-call check-in by VHF radio (ch. 68). Order will be determined by the order of registration.
C. Run Time: 5:00 Shot gun start, each boat may leave for their chosen fishing grounds.
D. The official start of the fishing period will be at 5:00am.
E. Each boat must be inside the break-wall prior to the end of the fishing period at 12:00pm.
F. Each boat must check in with Tournament Control, by VHF radio on channel 68, as they enter the harbor.

G. Every boat must check in, even if they have no fish or elect to leave the contest early. Any boat unaccounted for will be reported as over-due to the U.S. Coast Guard. Any costs associated with search & rescue activities will be the responsibility of the boat which failed to check in.

IV. SCORING

- A. All winners will be determined by the Tournament Committee, and their decision will be final.
B. Winners will be determined on the total accumulation of points. Points will be assigned as ten (10) points per fish and one (1) point per pound.
C. The following species shall be eligible for points: COHO-PINK SALMON, CHINOOK SALMON, BROWN TROUT, STEELHEAD OR RAINBOW TROUT and LAKE TROUT.

V. PRIZES

- A. Minimum guaranteed cash prizes will be awarded to the top 10 boats, as set forth below.
B. If more than 30 boats enter the tournament, the payout percentage table set forth below may be used to award a higher payout, depending on whichever the higher payout is. In this event, the prize money pool will consist of 85% of the total entry fees collected.

PLACE	PAYOUT
1st	\$1,000
2nd	\$750
3rd	\$625
4th	\$500
5th	\$400
6th	\$350
7th	\$300
8th	\$250
9th	\$200
10th	\$150

PLACE	PAYOUT
1st	30%
2nd	20%
3rd	15%
4th	10%
5th	7%
6th	5%
7th	4%
8th	3.5%
9th	3%
10th	2.5%

- C. In case of ties, the prize money between the tied places would be added together and divided equally between the tied contestants. Example: 2nd, 3rd and 4th tie. \$1,875 is divided into 3. Tied contestants are paid \$625 each. Next paid place is 5th for \$400.
D. A bonus prize of \$1000 will be awarded to the biggest eligible fish (by weight).
E. Bonus prizes of \$250 each will be awarded to the largest fish of each of the remaining species.
F. In the event of a tie, the Big Fish prizes will be divided equally between the tied contestants.
G. If no fish of one (or more) species is weighed, that species' bonus prize(s) will not be awarded.
H. A bonus prize of \$250 will be awarded to the highest scoring "small boat" (hull length of 22' or less).
I. The tournament committee reserves the right to measure boats to determine eligibility for this prize.
J. Participants may win more than one prize.
K. Prizes may be substituted with gift certificate

VI. BOAT IDENTIFICATION

VII. GENERAL FISHING RULES

- A. All fish entered must be caught on hook and line in accordance with the DNR regulations of the state which has jurisdiction over the waters being fished.
- B. Any violation of USCG or DNR rules will result in immediate disqualification.
- C. Each boat is limited to a maximum of nine (9) rods
- D. All fish must be caught by trolling. Jigging and casting are not permitted.
- E. Each boat may weigh a maximum of ten (10) fish, with a maximum of four (4) lake trout.
- F. Each team is responsible for choosing which of their fish are to be weighed, both for total catch and for individual big-fish bonus prizes.
- G.
- H. Fish entered for big fish bonus prizes must be part of the ten (10) fish tournament box.
- I. All coolers water must be drained.
- J. Fish may be released when caught. Fish to be released must be returned to the lake immediately.
- K. There are no distance limits as to where a tournament boat may fish as long as all traveling is done on the water.
- L. All fish kept must be logged onto the fish log sheet.
- M. Each boat that reaches the fifteen fish limit shall immediately cease fishing, bring in all lines, and return to the harbor for the weigh-in.

VIII. WEIGH-IN

- A.
- B. All boats must be in weigh-in at SU Pavilion by 12:45pm.**
- C. At the weigh-in, a crew member will disembark at the dock by the SU Pavillion with the cooler and log sheet. Tournament staff will be at the pier to direct contestants to the scales.
- D. A crew member must remain with the cooler until the catch has been officially weighed.
- E. The crew member will witness the weighing of their catch.

IX. CANCELLATIONS

- A. In the event of marginal weather conditions, the Tournament Committee will announce a "go/no-go" decision one hour before fishing is scheduled to begin.
 - Small Craft Advisory tournament will be canceled
- B. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to delay the start of fishing or to cut short the fishing period due to deteriorating weather conditions. However, once the contest has started, it is unlikely that it will be cancelled due to weather.
- C. Due to distance travel, weather conditions may not be the same for all contestants. Each captain is responsible for monitoring local weather and taking appropriate steps to protect their vessel and crew.
- D. Boats may seek shelter from severe weather in any available harbor. However, all coolers must return to Northpoint by boat, before the end of the fishing period.
- E. All announcements will be on VHF channel 68.

X. PROTESTS

- A. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Committee before 5:00pm on the day of the tournament.
- B. Any written protest given to the Tournament Committee must be accompanied by a \$100.00 deposit, returnable if the protest is judged valid.
- C. A panel of three (3) judges appointed by the Tournament Committee will resolve all disputes.
- D. Winners and any person involved in any formal protest may be subject to polygraph testing, prior to the awarding of prizes. Such persons must be available to be tested within 2 weeks of the event.
- E. The decision of the Tournament Committee and/or its duly appointed panel of judges shall be final.

XI. RULE CHANGES

The Tournament Committee may change or modify any of these rules, as deemed necessary. Any changes will be communicated at the Captain's Meeting.

XII. LIABILITY EXCLUSION

- A. Each contestant shall accept responsibility to protect persons and property from injury or damage during the contest and Salmon Unlimited of Illinois shall not be responsible for the safety of persons or property of participants, regardless of cause.
- B. All participants further agree to hold Salmon Unlimited of Illinois, its officers/directors, members, tournament committee and volunteers harmless from any liability for damage incurred as a result of participation in the Tournament, in whatever form or manner said liabilities or damages might be incurred.

Salmon Unlimited of Illinois Presents the



Salmon Unlimited Open Fishing Tournament

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Northpoint Marina, Winthrop Harbor

\$150 Entry per Boat

\$1000 "Big Fish" Bonus Prize
\$250 Prizes for biggest of each other species
\$250 Prize for Top "Small Boat" (22' & under)

85% of the proceeds will be returned as prizes. 15% of proceeds will benefit the Salmon Unlimited Conservation Trust Fund.

