

LONG BEACH ISLAND "Surf Masters"



Catch - Photo - Release SURF FISHING TOURNAMENT

HOSTED BY THE LONG BEACH ISLAND SURF FISHING CLASSIC

The LBI Surf Master is a Catch - Photo - Release segment of the Long Beach Island Surf Fishing Tournament Series.

PRIZE

LBI Spring Surf Master - Awarded to the angler with the combine total points of up to three longest striped bass over 31"...

- \$50 Fisherman's Headquarters Gift Card
- \$50 Jingles Bait & Tackle Gift Card
- \$50 Surf City Bait & Tackle Gift Card

RULES

An angler must first sign up for the LBISFC to obtain a registration form. Do so at one of three participating LBI tackle shops. An angler must have a legitimate measuring device (fold out stick ruler, metal tape measure, etc) with legible measurement graduation markings. A stiff device is recommended and advantageous over a soft tape. Anglers must have a device capable of capturing a sharp photo and the ability to submit the photo via email.

- **MINIMUM SIZE 31"** - All fish submissions must be larger than 31" in length

SCORING

Scoring is based on the total length of the fish determined by the judges (panel of three LBISFT Board members with no shop affiliation) after careful examination of photo submission.

The score or points awarded to a catch (submission) are equal to the measurement in inches rounding down to the nearest ½ inch. For example a submission that judges find to be 38 ¼ or 38 ¾ will be scored and awarded 38 points. A fish 41 ¾ or 41 ⅞ will be scored and awarded 41.5 points.

Length is a straight line distance from the tip of the snout with the mouth closed to the tip of the tail fin. In the event of a tie, the email submission received first will take the win.

PHOTOGRAPHING

It is open to all registered anglers of the 2024 LBI Surf Fishing Tournament, Spring Derby aka Simply Bassin' (LBISFT). Score based on length determined by photograph submission.

The angler must display registration badge number or registration badge in a clear photo with tape measure NEXT TO (*not under*) the fish to definitively show the measurement. Read below for the full rules.

It is the responsibility of the angler to best measure and photograph the measurement of the fish, including THREE MUST HAVE features: 1) The Fish 2) The Measuring Device 3) The Angler's Registration Number On A Card/Paper. It is suggested to write in bold print with marker on a large index card / paper and laminate or put in a zip lock bag to keep dry. Add a sinker to the bag or tape on a small weight to the back. Here's an idea, use an index card with clear packing tape to protect. Then punch a hole and zip tie on a small sinker to keep from blowing away.

Fish must be photographed on a relatively flat surface, straight over the top. Any photos with a distorted angle/perspective will not be scored.

It is the angler's responsibility for any and all photos to be clear and easy to judge/score. Any blurry images where the ruler is illegible, will not be scored.

The full length of the measuring device used for judging the fish must be shown. The fish and/or sand can not cover a portion of the measuring device, hindering the ability to read, analyze and judge. Photos with 3" or more of the ruler obscured will be disqualified. Any portion of the fish masked with sand (for example: tip of tail slightly buried) will not score.

Anglers are encouraged to QUICKLY take a couple photos and even a short video to capture and record the catch and measurement before reviving and responsibly releasing the fish into the water. See more below about proper fish handling and the Stripers For The Future campaign.

SUBMISSION

No more than THREE photos of the catch are to be submitted via email (SURFMASTER@LBISFC.COM) with the SUBJECT including the anglers registration/badge.

The angler does not state or claim the size of the fish. The size is determined solely by the LBISFT judges based off of the submission; therefore the photo is paramount! In the rare case questions arise, an additional photo or video is admissible for secondary clarification.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

All LBISFT Rules Apply. Cheating will not be tolerated and a polygraph may be asked before awarding any prize. Altering photos post processing graphics software like photoshop is prohibited.

A proper catch-and-release begins before a bass is hooked. Participants must have a measuring device ready and when fishing in low or no light, a headlamp/flashlight is vital. Upon hooking a fish, an entrant should land it as quickly as possible. This prevents the quarry from becoming over exhausted. Once on the beach, keep the fish on wetsand for fast measuring and photo. Minimize handling time, DO NOT pull a fish onto dry sand, NEVER lifting by the mouth or gills, keep the fish in a horizontal position. Larger fish, being held vertically can cause excessive downward weight of internal organs and can also damage the jaw. Always revive fish at the water's edge before releasing.

Striped Bass Catch & Release

Contribute to conservation using best practices

Stripers For The Future

Anglers can contribute to conservation by using best catch-and-release practices to ensure a greater chance of survival of released striped bass.



do

- Release fish without taking them out of the water if possible
- Limit air exposure in fish removed from the water to less than 15 seconds
- Handle fish with wet hands or gloves
- Cradle fish with one hand under the belly and one under the shoulder
- Resuscitate bass by pulling it forward or in a figure eight through the water by the lower lip. Never move it backwards
- Use barbless hooks for quick release
- Use circle hooks when bait fishing
- Leave deep hooks in the fish by cutting the leader off closest to the hook

don't

- Lift bass by the mouth or tail. This can cause serious internal injury
- Handle bass with dry hands
- Drag fish across dry sand or excessively handle fish in a manner that removes their protective mucous coating
- Kick or step on fish; You will damage their organs
- Touch the red gill rakers or gill area; They are the equivalent of your lungs
- Gaff a fish you intend to release
- Release a bass without first resuscitating

Striped Bass Length to Weight Chart

Simply measure the total length of your striper while it's in the water and use this chart to estimate its weight.



Total Length

Length	Max.	Avg.	Min.	Length	Max.	Avg.	Min.	Length	Max.	Avg.	Min.
12"	1.0	1.0	1.0	26"	10.0	8.5	7.0	40"	29.5	26.0	22.0
13"	2.0	1.5	1.0	27"	11.0	9.8	8.0	41"	31.0	27.3	23.0
14"	2.5	2.3	2.0	28"	12.0	10.3	8.8	42"	33.5	29.7	25.0
15"	3.0	2.5	2.0	29"	12.9	11.0	9.7	43"	36.3	32.0	27.0
16"	3.5	3.0	2.5	30"	14.0	12.3	10.3	44"	39.0	34.0	29.0
17"	4.0	3.5	2.8	31"	15.0	13.0	11.0	45"	41.0	36.0	30.5
18"	4.5	4.0	3.0	32"	16.7	14.5	12.0	46"	44.0	38.7	32.5
19"	5.0	4.3	3.5	33"	17.8	15.8	13.0	47"	47.5	42.0	35.0
20"	5.5	4.8	4.0	34"	19.0	16.5	14.0	48"	51.0	44.0	37.0
21"	6.0	5.0	4.3	35"	20.5	18.0	15.5	49"	54.0	47.0	39.0
22"	6.8	5.8	4.8	36"	22.0	19.5	16.8	50"	58.0	50.0	42.0
23"	7.5	6.3	5.0	37"	23.5	20.7	17.5	51"	62.0	55.0	45.0
24"	8.3	7.0	6.0	38"	25.5	22.0	19.0	52"	65.0	58.0	47.0
25"	8.8	7.8	6.3	39"	27.2	24.5	20.7	53"	68.0	60.0	49.0

Produced by the Monmouth University School of Science as part of the *Stripers for the Future* campaign, a collaborative effort designed to better understand the causes of stress in angled striped bass and promote best practices to increase the survival of released fish.

