

The ILSFA Book of Angling Rules & Record Application Procedures



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INTRODUCTION

The International Land-Based Shark Fishing Association formulated these rules to establish uniform regulations for the purposes of compiling and issuing world Land-Based Shark Fishing records, and to provide guidelines for a standard of best practices in shark-release fishing for use by recreational and in organized and/or ILSFA sanctioned tournaments. In further keeping with The Association's mission, these rules provide for the issuance of records for released fish based on a widely accepted estimated weight formula.

No records are issued for sharks that are not released or for sharks that do not survive capture, even if the intent was to release the shark. There are no exceptions to this policy.

All guidelines regarding record claims are detailed herein. As with other sporting and record-keeping organizations that compile and recognize world records, the integrity of the ILSFA's efforts rely heavily upon an angler's respect for sportsmanship, honesty and integrity when engaged in the sport and when submitting record claims. This association's sole intent is to operate based on a confidence and trust that those virtues, at a minimum, will be held in the highest regard and exercised at all times.



LAND-BASED SHARK FISHING DEFINED:

The term 'Land-Based' is defined as exposed or "high and dry" land and anything attached to it, i.e., jetties, piers, bridges, etc. The word angling is used to describe the act of attempting to capture and / or the actual capture of sharks using a rod, reel, line, and hook(s) as outlined herein. Only fish caught in accordance with these rules, and within the intent and spirit of these rules, will be considered for world records.

CAUTIONS AND GENERAL DISCLAIMERS:

Extreme caution and care should be exercised at all times during any activity involved with this and any other sport. The safety of the angler and all others involved is of the utmost importance and should take precedence over any attempt to handle a fish for any reason. In addition, if an angler intends to release a catch, proper care and handling should also be exercised to avoid any injury to a fish. It is every angler's sole responsibility to become familiar with, and adhere to, all rules and regulations governing the geographic locations in which they choose to fish. The ILSFA, its officers, committee members, general members, and / or assigns assume no responsibility for risk of injury, death or prosecution that might occur as a result of attempting to capture, handle, and / or release any fish, anywhere, under any circumstances.

REGARDING PROTECTED AND / OR ENDANGERED SPECIES:

By their appearance on the eligible species list in this angling book of rules, the ILSFA is in no way, shape or form condoning, recommending or suggesting the intentional targeting of any species by any angler anywhere. Some species on this list may or may not be protected by laws and regulations in certain geographic areas during any particular period of time. The ILSFA assumes no responsibility for the personal acts or choices of any individual and advocates employing only legal, responsible and sustainable practices when sport fishing for any species.

EQUIPMENT REGULATIONS

A. Line

1. Monofilament and multifilament lines may be used. For line classes see World Record Categories.
2. Wire lines are prohibited.

B. Line Backing

1. Backing not attached to the fishing line is permissible with no restrictions as to size or material.

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2. If the fishing line is attached to the backing, the catch shall be classified under the heavier of the two lines. The backing may not exceed the 130 lb line class to qualify for records in any class other than unlimited, and must be of a type of line approved for use in these angling rules. For line classes see World Record Categories.

C. Double Line

The use of a double line is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

1. A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish.
2. Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double to the farthestmost end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line.

The double line on all classes of tackle 50 lb and over shall be limited to 30 feet. The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 40 feet.

D. Leader

The use of a leader is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications:

1. The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device. The leader must be connected to the line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited. There are no regulations regarding the material or strength of the leader.
2. The leader on all classes of tackle 50 lb and over shall be limited to 30 feet. The combined length of the double line and leader shall be limited to 40 feet on all classes of tackle 50 lb and over.

E. Rod

1. Rods must comply with sporting ethics and customs. Considerable latitude is allowed in the choice of a rod, but rods giving the angler an unfair advantage will be disqualified. This rule is intended to eliminate the use of unconventional rods.
2. The rod tip must be a minimum of 40 inches in length. The rod butt cannot exceed 27 inches in length. These measurements must be made from a point directly beneath the center of the reel. A curved butt is measured in a straight line. When the rod butt is placed in a gimbal, the measurement from the center of the reel seat to the pivot point of the gimbal can be no more than 27 inches. (The above measurements do not apply to surfcasting rods.)

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F. Reel

1. Reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs.
2. Power driven reels of any kind are prohibited. This includes motor, hydraulic, or electrically driven reels, and any device that gives the angler an unfair advantage.
3. Ratchet handle reels are prohibited.
4. Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

G. Hooks for Bait Fishing

1. For live or dead bait fishing no more than two single hooks may be used, if permissible, according to laws and regulations governing any given geographic location. It is every angler's sole responsibility to become familiar with, and adhere to, all rules and regulations governing the geographic locations in which they choose to fish.

All must be firmly imbedded in or securely attached to the bait. The point of one hook may be passed through the eye of another hook

2. The use of a dangling or swinging hook is prohibited. Double or treble hooks are prohibited.
3. A photograph or sketch of the hook arrangement must accompany all record applications made for fish caught on multi-hook tackle.

H. Hooks and Lures

1. When using an artificial lure, no more than two single hooks may be attached to the line, leader, or trace. Hooks should be attached separately. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than an overall hook's length (the overall length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 12 inches apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. The trailing hook may not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt of the lure.

A photograph or sketch showing the hook arrangement must accompany a record application.

2. Gang hooks are not permitted.

I. Other Equipment

1. Fighting chairs cannot be attached to any mechanically propelled devices (i.e., a motor vehicles) that are actively utilized to aid the angler during the act of fighting a fish.



2. Gimbals must be free swinging, which includes gimbals that swing in a vertical plane only. Any gimbal that allows the angler to reduce strain or to rest while fighting the fish is prohibited.
3. Gaffs used to land a fish must not exceed 12 feet in overall length. In using a flying or detachable gaff, the rope may not exceed 30 feet. The gaff rope must be measured from the point where it is secured to the detachable head to the other end. Only the effective length will be considered. If a fixed head gaff is used, the same limitations shall apply and the gaff rope shall be measured from the same location on the gaff hook. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff. Harpoon or lance attachments are prohibited. Tail ropes are limited to 30 feet. (When fishing from a bridge, pier, or other high platform or structure, this length limitation does not apply.)
4. Entangling devices, either with or without a hook are prohibited, and may not be used for any purpose including baiting, hooking, fighting, or landing the fish.
5. Upriggers, outrigger and kites are permitted to be used provided that the actual fishing line is attached to the snap or other release device, either directly or with some other material. The leader or double line may not be connected to the release mechanism either directly or with the use of a connecting device. Spreader bars are also acceptable when used strictly as a teaser.
6. Floats and similar devices may only be used if they do not unfairly hamper or inhibit the normal swimming or fighting ability of the fish, thereby giving the angler or crew an unfair advantage in fighting or landing the fish.
7. A safety line may be attached to the rod provided that it does not in any way assist the angler in fighting the fish.

ANGLING REGULATIONS

1. From the time that a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure, the angler must hook, fight, and land the fish without the aid of any other person, except as provided in related sections of these angling regulations.
2. If a rod holder is used and a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, the angler must remove the rod from the holder as quickly as possible. The intent of this rule is that the angler shall strike and hook the fish with the rod in hand.
3. If a double line is used, the intent of the regulations is that the fish will be fought on the single line most of the time that it takes to land the fish.
4. A harness may be attached to the reel or rod, but not to the fighting chair. The harness may be replaced or adjusted by a person other than the angler.
5. Use of a rod belt or waist gimbal is permitted.
6. Once the leader is brought within grasp or the end of the leader is wound to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to hold the leader.
7. One or more gaffers may be used in addition to persons holding the leader.



8. The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is either released or weighed according to procedures outlined in the section entitled 'Measuring And Weighing

PROCEDURES FOR RECORD CLAIMS

The following acts will disqualify a catch:

1. Failure to comply with equipment and / or angling regulations.
2. The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device, from the time a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, until the fish is either landed or released, or in giving any aid other than that allowed in the rules and regulations. If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, floatline, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.
3. Resting the rod in a rod holder or any other object while playing the fish.
4. Handlining or using a handline or rope attached in any manner to the angler's line or leader for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
5. Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish at any stage of the catch.
6. Chumming with or using as bait the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals other than hair or pork rind used in lures designed for trolling or casting.
7. Using a boat or device to beach or drive a fish into shallow water in order to deprive the fish of its normal ability to swim.
8. Changing the rod or reel while the fish is being played.
9. Splicing, removing, or adding to the line while the fish is being played.
10. Intentionally foul-hooking a fish.
11. Catching a fish in a manner that the double line never leaves the rod tip.
12. Using a size or kind of bait that is illegal to possess.
13. Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.
14. If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.

15. Handling or possessing a protected and / or endangered fish species in a manner that would place the angler in violation of any policies and / or laws of their respective geographic region.

The following situations may disqualify a catch:

1. When a rod breaks (while the fish is being played) in a manner that reduces the length of the tip below minimum dimensions or severely impairs its angling characteristics.

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2. When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.
3. Intentional mutilation of a fish at any time during or subsequent to capture or release. In any case, mutilation on a fish must be shown in a photograph and fully explained in a separate report accompanying the record application.

WORLD RECORD REQUIREMENTS

Land-Based Shark catches can only be considered for world record status if they are caught according to ILSFA Angling Rules. Following is information on world record categories, procedures, and requirements for filing claims. An existing member application fee of \$25 USD is required for each record claim. For new members, a \$35 USD application fee is required. Members are considered to be any angler who has previously submitted a record claim, whether or not a record was granted or denied. All materials submitted will become property of the ILSFA.

WORLD RECORD CATEGORIES

General Information:

The ILSFA maintains world records for eligible shark species in line class and all-tackle categories. In order to qualify for a record, a fish must be among those noted on the Eligible Species list and must exceed the existing record by the required amount or meet the minimum requirements, if any, for vacant records. The catch must not be at variance with any laws or regulations governing the species or the waters in which it was caught.

When an additional species of game fish is made eligible for ILSFA world records, the effective date will be announced. Fish caught on or after the effective date will be eligible for records. Announcement of an additional species in ILSFA publications will be considered proper notification in lieu of any other notice.

All-Tackle Category:

All-Tackle world records are kept for the largest fish of a species caught by an angler in any line class up to, and including the unlimited class. For line classes see World Record.

All tackle record claims are considered for all species of fish caught according to ILSFA angling rules. Applications for species not currently included in the ILSFA line class listings must meet the following criteria:

1. The fish must represent a valid species with a recognized scientific name.

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2. The fish must be a species commonly fished for with rod and reel in the general area where the catch is made.
3. The fish must be identifiable based on photos and other supporting data presented with the application.

Line Class Categories:

Line class records are kept according to the strength of the line. Records are kept in the following line classes:

Standard Line Classes:

50 - 130 lb

Unlimited Line Class:

Permissible line in the unlimited class must be commercially available: monofilament, braided or dacron types. Wire lines are prohibited.

ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Note: All ILSFA eligible species mature to overall lengths exceeding 8 feet and are found in or near coastal surf zones.

Shortfin Mako / *Isurus oxyrinchus*
Tiger / *Galeocerdo cuvier*
Great Hammerhead / *Sphyrna mokarran*
Scalloped Hammerhead / *Sphyrna lewini*
Bull / *Carcharhinus leucas*
Bronze Whaler / *Carcharhinus brachyurus*
Dusky / *Carcharhinus obscurus*
Lemon / *Negaprion brevirostris*
Salmon / *Lamna ditropis*
Thresher / *Alopias vulpinus*
Porbeagle / *Lamna nasus*
Sand Tiger / *Carcharias taurus*
Spinner / *Carcharhinus brevipinna*
Sandbar / *Carcharhinus plumbeus*
Blacktip / *Carcharhinus limbatus*
Nurse / *Ginglymostoma cirratum*



RECORD CATCH REGULATIONS

General Information:

1. Protested applications or disputed existing records will be referred to the ILSFA Lead Committee for review. Its decisions will be final. The ILSFA reserves the right to refuse to consider an application or grant a claim for a record application. All ILSFA decisions will be based upon the spirit and intent of the regulations.
2. When a substantial award is specifically offered for a world record catch in any line class, only a claim for an all-tackle record will be considered.
3. In some instances, an ILSFA representative, Lead Committee member, member of an Advisory Council or from a local ILSFA member club may be asked to recheck information supplied on a claim. Such action is not to be regarded in any as doubt of the formal affidavit, but instead as substantiation of the due diligence taken by the ILSFA to verify and maintain its records.

Species Identification:

1. Photographs must be submitted by which positive identification of the exact species can be made. Read the rules regarding photographs at the end of this section. Applications without photographs will not be accepted.
2. A catch may be disqualified if there is the slightest doubt a fish cannot be positively identified from submitted photographs and /or other data submitted.
3. If no decision can be made from the photographs and the angler can provide no further proof of the identification of the species, the record claim will not be considered.

Witness to Catch:

On all record claims, witnesses to the catch are required. Witnessed catches may be disqualified if questions arise regarding their authenticity. It is important that the witnesses can attest to the angler's compliance with the ILSFA Angling Rules and Equipment Regulations. See 'Application Forms' section for witness requirements.

Time Limit On Claims:

With the exception of all-tackle records only, claims for record fish caught in U.S. continental waters must be received by the ILSFA within 60 days of the date of catch. Claims for record fish caught in other waters must be received by the ILSFA within 90 days of the date of a catch.

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If an incomplete record claim is submitted, it must be accompanied by an explanation of why certain portions are incomplete. The ILSFA's Lead Committee will make final decisions on any and all complete or incomplete claims. An incomplete claim accompanied by an explanation may be considered for a record if the following conditions are satisfied:

1. Any missing data is supplied within a period of time considered to be reasonable, in view of the particular circumstances.

MEASURING AND WEIGHING PROCEDURES FOR RECORD CLAIMS:

In addition to all other requirements, record claims are evaluated based on estimated weight, as outlined in this section.

Measurement Procedure for 'Estimated Weight' Record Claims

Estimated weight measurements should be taken as follows and must accompany any record application. All measurements must be recorded using an accurate, store bought measuring tape. The cloth type is recommended. All weights and measures are calculated in feet, inches, pounds and ounces. See 'Conversion Formulas for Weights and Measures' below for help in converting from other formats.

W = Estimated Weight in Pounds

F = Fork Length in Inches

G = Girth in Inches

The Formula:

$$F \times (G \times G) / 800 = W$$

Measurement Procedure:

- a. Measure the fork length in inches from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. Tape should be laid flat over the entire length of the fish's back just along the dorsal line and extended to the rear of the fork of the tail. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The total length measurement from the tip of the snout to the tip of the upper lobe of the tail fin must also be taken at this time and included with an application. This is additional valuable data that will be used in record evaluation and for cooperative research purposes.
- b. Next, multiply the fork length by the girth measurement (the largest diameter of the fish, typically just behind the pectoral fins) squared.
- c. Divide that number by 800

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As an example to illustrate, a shark with a fork length of 12' and a girth of 72" is measured in this manner:

The Formula:

$$F \times (G \times G) / 800 = W$$

Therefore:

$$144 \times (72 \times 72) / 800 =$$

$$144 \times 5184 / 800 =$$

$$746,496 / 800 = 933.12 \text{ estimated pounds}$$

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Estimated Weights Needed to Defeat or Tie Existing Records

1. To defeat an existing record a new claim must exceed the estimated weight by no less than 25 pounds.
2. A catch that matches the estimated weight of an existing record shall be considered a tie. In the rare case of a tie claim involving more than two catches, the estimated weight must be compared with the original record (first fish to be caught and claimed). No fish with an estimated weight less than the original record will be considered.
3. Only estimated weights using the formula outlined previously will be accepted for evaluation. Fractions of inches and pounds should be recorded and will be used in claim evaluations. However, final determination will be made after rounding either up or down based on the final estimated weight. For example, using the example above, the estimated weight would be rounded down for an official designation of 933 pounds.

PREPARATION OF CLAIMS

To apply for a world record, an angler must submit a completed ILSFA application form along with any applicable fees, the mandatory length of line and double line (if used) and all other required photographs and other information as outlined on the application form. Photos and video can be submitted electronically. Please see further details in the sections below and on the application form.

Application Form:

The official ILSFA world record application form must be used for record claims. This form may be reproduced as long as all official items and pages are included. The form may not be altered in any way. The angler must fill out the application personally. The record application can be downloaded from the ILSFA website located here: www.LandBasedSharkFishing.com.

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The ILSFA also recommends the angler personally mail the application, line sample, photographs and other required items with proof or receipt of mailing. When making any record claim, an angler must indicate the specified strength of the line used to catch the fish. In the cases of line class records, this will place the claim in an ILSFA line class category (see section: World Record Categories).

Extreme care should be exercised in measuring the fish, as the measurements are of the utmost importance for estimated weight verification required for record status, as well as for use in cooperative scientific studies. See the section: 'Measuring and Weighing Procedures for Record Claims' above for details.

The angler is responsible for seeing that the necessary signatures and other required contact information of any witnesses are also included on the application, along with their own. If an ILSFA representative or a member of an ILSFA club is available, he or she can be asked to witness the claim. Any deliberate falsification of an application will disqualify the applicant for any future ILSFA world record and any existing records will also be nullified.

Line Sample:

Applications must be accompanied by any section of double line and at least 50 feet of the single line closest to the double line, leader or hook. All line samples must be submitted in one piece. If a lure is used with the leader, the leader should be cut at the eye attachment to the lure. Each line sample must be in one piece. It must be submitted in a manner that it can be easily unwound without damage to the line. A recommended method is to take a rectangular piece of stiff cardboard and cut notches in two opposite ends. Secure one end of the line to the cardboard and wind the line around the cardboard through the notched areas. Secure the other end, and write your name and the specified strength of the line on the cardboard. Any line sample submitted that is tangled or cannot be easily unwound will not be accepted. Line samples submitted with record claims are verified according to manufacturer specifications.

Estimated Weight:

Measurements used to determine an estimated weight and the determined estimated weight derived using the formula outlined in 'Measuring and Weighing Procedures of Record Claims' must accompany all record applications.

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Photographs:

For accurate species identification and record evaluation, only the clearest possible photos must be submitted. In all cases, photographs should be taken of the fish lying flat. The fish should be broadside to the camera with no visible part of the fish obscured. Whenever possible, additional photographs of the head and back taken from above to demonstrate whether the fish has or does not have a ridge between the dorsal fins (an interdorsal ridge) can also be submitted. When photographing a fish, the ruler, yardstick or marked tape used for measurements should be placed beside the fish.

Photographs that must accompany all record applications include:

- The full length of the fish
- The angler with the fish
- Separate photos of tackle used in catch (including rod, reel, leader and hooks *)
- Any witnesses

*Regarding hooks, the ILSFA understands it is not always possible to remove hooks and that not every angler chooses to do so for personal, as well as for obvious safety reasons. In such cases where post-catch and/or release photos of hooks are not available, please describe hook configurations on the application form. If similar configurations are used on a regular basis by an angler, a stock photo of that configuration must accompany the written description.

It is important that we have clear, publishable photographs of the fish and the angler. If additional action shots of the catch or video exist, they may also be submitted. Be sure to make copies of all photos and video submitted since they may not be returned. By submitting materials, an applicant grants the ILSFA rights to distribute and/or publish said materials for promotional purposes in various media including, but not limited to electronic, video, broadcast and print.

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CONVERSION FORMULAS FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Persons submitting world record claims are required to provide the weights and measurements in inches and pounds. The following is provided for informational purposes.

Weights

Ounces x 28.349 = Grams

Ounces x 0.02835 = Kilograms

Pounds x 453.59 = Grams

Pounds x 0.45359 = Kilograms

Grams x 0.0353 = Ounces

Grams x 0.002 = Pounds

Kilograms x 35.2736 = Ounces

Kilograms x 2.2046 = Pound

Measures

Inches x 25.4 = Millimeters

Inches x 2.54 = Centimeters

Feet x 30.48 = Centimeters

Feet x 0.3048 = Meters

Millimeters x 0.03937 = Inches

Centimeters x 0.3937 = Inches

Centimeters x 0.0328 = Feet

Meters x 39.37 = Inches

Miscellaneous

1 pound force x 4.448 = Newtons

1 kilogram force x 9.806 = Newtons

1 fathom x 6 = Feet