

## **BHA Rock Fish Rumble on the Bay Fishing Tournament (June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026)**

### **1. Tournament Overview**

This is an online, catch-photo-release striped bass tournament hosted by Backcountry Hunters & Anglers: Mid-Atlantic Chapter. All entries are submitted remotely and judged using photographic documentation.

Tournament Categories:

Biggest Fish – Longest single striped bass.

Total Inches – Cumulative length of all approved striped bass catches.

### **2. Eligibility**

Open to registered participants fishing in Maryland and Virginia waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

All anglers must possess any licenses or permits required by the state in which they are fishing.

All fishing must comply with Maryland and Virginia striped bass regulations, including seasons, size limits, gear restrictions, and closures.

Failure to comply with state regulations will result in disqualification.

### **3. Tournament Dates & Fishing Window**

Fish must be caught within the official tournament period only:

Start: 5:25 am June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

End: 9:00 pm June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Fish caught outside the tournament window will not be accepted.

### **4. Target Species**

- Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*) only.

- Fish must be legally harvestable or legally releasable under current Maryland or Virginia regulations.
- Fish caught in closed areas, closed seasons, or sanctuary waters are strictly prohibited.

## **5. Measurement Requirements (Mandatory)**

To ensure fair competition and prevent cheating, the following measurement rules apply:

All striped bass must be measured:

On a rigid measuring device (bump board, fish ruler, or flat tape measure).

With the mouth closed and touching the zero mark.

With the fish laid flat and straight.

Tail may be pinched or naturally extended, but must be consistent across all submissions.

Photo must clearly show:

- The entire fish from nose to tail.
- Clearly legible measurement markings.
- No bends, curves, or angles that exaggerate length.

The following will be rejected:

- Fish hanging vertically
- Fish measured over a curve or bent body
- Blurry, cropped, or obstructed photos
- Photos without a measuring device

## **6. Tournament Identifier (Anti-Cheating Rule)**

Each submitted photo must include a visible tournament identifier next to the fish.

The identifier must include:

- Angler's first name
- Date of catch
- BHA

This identifier must be handwritten on paper or a printed card and fully visible in the photo.  
Photos without the identifier will not be accepted.

### **7. Photo Submission Process**

Photos must be submitted via email to [Kempersutton@gmail.com](mailto:Kempersutton@gmail.com)

Each submission must include:

Angler name

Catch location (MD or VA waters)

Fish length (nearest ¼ inch)

All entries must be submitted by 9:00 am Sunday June 7th.

Tournament staff reserve the right to review:

Photo metadata

Submission time

Additional verification if needed

### **8. Biggest Fish Category**

Only the longest single striped bass counts.

Length will be determined solely from the submitted photo.

In the event of a tie:

Earliest submission wins

If still tied, organizers will determine the winner

### **9. Total Inches Category**

- Participants may submit multiple striped bass.
- Each fish may be counted one time only.
- Total inches equals the sum of all approved fish lengths.

## **10. Fish Handling & Conservation**

- This tournament emphasizes ethical angling and conservation.
- Fish must be handled carefully and released promptly.
- Fish showing signs of excessive mishandling, gilling, or abuse may be rejected.
- Dead fish submissions may be disqualified at organizer discretion, even if legal.

## **11. Cheating, Violations & Disqualification**

Immediate disqualification will result from:

- Reusing old photos
- Submitting another angler's catch
- Editing or altering photos
- Improper measurement techniques
- Fishing outside legal waters or seasons
- Providing false information
- Unsportsmanlike conduct

Tournament organizers may:

- Request additional verification
- Reject any questionable submission
- Remove participants at their discretion

## **12. Organizer Authority**

All tournament decisions by Backcountry Hunters & Anglers organizers are final.

Rules may be clarified during the event as necessary, but standings will not be altered retroactively.

## **13. Liability**

Participants fish at their own risk. Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and tournament organizers assume no responsibility for injury, loss, or damage incurred during participation.