



## **The 2012 Guy Harvey Ultimate Shark Challenge Observer Program Manual**

### *Section 1: Observer Guidelines*

#### **Tournament Staff Contact Information**

During competition, all necessary communication should be made through Tournament Command via the VHF radio on your team vessel or other designated means. (specific details will be provided at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Observer & Team Meeting). However, in the event of a radio malfunction or you find it necessary to ask a question or discuss something outside the scope of normal tournament operations during competition hours; the appropriate tournament staff member can be reached via the cell phone numbers listed below.

#### **Tournament Competition Coordinator** (your primary contact during competition hours)

Zach Miller                    561-251-7779

#### **Observer Program Coordinator** (if unable to reach Tournament Competition Coordinator)

Anthony Micolo            914-475-7251

#### **Tournament Directors** (if unable to reach Competition or Observer Program Coordinators)

Sean Paxton:                941-416-1788

Brooks Paxton:            941-416-5073

#### **Mote Center for Shark Research Director** (should have no need to contact during competition)

Bob Hueter:                941-302-0976

#### **You Are the Eyes and Ears for the Tournament Directors**

As an observer, your primary role is to assist the tournament directors in making sure all rules are adhered to and that every team is competing within the intended spirit of the tournament. You will never be asked to confront or debate anything you observe with any team or angler at any given time. You will only be asked to report what you observed or did while on a team's vessel. Your unbiased participation in this event is a critical component to the event's success.

#### **You Are a Representative of the GH-USC**

Not only will you be our eyes and ears for the tournament, you are a representative of the event and its sponsors. Your actions and/or comments while observing is a direct reflection of not only yourself but the entire tournament. Sharing or discussing opinions of a negative nature with a team should always be avoided. Always try to keep your conversations with the anglers positive. If a conversation starts to turn negative, politely try to change the topic or just withdraw from the discussion, altogether. Avoid discussing topics with anglers that relate to politics or religion.

These topics are usually of a passionate nature and can often result in unintended debate or insult. Be prepared for profanity. These are only words. If not directed at you, simply ignore them.

### **Dress Appropriately for the Occasion**

Observers are representing themselves and the tournament. Your attire should be neat and clean. Dress appropriate for the conditions that will be expected for each particular day. Bring a small compact set of rain gear if rain is expected. Wear the apparel given to you by the tournament if applicable. A small compact backpack or duffle bag for your personal items is recommended.

### **All Observers Must Wear a PFD**

Each observer is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal floatation device (PFD) anytime the combustion engine is on and in gear. Observers are not required to have life jackets on while anglers are using an electric trolling motor for slow maneuvering.

### **Bring Your Own Food and Beverages**

Provide for yourself enough beverages, food, snacks, etc. for each entire day on the water, which will consist of approximately 8 - 9 hours. Pack your food and beverages in the smallest cooler possible (soft-sided coolers are recommended). Space may be limited on some vessels. Prior to boarding the team's vessel, ask if they would prefer you to stow your food and beverages in their cooler or if there is enough room for your compact cooler onboard.

### **Ask Permission Before Opening Compartments or Moving About the Vessel**

You are a guest on board and should respect the team's rules and policies. Every captain and team will have slightly different policies. Ask in advance what theirs are. Discuss at the beginning of the day scenarios that may occur. For example, where they would like you to be when a shark is hooked. Shark fishing can be unpredictable and the pace and action can change in an instant. Always be prepared to move to a position that does not interfere with the anglers and their attempt to hook, maneuver or land a shark. However, find a spot that allows you to sufficiently observe the catch, documentation, tagging and release procedures.

### **Do Not Consume Alcoholic Beverages or Drugs on the Boat**

Under no circumstances are you to bring any alcoholic beverages or non prescription drugs on board a team's vessel. This is a zero tolerance policy rule.

### **Tournament and Event Info**

2012 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Guy Harvey Ultimate Shark Challenge – May 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
Laishley Park - 120 Laishley Ct. Punta Gorda, FL 33950  
[www.UltimateSharkChallenge.com](http://www.UltimateSharkChallenge.com)

Observer and Team Registration & Meeting: 4pm – 7pm.  
May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Laishley Marina Community Room

Your participation in this program requires attendance at the registration and meeting, but does not require assignment for both days of competition. In some case an Observer may wish to be assigned both days. This may or may not be possible, due to a variety of factors including the total number of teams and alternate Observers available.

Competition Day 1: May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Day 1 competition begins at 7:00am and ends at 4pm  
Competition Day 2: May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Day 2 competition begins at 7:00am and ends at 4pm

*Arrival and meeting time for both competition days is 6:00am at the designated location.*

## **Competition Day Arrival Times and Location / Notification of Scheduling Conflicts**

All Observers are requested to be at the tournament location and prepared to begin 60 minutes prior to the scheduled shot gun start at 7am. All Observers will meet at the Laishley Park Marina Community Room to receive their related materials and team assignment for that day. A late observer results in a late start for the entire event, not just your team.

*Notify Tournament Staff immediately if there is a potential or existing conflict with schedules or the team you are assigned to.*

## ***SECTION 2 of 2: Rules, Scoring, Catch & Release Procedure***

### **Do Not Assist the Team with Fishing**

Observers are not to assist the team in any way with fishing. Do not offer tips or suggestion about anything related to fishing, catching or releasing fish. For example, if you are asked to perform a task such as passing a rod to an angler, assisting with anchor retrieval, etc., politely inform the angler that is not allowed. Once a shark is legally caught (secured by the head and tail), an observer is then allowed to assist the team with identifying, tagging, measuring and releasing the shark. An Observer must be requested to do so by a team member before he/she can assist in anyway and the Observer must feel confident and be willing to do so.

### **Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Fishing Regulations**

Review and understand the fishing regulations of the State of Florida provided in your kit, and be sure to carry that copy, along with other supplies provided you as a reference resource when leaving the dock for each day of competition.

### **USC Rules and Regulations**

Review and understand the USC Rules and Regulations provided in your kit, and be sure to carry that copy, along with other supplies provided you as reference resources when leaving the dock for each day of competition.

*Tournament rules are available online prior to the event to view, download and print at:  
[www.UltimateSharkChallenge.com/tournament-rules](http://www.UltimateSharkChallenge.com/tournament-rules)*

### **Observing Rule Violations**

If you observe what you believe to be a rule violation, do not inform the team. Refer to the tournament rules to confirm for yourself that a rule violation may have occurred.

### **Note Time and Nature of Violation**

Document the alleged rule violation and the time it happened on the sheet provided in your kit.

### **Do Not Inform, Discuss or Debate Potential Rule Violations With the Team**

Do not inform the team that you observed a potential violation. This may cause unnecessary debate. If you are asked whether or not a rule may have been violated, simply respond by stating, "I am unable to discuss possible rules during the competition, only after."

### **Reporting Potential Violations and Observer Check-In Procedure**

After competition ends at 4pm, and as soon as you return to the dock, report to the designated Check-In Station; the location of which will be announced at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Observer and Team Registration & Meeting. The Observer Program Coordinator will be present at the Check-In location. Bring your kit and all supplies and score cards with you to the Check-In Station. Some items may be left on board until the final day of competition. These details will be announced at the May 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

In the event of any confusion with the Check-In location or your inability to be there, contact the Observer Coordinator immediately at the phone number noted above.

If you noted any potential rule violations, discretely share this information with the Observer Program Coordinator upon arrival at the Check-In Station. The matter will then be discussed with the team and Staff while the Observer is present. The Observer will not be asked to debate or discuss the violation with the team. The Observer’s only role in this instance is to objectively report potential violations.

**Remain Available to Discuss Proposed Rule Violations With Tournament Staff**

In the event of a discrepancy, please remain available to discuss your account of any alleged rule violations with Tournament Staff.

**Point Scoring System**

Points are awarded based on each qualifying species caught. Score cards will be provided for the team. Capture sheets will be provided for Observers.

*The minimum length for all qualifying species is five feet.*

<b>Qualifying Species</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Likelihood of Catch</b>
Dusky:	700	Low
Mako:	700	Low
Sand tiger:	700	Low
Tiger:	600	Medium
Hammerhead (scalloped 8'+):	550	Medium
Hammerhead (scalloped 5' - 8'):	350	Medium
Hammerhead (great 8'+):	500	High
Hammerhead (great 5' – 8'):	350	High
Bull:	300	High
Lemon:	200	High
Sandbar:	150	Medium
Blacktip (7 max per day):	100	High
Spinner (7 max per day):	100	Medium
Nurse (2 max per day):	50	High

**Bonus points are also awarded for the following measurements of all qualifying species.**

<b>Feet</b>	<b>Points</b>
6 – 7	20 points
7 – 8	30 points
8 – 9	40 points
9 – 10	50 points
10 +	100 points

### **Additional bonus Points:**

- The team with the first recorded and reported qualifying species (5 feet +) caught on each day will be awarded 100 bonus points. In the event of a tie, both teams will earn the bonus points.
- The team that catches and tags the most qualifying sharks each day will be awarded 100 bonus points. In the event of a tie, both teams will earn the bonus points.
- The team that catches and tags the largest shark each day will be awarded 100 bonus points. In the event of a tie, both teams tied will earn the bonus points.

*NOTE: To receive eligible bonus points, qualifying sharks must meet or exceed the hash mark (for each foot) located on the measuring device. Agree on a final measurement when the shark is at the straightest possible angle in alignment with the measuring device.*

***Be sure to sign the USC score card with the witness of a team member and Tournament Staff Member after you return to the Check-In Location.***

### **Tournament-Qualifying Catch and Release Procedure (The Pit Stop) is Defined as:**

- Reporting hook up to tournament command
- Bringing shark to the boat in the shortest time possible
- Measuring the shark with an observer present using the provided measuring device
- A qualifying shark species of 5-foot minimum length caught with single hook and line
- Caught on tournament regulation rod
- Securing the sharks's head and tail
- Properly identifying the shark
- Properly tagging the shark
- Photographing the shark (*Recommended time for photo is during measurements*)
- Removing tail rope and hook or cutting the leader as close to the hook as safely possible (*Coordinate release of head and tail*)
- Releasing the shark
- Proper documentation of data on provided capture sheets
- Assisting the Team with proper documentation of data on provided score cards
- Reporting shark species and length to tournament command

### **Documenting the Catch**

When documenting the team's catch, do it with a team member present. This will avoid any discrepancies later on. If multiple sharks are hooked, talk out loud to a team member while you are documenting. Then during the next calm period, review your documentation, once again, with a team member. Any captured species of shark (qualifying or not) is required to be properly identified and documented by each team's assigned Observer.

**The following must be documented on the capture sheet with a team member present:**

- Date
- Hookup time
- Release time
- Location (latitude and longitude)
- Species
- Sex (if possible to view presence or absence of male claspers)
- Total Length (using guidelines provided)
- Dart Tag Number (make sure you note the number before the tag is loaded on the tagging poles)
- Species Points
- Length Points
- Total Points For That Catch
- Hand Off to Research Boat: Yes / No
- Comments (anything you may have observed and want to add)

**Assisting Anglers with Tagging and Documentation of Their Catch**

Obtaining data for our science partners of each shark caught is an important component of this event. Therefore, once a qualifying shark is caught and secured at the head and tail, an Observer, if requested by a team member to do so, is allowed to assist in identifying, conventionally tagging, measuring and releasing the shark. The Observer must feel confident and be willing to do so.

**Take a Photo / Video of Every Qualifying Shark Caught**

Be sure to take a photo / video of every qualifying shark caught. If you are not 100% positive about the identification of the shark, take multiple photos / video. Upon return to the Check-In location, after competition, the Observer Program coordinator or other Tournament Staff Member will direct you to the production command center to download any media captured by you during the day.

**Raise any Doubts Before the Shark is Released**

Before the team releases their shark, raise any doubts you may have regarding identification of the shark. If you cannot agree, your identification is what counts, not theirs, so be confident in your identification. Your photos / video will also aid in resolving any discrepancies.

**Satellite Tagging**

Teams are required to radio in all hookups to tournament command, and to report the species, as soon as it can be identified during its time on the line. At any time during competition, certain sharks may be designated by research personnel as appropriate specimens for satellite tracking tags. In these cases, a research intercept vessel will be dispatched to the location by tournament command. During this time and after a fish is brought to boat side by the team, secured at the head and tail, conventionally tagged and measured for points, it will then be handed off by the team to researchers who will then place the satellite tag, further document and release the animal. Any measurements taken by the research team of a shark will be the official length used for determining any bonus points.

**Review all Provided Materials**

Study all provided materials until you are comfortable with rules, procedures and species identification.

***Additional resources are available online to view, download or print:***

[www.ultimatesharkchallenge.com/shark-species](http://www.ultimatesharkchallenge.com/shark-species)  
[www.ultimatesharkchallenge.com/tournament-research](http://www.ultimatesharkchallenge.com/tournament-research)  
[www.ultimatesharkchallenge.com/tournament-rules](http://www.ultimatesharkchallenge.com/tournament-rules)

Inquiries regarding rules and Observer Program prior to event: [Directors@UltimateSharkChallenge.com](mailto:Directors@UltimateSharkChallenge.com) or 941-416-1788, 941-416-5073