

IGFA International Angling Rules

Updated October 27, 2021

IGFA International Angling Rules

The following angling rules have been formulated by the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) to promote ethical and sporting angling practices, to establish uniform regulations for the compilation of world game fish records, and to provide basic angling guidelines for use in fishing tournaments and any other group angling activities.

The word "angling" is defined as catching or attempting to catch fish with a rod, reel, line, and hook as outlined in the IGFA International Angling Rules. There are some aspects of angling that cannot be controlled through rule making, however. Angling regulations cannot insure an outstanding performance from each fish, and world records cannot indicate the amount of difficulty in catching the fish. Captures in which the fish has not fought or has not had a chance to fight do not reflect credit on the fisherman, and only the angler can properly evaluate the degree of achievement in establishing the record.

Only fish caught in accordance with IGFA International Angling Rules, and within the intent of these rules, will be considered for world records. Following are the rules for freshwater and saltwater fishing and a separate set of rules for All-Tackle Length and fly fishing. Fish caught in violation of laws or regulations governing the species or waters are not eligible for an IGFA World Record.

Equipment Regulations

A. Line and Backing

1. Monofilament, multifilament, and lead core multifilament lines may be used. For line classes, see World Record Requirements.

2. Wire lines are prohibited.

3. Backing is permitted.

4. The catch shall be classified under the breaking strength of the first 5 meters (16.5 feet) of line directly preceding the double line, leader, or hook. This section must be comprised of a single, homogenous piece of line and may not exceed 60 kilogram (130 pound) line class.

B. Double Line

If a double line 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 line to the farthermost end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader, lure or hook to the double line.

Saltwater species: In all line classes up to and including 10 kilograms (20 pounds), the double line shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet).

The double line on all classes of tackle over 10 kilograms (20 pounds) shall be limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 12.19 meters (40 feet).

Freshwater species: The double line on all classes of tackle shall not exceed 1.82 meters (6 feet). The combined length of the double line and the leader shall not exceed 3.04 meters (10 feet).

C. Leader

If a leader is used, it must meet the following specifications:

The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangement or other device, and is measured to the bend of the last hook. 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.

Saltwater species: In all line classes up to and including 10 kilograms (20 pounds), the leader shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet).

The leader on all classes of tackle over 10 kilograms (20 pounds) shall be limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall be limited to 12.19 meters (40 feet).

Freshwater species: The leader on all classes of tackle shall be limited to 1.82 meters (6 feet). The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 3.04 meters (10 feet).

D. 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 101.6 centimeters (40 inches) in length. The rod butt cannot exceed 68.58 centimeters (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 68.58 centimeters (27 inches). (The above measurements do not apply to surfcasting rods.)

E. Reel

1. Reels must comply with sporting ethics and customs.

2. Power- driven reels are acceptable under the following situation and configuration.

a) Reels that have power accessories (e.g., electric drill attachments, motors, or other power accessories specifically designed for a reel) that can be physically removed from the reel may be used strictly for the purpose of retrieving a deployed bait or lure at depth all the way to the boat.

b) Power accessories may only be used to retrieve a bait or lure completely to the boat and are not permitted for adjusting the position of a bait or lure in the water column. Once a power accessory is attached to the reel, the bait or lure may no longer be legally used to catch a fish and the bait or lure must be retrieved all the way to the boat for manual redeployment before it may be legally used to hook or catch a fish. Power accessories may not be attached to the reel during the deployment of a bait or lure.

c) Power accessories must be physically removed from the reel before the act of or hooking or fighting a fish. Any fish that strikes a bait or lure being fished with a reel with power accessories still attached- whether or not under electric operation- will not be eligible for record consideration.

d) Electric reels that do not have removable electronic components that allow them to be completely manually driven are prohibited.

3. Ratchet handle reels are prohibited.

4. Reels designed to be cranked with both hands at the same time are prohibited.

F. Hooks and Bait Fishing

1. For live or dead bait fishing, no more than two single hooks may be used. Both must be firmly imbedded in or securely attached to the bait. The eyes of the hooks must be no less than a hook's length (the length of the largest hook used) apart and no more than 45.72 centimeters (18 inches) apart. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other hook. A hook may not precede bait, lure or bait/lure combo by more than one hook’s length.

2. The use of a dangling or swinging hook is prohibited. Double or treble hooks are prohibited.

3. A two hook rig for bottom fishing is acceptable if it consists of two single hooks on separate leaders or drops. Both hooks must be imbedded in the respective baits and separated sufficiently so that a fish caught on one hook cannot be foul hooked by the other.

4. A photograph or sketch of the hook arrangement must accompany all record applications made for fish caught on two-hook tackle.

G. Hooks and Lures

1. When using an artificial lure with a skirt or trailing material, no more than two single hooks may be attached to the line, leader, or trace. The hooks need not 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 30.48 centimeters (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 hook may not precede bait, lure or bait/lure combo by more than one hook's length. A photograph or sketch showing the hook arrangement must accompany a record application.

2. Gang hooks are permitted when attached to plugs and other artificial lures that are specifically designed for this use. Gang hooks must be free swinging and shall be limited to a maximum of three hooks (single, double, or treble, or a combination of any three). It is permissible to imbed or securely attach a gang hook to a lure provided that the hook becomes free swinging once the fish takes the lure. Gang hooks may not be used with live or dead baits. A photograph or sketch of the plug or lure should be submitted with record applications.

3. Assist hooks or other such single hooks that are attached to a lure with a lead constructed of monofilament, multifilament, wire or other such material must conform to the following: When using assist hooks on any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure, the lead cannot be more than 1 ½ hook's length and the bend of the hook may not be more than 10.1 centimeters (4 inches), whichever is less, from the closest point of attachment on the lure. Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.

4. Only one lure containing hooks may be used at a time.

H. Other Equipment

1. **Fighting chairs** may not have any mechanically propelled devices that aid the angler in 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 (including flying gaffs) and nets** used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet) in overall length. In using a flying or detachable gaff, the rope may not exceed 9.14 meters (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. Harpoons or lances are prohibited. Tail ropes are limited to 9.14 meters (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. **Outriggers, downriggers, spreader bars 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. **Daisy chains, birds, 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, landing or boating the fish.

7. **A safety line** may be attached to the rod, reel or harness 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 or boat the fish without the aid of any other person, except as provided in these regulations.

2. If a rod holder is used, once the fish is hooked, the angler must remove the rod from the rod holder as quickly as possible.

3. In the event of a multiple strike on separate lines being fished by a single angler, only the first fish fought

by the angler will be considered for a world record.

4. 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.

5. Use of a rod belt or waist gimbal is permitted.

6. When angling from a boat, once the leader is brought within the grasp of the mate, or the end of the leader is wound to the rod tip, more than one person is permitted to hold the leader. Anyone assisting a shore-bound or wading angler must be within a rods length of the angler before touching the leader or netting or gaffing the fish.

7. One or more gaffers may be used in addition to persons holding the leader. The gaff handle must be in hand when the fish is gaffed.

8. The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed.

The following acts will disqualify a catch:

1. Failure to comply with equipment 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, 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, on the gunwale of the boat, 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 (including sharks and halibuts) 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. Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off of the angler. Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification.

The following situations will 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.

2. Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries. Any mutilation on the fish must be shown in a photograph and fully explained in a report accompanying the record application.

3. When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.

4. When a catch violates laws or regulations governing the species or the waters where it was caught.

Illustrated Guide to Equipment Regulations

Double Lines and Leaders



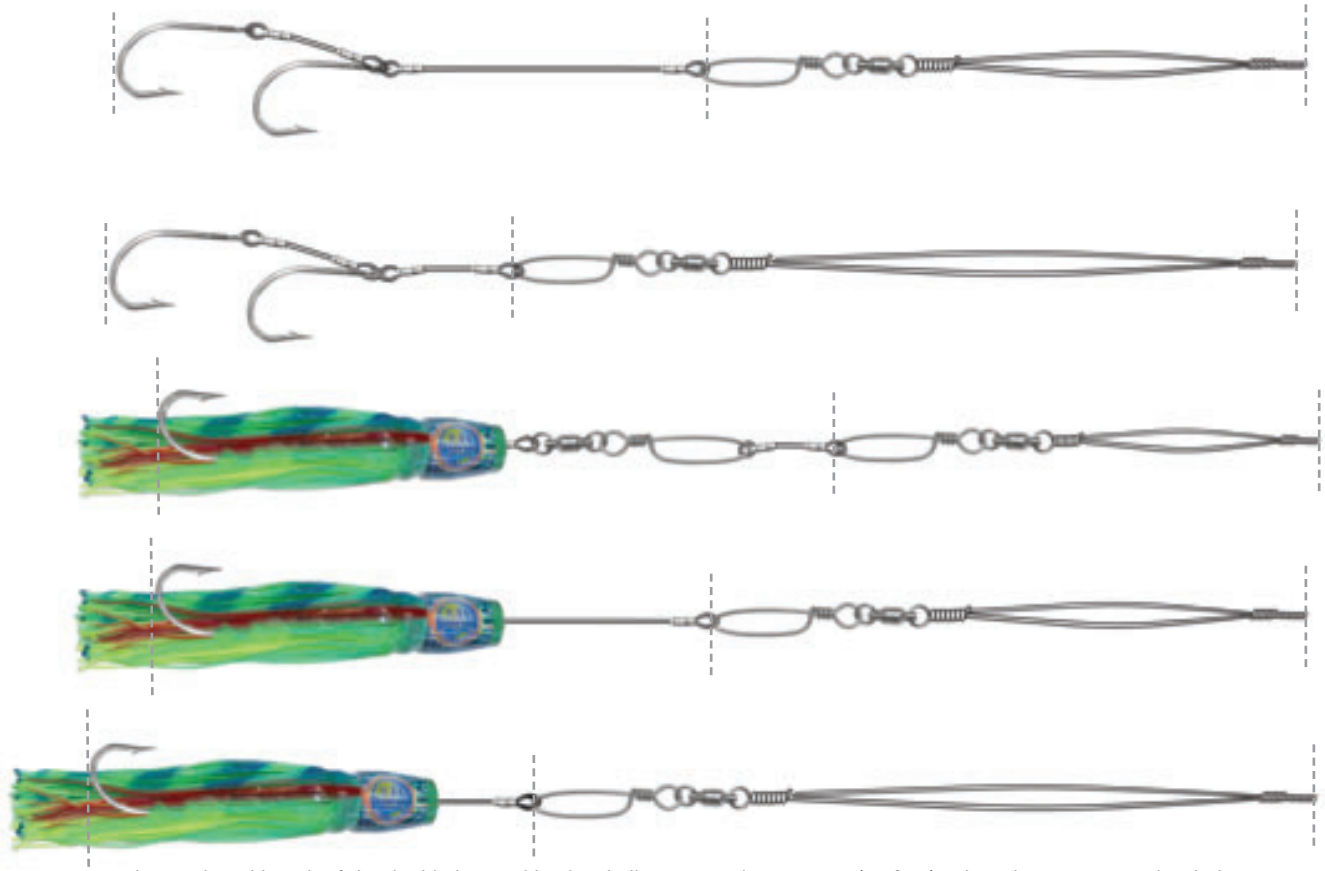
Double lines are measured from the start of the knot, braid, roll or splice making the double line to the farthermost end of the knot, splice, snap, swivel or other device used for securing the trace, leader lure or hook to the double line. A double line must consist of the actual line used to catch the fish. For saltwater species, the double line shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet) for all line classes up to and including 10 kg. (20 lb.); and shall be limited to 9.14 meters (30 feet) for line classes over 10 kg. (20 lb.). For freshwater species, the double line on all classes of tackle shall not exceed 1.82 meters (6 feet).



The leader shall be limited to 4.57 meters (15 feet) for saltwater species in line classes up to and including 10 kg. (20 lb.), and 9.14 meters (30 feet) for all line classes over 10 kg. (20 lb.). For freshwater species, the leader on all classes of tackle shall be limited to 1.82 meters (6 feet).



The length of the leader is the overall length including any lure, hook arrangements or other device.



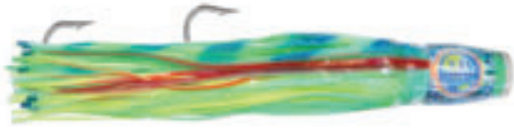
The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 meters (20 feet) in line classes up to and including 10 kg. (20 lb.) and 12.19 meters (40 feet) in line classes over 10 kg. (20 lb.) for saltwater species. The combined length of the double line and leader shall not exceed 3.04 meters (10 feet) for freshwater species.

Illustrated Guide to Equipment Regulations

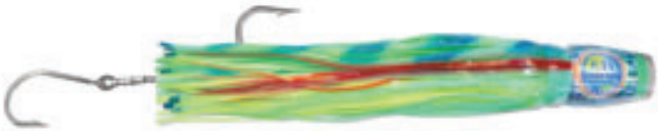
Natural Baits and Artificial



LEGAL if eyes of hooks no more than 45.72 centimeters (18 inches) apart in baits and no more than 30.45 centimeters (12 inches) apart in lures. ILLEGAL if eyes further apart than these distances.



LEGAL as eyes of hooks are no less than a hook's length apart and no more than 30.45 centimeters (12 inches) apart, and the trailing hook does not extend more than a hook's length beyond the skirt.



NOT LEGAL as the second or trailing hook extends more than the hook's length beyond skirt. See also two hook rigs.



LEGAL as hook is contained within the skirt.



NOT LEGAL in bait or lures as eyes of hooks are less than a hook's length (the length of the largest hook) apart.



NOT LEGAL as the single hook extends more than its length beyond the skirt.



LEGAL as eyes of hooks are no less than a hook's length apart and no more than 45.72 centimeters (18 inches) in baits and 30.45 centimeters (12 inches) in lures.



NOT LEGAL as back hook is not firmly imbedded in or securely attached to bait and is a dangling or swinging hook.

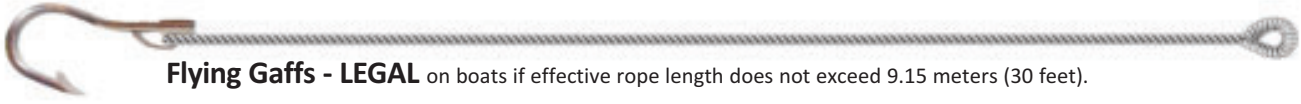


LEGAL in baits and lures. The point of one hook is passed through the eye of the other hook.

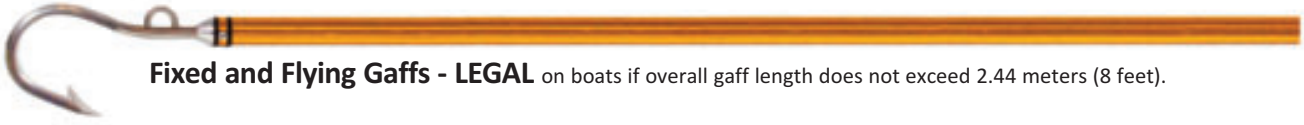


LEGAL as both hooks are firmly imbedded or securely attached to bait. Would not be legal if eyes of hooks were more than 45.72 centimeters (18 inches) apart.

GAFFS



Flying Gaffs - LEGAL on boats if effective rope length does not exceed 9.15 meters (30 feet).

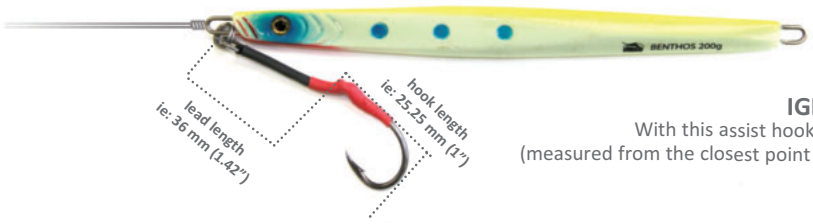


Fixed and Flying Gaffs - LEGAL on boats if overall gaff length does not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet).

Illustrated Guide to Equipment Regulations
Assist Hooks

Assist hooks are hooks that are attached to lures with leads typically constructed of multifilament, wire, monofilament or other similar material. Assist hooks have become wildly popular with vertical jigs and are also being increasingly used with plugs in place of traditional treble hooks.

Assist hooks or other such single hooks that are attached to a lure with a lead constructed of monofilament, multifilament, wire or other such material must conform to the following: When using assist hooks on any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure, the lead cannot be more than 1 ½ hook's length and the bend of the hook may not be more than 101 millimeters (4 inches), whichever is less, from the closest point of attachment on the lure. Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.



IGFA COMPLIANT:
With this assist hook, the lead is within 1 ½ hook's length
(measured from the closest point of attachment on the lure to the eye of the hook).



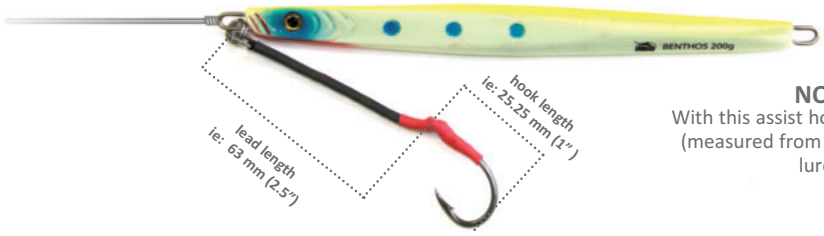
IGFA COMPLIANT:
Multiple assist hooks are allowed.
Double and treble hooks may not be used as assist hooks.

IGFA COMPLIANT:
Assist hook (or hooks) can be attached to either end of the lure.





ARTIFICIAL LURES:
Assist hooks can be used with any artificial lure, other than a skirted lure.



NOT IGFA COMPLIANT:
With this assist hook, the lead exceeds 1 ½ hook's length
(measured from the closest point of attachment on the lure to the eye of the hook).



NOT IGFA COMPLIANT:
With this assist hook, the bend of the hook is more than 101 millimeters (4 inches) from the closest point of attachment on the lure.

Total length to bend of hook
ie: 107 millimeters (4.25 inches) > 101 millimeters (4 inches)

International Flyfishing Rules

Equipment Regulations

A. Line

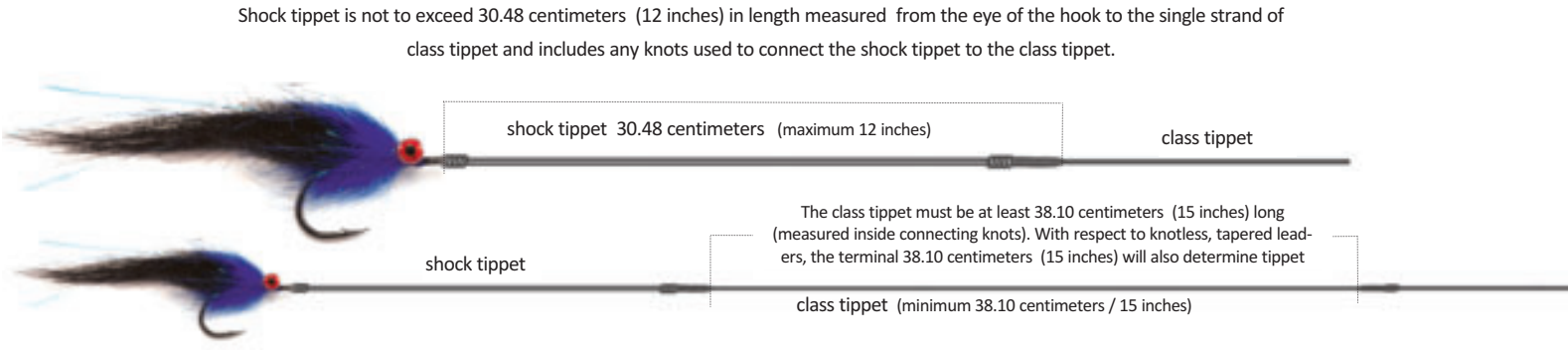
Any type of fly line and backing may be used. The breaking strength of the fly line and backing are not restricted.

B. Leader

Leaders must conform to generally accepted fly fishing customs. A leader includes a class tippet and, optionally, a shock tippet. A butt or taper section between the fly line and the class tippet shall also be considered part of the leader and there are no limits on its length, material, or strength. A class tippet must be made of nonmetallic material and either attached directly to the fly or to the shock tippet if one is used. The class tippet must be at least 38.10 centimeters (15 inches) long (measured inside connecting knots). With respect to knotless, tapered leaders, the terminal 38.10 centimeters (15 inches) will also determine tippet class. There is no maximum length limitation. A shock tippet, not to exceed 30.48 centimeters (12 inches) in length, may be added to the class tippet and tied to the fly. It can be made of any type of material, and there is no limit on its breaking strength. The shock tippet is measured from the eye of the hook to the single strand of class tippet and includes any knots used to connect the shock tippet to the class tippet. In the case of a tandem hook fly, the shock tippet shall be measured from the eye of the leading hook.

C. Rod

Regardless of material used or number of sections, rods must conform and cast according to generally accepted fly fishing customs and practices. A rod shall not measure less than 1.82 meters (6 feet) in overall length and any rod that gives the angler an unsporting advantage will be disqualified. Overall butt length (including any extensions) may not exceed 15.24 centimeters (6 inches) when measured from the center of the reel foot to the end of the butt. Overall butt length for two-handed or spey rods longer than 3.35 meters (11 feet) may not exceed 25.4 centimeters (10 inches) when measured from the center of the reel foot to the end of the butt.



D. Reel

The reel must be designed expressly for fly fishing. There are no restrictions on gear ratio or type of drag employed except where the angler would gain an unfair advantage. Electric or electronically operated reels are prohibited.

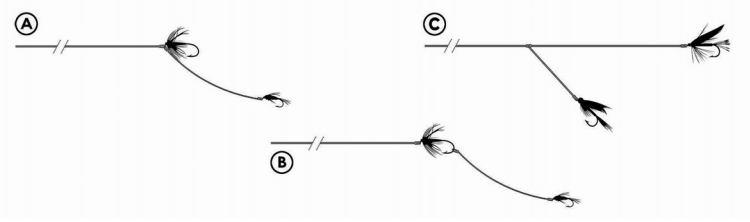
E. Hooks

A conventional fly may be dressed on a single or double hook or two single hooks in tandem. The second hook in any tandem fly must not extend beyond the wing material. The eyes of the hooks shall be no farther than 15.24 centimeters (6 inches) apart. Treble hooks are prohibited.

F. Flies

The fly must be a recognized type of artificial fly, which includes streamer, bucktail, tube fly, wet fly, dry fly, nymph, popper and bug. The use of any other type of lure or natural or preserved bait, either singularly or attached to the fly, is expressly prohibited. Only a single fly is allowed with the exception of dropper flies that may be used only in the circumstances described below.

Dropper flies are permissible only for fishing for Salmonid species (e.g., trout, grayling, salmon, etc.) under the following configuration:



1. Dropper flies may consist of no more than two flies fished in tandem that are surface flies, subsurface flies or a combination of the two.
2. The material connecting the two flies must be equal to or less than the breaking strength of the class tippet material connecting the lead fly to the fly leader.
3. Catches will be categorized by the breaking strength of the class tippet preceding the lead fly, no matter which fly the fish is caught on.

The fact that a lure can be cast with a fly rod is not evidence in itself that it fits the definition of a fly. The use of any fly designed to entangle or foul hook a fish is prohibited. No scent, either natural or artificial, is allowed on flies. The use of scented material in a fly is prohibited

G. Gaffs and Nets

Gaffs and nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet) in overall length. This limitation does not apply when fishing from a bridge, pier or other high stationary structure. The use of a flying gaff is not permitted. Only a single hook is permitted on any gaff. Harpoons or lances are prohibited. A rope or any extension cannot be attached to the gaff.

Angling Regulations

1. The angler must cast, hook, fight, and bring the fish to gaff or net unaided by any other person. No other person may touch any part of the tackle during the playing of the fish or give aid other than taking the leader for gaffing or netting purposes. Anyone assisting a shore-bound or wading angler must be within a rods length of the angler before touching the leader or netting or gaffing the fish.

2. Casting and retrieving must be carried out in accordance with normal customs and generally accepted practices. The major criterion in casting is that the weight of the line must carry the fly rather than the weight of the fly carrying the line. Trolling a fly behind a moving water craft is not permitted. The craft must be completely out of gear both at the time the fly is presented to the fish and during the retrieve. The maximum amount of line that can be stripped off the reel is 36.75 meters (120 feet) from the fly.

3. Once a fish is hooked, the tackle may not be altered in any way, with the exception of adding an extension butt. A harness cannot be attached to the fly rod.

4. Fish must be hooked on the fly in use. If a small fish takes the fly and a larger fish swallows the smaller fish, the catch will be disallowed.

5. One or more people may assist in gaffing or netting the fish.

6. The angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is weighed.

The following acts will disqualify a catch:

1. Failure to comply with equipment or angling regulations.

2. The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line either bodily or with any device during the playing of the fish, 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 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 on any part of the boat, or on 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. Intentionally foul hooking or snagging a fish.

6. Shooting, harpooning, or lancing any fish (including sharks and halibut) at any stage of the catch.

7. Chumming with the flesh, blood, skin, or any part of mammals.

8. 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.

9. Attaching the angler's line or leader to part of a boat or other object for the purpose of holding or lifting the fish.

10. If a fish escapes before gaffing or netting and is recaptured by any method other than as outlined in the angling rules.

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

12. When a fish is hooked or entangled on more than one line.

13. Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals, or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh. Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries. Any mutilation on the fish must be shown in a photograph and fully explained in a report accompanying the record application.

14. Holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish or takes pressure off of the angler. Touching or briefly holding the angler to prevent them from falling does not constitute a disqualification.

All-Tackle Length Category Rules

Catch-and-Release Only

General Information

All fish entered for All-Tackle Length World Records must be measured by anglers at the site of capture and released so that they swim away on their own and in good condition. Fish should be revived by moving them forward in the water to ensure a healthy release. Fish caught and entered for length records are not eligible for weighing and submission for other record categories.

Rules and Equipment Regulations

All IGFA rules and equipment regulations stipulated for fishing with conventional and fly tackle in fresh and saltwater shall apply with the exceptions below. All angling and equipment regulations shall apply until the fish is measured and released alive.

A. Gaffs and nets

1. The use of gaffs to land fish is prohibited.

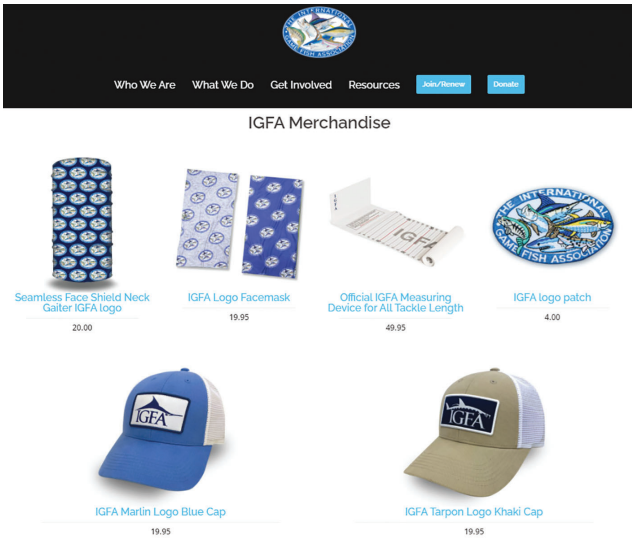
2. Nets used to boat or land a fish must not exceed 2.44 meters (8 feet) in overall length. When fishing from a bridge, pier or other high stationary structure, this length limitation does not apply.

3. The use of knotless, rubber coated nets or other similarly designed nets that minimize slime and scale removal is strongly recommended.

B. Measuring device

1. All fish must be measured using the official IGFA measuring device.

2. The measuring device mat may be shortened by cutting it, but it may not be rejoined after it has been shortened.



Angling Regulations

The following acts will disqualify a catch:

1. Failure to comply with IGFA equipment or angling rules.

2. If the fish dies during the documentation process, or does not swim away on its accord after release.

Length Record Requirements

All fish entered for All-Tackle Length World Records are subject to the same requirements stipulated for other record categories with the following additions and exceptions. Species eligible for All-Tackle Length World Records may be found in the *World Record Game Fishes* book or online at **www.igfa.org**.

A. Measuring requirements

1. Fish must be measured using the official IGFA measuring device on a flat surface.

2. The fish's snout must be touching the nose stop and free of lures or lifting devices.

3. With the fish lying on top of the measuring device, measurements must be taken from the most forward part of the fish's snout to the rear center edge of the tail.

4. All measurements must be made in centimeters.

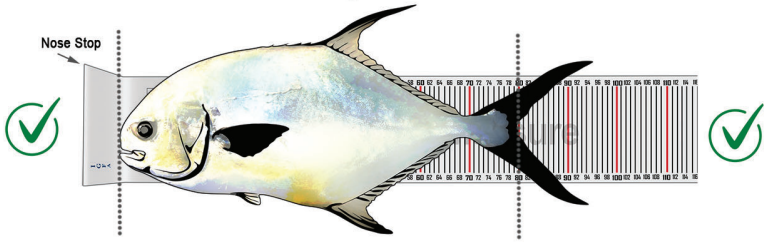
5. Fish that measure between centimeter increments shall be recorded at the lower of the two increments. For example, a fish that measures between 45 and 46 centimeters will have a recorded length of 45 centimeters.

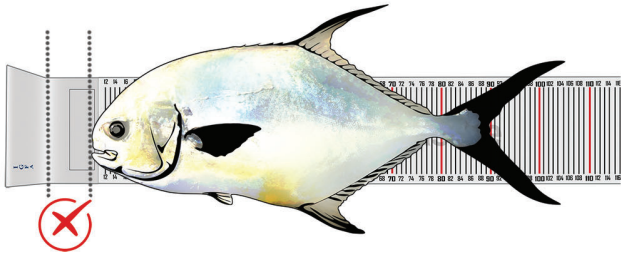


Order your IGFA Official Measuring Device at
igfa.org/merchandise

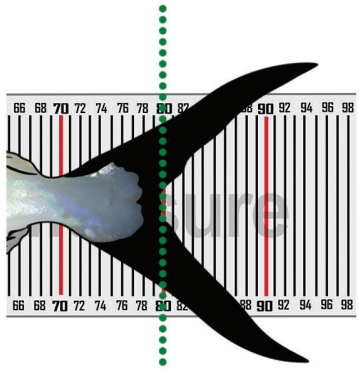
With the fish lying on top of the measuring device, measurements must be taken from the most forward part of the fish's snout to the **rear center edge** of the tail.

The fish's snout **must be touching** the nose stop and free of hands, flies or lifting devices.

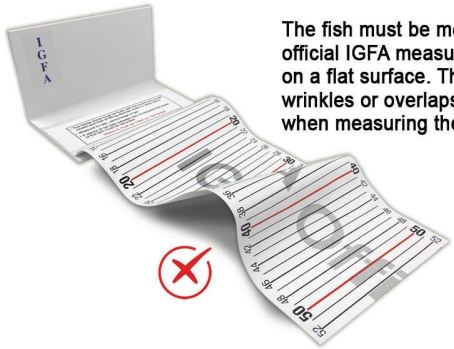




The fish's snout **is not** touching the nose stop.



All measurements must be made in centimeters. Fish that measure between centimeter increments shall be recorded at the lower of the two increments.For example, a fish that measures between 79 and 80 centimeters will have a recorded length of 79 centimeters.



The fish must be measured using the official IGFA measuring device on a flat surface. There must be no wrinkles or overlaps in the device when measuring the permit.

B. Minimum length requirements for vacant records

Fish entered for vacant record categories must measure within the top half of that species maximum recorded length.

C. Minimum length requirements needed to defeat or tie existing records

1. To defeat an existing record, the fish must measure at least two (2) centimeters longer than the existing record.

2. A catch that matches the length of an existing record or exceeds the length by less than two centimeters will be considered a tie. In the case of a tie claim involving more than two catches, length must be compared with the original record (first fish to be caught). Nothing measuring less than the original record (first fish to be caught) will be considered.

D. Photographic requirements

Photographs included with applications must contain the following:

1. The full length of the fish on the measuring device clearly showing the position of the mouth and tail. The fish may be held in position, but must be done in a manner that does not obscure the view of the fish on the tape.

2. A close up showing the position of the fish's nose and tail on the measuring device.

3. The angler with the fish.

4. The rod and reel used to make the catch.

General Best Handling Practices

To remove your fish from the water to document it for record purposes, anglers should use either hands or a knotless, rubberized landing net to minimize slime and scale loss. Lip gripping devices may be used to help subdue fish. However, large fish should not be hoisted vertically out of the water, as this can cause damage to jaw muscle and bone as well as to internal organs. The best method for removing fish from the water by hand is to grip the fish or the lower jaw and support the fish's underside. Again, the point is always to hold fish horizontally and not vertically.

Documentation

IGFA World Records require pictures and measurement and/or weighing of the catch. All of this takes time, so you should have the necessary equipment ready before landing the fish. If the documentation process takes longer than a minute, periodically place the fish back in the water or place in a live well to allow it to breathe.

Releasing

Considerable care should be exercised when releasing fish. Fish should be placed in the water and held by the base of the tail. If the fish does not swim away from your grasp on its own, gently move it forward in the water to get water flowing over the gills. For best results, move the fish in the forward direction only instead of back and forth. Moving the fish in a slow circle or gently towing it behind the boat will help water flow over the gills in the correct direction.

All Tackle Length Eligible Species

Saltwater

Albacore	*Thunnus alalunga*	
Amberjack, greater	*Seriola dumerili*	
Bass, black sea	*Centropristis striata*	
Bass, European	*Dicentrarchuslabrax*	
Bass, kelp (calico)	*Paralabrax clathratus*	
Bass, striped	*Morone saxatilis*	
Bluefish	*Pomatomus saltatrix*	
Bonefish, Atlantic	*Albula spp.*	
Bonefish, Pacific	*Albula spp.*	
Bonito, Atlantic	*Sarda sard*	
Bonito, Pacific	*Sarda spp*	
Cobia	*Rachycentron canadum*	
Corbina, California	*Minticirrhus undulatus*	
Dentex	*Dentex dentex*	42 cm (vacant)
Drum, black	*Pogonias cromis*	
Drum, red	*Sciaenops ocellatus*	
Grouper, black	*Mycteroperca bonaci*	
Grouper, gag	*Mycteroperca microlepis*	
Grouper, red	*Epinephelus morio*	
Halibut, California	*Paralichthys californicus*	
Jack, almaco	*Seriola rivoliana*	
Jack, crevalle	*Caranx hippos*	
Jack, horse-eye	*Caranx latus*	
Jack, Pacific crevalle	*Caranx caninus*	
Kahawai (Australian salmon)	*Arripis trutta*	
Kawakawa	*Euthynnus affinis*	
Ladyfish	*Elops spp.*	
Leerfish (Garrick)	*Lichia amia*	
Mackerel, cero	*Scomberomorous regalis*	
Mackerel, narrowbarred	*Scomberomorus commerson*	
Mackerel, Pacific sierra	*Scomberomorus sierra*	
Mackerel, Spanish	*Scomberomorus maculatus*	
Madai	*Pagellus bogaraveo*	
Meagre	*Argyrosomus spp.*	
Permit	*Trachinotus falcatus*	
Pollock	*Pollachius virens*	
Pompano, African	*Alectis ciliaris*	
Pompano, Florida	*Trachinotus carolinus*	
Queenfish, talang	*Scomberoides commersonianus*	60 cm (vacant)
Rockfish, black/blue	*Sebastes melanops*	
Roosterfish	*Nematistius pectoralis*	
Samson fish	*Seriola hippos*	
Seabass, blackfin	*Lateolabrax latus*	
Seabass, Japanese (suzuki)	*Lateolabrax japonicus*	
Seabass, white	*Atractoscion nobilis*	
Seatrout, spotted	*Cynoscion nebulosus*	
Shark, bonnethead	*Sphyrna tiburo*	
Skipjack, black	*Euthynnus lineatus*	
Snapper (squirefish)	*Pagrus auratus*	
Snapper, cubera	*Lutjanus cyanopterus*	
Snapper, gray	*Lutjanus griseus*	
Snapper, African red	*Lutjanus agennes*	
Snapper, mullet	*Lutjanus aratus*	
Snapper, mutton	*Lutjanus analis*	
Snapper, Pacific cubera	*Lutjanus novemfasciatus*	
Snapper, red	*Lutjanus campechanus*	
Snapper, yellowtail	*Ocyurus chrysurus*	
Snook, Atlantic	*Centropomus spp.*	
Snook, Pacific	*Centropomus spp.*	
Tarpon, oxeye	*Megalops cyprinoides*	75 cm (vacant)
Threadfin, giant African	*Polydactylus quadrifilis*	100 cm (vacant)
Threadfin, king	*Polydactylus macrochir*	
Trevally, bigeye	*Caranx sexfasciatus*	
Trevally, bluefin	*Caranx melampygus*	
Trevally, giant	*Caranx ignobilis*	
Trevally, golden	*Gnathanodon speciosus*	
Tripletail	*Lobotes surinamensis*	
Tuna, blackfin	*Thunnus atlanticus*	
Tuna, longtail	*Thunnus tonggol*	
Tuna, skipjack	*Katsuwonus pelamis*	
Tunny, little	*Euthynnus alletteratus*	
Weakfish	*Cynoscion regalis*	48 cm (vacant)
Yellowtail, California	*Seriola lalandi dorsalis*	
Yellowtail, southern	*Seriola lalandi*	

Freshwater

Arawana	*Osteoglossum bicirrhosum*	
Asp	Leusciscus aspius	
Barramundi	*Lates calcarifer*	
Bass, Australian	*Macquaria novemaculeata*	
Bass, largemouth	*Micropterus salmoides*	
Bass, smallmouth	*Micropterus dolomieu*	
Bass, striped (landlocked)	*Morone saxatilis*	
Bass, white	*Morone chrysops*	
Bass, whiterock	*Morone saxatilis M. chrysops*	
Bluegill	*Lepomis macrochirus1*	
Bowfin	*Amia calva*	
Carp, common	*Cyprinus carpio*	
Carp, grass	*Ctenopharyngodon idella*	
Catfish, blue	*Ictalurus furcatus*	
Catfish, channel	*Ictalurus punctatus*	
Catfish, redtail (pirarara)	*Phractocephalus hemioliopterus*	
Catfish, sharptooth	*Clarias gariepinus*	85 cm (vacant)
Char, Arctic	*Salvelinus alpinus*	
Crappie, black	*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*	
Crappie, white	*Pomoxis annularis*	
Dolly varden	*Salvelinus malma*	
Dorado	*Salminus maxillosus*	
Gar, Florida	*Lepisosteus platyrhincus*	
Gar, shortnose	*Lepisosteus platostomus*	
Grayling	*Thymallus thymallus*	
Grayling, Arctic	*Thymallus arcticus*	
Kokanee	*Oncorhynchus nerka*	
Muskellunge	*Esox masquinongy*	
Nembwe	*Serranochromis robustus*	27 cm (vacant)
Oscar	*Astronotus ocellatus*	
Payara	*Hydrolicus scomberoides*	
Peacock, blackstriped	*Cichla intermedia*	26 cm (vacant)
Peacock, butterfly	*Cichla ocellaris*	
Peacock, Orinoco	*Cichla orinocensis*	
Peacock, speckled	*Cichla temensis*	
Perch, European	*Perca fluviatilis*	
Perch, Nile	*Lates niloticus*	
Perch, white	*Morone Americana*	
Perch, yellow	*Perca flavescens*	
Pickerel, chain	*Esox niger*	
Pike, northern	*Esox lucius*	
Salmon, Atlantic	*Salmo salar*	
Salmon, Atlantic (landlocked)	*Salmo salar*	
Salmon, chinook	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	
Salmon, chum	*Oncorhynchus keta*	
Salmon, coho	*Oncorhynchus kisutch*	
Salmon, pink	*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*	
Salmon, sockeye	*Oncorhynchus nerka*	
Shad, American	*Alosa sapidissima*	
Snakehead	*Channa spp.*	
Snapper, Papuan black	*Lutjanus goldiei*	
Sorubim	*Pseudoplatystoma spp.*	
Taimen	*Hucho taimen*	
Tigerfish	*Hydrocynus vittatus*	
Tigerfish, giant	*Hydrocynus goliath*	64 cm (vacant)
Trahira	*Trahira spp.*	
Trout, brook	*Salvelinus fontinalis*	
Trout, brown	*Salmo trutta*	
Trout, bull	*Salvelinus confluentus*	
Trout, cutthroat	*Oncorhynchus clarki*	
Trout, golden	*Oncorhynchusa guabonita*	
Trout, lake	*Salvelinus namaycush*	
Trout, rainbow	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*	