

Rules and Regulations – 29th Annual Greater Niagara Fish Odyssey

Date: Saturday, September 17, 2005 through Sunday, September 25, 2005

Time: Fishing to begin at 6 a.m. Saturday (9-17-05); ending at 1 p.m. Sunday (9-25-05). Please note that all weigh stations will close at 8 p.m. on Saturday night (9-24-05). The official weigh station on Sunday will be at the New York Power Authority's Visitors Center, Lewiston Rd., Lewiston in conjunction with their Wildlife Festival from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Awards will follow at 4 p.m.

Location: Only fish caught in the U.S. and Canadian waters of Lake Ontario and its tributaries including the Niagara River, with the eastern most boundary being the Orleans-Monroe county border and an imaginary line extending north to the Canadian shore; also the U.S. and Canadian waters of Lake Erie and its tributaries (including the Niagara River) with the western-most boundary being the NY-PA border. From that point, the boundary will be a straight line that extends across the lake to Long Point, Ontario Canada. Fishing from shore can only take place from the counties of Erie, Niagara and Orleans counties. Only fish taken from these waters, along with the public waters of Erie, Niagara and Orleans counties, will be eligible. All trout and salmon entered must be a minimum weight of 10 pounds in the Adult Division. The minimum is five pounds in the Junior Division. Bass must be at least 12 inches long.

Weigh Stations: Weigh stations will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. from September 17 to 24. Fish may not be weighed prior to 9 a.m. or after 8 p.m. Only one weigh station will be open on Sunday, located at the Wildlife Festival, NYPA.

Entry Fees: Adult is \$20. A one-day pass is available for \$10. Kids 15 and under can register in the junior division for free. Young anglers between 12 and 16 are eligible to fish the adult division by paying the \$20 entry fee. However, once registered in the adult division, they can no longer compete for youth prizes.

Registration: To become a contestant and participate in the 29th Annual Greater Niagara Fish Odyssey, and in order to be qualified and compete for derby prizes, each person must be properly registered and possess an official derby registration. **Each derby contestant must carry his or her official derby registration at all times in the angling competition and it must bear the personal signature of the derby contestant, as well as the signature of a recognized derby agent.** Derby registrations are not transferable; they must be presented on each occasion a fish is offered at the weigh stations. One or more fish may be offered by a derby contestant using the official registration. Any contestant, when claiming a derby prize, must present his or her derby registration as proof of identity.

A) To register by mail: All entries must be received at the address stated below by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 9th to allow for adequate mail time and processing. After September 9th, please register in person (see next section) or enter on the website at www.FishOdyssey.net. Send check or money orders (U.S. funds only) payable to: **Newfane Business Assn.** Be sure to enclose a \$20 registration fee for each adult to be registered. Young anglers below 16 years of age are free but still must be registered. Youngsters between 12 and 15 years of age may register as an adult by paying \$20 (U.S. Funds only!), but they are no longer eligible for junior prizes. Each person must have their own derby registration, complete with name, address, phone number and which division they intend to fish appropriately marked. Mail registrations to: **Greater Niagara Fish Odyssey, PO Box 174, Newfane, NY 14108**

B) To register in person: There are numerous locations throughout WNY to register in person, including any weigh station for the event starting September 1, 2005. You can register the same day if registration takes place before 7 a.m. One-day tickets are available for \$10; the entire derby ticket for an adult is \$20. You may also register on line at www.FishOdyssey.net

Prizes: All prizes will be issued on Derby awards night. The awards presentation will be held on Sunday, September 25th at the New York Power Authority Wildlife Festival starting at 4 p.m. in Lewiston at their Visitors Center. Announced winning contestants must be present and show proper identification, along with their official derby registration, at the derby awards night. All first place winners must be present at the awards ceremony (adult division) for possible polygraph testing by 3 p.m., along with their corroborating witnesses. You must be present at the awards ceremony for random door prize drawings. Contestants are encouraged to release all fish not in contention unless for personal use. The Greater Niagara Fish Odyssey is intended to stimulate recreational fishing and business activities in WNY.

1. Each Derby contestant through registration in said derby agrees to abide by the derby rules and regulations. Failure to conform and observe these rules will result in automatic disqualification of that contestant and the forfeiture of all prizes and recognition as a prize winner. This derby reserves the right to deny entry to anyone. Any person who knowingly attempts to deceive or defraud the derby may be barred from future participation. It may lead to being banned from other fishing competitions on the lake. Further action of a legal nature may be taken should it be warranted.
2. Each contestant, upon registering to compete in the Greater Niagara Fish Odyssey, agrees to hold the sponsors, their agents or employees harmless from any liability of any nature and kind for any injuries and/or damages suffered by the entrants during the period the derby is held.
3. All eligible fish that are entered at the weigh station will become the property of the derby committee until released by the derby committee. A Derby weighmaster will not weigh/enter fish of an immediate relative.
4. All fish entered in the derby must be freshly caught on hook and line and retrieved by rod and reel. Bowfishing is not an eligible means for taking carp. These fish must be caught in the mouth, only in a legal

- angling manner as designated under laws set forth by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (Article 11-0103) or Province of Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources. **Snagging, snatching or lifting in any way, whether from vessel (boat) or land, or altering these fish in any way to increase weight, will automatically disqualify any registered contestant and their accomplices.** A registered contestant who brings a fish to the weigh station should examine it very carefully. Any fish that has cuts, wounds, punctures, gaff marks or gill net marks anywhere on said fish, except lamprey marks, will render such fish ineligible. Additionally, the derby judges may, in their sole discretion, disqualify the contestant for the remainder of the derby. Further, any previous fish entered by said contestant will be removed from the derby and disqualified for all prizes and recognition as a prizewinner. All fish entered must be whole and not gutted.
5. All fish entered will have their gill plate hole-punched for weigh-in identification and may be subjected to an internal probe and scanning if questionable.
 6. All fish must be entered at a weigh station within 24 hours of being caught. Each participant entering an eligible fish, and his or her witness, must complete a detailed form at the weigh station to the satisfaction of the derby committee. **Any person (contestant) who offers a Grand Prize or Division winning fish and all affirming witnesses must be willing to submit to and pass a polygraph (lie detector or voice stress test) examination. Witnesses must be at least 12 years of age. The Derby committee reserves the right to conduct polygraph testing at 3 p.m. at the NYPA Wildlife Festival. All first place winners should be in attendance at this time. Said contestant and affirming witnesses failing to be present could result in the forfeiture of all prizes and recognition as a prize winner.**
 7. All persons aboard the same vessel (boat) must be registered in the derby and are subject to being checked for same. In the event there are persons on board a boat who are not registered contestants (regardless of whether they are angling or not), all fish caught during that particular outing may not be offered or considered for derby prizes. A witness for a contestant must be present at the time the fish is caught. If fishing from a boat, the witness must be present on the boat the fish was caught from.
 8. In order to discourage angling alone, and also to affirm the integrity of the catch of each fish offered in the derby, there must be a registered witness to each catch whether the catch is from shore or boat. That witness must be present when the fish is caught. A supporting affidavit may be required from all other registered contestants on board a boat at the time a prize winning fish is caught and the said affidavit must affirm the integrity of the catch and also that no unregistered person was on board at the time of the catch and that no unregistered person handled the fishing tackle or line prior to the strike, and on through until the fish was boated or landed. Witnesses for a catch must be at least 12 years of age in the adult division. Junior Division anglers can use any registered angler as a witness.
 9. Eligible fish may be offered at a derby weigh station in these categories: Adult Division – salmon; rainbow/steelhead trout; brown trout; walleye; smallmouth bass; carp. In the Junior Division, categories will be salmon, rainbow/brown trout; largemouth/smallmouth bass; panfish; carp; walleye, a total of six categories. **Winning fish will be determined by the weight of the fish. In the event the weight is equal, the earliest entry will determine the winner. The decision of the judges is final and not reviewable.**
 10. **Adult Division Contestants** may not win more than one of the following prize categories: Grand Prize or Divisional Prizes but are eligible for door or special prizes. Awards night door prizes are selected randomly, whether a fish is caught or not. Junior Division contestants are eligible for only one Junior Division prize and are not eligible for adult prizes. A youth 12 years of age or older may register in the Adult Division by paying the registration fee, but they are no longer eligible for Junior Division prizes.
 11. **Contestant agrees to submit all disputes to the Derby Committee within 24 hours of the fish being entered. Fish disputed the final 24 hours of the derby must be reported by 3 p.m. the final day of the competition. Any disputes among contestants or derby official regarding eligibility, acceptability or weight measurement of an official fish at the weigh stations will and shall be resolved by the judgement and ruling of the Derby Committee. Disputes not brought to the derby within 24 hours may be dismissed. A decision by the derby officials will be final.**
 12. **Grand Prize Classic Challenge:** In an effort to add some excitement with the Fish Odyssey, a special Grand Prize Challenge will be held on awards night. Instead of the largest fish overall winning the Grand Prize, the first place anglers in each of the specie categories will be placed into a container and randomly selected for Grand Prize consideration. For the category selected, each place will then move up one slot in the ranking.
 13. **Eligible anglers:** There are no limitations on who can compete in the Fish Odyssey. However, anyone under 12 years old may only register as a Junior; 12 to 15 year olds have the option of registering as a Junior or Adult. Only one division may be entered. If 16 years of age or older, you must be registered in the adult division and carry a valid angling license in the waters you intend to fish, abiding by the rules and regulations for those waters.
 14. **All contestants agree to the use of their name and/or photograph in any advertising or promotion associated with this derby without compensation or notification.**
- For further information contact the Greater Niagara Fish Odyssey at PO Box 174, Newfane, NY 14108 or call 282-8992 Ext. 303. The website is also a good source of info at www.fishodyssey.net.