

# FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE LA PECHE SPORTIVE EN MER

**F.I.P.S -M**

**A.s.b.l – Association sans but lucratif**

Registre de Commerce et des Sociétés Luxembourg F7236



## **BIG GAME RULES**

**English**

(Version 2024)

## Table of contents:

<b>A. General Guidelines for fishing by trolling, from anchored boat and from drifting boat .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1. Generalities .....	3
2. Guidelines for Big Game Competitions .....	3
3. Teams - Participation conditions .....	4
4. Stewards .....	4
5. Guidelines for the boats .....	5
6. Measuring stick .....	6
7. Competition Duration .....	7
8. Bait .....	7
9. Draw of the boats .....	8
10. Daily and final classification .....	8
11. Complaints .....	9
<b>B. Fishing by Trolling .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>C. Fishing from anchored boat.....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>D. Fishing from drifting boat.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>E. Specific requirement for Big Game equipment .....</b>	<b>12</b>
1. The rod .....	12
2. The reel .....	12
3. Main fishing line.....	13
4. Backing line .....	13
5. Double line .....	13
6. Leader .....	13
7. Hooks .....	13
8. Safety line.....	14
9. Rod holder.....	14
10. Rod belt.....	14
11. Harness .....	14
12. Gimbals .....	15
13. Game-Chair .....	15
14. Teaser/Attractor for Big Game trolling .....	15
15. Outrigger, Center rigger and Downrigger for Big Game trolling .....	15
16. Spreader bars, kites, birds, floats, ... , and sinkers .....	15
17. Cases of disqualification (for a fish or for the scoring of the day) .....	16

**The General Rules also apply to Big Game Fishing**

# "Big Game" Rules

## A. General Guidelines for fishing by trolling, from anchored boat and from drifting boat

### 1. Generalities

- 1.1. Big Game competitions are fished to a catch & release guidelines. No fish will be taken on board or killed. The use of live bait is prohibited in all circumstances
- 1.2. Big Game Boat Angling to FIPS-M rules fishing with rod and reel for species present in local waters on both the surface and midwater.
- 1.3. Some bottom feeding species will not be considered in FIPS-M Big Game Competitions. There are separate competitions for these species which would include Conger and Rays.
- 1.4. Specifications will be prepared by the organizing nation taking into account the specific local conditions of the place where the event will take place.  
It will define the organization and running of the competition.  
The specifications must be submitted for approval to the board of FIPS-M at least 90 days before the competition. In case of dispute between FIPS-M rules and the specifications of the organizing nation, FIPS-M rules prevail.

### 2. Guidelines for Big Game Competitions

- Fishing by trolling (Offshore trolling and Coastal trolling) (6 rods)
  - Fishing from anchored boat (4 rods)
  - Fishing from drifting boat (4 rods)
- 2.1. Only national teams entered by the Member Federations of the FIPS-M have the right to participate in the World or Continental Championships.
  - 2.2. The organizer of an international competition cannot impose the exclusive use of a specific brand of line, rod, reel or lures to be used in the competition. The competitors are free to choose their material according to the rules and directives.
  - 2.3. The permitted breaking strain of line will be fixed by the host nation considering the species of fish caught in the area where the competition takes place. The breaking strain of the line must be mentioned in the specifications and the program of the competition.  
However, it may not exceed 37 kg (80 lbs) with a maximum tolerance of 5%.
  - 2.4. A maximum of four (4) rods and reels (for anchored and drifting competitions) or six (6) rods and reels (for trolling competitions) are allowed. No other rod, or reserve reel will be accepted on board. The skippers must remove all their own rods from the boat before departure.

- 2.5. The use of Panoptix, Minnkota or similar products is prohibited.
- 2.6. The lures can be artificial or natural or a combination of both.
- 2.7. Fishing areas
  1. The organizer determines the fishing areas.
  2. The zone may not be bigger than 150 square miles
  3. Throughout the duration of the competition a control boat must be in the fishing area to guaranty the Vhf communication with the international jury.

### **3. Teams - Participation conditions**

- 3.1. For technical reasons, the participation is limited to 2 teams per nation composed of 2 to 4 competitors (maximum of anglers/team given by the organizer) are allowed.  
It is forbidden for teams to have their own boats to participate in the FIPS-M championship.
- 3.2. The captain may be a member, reserve or companion of one team. He is the official representative of the team. If he is not registered as a Captain-Reserve, he cannot participate in the competition.  
The captain has the right to be on the boat with his teams.
- 3.3. If two teams participate in the contest, they will both be classified.
- 3.4. Only a classification by team will be made.
- 3.5. A registered team cannot be changed during the competition. However, should one of the team members, for major reasons (such as accident, illness, etc.), has to interrupt his or her participation, the planned Captain-Reserve may be admitted, provided a request is submitted to the international jury. All medical certificates and other documents concerning this change must be provided to the jury.  
The jury's decision to accept or reject this replacement is final.
- 3.6. All participants must be a member of their own national federation, they must be inscribed according to the rules by their respective nation. The general conditions of competition rules, (Chap. IV Art. 2.04) must be met.  
Member nations can be represented at FIPS-M international competitions by competitors having the nationality of that nation and who are members of their national federation.
  - Only one participant, having foreign nationality but residing more than five years in this country and participating in the national selections of this nation, is admitted to a national team. This foreign competitor must not be federated in his country of origin and participate in these national teams. In the case multiple nationalities, a competitor can only compete for one nation.
- 3.7. The minimum age of the competitors is 18 years

### **4. Stewards**

- 4.1. Role of the steward
  - On each competition boat an independent steward must be present throughout the competition times.  
The stewards on the boats are appointed by the host nation. The registered names and national qualifications have to be submitted to the jury before the start of the competition.

An observer from a non-hosting nation can be assigned by the Jury on the boats of the host nation.

- For the championships with anchored boats or drifting boats, the skipper can act as steward.
  - Observers cannot be team captains and must be independent
  - mark on the sheet the precise time of strike and release of each fish and the fisherman catching the fish.
  - At the end of the fishing day, the steward, accompanied by the captain or a member of the team, hands over immediately to the Jury the results sheet and the rods with the numbers that caught fish for the test of the main line.
  - If at the end of the competition's regular time a fisherman is still playing a fish, the steward must inform the competition management by radio.
- 4.2. Daily results will be noted on a scoring list. This list will be signed by the steward and the competitor.
- 4.3. The Chief Steward (on the Main Boat) must draw up a complete list (chronological report) with all the catch data reported by the stewards of all the competition boats.

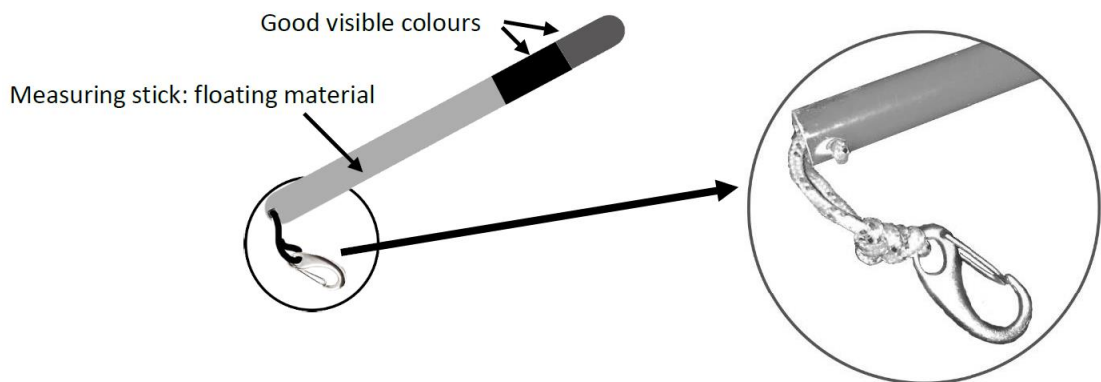
## 5. Guidelines for the boats

- 5.1. All boats should have identical equipment. They should have at least 6 rod-holders, 2 outriggers, 1 game-chairs and equipment for releasing the fish.  
For “stand up” competitions no game chair is needed.
- 5.2. All the boats must be equipped with a radio transmitter-receiver (VHF), a GPS, as well as a sign showing the boat identification letter.  
Boat equipment has to be in accordance with the nautical regulations. Lifesaving equipment must meet the rules of the country where the competition is held.
- 5.3. The captain may, at the request of the angler, freely manoeuvre the boat so as to quickly bring the fish near the boat in order to release it with a minimum of stress.
- 5.4. By trolling the boat must always be moving forward even if at very slow speed.
- 5.5. The competition management must notify the captains of the boats engaged in the competition to keep a minimum distance of 1/2 mile from the back or sides of the boat, which is retrieving a fish during drifting competitions  
When playing a fish this must be communicated by radio to all the other boats participating in the championship.  
With the approval of the skipper and the angler fighting with a fish, the commissioners' boat or the press boat may approach with caution at a reasonable distance to allow them to take pictures or to film.
- 5.6. Each team, must immediately inform the competition management per radio (VHF) about every bite, indicating:
- the number and name of the boat
  - the name (nation) of the team
  - the name of the fisherman fighting

- the number of the rod
  - the time of the bite
  - GPS position
  - the time of the release
  - fish species of the released fish
- 5.7. The competition management must immediately be informed when a boat stops fishing as well as about the time of arrival at the harbour.
- 5.8. If strong winds or a storm the jury alone has the right to cancel an event. However, he may indicate alternative zones where fishing conditions are more favourable. In special cases, for instance in cases where people's life or the safety of boats is threatened, the jury has the right to suspend the competition. If an angler is fighting a fish, the line must be cut. Participants will be informed by radio about this decision. In this cases, each skipper has to confirm the receipt of the "Radio" call and announce the number of fish registered. The jury decides about the classification for this part of the competition.

## 6. Measuring stick

- 6.1. For minimum length verification, the organization must provide all boats with a measuring stick scale with color markings for individual species listed for the classification.
- 6.2. The measuring stick must be made of floating material and showing the adequate measures according to the fish present in the area. It must have different colours (clearly visible on the video) to establish the validity of the fish. On the top must be mounted a clip that allows to attach and drag the stick on the leader.



- 6.3. For safety reasons, measuring with a measuring stick is forbidden for all billfish. For these fishes points will be fixed by species. For other fish species, only the minimum length prescribed for scoring is measured. If they meet the minimum length, the points by species will be given. If they do not meet the minimum length, the released fish are awarded BONUS FISH. No points or bonus fish will be awarded to hooked fish that are not entered in the scoring list of fish.

## 7. Competition Duration

- 7.1. The start and end of the competition will be indicated by the organizer or the organizing nation. The duration of the contest and the special indications of the competition management have to be followed scrupulously. At the beginning of the fishing, the steward-boat must be positioned at least 5 miles in the fishing zone and must ensure that all participating boats are present before giving the start signal.
- 7.2. Once the competition is over, the rods must be removed from the railing of the boat. Any boat found after the finish time with a rod on the railing of the boat, whether the line is in the water or not, the team will be disqualified for that day (Last place +1). This eliminates any possibility of complaint from another competitor by considering the difficulty of judging at distance if a line is in the water or not.  
When the boat is running at high speed to return to the harbour, the rods can be put in the gunwales to avoid being damaged
- Exception:  
However, if an angler is still fighting a fish, which was hooked before the end of the competition, the continuation of the fight with the fish and the name of the angler has to be announced by radio.  
All the other lines must be taken immediately out of water, and removed from the railing of the boat. The Jury will establish and communicate by radio the time to complete the fight and to be added to the time needed to return to the harbour.
- 7.3. All boats except those provided for in the preceding article must arrive in the harbour within the time set by the competition management.  
The time must be calculated so that the slowest boat, in the middle of the fishing area, reaches the port on time.
- 7.4. Boats arriving after the time limit will not be considered for the rankings of the day.
- 7.5. Any boat that cannot return in time, because it follows a wrong route or for any other reasons must notify the competition management by radio.  
In case of a breakdown of a boat announced by the steward, the latter accompanied by the captain of the team, may be transferred on board of another boat. The boat which went for assistance will be credited for the time it lost, time certified by the stewards of the two boats. Only boats, which are unable to navigate or to move under their own power, are considered to have broken down.
- 7.6. It is not allowed to change the training date

## 8. Bait

- 8.1. The organizer of a CIPS - FIPS/M competition must ensure that natural baits of equal quality and quantity are available to each competitor during the official training and during the competition. The baits will be given by the organizer to the stewards who will distribute them on board of the boat.  
The use of baits not provided by the organizer will result in disqualification.  
This does not apply to artificial lures.
- 8.2. Provided baits can be used to attract fish.
- 8.3. Using any parts of mammals as bait or luring with blood of mammals is prohibited in all FIPS-M

disciplines.

## 9. Draw of the boats

At the captain's meeting the boats are drawn electronically.

1. Draw an identification number for every boat.
2. Draw of the teams on the boats.  
Teams change the boat daily in the numeric order of identification numbers according to the draw of the first boat.

The draw of the boats will be done using the FIPS-M program. In case of lack of Wi-Fi or other computer problems, the draw of the boats will be done according to the manual draw.

*Example: 8 boats and 4 fishing days (1 training day + 3 competition days)*

*If for instance a team will be for the training day on boat "5"*

*1<sup>st</sup> competition day -> boat "6"*

*2<sup>nd</sup> competition day -> boat "7"*

*3<sup>rd</sup> competition day -> boat "8"*

*If the training day is cancelled, this team will be nevertheless the first competition day on boat 6  
If the 1<sup>st</sup> competition day is cancelled, just the date will change (not the boat), the team will stay  
the next fishing day on boat 6*

## 10. Daily and final classification

- 10.1. The catches must be documented on a film including the release of the fish. The exact time of the release of each fish must be written on the score sheet. To guarantee the originality of the film, a capture of a distinctive panel, indicating the competition day and the date must be part of the film. The organizer distributes every day a new panel to all the boats.
- 10.2. Only the jury will watch the videos and according to the measures taken with the stick will make the validation decisions. In case of doubt, they can ask the advice of the captain of the team
- 10.3. Daily team classification is made according to the best score (number of points) made by each team.  
The place of the teams, that did not take fish, is calculated by taking the sum of the number of all remaining places divided by the number of teams without fish. (Number rounded up)

*For example: 20 registered teams. 14 teams caught fish.*

*The 6 teams without fish will all have the following place number:  $15 + 16 + 17 + 18 + 19 + 20 = 105/6 = 17.5 \rightarrow 18$ .*

- 10.4.
  - If there is a tie at the daily team classification, first will be the team with the most legal fish.
  - If there is still a tie, the number of the listed fish but not having the legal size.  
(= BONUS FISH)
  - If there is still a tie, the time of the release of the first fish will count.
  - After that the time of the release of the second fish ...
  - If after that there is still a tie, the teams get the same ranking place. The next place in the classification is not allocated.



#### 10.5. Final Team Ranking

If the competition lasts several days, the final classification of the event will be calculated by adding the daily places of the teams.

The team with the lowest sum of the daily places will be declared the winner.

If there is a tie in the final team classification, the best place obtained during the whole competition will decide the tie.

If afterwards there is still a tie, we consider for the classification:

1. the sum of points for all days of the competition
2. the largest number of legal size fish caught during all the days
3. captured the biggest (point value) during the championship
4. Number of undersized (listed) fish (= number of Bonus Fish)
5. the time of the release of the first fish; then the second fish ...
6. If after that there is still a tie, the teams get the same ranking place. The next place in the classification is not allocated.

## 11. Complaints

For Big Game Championships the following general rules are valid

1. An amount of 100. € or an equivalent amount in another currency in the money of the country is due for every written protest presented to the international jury.
2. The jury meets at the latest one hour after the announcement of the results and takes a decision after one hour of deliberations. The decision is binding for each one.
3. The decision must be recorded in writing, and shall be sent to the general secretary of FIPS/M.
4. The jury must listen attention to the person, who presented the protest, the persons concerned and the competition manager if possible.
5. The decision of the jury shall be in accordance to the statutes of FIPS/M, to the FIPS/M competition rules, and with the agreements made for the event, and in this indicated order.
6. If the jury gives its agreement to the protest, a member of the jury returns immediately the protest fee to the plaintiff. The management of the competition takes the necessary measures to correct the situation, or eventually makes the necessary corrections.
7. If the protest is judged negatively the jury shall transfer the amount of the protest fee to the account of FIPS/M in the CIPS.
8. The decision of the jury has to be proclaimed.
9. In exceptional circumstances when a dispute cannot be resolved by the jury, it will be up to the FIPS-M Board to decide on a sentence, which may go as far as disqualifying a team or even a nation. The pecuniary consequences of such a decision may not be at the charge of FIPS-M.
10. It is the same when a team leaves the competition without having issued protest in good

and due form to the Jury, the pecuniary consequences will be charged to the team or the nation it represents.

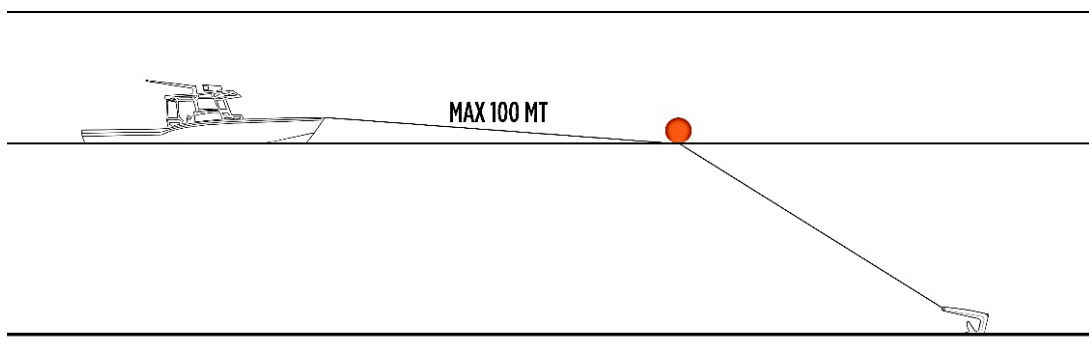
11. In that case the concerned federation cannot claim with the participation of a team the next year in the concerned discipline

## **B. Fishing by Trolling**

1. Two categories:
  - a. Offshore trolling beyond 12 miles from the coast
  - b. Coastal trolling maximum 12 miles from the coast
2. National teams can participate.
3. Only 6 rods, independently of the number of the anglers in the team, may be used during the fishing, inclusive of any teasers.  
During the fight with the fish, the other team members can continue to bait and catch the fish.

## **C. Fishing from anchored boat**

1. Definition of Anchoring Specifications of an anchor:
  - a. The anchor must be adapted to the weight of the boat and having an appropriated chain.
  - b. A rope made of natural or synthetic material measuring at least twice the length of the sensor line with a maximum length of 100m  
The rope must be an integral part of the ship's equipment



- c. A marker buoy (with boat name and home port with the possibility to attach a brightly coloured flag).
2. As soon as the anchor is dropped, the skipper must immediately announce per radio to the competition management:

- a. The time of dropping the anchor
  - b. It's GPS position
3. The distance of 1/2 mile is required between each fishing boat
4. During the competition it is allowed to change the anchorage place twice (2X), unless it interferes with another competitor and only upon request of the latter, it must change its position. If the anchor drags and the boat is drifting unintentionally, it must return to its initial anchoring place announced to the competition management. This manoeuvre will not be considered as a change of place.  
All position changes must be communicated by radio to the jury. The lost time will not be recovered.
5. The anchor will be lifted at the end of each fishing day.
6. Fish caught after the lifting of the anchorage will not be counted.
7. Only 4 rods, independently of the number of the anglers in the team, may be used during the fishing, inclusive of any pasturello.  
During the fight with the fish, the other team members can continue to bait and catch the fish.
8. During the fight with one or more fish the captain of the team may ask the skipper to leave the anchorage for the time necessary to retrieve, measure and release the fish.  
If there is another strike while the anchor is lifted the fish will not count.
9. The way to feed is free. If a boat is not equipped with an electrical device to prepare the feeding the team can use its own device under condition to have its own batteries.

## **D. Fishing from drifting boat**

1. Only 4 rods, independently of the number of the anglers in the team, may be used during the fishing, inclusive of any pasturello.  
During the fight with the fish, the other team members can continue to bait and catch the fish.
2. As soon as the boat has stopped, fishing will start. The skipper has to transmit following information to the competition management:
  - a. The time and the beginning of the fishing
  - b. The GPS position
3. Trolling or anchoring is forbidden during a drifting competition.  
If a boat during the fishing gets closer to another boat than ½ mile, the boat that arrived last on the fishing zone has to change position.  
At the request of the affected team, this manoeuvre has to be immediately executed. That does not apply if the boat is in fight with a fish.
4. Each boat must confirm that the lines have been removed from the water at the end of the competition day and its arrival at the harbour to the competition management.
5. During the fight with the fish, the other team members can continue to bait and catch the

fish.

6. The use of a sea anchor (drift anchor) is allowed for the purpose of reducing the drifting speed.
7. "Co-drifting" of two or more teams less than 1/4 mile apart is prohibited. Teams will be disqualified in the daily classification.
8. There are no restrictions on changing the place of drifting during the competition.
9. In case of drifting outside the fishing zone, the boat must immediately return to the defined zone. In the event of a fight with one or more fish, the fish may be retrieved, but all other rods must stop fishing immediately. (The chief steward will be informed).

## **E. Specific requirement for Big Game equipment**

### **1. The rod**

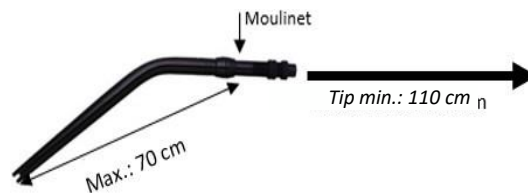
- 1.1. Big Game rods, having the following requirements, may be used at FIPS-M competitions. The minimum length of the tip of a big game fishing rod is 110 cm and the grip no longer than 70 cm (measured from the centre of the mounted reel to the end of the tip, as well astowards the end of the grip).

All rods must have a specific number, clearly visible on the video. This number is provided by the organizer.

Any use of rods that do not comply with the measurements or numbers will disqualify the catch of that rod.

Remark:

Curved butts have to be measured straight from the end to the point of the reel centre at the reel holder.



### **2. The reel**

Saltwater big game reels, constructed and designed for trolling and spinning, as long as complying with sportive and ethic conditions and fulfilling the following requirements maybe used at FIPS-M championships and tournaments

- 2.1. Only hand-operated reels are permitted, electronic motorised driven devices or hydraulic assisted reels or devices are not allowed for FIPS-M competitions.
- 2.2. Reels designed to be driven with ratchets are forbidden.
- 2.3. The handle to wind the angling line of a trolling or spinning reel, have to be operated by just one hand.

### **3. Main fishing line**

- 3.1. Materials such as monofilament or multifilament are accepted for main fishing lines.
- 3.2. The main angling lines for heavy tackle competitions require a breaking strength of 37 kg (80lb) or the maximum breaking strain applied by the host nation
- 3.3. The use of wire or monel as a main line is not allowed, if used it would result in disqualifying the daily catch.

### **4. Backing line**

There are no restrictions to the size, the breaking strength and the material of the backing line (metallic line not allowed).

### **5. Double line**

A double line if used, must follow the following specifications

- 5.1. Double lines must be part of the main fishing line and must have the same characteristics.
- 5.2. Any double line has to be measured from the knot or any attachment system with the main line to the furthest attachment point of the leader to the lure, the swivel, the hook or to another device.  
In the case that a team does not use the double line but only a junction knot, the total measurement (including the leader plus the knot) shall be 9 metres
- 5.3. For heavy tackle competitions, the double lines must not exceed 9 meters.
- 5.4. For heavy tackle competitions, the total length of the double line and the leader, the lure and the hook with bait must not exceed 12 meters.

### **6. Leader**

A leader with the following specifications is required.

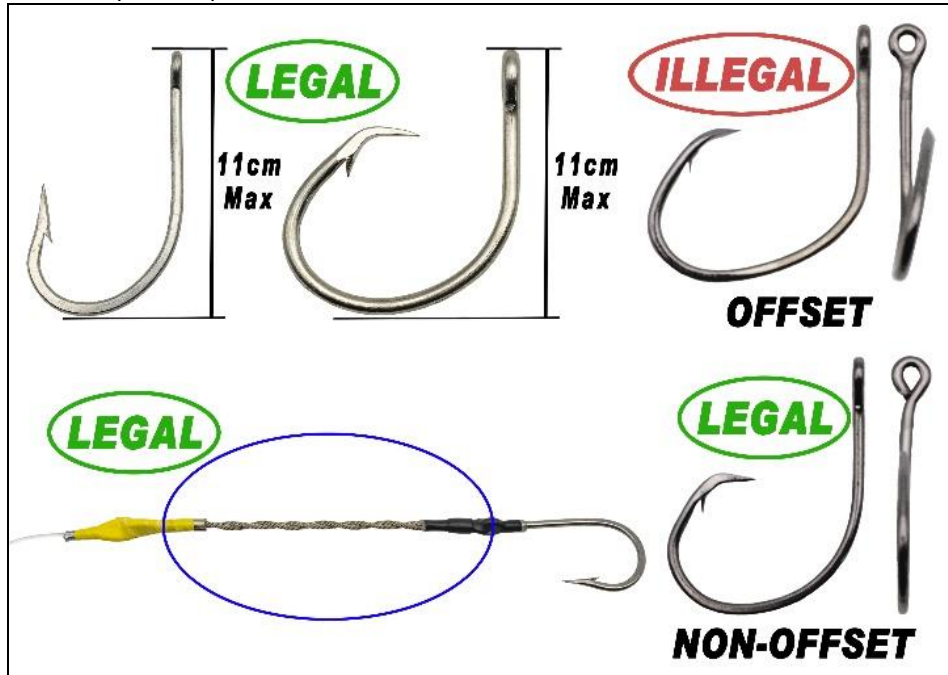
- 6.1. The length of the leader is a total length. It includes the length of the knots, the attached lure, the hook and the bait.
- 6.2. The leader has to be measured from the bend of the furthest hook, to the double line or junction to the main line.
- 6.3. For all categories, the length of the leader must not exceed 9 meters.
- 6.4. The strength/diameter is free; metallic line is not allowed as a leader

### **7. Hooks**

- 7.1. Only 1 hook is allowed for Big Game.
- 7.2. The single hook is attached at the main line or at the leader for fishing with baits.
- 7.3. The single hook can be used in combination with colourful skirts when fishing with bait.
- 7.4. In combination, the hook with natural bait must be a circular hook.  
For fishing with natural bait, the use of circular hooks (non offset) is mandatory.
- 7.5. The length of a single hook is limited to 11 cm for big game fishing. It is measured from the

upper part of the eye bow to the bend of the hook.

- 7.6. Any hooks used during a FIPS-M big game fishing competition must be made of corroding material (no inox).



## 8. Safety line

Safety lines may be used to secure complete rod. They can be attached to the reel or to the rod, as long as they give no advantage to the angler to fight a fish.

## 9. Rod holder

Big game boats must have at least 6 rod holders at the stern and at both sides of the boat. The rod holders may be used to position fishing rods, downriggers and other tackle.

## 10. Rod belt

Rod belts, with or without gimbals or in order to put the rod to the body are allowed to be used. They may be fixed while fighting with a fish by the angler himself or by any crew or team member. It allows to use the strength of the body to catch a fish.

## 11. Harness

- 11.1. A harness connected with the reel and rod can be used additionally to the belt.
- 11.2. A harness may be attached and adjusted by the angler himself or any member of the team or boat crew. This may be done while the angler winds already the line in to bring a fish to the boat.  
It allows to use the strength of the body to catch a fish.
- 11.3. It is not allowed to fasten the harness to the chair of the boat.

## **12. Gimbals**

- 12.1. Gimbals can be parts of rod belts or boat chairs.
- 12.2. Gimbals should be free in their vertical movements.
- 12.3. Gimbals will not be used to reduce stress or give respite to the fisherman while working with the strength of his body to bring the fish to the boat.

## **13. Game-Chair**

- 13.1. If required Game boats must be equipped with at least 1 game-chair.  
No game-chair is needed for standup competitions with anchored boats.
- 13.2. The angler has to strike a fish himself and has to take his rod out of the rod holder, to get the rod grip into one of the gimbals, either from his rod belt or into the gimbals mounted on the game-chair. Only he is allowed to take his rod to the boat chair.
- 13.3. While an angler is retrieving the line, the game-chair may be turned and positioned by any team or crew member.
- 13.4. Game-chairs must not have a back.

## **14. Teaser/Attractor for Big Game trolling**

- 14.1. The use of 1 teaser/attractor (bird) per fishing line is allowed. This teaser/attractor has to be located between the leader/attractor and double line or the main line. (The total lengths cf. paragraph E5 and E6 must be met)
- 14.2. The allowed teaser/attractor may not be advantageous to wind the fishing line with the fish.
- 14.3. Apart authorized fishing lines, two simple lines (rope) with teasers/attractors may be used by each team during trolling competition (eg dredge, daisy chain, birds, streapteaser).
- 14.4. It is forbidden to use teasers/attractors with hooks.

## **15. Outrigger, Center rigger and Downrigger for Big Game trolling**

- 15.1. A downrigger is a device used while fishing by trolling to place a bait or lure at different depths. If available, they may be used if they are equipped with a release clip.
- 15.2. If they are not part of the boat, personal downriggers may be used.
- 15.3. If an outrigger, centerrigger or downrigger is used, the fishing line has to be connected in a manner that a snap, a clip or another release devise, will immediately open if a fish pulls on that line.
- 15.4. Outriggers and centre rigger belonging to the standard equipment of game fishing boats. They may be used to get the trolled lines apart from each other.

## **16. Spreader bars, kites, balloons, birds, floats, ... , and sinkers**

- 16.1. Spreader bars are allowed for trolling, as long as they are equipped with an attachment and release devise for main fishing lines.
- 16.2. Kites and helium balloons or similar devices are not allowed in competition

- 16.3. «Birds» are allowed for trolling.
- 16.4. Floats, balloons or similar devices are forbidden for fishing from anchored or drifting boats, with the exception of when used to keep the bait at a specific depth and as long as they do not influence the swimming and fighting of a hooked fish.
- 16.5. For fishing from an anchored or drifting boat, sinkers may be used to keep the bait in a specific depth as long as they do not influence the swimming and fighting of a hooked fish.

## **17. Cases of disqualification (for a fish or for the scoring of the day)**

- 17.1. If a crew or a team member does not comply with rules or instructions or specifications, the catch on this day of the competition day will not be taken into consideration for the ranking.
- 17.2. If a crew or a team member or another person on the boat touches the rod, the reel, the main line or double line of an angler, while playing the fish it will not count for the classification.
- 17.3. If the main line is touched, before the leader has been touched with both hands by a team member, this fish will not count for the classification. (except to take off a balloon or a lead)
- 17.4. The angler is not allowed to take the mainline in his hand with the purpose to hold the fish in position or to pull the fish to the surface. In that case the fish will be disqualified.
- 17.5. It is not allowed to put the rod in a rod holder before the fish will be validated by another member of the team. In that case the fish will be disqualified.
- 17.6. It is forbidden to change the rod, to extend or reduce the length of a line while fighting a fish. In that case the team will be disqualified for that day (Last place +1).
- 17.7. The fish must be played with the main line to the boat. The main line must pass through the tip ring of the rod and any rigger clip. Fishes caught with the leader and double line, or just with the leader, will not count for scoring.
- 17.8. To reoxygenate the fish, it can be held with the hands, but under no circumstances it can be totally taken out of the water. In that case the fish will be disqualified.
- 17.9. It is forbidden to use tongs to hold fish by the mouth. The use of such instruments will lead to the disqualification of the day (= last place + 1)  
It is allowed to use all instruments that can facilitate the release and rapid removal of the hook.
- 17.10. If the fish is not clearly identified in the continuous video provided between validation (2 hands on the leader) and the release, it will not count.