

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District Department of the Environment



April 25, 2013

District Department of the Environment Snakehead Tournament Official Rules

The northern snakehead (*channa argus*) is a predatory species of freshwater fish native to China. First documented in U.S. waters in 2002, the snakehead is invasive and poses significant threats to native fish populations. Unfortunately, the snakehead has become established in District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia waterways, including the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and their tributaries. In an effort to stop the spread of this species and reduce its population, the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) is sponsoring a recreational snakehead fishing tournament, the goal of which is to remove from our waters as many snakeheads as possible. Offering a total of \$5,000.00 in prizes the tournament will run from June 11, 2013 to August 24, 2013 with a closing ceremony to be held the afternoon of August 24th at DDOE's Aquatic Resources Education Center located in Anacostia Park. For more information please contact DDOE at 202.535.2660 or visit us online at green.dc.gov.

I. OFFICIAL RULES

To participate in the tournament the following conditions shall be satisfied:

- Employees of the District of Columbia Government and their family members are not eligible to win prizes.
- Tournament shall be open to recreational anglers only.
- Neither size nor creel limits shall be in effect.
- Participants must be legal District anglers and present credentials at weigh-ins.
- Adult anglers will be registered upon submitting at least one fish for weigh-in.
- Youth and senior anglers must register when first fish is submitted for weigh-in.
- Resident youth anglers must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
- Non-resident youth anglers must be accompanied by a **licensed** parent or **licensed** legal guardian.
- Fish shall be captured in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction where captured.
- Dip nets that comply with District regulation 19 DCMR § 1502.3 shall be permitted in District waters.
- Fish measuring fewer than eight (8) inches shall be considered young-of-the-year, weighed collectively, and counted as one fish.
- Fish shall not be transported to weigh-ins alive and must be euthanized in a manner consistent with the laws of the jurisdiction where captured.
- Fish may be frozen but must be fully thawed at time of weigh-in.



- DDOE reserves the right to inspect or reject any entry.
- Fish submitted for weigh-in shall be conspicuously marked by DDOE.
- Unwanted or discarded fish left in DDOE’s possession shall be buried or disposed of by other legal means.
- Weigh-ins will take place June 29, July 27, and August 24 from 12 pm to 2 pm each day.
- Prizes for total weight and biggest fish by weight will be awarded at 3pm each weigh-in.
- Closing ceremony will be held on August 24 after the final weigh-in.
- Anglers shall only be eligible to receive one (1) grand prize to be awarded at the closing ceremony.
- Participants must be present to claim prizes.
- Winners or legal guardians must sign for prizes. **No exceptions.**
- Weigh-in and final ceremony will be held at the Aquatic Resources Education Center located in Anacostia Park.
- Rules may be subject to change.

II. DEFINITIONS

Resident – shall mean lives in the District of Columbia.

Non-resident – shall mean lives somewhere other than the District of Columbia.

Youth Angler - shall mean any angler age 15 or younger.

Adult Angler - shall mean any angler age 16 to age 64.

Senior Angler - shall mean any angler age 65 or older.

Licensed - shall mean possesses a current District of Columbia sport fishing license.

Recreational - shall mean non-commercial.

III. WEIGH-IN LOCATION

Location	Address
District Department of the Environment, Aquatic Resources Education Center	1900 Anacostia Dr., SE, Washington, DC 20019

IV. HELPFUL HINTS

- Because weigh-ins are approximately a month apart, preserve fish by freezing or packing in ice as time permits.
- Please note that fish must be fully thawed at time of weigh-in.
- To kill fish and preserve maximum fish weight, remove both gill arches.

V. PRIZES

Weigh-In Dates	Category	Prize
June 29 July 27 Aug 24	Biggest Fish (by weight)	\$130.00 in sporting merchandise (prizes to be announced prior to weigh-in date)
	Weight Total	\$130.00 in sporting merchandise (prizes to be announced prior to weigh-in date)

Final Ceremony – August 24, 2013	
Weight Total - Grand Prize	Yeti Tundra 35 Cooler; Calcutta Baitcasting Reel
Weight Total – Second Place	Yeti Roadie 20 Cooler; Penn Battle 4000 Spinning Reel
Number Total Grand – Grand Prize	Yeti Tundra 35 Cooler; Calcutta Baitcasting Reel
Number Total – Second Place	Yeti Roadie 20 Cooler; Penn Battle 4000 Spinning Reel

§ 8-103.03. Protection of aquatic life

- (a) While regulating against water pollution and except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, the Mayor shall protect aquatic animals and plants, and shall preserve and restore aquatic life in District waters for aesthetic enjoyment, for recreation, and for industry.
- (b) (1) The Mayor shall study the number and the well-being of aquatic plants and animals, and shall determine the need to license or otherwise limit fishing and other forms of hunting, sports or industry which take or destroy aquatic life or the aquatic habitat. The Mayor shall consider the economic impact upon the various segments of the public before establishing fees for licenses.
- (2) The Mayor may establish fishing seasons and other seasons for hunting, sports or industry, which take or destroy aquatic life or the aquatic habitat.
- (3) Revenues from licensing regulatory schemes under this section shall not be used for purposes other than the administration and management of the District's fisheries and wildlife resources. License fees paid by anglers and other users of these resources shall not be used for purposes other than the administration of the District's Fisheries and Wildlife Division.
- (c) The Mayor may enter into agreements with state and federal agencies to manage and protect aquatic life.
- (d) The Mayor may protect against aquatic life which creates a nuisance in the District