

Express Terms

Title 6 NYCRR Chapter 1, Subchapter 1 to establish a fishing tournament permit and reporting system.

New section 170.9 is added to read as follows:

170.9. Fishing Tournament Permits.

(a) Definitions.

For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

- (1) A *fishing tournament* is an organized competition among anglers or teams of anglers that is based on a measure of fishing success, such as the cumulative weight or length of targeted fish species; is operated on one day or a set of contiguous days; and has a minimum of 10 competitors.
- (2) A *fishing tournament director* is any person responsible for organizing or operating a fishing tournament.
- (3) *Black bass* shall mean largemouth bass and smallmouth bass.

(b) Fishing tournament permit and reporting requirements.

- (1) Fishing tournament directors shall apply for a fishing tournament permit on an online form provided by the department for each fishing tournament where black bass are the targeted species.
- (2) Permit applications must be received by the department no sooner than 365 days, and no later than 45 days, prior to the event.
- (3) The department shall issue to the applicant a decision in the form of a permit with conditions or, if applicable, a statement that the permit applied for has been denied, with an explanation for the denial, within 30 calendar days after receipt of the completed application.
- (4) Fishing tournament directors shall complete and submit an accurate report of tournament results on an online form provided by the department within 45 days of the conclusion of each permitted fishing tournament.

(c) No person shall organize or operate a fishing tournament conducted on or after January 1, 2025, where black bass are the targeted fish species without first obtaining a permit for that fishing tournament from the department, in accordance with this section.