

## Sage Lake Predator Fishing Tournament Proposal

A recent analysis of the 2019 fish sampling and survey of Sage Lake indicated an abundance of “rough fish” (longnose gar, yellow and brown bullhead, and bowfin) that are likely having a negative impact on panfish (pumpkinseed, bluegill, yellow perch) and other “sport fish” (largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike) populations. Removing some of these fish came as a recommendation from MDNR biologist Addie Dutton. In an effort to reach this goal, the Sage Lake Association Fishing Team is looking to host a fishing tournament to capture and ethically remove several species of “rough fish” from the lake.

### Proposed Tournament Date

- “Free Fishing Weekend” 2021 (date is TBD by the MDNR)
  - June 12-13
  - June 19-20

### Proposed Tournament Duration

- 40 hours
  - 7pm Friday - 11:00am Sunday (check in)
    - Allows for two nights of night fishing
    - Fishing team volunteers and/or sponsor volunteers available for multiple check-in times over the course of the tournament to check-in fish

### Targeted “Rough Fish” Species

- Longnose gar
- Bowfin
- Yellow and Brown bullhead
- Common carp\*
- Domesticated goldfish\*
- Freshwater drum\*

### Methods of Harvesting

- All approved techniques according to DNR’s fishing handbook
  - Hook and line
  - Bow
  - Spear

### Participation and Registration

- Participant Fee
  - Free - No entry fee
    - Incentivises participation
  - \$20 “Big Fish” buy-in for longnose gar, bowfin, and yellow/brown bullhead
  - Maximum **FOUR** individuals per team/entry
- Registration
  - Open registration window six weeks prior to tournament date
    - Sign-up through SLA website
    - Sign-up via email contact to Chris H.

- Same day
  - Promote via online and through social media
  - Physical flyers to be posted at sponsor and public locations

#### Cash Prizes/Entries

- Total prize money needed = \$1000
  - Graciously requesting full funding support from the SLA
  - Will also look to secure funds via donations or sponsorships to increase purse amounts
- Total gross weight of all longnose gar, bowfin, and yellow & brown bullhead (count both subspecies as one “bullhead” species) caught during duration of tournament
  - Proposed Payout
    - \$350 - 1st
    - \$ 225 -2nd
    - \$100 - 3rd

\*Purses subject to change with additional funds
- Largest single species entry by weight for longnose gar, bowfin, and yellow & brown bullhead (count both subspecies as one “bullhead” species)
  - MINIMUM Proposed Payout
    - \$100 - 1st

\*Purses subject to change with additional funds through sponsorship and big fish buy-in
  - “Big Fish” buy-in
    - \$20
- Single cash payout for largest (by weight) common carp/drum/goldfish
  - Count the three species as one single specimen for entry
  - Proposed Payout
    - \$25- 1st

\*Purse subject to change with additional funds

#### Ethical removal of fish post-tournament

- Donate to wildlife rehab center

#### Sponsorship

- Plan to reach out to local businesses to acquire cash funds for payout totals and gift cards and “goods” for tournament needs and possible raffle
  - All money acquired will go into increasing payout totals and the SLA fish fund