

Proper Fish Measurement Procedure (Revised 1/22/17)

The issue of the proper way of measuring a caught fish has on occasion been raised; specifically whether the mouth of any fish species should be closed or open.

FWC rules stipulate that a fish's mouth should be closed. That applies to all species. That is also the official position of the Marco Sportfishing Club (MSC).

For Grouper in particular, the proper way to measure the fish is to close the mouth and pinch the tail (see attached photo). Grouper as well as most fish have a lower jaw that protrudes beyond the fish's nose. Measuring the fish with the mouth open results in a longer measurement. As an example, a 30 inch Red Grouper with the mouth open can result in a measurement that may be up to one inch longer than the same fish with the mouth closed.



In order to have a fair and consistent way to compare caught fish, MSC anglers must submit photos of their catch with the mouth closed. This applies to any entry to the Fish of the Month (FOM), Leaderboard as well as MSC sponsored tournaments.

All fish caught that are entered in the MSC events will require a digital photograph of the fish aligned along a ruler with the mouth closed and the tail pinched unless the fish species requires a measurement to the fork. Additionally the photograph must clearly show the entire fish. Photographs of fish that do not meet this rule will not be registered. All measurements of caught fish are to be in $\frac{1}{4}$ inch intervals. If a measurement is under $\frac{1}{8}$ inch, then round down to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. If a measurement is $\frac{1}{8}$ inch or over then round up to the next $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. FWC Saltwater Fishing Regulations apply when measuring different fish species.