



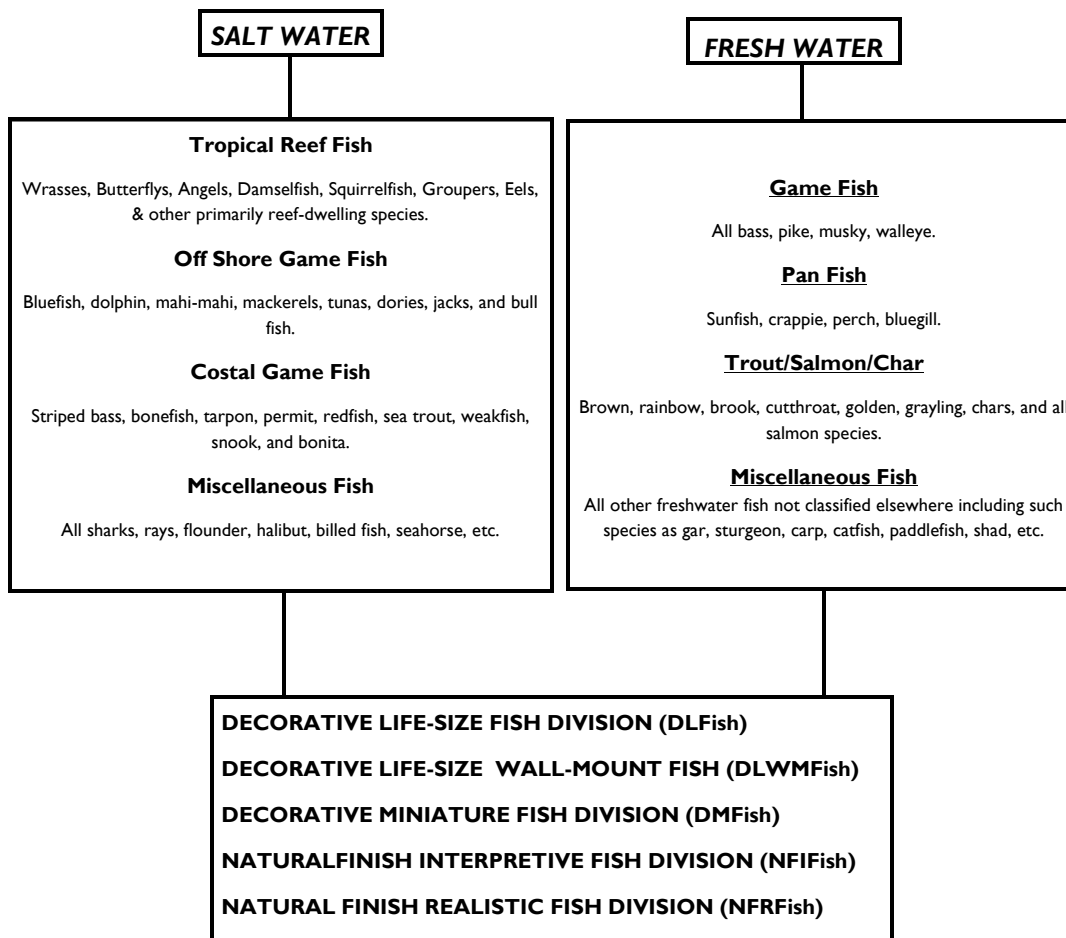
# IWCA Rules and Guidelines (Simplified)

Compiled and written by the National Fish Carvers Guild

This document was developed by the National Fish Carvers Guild for fish carvers who have the desire to compete in IWCA sanctioned shows and competitions. The goal is to put the IWCA rules & Guidelines into a more understandable format. The fish are broken down into two groups, the Salt Water Group and the Fresh Water Group. Within those two groups there are five fish carving divisions and rules pertaining to each division. These rules are in this document, but can also be found on the IWCA web site ([iwfca.com](http://iwfca.com)).

To compete in IWCA sanctioned competitions, you must be a member of the IWCA. Entries will be judged on Craftsmanship, Accuracy, Essence of Species and Artistry. The carver is responsible for knowing and understanding all rules. These rules effective as of July 9th 2008.

- There are two Groups in Fish Carving Competition, **Saltwater** and **Fresh Water**.
- The first two boxes show examples of the classes of fish in the Salt and Fresh water groups.
- There are five Divisions for Fish Carving entries into the Salt Water and/or Fresh Water groups.
- The Divisions formed from the Salt and Fresh water groups are shown in the last box, and the rules for each division are on the pages following.



# ***RULES AND GUIDELINES***

## **Section 15. DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE FISH DIVISION (DLFish)**

- 15.1. All entrants must be current members of IWCA.
- 15.2. The entry will be judged using the live fish as a model.
- 15.3. Any fish that may be too large to carve may be carved at a reduced scale. For example, a 12-foot, 600-pound marlin or a 6-foot, 80-pound Chinook salmon would be carved at an appropriate reduced scale so that the minimum size is 18 inches with no maximum size. The reduced scale carvings compete as life-size and reflect the mature anatomy of the life-sized fish.
- 15.4. All carvings must support the total wood carving concept. Those entries composed solely of wood, or those that contain as little non-wood materials as possible, will have an advantage over those entries that contain authorized substitute materials listed below.
- 15.5. No resin or plastic water is acceptable because of the toxic nature of the materials involved.
- 15.6. The use of resins, silicones, or plastics in any form is limited to the construction of artificial teeth, eye sculpturing, joint construction, and inserting fins and tail only.
- 15.7. Allowable items include: artificial eyes, fishing line, fish hooks, and metal for strength and support.
- 15.8. Items not allowed include: plastic, silk, or manufactured plants; cast objects such as rocks, wood, bugs, plants, fins, and gills; real rocks, sand, or manufactured lures. Gravel made with wood/plumber's putty is allowed up through the intermediate level.
- 15.9. Commercial blanks and rough-outs are allowed in the novice and junior levels only.
- 15.10. Judges will place strong emphasis in their evaluations when all elements are carved of wood, however, the following is allowed: (a) In the novice level, found, real driftwood may be used. (b) In the intermediate level, re-worked found, real driftwood may be used. (c) In the open level, all facsimile of driftwood must be carved.
- 15.11. All components used to create the environment for decorative entries must be made by the carver from wood (or metal where allowed when required for strength and support.)
- 15.12. Carved habitat may be coated with paint or paint additives for texturing.
- 15.13. Any carving found to contain non-approved materials will not be eligible for ribbons or awards.
- 15.14. Any method used to emboss, burn, engrave, or carve scales in wood is permitted.
- 15.15. Glass cases or domes must be removed for judging.
- 15.16. The carving must contain the carver's name and date marked on the carving. (The name will be covered with tape at registration.)

## **Section 16. DECORATIVE LIFE-SIZE WALL-MOUNT FISH DIVISION (DLWMFish)**

- 16.1. All entrants must be current members of IWCA.
- 16.2. In addition to specific qualifications listed below, judges will evaluate entries using criteria listed in Section 4.
- 16.3. Must be judged mounted on wall.
- 16.4. Must have attachments for hanging.

## **Section 17. DECORATIVE MINIATURE FISH DIVISION (DMFish)**

- 17.1. All entrants must be current members of IWCA.
- 17.2. In addition to specific qualifications listed below, judges will evaluate entries using criteria listed in Section 4.
- 17.3. Entries must be one-half life-size or less with a maximum subject length of eight (8) inches.
- 17.4. Entries must be full-bodied carvings.
- 17.5. The live fish will be used as a model for judging.
- 17.6. Unlimited painting and texturing will be allowed.

## **Section 18. NATURAL FINISH INTERPRETIVE FISH DIVISION (NFIFish)**

- 18.1. All entrants must be current members of IWCA.
- 18.2. In addition to specific qualifications listed below, judges will evaluate entries using criteria listed in Section 4.
- 18.3. These entries reflect the carver's concept of movement, design, and composition. Ideally, the entry will be carved out of one piece of wood. Entry can be a carving that represents a fish, regardless of how realistic or imaginative it is. As long as at least one fish is used in the entry, other animals may also be incorporated.
- 18.4. Only transparent stains and clear finishes may be used.
- 18.5. No opaque paints will be allowed with the exception of eyes, where opaque paints may be used in place of glass eyes.
- 18.6. The wood grain must be visible through the finish.
- 18.7. Carved eyes are preferred, however, glass eyes will be allowed in novice and intermediate levels only.
- 18.8. Natural finish fish carvings are to be composed as to enhance the natural beauty of the wood being used.
- 18.9. The carver will be allowed to decide which category best suits the piece.
- 18.10. Bases may be painted or stained.

## **Section 19. NATURAL FINISH REALISTIC FISH DIVISION (NFRFish)**

- 19.1. All entrants must be current members of IWCA.**
- 19.2. In addition to specific qualifications listed below, judges will evaluate entries using criteria listed in Section 4.**
- 19.3. These entries are natural finish carvings that closely resemble recognizable fish and contain more details. The entries can be single or multiple carvings, and composed in an artistic setting. The carver may use separate pieces of wood for fins, grass, etc., but all finishes must be natural.**
  
- 19.4. Only transparent stains and clear finishes may be used.**
- 19.5. No opaque paints will be allowed with the exception of eyes, where opaque paints may be used in place of glass eyes.**
- 19.6. The wood grain must be visible through the finish.**
- 19.7. Carved eyes are preferred, however, glass eyes will be allowed in novice and intermediate levels only.**
- 19.8. Natural finish fish carvings are to be composed as to enhance the natural beauty of the wood being used.**
- 19.9. The carver will be allowed to decide which category best suits the piece.**
- 19.10. Bases may be painted or stained.**