

HOSSFLY Charter and Bylaws 2015 revision

Preamble

We hereby join as a club to enjoy saltwater fly fishing and the companionship of other saltwater fly fishers. Our club and its members shall endeavor to embody the best spirits of sportsmanship, fellowship, camaraderie, conservation, and courtesy and to share our knowledge and enthusiasm.

Our club was formed in the summer of 1968 in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. It owes its existence to the efforts and leadership of Tom Herrington, who has continuously supported and nurtured the club through 47 years of existence thus far. On this xth day of June, 2015, we the members have voted to tune and update this document to reflect the current needs and operations of our club. The fundamental spirit and purposes of the club remain unchanged.

Article I. Club Name

Our club shall be called the "Historic Ocean Springs Saltwater Fly Fishing Club, also referred to as "HOSSFLY." Our club takes its name from the historic nature of its home town, the first European settlement in what would become Mississippi and Louisiana, and from our focus on fly fishing in the rich salt waters of the coast and the Gulf of Mexico.

The official logo for the Ocean Springs Saltwater Fly Fishing Club shall consist of a flying fish encircled by the club name, as shown.



ARTICLE II. Purpose of the Club

The purposes of this club are to:

- Enjoy saltwater fly fishing
- Encourage members to create opportunities to fish together
- Promote saltwater fly fishing on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and adjacent waters

so that more people can enjoy the sport

- Assist one another in developing fly fishing skills
- Serve the community via teaching and support of fishing resources
- Provide educational programs and resources to our members
- Protect our natural marine and coastal resources
- Practice and promote conservation of our marine resources and responsible catches
- Practice and promote safety, sportsmanship, fellowship, camaraderie and courtesy on the water.

Article III. Membership and Dues

Section 1. Membership is open to all who support the purpose of the club. Membership applications shall be accepted and processed by the Treasurer.

Section 2. An active member is one that has paid current dues and has attended at least 1 of the last 10 monthly meetings.

Section 3. The club shall be associated with the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) and the Gulf Coast Council of the IFFF.

Section 4. Dues are set by the membership and are payable on December 31 for the following year. Late penalties may be assessed.

Section 5. Club members shall be required to execute a written release and hold harmless agreement.

Article IV. Acceptance by Members of Responsibility and Liability

It is recognized that fly fishing and outdoor activities, especially those on the water or in boats, have inherent risks and dangers. The club makes no warranty or assurances regarding the safety or advisability of participation in any club activity. As a condition of membership and participation, members accept all responsibility and liability for participation in any club activity. Members agree to hold harmless the club, its affiliates, officers, officials, and other members for any injury, loss of life, property damage, or other harm resulting from participation in a club activity.

ARTICLE V. Meetings

Section 1. Meetings shall be held monthly at a time and place determined by the membership. An official meeting shall consist of at least three active members present.

ARTICLE VI. Voting

A quorum shall be required for voting on changes to dues, for membership, or election of officers, changes to the monthly meeting date or place, expenditures over \$50, changes to bylaws, club participation in significant functions, and other significant issues. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the active members.

Other less significant decisions may be made by a simple majority of the active members present for an official meeting. A decision by vote may be reached by e-mail or online voting. If email or online voting is used, the issue shall be defined in writing by the officers with input from members during an official meeting. Voting materials shall be made available to members within three days following that meeting. Voting shall continue for seven days following the provision of voting materials.

ARTICLE VII. Officers and Officials

Section 1. The elected offices of the Club shall be the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. An officer shall be an active member. There are no limits for any office. An officer may be removed prior to the end of their term by a majority vote of the members.

The election of officers shall be held annually in November. Current officers will develop a slate of potential candidates. Any member may nominate other candidates. Officers assume office at the conclusion of the January meeting or banquet.

Section 2. Other club officials appointed by the President with the approval by vote during an official meeting of the active members may include but not be limited to: Program Chair; Conservation Coordinator, Chief Casting Instructor, Youth Program Director, Fly Tying Coordinator; and Tippet Editor.

Section 3. Duties of Officers

A. President

Guides and administers the operations of the club and serves as the primary representative of the club. Determines meeting agenda and presides over meetings and other functions.

B. Vice President

Assists the President. Serves as president in the absence of the president. Acts as the trip coordinator to arrange, coordinate and implement club trips.

C. Secretary

Serves as the main correspondent for the club and shall take minutes of all club meetings and communicate them to the members at each meeting and through the newsletter. Determines when a quorum is present for votes and supervises elections.

D. Treasurer

Responsible for all club monies and reports to the general membership at each club meeting on the financial status of the club, including expenditures and receipts for the previous month. Responsible for collecting membership dues, reviews bank statement monthly, maintains membership records.

Section 4. Duties of Appointed Officials

The following officials may be designated. Additional positions may be created as necessary.

A. Program Chair

Develops the program for each club meeting or banquet and makes arrangements for visiting speakers and venues. Assists the Vice President to arrange, coordinate and implement club trips.

B. *Tippet* Newsletter Editor

Assembles, edits, and distributes *The Tippet* newsletter using contributions from members and is responsible for final proper content, format, grammar, and spelling.

C. Conservation Coordinator

Central contact for functions relating to conservation, ecology, or environmental matters.

D. Chief Casting Instructor

Develops and maintains casting instruction programs for HOSSFLY members.

E. Webmaster/Electronic Media Director

Develops and maintains the club's website and other web-based electronic media and communications accounts.

F. Youth Program Director

Develops and presides over all programs for youth and reports the progress of such activities at each club meeting.

G. Other Officials

Other officials and duties may be designated by the president, with confirmation by a vote the membership.

ARTICLE VIII. Awards and Tournaments

Section 1. There shall be an annual award for the club member who shall be recognized as the Angler of the Year, based on embodiment of the objectives of the club and contributions to the club and the community. The present and past Presidents shall select the member to be named Angler of the Year. The award shall be made during January of each year.

Section 2. Tournaments sponsored by the club shall be fly fishing only and no other fishing tackle shall be used by a tournament angler.

Section 3. There shall be an annual tournament held at a time and place determined by the active members. The winner of the tournament shall be named Poisson Gros or Poisson Gras and will hold that title until next annual contest.

Section 4. The officers shall determine other awards to be given.

Article IX. Expenditures

Officers may make expenditures on behalf of the club from club funds as needed of \$50.00 or less at their discretion.

Article X. Newsletter

The club shall endeavor to publish a monthly newsletter, *The Tippet*, which shall contain minutes of each previous meeting, announcements, trip reports, fishing stories, reports on club operations, and other content of interest to the club members. The newsletter is prepared by the editor using content contributed by the officers and all members.