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## Amistad NRA News Release

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### AMISTAD NRA PROPOSES CHANGES TO TOURNAMENT FISHING POLICY

Amistad National Recreation Area Superintendent Alan W. Cox has announced that the park is proposing to change the policy on managing tournament fishing. A public meeting will be held on Tuesday February 6, 2007, 6:30PM at the park's Visitor Information Center to present the policy and for the park to receive comments from the public. The park will then review the public's comments and incorporate into the final policy those comments that will improve the management of fishing tournaments. The existing policy has not been changed in a number of years and with the increase in tournament fishing it is now apparent that changes are needed.

This is a brief summary of the proposed changes and/or additions to the existing policy:

- **All commercial filming of a fishing tournament will require a Special Use Permit, which is a separate Special Use Permit from the Fishing Tournament Permit. (Public Law 106-206). (New)**
- **All applications for Special Use Permits must be received by the park at least 72 hours before and no earlier than 18 months in advance of the tournament start date. (Previously was no earlier than 12 months in advance.)**
- **A non-refundable application processing fee of \$25.00 for the Special Use Permit(s) shall be required for each tournament date; therefore every tournament date will require a separate application along with the non-refundable processing fee of \$25.00. (Previously was \$25.00 per application, even with multiple dates.)**
- **The Fee Schedule per boat, per tournament will be as follows: 1-49 boats \$0.00 per day, 50-99 boats \$75.00 per day, 100-199 boats \$150.00 per day, 200-300 boats \$300.00 per day. (Previously was 1-100 boats \$0.00 per day, 101-200 boats \$90.00 per day, 201-300 boats \$260.00 per day, 301-600 boats \$495.00 per day)**

- **The maximum number of tournament boats on any one day, as determined by public safety, vehicle parking resource damage, and available parking for non-tournament park visitors, is 300 boats. *(Previously was 600 boats)***
- **Southwinds Marina was added as an additional launch ramp with 42 available parking spaces. *(New)***
- **Tournaments of 150 boats or more, utilizing the Diablo East facilities, will be required to provide sufficient parking attendants to assist with traffic control. The park will provide a map depicting the most efficient parking layout. 150-199 boat tournaments will provide 5 adult attendants and 200-300 boats will provide 7 adult attendants. *(New)***
- **All tournaments with 50 or more boats are required to have their directors/organizers meet with park staff to coordinate the logistics and other issues related to the tournament. The meeting should be prior to the tournament registration. The park may, at the request of the tournament directors/organizers, provide a park employee to sell lake use permits at the event's registration meeting. *(New)***
- **The following launch ramps are closed to the use by fishing tournament participants in order to provide adequate launch ramp parking to other park visitors: Spur 454, Spur 406, 277 South, and 277 North. *(New)***
- **Texas State law requires an angler giving or leaving fish with another (i.e. the tournament director) to complete a Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) Wildlife Resource Document for the receiver (tournament director) unless the receiver does not have more fish in his/her possession than the legal bag limit. This form will be provided in the Special Use Permit package. *(New)***
- **Fish mortalities will be harvested by tournament officials for their meat to avoid violation of the Texas waste of game law. Dead fish or harvested fish may be gifted to another with and accompanying a TPWD Wildlife Resource Document. *(New)***
- **Tournament directors/organizers will provide the park with a copy of the registration list, which should indicate an accurate count of boats/participants. The list will be provided after the registration but before the start of the tournament. The tournament fee(s) will be based on this number of boats/participants. *(New)***