



BONANZA

Official newsletter of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza

bluefinbonanza.org

Winter, 2023

Big Changes for 2023

As promised, we're making some changes this year that will hopefully make for a bigger, better tournament. First, in trying to keep up with the increasing demand from those wanting to participate, we've increased our cap to 80 boats. The registration fee will go up to \$800 to put us on par with other tournaments, but that also means more prize money - over \$50,000! We've also added more categories, including daily prizes for the biggest fish. Speaking of days, we've rearranged our schedule to allow for 4 fishing days instead of 3. You'll find a full schedule and payout info on page 2. Last but not least, we've joined forces with several other regional tournaments to create the New England Tuna Pro Open Series, and you can read more about that as you scroll through our newsletter. All in all it should be an exciting tournament season.

Before we move forward though, let's take a moment to look back at all we accomplished last year, thanks to all those who supported us.

We awarded \$41,000 to the Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges. This will provide \$1,000 scholarships to 2 students from each of Maine's 7 community colleges enrolled in trades and marine science programs; an additional \$1,000 scholarship to 2 more students, one, each from SMCC and CMCC; and \$25,000 toward our endowment with FMCC.

We also awarded \$40,000 to the University of Maine Foundation. This will provide support for at least 6 internships for students working at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, and help fund important Bluefin tuna research at the GMRI Pelagic Fisheries Lab.

You can read more about these efforts and how your contributions help us build a better, stronger community on the last page. Again, thanks for supporting our mission to strengthen Community, Conservation and Education.



SEARCHING FOR INFO?

Be sure to visit our website at www.bluefinbonanza.org and join our Facebook and Instagram pages to stay up to date and informed. You can always contact us at bluefinbonanza@gmail.com with questions.

2023 SCHEDULE

Saturday, July 29

Youth Day - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Captain's Meeting - 5:00 p.m. (**mandatory**)

Sunday, July 30

Fishing Begins at 12:01 a.m. and continues through Monday, July 31. Scales will close at 10:00 p.m. each night.

Wednesday, August 2

Fishing Resumes at 12:01 a.m. and continues through Thursday, August 3. Scales will close at 10:00 p.m. each night.

Friday, August 5

Dinner, Auction, Awards 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

2023 AWARDS

1st Place: \$25,000 plus trophy for (1) year

2nd Place: \$12,500

3rd Place: \$6,000

4th Place: \$3,000

5th Place: \$1,500

Highest Cumulative Weight: \$1,000

Largest Fish Each Day: \$1,000



Bonanza 2022 Video

Check out our annual video featuring highlights of all the tournament week events.



Go to the Sport-Ventures YouTube channel and look for the Bluefin Bonanza Playlist

Tournament Apparel

We've had a ton of requests from folks who wished they'd gotten more official Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza apparel. Don't worry, we're already working on a new online store for our 2023 apparel, which will be even better. Stay tuned.



RULE CHANGES

The Captain's meeting is mandatory. The registered vessel captain or an adult member of the crew must be present to sign in and collect their tournament package, and be present at the rules meeting.

Scales will open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 10:00 p.m. each night. As those landing fish after midnight cannot fish the following day, there's no need to keep scales open continuously.

Come and See the Show



Show season will soon be upon us. Stop by and visit us at the State of Maine Sportsman Show in Augusta March 31 - April 2 and at the Saco Bay Tackle Fishing Expo April 1 in Old Orchard Beach. We'll have raffle tickets and more, and you never know who might stop by.



Wanna Get Involved?

If you're interested in getting more involved in the science behind bluefin tuna management, The UMaine Pelagic Fisheries Lab at GMRI has launched an exciting new program and they're actively recruiting citizen scientists.

GENETICS FOR GIANTS

AN INDUSTRY PROJECT FOR ATLANTIC BLUEFIN SUSTAINABILITY



WHAT DO WE NEED FROM YOU?

1. The length of the fish (measuring tape provided in kit). If the fish can't be brought aboard, an estimation will do!
2. A small (smaller than a tack) finclip from any one of the finlets (scissors provided in kit).
3. Place the finclip into the provide vial (see white box in kit), cap it, and give it a good shake to make sure the sample is covered in the liquid preservative.
4. Please match the vial number with the number written on the provided sheet and record the date, your location, the temperature of the water, and length of the fish.
5. Disinfect scissors (alcohol wipes provided in kit) and let us know when all of your vials are filled!

WHAT IS CLOSE-KIN MARK RECAPTURE (CKMR)?

CKMR is a new technique used to estimate the ratio of genetically matched fish to larvae (i.e. parent-offspring pairs or POPs). In other words, we are using DNA to map out the family tree of ABFT in the western Atlantic!

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Using CKMR we can estimate where the fish came from (Western or Eastern stock), the absolute population abundance, and the future productivity of the stock. This information will provide managers with more accurate and real-time data to sustainably manage the Atlantic bluefin fishery!



Contact Information: Dr. Walt Golet
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YOUTH DAY

Saturday July 29, 2023



Morning activities will again kick off with Walt Golet's team from GMRI and some hands-on demonstrations on collecting samples from sharks, tuna and sunfish.



Down on the docks, kids can compete in a green crab tournament with prizes for the biggest, the most and the most unusual catch.



Under the tent, Nate Garrett will give demonstrations on Gyotaku fish printing, giving kids a chance to make their own fish prints.



Then they can enter their best crab into the crab derby for even more prizes.

Event sponsors from Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's will be on hand serving lunch and handing out prizes. All events are free and open to the public.

New England Tuna Pro Open

The Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza has teamed up with several other New England tournaments to create the New England Tuna Pro Open series. Other tournaments include the Granite State Tuna Pro Open and Newburyport Offshore Classic. Boats that register for multiple tournaments will be eligible for additional prize money and a trophy and recognition as New England's top tuna crew.

The Series consists of three legs:

Granite State Tuna Pro Open June 24-July 1

Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza July 29-August 4

Newburyport Offshore Classic September 9-15

Entrants need not fish all tournaments but must fish at least 2 and points will be accrued for all tournaments so the more tournaments fished, the more potential points. Awards will be presented after the season's final event in September.

Visit our website or theirs for more information as it becomes available.

Research



Through our endowment with the University of Maine Foundation's Highly Migratory Species Conservation Fund, we're supporting critical research at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Results from studies on food habits, seasonal migration patterns and even genetic relationships are already being used to shape future management of Atlantic bluefin tuna. We've seen benefits with quota increases last year and more on the way this year. The future definitely looks bright for bluefin tuna and those who fish for them. Help us ensure that continues to be the case.

Internships

Those of you who visited the scales or joined us on Youth Day got to meet a couple of the interns we supported last year at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Your support helps give these students an opportunity to gain valuable field experience and make connections that will help them in their future careers in marine sciences. We plan on stepping up our contribution so that even more students will get a chance to make a difference.



Scholarships

With all the news about "free" college scholarships, some of you may wonder why we're still very much invested in supporting Maine's community colleges. The State scholarship covers the cost of tuition for high school graduates in the classes of 2020 - 2023, if they register for full time status. The scholarships do not cover the costs for books, tools or housing. For those students who do get the free college scholarship, it represents on average about 30% of their total cost of attendance. Most students in the system do not qualify for this program. It does not apply to any non-traditional aged (older) students, or young folks who have graduated outside of those specific years. It also does not apply to part time students, who represent a large portion of Maine community college students. There is still a great need for scholarships to support MCCS students as they prepare for careers in Maine and we are committed to continuing our support.



RAFFLES



Ascend 12T Sit-On-Top Kayak with
Coldsnap Latch Cooler - Life Jacket
Ascend Tournament Kayak Paddle
a \$1,000 value

Tickets: \$10 each or 6 for \$50
Winner will be drawn Aug. 4



Ready-to-Fish Rod and Reel
"Long 80" 130-class rod
with Winthrop guides
Penn 130 Reel with backing and topshot
Tickets: \$20 each or 6 for \$100
Winner will be drawn Aug. 4



Bluefin Tuna Charter with
F/V Molly Jane Charters
A \$1,600 value

Tickets: \$20 each or 6 for \$100



Sold Out

Thank you, Kurt and Erik

Bluefin Tuna Charter with
Reel Addiction Sportfishing
A \$1,600 value

Tickets: \$20 each or 6 for \$100



Striper Charter with
Relentless Pursuit Charters
A \$600 value

Tickets: \$10 each or 6 for \$50



Tickets are available online at www.bluefinbonanza.org

You can also purchase them from committee members or by visiting us at the State of Maine Sportsman's Show in Augusta March 31-April 2 Or the Saco Bay Tackle Fishing Expo in Saco April 1