



BONANZA

Official newsletter of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza

Spring, 2022

Tuna Week 2022

As you read this, some boats are already being uncovered and prepped for the season and more are soon to follow. With the incredible resurgence of bluefin stocks and a little bit more quota, this year is shaping up to be epic. We just need some fair winds and calm seas.

Meanwhile, you'll want to be sure to mark your calendars. Restricted Fishing Days present their share of scheduling challenges but they also provide us with an opportunity to give you nearly a week's worth of activities, and a more comfortable time frame in which to enjoy them.

We'll kick things off with a Captain's Meeting on the eve of the Tournament, Tuesday, August 2 with buckets full of SWAG for captain's and crews. You're welcome to hang around, swap stories and tell lies with some light refreshments while we go over the rules.



Fishing begins Wednesday, August 3 at 12:01 a.m. and continues until Thursday night. Scales will be open continuously until 10:00 p.m. Thursday.

That will give you time to catch up on rest before our annual fundraising dinner and auction on Friday; and as Friday and Saturday are RFDs, you can relax, have a good time and not have to worry about heading back out to sea.

As always, there will be tons of great stuff to bid on or possibly win in a raffle. The folks from Red Claw will be on hand again to prepare a Downeast lobster bake complete with local corn from Pineland Farms, clams from Free Range Fish and Lobster, potatoes and more. The event is open to the public so bring your family and friends. Each registered boat gets 2 meal tickets. Additional tickets will be available for \$25 each, first-come, first-served.



Saturday is Youth Day hosted by Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's. Walt Golet and his team of interns will have some fun stuff and we'll have a Crab Derby down on the docks. Then it's back on the water for our final fishing day on Sunday, followed by the awards ceremony. A full schedule is posted further down and on our website at

www.bluefinbonanza.org



Our Energy Makes the Difference®



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Last December we gave out a few early Christmas presents, awarding our annual donations to several deserving groups as part of our ongoing efforts to build a better community.

First, we continued our support of students enrolled in trades and marine science programs with \$17,000 check to the Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges.

"We are very grateful to the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza for your continued support of the students of Maine's community colleges," said Foundation President John Fitzsimmons. "Maine's community colleges are committed to creating a skilled and educated workforce and to building a more prosperous Maine. The impact of a gift like yours is significant and can be seen on the campuses of Maine's seven community colleges."

A portion will provide a \$1,000 scholarship to one student from each of Maine's 7 community colleges. The remainder will add to our endowment with the Foundation to ensure scholarships in perpetuity.

"Southern Maine Community College and the entire Maine Community College System are proud to be associated with the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza and incredibly appreciative of the financial support that the CBBB provides to our students," said SMCC President Joe Cassidy, who was on hand to accept the donation on behalf of the Foundation. "The monies raised by the CBBB directly support good science and good stewardship of the tuna population as well as Maine students seeking to prepare themselves for full participation in Maine's economy as fully trained and skilled employees."



I. to r. Shawn Tibbetts, CBBB Vice President; Bob Humphrey, CBBB President; Joe Cassidy, SMCC President; Tom Pappas, CBBB Director At-Large.

We followed that up by launching an exciting new collaboration with The University of Maine Pelagic Fisheries Lab (UMaine) at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) that will provide internships and fund important research on western Atlantic bluefin tuna.

"This new collaboration will allow the Pelagic Fisheries Lab to increase the scope of their work. Furthermore, it will also provide financial support of internships for students, giving them an opportunity for hands-on field experience," said Dr. Walt Golet, a UMaine assistant professor based at GMRI.

Golet and his team of interns collect samples from landed fish that can be used to answer questions about specific aspects of bluefin biology including longevity, age structure, stock structure, foraging ecology, age of reproduction, migration/habitat use and more. This information is then used to develop and enhance management programs including quotas, seasons and limits that will ultimately ensure sustainability of the resource and the fishery.

Bluefin Bonanza president Bob Humphrey, who also serves on the National Marine Fisheries Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel presented a \$25,000 check to the UMaine Foundation to support Golet's work. "The College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture is grateful for the generous donation from the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza organization. Their gift will support critical research and education associated with highly migratory species important to coastal Maine communities, specifically Atlantic bluefin tuna. Through this donation, UMaine undergraduate internships, electronic tagging, and biological monitoring programs for Atlantic bluefin tuna will help ensure the long-term viability of this species through development of effective conservation and management approaches," said Diane Rowland, Dean of the UMaine College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture, which oversees the School of Marine Sciences at the University of Maine.



I. to r. Shawn Tibbetts, CBBB Vice President; Tom Pappas, CBBB Director At-Large; Bob Humphrey, CBBB President; Walt Golet, UMaine/GMRI; Diane Rowland, UMaine Dean and Director; Jane Humphrey, CBBB volunteer; Brian Jones, CBBB Head Weighmaster.



Out and About

Thanks to the easing of Covid restrictions we had a chance to get out and spread the word this spring at several public events. First was the **State of Maine Sportsman's Show** in Augusta where we visited with old friends and made some new ones.



Then it was on to the **Saco Bay Tackle Fishing Seminar** at the Dunegrass Golf Club in OOB for more fun with friends and family, and more brisk sales of Bluefin Bonanza apparel and rod and reel raffle tickets.



IT TAKES A CREW

COMBINING EFFORTS TO
SUPPORT MAINE COMMUNITIES



When the Bluefin Benefit Battle announced their inaugural event we reached out with a proposal: "We can both be more effective if we work cooperatively rather than competitively." They were all in, and illustrated their eagerness by creating the above logo. Ours is a small, familial fishing community and we recognize the importance of working together to realize our goals. To that end, the Bluefin Bonanza and the Benefit Battle have joined forces to provide a pair of first-class tuna tournaments this season. While it offers you more opportunity to fish, the end result will also be a greater benefit to our local community.

We're also grateful for the support we received from the Casco Bay Tuna Club. Details are still being ironed out but they're hoping to revive the Bailey Island Fishing Tournament in some form and could use some help from folks in the Harpswell area.



Got Beer?

Batson River Brewing & Distilling teamed up with Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza Tuna to create a refreshing summer brew. that's perfect for boat days, fishing in Maine, and reeling in good times. We need your help naming this perfect sip of summertime. Visit the link below and vote on your favorite name today!

<https://batsonriver.com/bluefin-bonanza/>



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BLUEFIN BONANZA SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, August 2, 2022 - Captain's Meeting

Wednesday, August 3, 2022 - Fishing Begins at 12:01 a.m.

Thursday, August 4, 2022 - Fishing ceases, scales close at 10:00 p.m.

Friday, August 5, 2022 - Dinner/Auction 4 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, August 6, 2022 - Youth Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Sunday, August 7, 2022 - Fishing begins at 12:01 a.m. Lines out at 4 p.m. Scales close at 6 p.m. Awards at 7:00 p.m.

(All dates subject to change based on the whims of the National Marine Fisheries Service.)

Captain's Meeting

A representative from each registered vessel must be present and signed in at the Captain's Meeting. The vessel representative must be at least 18 years old. There you will receive your tournament packet with rules and information, program, Captain's bucket and water. If you or your representative are unable to make the meeting, please contact us prior to the meeting.

Fishing

Fishing times, dates and rules will essentially be the same as the 2021 Bluefin Bonanza. Complete rules are available on our website.

Scales will be open and Tournament Weighmasters available Wednesday 8:00 a.m. through Thursday 10:00 p.m., and Sunday 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Weighmasters will NOT be available outside of these hours.

• Shawn Tibbetts (207) 502-0368 • Brian Jones @ (207) 310-8814 • Steve Selleck – 207 653 7315 • Walt Golet @ 207-351-5413

Tournament scales will close at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 7, 2021, and all vessels with fish to be weighed must be inside Spring Point Light by 5 p.m. and tied to the scales dock at Spring Point Marina (rafting is acceptable) by 6:00 p.m. Any vessel with a fish to be weighed that is not tied or rafted to the scales dock by 6:00 p.m. will not be accepted (Committee discretion). All times and dates are subject to change in the event of a closure or changes in NOAA Fisheries regulations.



Awards

Registration fees are going up - to \$600 - but so are the prizes.

First Place: \$12,500 and the Casco Cup

Second Place: \$6,000

Third Place: \$3,000

Fourth Place: \$1,500

Fifth Place: \$1,000

Cumulative Weight: \$1,000

First Fish Landed: \$1,000

Smallest Fish: \$600

Total \$26,600



Official Tournament Art



Renowned local artist Nate Garrett of Big Fish Gyotaku approached us at last year's tournament and was so impressed with our mission that he asked how he could help. Last winter he created a custom Gyotaku print that adorn our official tournament apparel. There will also be a one-of-a-kind framed print available at our fundraising auction. FMI: www.bigfishgyotaku.com

Rod & Reel Raffle

Don't forget about our annual ready-to-fish rod & reel raffle. Grand prize includes a Saco Bay Tackle custom Long 80 rod with Winthrop guides and a Penn International 130 reel with backing and top-shot installed. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100 and the winner can take the combo or \$1,000 cash. The drawing will take place Friday, August 5 at our fundraising dinner. Tickets are also available online at www.bluefinbonanza.com



The Second Annual



YOUTH DAY

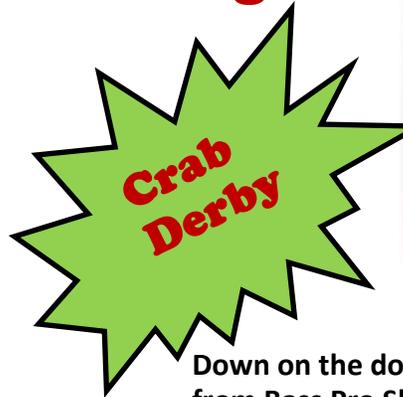


Sponsored by:



Saturday, August 6, 2022 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Port Harbor Marine, South Portland, Maine

Featuring:



Down on the docks, tournament staff and Pros from Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's will hold a green crab derby for the kids with lots of prizes and free gifts.

Hands-on demonstrations with staff from the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

Kids are encouraged to dive right in and help the biologists while they explain the process and the importance of the samples they collect.



All activities are free of charge and open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult parent or guardian.



Gyotaku fish painting demonstrations by Maine artist Nate Garrett of Big Fish Gyotaku.



Refreshments will be available.