



BONANZA

Official newsletter of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza

Winter, 2021-2022

Onward, Upward

A bluefin tuna is like a shark. It has to keep moving forward or it dies. That's true of tournaments as well. Despite the pandemic, category closures and restricted fishing days, we've managed not only to keep the Bluefin Bonanza alive, but to watch it grow, thanks in large part to our sponsors and participants. The lists of both and the levels of support and interest continue to grow and so, we must grow along with them.

We usually publish our winter newsletter later in the new year, but with the type and extent of changes planned for this year we wanted to get the news out in time for you all to mark your calendars and prepare for what's in store for Maine's top tuna tournament.

What Else is New

Because now, more than ever, the workforce needs qualified labor, we will continue our support of students enrolled in trades and marine sciences programs at each of Maine's 7 community colleges through direct scholarships and our endowment at the Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges. However, we've also launched an exciting new program of support with the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. We will provide stipends for 5 students working with pelagic fisheries, like the folks you see collecting samples at our weigh-in. In addition,

we've established an endowment, through the University of Maine, to support Walt Golet's work on bluefin tuna at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Results from his research play a pivotal role in ensuring the resource and the fishery remain viable and sustainable.

We're also adding more for the fishermen, both young and old, like more and bigger prizes. Enclosed you'll find more detail on those, and our proposed schedule. We hope you'll be able to join us for some or all that we have in store for you in 2022.



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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

January 1 - 16, 2022 - Pre-registration for returning vessels.

January 17, 2022 - Open registration begins.

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.)

Registration

January 1, 2022 - Pre-registration opens for returning boats. If you fished in a previous tournament, you will be able to register. Vessels registered in the 2021 Bonanza that weren't able to fish but requested their registration fee be forwarded to 2022 will automatically be added to the registration list. New registrants must submit a complete registration form, signed waiver and full payment.

January 17, 2022 - Registration opens for all interested vessels. All registrants must submit a complete registration form, signed waiver and full payment. Incomplete registrations will be moved down the list.

Registration is limited to 60 boats. Once that is full, you may register but not pay to be added to the alternates list. In the event of an opening, alternates will be added to the active list in the order received.

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.

We will be offering the following awards for the 2022 Bluefin Bonanza:

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



R.C. MOORE

TRANSPORTATION



YOUTH DAY



Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Science. Education. Community.

Despite a modest turnout, mostly due to how quickly it all came together, our first ever Youth Day, hosted by Bass Pro Shops - Cabela's and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute was well received and provided a great framework on which to build. Next year's event will be bigger and better.

The event will take place on Saturday, August 6 from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. at Port Harbor Marine. Walt Golet from the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and his interns will again be on hand to provide kids with a hands-on learning experience about Bluefin tuna, demonstrating how they collect biological samples, why they collect them and what the information they gather is used for. Walt also plans to have more species and samples for the kids to climb on, cut open and examine, so it should be quite fun and interesting.



With a little coaxing, we might event get Capt. Kurt Christensen to tie the Molly Jane up to the dock and give kids a chance to walk around on a real tuna boat.

The event is open to the public and free of charge, but you'll want to bring along some \$\$ to stock up on Bluefin Bonanza apparel. Children of all ages are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We look forward to seeing you there and always looking for volunteers interested in helping out.



The team from Bass Pro Shops will also be down on the docks again with some great gear and instruction, as well as up by the scales cooking beans and hot dogs for kids and adults.

While kids failed to catch the hoped for mackerel and Pollack this year they did catch crabs. Recognizing this not as a problem but an opportunity, we'll be hosting a green crab tournament for the kids. Details have yet to be worked out but it should be fun.



Ever Heard of Gyotaku?

Gyotaku is the traditional Japanese method of printing fish using sumi ink, washi paper and... the fish. The fish is cleaned, prepped and inked, then washi (rice) paper is applied to the fish to capture its image.

Maine artist Nate Garrett of Big Fish Gyotaku & Nature prints has generously offered to create the art for this year's tournament apparel, featuring a Gyotaku tuna tail. We'll also have an exclusive print at our auction featuring the 2022 Bluefin Bonanza art.

Not only that, but Nate will be on hand for both our youth Day and Auction/Raffle/Dinner with a Gyotaku demonstration table so you can see how it's done.



www.BigFishGyotaku.com



The Hometown Foundation, Inc.

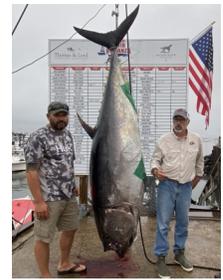
The Bluefin Bonanza Benefit

In addition to raising funds to support our community and providing a source of fun and recreation for fishing enthusiasts, tournaments like the Bluefin Bonanza play an important role in supporting research and the resource. Tournaments provide an efficient, one-stop source of biological samples that the GMRI team uses to analyze things like age, growth, birthplace, food habits and reproductive status. This information is then used by managers to set quotas and limits.

One concrete example is already in the works. Based in part on data collected at tournaments like ours, the American Bluefin Tuna Association is advocating for an increase in the present quota of 2,350 mt to 3,800 mt for 2022 and 2023. We've all witnessed the proliferation of tuna over the last several years but now we have the science to prove it, and could realize the benefits as soon as next season.



It's been a challenging year for us full of uncertainty with COVID, restricted fishing days and a category closure. Throughout it all our captains remained 100% positive and supportive. We can't thank you enough for your understanding. You have no idea how much that means to all of us who work so hard throughout the year to make this event happen. We do it for you but we couldn't do it without you.



Bluefin Bonanza Apparel

Be Sure to check out our online store for some great deals.

www.bluefinbonanza.org



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