



# BONANZA

Official newsletter of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza

[bluefinbonanza.org](http://bluefinbonanza.org)

Winter, 2024

## Looking Forward to Open Water

We're still trapped in the throes of winter but that doesn't mean we haven't been busy. We've distributed the proceeds from last year's events to even more worthy causes to provide more education opportunities and strengthen our community. Registration is ahead of last year's pace and we're lining up more new prizes and activities for our tournament week. Read on to see what we've been cooking.



## 2024 SCHEDULE

### Saturday, July 27

Youth Day - 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - Captain's Meeting - 5:00 p.m.

### Sunday, July 28

Fishing Begins at 12:01 a.m. and continues through Monday, July 29.

### Wednesday, July 31

Fishing Resumes at 12:01 a.m. and continues through Thursday, August 1.

### Friday, August 2

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

**Registration is still open**



## SEARCHING FOR INFO?

Be sure to visit our website at [www.bluefinbonanza.org](http://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](mailto:bluefinbonanza@gmail.com) with questions.

# 2023 Scholarships

Last year was a very successful one for us and we were eager to share the results with our beneficiaries

At the **Southern Maine Community College** campus, we presented a check for \$16,000 to Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges (FMCC) president John Fitzsimmons. These funds will be awarded as \$1,000 scholarships to 14 students, 2 from each of Maine's 7 community colleges enrolled in trades and marine sciences programs and an additional \$1,000 scholarship for two students, one each from Southern Maine Community College and Central Maine Community College. "We deeply appreciate all the work of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza to raise funds for our students," said Fitzsimmons. "Gifts like yours provide an opportunity to attend Maine's community colleges that would otherwise not exist." In addition to annual scholarships, the Bluefin Bonanza also has a \$50,000 endowment with the FMCC that ensures scholarships in perpetuity.



We also awarded a check for \$25,000 to Liz Erickson, Director of Philanthropy at the **University of Maine Foundation**, Dr. Walt Golet, Assistant Professor from the UMaine School of Marine Sciences, and Research Scientist at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and 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. "These internships offer an invaluable opportunity for our interns to gain practical field experience and make connections that will help them advance their professional careers," said Golet. "The support also allows the Pelagic Fisheries Lab to increase the scope of our work on bluefin tuna."



Earlier in the fall we presented a check for \$15,000 to The Southern **Maine Community College Foundation** as the first installment toward our endowment of the Lyndsay Withers Memorial Scholarship, for students enrolled in the SMCC Emergency Medical Services/Paramedicine Program. This will help provide more first responders to rural areas of Maine.



Last but not least, we teamed up with **Carhartt and W.S. Emerson** to provide an additional \$5,000 in scholarships to students from 2 of Maine's community colleges enrolled in specific trades programs. Both businesses understand and appreciate the important contributions these programs make in putting more skilled employees into the local workforce.





Thanks to our generous sponsors, a group of fine young adults were able to gain some hands-on experience through the University of Maine’s Pelagic Fisheries Lab at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, which they can apply toward future careers in fisheries science and management. Here’s what some of them had to say about their experience.

“Thank you greatly for your support this summer, as it allowed me experiences that solidified and furthered my journey in this field. You allowed me to learn invaluable skills in bluefin research and outreach, which will continue to help me when engaging with the community in the future. Specifically, the CBBB tournament was a turning point in my summer, where I was exposed to New England fishing culture and tournament culture. The comradery and community support was inspiring and caused me to have a “this is why I do this” moment. Olivia D.

“I want to assure you that your investment has not only impacted my academic and professional growth but will also have a lasting effect on my future endeavors. The experiences and lessons learned during this internship along with the connections that I have made will undoubtedly shape my career path, and allow me to travel further than I could have ever imagined in my profession.- Emma F.



## LINDSAY WITHERS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

**Awarded to eligible Maine  
 Emergency Medical Services/Paramedicine trainees**

### ABOUT THIS SCHOLARSHIP

Upon Lindsay’s passing in February, 2023, the **Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza Lindsay Withers EMS/Paramedicine Scholarship** was established to continue her legacy of commitment to the training and education of first responders.

This scholarship is awarded to Southern Maine Community College students who:

- Are in good standing with a rural Maine Fire Department and hold the necessary prerequisites.
- Have demonstrated personal financial need.



### Donate to this Scholarship

To donate to this scholarship, visit [www.smccME.edu/donate](http://www.smccME.edu/donate)

To apply for this scholarship, contact:

[jgraves@smccME.edu](mailto:jgraves@smccME.edu)

### For More Information:

Contact the SMCC Foundation at [foundation@smccME.edu](mailto:foundation@smccME.edu) or 207-741-5559

# Our Tournament Apparel Store is Always Open

<https://cascobonanza.itemorder.com/>



We're working on something really big this year but we have to keep it on ice for now to ensure we deliver a quality product to market. Suffice to say it will have a significant positive impact on fishermen as well as those involved in the local seafood industry. Stay tuned.



## Come and See the Show

State of Maine Sportsman's Show

April 19-21

Augusta Civic Center

Saco Bay Tackle Fishing Expo

April 13

Dunegrass Country Club, Old Orchard Beach



## Tournament Videos

You can see all our video presentations from past tournaments by going to the **Sport-Ventures YouTube** channel and looking for the **Bluefin Bonanza** Playlist






# 2024



# Raffles

To purchase tickets send us an e-mail, contact a committee member or visit is at the State of Maine Sportsman's Show or the Saco Bay Tackle Fishing Expo.

**Reel Addiction Sportfishing Shark or Tuna Charter Raffle**  
 Featuring a Full Day (12-hour) charter for up to 6 people  
 Winner can choose shark or tuna  
 A \$1,600 value!




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

All proceeds go toward community college scholarships and bluefin tuna research at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Charter is out of Boothbay Harbor Must be redeemed in 2024  
 Date by arrangement

Tickets available at [www.bluefinbonanza.org](http://www.bluefinbonanza.org)

**Relentless Pursuit Charters Striped Bass Charter Raffle**  
 Featuring a Half Day (4-hour) charter for up to 5 people  
 A \$525 value!  
 Or, winner may choose a gift certificate toward any other Relentless Pursuit charter



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

Charter will be out of Wells, Maine

All proceeds go toward community college scholarships and bluefin tuna research at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Winner will be drawn when all tickets are sold  
 Must be redeemed in 2024

Tickets available at [www.bluefinbonanza.org](http://www.bluefinbonanza.org)

**Ready-to Fish Rod/Reel Raffle**



Includes:  
 Custom Long 80 Rod with Winthrop Guides  
 Penn International 130 Reel with Backing and Top-shot

All proceeds go toward scholarships at Maine's 7 Community Colleges and Bluefin tuna research at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

Tickets: \$20 each or 6 for \$100  
 Winner may choose \$1,000 cash instead of Rod/Reel  
 Will be drawn Aug 4 at Tournament

The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges  
 Gulf of Maine Research Institute  
 Science. Education. Community.



Our sponsors at DuraBrite will be running on-line contests and promotions throughout the year including some of their latest technology. Be sure to check out our social media pages on Facebook and Instagram so you don't miss out.

### 2024 Tournament Awards

- First Place - \$25,000
- Second Place - \$12,500
- Third Place - \$6,000
- Fourth Place - \$3,000
- Fifth Place - \$1,500
- Cumulative weight - \$1,000
- Largest Fish Daily - \$1,000

Thanks again to the captains who donated charters in 2023.

