



BONANZA

Official newsletter of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza

Summer, 2021

Game On!

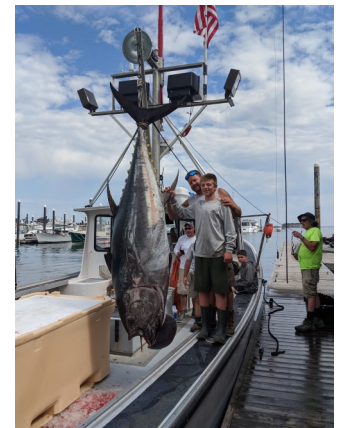
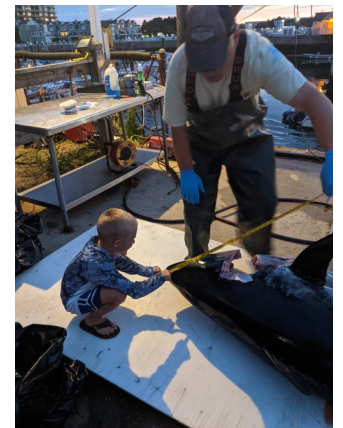
The dedicated folks who run the annual Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza have certainly faced their fair share of adversity. In 2019, we started from scratch and in just three months pulled together a phenomenally successful event. In 2020, despite the pandemic, we soldiered on and did it again. In 2021, just as things were finally looking more optimistic, NOAA Fisheries proposed Restricted Fishing Days (RFDs) on Fridays and Saturdays, potentially torpedoing the 2021 Bonanza.

Hopefully you all had a chance to submit comments on our behalf. The financial impact of our event to the local economy rivals even that of the entire commercial fishery, so it would be a shame if we weren't able to hold our event, more than a dozen deserving students didn't receive scholarships and valuable bluefin research went un-funded.

Though it's a short one, we have a track record of persevering and somehow finding a way, and this year will be no different. At this time we're still not sure what the final effect of RFDs will be on our event but one way or another, there will be a Third Annual Bluefin Bonanza. We appreciate your patience and understanding and will advise you all of what, if any schedule changes may occur.

In the mean time, we're forging ahead. Our sponsors have been exceptionally generous and we'll have some awesome items for our live and silent auctions and raffles. Don't forget to get your rod raffle tickets and check out all

the great new Bonanza apparel at our online store. If you're not fishing, stop by the tournament tent to watch tuna being landed, participate in our kids activities and grab your logo wear.



WWW.BLUEFINBONANZA.ORG



How the Bluefin Bonanza Helps our Community

The objective of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza is to raise funds, but the goal is to distribute those funds in ways that will build a stronger, healthier and more vibrant community.

Community First

The Bluefin Bonanza supports our local community in several ways. By hosting a tournament, we provide an opportunity for commercial anglers to fish and sell their catch providing much needed income for fishing families, seafood buyers and retailers. Much of the proceeds from our event are awarded as scholarships to students enrolled in the trades and marine science programs at each of Maine's 7 community colleges. Demand for skilled tradesmen and women is increasingly higher but many deserving students lack the means to pay for better education and skills training. By helping them, we're adding more productive individuals to our community's work force.



Caring for the Environment



The recent proliferation in bluefin tuna stocks is one of the great success stories in fisheries management. Once imperiled and overfished, bluefin tuna populations have recovered, thanks to careful management based on sound research conducted by groups like the Large Pelagics Research Center (LPRC) and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI). We

provide financial support to both these organizations. Our contributions to LPRC help pay for their Tag A Tiny program, which uses tags to track migration patterns of young bluefin. Contributions to GMRI support interns in acquiring the necessary

skills and experience to become future researchers. We also support ongoing work on DNA analysis, food habits and movements, all of which contribute to international efforts to ensure this valuable fishery remains healthy and sustainable.

Positive Economic Impact

The Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza also provides a significant socio-economic benefit to our local communities. Fishing alone contributes over \$180,000 to the local economy, while also supporting waterfront infrastructure and businesses like marinas, tackle shops, eateries and lodging facilities. Providing scholarship support also helps fill the work force for local businesses and gives graduates an opportunity for higher earnings.

The Whole Package

It's impossible to quantify the overall impact that the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza has on our community, which not only includes the Casco Bay region, but extends even beyond our State's borders. We provide scholarships to help students improve their position in the workforce. We generate income for our participants as well as an array of local, regional and national businesses. We support the science the scientists who work on valuable research to ensure bluefin stocks remain healthy, and therefore help commercial and recreational fisheries and the seafood industry. None of this would be possible without the support of our sponsors and donors, who understand the importance of community.



ELDREDGE

LUMBER & HARDWARE

Portsmouth Kittery York Portland

Winner, Winner

This year's fundraisers include some of the same, and a whole lot more.

Again, we'll be running a ticket raffle for a ready-to-fish outfit including an SBT Long 80 bent-butt rod from Saco Bay Tackle and a Penn130 reel loaded with backing and top-shot. You can order tickets online or from any of our committee members.



Our ongoing, online auction will include some great items like a pair of survival suits from Life Raft

Services. Visit our website for details.



If you don't find something you "need," you can shop with some gift certificates from Kittery Trading Post.



The Hometown Foundation, Inc.

Our friends from L.T. Marine will be on hand at the Captain's Meeting with a selection of harpoons, gaffs and swim hooks for auction and for sale.

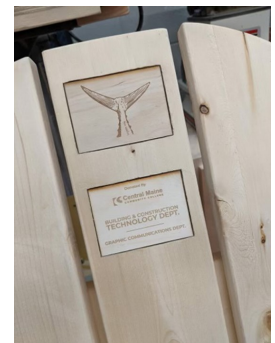


Kelblan Creations will be onsite with Bluefin Bonanza tumblers. Or you can order ahead of time with your own logo added.

www.kelblancreations.com



How about an Adirondack Chair?



We'll have another custom rod from Reel Easy to auction off as well.



Come on Down

If you're not out fishing, feel free to swing by the scales, watch the fish being landed and weighed and learn all kinds of cool things about bluefin tuna. As always, Dr. Walt Golet and his team will be on hand collecting samples from fish brought to the scales. Walt has a wealth of information that he is always willing to share with interested onlookers.



More Bucks for Your Bluefin

Bluefin tuna can be worth a lot of money, but only when handled properly to maintain quality and appearance. How you handle your fish will influence how much its worth and how willing fish dealers are to buy your catch; and they can easily recognize when fish have been improperly handled. For more advice check out **Proper Handling of Bluefin at Sea** on our website: www.bluefinbonanza.org



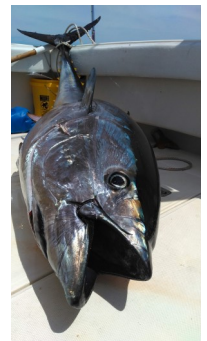
Bluefin Tuna...

... can raise their body temperature through a specialized blood vessel structure called a countercurrent exchanger that allows them to maintain a body temperature higher than the surrounding water.

... can live for 35 years based on current data, though it's been theorized that they could live as long as 50 years.

... can reach speeds of 40 miles per hour, thanks to strong core muscles used for power and a streamlined "torpedo" shaped body to reduce water resistance.

... can dive to depths of 3,301 feet, where they feed on marine invertebrates like squid and crustaceans.



Why We Do It

Our scholarship recipients can explain better than anyone why we do what we do.

"My course load is such that I am only working part time. The scholarship helped me to pay back school expenses that I put on my credit card, buying the necessary tools for my classes and later my career as a plumber. " - Cody H.

"I greatly appreciate the investment you have made in me and plan to make full use of this to finish my schooling." - Lucas H.

"May parents have always told me to make a great life for myself. This scholarship will help me tremendously in my efforts to pursue higher education." - Justin G.

"I am delighted to hear I was selected to receive the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza Scholarship. As a dedicated angler I am doubly honored." - Everett H.

"I look forward to giving back to my community and making a difference in the lives of children through this work." - Kristene J.

"I would like to let you know that you have supported me in a life change that will carry on for generations through my children." - Shaun R.

"This award has greatly reduced our financial burden and will allow me to stay focused on my goals. —Matthew S.

"This scholarship helps me out as I had to lose a few workdays to be able to attend classes. —Hunter C.

"Having grown up around lakes and the ocean I understand how important it is to protect Maine's fishing industries and ecosystems. - Katherine M.

"I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity and am thrilled to have gotten this scholarship!" - Justin N.

"I appreciate your assistance and will continue to strive to make the most of the educational opportunities afforded to me in part by this scholarship." - T.A.

Bluefin Bonanza Apparel

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

www.bluefinbonanza.org



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FISHING





2021

Captain's Meeting: Aug. 4 Fishing Days: Aug. 5-7



Full Schedule (tentative)

Wednesday, August 4, 2021

6:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Vessel Arrival

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Social Hour

5:00 p.m. Captain's Check-in and Meeting (Mandatory)

5:30 p.m. Live and Silent Auctions

6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner

Thursday, August 5, 2021

12:01 a.m. Fishing Begins. Lines in the water and anglers may fish continuously until 4:00 p.m., August 8.

Friday, August 6, 2021

12:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Fishing continues.

Saturday, August 7, 2021

4:00 p.m. Fishing Closes (Lines out)

5:00 p.m. Dinner Available

Standard cook-out fare with continued selections of beer and spirits.

6:00 p.m. Official Scales Close

Tournament scales close at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 7, 2021. 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 (Tournament committee discretion).

7:00 p.m. Awards Ceremony

Tournament Awards

First Place - \$7,500 and the Casco Cup

Second Place - \$4,000

Third Place - \$2,500

Fourth Place - \$1,500

Fifth Place - \$1,000

Greatest Cumulative Weight—\$1,000



It's Not Just About Scholarships

Just the fishing during last year's tournament contributed over \$180,000 to the local economy.

* Average trip cost (NOAA data): \$823

(includes ice, food, bait, fuel, captain/crew)

* 40 boats x 3 trips (days) x \$823 = \$98,760

* Average price for bluefin \$6.86/pound

* An average landing of 20 fish totaling 9,694 lbs x \$6.86/lb. = \$66,500.84

* Registration fee: 40 boats x \$400 = \$16,000

Total = \$181,260.84



The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges

The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges is dedicated to ensuring that the state's seven community colleges have the resources they need to provide a high quality, affordable, and accessible college education for Maine people. In addition to providing \$1,000 scholarships to 2 students from each of Maine's 7 community colleges through the Foundation, The Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza has also established an endowment that, once filled, will provide scholarships in perpetuity.

Learn more by contacting:

The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges
54 Lighthouse Circle
South Portland, ME 04106
207.321.6151



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