



BONANZA

Official newsletter of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza

Spring, 2020

Improvise, Adapt, Overcome

There we were, with a successful tournament in our rear view mirror, a ton of good energy and momentum moving forward and well ahead of schedule in planning for our 2020 event. Dates were locked in, permits secured and a good many sponsors had already stepped up to offer their continued support. The original draft of this newsletter was nearly complete and simply waiting for the months to pass before we could ramp up our efforts for a bigger, better event. Then the unthinkable happened and the world became a very different and uncertain place.

After months of isolation, social distancing and some very tough times we're just now starting to see some hope of a return to normalcy. Now, more than ever people need to get back out in their communities and on the water, and while I'm sure you don't need any excuses we're giving you one.

We're still not sure what it will look like, but we WILL be holding the 2020 Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza tuna tournament.

We don't know if we will be able to hold a Captain's Dinner on August 5 and if so, what THAT might look like. But if we can, **Red Claw** will again provide captains, crews and guests with a Downeast lobster bake including lobsters, corn, potatoes and more - perhaps even clams or mussels if we find a willing donor (hint). And our friends from **Batson River Brewing & Distilling** will again provide liquid refreshments for the adults.



If we can somehow pull it off, we'll also have plenty of great items available in our live and silent auctions and raffles, including a cockpit harpoon from L.T. Marine, a custom rod from Reel Easy and a VRBO cottage stay on Sebasco, just to name a few. And if we can't, we'll run an online auction.



We've also secured discounts for all registered Captains with our sponsors from L.T. Marine, Reel Easy Custom Rods, Canyon Bags and End Game Tuna Gear.

If we're unable to hold an auction/raffle/dinner event we will still have a Captain's Meeting on August 5 where we will collect any outstanding registration fees, hand out Captain's packages and have you sign release forms.

As for the tournament, things should be status quo provided we register enough boats. Landing and weigh-in procedures already conform to Phase One guidelines and we should be well into Phase 3 by August. And we are working with buyers, brokers and other sources to ensure you have a market for your fish.

It's been a struggle for everyone but if you bear with us and stick with us we'll do our best to provide you with a quality event in 2020, and our assurance that we'll all be back bigger and better in 2021.

Capt. Bob



What it's All About



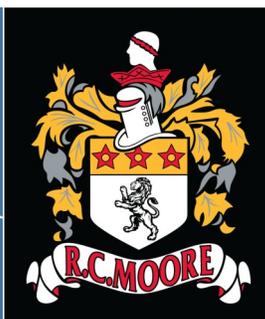
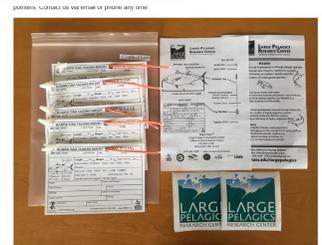
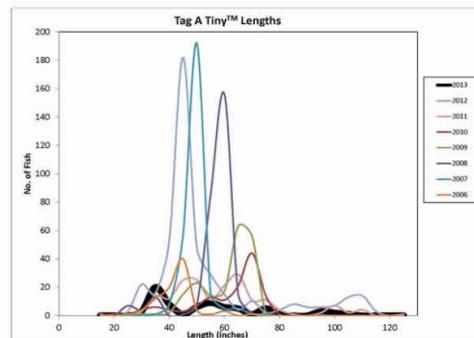
While we're all here to have an enjoyable time on land and sea, the overriding purpose of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza is to raise money.

The focus of Maine's current economic development plan is attracting people and adding skills and talent to a workforce that is shrinking every year. There are 185,000 Mainer who have some college, but no degree, who could put themselves in a position for higher earnings if they could get access to the right program. The state's community college system is serving that need for thousands of Mainer, but its most sought-after programs too often have to turn potential students away. Helping more workers acquire the skills and credentials would allow them to command more in the job market.



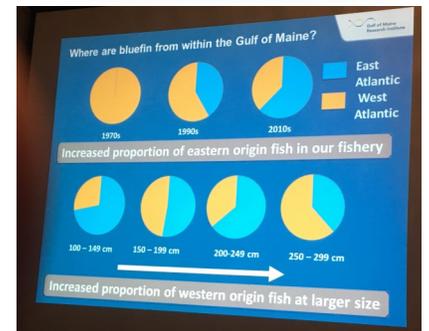
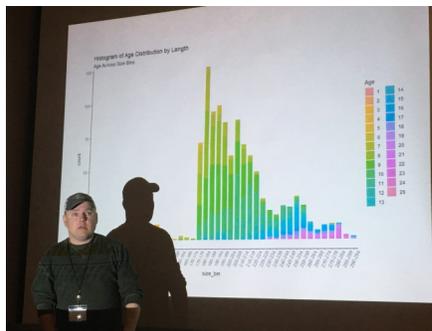
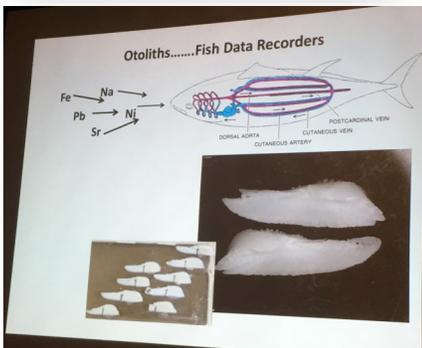
That's where we come in. Results from our inaugural event far exceeded our, and most everyone else's expectations, and we were able to award scholarships to one student from each of Maine's seven community colleges through the Maine Community College Foundation. But wait, there's more.

We were also able to make a donation to the Large Pelagics Research Center in support of their research on bluefin tuna. Their Tag A Tiny is a cooperative tagging program for juvenile bluefin tuna. It was started in 2006 by the LPRC led by Dr. Molly Lutcavage, who recognized the need to identify migration paths and habitats of juvenile Atlantic bluefin tuna in the north west Atlantic. Their year-long movements were unknown, and large data gaps for small fish were (and still are) an impediment to understanding the stock's trajectory. The initial objective of Tag a Tiny was to determine the feasibility of developing a network of cooperative fishermen taggers in a region where commercial fishing for juveniles no longer occurred, and where scientific tagging via purse seine or bait boat was highly improbable. The model worked, and to this day, the program enlists recreational anglers and charter boat captains to catch, measure, tag and release juvenile bluefin with conventional, double-barbed nylon "spaghetti" ID tags purchased from The Billfish Foundation. FMI go to www.tunalab.org



In the Name of Science

The Bluefin Bonanza also represents a very convenient, important and cost-effective source of biological samples for Dr. Walt Golet and his team from the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Bone and tissue samples and stomach contents provide vital information on things like migration patterns, breeding status and food habits. We need these data now more than ever to demonstrate that our fishery is sustainable and bluefin populations in the western Atlantic are growing.







Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza president Capt. Bob Humphrey is a member of NOAA Fisheries Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel. If you have questions or comments you would like to share you may contact him at bob@sportventures.net






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More of the Same

We are also bringing back many of the same popular features from last year.



Again, each boat will receive a Captain's bucket packed and ready-to-go with great items from our generous sponsors. Each boat will also receive four hats, sponsored by Whited Peterbilt, four tournament shirts, donated by W.S. Emerson and two tickets to the Captain's dinner sponsored by Red Claw. And, we're including one ticket for a special door prize this year.



Tournament registrants will also be eligible for discounts on gear from some of our sponsors, like L.T. Marine, Reel Easy Rods, Canyon Bags and Pelican Cases. Details will be provided upon registration.

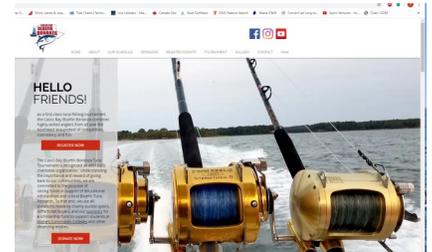
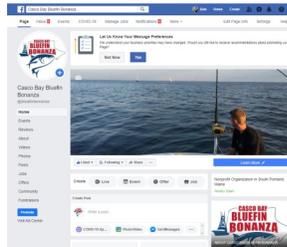


New this year, your registration package will include a door prize ticket for a framed print from our art sponsors at Silverfish Press.



The Casco Cup is once again up for grabs. Will some skilled (lucky) angler be able to pry it from Capt. Kurt 's hands?

FOR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS BE SURE TO CHECK IN REGULARLY WITH US ON FACEBOOK AND OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.CASCOBAYBLUEFINBONANZA.ORG



Tournament apparel generously provided by:

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Captain's Meeting: Aug. 5

Fishing Days: Aug. 6-8

Captain's Meeting and award ceremony are tentative but fishing dates are confirmed.



Schedule

Wednesday, August 5, 2020

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

Dockage is available at standard rates through Port Harbor Marine.

4:00 - 5:00 p.m. Social Hour - Enjoy craft beer and locally distilled spirits while you visit with sponsors, vendors and friends and bid on silent auction items.

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

Captains arrive, check-in and receive their Tournament package and a Captain's bucket. Each boat must have a representative present for a review of the rules and a brief Q&A period.

5:30 p.m. Live and Silent Auctions

6:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner

Each tournament registrant will receive two meal tickets. Additional tickets are \$20.

Thursday, August 6, 2020

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

Friday, August 7, 2019

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

Saturday, August 8, 2019

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 8, 2020. 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).

Registration

Registration is now open and limited to 40 boats. The cost is \$400 per boat. Each registrant will receive four tournament shirts and hats. Additional shirts and hats available for \$20. Shirt sizes cannot be guaranteed after July 12. Register online at www.bluefinbonanza.org

Tournament Awards

First Place - \$6,250 and the Casco Cup

Second Place - \$3,250

Third Place - \$1,500

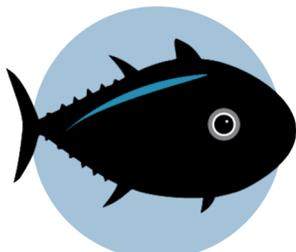
Fourth Place - \$1,000

Fifth Place - \$500

Smallest Fish - \$250



Wanna get involved? It takes a tremendous group effort to plan and implement the CBBB and many hands make for lighter work. We can always use more committee members and volunteers. If you'd like to be a part of our success, get in touch with us at bluefinbonanza@gmail.com



CHUBBY FISH

