



BONANZA

Official newsletter of the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza

Fall, 2021

Endeavor to Persevere

And you thought 2020 was a rough year. We all held our collective breath this summer waiting for the final word from NOAA Fisheries on proposed Restricted Fishing Days (RFDs), an action that could have substantially altered our plans, then got blindsided by a category closure on the eve of our tournament.

Nonetheless, we soldiered on. Plan A was set aside, then Plan B, and we quickly transitioned to Plan C, holding our dinner/auction on Friday night and pushing fishing dates off to September. Despite the tremendous inconvenience it caused everyone, participants were supportive and encouraging. We can't apologize enough but we are truly grateful for the positive feedback we've received from registered captains, sponsors and dinner attendees.

In case you missed it, the dinner/auction was a tremendous success. We raised enough money that we'll again be able to fulfill our endowment to the Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges and continue our student support through scholarships. Furthermore, we've kicked off a new alliance with the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, supporting interns and funding vital research on bluefin tuna (see additional info in newsletter).

Next came fishing days. The logical choice would have been to begin on September 1, but the folks at

the Boston Bluefin and Striper Classic beat us to the punch. Not wanting to conflict, we pushed back fishing dates to September 8, 9 and 12. We wrestled with the idea of just doing two days, but the overwhelming majority of captains we contacted wanted three days; so that's what we scheduled.

The folks at NOAA really seemed to have it in for us this year as they also include the National Weather Service, and the weather was "less than favorable." Despite that, most of you toughed it out and some of you got the job done.

We're already planning on ways to make next year's Bonanza bigger and better. Stay tuned to our social media outlets for updates, and thanks for playing.



ELDREDGE

LUMBER & HARDWARE

Portsmouth Kittery York Portland



YOUTH DAY



Gulf of Maine Research Institute

Science. Education. Community.

Our first ever Youth Day, hosted by Bass Pro Shops - Cabela's and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute was a big hit and a huge success.

As an unexpected surprise, Captain Kurt Christensen even brought the Molly Jane in and gave kids a chance to walk around on a real tuna boat.



Walt Golet from the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute and his interns gave kids 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. The kids showed little hesitation when offered a chance to cut out eyeballs, cut open stomachs and help the researchers process tissue samples. Perhaps there was a budding biologist or two among them.



We'll do it again next year and Walt already has ideas to make it even more fun and interesting.

Congratulations to Sewall Maddocks, Jr. winner of our Ready-to-Fish Rod and Reel raffle.



Then it was down to the docks, but not before the Bass Pro team cooked up some tasty treats for kids and grown-ups alike, including hot dogs and Rich Gilbert's secret bean recipe.

Down on the docks, kids were treated to personalized instruction on casting and fishing from the Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Pro Staff. While the fish didn't cooperate the crabs did, and every kid went home with a fishing pole, a CAT hat and a Bass Pro Shops bucket, as well as some delightful memories. A couple of our participants even went for a dip.



Synergy

Synergy is defined as the interaction or cooperation of two or more organizations, substances, or other agents to produce a combined effect greater than the sum of their separate effects. The Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza strives to maximize that effect by creating synergy in our efforts.

Some of the money we raise throughout the year goes to provide scholarships for students enrolled in the trades at each of Maine's 7 community colleges. This gives them an opportunity for better education and skills training



that might otherwise not exist. By helping them, we're adding more productive individuals to our community's work force, including many of the local businesses that support us, like AP Electric, Boise Cascade, Casco Bay Ford, E.J. Jaxtimer, Eldredge Lumber, Gorham Sand and Gravel, Keenan Excavation, Landry/French Construction, Kurt Christensen Custom Homes, Milton CAT, Pineland Farms, Poland Springs, Port Harbor Marine, Portland Yacht Services, Prime Auto, R.C. Moore, Rowe Ford, Royal River Boatyard, Sprague Energy, Thomas & Lord, Tim Barry, Inc., Vessel Services, Whited Equipment, Yankee Ford and Yankee Marina & Boatyard.

By hosting a tournament, we provide an opportunity for commercial anglers to fish and sell their catch, providing much needed income for fishing families. This also supports our local seafood buyers and sellers, tackle shops and support infrastructure like Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's, Durabrite Lights, End Game Tuna Gear, Free Range Fish & Lobster, Fuel Ox, Hamilton Marine, Kittery Trading Post, L.L. Bean, Life Raft Services, L.T. Marine, Luke's Lobster, Montauk Tackle Co., Portland Yacht Services, Reel Easy Custom Rods, Royal River Boatyard, Saco Bay Tackle, Seafresh, SeaTow, West Marine and Yankee Marina & Boatyard.

Some of our proceeds also go to support important research conducted by the University of Maine School of Marine Sciences and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. Dr. Walt Golet and his team are investigating a suite of life history information on bluefin tuna including origin, migration and movement

patterns, age and reproductive status and diet. All of this information then goes on to the International Convention on the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT), where it is used to set quotas, seasons and limits that allow us to continue fishing without harm to the resource.

But it doesn't stop there. Walt is very generous and gracious in sharing his time, work and knowledge with the general public, including the kids and adults who attended our annual youth event. And the folks from Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's made sure all had a chance to have some fun, learn how to fish and go home with memories and more.



Speaking of more, our local fishermen don't just register and fish. Several, like John Tanguay, Jim Merryman, Jim Barkley, Keith Jordan, Robby Rutter and William Ray also provided the lobsters, prepared by Red Claw, that we all enjoyed at our Captain's Dinner, as their way of saying "thanks" and showing support.

While our ostensible goal is fundraising, our overriding objective is building a better, stronger community. Several organizations, like The Hometown Foundation, Sprague Energy and West Marine Blue Future have taken note and provided additional support through their own charitable organizations.

Our events provide a tremendous economic boost to our community, contributing over \$200,000 to the local economy. They also bring us together; builders and banks, auto dealers and tackle shops, restaurants and retailers all combining their resources and energy to support the Bonanza, the students and the research, and in so doing, build a stronger, better community. The end result is that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts—something we call synergy.



The Hometown Foundation, Inc.

Extending our Influence

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide more educational opportunities to students and promote sustainability of the fishery resource we all enjoy, the Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza has launched a new partnership with Dr. Walt Golet and his team at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute.

You've all seen Walt and his interns collecting samples at the scales but did you ever wonder what they're collecting and why?

Otoliths - These small crystals at the base of the skull have a unique signature. By cross-sectioning them, scientists can tell the tuna's age. From their chemical composition, Walt and his team can also determine where the fish was born and what it has been eating.



Food Habits - An easier, though perhaps less pleasant way to determine diet is by examining stomach contents. This helps scientists discover which species are most abundant and important in the bluefin's diet. Recent analysis has found a much higher proportion of pogies or menhaden, illustrating the importance of maintaining strong forage stocks.



Tagging - By placing electronic tags on tuna, biologists can monitor migration from 1-5 years. Knowing the origins and movements of fish helps managers set season quotas and timing to ensure the resource is not over-fished.

Sex - By examining sex organs, researchers can determine things like reproductive status and age at first breeding, which helps managers develop and refine population models used to assess overall stock status.

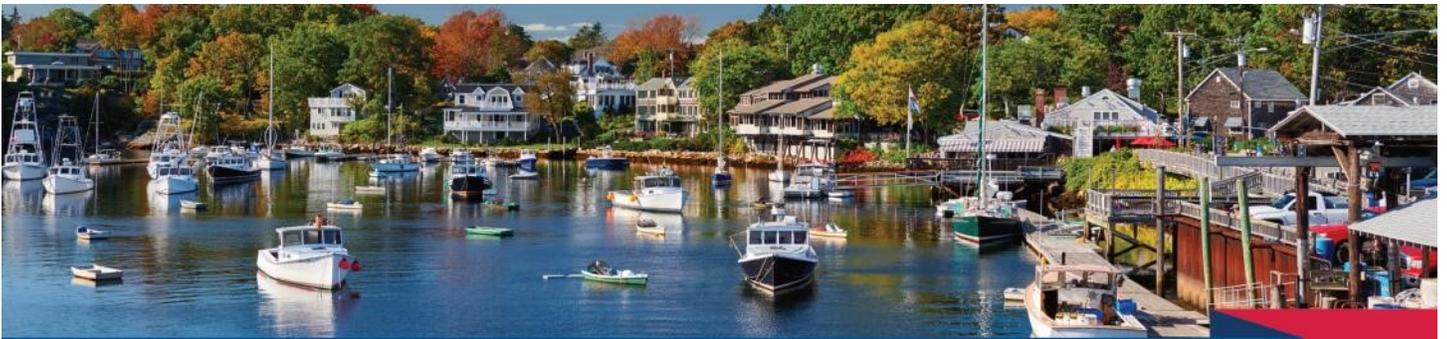


Interns - GMRI's research provides a unique opportunity for students to get hands-on field experience and learn skills they can put to use in their professional careers.



"One of the best parts about my job is the interconnectedness I have with management, assessment and the fishing community," says Walt.. "It's really a partnership between all of those different facets that makes our research program run.

It's the samples we collect from the industry, it's the feedback we get from the assessment and management groups as to what they need and where the holes in life history actually exist and take that information, incorporate it and move forward toward the sustainability of tuna populations in the Atlantic."



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Profile: Central Maine Community College Building Construction Technology

The skills students develop in Building Construction Technology at CMCC will enable them to earn a good income, find daily satisfaction in producing quality products, and possess skills they can take any place in the world. Graduates may pursue careers in: Residential, light commercial, institutional, or heavy construction, Building materials supply, Prefabrication shops for modular units or custom cabinetry.

CMCC's in-house program uses competency-based assessment to advance students on an individual basis through hands-on projects, both inside and outside the classroom. Through a combination of classroom study, mock-ups, and live projects, students in the Building Construction Technology obtain hands-on experience and become broadly familiar with methods, standards, and codes commonly associated with the construction industry.

Their Jobsite program has students work on jobsites with a local construction company. Students who complete the jobsite track will not only earn an associate's degree, but will likely have a job waiting for them with their internship employer. The Building Construction Jobsite program provides students with alternating classroom and laboratory training with paid, on-the-job experience, leading to an associate degree in Building Construction Technology. The program prepares students with skills required to meet industry needs through hands-on construction training on the jobsite.



2021 Casco Bay Bluefin Bonanza Winners



First Place

Pete Speeches

Backstabber

105" - 719 lbs.

Second Place

Keith Jordan

Bailey & Bella

103.5" - 700 lbs.

Third Place

Mitch Napalitano

ANUT

104" - 698 lbs.

Fourth Place

Keith Jordan

Bailey & Bella

107" - 646 lbs.

Fifth Place

Kurt Christensen

Molly Jane

102.5" - 632 lbs.

Cumulative Weight: Capt. Keith Jordan, Bailey & Bella, 3 fish total weight: 1,928 lbs.

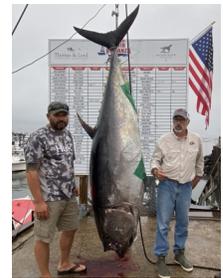


Profile: Northern Maine Community College Diesel Hydraulics Technology

Diesel Hydraulics Technology is a program emphasizing the National Automotive Technology Education Foundation (NATEF) skills standards required for a technician to become Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified. Fundamental training in all aspects of medium/heavy truck technician training is employed through lecture and hands-on training. The Diesel Hydraulics program is master level certified by NATEF. Students will be eligible for ASE student certifications upon completion of the program. Graduates can find employment with construction companies, logging companies, marine companies, farm machinery/heavy equipment dealers and truck dealerships. Capable graduates may advance into management positions (team leader, shift foreman, shop supervisor, parts manager, sales associate, etc.).



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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