

OFFICIAL SET OF RULES-Nantucket Bluefin Blast-2023

(updated and final as of 7-27-2023)

All United States Federal Bluefin Tuna regulations apply to this tournament. Tag and Release of the species is the preferred method for this tournament.

Captains are responsible for tunas that are killed and will be held accountable if questioned by the Tournament committee, USCG, DEP or NMFS. The Nantucket Bluefin Blast Tournament will not be responsible for, or held liable for, any illegally taken fish.

1. Weather: This is a Captains choice tournament. Advisories of the weather conditions will be broadcast by national weather service and are for the protection of the anglers. Decisions to fish or not to fish will be at the discretion of the captain. FISH AT YOUR OWN RISK.

2. Minimum Length per federal Bluefin regulations: 27 inches CFL (recreational and charter/head boat), 73 inches CFL (general category). You must release fish that are not Minimum lengths for each category. Please check updated regulations on the NMFS website.

3. Species eligible: Bluefin tuna, Saturday and Sunday.

3A. Sharks, Saturday, Trolling only. There will be a stand alone category and award for the most sharks trolled and released during Saturday only. A photo of the shark being released must also be taken with time stamp. Shark category will not be added to the tuna category, these will be two seperate awards.

Permits- (directly taken from HMS fishery compliance guide)

Vessels must have a valid HMS Angling or HMS Charterboat/Headboat permit to fish for Atlantic sharks. The permit covers everyone fishing on that vessel. Tournament vessels may instead fish for sharks with an Atlantic Tunas General category or Swordfish General Commercial permit. All HMS permit holders must have a [shark endorsement](#) on their permit before they can fish recreationally for sharks.

4. Tackle: the use of Green sticks, long-lines, or any other means besides rod and reel are not permitted. This is to make the playing field fair to all boats.

5. Boundaries: Latitude 41° - 59'N, Longitude 69° - 50'W by Latitude 41° - 10'N, Longitude 69° - 50'W. The Eastern line is 60 miles directly east of Great Point Light House on Nantucket. All waters between these coordinates are fare game until till you hit the eastern line north to south. The waters south of Nantucket are not in play. This

tournament is designed to maintain a fun, safe and fair field for everyone.

6. All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard Requirements and are the sole responsibility of the boat owner.

7. This is a rod and reel tournament. No airplanes or other fishing gear will be permitted for this tournament. Non-electrified harpoons, flying gaffs and straight gaffs are permitted.

8. This is a boat trolling tournament, no chucking, live baiting, kites or any other means of catching a tuna besides pulling of lures, rigs, or trolling of dead baits. There is to be no bump trolling of any kind, the boat must be in gear and in a forward motion at the time of the hook up.

9. Fishing Hours: Boats may leave the dock before sunrise. Lines in will be 6:00 AM and lines out are 3:00 PM on both days. In the case of a hook up prior to the lines out time line of 3:00pm on Saturday only, the boat that is hooked up must radio to the committee boat that they are hooked up and will be fighting the fish past the lines out time of 3:00pm. If and when the fish is landed please again radio or relay to the committee boat that you have landed or not landed the fish so that proper measures can be made for the weigh master to be at the weigh in station and to inform Committee officials that you and your crew are safe. If you have declared that you are fighting a fish past the 3:00 PM lines out you will be eligible to weigh that fish in after the scale closing of 7:30 PM on Saturday's day of fishing only.

10. The weigh in station will open at 4:00 PM and will close at 7:30 PM sharp. All boats that are in line prior to 7:30 PM will have their catch weighed-in even if it is after 7:30 PM. Please radio the weigh master on channel 18 VHF when you are near the NB buoy located at the end of the jetties. This will ensure that the weigh master is present when you arrive.

11. There will be no terminator or terminator line. The closing of the weigh-in station at 7:30 PM signifies the end of the day's fishing.

12. All tunas over tournament minimum lengths must be brought to the weigh-in station in Nantucket. Tunas cannot be off loaded from a boat until a member of the tournament staff verifies the tuna that will be weighed in and will hand the boat a slip of paper with the name of the boat and the weight of the tuna.

13. There will be no transfer of fish from one boat to another. The boat that caught the fish must bring the fish to the weigh in station.

14. Scoring system: 1 point per fish that is either captured or released for the overall tournament. IE. 1 fish, 1 point, 2 fish – 2 points, etc.. the boat with the most accumulated fish over the two days will be the winner and follow suit for first place thru fifth place. in the event of a tie the boat that caught the first fish on time will be the winner. Fish weighed-in for Calcutta's will be based upon the weight of the fish at the time it is weighed by the weigh master.

A picture of the GPS showing the date and time should be the first picture of the day so as to make sure that the fish are recorded in sequential order for each day. All fish that are killed or released must have a date and time stamp photo with a finger or number card of the fish that is being pictured. THE CAPTAIN ALONG WITH THE CREW ARE RESPONSIBLE AND LIABLE FOR ALL THE RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN THE TOURNAMENT.

15. The decision of the weigh master and tournament committee are the deciding factors to the overall winners and are final unless protested.

16. The following situation will disqualify a catch. "Mutilation to the fish, prior to landing or boating the catch, caused by sharks, other fish, mammals or propellers that remove or penetrate the flesh." (Injuries caused by leader or line, scratches, old healed scars or regeneration of deformities are not considered to be disqualifying injuries)" (IGFA rule)

17. Protests. All protests must be in writing and handed to the Tournament Director prior to the 7:30 PM closing of the weigh-in station. All protests must be accompanied by \$100 cash (to be returned if the protest is upheld). In case more than one boat signs the protest, each boat will provide \$100 (to be returned if the protest is upheld). All team members will agree with the final decision of the Tournament Director.

18. The rules that govern this tournament are the rules. Once the tournament starts there will be no changes to the rules and the tournament will be fished under the agreed upon rules.

19. IGFA angling rules will apply if you are angling for an IGFA record. All crew members and anglers are expected to be familiar with IGFA rules. The angler must hook, fight and bring the fish to gaff unaided by any other person. No one other than the angler may touch the rod. (only if angling for a record)

20. The set of Rules that govern this tournament will be posted and is considered to be the Official set of rules for the tournament.

21. Channel 78, or 67 if 78 has traffic on it, will be the official VHF channel for the tournament.

22. As per NMFS rules and regulations, there is to be no switching of fish, once a fish is boated that fish belongs to the captain and boat in which the permit is issued. All fish that are in contention must be radioed or relayed to the committee boat. This will ensure that your fish is logged and that there is no monkey business of a smaller fish being released for a larger fish. THIS IS PER THE RULES OF NMFS and will insure that no senseless killing of Bluefin tuna will occur during the Nantucket Bluefin Blast tournament.

As a fishing Tournament we promote sustainable fishing for the future of all fish and the enjoyment of anglers.

