

19TH STURDIVANT ISLAND TUNA TOURNAMENT & FUNDRAISING AUCTION

The Largest Tuna Tournament in Northern New England

Benefits Maine's Community College Students

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South Portland – This year marks the 19th annual Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament at Spring Point Marina in South Portland. Festivities are open to the public and begin the afternoon of August 3rd with a dinner buffet (adults \$10, children under 12 free), the Captain's Meeting, and a fundraising live and silent auction. Proceeds mostly benefit students at Maine's seven community colleges. Tournament fishing officially starts at 12:00 AM Thursday and ends at 4:00 PM Saturday. The 19th SITT awards dinner is Saturday at 6:00 PM, with a fish fry prepared by Susan's Fish & Chips.

Captains landing the five largest blue-fin tuna qualify for cash prizes: 1st place \$6,250, 2nd is \$3,250, \$1,500 for 3rd, \$1,000 for 4th, and \$500 for 5th place. The tournament is limited to 40 pre-registered boats and the accumulated entrance fees pay the prize money. As an added incentive, if a tournament landed blue-fin tuna officially sets the Maine State Rod and Reel Record (>819 lbs), a **Grand Prize of \$50,000** will be awarded! Last year, Captain John Harmon and the crew of *Banshee* took home the \$6,250 first-place prize with a 670.8 lb blue-fin tuna.

Over the past 18 years, with the help of tournament participants and generous sponsors, the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament has made charitable contributions approaching **\$660,000!** Most of this money has been donated to establish scholarships at all seven of Maine's Community Colleges. In addition, donated funds have been given to the Byron R. Gouzie Foundation, the McAuley Residence at Mercy Hospital, the Isaac Baker "Baker-Mobile" fund, and the Maine Community Foundation. In 2010, at a red carpet banquet in Washington D.C., SITT was awarded the prestigious Council for Resource Development Benefactor Awards for its many contributions to Maine's community colleges.