



2018 Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament Rules

1. **HAVE FUN !!!**

2. All boats must be registered to the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament. A representative from each registered vessel **must be present and signed in prior to the Captain's Meeting held on Wednesday August 1st, 2018**. The vessel representative must be at least 18 years old. Any vessel that is not signed in prior to 7:00 p.m. at the Tournament Tent on that date will not be eligible to fish for that tournament year.

3. **General Category Rules apply** with the following exceptions: a) no electric harpoons, b) no aerial reconnaissance allowed, and c) all Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (ABT) are to be hooked, fought and brought to boat side only by manually operated rod and reel, hand line, or conventional harpoon. Power driven reels or devices of any kind are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, motor, hydraulic, or electrically driven devices.

4. It is the responsibility of the tournament participants to obtain and become familiar with tournament rules and all applicable State and Federal laws. A person or vessel is ineligible to obtain or possess any type of award or certification associated with this tournament unless the fish submitted for consideration is caught legally and under compliance of tournament, State and Federal laws. In the event that one or more rule provisions appear to be in conflict, the most restrictive rule applies and is to be determined by the Tournament Rules Committee. All landed tuna are subject to examination by the Tournament Rules Committee and/or Weigh Master.

The Tournament Rules Committee has final and sole authority to resolve questions and/or issues that arise. All committee decisions are final. Protests must be in writing and submitted by the close of scales on Saturday, August 4, 2018.

5. All entrants must be properly licensed to fish in the **General Category under National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regulations**. Entrants have the option of selling their catch dockside to the local buyer of their choice at prevailing prices.

6. Fishing may commence at 12:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 2, 2018 and will conclude at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 4, 2018. Tournament scales will close at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 4, 2018, and all vessels with fish to be weighed must be tied to the scales dock at Spring Point Marina (rafting is acceptable) by that time. **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.**



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RULES (cont.):

7. **All hookups** should be reported or relayed to the Tournament Weigh Master **as soon as possible when the fish is hooked**. The Tournament Weigh Masters are available Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.:
 - Walt Golet @ 207-351-5413
 - Chuck Gregory @ 207-229-5157
 - Chuck Horton @ 207-730-3144
 - Mike Soucy @ 207-289-0500
 - Walt Stinson @ 207-233-5937A second report or relay to the Weigh Master should be made **once the fish is boated** (subdued, tail-roped and hanging from or lying on the deck of the vessel).
8. All ABT are subject to examination by the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament Rules Committee.
9. All ABT must measure 73 inches curved fork length (CFL) or greater to be eligible for entry in the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament. In addition, **tuna heads and tails must be left on prior to weighing**.
10. **All eligible fish will be weighed at Spring Point Marina** and must be delivered on the tournament registered vessel upon which it was boated. (All exceptions will be subject to discussion by the rules committee.) Fish will be weighed by the tail using a tail rope provided by the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament. Innards and gill plates will be weighed separately, if detached. Any fish found to have bullet wounds or any unnatural damage will be disqualified (not to include gaff and/or harpoon marks). Please cooperate with the Weigh Master in filling and returning your weigh-in slips. Please do not leave the weigh stand until your slip is filled in and signed. Once signed, you have accepted the weight of your fish as final. In the event of a tie in weight, the first fish weighed by the official Tournament scales will win.
11. There are no limitations of fishing area nor is there a weather committee. The distance and decision to fish is that of the Captains and participants, and is strictly at their own risk. Upon signing the Waiver of Damages, the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament cannot be held liable.
12. Protests shall be called to the attention of the Rules Committee via radio, by contacting the telephone numbers provided (see rule #5), or in person upon arrival at the dock. Protests must be written in detail and turned into the Rules Committee by 8:30 p.m. the day of the incident (exception: Saturday, August 4th, 2018 by 6:00 p.m.). **All decisions made by the Rules Committee are final.**



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RULES (cont.):

13. If, at any time during the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament, NMFS declares that the quota is fulfilled, the tournament will be concluded and awards presented that evening. In the event of an early conclusion, please direct all questions/concerns to the Rules Committee.
14. In the event of a NMFS closure during the August 2nd through 4th timeframe, the Tournament Rules Committee will determine future tournament dates.
15. Prize distribution will be awarded for tournament year 2018 as follows:

1st Place:	\$ 6,250 plus trophy for (1) year
2nd Place:	\$ 3,250
3rd Place:	\$ 1,500
4th Place:	\$ 1,000
5th Place:	\$ 500

In the event of NO FISH weighed, all prize money will be donated as determined by the Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament Committee.

If only one (1) fish is weighed, \$12,500 and trophy for (1) year will be awarded.

If less than five (5) fish are weighed, all prize winnings will be awarded proportionately.

A Grand Prize of \$50,000 will be given to the first person catching an ABT that breaks the current *Maine State Rod and Reel* category record. A state record prize for the overall largest, eligible ABT landed via rod and reel during tournament hours will be awarded if and ONLY after it is determined by the State of Maine. In the event that more than one ABT is landed during tournament hours and is larger than the existing state record, the state record prize money will be awarded to the largest overall fish. In no case will more than one state record prize be awarded in a single tournament year. [Note: Using a harpoon to boat a fish caught by rod and reel will disqualify the catch for a Maine State Rod and Reel record.]

16. The disposal of fish is the responsibility of the angler **after the Weigh Master releases the fish**. DO NOT dump fish entrails and/or heads at the marina.
17. When traveling in Portland Harbor, the Tournament committee requests that **all vessels observe State of Maine rules and regulations**. Please obey 'No Wake Zones' and be mindful of lobster traps when traveling the inner and outer harbor waters.
18. The address we use for your mailing is the one you provide on your application. If this is not the proper address or if you have a change of address, **please notify us immediately** at the tournament registration desk.
19. **At the request of a boat fighting a fish**, all others must stay clear.
20. **Remember Rule #1!**