

# 2024 Beach Haven Tuna Open Tournament

June 8-15

**\$5,000 - Heaviest Tuna**

**\$3,000 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Heaviest**

**\$2,000 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Heaviest**

**Eligible species: Bigeye, Bluefin, Longfin,  
Yellowfin**

## **Registration:**

Early registration shall be \$500 per boat until May 17, 2024. To qualify for early registration, the boat must be registered and registration paid prior to 11:59 p.m., May 17, 2024. After May 17, 2024, registration shall increase to \$750.00 per boat. Boats may register online via credit card, or at the in-person registration on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup> from 3pm – 8pm at the Beach Haven Marlin and Tuna Club (prior to Captains meeting).

## **Captains Meeting/Awards:**

The Captain's meeting is Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. at the Beach Haven Marlin and Tuna Club: 420 West Pennsylvania Ave, Beach Haven NJ. Awards will be presented on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 pm at the Beach Haven Marlin and Tuna Club.

## **Fishing Days and Times:**

**Boats will elect to fish any TWO of SIX available fishing days (available fishing days are Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> - Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> .) Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> is not a tournament day (no tournament events and no tournament fishing).**

There are two fishing format options:

- 1) Daily Fishing ("Day Trip")
- 2) Back-to-Back with Overnight ("Overnight")

If the two elected fishing days are back-to-back, boats do not have to return to port if they are fishing overnight. Fish any time, no lines in/lines out times.

The scales are open daily from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Fish must be present at the scales within this timeframe to be weighed, with two exceptions:

- 1) A boat electing to fish back-to-back days with overnight fishing, only those fish hooked on the first day of fishing, prior to 11:59 p.m., shall be weighed for that fishing day. Any fish hooked after 11:59 p.m. on the first fishing day is a day 2 fish, and shall be weighed only for the second fishing day. All fish caught on the first day of a back-to-back trip shall be required to comply with the following rules and procedures:
  - The tournament shall provide each boat with fifteen (15) locking tags for fish caught on the first fishing day of a back-to-back trip.
  - Any fish caught on the first day of the back-to-back trip that are eligible for weigh in must be properly tagged, with the tag inserted through the fish and locked, photographed with a time/date stamped photo (with the tag appearing in the photograph) and reported to the tournament director via email or Inreach before 11:59 p.m. on the first fishing day. Photographs are to be produced upon request by tournament officials.

- The fish shall be reported via email or Inreach to: [TunaOpen@bhmtc.com](mailto:TunaOpen@bhmtc.com) with a copy to [angling@bhmtc.com](mailto:angling@bhmtc.com). The reporting message shall include the species and quantity of each fish tagged on the first day of fishing. (Photographs **do not** need to be sent with this notice)
- All fish caught on the first day of a back-to-back trip must be turned into the scales at the end of the second day of fishing before the scales close for that day and must comply with the above requirements to be eligible.
- A boat fishing a back-to-back trip is only required to return to the scales at the end of their 2nd day of fishing prior to the scales closing for that day.

2) On Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup>, scales will close at 8 pm

**Weigh Ins:**

5-9 pm at the Beach Haven Marlin and Tuna Club. Fish may be brought to the scales by any boat or by motor vehicle. **Saturday weigh ins are 5-8 pm.**

**Tackle:**

All Tackle Tournament. All fish must be caught on hand cranked rod and reel either by trolling, chunking, jigging, live-lining, or plugging. See rules for more details.

**Optional Calcuttas\*\*:**

\$2,000 Pool A Heaviest Tuna	\$250 Bluefin
\$1,500 Pool B Heaviest Tuna	\$250 Bigeye
\$1,000 Pool C Heaviest Tuna	\$250 Yellowfin
\$500 Pool D Heaviest Tuna	\$250 Longfin
\$500 Stringer – Heaviest 2 Tuna any species	
\$1000 True Daily Heaviest Tuna.	
\$500 True Daily Heaviest Tuna.	

\*\*All Calcutta Payouts are 50% first place, 30% second place, 20% third place after 10% tournament fee

**Rules:**

Registration is to be made by vessel, not by angler. All vessels must fish under the “HMS Angling Permit” rules for this tournament regardless of permit held by vessel. One registration per vessel is permitted.

1. There are 6 available fishing days for the tournament as follows:

- Monday, June 10th
- Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>
- Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup>
- Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>

2. Boats may not pass the COLREGS demarcation line of their departing inlet prior to 12:01am on their elected day of fishing.

3. Boundaries are 110 nautical miles from 39° 27.937 N 74° 16.456 W (the mapped location of the Little

Egg Bell Buoy).

4. Fishing hours are not enforced, no lines/lines out times.
5. Each boat must submit FISHING DAY CONFIRMATION via email to [TunaOpen@bhmtc.com](mailto:TunaOpen@bhmtc.com) with a copy to [angling@bhmtc.com](mailto:angling@bhmtc.com).

Emails electing fishing day(s) are required to be electronically time-stamped and delivered prior to 11:59pm the day prior to the day the boat is fishing. **This Fishing Day Confirmation email is required for EACH day of fishing; however, back-to-back fishing days with the overnight option elected would not require a separate email prior to your 2<sup>nd</sup> day of fishing so long as that declaration was made clearly in the initial email.**

The Fishing Day confirmation email shall be submitted by any of 3 designated contact emails from each vessel.

If a boat chooses to go to overnight, they must report that decision in the same email declaring their first fishing day.

The Email must include the Boat Name, Tournament Boat Number, and state: "The [Boat Name] elects [date] as a fishing day(s)."

*Examples:*

Day Trip:

*Fish Killer* elects Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> as a fishing day. [this email would have to be submitted prior to 11:59pm on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>]

*Fish Killer* elects Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup> as a fishing day. [this email would have to be submitted prior to 11:59pm on Wednesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>].

Overnight:

*Big Bad Boat* elects Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> with the overnight option as our fishing days.

Any boat not submitting the email prior to 11:59pm the day prior to the day the boat is fishing is assumed to NOT be fishing that day (with the exception of back-to-back fishing days with the overnight option, in which case the initial email notice shall suffice if the fishing days and overnight option was clearly identified). Should a boat not submit a Fishing Day Declaration and still fish, that day of fishing is unofficial and cannot be counted or considered for anything in the tournament. NO EXCEPTIONS.

If a boat elects an overnight back-to-back trip as discussed above and during the first fishing day decides to cancel the overnight fishing for any reason whatsoever, such change must be reported back to the tournament contacts/directors via email prior to 8:00 p.m. on the first day of fishing. In doing so, you have cancelled your overnight option and will have a second Day Trip of fishing within the available fishing days. All other rules for the Day Trip fishing remain applicable, including scale closure time.

As an example: *Big Bad Boat* elects Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> with an overnight as our fishing days.

In order to cancel the Tuesday, June 11<sup>th</sup> fishing day, *Big Bad Boat* must send an email to [TunaOpen@bhmtc.com](mailto:TunaOpen@bhmtc.com) with a copy to [angling@bhmtc.com](mailto:angling@bhmtc.com) no later than 8:00 p.m. on Monday June 10<sup>th</sup> declaring that *Big Bad Boat* is cancelling their overnight option and that boat must return to Port and shall not depart again before 12:01am on the next elected day of fishing. Renotification to tournament officials is

required prior to departing for your second fishing day option. A failure to properly cancel the overnight will result in *Big Bad Boat* having exercised their two fishing days for Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>.

6. This is an All-Tackle tournament. All fish must be caught on hand cranked rod and reel either by trolling, chunking, live-lining, jigging, or plugging. IGFA rules should be followed with the following exceptions:

- Handing the rod while fighting the fish from one angler to another is permitted.
- There is no limit for line class or leader length.
- Spreader bars, flippy floppies, splash bars, and birds are permitted.

7. It is not necessary to report fish to another boat or committee boat. There will be no committee boats.

8. Boats may depart from any inlet in New Jersey but must return in time to weigh in the fish at the Beach Haven Marlin and Tuna Club between 5- 9 pm the day of fishing, with the exception of those boats electing the overnight fishing option. (Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> scales will close at 8 pm).

9. All fish may be brought to the scales by any means necessary to make the weigh in deadline. Any boat or any motor vehicle may be used to transport the fish to the scales.

10. All fish eligible for prizes must be brought to the official scale at the Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club on the same day as caught by 9 p.m., except Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> as scales will close at 8 p.m.. The exception to this rule is weighing in fish caught on the first day of any overnight back-to-back trip. A completed catch report must be delivered to the Weigh Master at the time of weigh-in for each fishing day.

Weigh-in times are between 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 pm, Monday-Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> and weigh-in time for Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup> is between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 pm. **Note, scales close at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday June 15<sup>th</sup>.**

11. Any protest as to the weight of the fish, the manner in which it is being weighed or the condition of the fish must be made to the weigh master or tournament director while the fish is on the scale to the Weigh Master.

Once the fish has been removed from the scale, the weight is considered official and shall stand. Any fish under protest will be kept at the scale location until the Tournament Officials release an official decision.

A protest may only be filed by a registered angler, registered crew member, BHMTTC Weigh Master, or Tournament Director.

12. All protests (except protest by TUNA OPEN Weigh Master or Tournament Director) must be made in writing and include the registered angler(s) name(s), a cell phone number and \$1000 in cash or check ("Protest Fee") made payable to Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club. If the Tournament Officials rule in favor of the person(s) that filed a protest, the \$1000 Protest Fee will be refunded. The written protest must contain a detailed description of the protested matter and include any supporting evidence available. The written protest must be signed, dated and include time of written protest and must be delivered by a registered angler or crew member to the Tournament Director, at the Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club.

13. Any other protest, including any boat observed passing the COLREGS demarcation line of their inlet prior to 12:01am d, must be presented to the Tournament Director, by 9:00 p.m. on the day of the alleged infraction, except Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> for which the protest window closes at 8pm.. The Tournament Officials shall serve as judges, and may consult with additional parties as needed, and their decision is final

14. The BHMTTC Weigh Master has the right to protest any fish.

15. Only one day need be fished by at least one boat to make an official tournament and for the prizes to be awarded.

16. Any fish brought to the scale must meet the current state and federal regulations for bag limits and sizes. Any boat fishing an overnight must comply with all state and federal regulations as it relates to possession limits.
17. Boats may fish other Tournaments during this time frame, but must adhere to rules, departure, fishing, and weigh times set forth on this tournament for the 6-day fishing window.
18. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to cancel the tournament or modify any aspect of it at any time, for any reason.
19. Any amendments to the Rules will be announced at the Captain's Meeting on Saturday, June 8th at 8:00pm at the Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club, 420 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Beach Haven, NJ 08008, Each boat entry is strongly encouraged to have a representatives attend the captain's meeting; however, it is not mandatory.
20. The captain and crew of a boat with mechanical problems may be allowed to switch boats. In this event, they will fish under the same name and same Tournament Boat Number. The Tournament Committee must approve such transfers.
21. All fish brought to the scales may be subject to examination by Tournament judges and/or fish ID experts and/or consulting biologists should there be any question about the freshness of the catch. It is the responsibility of the participant to keep all eligible catches in suitable and proper condition until weigh-in.
22. Any fish mutilated prior to boating or landing the fish by Shark, Propeller, etc. will be disqualified.
23. Polygraph examinations will be required at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. The Committee shall have the right, at its discretion, to require a single person or multiple persons (including the entire crew) on a registered vessel to take a polygraph examination. All persons selected by the Committee must take, and pass at the determination of the test administrator, the polygraph examination prior to the distribution of any prize or award money to them (or their vessel) by the Committee. The polygraph testing will occur at The Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club. The Committee reserves the rights, in its sole discretion, to reschedule any polygraph examination, or require additional polygraph examinations.
24. If an angler wishes to dispute an unfavorable polygraph result, the angler may have a second polygraph conducted within 10 days by a certified polygraphist by the American Polygraph Association at the angler's expense. This polygraph must be administered to ASTM standards. The decision as to which of the two-polygraph tests will be used to determine prize money eligibility is that of the TUNA OPEN Committee in consultation with the polygraph examiner(s). The decision of the TUNA OPEN Committee.
25. The Total Prize money will be based on a minimum of 50 boats. Prizes will be adjusted proportionately should the 50 boats minimum not be met.
26. In the event of a tie in any category, the prize money will be split equally.
27. Prize money will not be awarded to anyone who does not provide a social security number OR a Federal ID Number.
28. Prize money will not be awarded to anyone (individually or to a boat) selected by the Committee to take a polygraph test should that individual or members of the selected boat crew refuse to take a polygraph examination.
29. By participation in this tournament on any registered vessel, an individual is consenting to hold harmless The Beach Haven Tuna Open Tournament (hereinafter, the Tournament) and Tournament Officials of the Tuna Open Tournament, The Beach Haven Marlin & Tuna Club (hereinafter, the Club or BHMTTC) and its Officers, Directors and members from any and all liability.
30. Members of the Tournament Committee (hereinafter, the Committee) are Tournament Officials. The Weigh Master for TUNA OPEN is also a Tournament Official.

31. An angler or boat will be disqualified for such cause, as misconduct, unsportsmanlike behavior, or any other incident deemed inappropriate by the Tournament Committee.

32. Participants are assumed to have all necessary permits, licenses and/or registrations required by law. However, it is not the responsibility of the tournament officials or directors to verify that all required permits, licenses and/or registrations are acquired by anglers or vessels participating in the tournament. We will accept any legal sized fish that was caught according to the rules set forth herein.