



Manasquan River Marlin & Tuna Club

Established in 1936

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and New Jersey's associated restrictions, MRMTC has considered numerous options for holding the 2020 Club Bluefin Tuna Tournament including the option cancelling the tournament altogether. After much evaluation of the alternatives, MRMTC has decided to proceed with the tournament, albeit under a set of conditions that are considerably different than our Club Bluefin Tuna Tournaments of the past. The underlying theme in the discussions to proceed with the tournament was "how to conduct the tournament in a manner that minimizes chances for exposure to the COVID-19 virus for participants, tournament directors, dock personnel and others, and that complies with current COVID-19 restrictions." For the purpose of communicating to all MRMTC members the conditions under which the tournament will proceed, it was decided to prepare a single document which provides the Outline, Rules and Awards for the 2020 Club Bluefin Tuna Tournament.

COVID-19 Statement

The safety, health and well-being of our officers, trustees, members, families, friends, guests, and the general public will always be our primary goal. To reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposures at Manasquan River Marlin and Tuna Club (MRMTC) member events, tournaments and gatherings (functions), we have developed a MRMTC COVID-19 Health & Safety Plan. That plan is available for viewing at: mrmtc.com/covid19/

NJDEP/ NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife

COVID-19 Fishing Guidelines (April 3, 2020)

Consistent with Governor Murphy's orders that all New Jerseyans practice social distancing in order to limit the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), **anglers must fish alone or with immediate family members and cannot fish in groups of any size (no matter how small), either on land or by boat. A minimum six-foot social distance between anglers must be maintained at all times.**

Anglers **MUST NOT** congregate in parking areas, boat ramps or at popular fishing locations. Conservation Police Officers, New Jersey State Park Police, and DEP staff are actively monitoring our parks and natural areas to ensure that individuals enjoying our natural resources are maintaining social distance. **Any groups encountered will be instructed to disperse to maintain social distance, and if they do not comply, tickets will be issued by law enforcement.**

Excerpts from Dave Golden, Director of NJ Fish & Wildlife YouTube Video

- A. Click Here for video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ms3eLwoLiz4>
- B. Do not fish if you are not feeling well. Stay at home if you exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms listed on CDC website
- C. Fish close to home, reducing travel
- D. Fish by yourself or with members of immediate family members ONLY
- E. Maintain safe physical distance from other anglers and do not share gear
- F. Use your rod as an easy measure to provide a 6' distance
- G. Avoid crowds and groups
- H. Buy licenses online

Tournament Outline

- A. Tournament Entry: Free
- B. Guaranteed Prize Money: \$1,500
- C. Fishing Days: Friday, May 29th thru Tuesday, June 30th
- D. Captains Meeting: None
- E. Calcuttas: None
- F. Registration: All members in good standing are automatically registered to fish the tournament
- G. Call In: Entrants are required to call-in their fishing day
- H. Awards: 3 largest Bluefin Tuna by weight

Tournament Rules

1. This tournament is a MRMTC member only tournament. Only MRMTC members and non-member guests are eligible to fish this tournament.
2. All members in good standing are automatically registered to fish this tournament.
3. Tournament participation is on a per boat basis. A member may fish on a member or non-member boat.
4. Each boat may fish four individual days. However, a boat may fish additional days if the member's fishing "partner" is also a club member. The "partner" must be on board on each of their additional fishing days for any catches on that day to be eligible for award consideration.
5. Members must declare their fishing day by 12:00 AM midnight on their declared day of fishing. To declare a fishing day, a representative from the boat must call (732) 612-8052 and leave a message with the following information: Member's name, boat name, fishing day, and day and time of call.
6. Boats must not depart Manasquan Inlet before 12:00 AM on their declared day of fishing and must return through Manasquan Inlet on the same day. Overnight trips are not permitted.
7. Upon returning to Manasquan Inlet, a representative from each boat is requested to call Dave Mellett @ (732) 423-6520 to advise of their safe return

8. In the event of a boat becoming disabled after leaving Manasquan Inlet, a substitute boat and/or fishing day will be granted as long as the following conditions are satisfied:
 - a. Fishing lines must not have been placed in the water.
 - b. The boat must return to Manasquan Inlet by 10 AM on the same day it departed.
 - c. A participant on the boat must call (732) 612-8052 as soon as the boat enters Manasquan Inlet and leave a message with the following information: Member's name, boat name, fishing day, nature of the boat disability, date and time of call.
9. Fish being entered for award consideration must have the fish weighed on the official digital scale at Hoffman's Marina - East. Weigh in hours are daily during the hours that the marina's fuel dock is open . Call Hoffman's Marina - East (732-528-6160) to confirm the time of fuel dock closing. Fish must be brought to the weigh scale by the boat upon which they were caught.
10. Only Bluefin Tuna are eligible for awards. Awards will be made for the 3 largest Bluefin Tuna by weight. Members should familiarize themselves with NOAA's Atlantic Bluefin Tuna daily retention and size limits in effect at the time of their fishing day.
11. A completed MRMTC Official Weigh Slip must be submitted for all Bluefin Tuna that are to be considered for awards. A photo of the completed weigh slip shall be electronically submitted via **email to WIN@mrmtc.com**.
12. The official tournament radio channel is: VHF Channel 65.
13. All State, Federal and IGFA Rules and Regulations apply to this tournament except as follows:
 - a. A fish may be hooked by anyone other than the angler provided the rod is immediately transferred to the angler after the hook-up. From that time forward, the angler must fight the fish alone until boated or released.
 - b. The use of spreader bars is permitted.
14. There is no limit to the number of rods or lines used while fishing. The use of commercial fishing gear is not permitted.
15. In the interest of conservation, MRMTC encourages the use of circle hooks when using natural bait and/or natural bait/artificial lure combinations. However, circle hooks are not mandatory for this tournament.
16. The boundary for the tournament is 75 miles from the Manasquan Inlet sea buoy. If the boundary is exceeded at any time during the declared fishing day, that boat's catches are automatically disqualified for that fishing day.
17. Fish may be caught trolling, chunking, jigging and casting.
18. All fish 55" or greater in length (curved fork length) must be reported to another member boat.
19. All Bluefin Tuna caught must be reported by the member to NOAA Fisheries.
20. Fish caught on a member's boat during the course of a non-member charter trip are not eligible for award consideration regardless of who the angler is. Fish caught by a member who is being paid as a crew member, i.e. a mate, captain, etc. during the course of a fishing trip, are not eligible for any awards.
21. Prize Money will be paid by check and made out to the member's name as on record. Prize money will be distributed to the winners upon determining the official results.
22. The tournament committee reserves the right to have winners take a lie detector examination.
23. The tournament may be altered, cancelled, postponed or extended to other dates at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
24. All interpretations of the Rules and decisions by the Tournament Committee are final

As there is no captains meeting or official entry form, a members participation in the Club Bluefin Tuna Tournament will be automatically considered to be that members acknowledgement of compliance with the MRMTC General Disclaimer, as follows:

All boat owners, their crews, and anglers participate in the tournament voluntarily and at their own risk. They hereby agree to release and hold harmless the MRMTC, it's Officers, Trustees, Agents, and employees from and against all claims, Damages, losses and expenses – including all attorneys' fees incurred as a result of their suffering bodily injury, illness, death, economic loss, or property damage while participating in this tournament. By signing this agreement I acknowledge that I have liability insurance coverage for my vessel and crew. The decision to fish or not relative to weather or any other reason is at the sole discretion of the participants. The entrant may elect to withdraw from the tournament if they are concerned with weather related sea conditions. All entry monies will be fully refunded as long as an officer, a trustee, or a tournament committee member is notified prior to the time of the captains meeting. Participants must comply with all applicable governmental laws, rules and regulations. MRMTC assumes no responsibility in that or any other regard. Any non-complying fish will be disqualified. I agree to the aforementioned terms and conditions, and represent that anyone invited to fish on the boat entered, has been informed and has accepted accordingly. Participation constitutes acceptance of the aforementioned terms and conditions and that the crew has been notified of these and all applicable, state, federal and IGFA rules.

Tournament Awards

Guaranteed Prize Money for the tournament is \$1,500. The prize money will be distributed across the three heaviest Bluefin Tuna as follows:

Heaviest Bluefin Tuna	\$750
2 nd Heaviest Bluefin Tuna	\$450
3 rd Heaviest Bluefin Tuna	\$300

Calcuttas

In light of the COVID-19 Pandemic and New Jersey's associated restrictions, MRMTC has developed a "contactless" Calcutta Plan for use with the 2020 Club Bluefin Tuna Tournament. The purpose of this plan is to allow calcutta entries for the tournament while reducing the risk of COVID-19 exposures during calcutta related activities.

"Contactless" Calcutta Plan

The conditions for entry into and participation in the Club Bluefin Tuna Tournament calcuttas are provided below.

Calcutta Entry

1. Complete the 2020 Club Bluefin Tournament Calcutta Entry Form.
2. Complete a personal check made out to MRMTC and for the total amount of the calcuttas being entered. The check must be dated no later than May 28th, 2020.
3. Place the Calcutta Entry Form and check in an envelope addressed to: MRMTC, PO Box 251, Brielle, NJ 08730.
4. Deliver the envelope to MRMTC in one of the following ways:
 - a. Mail to MRMTC, PO Box 251, Brielle, NJ 08730. The envelope must be postmarked no later than midnight, May 28th, 2020.
 - b. Drop off at Carton Law Firm, 40 Union Ave., Manasquan, NJ 08736. The envelope must be placed in the firm's mail box no later than 12 Noon, May 28th, 2020.
 - c. Drop off at JF Murray Co., 414 Beaver Dam Road, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742. The envelope must be placed in the firm's mail box no later than 12 Noon, May 28th, 2020.

Calcutta Execution

1. Weigh-ins will be performed by the dock attendant at Hoffmans-East fuel dock during the hours that the marina's fuel dock is open.
2. The dock attendant will weigh the fish.
3. The fish are to be placed on the dock and removed from the dock in a manner that complies with social distancing requirements.
4. In the case of the Over/Under Combo Calcutta, the dock attendant is responsible only for weighing fish. Determination of fish being an "over" or an "under" is the responsibility of the entrant.
5. The requirements for determining a fish's length for the Over/Under Combo Calcutta are as follows:
 - a. Determine the fishes length via the CFL method per the following link:
<https://hmspermits.noaa.gov/bftMeasureData>
 - b. Take two pictures of the "over" fish and the "under" fish as follows:
 1. Take a picture of the overall fish while being measured.
 2. Take a picture of the end of the fish as the length is being determined. The end of the fish and the measurement that is being submitted must be clear and legible in the picture.
 - c. Complete an MRMTC Official Weigh Slip clearly denoting the weight and length of the "over and "under" fish.
 - d. Take a picture of the completed MRMTC Official Weigh Slip.
 - e. Electronically submit the five photos **via email to WIN@mrmtc.com**.

- f. The email should be submitted immediately after taking the pictures as the time stamp of the email (time received at WIN@mrmtc.com) will be used as a tie-breaker. Earlier time on any particular day will take precedence over a later time.
- g. The deadline for submitting weigh slips and photos for awards consideration is 10:00 PM on each day of the tournament.

Over/Under Combo Calcutta Clarifications

- 1. One "Over" and one "Under" BFT must be combined to constitute an entry for the Over/Under Combo Calcutta.**
- 2. "Over" and "Under" BFT caught on the same fishing day or on different fishing days can be combined for the purpose of the Over/Under Combo Calcutta.**

Calcutta Payout

1. MRMTC will mail checks to the Calcutta winners.
2. Because checks are being submitted to MRMTC for Calcutta entries, IRS tax laws require that IRS Form 1099's be issued to the calcutta winners.