



# DERBY RULES

## I. DERBY DATES and TIMES:

The 2023 Derby begins at 12:01 am on Sunday, September 10, 2023 and ends at 9:00 pm on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

## II. ELIGIBLE FISH SPECIES:

Eligible fish are Bluefish, Bonito and False Albacore (Little Tunny), hereinafter referred to as the species.

## III. DIVISIONS and ENTRY FEES:

An individual may register only once in each division for which he/she is eligible.

### 1. ALL TACKLE DIVISION: \$70.00 (Seniors \$45.00)

The all tackle division is open to adults using any type of rod and reel including flyrod. Persons who have reached their 65th birthday on or before the opening day of the Derby will be registered as Seniors.

### 2. JUNIOR ALL TACKLE DIVISION: \$25.00

The junior division is open to persons aged 9-14 on the opening day of the Derby. Juniors may use any type of rod and reel, including fly rod. The junior division will follow the rules of the all tackle division.

### 3. MINI-JUNIOR ALL TACKLE DIVISION: \$25.00

The mini-junior division is open to persons aged 4-8 on the opening day of the Derby. Mini-juniors may use any type of rod and reel, including fly rod. The mini-junior division will follow the rules of the all tackle division. Mini-junior entrants are not eligible to win the grand prize.

### 4. FLY ROD DIVISION: \$70.00 Adults, \$45.00 Seniors.

The fly rod division is open only to persons using fly rods. fly rod division competitors will be issued a separate fly rod badge and number and will fish under the rules of this Derby. The official Derby rules specific to fly fishing consist of IGFA modified rules and are located on the Derby website at [mvd Derby.com](http://mvd Derby.com). If a fly rod competitor is also entered in one of the all tackle divisions, he/she may enter his/her fish as all tackle. The decision to enter a fish in either division (but not both) must be announced to the weigh master PRIOR TO THE WEIGHING OF THAT FISH. That fish is then eligible for the grand and triple crown awards, regardless of the division it is entered in. Juniors fishing in the fly rod division will be considered as adults.

**5. PAYMENT OF ENTRY FEES:** Entry fees may be paid via the online pre-registration process or in person at one of the registration points. There will be a \$25.00 service charge for returned checks which, along with the entry fee must be paid in cash. Entry fees are not refundable once the Derby has commenced.

**The online pre-registration process is for payment only. The Derby registration process is not complete until an angler picks up their rules brochure and button at a registration point. Any fish caught before an angler completes the registration process is ineligible.**

**6. TEAM:** \$10.00 per team member. The heaviest fish of each species for both team members will count toward the team's cumulative weight. Up to three fish per member, for a total of six fish, may be counted in a team's total. Note that both team members must be registered (have badges) before fish are entered in the team total.  
**SPORTSMANSHIP** *Good sportsmanship encompasses many aspects of a person's character, the most fundamental being respect. Participation in the Derby is intended to be a memorable experience. Please play fair, stay positive, keep trash talk to a minimum, set a good example and show integrity.*

## IV. METHODS OF FISHING and BOUNDARIES:

A competitor must be registered in the Derby BEFORE commencing to fish. From the moment a fish strikes or takes a bait or lure the angler must hook, fight and land or boat the fish without the aid of any other person. This includes another angler touching the rod, reel or line after the fish has been hooked. The only exception is another person may grasp the leader in order to gaff or net the fish. **This rule applies to junior anglers, as well.**

**1. SHORE:** A shore fish is any fish hooked from the shore. All fish entered as shore fish must be caught from the shores of Martha's Vineyard or Chappaquiddick Islands.

**2. BOAT:** A boat fish is any fish hooked on a boat. A boat is a "boat" whether it is tied, moored, anchored, trolling or drifting. In the event there is a question as to whether a fish is to be considered a boat or shore fish, the Derby committee will determine the category and that decision will be final. All fish entered as boat fish must be caught from a boat which is within the posted bounds of the Derby. The bounds are delineated on the enclosed map. An eligible fish must not be transported outside of Derby boundaries. No fish caught from a boat may touch any land except for Martha's Vineyard.

## V. WEIGHING OF FISH:

**All state and federal laws must be complied with by participants in the Derby.** The Weigh-In station for all fish entered in the Derby will be at Edgartown Jr. Yacht Club.

■ The weigh-in periods will be between 8:00 - 10:00 am and **7:00 - 9:00 pm** on each day of the Derby.

■ Every effort should be made to weigh in fish at the next available weigh-in period. All fish must be weighed in within 14 hours from the time of being caught - for example, a fish caught at 7:00 am must be weighed in by 9:00 pm that same evening.

■ Whether you plan to donate your fish or not, all fish must be properly iced.

■ Commercial license holder may not exceed recreational possession limits while Derby fishing. **Any fish that is caught while engaged in commercial fishing is not eligible to be included in the Derby.**

■ Fishing method known as yo-yoing is not permitted in the Derby.

■ The use of drones for the purposes of locating or catching fish or to gain a competitive advantage is prohibited during the Derby.

■ Any fish that is physically altered or intentionally mutilated in such a manner as to impact the ability of the Derby committee to determine eligibility of that fish shall be rejected except that normal routine bleeding of a fish, but not gutting, shall be allowed.

■ Fish may not be weighed in that were intentionally snagged.

■ Any material(s) including, but not limited to, fishing tackle, fishing line, hooks, weights, seaweed, wire, ice, rocks, sand, dirt, or rope attached to a fish, on a fish, or inside a fish's mouth shall be removed by the angler (or person(s) weighing the fish in) PRIOR to weigh-in. If any such material is not visible to the angler or person(s) weighing the fish in and is discovered after weigh-in, this material shall be examined by the Derby committee and, if deemed to be inside the fish prior to it being caught, the weight of such material(s) may be deducted from the official weight of the fish, and the fish allowed. If, however, the Derby committee deems that the material was intentionally introduced to the fish prior to the weighing in of that fish, additional action may be taken including, but not limited to, the disqualification of the fish, the angler, and/or the person(s) weighing in the fish.

**Minimum Lengths for Fish at Weigh-in**  
 Bluefish 22" False Albacore 25" Bonito 21"  
**Measure from tip of lower jaw to tip of tail.**

■ At time of weigh-in the angler must present his/her badge or card and provide the weigh master with full and certified information as to when and where the fish was caught, the type of tackle, lure or bait used, and any other requested information relating to the catch.

■ The angler must declare the division into which the fish is to be entered prior to the weighing of each fish. By signing the weigh-in slip, the angler attests to all information given.

■ An angler may enter only his/her largest fish of each species into each category (boat or shore) on any one day.

■ Any angler will be awarded only the highest prize for which they are eligible.

■ At time of weigh-in the weigh master and/or the Derby committee reserve the right to inspect, test, open, photograph (for publicity reasons and otherwise), hold or reject any fish entered.

## VI. AWARDING OF PRIZES:

**1. DAILY:** First, second, third and fourth prizes will be awarded on a daily basis for each species, division and category, except False Albacore (Little Tunny). During the run of the Derby an angler may win only one first, one second, one third and one fourth daily prize for each species, category and division. If an angler qualifies for a prize he has already won, he/she will be awarded the highest prize for which he/she is eligible. Other winners end that day, in order of their eligibility, will be adjusted to receive prizes left vacant.  
**■ A Hat Trick will be awarded to an angler who wins first, second, third, and fourth daily prizes in a category. A special pin will be awarded for this achievement. 1 per person, per species.**

**2. WEEKLY:** Weekly awards will be given to the largest fish in each category of each division and species, including False Albacore (Little Tunny), for each week of the Derby. During the course of the Derby, an angler may win a weekly award once per species, per division. The weeks end after the last weigh-in on each of the following days: (Saturday, September 16; Saturday, September 23, Saturday, September 30; Saturday, October 7, and Saturday, October 14).

**3. OVERALL AND GRAND:** At the end of the Derby, overall prizes will be awarded for the three largest fish in each category of each division and species, including False Albacore (Little Tunny). The largest fish of each species from boat and shore, regardless of division, will also be awarded the grand leader prize for the category and species. Winners of the species grand prizes will also receive their divisional grand prizes.

**4. TRIPLE CROWN:** This category is open to all divisions.

There will be separate awards for all tackle and fly rod divisions. At the end of the Derby, first, second and third awards, both boat and shore, in both divisions, will be made to the angler who weighs in the heaviest aggregate (total weight) of the three species in the tournament – Bluefish, Bonito and False Albacore. Anglers who achieve a triple crown will be awarded a special pin.

**5. FALSE ALBACORE (LITTLE TUNNY).** False Albacore (Little Tunny) are eligible for weekly, overall, grand and triple crown awards. They are not eligible for daily awards. False Albacore minimum length is 25".

■ Only three False Albacore are allowed per registration during the Derby. This includes any False Albacore presented to the weigh master, even fish under 25".

**6. IN THE EVENT OF A TIE.** The first registered fish wins.

**7. IN PROCESS DERBY CANCELLATION.** In the event that the Derby is cancelled at any point after it has begun all leaders in all divisions will receive the applicable award and any associated prize.

**8. UNCLAIMED PRIZES.** Prizes should be claimed promptly. Prizes not claimed from the Derby chairperson by December 31, 2023 will be forfeited.

## VII. COMMITTEE RIGHTS:

■ Each contestant expressly agrees that he/she shall have no right or standing to contest any action of the Derby committee, or otherwise make any claim against the committee in any court of law or other forum. Each contestant entering the Derby does so at their own risk. The committee's decisions are definitive and final.

■ Grievances must be presented, in writing and signed, to the weigh master and/or to the committee within 48 hours. The committee will investigate all grievances and reserves the right to call witnesses, to question them and all parties involved, and if considered necessary, to have any or all involved parties submit to a polygraph test.

■ The committee may disqualify from the Derby (or any portion thereof) and/or from any or all future derbies, any person or persons who falsify information, violate the Derby rules, act in an unsportsmanlike manner, or falsely testify for or against any person.

■ The committee reserves the right to require Derby participants to take a polygraph (lie detector) examination, should the committee deem it necessary.

## VIII. FILLET PROGRAM:

The fillet program is offered by the Derby to provide free fish to our island elders. Fishermen may donate any or all of their catch to this program. For health reasons, previously filleted fish cannot be accepted. To ensure the safety of our island elders, all fish must be properly iced so that it remains as fresh as possible.

## IX. PROPERTY RIGHTS:

In return for the generosity of property owners, it is expected that Derby participants will leave all land and beach in the same conditions, or better than those found.

■ No gates be left open.  
 ■ No fences be damaged.  
 ■ No shrubbery be damaged.  
 ■ No rubbish or refuse be left on land or beaches.  
 ■ No camping be done nor any fires lighted without proper authority.

■ No damage to dunes or dune vegetation.

■ Drive your vehicles only on designated paths throughout the dunes.

## X. REGISTRATION POINTS: (by Badge Numbers)

**All Tackle**  
 1-100 Derby Committee  
 101-500 Larry's Tackle Shop – Edgartown  
 501-1100 Dick's Bait & Tackle – Oak Bluffs  
 1101-1800 Coop's Bait & Tackle – Edgartown  
 1801-1900 Menemsha Texaco – Chilmark  
 1901-2300 Larry's Tackle – Edgartown  
 2301-2500 Menemsha Texaco – Chilmark  
 2501-3200 Dick's Bait & Tackle – Oak Bluffs  
 3201-3500 Derby Headquarters – Edgartown  
 3501-3600 Kismet Outfitters – Edgartown  
 3601-3800 Derby Headquarters – Edgartown  
**Fly rod**  
 4001-4125 Larry's Bait & Tackle – Edgartown  
 4126-4200 Dick's Bait & Tackle – Oak Bluffs  
 4201-4400 Coop's Bait & Tackle – Edgartown  
 4401-4425 Menemsha Texaco – Chilmark  
 4426-4500 Derby Headquarters – Edgartown  
 4501-4550 Kismet Outfitters – Edgartown

# AWARDS STRUCTURE

## GRAND PRIZE

### EASTERN BOAT WORKS - 22' SISU Hardtop

with outboard, trailer, and options.

Compliments of Eastern Boat Works

*Grand prizes must be claimed by the conclusion of the Derby. Winner is responsible for all taxes associated with the prize.*

## GRAND LEADERS

The six Grand Leaders each receive a limited edition Michael Blanchard/Crossroads Gallery print, \$500, an original plaque, and a chance to win the Grand Prize. These six are the individuals weighing in the heaviest fish of each species, boat and shore.

AWARD	All Tackle Division		Mini Junior & Junior All Tackle Divisions		Fly rod Division	
	BOAT Category	SHORE Category	BOAT Category	SHORE Category	BOAT Category	SHORE Category
<b>DIVISION LEADERS</b> <i>For All Three Species</i> Win a plaque, fishing equipment and/or other merchandise	1st 2nd 3rd	1st 2nd 3rd	1st 2nd 3rd	1st 2nd 3rd	1st 2nd 3rd	1st 2nd 3rd
<b>WEEKLY AWARDS</b> <i>For All Three Species</i> Win merchandise and/or gift certificates	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st	1st
<b>DAILY AWARDS</b> <i>For Bluefish, and Bonito</i> Win pins and cash for AT only	Pins & Cash 1st - \$20 2nd - \$15 3rd - \$10 4th - \$5	Pins & Cash 1st - \$20 2nd - \$15 3rd - \$10 4th - \$5	Pins Only 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Pins Only 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Pins Only 1st 2nd 3rd 4th	Pins Only 1st 2nd 3rd 4th

## TRIPLE CROWN AWARDS

Any angler who achieves a Triple Crown will receive a special pin.

### All Tackle Triple Crown Awards – Boat and Shore

**1st Place** – original piece from Island Fish Prints, assorted tackle and equipment, plaque, \$500.00.

**2nd Place** – assorted tackle and equipment, plaque, \$300.00.

**3rd Place** – assorted tackle and equipment, plaque, \$200.00.

### Fly rod Triple Crown Awards – Boat and Shore

**1st Place** – original piece from Island Fish Prints, plaque and \$500.00, assorted tackle and equipment

**2nd Place** – plaque and \$300.00, assorted apparel and equipment

**3rd Place** – plaque and \$200.00, assorted apparel and equipment

### Mystery Prizes

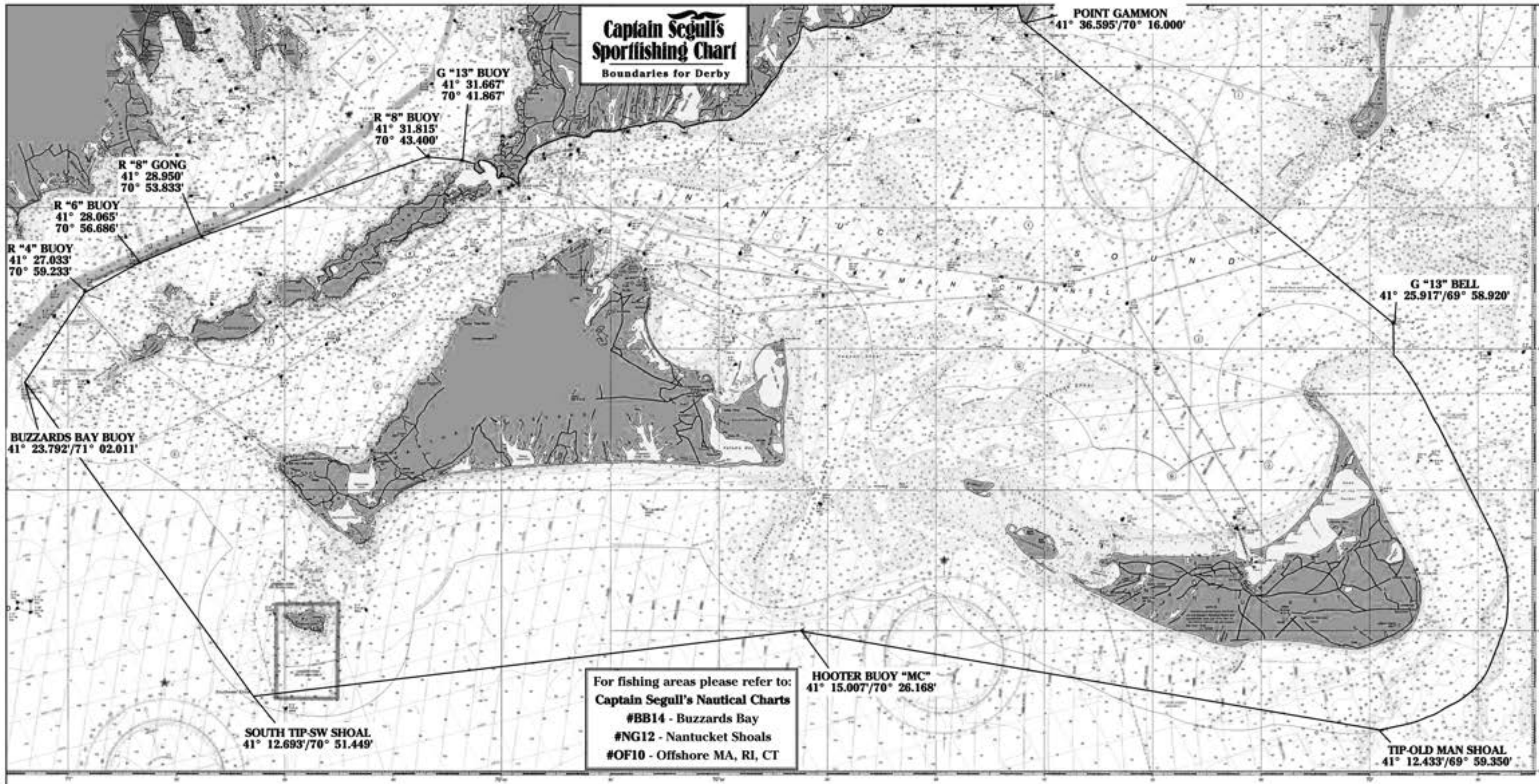
Daily mystery prizes will be awarded in the following categories: All Tackle Bluefish, All Tackle Bonito, Fly rod (one prize) Junior & Mini Junior (one prize) and luck of the draw (one prize). If any of the above categories is not filled (e.g. no bonito weigh-ins) the prize will be awarded by luck of the draw. Only one mystery prize per badge can be won during the Derby.

### Mini-Junior and Junior Triple Crown Awards

Boat and Shore, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Places – Plaque.

**DERBY AWARDS CEREMONY** - Sunday, **October 15, 2023;**  
 Mini Junior/Junior @ 11:00 am and Adult @ 1:00 pm at Farm Neck Golf Club, Oak Bluffs





**BOAT BOUNDARIES:**

The waters in and around Martha's Vineyard Island including Vineyard and Nantucket Sounds as follows:

Vineyard Sound from Nobska Point NW to the S tip of Juniper point;  
 Along the perimeter of Woods Hole's Great Harbor from Juniper Point to the S tip of Penzance Point;  
 NW to G "13" WNW to R "8" W to R "8" GONG W to R "6" W to R "4"  
 RB "VS" at the Entrance to Vineyard Sound SW to Buoy RB "VS" at the entrance of Vineyard Sound.  
 SE to the southern tip of Southwest Shoal (60' contour); E to a point 1 nm due south of buoy RW "MC" (the "Hooter");

SE to the Southern tip of Old Man Shoal (30' contour); NE of Great Point;  
 NE and N following the SE and E portion of the Nantucket "Territorial Sea" demarcation line N to buoy G "13";  
 NW to Point Gammon (East end of Hyannis Harbor) following shoreline of Cape to Nobska Point.

**Chart References: Martha's Vineyard to Block Island**

An eligible fish must not be transported outside of Derby boundaries.  
 No fish caught from a boat may touch any land except for Martha's Vineyard.

**All are invited to attend the DERBY AWARDS CEREMONY – Sunday, October 15, 2023, at Farm Neck Golf Club, Oak Bluffs**



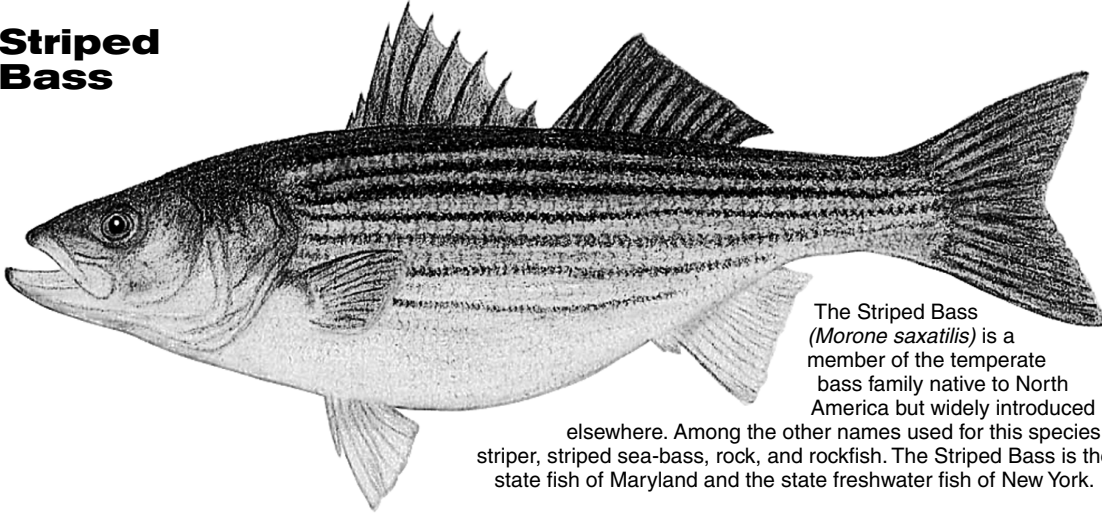




# Martha's Vineyard Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby

All fish are measured in total length from the tip of the lower jaw to the tip of the tail.

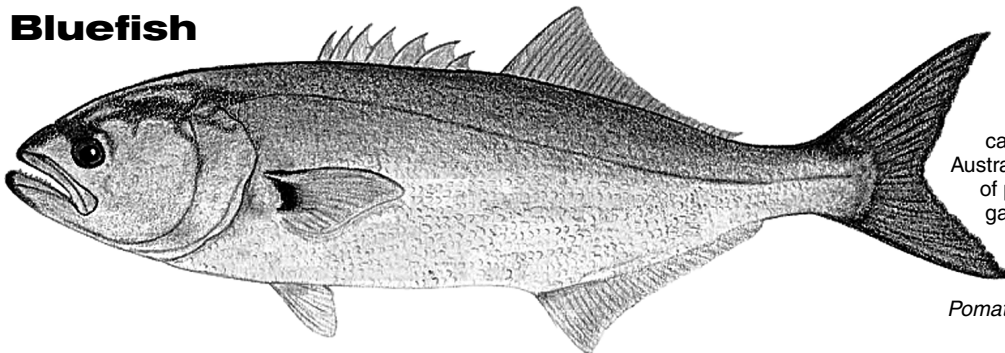
## Striped Bass



The Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*) is a member of the temperate bass family native to North America but widely introduced elsewhere. Among the other names used for this species are striped, striped sea-bass, rock, and rockfish. The Striped Bass is the state fish of Maryland and the state freshwater fish of New York.

**Suspended for 2023 Derby**

## Bluefish



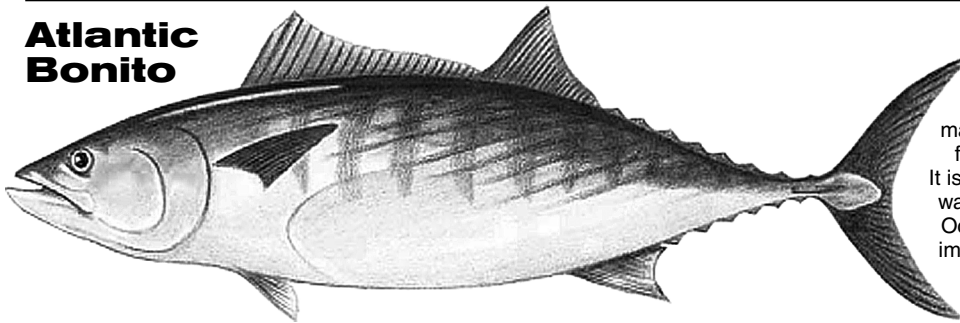
The Bluefish (*Pomatomus saltatrix*), called "tailor" in Australia, is a species of popular marine game-fish found in all climates. It is the sole species of the *Pomatomidae* family.

**Minimum Sizes:**

**22 inches**

**Massachusetts Regulation:**  
bag limit of 3 fish per day, per angler.

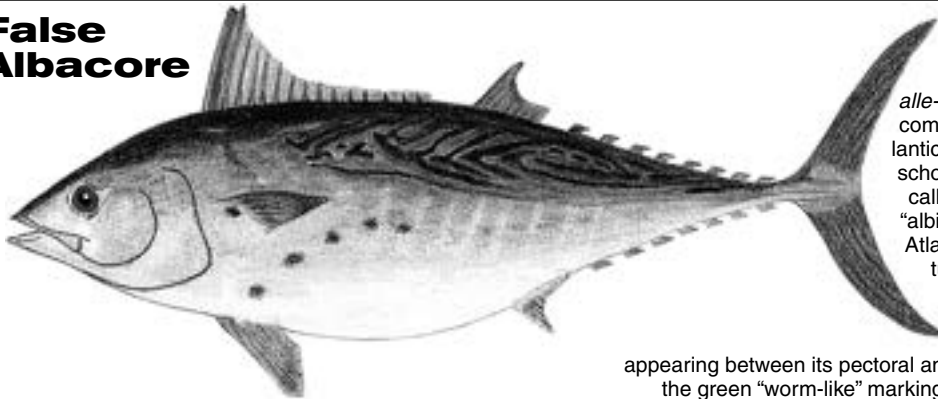
## Atlantic Bonito



The Atlantic Bonito, (*Sarda sarda*) is a large mackerel-like fish of the family *Scombridae*. It is common in shallow waters of the Atlantic Ocean where it is an important commercial and game fish.

**21 inches**

## False Albacore



The False Albacore, (*Euthynnus alle-teratus*), is the most common tuna in the Atlantic. Occurring in large schools and commonly called "little tunny" or "albie". It resembles the Atlantic bonito, skipjack tuna and species of mackerel and is best identified by the dark spots appearing between its pectoral and ventral fins and the green "worm-like" markings on its back.

**25 inches**

**Derby Limit:**  
**3 per Badge\***

\* The Derby limit of 3 fish per badge is the maximum number of **false albacore** that you can bring to the weigh station during the entire Derby. It includes all false albacore brought to the weigh station, whether or not they meet the 25 inch minimum size. Therefore, when you bring a false albacore to the weigh station, it will count toward your individual limit regardless of its size. Once you have reached your Derby limit of 3 false albacore per badge, you are no longer permitted to bring a false albacore to the weigh station.