

MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC)

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WINTER TUNA TOURNAMENT

1 July – 31 August 2023

RULES

WELCOME TO THE 2023 WINTER TUNA TOURNAMENT

1. GENERAL

Please read your rules and make sure you understand them. If there are any matters that need clarification please ask the tournament convener.

Any matters not specifically covered by these rules will be covered by briefing notes, MBGFC Fishing Rules or NZSFC Rules. In the event that there is any discrepancy between any rules/instructions, the order of priority will be: Briefing notes, Tournament Rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules, NZSFC Rules.

ENTRY and registration in the tournament constitutes acceptance of the rules by **ALL** participants, and an agreement to abide by **ALL** judges decisions.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to amend the rules, should it be deemed necessary in the interest of the Tournament.

Competitors participate in the tournament at their own risk. MBGFC does not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the tournament. Leaving port is at the sole discretion of the skipper and crew at all times.

2. ELIGIBILITY

All anglers must be current financial members of Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc (MBGFC) or an affiliated NZSFC club. Day membership for any days of the tournament will suffice, provided that this is arranged and paid for prior fishing.

It is the skipper's and/or angler's responsibility to ensure that any membership is up to date and paid for. MBGFC will not be checking this prior to the tournament, and any fish caught by anglers not meeting this eligibility requirement will be disqualified from the tournament.

NOTE: A commercial vessel must provide a particular approval form under Section 111(1)(a) of the Fisheries Act to the Club office before going fishing.

3. TACKLE

All tackle used **MUST** comply with NZSFC regulations.

It is the angler's responsibility to be conversant with these regulations.

Line classes are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 24, 37, 60kg.

4. ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Tuna	Southern Bluefin	-	Maximum 1 per person per day
	Albacore	-	Minimum weight 5kgs

5. FISHING AREA

NZ 200 mile EEZ. NB. Fish must be weighed at the MBGFC weigh-station.

6. FISHING TIMES:

Fishing must not commence until 0700 on 1st July 2023. Stop fishing is at 1700 on 31st August 2023.

7. SINGLE & MULTIPLE STRIKES:

- (i) When a strike occurs, the angler(s) must immediately remove the rod(s) from the rod holder(s), while crew clear the rest of the gear.
- (ii) If the number of fish in a multiple strike equals or exceeds the number of people on the boat, gear may be cleared prior to fighting the fish.
- (iii) Once an angler has fought one fish from a multiple strike, whether that fish is caught or lost, they must not present a subsequent fish from the same multiple strike.
- (iv) Fish left on rod holders while others are fought must be self-disqualified.

8. WEIGH IN

a) Catch cards & Tag cards

ALL sections **MUST** be filled in **BEFORE** fish are brought to the Mercury Bay weighstation. First and last name must be written in full, not initials.

Latitude & Longitude must be entered on tag cards.

PROVIDING FALSE INFORMATION ON CATCH CARDS WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE TOURNAMENT

b) Along with the **FULLY COMPLETED** catch card and/or tag card each angler must present the rod, reel, lure and or terminal tackle which the fish was caught on, and anything else required by the weighmasters such as gaffs, tailropes, any securing ropes used to transport the fish to the weighstation.

A FISH IS NOT DEEMED TO BE CAUGHT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN WEIGHED (or tagged).

c) Digital videos clearly showing the tag in place as well as the fish being released and swimming away must be shown to the weighmasters when tag cards are presented

d) Weighmasters Indemnity

It is the anglers responsibility to present all cards and equipment when weighing in, **NOT** the weighmasters. If any of the required equipment is not in the hands of the weighmasters along with the completed catch card and fish no responsibility will be accepted by MBGFC or its weighmasters for any failure to do so.

e) On the last day (Aug 31), fish, catchcards, tag cards and tackle must be in the weighmasters hands by 1900.

9. POINTS

a) Fish weighed will gain points as follows:

$$\frac{\text{FISH WEIGHT X 100}}{\text{LINE WEIGHT}}$$

b) Southern bluefin tuna tagged and released are worth 200 points each towards the champion team prize.

Lines may be tested at the weigh station. Lines that over test will be moved up to the appropriate line class. Under testing lines will **NOT** be moved down.

10. DISPUTES

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 1600 on 1st September 2023. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

11. PRIZEGIVING

Prizegiving will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 2nd September 2023

12. PRIZE ALLOCATION:

Prizes will be CASH and offered as follows

(a) Southern Bluefin Tuna (weighed)	1 st	40% of total pool
	2 nd	20% of total pool
	3 rd	10% of total pool
(b) Albacore (weighed)	1 st	10% of total pool
	2 nd	6% of total pool
	3 rd	4% of total pool

If two or more fish of equal weight become eligible for a prize the relevant prize will be shared equally.

(c) **Champion Team** (on points) 10% of total pool

If no fish are caught in categories (a) or (b), there will be three (3) drawn team prizes each of a third of the prize money in that category.

If teams are not present at Prizegiving on Sept 3rd drawn prizes will be redrawn. All prize winners will need to provide identification, i.e. passport, driver's licence may be asked for.

13. WHARF:

Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc will not be responsible for any harbour, wharf or berthage charges.

14. TERM DEFINITIONS

"TAIL ROPES" - A tail rope is any rope used in either or both the capture of the fish and securing the fish for transport to the weighstation. **NO** "Tail rope" may exceed 9.14m in length.

"RULES" - Includes briefing notes, tournament rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules, NZSFC Rules. In the event that there is any discrepancy between these rules, the order of priority is as above (briefing, then tournament rules etc)

"WEIGHT" - The weight of a fish as deemed correct by both the weighmasters and the angler signed off on the catch card.

"CAUGHT" - A fish is not deemed to be caught until it is weighed or tagged.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

NOTICE TO OWNERS & SKIPPERS OF VESSELS FISHING IN THE MERCURY BAY GAME FISHING CLUB (INC) 2023 WINTER TUNA TOURNAMENT

To assist in the efficient day to day running of its activities the Club will provide Base Radio Station facilities for vessels fishing our tournaments and contests.

Game Club/Office phone number:	07 866 4121
Weighmasters Duty Phone – please call/not text	Mobile 021 0256 2849

It is therefore required that all vessels registering for these activities be equipped with an efficient VHF radio capable of accessing the Club's working frequencies on Channel 65.

Except in an emergency all radio transmissions should be made by certified operators and a good standard of procedure is requested.

In the case of emergency or to lodge trip reports, please contact Coastguard directly on VHF Channel 63

With changes to the legislation on marine radio usage being considered stations are regularly being monitored by radio inspectors with attention being given to VHF repeater usage or perhaps their misuse. It is in all our interest to do the job right.

GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING