

CHART 2021 Angler Code of Conduct/Guidance.

Thank you for supporting the CHART Program by joining this authorised vessel. CHART provides a legal, safe, professional environment for anglers to enjoy one of the world's greatest sporting fish whilst contributing valuable scientific data which will help inform the future management strategy and ensure Atlantic Bluefin have a sustainable future.

We hope you enjoy this experience and the opportunity to catch and release one of the world's most sought-after sporting fish. CHART is first and foremost a scientific research programme, and as such the operational requirements of the day's activity will be different in many ways from other fishing activity you may have taken part in. CHART is a team effort, and our joint objectives can only be achieved by working together. You are an important part of that team and as such you may be asked to carry out certain tasks on the day, such as aiding with data collection, clearing gear after a hookup etc. Much of this is voluntary of course, and we hope that these tasks will contribute positively to your enjoyment of the day.

Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (ABT) are very large and powerful and in many cases this may be your first experience of catching such a physically demanding fish. The skipper, crew, vessel, gear and techniques have been chosen with the primary objectives of creating a safe environment for anglers, and to reduce any welfare risks to ABT, including mortality during capture.

The CHART Angler Code of Conduct is intended to help inform anglers of the requirements of their participation in this process, and the requirements within are designed to ensure your safety and main high standards of fish welfare in what is a scientific research programme.

In undertaking this trip you are acknowledging and accepting the conditions and requirements outlined in the CHART code of conduct. We hope you enjoy your day and thank you for your participation and support.

I understand and agree to abide by the CHART Anglers Code of Conduct

Signed

Name

Date

CHART 2021 Angler Code of Conduct

Teamwork and authority

When fishing, you are required to follow the instructions of the authorised skipper and crew. Failure to follow such instructions may give cause for the charter to be terminated and the vessel return to port.

Fishing tackle.

Anglers should not adjust elements such as reel drags, rod locations etc but leave that to the trained skipper/crew.

Physical requirements.

ABT provide a very physical challenge to anglers and participants should be moderately fit to undertake this task.

'Fight time' restrictions.

It is generally accepted that overly long fight times may compromise the welfare and survival rates of large pelagic species. Consequently, all CHART participants are required to follow guidelines regarding time limits and how long anglers can fight the fish.

The skipper/crew have DISCRETION to intervene before the following points if they feel it is necessary but have an OBLIGATION to not exceed them.

45 minutes after hookup If the fish has not already been leadered the skipper/crew will assess the probability that the fish can be brought boatside within the next 15 minutes. If their conclusion is no, the angler will be required to hand the rod to the authorised crewman at that point. If their conclusion is yes, the angler will continue to fight the fish.

At **60 minutes** if not already leadered the skipper/crew are **required** to take the rod over from the angler **unless** in their view leadering is imminent, and such handover may increase risks of a lost fish. Anglers will generally be required to have brought the fish boatside within 60 minutes or have handed the rod over to the skipper/crew.

Under no circumstances will anglers be permitted to continue the fight beyond **75 minutes**.

The skippers/crew have absolute discretion regarding if/when an angler must pass the rod to the crewman (or another angler if they deem appropriate) at **anytime** during the fight process, and an obligation to observe the 60 and 75 minute requirements as set out above.

'Tag teaming'.

Changing angler should be undertaken solely for the purpose of minimising fight times, and not to facilitate multiple anglers just 'having a go'. The changeover itself must be supervised by the authorised crewman or skipper.

Alcohol.

No alcohol is to be consumed during the day's fishing activities and skippers/crew may refuse the take on board anglers who arrive in a condition that may compromise their ability to undertake the day's activities in a safe, effective manner.

Data Collection.

Anglers may be requested to help in data collection through recording sightings of ABT and other wildlife etc. This is not compulsory but may help the skipper/crew and underlines that those aboard are working as a team as part of a scientific mission.

Social Media/Mobile Phones

Anglers and other onboard participants may be asked not to film or photograph certain parts of the day nor to post footage onto social media. Skippers retain the right to confiscate mobile phones if deemed necessary.

Socio-economic survey.

Anglers will be requested to complete a socio-economic survey that is being undertaken to help determine the potential economic and other benefits of a CHART programme. Participation is not compulsory but encouraged.

On-board observers.

As part of the terms of the CHART program, a percentage of fishing trips will be accompanied by an onboard observer from CEFAS. We request that anglers make these observers welcome and engage with them on the day.

Covid-19.

Skippers, crew and anglers may still be subject to Government guidance and restrictions regarding Covid-19 at the time of these fishing operations. If so, all participants will be required to follow these and any specific protocols regarding charter vessel operations

For further information please go to:

<https://www.cefasc.org.uk/impact/programmes/chart/>