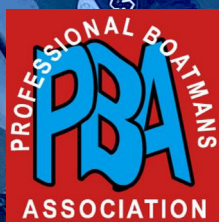# BLUEFIN TUNA TRAINING MODULE

PRE -TRIP BRIEFING

PRODUCED BY THE UKBFTA
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE ANGLING TRUST AND THE PBA

PRE-TRIP BRIEFING

CHECKLIST

Before setting out on a trip, you may wish to provide a short briefing to your anglers if they are not familiar with fishing for bluefin specifically. We have provided a short checklist of things we have found it useful to cover.

TOPIC	SPECIFICS	COVERED
SAFETY	• Lifejackets, liferafts, life rings, flares, fire extinguishers etc. • **BFT are large, very powerful fish, and a real risk of injury to angler, crew, and fish exists.** • Your safety is our top priority, followed by fish welfare. • **It is important that you follow the instructions of the skipper and crewman at all times.** • You should be honest about your experience and fitness, the skipper may decide to fish with certain gear and techniques depending upon those factors.	
FISHERY AMBASSADORS	• **The battle to win this fishery has been long and hard and we are still under the spotlight.** • As such we must maintain the highest standards or risk criticisms that could put its future at risk. • **Treat these special fish (and the skipper/crew!) with respect and where they may conflict, prioritise the tuna's, wellbeing and survival over your own desires, such as 'the fight experience' and 'great photo's'.**	
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES	• Skipper (ultimate responsibility for the day)-- finds fish, decides tackle/techniques. What they say goes. • **Crew – coaching, leadering, lip hooking (and tagging if undertaken).** • Angler. Be safe. Fight fish, do what skipper/crew says!, (e.g. helping deploy and clear gear), and have fun	
REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT	• **We are subject to the regulations of the fishery and the conditions of our permit. No fish to be removed from the water being the most important one.** • A Code of Conduct has been designed by experienced skippers to ensure a safe, positive environment for all. Please read this and follow it.	

TOPIC	SPECIFICS	COVERED
DATA COLLECTION	• The recording and reporting of some data is mandatory and a condition of the permit. • **Additional date may be collected voluntarily to aid in the understanding of the fishery**. • Crew/skipper may ask you to help record some of that data during the day.	
FIGHT PREPARATION AND PROTOCOL	• Co-operate with and pay attention to the crew/skipper in any equipment briefing, harness fitting, etc.. • **You may be assigned a role/roles by the skipper or crew.** • Unless specifically requested, do not adjust or interfere with any fishing tackle before, during or after the hookup and fight. • **If requested, help clear and stow all other lines when a strike occurs.** • Do not impede or obstruct the skipper/crew communications or line of sight during the fight. • **First sight of the fish and leadering are exciting but DANGEROUS- stay calm and out of the way.** • ONLY an experienced individual assigned by the skipper may leader the fish. • **Wait until the fish is called 'secure' by the leaderman before unharnessing, and/or pressing forward for pictures.** • Accept that the skipper/crew may decide to take the rod from the angler to a crewman/another angler if they think a risk exists to the angler or fish from fatigue, poor technique, failure to follow guidance.	
PHOTOS AND SOCIAL MEDIA	• **We are a highly scrutinised fishery so** think carefully about what you film and post online. Ill-considered images or comments could undermine the future of the fishery. • **Bloody fish, mortalities (whilst very rare) in particular should not be shared.** • Skipper has the right to say phones, cameras, videos to be put away where necessary. • **There will be opportunities for great pictures of fish in the water boatside with the angler in the shot. Under no circumstances will fish be boarded, (it is a criminal offence under the regulations), and shots of an angler 'in the water' with a fish are dangerous, and should be prohibited.**	