



SOCIAL SCENE

NEW AROUND TOWN

SISTER CITIES







FISH TALES

Morehead City and Manteo reel in schools of fishing enthusiasts each summer

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MOREHEAD CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament June 10-19, 2022

Morehead City is a port town in Carteret County and part of the Crystal Coast region of the southern Outer Banks. This coastal community lies on the shores of Bogue Sound, between Beaufort and Atlantic Beach. Though Morehead City is a tourist destination thanks to its nearness to multiple beaches, the town is primarily known for its commercial and sport fishing industry.

Sport anglers flock to Morehead City each June for the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament—one of the largest fishing tournaments in the country. Last year, the tournament hosted a record-breaking 270 boats. Also record-breaking was its purse, which totaled winnings of \$4,749,200. The winning marlin was caught by 19-year-old Wakefield High School graduate Cole Pirrung. Pirrung and his team reeled in a whopping 656.5-pound marlin, earning the team more than \$1.6 million. The 64th annual Big Rock tournament is June 10-19, and is expected to provide an even bigger whale of a tale this year. Learn more at the bigrock.com.

MANTEO, NORTH CAROLINA

Pirate's Cove Billfish Tournament August 13-19, 2022

Manteo is located in the northern Outerbanks' Dare County on Roanoke Island, and was named after a Native American Croatan chief who befriended the English explorers and colonists at a settlement that later became known as The Lost Colony. This quaint town is one of the oldest in the country, and appropriately home of the famed outdoor drama, "The Lost Colony," which shares the story of one of America's oldest mysteries. The play has local ties, too, as Raleigh native Ira David Wood III directed it for many years.

Manteo also hosts the annual Pirate's Cove Billfish Tournament, where sports fishing enthusiasts come from all over the country to see who can catch the heftiest billfish. (The billfish family includes marlin, sailfish and swordfish.) The crew from Wave Paver reeled in 2021's highest oh-fish-ial total to win the championship last summer, earning \$429,747 in prize money. Take the bait and join the 39th annual Pirate's Cove Billfish Tournament when it returns August 13-19. Learn more at pcbgt.com.