

WINNER ANNOUNCED FOR THE 2012 IGFA GREAT MARLIN RACE

The first year of the IGFA Great Marlin Race (IGMR) in partnership with Stanford University, has come to a close, with six tagging events helping to deploy 24 satellite tags in blue and black marlin in three oceans. A total of 12,070 nautical miles (nm) have thus far been tracked from the tags on these majestic game fish, but one tag alone accounts for nearly 40% of that distance – that which belonged to team Texas-Scot Connection, sponsored by Trevor Somny, Bruce McKee, and Bill Crawford during the Club Nautico de San Juan 58th Annual Billfish Tournament that was held in Puerto Rico September 5-11, 2011. Traversing the Atlantic Ocean and covering 4,776 nm, this tag, placed in a 260 kg (575 lb) blue marlin, has officially won the first year of the IGMR. It also represents the longest track ever recorded from an satellite tag in a marlin.

Although the Texas-Scot Connection tag covered the lion's share of the distance that has been reported back from the satellite tags so far, the second and third place tags also made notable journeys. The second place tag, deployed and sponsored by Bjorn Farley in a 100 kg (220) lb blue marlin during the 2012 GAMEX/Australian International Billfish Tournament on March 29th, traveled 1,035 nm and popped up 310 nm west of Java, Indonesia. Following close behind in third place was the tag sponsored by Wayne Ritchie and Ivan Hartley (Ritchie Auto, A Ford Motor Dealer) and Team W, which traveled 1,018 nm, rounding the Cape of Good Hope after it was deployed in a 150 kg (330 lb) blue marlin during the Fourth Colombia Billfish Classic, hosted by the South Africa Deep Sea Angling Association in February of 2012.

Follow the IGFA Great Marlin Race

Stay up-to-date with the latest satellite tag pop-ups on the IGMR website. Real-time satellite tag pop-ups are added to the site as they happen. Anglers can learn about each marlin and their route of travel over the 180 days while at liberty.

Visit <http://igmr.igfa.org>.



How does the IGMR Work?

Here's how the IGMR works. Satellite tags are sponsored by tournament teams, individuals or clubs at the price of \$4,000 each. Each tag is programmed to pop off the fish 180 days after it is deployed. Once the tag pops off, information is transmitted to a satellite and then to scientists at Stanford University. Then the data are processed so that anglers can see graphical representations of the tracks of each individual fish on the IGFA Great Marlin Race website. In a given tournament, the tag that surfaces farthest from where it was initially deployed wins the race for that tournament. The overall winner of the annual IGMR is the fish that travels the furthest in all the participating individual IGMR events for that year.

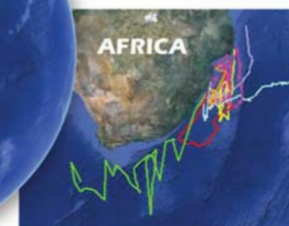
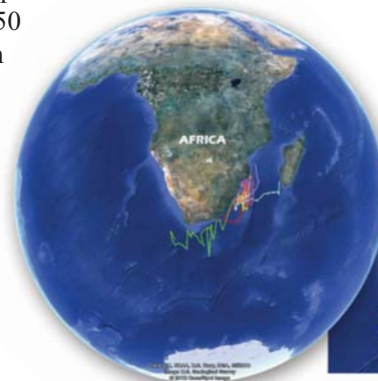
Each annual IGMR will run from October 1st to September 31st (based upon when tags pop off).

Australia: 2011-2012 Second Place Track:



Nine marlin were tagged during the GAMEX/Australian International Billfish Tournament in March of 2012. The winning fish, sponsored by Bjorn Farley, was tracked for 1,035 nm – just shy of half of the combined distance of 2,408 nm that were tracked on all the fish in this event.

South Africa: 2011-2012 Third Place Track:



The eight fish tagged during the SADSAA tournament in South Africa traveled a combined total of 2,898 nm while their satellite tags were in place. The winning tag from this event, sponsored by Wayne Ritchie and Ivan Hartley (Ritchie Auto, A Ford Motor Dealer) traveled more than a third of that distance at 1,018 nm.