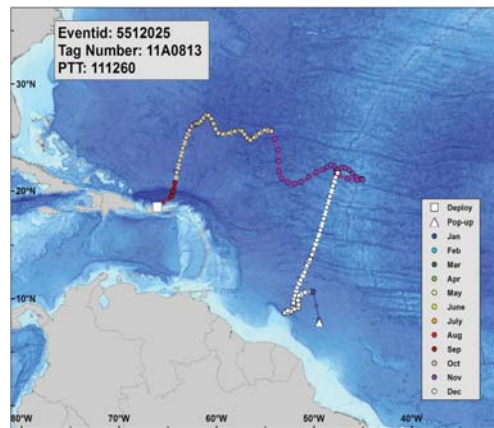


IGFA GREAT MARLIN RACE UPDATE

Winner announced for 2012 Puerto Rico IGMR event

Well into its second year, the IGFA Great Marlin Race (IGMR) is now including new technology! Wildlife Computer's new mini Pop-up Archival Transmitting (PAT) tags are very similar to the MK-10 tags previously used in the Race, but are 60 millimeters smaller, 22 grams lighter, and may incur less drag than the MK-10s. Recent tagging events using the new mini Pats have taken place in Eastern Australia, as well as French Polynesia by IGFA chairman, Packy Offield. Offield deployed 12 mini-PATs on blue marlin in Tahiti from his boat, *Kelsey Lee*. Although the tags are not entered in the annual IGFA Great Marlin Race, they will increase our knowledge of marlin movement and habitat use, and will allow us to better evaluate the new tag technology. So far, 67 tags have been deployed on billfish around the world. Be sure to check the IGMR webpage <http://igmr.igfa.org> often for updates on billfish tags, new race locations, and leaderboard standings.



The winning marlin, tagged aboard the *Amirita*, swam a remarkable distance of 1,162 nautical miles in just 97 days.

A winner has officially been declared for the 2012 Puerto Rico IGMR! Congratulations to IGFA Trustee Pepe Anton and angler Carlos Garcia of Team *Amirita*! During the 59th Annual International Billfish Tournament (IBT) of Club Náutico de San Juan, Garcia caught a 91 kg (200 lb) blue marlin aboard Anton's boat *Amirita*. Once the fish was tagged with a PAT sponsored by Anton, the winning marlin swam a remarkable distance of 1,162 nautical miles in just 97 days. This is the second tag that Anton has sponsored and deployed from his boat. As winner of the Puerto Rico IGMR, Pepe Anton will receive a free entry to next year's 60th IBT of Club Náutico de San Juan.

Pop-Up Tags

The Great Marlin race relies upon Wildlife Computer's MK-10 and mini Pop-up Archival Transmitting (PAT) tags. The mini-PATs are 60 millimeters smaller, 22 grams lighter than the larger tags. Both types of tags can be attached to a billfish with a dart, connected to a heavy monofilament leader. Once the fish is tagged, the satellite tag records depth, temperature, and light (used to calculate the fish's location). At a pre-programmed date, the pin at the bottom of the tag corrodes away and sets the tag free from the fish. The foam float located at the top of the tag then brings the tag to the surface, allowing the antenna to relay summaries of the stored data, via the Argos satellite system, back to the laboratory.



Calling all conservation-minded billfishers!

54th Annual Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT)



The IGMR will be part of the 54th Annual Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT), which will take place **August 3-10, 2013!** The HIBT is the birthplace of the IGMR, and if you are interested in sponsoring a tag and contributing to billfish science, you will also be able to compete against other anglers in the tournament to see whose marlin travels the farthest distance from where it was tagged. The winner will receive a free entry for up to six anglers (not including charter boat fees, lodging, or travel costs) to the 55th Annual HIBT (\$7,500 value). The cost of each tag is \$4,500, and purchases are considered a charitable contribution in the USA and are tax deductible. For more information please contact IGFA Conservation Director Jason Schratwieser at 954-924-4320, jschratwieser@igfa.org.