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IGFA GREAT MARLIN RACE UPDATE

Australia Playing a Large Part in Billfish Research

The 2013-2014 IGFA Great Marlin Race (IGMR) year is well underway and off to an exciting start with recent tagging events in Queensland, Australia, Hawaii, USA and Kenya!

It may be the world's smallest continent, but Australia is playing a large role in billfish research. In April, the IGMR returned to the country for the third time and participated in the Gold Coast Game Fish Club's Cabo Hatteras Billfish Shootout in Queensland, Australia where a total of four satellite tags were deployed. This brings the total number of tags deployed in Australia to 19! In July, the first tag reported 488 nautical miles from where it was released from a blue marlin caught by Katie Ripper and tagged by Mark Ripper. In August, a second tag popped up and took the lead in the race with 578 nm from a blue marlin caught by Don Hawker and Darren Malequin. We will wait and see how far the remaining two marlin will swim - the race is still wide open!

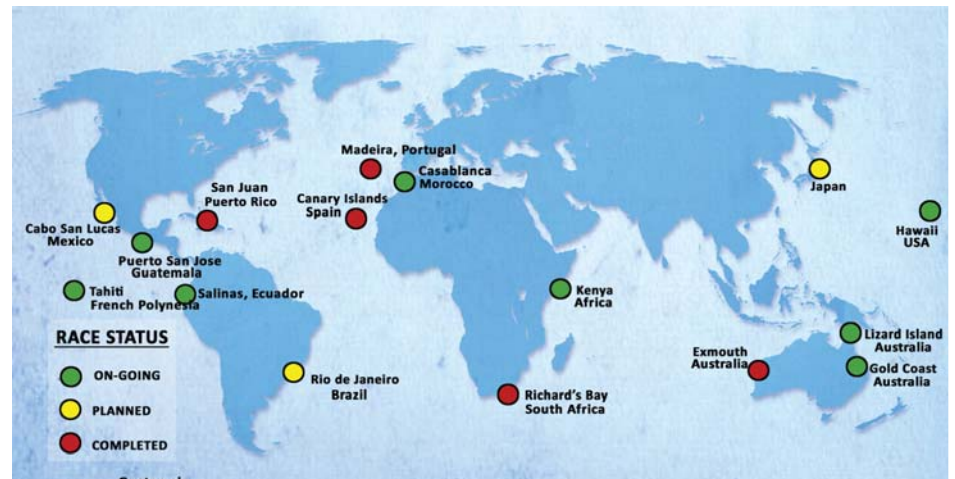
In early August, angling teams from

The IGMR is planning to tag billfish in Cabo San Lucas, Rio de Janeiro, and Panama for 2014. Below are the tag deployment locations to date.

around the world gathered for the 54th Annual Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT) in Kailua Kona, Hawaii and a total of eight tags were sponsored. Under the leadership of IGFA Trustee Emeritus Peter Fithian, IGFA Representative Bob Kurz and Dr. Barbara Block, the HIBT was the birthplace of the Great Marlin Race, which was established in 2009 as part of the tournament's 50th anniversary celebration. Two years later, the new partnership between Stanford University and the IGFA expanded this important marlin research project on an international scale with the birth of the IGMR. Two tags were deployed during this year's tournament and



First PSAT IGFA Great Marlin Race tagged blue marlin of the Queensland, Australia Shootout.



	Africa	Australia	Ecuador	Guatemala	Portugal	Puerto Rico	Spain	USA (Hawaii)	French Polynesia	OVERALL
Blue Marlin Tags	5	10	1	0	3	10	2	13	12	56
Miles Traveled	2,142	2,634	283	0	1686	8720	767	6811	555	23,598
Median Distance	301	108	283	0	365	458	384	354	278	301
Average Distance	428	263	283	0	562	872	0	524	46	421
Black Marlin Tags	3	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Miles Traveled	756	5,399	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,155
Median Distance	158	356	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	257
Average Distance	189	600	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	473
Sailfish Tags	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Miles Traveled	0	0	0	1067	0	0	0	0	0	1067
Median Distance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average Distance	0	0	0	213	0	0	0	0	0	213
Total Distance	2,898	8,033	283	1,067	1,686	8,720	767	6,811	555	30,820
Average Distance	322	423	283	213	562	872	384	524	46	416



An estimated 318 kg (700 lb) Pacific blue marlin was tagged on behalf of the Game-fishing Club of South Australia aboard *Marlin Magic II*. Photo by Carol Lynne.

the third tag was deployed on an enormous 318 kg (700 lb) Pacific blue marlin in the week following the tournament! This is the largest marlin successfully tagged in the five-year history of the HIBT Great Marlin Race. As in other IGMR races, the remaining five tags will be deployed in the upcoming weeks as opportunities arise to tag and release marlin.

On the other side of the world, five tags have been sponsored for the 2013 Kenya IGMR and on July 19th, the first tag was placed on an 80 kg (176 lb) black marlin. We wish Kenya luck on catching and deploying the remaining tags!

As the new race year begins, the 2012-2013 IGMR year is coming to a close with satellite tags reporting from Guatemala, the last event of the race year. Working with IGFA Representative Jorge Sinibaldi and Fernando Merck of the Club Náutico de Guatemala and the Asociación Nacional de Pesca Deportiva de Guatemala in February, tags were placed on five sailfish off Guatemala's Pacific Coast. So far, three tags have reported distances of 184, 24, and 859 nm from where they were deployed! We anxiously await the result of the remaining two tags to find out the winner of the Guatemala IGMR. The winner of the annual IGMR, the fish that traveled the furthest of all the 2011-2012 races, will be announced online October 1, 2013. The sponsor of the winning tag will be recognized at the IGFA International Auction & Banquet on January 31, of 2014.

We are also pleased to announce that Peter Pakula (www.pakula.com.au/) has created a special IGMR commemorative edition of his venerable Sprocket trolling lure. The Pakula Sprocket is a legend, having been listed in the *Marlin* magazine

Top 10 Lures of All Time both times the survey has been done. This long rigger lure, particularly in the color Lumo, has accounted for a great many first marlin captures, tournament wins and the



largest fish of the season twice in Cairns. Thanks to Peter's generosity all tag sponsors will receive the special IGMR commemorative edition of this very effective marlin lure.

More IGFA tagging events are scheduled in Lizard Island, Australia October 12-19 at the Bertram 27th Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic and in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico at the Los Cabos Offshore Tournament on October 15-19, 2013. To learn more about these events or to find out how your country can get involved, please visit <http://igmr.igfa.org>.

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