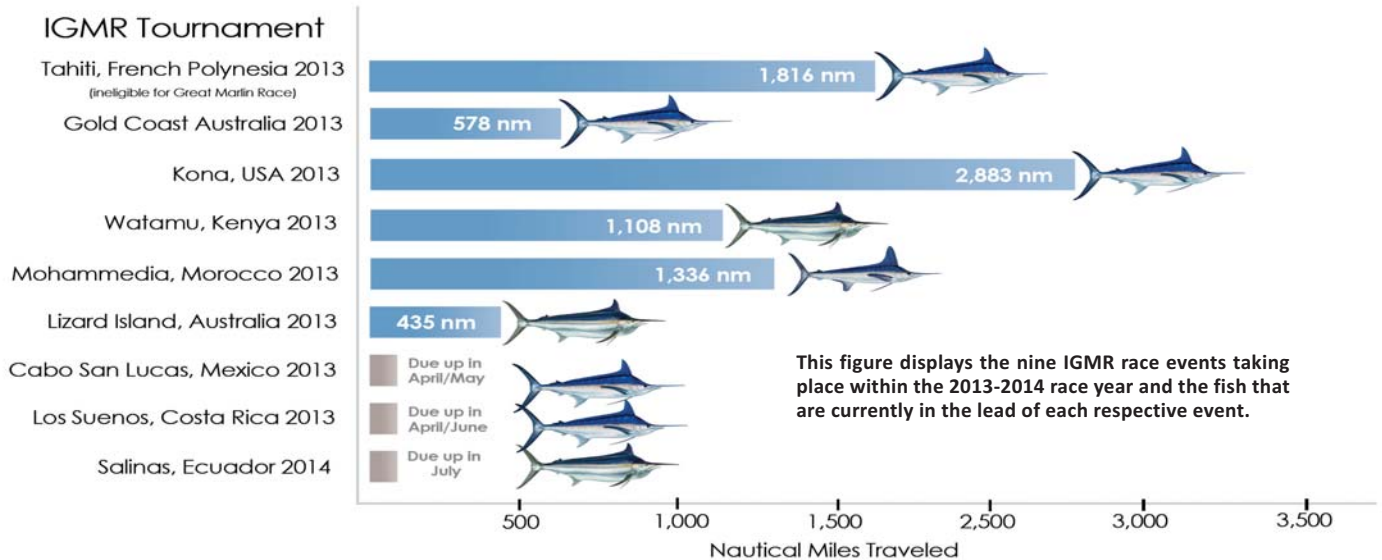


The IGFA is working to promote sound science and conservation practices worldwide - **but we can't do it without your support.**
 Visit membership.igfa.org/donate today to make your gift to conserve the sport you love.

2013-2014 IGMR CURRENT RACE LEADERS

Race against fellow tag sponsors and help IGFA expand our understanding of billfish species by sponsoring a tag during an IGMR event. Individuals or teams can partner to sponsor one of the state of the art Pop-Up Archival Transmitting Tags (PATs). The tag that surfaces the furthest from its deployment site wins the race for that event.



We have reached the halfway point of the 2013-2014 IGMR Race Year, and so far 60 tags have been placed on billfish during nine different events across the globe.

IGFA Chairman Packy Offield generously funded 12 tags that were placed on blue marlin during the Tahiti, French Polynesia 2013 Race. Although these tags are not in competition to win the overall 2013-2014 IGMR, the last tag of the event surfaced on December 10, 2013, at a point-to-point distance of 1,816 nautical miles (nm)! To date, this is the fourth longest track recorded in IGMR history. We are experimenting with tag duration and anchor designs with Offield's tags and this particular tag was programmed to stay on for 240 day, which it did. This demonstrates that the Wildlife Computers tags that we are using have the ability for longer deployment durations—the tricky part is keeping them on the fish!

The second event of the race year came to a close in December 2013 and the winner of the Gold Coast, Australia 2013

Race is team Zeus! Trent Knappick sponsored the tag that was placed on a 160 kg (353 lb) blue marlin that traveled 578 nm in only 66 days. Coming in a close second was Gold Coast Game Fishing Club's blue that swam a distance of 485 nm in 76 days.

So far, two of the eight tags sponsored in the Kona, Hawaii, USA 2013 Race have surfaced. Leading the event, and the 2013-2014 race year, is the Balboa Angling Club, California, USA's blue marlin that swam a remarkable distance of 2,883 nm in 180 days! The tag, sponsored by Mitch and Marty Firestein, currently stands as the longest distance recorded in Kona history and the second longest distance in the history of the IGMR. The remaining tags are due to pop up in March of 2014.

Three tags have been deployed as part of the Watamu, Kenya 2013 Race. Team Ol Jogi II's tag was the first to surface and the black swam a noteworthy distance of 1,108 nm in only 46 days. The remaining two tags are due to pop up later this year.

Six white marlin joined the IGMR

during the Mohammedia, Morocco 2013 Race. Five of the six tags have reported and a fish that traveled 1,336 nm in 103 days is currently in the lead. The final tag in the event is due to report in April 2014.

Fifteen tags were deployed as part of the Lizard Island, Australia 2013 Race, five of which were sponsored by last year's IGMR winner, Peter Teakle, and the remaining 10 by Ernesto Bertarelli. So far eight tags have surfaced and leading the event is team Calypso, whose tag reported 435 nm in 120 days. The rest of the tags are due to surface later this year.

Finally, research and racing are in full swing in Central and South America; tags deployed in Los Sueños, Costa Rica, Salinas, Ecuador, and during Bisbee's Los Cabos Offshore Charity Tournament in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico have quadrupled our deployment locations in the Pacific Ocean this race year. The first of these tags is due to report this coming July, and as always, you can follow the action at <http://igmr.igfa.org>.