

SEVEN BLUE MARLIN SATELLITE TAGGED IN HAWAIIAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

Since it was first established in 1959, the annual Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT) in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, USA has been attracting top anglers from all over the globe. July 28, 2014 marked the first fishing day of the 55th annual HIBT and the sixth year for the IGFA Great Marlin Race (IGMR), which was launched in celebration of the HIBT's 50th Anniversary. Seven miniPAT (Pop-up Archival Transmitting) tags were sponsored for the 2014 Kona IGMR and deployed on Pacific blue marlin.

Sponsoring tags for the third year in a row were IGFA Representatives Bob and Sally Kurz from Laguna Niguel Billfish Club, IGFA Representative Rocky Franich and Bill Evans from Pajaro Valley Game Fish Club, Star Electric courtesy of IGFA Lifetime Member Ralph Czabayski from the Game Fishing Club of South Australia, and Marty and Mitchell Firestein, the father and son team from the Laguna Niguel Billfish Club. Also sponsoring tags for an additional year were Whangaroa Sportfishing Club's Keith and Janice Allan, Laguna Niguel Billfish Club's Robert Chavers, Robert Dudley, and Charles Salinger, Chuck Wigzell, and Mission Bay Marlin Club's Tim McBride. Thanks to our IGFA Representatives and sponsors for their continued support which aids the conservation of these valuable species and our sport.

IGFA Using the Next Generation in Satellite Tag Technology

The work-horse of the IGMR is the pop-up archival satellite tag. These tags record information on location temperature, depth, and light until they detach from the fish at a pre-programmed date and transmit these data to researchers via Earth-orbiting satellites - meaning that data are recovered without having to recapture the fish. Thanks to continuing advances in tag design, we are able to use the newest generation of pop-up archival satellite tags, which are much smaller and more sophisticated than the tags used during the first two years of the IGMR. We are learning that because of their smaller size and lower drag, these tags remain attached to fish longer than the older generation tags. Therefore, we are able to collect more data from longer tracks, which provide us with insight into the overall migratory patterns of marlin that we did not previously have.

Support
IGFA's
Satellite Tagging
Billfish Research



SAVE A REEF, EAT A LIONFISH!



IGFA Conservation Coordinator Leah Baumwell with a lionfish measuring 353 mm (14 inches)

Invasive lionfish continue to spread in the western Atlantic, where they are out-breeding, out-competing, and preying on recreationally important species such as grouper and snapper. In an effort to help curb their expansion, lionfish tournaments are being formed to help enlist the aid of anglers and divers.

On Saturday, July 19, 2014, the IGFA participated in the Second Annual 2014 Teeple's Memorial Lionfish Derby in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA to support lionfish research and control programs. Although the tournament was not a rod and reel event, these single-day spearfishing events can help lower lionfish numbers in areas that are hotspots for juvenile fish (mangroves and shallow reefs) and will hopefully help native sport fish populations.

In this successful event, divers collected a total of 557 lionfish, with the largest fish measured at 430 mm (17 inches). It is estimated that 1.3-5.8 million native fish would have been preyed on by the number of lionfish that were harvested during the tournament. If you're an angler and a diver, join IGFA in showing awareness and support for this important conservation effort by participating in a derby or a lionfish-related educational event near you!