

2013-2014 IGMR RACE YEAR WINNER!

Congratulations to sponsors Marty and Mitchell Firestein

Since it was first established in 1959, just two days after Hawaii became a US state, the annual Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT) has been attracting top anglers from all over the globe. In fact, it was during the HIBT that the IGFA Great Marlin Race (IGMR) was launched in 2011. Therefore, it is only fitting that the third race year, which came to a close on October 1, 2014, was swept by two Pacific blue marlin that were tagged during the 2013 HIBT IGMR!

In individual IGMR events, winners are determined by the longest linear distance a billfish swims from the point of tag deployment to the point it pops up. The overall winner of the annual IGMR tournament is the sponsor of the fish that travels the farthest in all the events for the race year. In the 2013-2014 race year, 60 tags were placed on blue, black, and white marlin during nine tagging events held in eight countries around the globe. These fish swam a combined linear distance of 26,312 nautical miles (an estimated total distance of 146,476 nm), but one marlin accounted for nearly 11% of this distance.

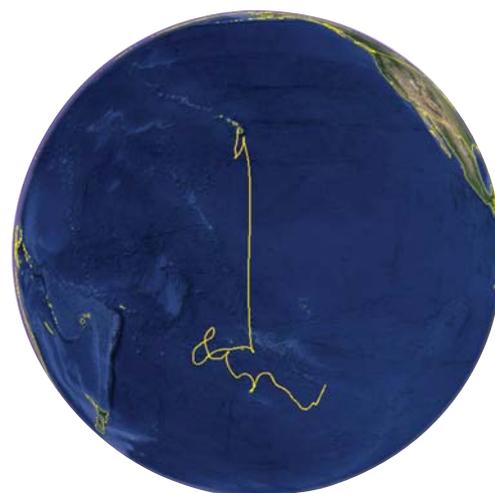
Congratulations to sponsors Marty and Mitchell Firestein! On August 9, 2013, Marty placed the winning tag on a 113 kg (250 lb) Pacific blue marlin caught by his son Mitchell aboard *Hooked Up*. After reaching the full deployment duration of 180 days, the tag surfaced on February 5, 2014. On their data sheet, they noted that the fish "swam away nicely," which was an understatement- their winning fish swam a linear distance of 2,883 nm (an estimated total distance of 12,594 nm), almost reaching the Pitcairn Islands! This distance stands as the second longest distance recorded by any billfish in IGMR history.

The father and son team have independently sponsored a tag each year since the IGMR's inception because, according to Marty, giving back to the

sport we all love is an obligation. "Conservation is part of the sport and anyone who is truly committed to the sport, should invest. The more research we can do, the more we are going to understand the fishery and better manage the fishery which means as a sports fishing enthusiast, I will be able to fish and my son will be able to fish, and so will his kids. It's important. In my lifetime, I have seen a large change in the fishery and so whatever is spent in terms of dollars, is a cheap investment for the future. The IGMR helps to keep the sport alive."— Marty Firestein

The second place tag of the race year, which was also deployed during the 54th annual HIBT, belongs to an 57 kg (125 lb) Pacific blue marlin that swam a linear distance of 2,101 nm (an estimated total distance of 8,625 nm) in 175 days. Congratulations to sponsors, IGFA Representatives Rocky Franich, Bob Kurz, and Sally Kurz. To date, this distance is the fourth longest track record in IGMR history, behind the winning fish of the 2012-2013 race year that swam a linear distance of 2,577 nm.

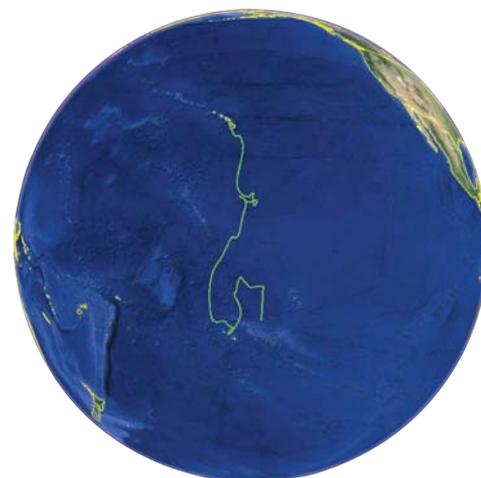
The IGFA and Stanford University would like to thank all tag sponsors, tournament coordinators, anglers, captains and crew for their steadfast devotion to the conservation of billfish and our sport, and for helping to make the 2013-2014 race year a success. The repository of data collected from the IGMR is rapidly growing and the fourth year of the project started off with a bang with more tagging events held in Hawaii and California, USA where striped marlin have been added to the race! Events were also held in Bahamas, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Australia for the fourth year in a row, and a brand new IGMR event in Seychelles. So far, 162 tags have been deployed on billfish that have traveled 58,849 nm with the number growing each day! To learn more about recent events or to find out how you or your country can get involved, please visit: www.igfa/Conserve/IGMR.aspx



Kona, Hawaii, USA

2013-2014 First Place Track:

The overall winner of the annual IGMR tournament belongs to the tag sponsor of the fish that swims the longest linear distance of all events in the race year. Congratulations to sponsors Marty and Mitchell Firestein whose Pacific blue marlin swam 2,883 nautical miles- the second longest linear distance recorded by any billfish in IGMR history.



Kona, Hawaii, USA

2013-2014 Second Place Track:

Congratulations to co-sponsors and IGFA Representatives Rocky Franich, Bob Kurz, and Sally Kurz whose Pacific blue marlin swam 2,101 nautical miles- the fourth longest linear distance recorded by any billfish in IGMR history.

