

# THE ROATAN INTERNATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT



## XII ANNUAL

SEPTEMBER 14th - 17th, 2011



### Registration

All boats must be registered with the Tournament Committee and entry fee paid to qualify for prizes and trophies. Any boat entered in The Roatan Fishing Tournament shall not be entered in another tournament simultaneously. Proper identification must be presented for all registered anglers and Captains. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to deny entry to anyone. There will be a late fee of \$100 (U.S Dollar) assessed to any boat registering after the captains meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>; however, no new entries are allowed after 12:00 pm on Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup>.

\*All participating boats are responsible of having their permits, licenses and registration in order with the local authorities.

### Entry Fee

All fees must be paid prior to or on the night of the captains meeting. Fees cover up to 4 registered anglers and the captain.

**Level I** Teams pay \$300(U.S Dollar) and are allowed to compete in the Rodeo Division only.

**Level II** Teams pay \$500(U.S Dollar) and are allowed to compete in the Billfish and Rodeo Divisions.

**Juniors** Teams pay \$300(U.S Dollar) and allowed to compete in Junior Division only.

## **Schedule of Events**

### **Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011**

7 p.m. Captains Meeting at Coconut Tree Restaurant

4-8 p.m. Registration

### **Thursday Sept. 15, 2011**

6 a.m. Bimini Start from Half Moon Bay

Fishing hours are 6:00 a.m-5:00 p.m.

### **Friday Sept. 16, 2011**

Fishing Day

Fishing hours are 5:00 a.m-5:00 p.m.

### **Saturday Sept. 17, 2011**

Final fishing Day and award ceremony.

Fishing hours are 5:00 a.m-1:00 p.m.

Awards Ceremony at 7:00 p.m.

The Awards Ceremony will be held at Coconut Tree Restaurant on Saturday Sept.17, 2011 at 7 p.m.

## **Billfish Division**

Blue and White Marlin, Sailfish and Spearfish are the only species that qualify in this division.

Blue Marlin\_\_\_\_\_500 Points

White Marlin\_\_\_\_\_300 Points

Sailfish and Spearfish\_\_\_\_\_200 Points

**\*Bonus points**

**50** bonus points will be awarded for a clean hook removal from any billfish with video evidence.

**1<sup>st</sup> place** Team with most overall billfish points.

**2<sup>nd</sup> place** Team with second most overall billfish points.

**3<sup>rd</sup> place** Team with third most overall billfish points.

**Rodeo Division**

Wahoo, Dolphin, Tuna and Kingfish are the qualifying species in this category. Minimum qualifying weight is 20lbs.

**1<sup>st</sup> place** Awarded to the heaviest qualifying fish.

**2<sup>nd</sup> place** Awarded to the second heaviest qualifying fish.

**3<sup>rd</sup> place** Awarded to the third heaviest qualifying fish.

**Junior Division**

Junior anglers should be 15 years old or younger. Qualifying species include: Barracuda, Mackerel, Kingfish, Wahoo, Dolphin and Tuna.

Qualifying fish need to be at least 15lbs with the exception of Barracuda and Mackerel which require a minimum weight of 10lbs to qualify.

**1st Place** – Awarded to the heaviest qualifying fish.

**2nd Place** – Awarded to the second heaviest qualifying fish.

## **AWARDS**

### **GRAND SLAM**

Awarded to the boat that successfully catches and releases a blue marlin, white marlin and sailfish.

### **RECORD BREAKING BLUE MARLIN**

Awarded to the boat that catches the heaviest Blue Marlin over 708 lbs.

### **TOP LADY ANGLER**

Awarded to the lady angler with the heaviest qualifying fish in the Rodeo Division or the lady angler with most overall billfish points.

## **RULES**

Unless otherwise stated, IGFA rules will apply throughout this Tournament.

### **1. RULES ACCEPTANCE & CAPTAINS MEETING**

A) It is the sole responsibility of the participating anglers, captains and crews to know and abide by The Roatan Fishing Tournament rules. By entering the event they acknowledge this and agree to such.

B) Anglers and boat captains should attend the scheduled Captain's Meeting. If they don't attend, they automatically accept and agree to be bound by instructions given at the meeting.

C) By entering The Roatan Fishing Tournament, all participants agree to accept the rules of the tournament and accept all decisions made by the Rules and Tournament Committee as final. The Tournament Committee is not liable for any type of accidents, damages and/or loss of life, boats and equipment during the event.

## **2. TOURNAMENT START**

A) The official tournament starts the first fishing day with a shot-gun flare start at 6:00am in front of Half Moon Bay.

B) All boats must be in Half Moon Bay area and report to the tournament base by radio through Channel 16 (Tournament official channel) before the tournament start time.

C) In case of an emergency that disables any participating boat to comply with the tournament start rules, the boat and its crew must present itself with the tournaments committee at its base in Half Moon Bay to discuss the reason of its noncompliance. The Tournament committee will discuss the captain's reason for non compliance and decide if the boat is eligible for reentry.

D) Any boat that does not comply with these instructions will be immediately disqualified from the entire event.

## **3. WEIGH STATION**

Weight station will open at 10:00 a.m. and will close at 6:00 p.m. on the first two days of competition and at 1:00p.m on Saturday 17th.

If there is a need to extend weigh in time due to a late hook up, this can be granted by the Tournament Committee only if the caught fish was reported being hooked before 5:00 p.m. The extension is not possible on the final day of fishing.

Any person guilty of tampering with the weight of their fish may be disqualified from participation in future Roatan Fishing Tournaments.

## **4. FISHING RULES**

A) Only fish caught on rod and reel, trolling or drifting, will qualify. Anchoring will not be permitted. Artificial and natural baits are allowed. Non-offset circle hooks are mandatory when using live bait.

B) No specific brand of fishing line is required, however, fishing lines may not exceed 80lbs. test. No wire lines are allowed. All boats are subject to equipment inspection if any doubts arise.

C) Fire arms, explosives, spear guns or electric reels will not be permitted. A gaff should only be used in the Rodeo Division or in the event of Record Breaking Blue Marlin **over 708lbs.**

F) Half Mile common courtesy rule during hook up is in effect. If a boat is in fight other boats must respect that boats boundaries and give way if needed. If the common courtesy rule is broken the offending vessel is subject to penalty and/or disqualification by the judges.

D) No Hand-offs between boats is permitted. The Tournament Committee may choose to grant special permission to waive this rule if someone's personal safety or health is at risk.

E) Sportsman like conduct ashore and afloat is expected of all participants and their guests.

## **5. BILLFISH RELEASE**

The Roatan Fishing Tournament Prides itself in having been the first established Catch and Release Tournament in Honduras. Any boat bringing in a marlin or sailfish will be disqualified from the event thus losing all entries. The only exception is a Record Breaking Blue Marlin.

### **A) Catch and Release**

A billfish is considered officially caught when the leader connection is wound to the tip of the rod, or the mate or other crew member touches the leader. Billfish points are awarded for properly released fish. To be counted as a properly released fish, mates should swim the fish in the correct manner to revive it and the fish must be alive and capable of survival when released.

## B) Clean Hook Removal.

All teams must provide video evidence of hook removal for additional 50 bonus points.

## C) Release and Filming Instructions

1. All participating boats should have a Video Camera with the proper date and time adjusted in order to participate in the Billfish Division. Camera photos will not be accepted.

2. The day before each fishing day, the tournaments committee will give out a specific banner that should be shown in the video at the moment of each release. All banners (one for each fishing day) will have different colors and icons to ensure that the fish shown in the video was in fact caught and released during the tournament dates.

3. All boats must report name of boat, name of angler at the time of hook up. The release time must be reported; time of the release will determine the winner in the case of a tie.

4. Mates can help angler place rod in fighting chair or get strapped in at the beginning of the fight and grab the leader at the end of the fight. At no point can a crew member and or mate help fight the fish. Any additional help will result in disqualification of that fish.

5. In order to confirm the release and give the billfish points to the team, the videos have to clearly show, in one single and continuous film, the following aspects:

- I. The angler and or crew registered under the boat that is fighting and releasing the fish.
- II. The billfish next to the boat, clearly identifying the billfish species. If the species cannot be positively identified, the team will be given the points based on the criteria of The Tournament Committee. If the film

shows the touch of the leader but cannot identify that the fish is actually a billfish, there will be no points awarded for the release.

- III. The colored banner given out for that specific day of fishing. It is imperative that this banner is clearly shown at the moment of the billfish release. The banner and the billfish must appear in the same shot.
- IV. The billfish swimming away freely from the boat.

Failure to comply with all these aspects above will result in the failure of granting the respective billfish points to the registered team.

All billfish release videos must be presented to the Tournament Committee before the end of the closing of the scale on each fishing day.

## **PROTEST**

Any protest must be presented to the Tournament Committee before the official closing of the weigh station on the day of the alleged infraction. The Tournament Committee will rule as soon as is feasibly possible.

## **DEAD OR WOUNDED FISH**

Any billfish deemed by the crew as dead or injured enough to cause death, must be carefully filmed during the battle and release attempts in order to verify crew's assumptions. The boat is obligated to leave fish at sea. Any boat that brings ashore a dead billfish will be immediately disqualified.



## **RECORD BREAKING BLUE MARLIN**

The only exception to the rule above is if the catch is a Blue Marlin that exceeds the Roatan record at **708lb**. Tournament Committee will provide a minimum measurement for this fish. The vessel that makes the catch must report to officials via radio or cell phone in sufficient time, so that the fish can be properly measured and inspected before brought ashore.

## **SAFETY**

Emergencies, questions and problems should be relayed to Tournament Control. Tournament boats should abide by all rules of the road and safety should be kept foremost in all operations of vessels.

## **WEATHER CONDITION**

In the event of unsafe weather conditions, the tournament committee may choose to postpone the tournament until a later date. Captains are ultimately responsible for their crew and should make the decision as to safe sea conditions.

