



# The IGFTO Observer

*A newsletter for International Game Fish Tournament Observers*

Volume 2

Edition 1

*Observing Today ... Conserving Tomorrow*



## ***Los Suenos Signature Series Leg I an "Observers Dream Come True"***

A dozen IGFTO Observers traveled to Los Suenos, Costa Rica, in January for the first Leg of the Signature Series. Little did they know that the tournament would result in an amazing record-breaking catch and release of 1,412 billfish.

IGFTO observer Art McDonald characterized the 3-day event, with 38 boats competing as "*insane fishing...an Observers Dream Come True.*"

In comparison, observers witnessed the release of 622 billfish in the 2012 tournament.

So far, 13 IGFTO observers have been confirmed for participation in the Los Suenos Leg II tournament.

Observers hope for more "*insane fishing.*"



Leaving the marina in Los Suenos

**IGFTO is a non-profit 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations are tax-deductible.**

IGFTO Membership Applications Available Online at [www.igfto.org](http://www.igfto.org)

## **IGFTO Observers were used exclusively at the Palm Beach Double Shot**



Observers Sine Mate', Jim Downey, Greg Moore, Marvin Badler, Terry O'Neill, Pat Moore, Kevin Caracciolo (left to right standing); Stret Whiting, Scott Brady, Bob Stimolo and Ron Teke (left to right kneeling) authenticated the release of 195 sailfish in the 50th anniversary of the Buccaneer Cup and Florida Fish For Life tournaments.

The Palm Beach Double Shot - two tournaments in one - consisted of the 50th anniversary of the prestigious Buccaneer Cup Sailfish Tournament and the 10th Anniversary of the Florida Fish for Life Sailfish Tournament.

Tournament directors chose IGFTO observers exclusively to identify and confirm the releases of billfish in both tournaments and assure tournament rules were followed.

Buccaneer Cup Director Gary Caputi said he and Fish For Life Tournament Director Fred Miller "both agree you and your band of brothers and sisters did a first-class job and we will definitely be using your services again next year."

## ***Observers vs Cameras***

Many tournaments use observers to identify and release billfish, but some rely on cameras. IGFTO observers do two things cameras cannot.

In addition to identifying the fish and confirming the release, observers make sure IGFA and tournament rules are followed - things cameras cannot always capture.

Observers assure that the angler is the sole person to catch the fish with no assistance from mates or other anglers. Cameras don't always capture the moment the fish strikes when the rod should be immediately removed from the rod holder by only the angler.

Secondly, observers help preserve the fish. By calling a quick release, observers allow anglers and mates to cut the leader sooner. When using cameras, anglers fight the fish longer - to the detriment of the fish - to catch it on video.

### **Upcoming IGFTO**

#### **Observing opportunities:**

- ◆ Presidential Challenge of Costa Rica, Carrillo, CR. **Feb. 28- March 3, 2013**
- ◆ Los Suenos Signature Series II, Costa Rica **March 16-19, 2013**
- ◆ Presidential Papagayo Cup, Costa Rica **May 16 - 19, 2013**
- ◆ Cap Cana Billfish Shootout, Dominican Republic **May 29 - June 3, 2013**
- ◆ St. Thomas USVI July Open, **July 16-18, 2013**

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