



# The IGFTO Observer

*A newsletter for International Game Fish Tournament Observers*

Volume 3

Edition 1



*Observing Today ... Conserving Tomorrow*



IGFTO Directors Bob Stimolo, Terry O'Neill, Greg Moore, Steve Hargett and John Treat traded in their observer shirts for suits and ties while attending the 2013 Billfish Foundation Gala Fund-raiser in Fort Lauderdale in November.

Fourteen IGFTO observers and their guests attended the event. The Directors have made the decision to attend The Billfish Foundation gala again in 2014 and they hope many IGFTO members will support this tremendous cause.

IGFTO is proud to support The Billfish Foundation and its mission to conserve billfish for future generations to come.

**IGFTO Membership Applications are Available Online at [www.igfto.org](http://www.igfto.org). Our financial results for 2013 may be reviewed on the website.**

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IGFTO Observer Ian Bose witnessed the catch and release of this sailfish in Guatemala in 2013.

## IGFTO Year in Review - 2013

IGFTO Observers participated in 10 tournaments in 2013, witnessing the catch and release of a yearly record 3,387 billfish from St. Thomas, USVI to Los Suenos, Costa Rica. Since the organization was formed in 2009, IGFTO observers have participated in more than 45 tournaments in 11 countries where more than 9,000 billfish have been safely caught and released.

The IGFTO membership grew by 22 percent in 2013 and supplied record numbers of member observers to tournaments in six different countries.

Our organization's leadership increased in 2013 with the addition of Bob Stimolo to the Board of Directors. His marketing skills are greatly appreciated as the IGFTO moves forward since obtaining its federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization designation from the IRS.

## IGFTO - Looking Ahead in 2014

IGFTO's 2014 tournament season starts in January with 10 observers heading to Palm Beach, FL, for the 51st annual Buccaneer Cup and 14 observers traveling to Los Suenos, Costa Rica for Leg I of the the Los Suenos Triple Crown Billfish Series.

We are hoping to encourage more tournaments in the United States to utilize our trained and qualified observers to assure IGFA and tournament rules are followed and billfish are identified correctly.

IGFTO is working on growth strategies for 2014 and hoping to involve more members in more tournaments throughout the US, Caribbean and Central America.

Our observers will be participating in at least two new tournaments this year - the International Casa de Campo Blue Marlin Classic in the Dominican Republic in March and the Presidential Challenge Cup in Golfito, Costa Rica in April.

We also will be attending additional tournaments in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Aruba and the Dominican Republic.

IGFTO is establishing corporate sponsorship levels and soon will be offering life memberships to our members.

The Next IGFA Observer Training Course is  
Feb. 15 at the  
IGFA Headquarters in Dania Beach, FL  
Go to [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org) for details