



Observing Today...Conserving for Tomorrow

The IGFTO Observer

A newsletter for International Game Fish Tournament Observers

Volume 6

Edition 2



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Steve Hargett and Scott Kozak appointed as IGFA Representatives



IGFTO President Steve Hargett and IGFTO observer Scott Kozak were officially appointed recently as IGFA Representatives. Steve as IGFA Representative of

Georgia and Scott of Ohio.

IGFA Representatives are volunteer "ambassadors" to IGFA and are an integral part of the foundation of the international organization. There are currently 325 Representatives in 95 different countries and territories.

Welcome new members

We're pleased to welcome 18 new observers to IGFTO during the second quarter. We ask all new members to consider how they might use their special and unique talents to help make IGFTO a stronger, better organization. Volunteers are always needed. Please contact any director.

Bob Schwegler, Pennington, NJ

Jack Tapscott, Knoxville, TN

Jeff Wells, Quepos, Aguirre

Eric Wukitsch, Morristown, NJ

Chris Yeates, Brookfield, CT

James Andrews, Annapolis, MD

Bill Bertrand, Wellington, FL

Bruce Corwin, Belleair Bluffs, FL

Krystal Corwin, Belleair Bluffs, FL

Marcy Costa, Tavernier, FL

A candidate is usually nominated by an IGFA Trustee or Representative, by way of a letter of recommendation. Once the necessary paperwork has been submitted to IGFA, an official assembles that information and sends it to the Representative Committee for review. The committee may or may not approve the candidate based on the recommendations submitted, experience, knowledge, geographical location and other factors.



Some of the more important points for consideration are a) the initial recommendation from an IGFA Trustee, current IGFA Representative or IGFA staff member. These recommendations are very important as they should ensure that the candidate is a responsible angler who has demonstrated their integrity and knowledge within their angling community- and their understanding of IGFA's philosophy, mission and future endeavors. b) whether or not the candidate is a longstanding and current IGFA member. c) recreational fishing experience and knowledge of IGFA rules.

Martin Costa, Tavernier, FL
George Franke, Norwich, NY
Hans Kaspersetz, wehawken, NJ
Bruce Key, Westbury, NY
John Lytle, Pine Bluff, AR
Vaughn Mulder, Cutler Bay, FL
John Pugsley, Tequesta, FL
Adrienne Reeve , Miami, FL
Leo Pipin, Ridgefield, CT

Spread the Word

Many new IGFTO members learn about observing from our membership. Step one for most members is to apply for and take the IGFA Observer Training Course. These courses are scheduled by the IGFA several weeks in advance of the program. When you speak with friends and family about the incredible fishing you experience as an observer, encourage them to go to the [IGFA website \(igfa.org\)](http://igfa.org) and click on Education, then Observer Training, and sign up to be notified when and where the next course will be held. There's no obligation and no expense to be listed as wanting to be notified about the next IGFA Observer Training Course and they will be sure not to miss the next opportunity to attend one.

To new and all IGFTO members

It takes a lot of work to make the IGFTO work. If you have a talent or expertise that you think can help us

To name a few responsibilities, IGFA requests the Representatives act as liaisons between anglers and IGFA, keeping those at HQ informed of the fishing(or lack thereof) in their part of the world via quarterly reports, assist in membership recruitment efforts throughout the year; assist with world record applications and IGFA rules as needed; attend fishing tackle and boating trade shows/fairs ; attend relevant conferences and symposia by request; and engage locally in conservation and education programs.

An official announcement of Steve and Scott's appointment was included in the upcoming issue of the International Angler magazine, an official publication of IGFA.
- submitted by member Ken Biro

Cap Cana Billfish Shootout 2017

June 7-11, 2017

Story by: Art McDonald

The brochure reads:" Cap Cana is a tropical paradise located on the eastern tip of the Dominican Republic, facing the rising sun, where the Caribbean Sea meets the Atlantic, and the Mona Passage

to keep IGFTO as good as it can be please email any board member. Especially needed are volunteers to help us keep our new website up to date (we do not need programmers but rather people who can update tournament information carried on the site). Also needed are editor(s) and writer(s) for our newsletter.
Don't be shy. We need your help!

Upcoming Tournaments for the 3rd Quarter

Flor-de-Cana

International Tournament 2017

Marina Puesta del Sol Nicaragua

August 23 -26, 2017

San Juan International Billfish Tournament - 2017

San Juan, Puerto Rico

September 25-October 2, 2017

PCCA Aruba Caribbean Cup 2017

Varadero Aruba Marina, Oranjestad Aruba

October 19-22, 2017

PCCA El Salvador International Billfish Tournament 2017 Costa del Sol, El Salvador

November 8-12, 2017

You Make the Call

embraces the shore” – which is all fine and dandy. What they don’t tell you is that just offshore is one of the most prolific Blue and White Marlin fisheries on the globe. Taking full advantage of this has been the annual Cap Cana Billfish Shootout – now in its 8th year after a long tenure in Venezuela.

A total of 11 IGFTO Observers (John Pugsley, Barbara Evans, Sine Mate, Evan Hipsley, Jr., Tess Sheil, Karen LeComptre, Bill Slaughter, Ken Biro, Bruce Key, Carol Ott, and Art McDonald) were on hand and eager to continue the great billfishing tradition that has become Cap Cana. After a quick Observer Meeting on June 7th – followed by the Kick Off party at the marina office we got the rules in order and had an opportunity to meet the teams who would compete over the next 3 fishing days. Day 1 belonged to the Team Tomahawk who quickly released a Blue Marlin early – followed by 4 Whites to, easily, forge into first place. Day 2 also saw Tomahawk score with a Blue and 3 Whites – they were in the lead by over 600 points going into the final day.

Sometimes the fish gods look your

Here’s a challenge to all IGFTO observers based on an actual tournament experience. Read the facts, then you make the call.

Tournament: USVI OPEN (“Boy Scout” Tournament)

Place: St. Thomas – US Virgin Islands

Facts: This is a strict Blue Marlin IGFA Tournament with extra, specific, rules in addition to those stated as IGFA requirements. One of those rules allows ONLY a 3-hour fight before a successful release is effectuated.... Any time spent fighting the fish after 3 hours calls for a disqualification.

It is mid-afternoon and a young angler is hooked-up to an estimated 350 lb. Blue Marlin. The fish is clearly identified – both on its initial jumps, as well as an aerial display one-hour into the fight. The angler is fighting the fish on 30 lb. tackle and the 2-hour mark has gone by. The fish has sounded and the fight is in an “up & down” position. The reel is in low gear, with an increased drag estimated at 17 lbs., about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the line out, and it is difficult to determine whether, with each pump, the angler is gaining any line. The crew fears the time limit may be in question. A mate wishes to take a

way – and, it seems, sometimes they just ignore you. Somewhat out of nowhere the Casa Dura (who was that distant 2nd place boat) came storming back on Day 3 with an impressive 3 Blue Marlin, 4 White Marlin day to cap the Tournament win by the difference of a White Marlin over Tomahawk. Team Dulce Coco took third with a total tally of 7 White Marlin and one Blue. A Gala Awards Banquet was held in the waterfront courtyard of the Al Sol Resort – lots of great food and, of course, plenty of spirited libations. High Point angler was Tomahawk's Luis Fernandez, while Dulce Coco's Lisa Evans was High Point Lady Angler. All-in-all there were 30 White Marlin & 6 Blue Marlin released for an impressive 6 Billfish-Per-Boat average for the Tournament – not shabby at all.

For those of you who have not had an opportunity to fish this Tournament – you're missing some great billfish action. Cap Cana is probably the premier place in the Caribbean for a Grand Slam – and several Super Grand Slams have already been rung up so far this year. In case you haven't already heard..... last November & December the FADS off the Mona Passage side produced an

black magic marker and mark the line close to the reel to determine whether line is being recovered.

The question: Would the mate have violated the IGFA rules IF he touched the line with the magic marker – as long as he did not touch the line himself?

Answer: The facts, as presented, would result in a disqualification of the fish. IGFA rules clearly state – Angling Regulations – The Following Acts Will Disqualify A Catch - # 2:

“The act of persons other than the angler in touching any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device, from the time a fish strikes or takes the bait or lure, until the fish is either landed or released, or in giving any aid other than that allowed in the rules and regulations. If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides has to be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, floatline, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during the process.” In this instance, it WOULD be permissible for the angler to mark the line with the magic marker, but

incredible Blue Marlin Bite.... With one boat (Bluebird) releasing a world record 23 Blue Marlin in one day – and 53 in three days..... that is NOT a misprint!!! Rumor has it, a Tournament is planned for late November/December 2018 – and trust me, I’LL BE THERE!!!! A World-Class Marina – World Class Fishing – World Class Boats..... what more could you ask for?

We’re here for you.

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IGFTO

not a mate or other angler.

IGFTO Negotiates Half-off Pricing on Guy Harvey Sportswear and AFTCO and Pro Staff Accounts

As an IGFTO member you can save up to 50% on quality fishing clothing. Just go to the websites below and set up an account for yourself using your "@igfto.org" email address and enjoy big savings on quality clothing. Should you encounter any difficulties in setting up your account please contact:

Laura Hernandez | Customer Service Representative

AFTCO | 2400 S Garnsey St, Santa Ana, CA 92707

laura@aftco.com | (949) 660 8757

The websites for setting up your accounts are:

[AFTCO](https://aftco.com/account/login)

<https://aftco.com/account/login>

[Guy Harvey Sportswear](https://www.guyharveysportswear.com/scart/public/scart/scart.php?uid=3&action=member_loginregister&doit=member_login)

https://www.guyharveysportswear.com/scart/public/scart/scart.php?uid=3&action=member_loginregister&doit=member_login

In addition to these savings you’ll

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find dress shirts, work shirts, hats,
buffs, lapel pins and more in the
IGFTO ships store on our website.

Bill Fish Slam Comes Full Circle IGFTO Observer completes 30+ year quest

By Art McDonald, IGFTO Director

On April 26, 2017, **IGFTO Observer Carol Ott's** quest was complete: it was on that date, fishing Kona, Hawaii with Capt. Chris Donato on the 37' Merritt, Benchmark, that Carol caught her Spearfish, and fulfilled a life-long bucket list goal – the coveted Bill fish Royal Slam – an accomplishment certainly in the dreams and desires of every deep-sea fisherman to have caught every bill fish species. No stranger to big-game fishing (Carol believes she has caught/released more Blue Marlin than any of the bill fish



species), her quest began in the 1970's with her first Atlantic Blue Marlin off San Salvador, in the Bahamas. Her Swordfish came next (Boca Raton, FL in 1977), followed by a White Marlin, and Pacific Blue Marlin in 1983 (Bimini, Bahamas & Kona, Hawaii respectively), a Pacific Sailfish (Iztapa, Guatemala in 2005), a Black Marlin in 2006 (Cairns, Australia), Atlantic Sailfish (Highland Beach, FL in 2008), Striped Marlin in 2009 (Costa Rica), and her Spearfish in Kona this past April.

She has been fishing just about all her life in many different venues. Both Carol and her husband, Tom, worked together as crew members on several private sport fishing boats in the Bahamas during the 1970's and 80's, and when their son was born in 1987, they bought their own fishing boats – aptly named “Sea Otter.” Afterward, they spent the next 14 years summering in San Salvador, Bahamas fishing for Blue Marlin and diving. After the death of her husband in 2002, Carol and her son, Jim, bought a center console boat and continue to fish off their home port of Boca Raton, Florida – mostly for Sailfish.



Carol became an IGFA Certified Observer in 2004, having Observed in the USVI Open (“Boy Scout”) Tournament for 8 years and became an early member of the International Game Fish Tournament Observers (“IGFTO”) where she observes in an average of 4 Tournaments a year. She also did a 2-year stint in 2006-07 as a judge with the ESPN TV Show BXRL (Bill fish Extreme Release League) hosted by Norm Isaacs. She has observed in such areas as Bermuda, Venezuela, St. Thomas, Florida, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and more – this gal gets around!



She is a lifetime member of the International Game Fish Association ("IGFA"), the Bill fish Foundation ("TBF") and a member of the International Women's Fishing Association ("IWFA").

As a wonderful side note to this story, this past April, while Carol and Jim were in Kona, they also fished one day with Capt. Larry Peardon on the El Jobean. It was on this special day that Carol's son, Jim, caught/released his first Pacific Blue Marlin on a lure that had been passed down from his father some 15 years ago - another "Full Circle" moment, to be sure! As Carol is quoted as saying: "As I look back at all of this, it's certainly been a lifetime adventure... and not ending any time soon!"

Editors note: IGFTO does not support the killing or mutilation of gamefish.

International Game Fish Tournament Observers Inc. is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization dedicated to the preservation and conservation of game fish worldwide. We provide trained and insured observers to authenticate the "catch and release" of bill fish and game fish during international big game fish tournaments.

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