

The IGFTO Observer -
Newsletter

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Observing Today...Conserving for Tomorrow

The IGFTO Observer

A newsletter for International Game Fish Tournament Observers

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2018 LOS SUEÑOS

SIGNATURE TRIPLE CROWN

Ten Percent of the total releases were marlin

Los Sueños Resort And Marina, Located on Costa Rica's Central Pacific Coast, held the third and final leg of the 2018 Los Sueños Signature Triple Crown Billfish series in late March. A total of 43 of the world's most competitive billfishing teams comprised of 207 Individual anglers challenged each other over three days of fishing, releasing a total of 564 billfish, including 518 Sails and 46 marlin.

DAY 1

Jaruco took an early lead, releasing a sail at 8:41 am and a marlin at 9:43 am. They stayed at the top of the leaderboard nearly all day, but Geaux Fly wasn't going to let them have it that easily and took over top spot at 3:27 pm with a sailfish release. Geaux Fly released another sail at 3:49 pm to secure their first place finish for Day 1 (13 sails, 1 marlin), 100 points ahead of Jaruco, in second with 1700 points (7 sails, 2 marlin), and Gunsmoke in third with 1200 points (7 sails, 1 marlin). The talk of the day though, was the 750 pound

Ron Teke

by Art MacDonald

*Experienced fisherman and
extraordinary IGFTO observer*

*One might say Ron Teke has it in his
blood – fishing that is!*

Growing up as a young boy in Indiana and Ohio, his early fishing was limited to freshwater lakes and rivers. Bass, Crappie, Bluegills, Catfish, and Carp were the catch. He has been passionate about fishing his entire life. Horizons opened up after his marriage to wife Tania and a move west to Colorado for graduate school work. Now, cold water Trout was added to the mix. Yes.... even ice fishing was included!

Introduction to Saltwater

His fishing experience broadened when he took advantage of the opportunity to fish saltwater in Mexico, an easy airline trip from Denver, Colorado. Ron fished Mazatlan, The Baja, The Yucatan, and some gulf inshore waters for Tarpon. The Baja, with its Pacific Ocean and Sea of Cortez became his favorite haunt. Cabo San Lucas, but more importantly, the East Cape region of the Sea of

black marlin that Caramba released at 4:53 pm, nearly an hour after lines out. It was almost a six hour battle, having called in their hook up at 11:04 am that morning, and moved Caramba from 25th to 10th, ending the day with 700 points (2 sails, 1 marlin).

DAY 2

By 10:30 am on Day 2 there were already 8 marlin released. By 12 pm on the same day Jaruco had taken over first place with 2000 points, followed by Geaux Fly with 1900 points and Outlaw with 1400 points. If there was a battle to be had, it seemed to be for third place, with Tarheel bumping Outlaw off the leaderboard and taking third with 1800 points by 2 pm. Outlaw showed that they weren't falling behind, taking second with 2100 points at the end of the day (11 sails, 2 marlin), 300 points behind Jaruco (14 sails, 2 marlin) and only 100 points ahead of Geaux Fly (15 sails, 1 marlin).



*Left to right is Curtis White and Phil Arklin of team Gun Smoke.
Not shown are Carlos Maria Gonzalez, pro angler and Captain Warner Porras. Saludos,*

DAY 3

By 9 am Jaruco was still in first place, followed by Outlaw, and Geaux Fly. One hour later, Geaux Fly had moved to second place and was followed by Reel Screamer. Less than 5 minutes after the 10 am update, Geaux Fly released a sail to take first place. Gunsmoke picked up steam after releasing a marlin at 10:30 am, going on to release 9 sails and a

Cortez, was the go-to spot for unbelievable fishing.



Ron Teke, third from the right, observing at the Los Suenos Triple Crown Signature Series.

In 1985 Ron started Teke Tours, a business which packaged fishing, hotel, and airfare to the top Mexican fishing destinations. Mexicana Airlines was his airline partner. Fishing out of the East Cape resort, Palmas de Cortez, Ron caught his first Blue Marlin – 435 pounds – not too shabby! It was taken from an open panga – three hours without a fishing belt! Many group trips were taken there. Ron even took a Striped Marlin on fly rod there. Teke Tours soon added escorted tours to the Mayan ruins in the State of Yucatan, and Mexican bird hunting in Sonora and Merida, Yucatan.

On to Alaska

Always the entrepreneur, Ron added more to Teke Tours. Alaska River Camps was opened on a remote river, the Talachulitna, some 80 miles northwest of Anchorage. It was a rustic tent camp with excellent fishing for all five Pacific Salmon, Rainbows, Grayling, and Dolly Varden. Clients and supplies were delivered by floatplane or a dangerous 125-mile river journey. Numerous stories about bears— and lots of mosquitos.

Settling Down in Colorado

second marlin at 2:39 pm, earning them top position for the third day and a three-day combined total of 3800 points (18 sails, 4 marlin). Geaux Fly finished in second for the tournament with 3700 points (17 sails, 4 marlin), and Jaruco third with 2800 points (18 sails, 2 marlin).

IGFTO Boat Rules

By Steve Hargett

While reading the latest issue of *In the Bite* magazine, I came across an article entitled Dock Etiquette by Elliott Stark which I found interesting. The article pointed out that captains and crews are often too polite to express rules and behaviors that should be followed on a boat.

There are certain rules that one must follow while performing the duties of an IGFTO Observer. An observers conduct and actions while performing their duties are highly scrutinized by captains, owners and crews.

Let's review some basic boat rules while observing:

1. Always ask for permission to board the vessel, enter the salon, use the head, or enter the bridge.
2. When you first arrive at the boat, immediately introduce yourself and state your purpose: "I'm so and so and I am your observer for today".
3. Unless told otherwise, always remove your shoes prior to entering the salon.
4. Familiarize yourself with the vessel by asking where the head is located and where the water is

Adventure travel waned in the late 80's, with a slow economy and the travel businesses fell victim to the times. But when one door closes, another opens. Ron operated Pisces Builders, a custom home builder in the mountain resort areas of Colorado. Business boomed and life was good, but the itch to get back on the saltwater was there.

He's in the Keys

Ron and wife, Tania, purchased a home in the middle Florida Keys in 2001 where they had vacationed before. The early years only allowed moderate visits to the Keys. It wasn't long before they became "snowbirds," spending the winter and early Spring. Ron earned his Captain's License and opened Keys Magic Charters in 2005. Ron runs a 28.5' center console Catamaran with twin outboards which he can effectively fish offshore, wrecks, reefs, and bridge channels. He also has an 18' flats boat available for inshore and shallow areas. The Royal Slam of billfish is close for Ron. Only the Black Marlin and Spearfish are needed to complete the list – our money is on him to complete this goal. Ron has fished around most of the world's famous fishing locations. Multiple Sailfish on flyrod from Guatemala, and Peacock Bass from the Amazon are just two such locations. Ron is a Charter Member of IGFTO, has acted as an Observer Coordinator, and attends two-four tournaments a year. Hats off to a great angler, gentleman, and observer.

Welcome Aboard!

We welcome the following new members:

Missy Baum Weatherford, TX

located. As you learn the names of the anglers, crew and captain, make a notation in your log of some physical characteristic or attire to help remember them once the fishing begins.

Things To Do

Once you are on board and completed the initial introductions, it's time to complete some basic observer duties. Verify that rigs and lines are compliant with tournament/IGFA rules. Review release rules with the mates and anglers. Explain your procedure for announcing a release. Finally, confirm with the captain the best place to station yourself to perform your duties as an observer.

Things Never To Do

Never sleep in the salon. Observers are not family members, anglers or crew. You have not been invited for a sleep-over. Never tour the vessel without an escort. You've asked for the location of the head and that's the only place you should go other than the salon.

Often times you will be told to "make yourself at home". Don't do it! Never open cabinets and drawers. Never eat food that has not been offered to you and always clean up after yourself.

Make keeping these basic rules a part of your routine. Your performance as an observer will be looked at more favorably by all those on board.

You Make the Call

By Art McDonald

You are an Observer in a Casa de Campo, Dominican Republic Blue

Robert Bernhardt	Pensacola, FL
Sarah Cox	Palmetto Bay, FL
Josh Culver	Foley, AL
Tyler Dahlgren	Orange Bch, AL
Barry Holeve	Ft.Laudersdale, FL
Jack Horner	Mobile, AL
Robin Howard	Orange Bch, AL
Joe Ingram	Key Largo, FL
Steve Loudon	Austin, TX
Robert Martin	Navarre, FL
Jennifer McCrary	Pensacola, FL
Charles Shelton	Princess Anne, MD

We count on our membership to keep the IGFTO working. If you have experience of talent that will help us keep the IGFTO as good as it can be, please reach out to any director. We need volunteers.

IGFTO Members Receive 50% Off Retail Prices from AFTCO and Guy Harvey Sportswear

AFTCO, a major supporter of IGFTO and the supplier for our dress shirts offers all members a 50% discount off their retail pricing. They have also recently announced a new line of women's fishing apparel.

Here's how you can take advantage of this program:

New Members -Laura Hernandez is the contact person for your Guy Harvey Sportswear and AFTCO and Pro Staff accounts. Below are links to the website pages where you can set up your clothing accounts. Once you

Marlin Tournament. This tournament takes place in an area where a number of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADS) have been placed offshore by the local artisanal fishermen over the years. Artisanal fisheries operate on a smaller scale than commercial fisheries often being comprised of an individual household.

These FADS are known for attracting large pelagic fish - especially Blue Marlin. Over the years there have been conflicts between the sport and artisanal fishermen over who has the rights to fish these devices - and, subsequently "who has a right to the fish?" On more than one occasion, there have been instances where the conflict has escalated with the artisanal fisherman interfering with a fish that has been hooked and is being fought by a sport fisherman.

The tournament you are observing in is a strict release tournament. Your angler is hooked up to a 200 lb. Blue Marlin that has been baited off one of the FADS and there is an artisanal fisherman in a panga in the area (the panga boat is so called because it resembles the panga knife in shape).

The fish has greyhounded away from the boat on its initial run with the panga in hot pursuit. The fish sounds - then comes to the surface and jumps right next to the panga. One of the artisanal fishermen grasps the leader, but the fish is still green and rips the leader away - then sounds again.

have created your accounts for each website, please contact Laura with your name and the email address that you used in setting up the accounts so that she can update and set your discount. She will then let you know when you are set up to shop with your 50% off retail discount (excludes Clearance items).

Existing Members -If you have already set up your accounts but are now having trouble logging on to the AFTCO Clothing site, please create an account again and email Laura so that she can activate your discount again. There have recently been some changes to the AFTCO website and not all member information was transferred over. No need to set up again for Guy Harvey Sportswear. Please feel free to contact Laura with any questions or if you need any assistance.

AFTCO

<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

Laura Hernandez | Customer Service Representative

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aftco.com |

[guyharveysportswear.com](https://www.guyharveysportswear.com)

We're here for you.

Director contacts:

Steve Hargett

The sport fishing boat backs directly on top of the fish, and it is fought to the boat, where the mate is successful in releasing it.

Question: Because someone other than the mate on the sport fishing boat has touched the leader, is this grounds for a disqualification?

The answer is "NO" because the mainline wasn't touched by anyone. Had the artisanal fisherman touched the mainline it would be disqualified. The same would be true if the artisanal fisherman had harmed the fish in some way before it escaped (hit it with a gaff for example). I've seen fishermen in a panga harpoon a marlin right off the transom of the sportfish boat I was on. They can be outrageously aggressive!

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IGFTO to Conduct Observer Training Course In Mattituck, Long Island, New York

The IGFTO will conduct a new Observer Training Course in Mattituck, NY this coming September 15. Please help get the word out to any of your friends or family interested in joining the IGFTO and for whom Mattituck would be a convenient location. The last OTC held on Long Island was over 10 years ago.

The course includes a four hour training session, a complete set of notes plus 2 DVD's, initial membership in the IGFTO, IGFTO dress and work shirts, an observer log book, buff and lapel pin, and a Free continental breakfast. Once attendees have completed the course and their applications have been accepted, they become members of the IGFTO. The total value of the program is \$464, but the cost per participant is only \$250 – that's almost 50% off.

The program will be conducted at Strong's Water Club and Marina, 2255 Wickham Avenue, Mattituck, NY, 11952 from 9 am to 1 pm. Mattituck is easily reached by ferry from Rhode Island and Connecticut.

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 billfish and game fish during international big game fish tournaments.

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