

The IGFTO Observer ~ April 15, 2024



Observing Today...Conserving for Tomorrow

The IGFTO Observer

A Newsletter for International Game Fish Tournament Observers

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Edition 1~

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Story by: Jorge Delgado Vigier

Pescadora Billfish Championship

This was my first time in Costa Rica and it was an amazing experience! I flew from Puerto Rico via Panama and in less than 3 1/2 hours, I arrived in paradise! The Pescadora tournament, held at Marina Pez Vela in Quepos was full of surprises and the atmosphere was full of excitement. The participants dressed in fun attire for the registration day. The morning of my first day, many of the ladies started dancing and singing from the bow and cockpit of the gorgeous sport fishing yachts.

As soon as you asked for permission to come aboard, the crew, the captain, and the owner welcomed you warmly as part of the team. They went beyond their way to make you feel welcomed. The fishing was amazing and the experience was unforgettable! I had the opportunity to observe on *Sea Angel*, a beautiful 46 foot Ricky Scarborough on both the second and last day of the tournament. They released fifteen (15) Sails IGFA and five (5) Hook/Hand*. These twenty sails awarded them the top team overall with 3,380 points, followed by Miss AC with 3,360 points, and Grand Slam with 3,240. Congratulations to all the teams!

*(Under IGFA rules, the angler must hook and catch the fish. Under hook and hand, a mate may hook the fish and then turn the rod over to the angler to catch the fish. IGFA catch and releases are worth more points than hook and hand releases.)



Heading offshore as the sun rises at Marina Pez Vela. Photo courtesy of Marina Pez Vela.

Los Sueños Signature Triple Crown

The Triple Crown Leg II was also a first for me, and all I can say is that I cannot wait for Leg III. Several records were broken during this tournament. On the first day, one thousand eighty-three (1,083) sailfish and one (1) marlin were released. On the second day, six hundred and ninety-seven (697) sailfish and no (0) marlin were released. On the third and final day, five hundred and twenty-three (523) sailfish and three (3) marlin were released.

The winners were the following:

1. *Miss AC* with 86 sailfish released.
2. *Fish Tank* with 84 sailfish released.
3. *Tarheel* with 77 sailfish released.

The total was two thousand three hundred and three (2,303) and four (4) marlin released overall! Keep in mind that there were only forty-two (42) boats participating in this magnificent tournament.

I cannot wait to make the travel arrangements and join next year's Ladies Only and Triple Crown Tournaments (all three legs!) The people you meet, the camaraderie and dynamics you experience, will literally change and improve your perspective on life. If you are second guessing traveling to this country or becoming a part of these tournaments, I encourage you to go for it! It is an amazing and unforgettable experience!

How long does it take a billfish to recover after being released?

Story by: Art McDonald

Did you ever wonder, after all the aerial leaps, power dives, and resistance, when a billfish is brought boat-side for a release, how long it takes to recover – if they do recover?

Several studies have been conducted to determine both the mortality rate, as well as the time it takes for various species to recover from encounters with a rod and reel. Recently, a new study by the Guy Harvey Research Institute at Nova Southeastern University's Halmos College of Arts and Sciences used remote tracking sensors to better understand the health and behavior of two popular billfish species- blue marlin and sailfish. The research team attached remote sensing tags to the fish after they were caught with a rod and reel, and then released them back into the ocean. These newly designed tags are similar to homemade "Fitbits for fish" and equipped to log acceleration, depth, light and temperature. The tag's sensors record every single tail beat, body orientation, and swimming patterns that the fish experiences right after release.

For the angler, a fight with a billfish consists of a fast-paced, high-energy battle that hopefully culminates with a leader grab and a safe release of the fish – some high-fives, rehydration, and re-setting the spread for the next one. For the fish, this is a fight for its life using a tremendous amount of energy. It's those high-speed runs and aerial acrobatics that make us wonder how long it will take them to physically recover from that fight after being "released."

The answer varies depending on the species. The "man in the blue suit" (blue marlin) is larger, stronger, and, perhaps, meaner than a sailfish due to its size and bulk. Accordingly, they fight harder and longer than their smaller "spindle-beak cousins." A study on this topic revealed that the average "fight time" for a sailfish was about 7 minutes, compared to 45 minutes on average for a successful blue marlin release.

For the blue marlin, size, and strength come at a cost. The study found that it took a blue marlin an average of 9 hours, to fully recover after its release. Sailfish, on the other hand, being smaller and easier to reel in, recovered in around 6 hours. The research also indicated both species swam much harder right after they were released. This response might seem unexpected as humans and other mammals need to rest after running or exercising. Since fish breathe by running water through their gills, swimming harder and faster is their way of catching their breath. Because marlin and sailfish have to continuously swim to breathe, this faster-than-normal swimming behavior is likely a way for them to increase the amount of oxygen moving over their gills, facilitating recovery.

Interestingly, immediately after a blue marlin is released, it dives to the thermocline depth and will remain there for an extended period, typically somewhere between one and ten hours. The study found that the length of the period for recovery largely depends on how long the fight was. While they are down there (in a cooler temperature zone) they are swimming faster than normal and beating their tail harder and faster than normal. Sailfish, on the other hand, do not always dive to the depths, but they do beat their tail faster. It's important to note that all of the fish during the study remained in the water during tagging and were released as quickly as possible. Removing any billfish from the water is not recommended (and a violation in some countries) because it has been shown to

drastically increase stress levels and the probability of mortality.

Mortality rates vary depending on several factors, including the length of the fight, the age of the fish, and whether the fish was caught on a circle vs “J” hook. How the fish is released is also a factor.

It is proven that circle hooks provide a 17% higher survival rate per species of billfish, over conventional “J” hooks that are not swallowed. One study showed successful releases of blue marlin at 86% from rod & reel vs 77.8% from commercial long-liners. Another study showed a survival rate for white marlin released from rod & reel at 89% vs 74% from long-liners.

A study by Dr. Michael Musyl and colleagues published in the Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences compiled the results of 49 independent studies into a single “meta-analysis” to estimate post-release survival in six species of billfish. “This study included billfish that were caught on both recreational and commercial fishing gear (longline). The authors’ meta-analysis reported 41 instances of post-release mortality, with 90% of mortalities occurring within 10 days of release. Taken collectively, post-release survival was calculated among all species at roughly 86%. Results for individual species are as follows:

- **Blue Marlin (12 studies): Seven mortalities out of 142 tags, or roughly 95% survival.**
- **Black Marlin (three studies): Three mortalities out of 26 tags, or roughly 88% survival.**
- **Striped Marlin (seven studies): 14 mortalities out of 108 tags, or roughly 87% survival.**
- **Sailfish (seven studies): 7 mortalities out of 85 tags, or roughly 92% survival.**
- **White Marlin (six studies): 9 mortalities out of 94 tags, or roughly 90% survival.**
- **Spearfish (one study): 2 mortality out of 2 tags, no survival.”**

The IGFTO is dedicated to the conservation of billfish. We applaud and participate in industry release programs. From the studies above, the numbers are encouraging. Care of the resource cannot be preached enough to ensure successful fishing for our descendants. Gone are the days when boats boasted of their “kill rate” on billfish, whose only worth was a picture of a dead fish on a scale somewhere. Times have changed, definitely, for the betterment of both fish and

angler.

Los Sueños Signature Triple Crown, 2024 Leg II

Story by: Bob Smith

Anticipation was high for big billfish numbers on day one of the 2024 Los Sueños Triple Crown. Just two days earlier in the Ladies Only tournament, 306 sailfish and 3 blue marlin were released by 11 boats. Ashley Bretecher, the Signature Triple Crown Tournament Director, worried about possible pandemonium when attempting to record triples and quads being radioed to tournament base.

Day One did not disappoint

Day One did not disappoint. With 42 boats in the hunt, 1,083 billfish were released – all sailfish, save one blue marlin. The top boat, *Mama Seata*, captured a whopping 39 sailfish and one blue marlin to win the daily with 4,400 points. More than half of the boats saw 20 releases or more.

On both days one and two, it seemed like the entire fleet sped due west at daybreak, cutting across the turbulence of the Gulf and the Pacific to the tip of Cabo Blanco, which is the southernmost part of the Nicoya Peninsula. Once rounding the peninsula, the action took place several miles off the beaches of Santa Teresa and Mal Pais.

The sails were hanging by the bottom structure

There was no doubt the sails were hanging by the bottom structure – the lumps, bumps, and drop-offs found offshore of the southern Nicoya point. However, things changed on Friday, day two. The water seemed a little greener, not as sparkling as the day before, and it showed in the number of fish released. On day two, there was a 35 percent drop in the number of sailfish released. The numbers were still very good with 697 sailfish released. Just under 30% of the fleet saw 15 or more sailfish released. *Miss AC* took day two with 3,700 points.

On day three the fleet seemed to split up. More boats headed southeast out of the gate, toward the waters closer to Quepos. The strategy paid off for *Dealers Choice* the day three winner with 3,100 points. She ended the day with 31 sailfish, while many of the boats ended up with cold pickings at the day one hotspot.

2,307 billfish released

In total, Leg II produced 2,303 sailfish, and 4 blue marlin released for a total of 2,307 billfish. That is an average of almost 55 releases per boat. By any measure, the number of billfish is impressive. The overall winner for Leg II was *Miss AC* with 86 sailfish for a total of 8,600 points.

The successful releases of Leg II also allowed the IGFTO to boast an impressive statistic. Our observers have witnessed 65,584 releases to date. A special thank you is to founding members John Treat and Terry O'Neill, as well as to Steve Hargett, Art McDonald, and past officers. Together they have set the stage for continued growth and success.

As always, Ashley Bretecher, tournament director, and Angelica Leaver, assistant tournament director hosted a phenomenal event. While pandemonium never quite broke out, they were prepared and well-organized. Their management of the radio traffic, which included issuing confirming catch numbers and times was an amazing sideshow.



Outgoing IGFTO President Steve Hargett was honored at the Los Sueños Leg II awards dinner for his contribution to the organization and the Triple Crown Tournament. Photo thanks to Pepper Ailor, Seas & Summits Photography.

Bet You Didn't Know

Story by: Art McDonald



Image credit: worldwideweb

About Striped Marlin:

- Striped marlin (*kajikia audax*) are called Nairagi in Hawaii. They are also called striper, stripey, and spikefish.
- Striped marlin are sometimes confused with smaller blue marlin. The key difference between the two is that striped marlin have 10–20 “striations” of lighter blue that run across the sides of the fish’s body (like “stripes”). When angry or feeding these colors are considered the brightest of all marlin species. Unlike other marlins, the stripes of a striped marlin remain even after the death of the fish.
- Male striped marlins reach sexual maturity a bit more quickly than females do. The summer spawning season can consist of between four and forty-one events. During the season, Females release batches of up to 120 million eggs every few days.
- Maturity occurs during their second year of growth and sex-specific differences in growth rates become apparent. Males mature on one to two years. Females mature in one and one-half to two and one-half years. Mature males are smaller than mature females.

- Striped marlin live offshore, in waters as deep as 300 meters (approximately 1,000 feet). It is rare to see striped marlin in coastal waters. Occasionally they can be found closer to shore where there are deep drop-offs and concentrated schools of bait. They feed mostly at night. The species is highly migratory, spending the winter months closer to the equator where the water is warmer. During summer, they move away from their winter haunts as the water warms.
- Striped marlin spend most of the daytime cruising in deeper waters. At night they ascend to the surface to feed. Striped marlin and sailfish are the only known species that actively hunt prey in groups. Certain of the strippers will encircle a school of baitfish such as sardines into a “bait ball”, after which they attack, stunning and injuring their prey. Scientists believe other, select members of the group consume the injured.
- Striped marlin have a lifespan of around 10 years.
- Striped marlin are favored for their meat in various parts of the world, especially in the form of sushi known as Nairagi.
- The largest striped marlin inhabit the cool waters off the coast of New Zealand. That nation owns the current all-tackle world record, a 494-pounder caught in 1986. New Zealand is still the world's hottest spot for those seeking to catch the very largest striped marlin. New Zealand holds 20 of 23 world records for large striped marling in various line classifications.

Five Simple Tips for Becoming a Top Gamefish Observer

Story by: Robert Smith

Our observer training courses and materials are second to none. For 4 1/2 hours, we are inundated with IGFA saltwater rules and the characteristics of gamefish species and then expected to show our mastery through a written test.

We graduate knowing that black marlin will never be seen while fishing the San Juan International Billfish Tournament. We remember that it has rigid pectoral fins. No heavyweight double line and leader combination should exceed 40 feet in length. We know where we can find most of the practical (and appreciated) information in our course booklet and sometimes it pays to revisit these pages.

Observers in the Los Suenos Signature Triple Crown are evaluated by the captain for their performance at the end of each day. These scorecards are then turned in to the tournament director. Reviewing your notes at the beginning of the day, and practicing good etiquette during your stay on the boat will bring you to the top of your game, and improve the scores you receive from the captain.

Be invisible (and quiet). When we walk onto a boat in a tournament, we enter a

sacred work environment. Yes, there are pleasantries, but underneath it, is intense competition. This applies, in particular, to the captain. Small talk and chitchat have their place, but it can be distracting to the captain, who has several balls in the air, and who will be judged by the fish score at the end of the day. You might be invited to talk with the captain. Otherwise, less talk is better.

The captain has the final say on where you should take a position on the boat. The preferred position is on the bridge. Be ever mindful of the captain's line of sight, which is constantly changing after lines become tight. The captain needs to see the angler and the line throughout the fight. The best positions, for you and the captain, are in the corners of the bridge overlooking the cockpit.

Be impeccable with the rules. Our job is to know the tournament rules and to carry a copy with us while observing. Some rules are set by the tournament. The rest default to the IGFA. Knowing the difference between the two is important. For example, in the Pescadora, a mate hooking a billfish and handing it to an angler is permissible. At the Guatemala Invitational, throwing a mangled ballyhoo overboard is considered chumming, and a rule infraction.

Read and re-read the rules leading up to a tournament and avail yourself of the observer training courses held throughout the year. You are encouraged to attend any course as a refresher. Members in good standing attend free of charge.

Be a welcomed guest. Whether you are observing on an older center console or a recently splashed Bayliss, you are probably walking onto someone's baby or second home, so treat it as such. Carry a beach towel to protect cabin seats from your sunblock-drenched skin, be mindful of dirty shoes from the gravel parking lot, and never enter staterooms. Act as if you are a guest in someone's home. Men, consider sitting down on the toilet during rough seas, lest you inadvertently spray the cabinetry. And, if you do, please clean up after yourself.

Be a witness, not a judge. Our job is to observe, not to render judgment. Our responsibility is summed up in our title – observer. You and the captain have to agree on the scorecard submitted to the tournament at the end of the day. If there is a dispute that you and the captain cannot resolve, do not sign the scorecard. When you submit the card to the tournament director, explain why you

cannot sign it. Leave the rest to the tournament officials. If you witness a rule violation, bring it to the attention of the captain immediately. Often the two of you will be able to resolve the matter. Never get into disputes – just note and document.

Be a teacher. Pass your knowledge along to others with *humility* – not as a know-it-all. Joan Vernon, the worldwide, veteran tournament director, who now runs the El Salvador IBT, always makes a point of saying that part of our role is to be helpful – to be educators. I agree. Not every boat upon which you observe will host proven tournament teams. If you see a situation that could lead to a violation, say something. Give friendly reminders throughout the day to new tournament contestants. I have learned the nuances of good observing by listening to and talking with the veterans of our group. So please take your tips and tricks and share them with the newer members of our terrific organization.

Member Profile – Evan A. Hipsley, Jr.
Story by: Art McDonald

Just about everyone within the IGFTO family knows Evan Hipsley. He has served on the IGFTO Board of Directors since 2018 – first as our "IT Guy" / Webmaster, and, most recently (January 2024), took on the role of President. He has become the “face” of the IGFTO. His public profile is included on our webpage under the link “About Us”. Here are a few things not mentioned there.

Evan grew up on the outskirts of Baltimore MD, and spent weekends, as a boy, on both the Chesapeake Bay and Wye River crabbing and, later, fishing. He also fished in the Atlantic out of Ocean City MD, and Cape Hatteras NC. “I vividly recall these large bluefish and striped bass (stripers) hanging out of coolers before I was old enough to accompany my family on fishing trips. We fished out of Tilghman Island MD, aboard the *My Decision* and later the *My Decision II*, custom sport fishers. “Not only were the fish big, but they tasted great too!” His early passion for stream, pond, and lake fishing led to him graduating to the world’s greatest oceans and seas thanks to his career in the United States Navy.

33-Years in the U.S. Navy: At age 17, Evan enlisted in the Navy circa 1982 and embarked on a 33-year career retiring in late 2015. His navy exploits could fill several pages and include his experiences as a chief cryptologic technician. In 1993, he was commissioned as a Special Duty Officer for Cryptology; Cryptologic Warfare today. He served in a variety of shore assignments in California, Florida, Maryland, Virginia, overseas in Japan, and at sea aboard 16 different ships varying from aircraft carriers to fast attack submarines.

His myriad duties included executive officer, officer and assistant officer-in-charge, department head, and a multitude of admiral and general staff assignments. His

professional military education includes a master's degree in information technology from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. He is a graduate of both the Naval War College's Distance Education Program in Newport, RI; and the Joint Forces Staff College, Joint and Combined Warfighting School in Norfolk, VA.

He was designated a joint qualified officer (meaning he was joint staff assignable) and earned warfare qualifications including Information Dominance Warfare, Enlisted Surface Warfare, and the coveted Silver Dolphins of the Submarine Service. In addition to being a combat-disabled veteran, Evan holds various decorations and awards including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medal awards, nine of the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals (two for heroic achievement), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He was also awarded the Commonwealth of Virginia, City of Virginia Beach Medal of Honor for heroism for duties as a volunteer emergency medical technician. Stop for a minute and re-read these accomplishments – WOW!!

Post Navy: Evan closed out his naval career in Pensacola, FL, where he currently resides. Letting no grass grow under his feet, Evan brought his ethics, technical acumen, and leadership from his naval career to civilian life in both the local Pensacola area, and nationally, as well. He is a 2015 graduate of Leadership Pensacola and a lifetime member of the Greater Pensacola Chamber. He currently serves as the National Navy Mustang Association (NMA) president and is currently the vice president of the NMA Emerald Coast Mustang Association. He is a past member of the board of directors with the Pensacola Big Game Fishing Club. While a member he served as Dock Master, Tournament Catch Entry, Treasurer, and Video Reviewer for the Pensacola International Billfish Tournaments. Just across the line in Alabama, he is also an active member of the Orange Beach Sportfishing Club where he serves on the board of directors and is a past Vice President Emeritus. He has served as Weigh Master for the 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023 Kenny Vines Memorial Billfish Tournament. He is currently serving his fourth year on NOAA's Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel to advise the National Marine Fisheries Service on the collection and evaluation of information for developing and amending fishery management plans.

Evan and the IGFTO: Evan joined IGFTO in 2014 after completing the IGFA's Observer Training Course in Dania Beach, FL. He has facilitated several observer training courses in Pensacola and Fort Lauderdale, FL and Quepos, Costa Rica. He is a lifetime member of both the IGFA and IGFTO and has observed in Aruba, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, and Guatemala. He has been recognized by Florida, North Carolina, and Virginia for gamefish releases (see photo inset below) and is a graduate of the Gulf of Maine Research Institute's Marine Resources Education Program (Fisheries Science, Management, and Aquaculture).

Evan accepted an invitation to join the IGFTO Board in late 2018 and was voted in at the Annual Board of Directors Meeting during January 2019 held in Los Sueños, Costa Rica. He was re-elected by unanimous decision during the January 2022 Annual Board of Directors Meeting to serve another two years on the IGFTO Board and accepted the position as President on 1-17-2024. For many of us "computer nerds" who have ever had technical problems with the IGFTO website, we'll attest to Evan's, quick, thorough, and friendly assistance. New face, same goals!! Following **President Emeritus** Steve Hargett's lead, Evan's goal for the IGFTO is to

continue the growth of the organization, solicit and promote IGFTO's involvement in future tournaments, and continue to maintain the ethics of the organization. IGFTO is in good hands with Evan at the helm!



*Red Drum (Chesapeake Bay - Virginia) and Striped Bass (Atlantic Ocean - Virginia Beach, VA) Citation releases; Sailfish release (Atlantic Ocean - Cape Hatteras, NC)
Photo credits: Joe Miller, Harry Hindmarsh, and Dave Frie.*

Cheating with a "Sweet Release" - what is it and what you should know

This article was published in our Observer Newsletter Volume 10 Edition 2 from a few years ago.

In the afternoon of March 27, tournament director Ashley Bretecher hosted an online meeting for the captains and observers. After reviewing the rules, she discussed something that had been brought to her attention known as a "Sweet Release". At this point, you could almost hear chairs shuffle as those online moved closer to their computers.

She said firmly that a "sweet release" was illegal, and that Observers should confirm that a released fish swims off freely. A "sweet release" consists of leafering fish alongside the boat, then wrapping the line from another rod around the bill and foul hooking the fish before cutting off the original leader. Dropping the line back into the spread there is no pressure on the rod until the angler adjusts the drag and the second rod comes tight. If the observer is not watching the release, it would appear as though another fish has been hooked.

IGFTO Observer Training Courses (OTC) Graduates 31 New Observers - WELCOME.

We are pleased to welcome to our membership the graduates from the OTC which took place at the Stuart Sailfish Club Foundation on February 3, and February 13, 2024 at Marina Pez Vela in Quepos Costa Rica in conjunction with the 2024 Pescadora. Director Emeritus and Co-Founder Terry O'Neill, Director Bob Stimolo, and IGFTO President Evan A Hipsley, Jr. facilitated the two separate courses. We're well on our way to our goal of 50 new Observers this year. Welcome Aboard!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Dave Allen	Tequesta, FL
Rafa Avila	San Pablo, Costa Rica
Ryan Brooks	Herradura, Costa Rica
Reed Burke	Jupiter, FL
Grethel Carmona	San Jose, Costa Rica
Mike Cisneros, Jr.	Mandeville, LA
Kim Coleman	Mt Pleasant, SC
Dan Csontos	Palm City, FL
Rich Demaris	Cape May Courthouse, NJ
John DeRose	Stuart, FL
Tim Douglas	Panama City, FL
Will Drescher	Milton, GA
Tristin Drury	St. Simons Island, GA
Ronald Exum	Oviedo, FL
Greg Gehrig	Oswego, NY
Andrew Glenn	Lighthouse Point, FL
Wayne Goldsmith	Killingworth, CT
Paul Hogg	Newburyport, MA
Doug Humphrey	Virginia Beach, VA
Bruce Jones	North Augusta, SC
Robert Loveland	Palm Beach Gardens, FL
Tony Lutz	Hutchinson Island, FL
David Martin	Quepos, Costa Rica
Loren Manzione	Salisbury, MD
Oisin Ocleirigh	San Jose, Costa Rica
Brenda Owens	Port Aransas, TX
Monica Pacheco	Jacó Beach, Costa Rica
John Patterson	Arnold, MD
Luis Salazar	Puerto Jiménez, Costa Rica

Tim Turnbull

Port St. Lucie, FL

Harold Valentine

Sparta, NJ



*Observer Training Course facilitators, Stuart, FL Feb 3, 2024.
Left to Right: John Barrineau, Terry O'Neill, Ray Sypher, Billfish Foundation President Ellen Peel, Bob Stimolo, and Art McDonald.*



Observer Training Course facilitators and students, Quepos, Costa Rica Feb 13, 2024.

Update ~ IGFTO Achieves New Benchmark, yet again!

Statistics compiled by: Evan A. Hipsley, Jr.

International Game Fish Tournament Observers, Inc. are both professional and amateur sport fishermen originally trained by the International Game Fish Association, now taught by IGFTO, in both species identification and tournament rules. Since our inception 15 years ago, the IGFTO has witnessed the release of 67,520+ billfish and incurred millions of dollars in personal expense in order to observe and conserve the species for future generations. Of note:



In just the first three months of 2024, IGFTO has dispatched 202 Observers for Legs 1, 2, and 3 of the Triple Crown Series and Ladies Tournament in Los Sueños Costa Rica, and the Pescadora in Quepos. Yes, that's seven separate events which resulted in the observed release of 7,334 Billfish (7301 Sailfish and 33 Marlin - Blue, Black, and Striped).

What's left for the rest of the year you ask?

- *Puerto Rico for the 71st International Billfish Tournament
- * El Salvador for the 30th Anniversary of the International Billfish

Tournament

*Guatemala for the 9th Annual Guatemala Billfish Invitational

Want More Information? Navigate to: [IGFTO](#), [upcoming OTCs](#), and [FAQs](#).



Observers for Leg 2. Photo credit: Pepper Ailor.



Observers for Leg 3. Photo credit: Pepper Ailor.

Have feedback or want to submit an article? Send an email to our [webmaster](#).



Thanks for taking the time to catch up on our happenings.
Tight lines and all the Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dian". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large 'D' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

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