Offshore Billfish & Tuna Tournament Review



Whew! What a year like no other! While COVID took its toll worldwide, our tournament list lost a few and added others. However, big gamefish tournaments are here to stay in a variety of different, exciting and appealing formats.

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California

2nd Annual Pelagic Tuna Challenge The Marlin Club San Diego Sept. 10-11, 2021

The Pelagic California Tuna Challenge embraces the fishing culture of Southern California. With a banner season already underway, this tournament offers the chance to target these incredible gamefish with the opportunity to win some serious CA\$H.

Boats can leave from any marina or launch facility in the greater Southern California area and bring their heaviest tuna to be weighed at the Marlin Club San Diego. This team event awards cash and prizes to the three largest tuna. Optional jackpots are available for tuna and yellowtail with an estimated \$100,000 in cash prizes up for grabs. (Note: teams consist of no more than six anglers, one captain, and up to two mates.) More info: pelagictournaments.com/pages/2021pelagic-california-tuna-challenge

Last year's results:

47 teams competed for nearly \$150,000 in cash prizes with Team CHUMP CHANGE besting the fleet with their 197.8-pound bluefin tuna to win \$97,238.

More info: pelagictournaments.com/blogs/ news/pelagic-s-california-tuna-challenge-makesimpact-as-richest-sportfishing-tournament-insocals-recent-history

Balboa Angling Club Master Angler Billfish Tournament Sept. 10, 11, 12, 2021 The 2020 Master Anglers 39th Billfish Tournament (MABT) was held on Sept. 11 and 12, 2020 with five local angling clubs participating. Club Secretary Mindy Martin said there were 41 boats, and 172 anglers, yet the results were disappointing. During the two-day event, out of 31 marlin hook-ups, only 10 marlin were released on Friday, and 11 on Saturday, reflecting the lack of striped marlin in SoCal waters.

MABT participated in the IGMR (IGFA Great Marlin Race) in 2020 and since the six pop-up archival tags (PAT) that had been donated were not deployed off Southern California during the event, all six tags were deployed off the Baja/Magdalena Bay area by various participating teams. More info: www.balboaanglingclub.org

50th Annual Channel Islands Billfish Tournament **Channel Islands Yacht Club** Sept. 10-17, 2021

Kick-off Party – Sept. 10, 2021, at 6 p.m. – CIYC Awards Banquet - Sept. 17, 2021, at 6 p.m. - CIYC

This event will be held from Sept. 10 to Sept. 17, 2021. The kick-off dinner party and raffle will be held Friday, Sept. 10 at 6 p.m. at the Channel Islands Yacht Club. The awards banquet and raffle will be held Friday, Sept. 17 at 6 p.m. also at CIYC. New anglers are welcome, so, if





40th ANNUAL BALBOA ANGLING CLUB MASTER ANGLER BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

SEPTEMBER 10, 11 & 12, 2021

You are invited to participate in the oldest and most prestigious all-release marlin tournament on the West Coast.

Entry includes:

Kick-Off Dinner and Captains Meetin Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at The Wayfarer in Costa Mesa - 5:30

Awards Banquet: Sunday, September 12, 2021 at The Wayfarer in Costa Mesa - 5pm Sign up today at www.balboaanglingclub.c

BAC Member Angle







interested check out website at cibillfish.org or call Charles Farrell at 805-256-4227.

In 2020 during the pandemic, nearly 20 boats competed. Top honors went to C.G. Miller's *Ruckus* with five marlin releases, *Skol* with four marlin releases and *Tight Riv* with three marlin releases.

Balboa Angling Club 2021 ladies Billfish Tournament Sept. 22–26, 2021

You are invited to participate in the return of the only women's marlin tournament held in So Cal. Captains' meeting: Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. BAC dock Fishing hours shall be 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 4 and 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 5. Awards ceremony: Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021, Location TBA More info: www.balboaanglingclub.org

The Marlin Club San DiegoILTT – Invitational Light Tackle Tournament Oct. 2-3, 2021

More info www.themarlinclub.com 2020 event was canceled.

<u>BAJA</u>

Pelagic Triple Crown of Fishing Tournaments June 10-12, 2021 – Cabo San Lucas, B.C.S., Mexico – Mexico Laguna Madre Crowned Champs of 2021

A strong second-day performance propelled Top Angler Kim Bullman and Team Laguna Madre to the winner's circle for the largest payout in event history - \$131,000. *Cloud Nine* took second place and \$111,800. www.pelagictournaments.com

Stars & Stripes Los Cabos June 23-26, 2021

A group of 640 participants and their guests attended the four-day event that included live performances by Melissa Etheridge in the Canyon and Ziggy Marley on the sound stage on the beach in front of the host, Hilton Hotel.

Stars and Stripes Gold Sponsor Golfers took to the links at two epic courses on Thursday. Many enjoyed the prestigious Chileno Bay Golf Club and its remarkable amenities while others enjoyed the worldrenowned views from the Quivira Golf Club.

On Friday, 128 golfers conquered Palmilla's Ocean and Mountain courses as they competed in a fun shamble format.

Saturday brought the opportunity for 100 golfers to enjoy a scramble competition at the new venue, Rancho San Lucas, designed by Greg Norman. The competition was not the only challenge at this course as there were 30 mph wind gusts as well. However, golfers got relief in the form of cooler Cabo temperatures.

Meanwhile, 54 teams with a total of 215 anglers participated in the 24th Annual Stars and Stripes Charity Tournament held at Chileno Bay. There were a remarkable 158 billfish released along with dorado, yellowfin tuna and wahoo boated during the two-day event.

Stars & Stripes Los Cabos June 22 - 26, 2022 starsandstripestournament.com

Bisbee's East Cape Offshore Tournament Aug. 2 – 7, 2021

The Bisbee Organization began the 2020 season amidst the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic with the Bisbee's East Cape Offshore breaking three of its former records: • The largest turnout, 72 teams, came from around the world to compete in the threeday event on the fertile Sea of Cortez. • The record jackpot was over

\$1,100,000 which was the first time the prize money cracked the milliondollar mark.

• The largest blue marlin ever caught in the 21-year history of the East Cape Offshore was taken in this tournament. www.bisbees.com/News/Article/102



Los Cabos Billfish Tournament Oct. 10-14, 2021

www.loscabostournaments.com los-cabos-billfish-tournament The 2020 Los Cabos Billfish Tournament- 2020

Team El Suertudo puts on a show. They boated two qualifiers and released five striped marlin earning first place team honors for the second year in a row.

The 2020 Los Cabos Billfish Tournament registered 49 teams competing for \$742,500 in purse plus trophies and prizes. The fleet recorded 70 billfish catches, including 13 blue, three black, and 55 striped marlin. The qualified marlin included an impressive 593-pound black marlin caught aboard *Stella June*, a 312-pound blue marlin aboard *Artemis*, 396-pound black marlin aboard *El Suertudo*, as well as 350-pound blue marlin aboard *El Suertudo*.

www.loscabostournaments.com/2020/10/16/2020-loscabos-billfish-tournament-gallery

Bisbee's Los Cabos 22nd Annual Offshore Oct. 14 - 17, 2021

www.bisbees.com/Tournament/Bisbees LosCabosOffshore

The 2020 Bisbee's Los Cabos Offshore Tournament was amazing as it was the first year the tournament purse broke \$1 million. With 10 additional teams added to last year's 118, a field of 128 competed.

Winning Teams included:

Sporty Game - Team members Steve Kaiser, George Landrum, Captain Dan Lewis, Filipe Robles, Mate Carlos Rodriguez and Jacob Rodriguez, received \$837,816 for the Largest Billfish, a black marlin weighing 514 pounds.

Pocket Aces - Julio Fiol Galindo, Steve Hayashi, Mark Hinkle, Mate Epigmenio Fiol Ortiz, Captain Angel Salvatierra and Jan Salvatierra Zamora, got second place and received \$293,544, for their 424-pound black marlin.

True Grit - owned by Jim Putman, along with Captain Tommy Neikirk, team members, Rey Aguirre, Boyd Decoito and Kai Hoover, received \$138,760 for the Largest Yellowfin Tuna weighing 228 pounds.

NsatiaBill - Captain Ian MacAllister, Mate Diego Apu, John Chandler, Nick Chandler, Carlos Murillo and Bill Nesbitt took \$59,670 for First Place Marlin Release.

Knot Workin! - Capt. Tito, Chad Carter, Brandon Hilley, Javier Marban, Ron Martinessi, Roberto Moran, Mike Timon, Second Largest Yellowfin Tuna \$85,000.



Sea Angel - Gregory Angel, Austin Angel, Captain Billy Angel, Carter Angel, Mate Jason Berk, Joshua Louis Morales, Johan Van Collar were the members of the Second Release Team and took \$20,655.

Protocol - Captain Alex Rogers, Rob Boyatt, Mate Jay Cheromcha, Mike Damelio, Adam Edgington, Rick Wursterr took Third Place Release for \$11.475.

Will 2 Win - Mate Fernando, Captain Nicolas Moreno, Elder Rosales, Jason Scheer, Lori Scheer, Jeremy Willer and Kimberly Willer Owners for the Third Largest Black Marlin weighing 320-pounds. \$10,080. A total purse of over \$1.44 million.

www.bisbees.com/News/Article/110

Bisbee's Black & Blue Marlin Tournament Oct.19 - 23, 2021

2020 Bisbee Black & Blue Award night wrapup:

The registration was like nothing in the event's 40-year history with masks, social distancing, and other government COVID protocols being followed. Only one member of each team was allowed to enter the registration area to take care of last-minute details, pick up swag, and fishing licenses for the crew if needed, and visit the Bisbee Foundation tables ladened with Penn fishing rods, reels, line, and the celebratory Eat Me Lure embedded with the Bisbee 40th anniversarv logo.

Throughout the afternoon, more and more teams arrived, and the number of entries continued to grow. By closing time, the unofficial count was a record-breaking 127 teams, the highest number ever in the 40-year history of the event, and the prize money was an astounding \$4.6 million.

www.bisbees.com/News/Article/114

23rd Los Cabos Tuna Jackpot Tournament Nov. 3–6. 2021

2020 Recap: A field of 149 teams made their way to Land's End to fish for a record \$1,035,700 in cash payouts in the Western Outdoor News Cabo Tuna Jackpot and the 22nd annual running produced a 210-pound Tuna Jackpot Champion fish for the Reel Godz of Rodz team of Gary Sigle and Shea Sumner.

You can get all the news and updates on a free mobile app at catchstat.com and a new website cabotunjackpot.catchstat.com. The mobile app is free, available in your app store.

You can get any of the tournament links here, via the official CTI website www.loscabostunajackpot.com.



CENTRAL AMERICA

2021 Pelagic Rockstar Tournament, Jan. 16-17, 2021

Marina Pez Vela, Quepos, Costa Rica is the site. The unmistakable howls of heavy metal electric guitar filled the morning air of picturesque Marina Pez Vela, accompanied by the rhythmic beats and deep bass of synchronized percussion as 67 teams, anglers, and crews departed by vessel, eager to engage in battle among the competitive angling comrades. A full moon backdropped above lush yet rugged rainforest terrain as the burning Costa Rican sun rose over the calm Pacific Ocean, beckoning teams to venture offshore in search of the ocean's billfish, tuna and dorado bounty.

> www.pelagictournaments.com/blogs/news/ cabana-honored-as-grand-champions-at-2021pelagic-rockstar-tournament



\$1.035.700

Sumner from Real Godz of R

TOP 10 TUNA WEIGHED

TOP WAHOO & DORADO

Ole Ole pound yellowfin \$80.625



TEAM #73 Real Fishing Godz of Rodz Shea and Stephanie Sumner Gary and Annette Sigle Captain Ernie Cossio and crew

2020 MONEY WINNERS

l Godz of Rodz team Gary Sigle and Shea Sumner. First place \$61,625 and \$19,000 from \$80,625 for day 2 tuna of 210 pounds. Second Place: Rocky Mountain Hookers; 209-pound yellowfin won all day 2 tuna jackpots except \$20K. Travis King, Frank Kavanaugh, Troy Johnston and Sean Sadler, total \$318,450.

Third Place: 202 pounder caught on the Cavandern. Don Jenkins of the Reel Hooker team was in \$5,000 daily jackpot for \$84,000, and third paid \$3,625 for \$87,625 total.

Dorado Optional: Pisces Fleet's TAG Team, 22.5-pound dorado on day 2 won day 1 and 2 optional: Trish Johnson, Cristi Nelson and Tony Ortiz, \$105,600.

Top 1st day 5 winner: Baro, run by local captain Eduardo Gulaarte with anglers Bradley Ericks Alfredo Trujillo, Alvero Rodriguez and Mauricio, 175.5-pound yellowfin: Across the board excep won all but \$5K optional for \$246,200.

520K optional day 1: 551,000 for 40.5-pound yellowfin by Second Wind team of Jerry Briblesef, Michael Jacob, Tony Frascone and Nee Contreas with TJ Dobson at helm. Day 1 Wahoo Daily Jackpot: Adriana Craig Cunningham, 33.5-pound wahoo, \$51,000

Day 2 Wahoo Optional Daily Jackpot: El Perro Loco's Murray Roberts on the Tres Am(cos with Francis De LaPaz weighed 34.5 for \$\$3,000.



WAR HEROES **ON WATER**

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Founded by Anthony Hsieh, the annual War Heroes on Water Sportfishing Tournament provides a one-of-a-kind therapeutic experience that helps combatwounded veterans recover from the emotional and physical wounds of battle.

Thanks to the generous support of our community, including a tournament fleet that includes many of SoCal's top sportfishing vachts. WHOW has directly touched the lives of hundreds of vets and raised more than \$1 million for therapeutic programs that benefit thousands more.

WHOW is changing and saving lives. And our work has just begun!

Mark your calendars to join us!

2021 WHOW On-The-Water Kickoff and Boat Parade October 2, 2021 at 5 p.m. **Newport Harbor East Turning Basin**

DONATE \$10 BY TEXTING "WHOW" TO 80100.

Msg & Data rates may apply. Reply STOP to cancel.

To learn more about WHOW, please visit www.warheroesonwater.com.

WHOW raises funds in coordination with our partner philanthropic organization, Freedom Alliance. Freedom Alliance is recognized by the IRS as a public charity organized under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code. 547227



Pescadora Billfish Championship Feb. 17-19, 2022

This is the most unique ladies' bill-fishing event in the world. The ground-breaking event brings women from all nationalities and experiences together to share in their love of the ocean and fishing. This two fishing day tournament held in Quepos, Costa Rica at the prestigious Marina Pez Vela is typically both fun and competitive ... a champagne-filled weekend catered to women, by women. A portion of all proceeds will be donated to the private orphanage, Costa Rica's Residence of Life!

www.residenceoflife.org thepescadora.com

The 2021 Pescadora Billfish Championship Results

After a year like no other, the Pescadora Billfish Championship presented by Costa Sunglasses was back in full force.

The bite was on at this year's Pescadora Billfish Championship. With 104 female anglers on 26 teams releasing 471 billfish, this two-day competition crowned the world's top female anglers and proved that women represent the largest emerging market in the fishing industry.

An average of 18 billfish were caught per team, with the top teams bringing in more than 40 releases in just two days. These anglers were unstoppable. The first release was just four minutes after lines in. A total of 20 releases were within the first 15 minutes of day one. By the end of that day, every single boat had a release, with many women catching their first sailfish ever.

thepescadora.com/2020-results-2/





Costa Offshore World Championship Quepos, Costa Rica April 24-29, 2021

Less than One Sailfish Release Separated Top-Three Teams at 2021 Costa Offshore World Championship The Costa Offshore World Championship held April 11–16 once again gathered anglers from many different countries who earned the special invitation by winning one of the

qualifying events. The teams spent four days on the water fishing out of Marina Pez Vela aboard a different Costa Rica charter boat, including the world-class Maverick Yachts Game Boats.

The tournament anglers follow IGFA angling and tackle rules targeting marlin, sailfish, tuna, dorado, and wahoo using video verification to earn billfish release points. Game fish must be 25 pounds or more and limited to two per species per day to earn additional team points and awards. The competitors represent an international group of offshore teams competing in a demanding format requiring great angling skills to convert the bites into catches. The Costa Offshore World Championship represents one of the most exclusive titles in tournament fishing.

In 2021, that achievement went to a group of American anglers representing the Presidential Flamingo Fishing Rodeo, Costa Rica, scoring 3500 points with 15 sailfish and one blue marlin released. Anglers Michael Moretti, Dwight Wolf, JP Rodrigues, and Dell Dembowsky received championship rings by VanMark Jewelry Designers, Bodo Muche Studio's bronze trophies, Guy Harvey's limited-edition prints, Guy Harvey's championship apparel, Costa's sunglasses, YETI's Rambler Tumblers, Garmin's Quatix Watches, Shimano Reels, Flor de Caña Rum, Big T Lures, AFTCO Tackle, and Soundview Millworks custom cutting boards. The top angler for the tournament was Dell Dembowsky, releasing eight sailfish and one blue marlin for the team.

As 2021 Champions, the team can apply for the championship for many years to come.

Top Six Anglers at Costa Offshore

1st Angler - scoring 2100 points from eight sailfish and one blue marlin, Dell Dembosky - Presidential Flamingo Fishing Rodeo, Costa Rica.

2nd Angler – scoring 1600 points from two blue marlin and three sailfish, Gilberto Lachica - San Carlos Hammer Down Tournament. Mexico.

3rd Angler – scoring 1500 points from one blue marlin and five sailfish, John Domanic - Costa OWC 2019 second Place Team. USA.

4th Angler – scoring 1400 points from two blue marlin and two sailfish. Frank Kastl - San Carlos Hammer Down Tournament. Mexico.

5th Angler – scoring 1400 points from seven sailfish, Bojan Cestar – from Slovenia, Big Game Fishing Tournament Big OM. Croatia.

6th Angler - scoring 1300 points from four sailfish, one blue marlin, Lee Kennedy - Savanah S.F. Blue Water Inv., USA.

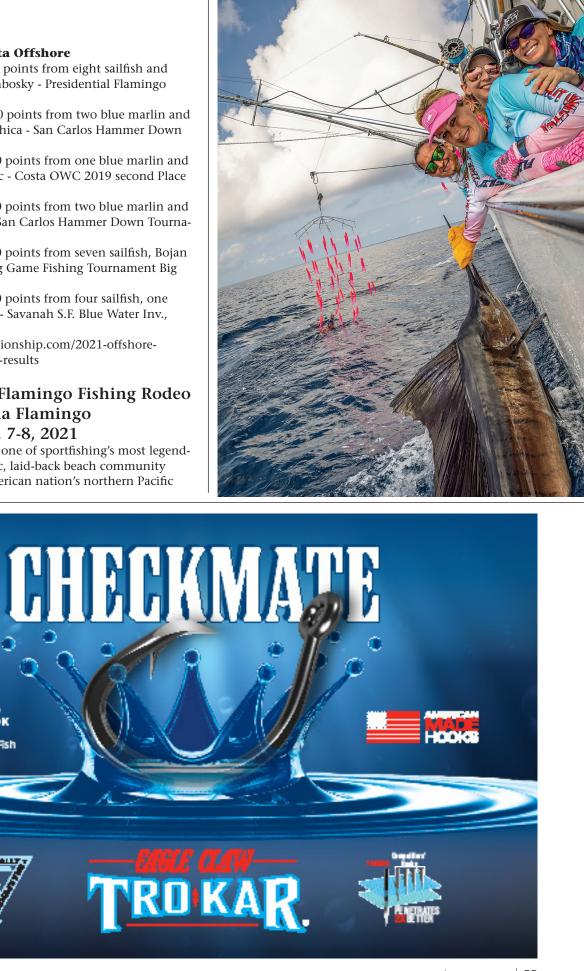
www.offshoreworldchampionship.com/2021-offshoreworld-championship-final-results

2021 Presidential Flamingo Fishing Rodeo Marina Flamingo

Aug. 7-8, 2021

Flamingo, Costa Rica, is one of sportfishing's most legendary destinations. An idyllic, laid-back beach community located in the Central American nation's northern Pacific

> VITH THE TK619 HEAVY DUTY HOOK For Tuna, Halibut and Other Big Game Fish



PCSportfishing.com | SEPTEMBER 2021 | 55



coast, it is a short run to the fishing grounds and brings excellent opportunities for all three species of marlin (blue, black, and striped) as well as sailfish, tuna, wahoo, and dorado (mahi-mahi). Inshore, there are roosterfish, jacks, grouper, and snapper.

Based on this excellent fishing, as well as a desire to get back to the basics with a fun tournament, the Presidential Challenge Charitable Foundation has recently announced the Presidential Flamingo Fishing Rodeo. The event will be held in Flamingo Beach and was scheduled for Aug. 7-8, 2021.

www. preschallenge.com/tournaments/presidentialflamingo-fishing-rodeo

Presidential Challenge of Central America

Dec. 5-6, 2021 **Open To Boats from Guatemala to Panama** It's time to get Central America Fishing Again! Call your favorite lodge and book your favorite boat. Let's go fishing!

www.preschallenge.com/presidentialchallenge-of-central-america/

WORLDWIDE

The Blue Marlin World Cup July 4, 2022

No other big game tournament allows a team to fish anywhere in the world for eight hours in their

local time zone. The World Cup is for one day only - JULY **4** - for *one species only, and with one winner only*. There is no second place in the World Cup.

The entry fee of \$5,000 includes everyone on the boat. The OPTIONAL additional \$8,000 BIG BLUE CHALLENGE is for those who want to win an even BIGGER AWARD, (see rule 10 online). In 2020, this division was won with a 667-pound Bermuda blue marlin.

Fish aboard your own boat or charter a professional team in any of the big blue marlin hot spots around the world. If you live in New York, go to Bermuda; if in Australia, charter a boat in Fiji or if in Las Vegas, why not fly to Kona to fish? The World Cup has been won in 10 locations around the world with many more famous blue marlin hot spots not yet producing a winner.

On July 4, make sure your team is ready to win hundreds of thousands of dollars, not to mention bragging rights, for having caught the biggest blue while competing against some of the top sportfishing teams around the globe.

www. bluemarlinworldcup.com Blue Hunter, a 43 Riviera based in the Cape Verde Islands, boated a grander blue marlin weighing 1,046.1 pounds to win the 2021 World Cup Blue Marlin Championship. Captain Manuel Viana led the team, and it was Viana's second grander of the season. Manuel Rodrigues of Tavira, Portugal, was on the rod. Blue Hunter won \$492,000 for the catch. No other qualifying fish were boated during the tournament. Unfortunately, Blue Hunter was not entered into the Big Blue Challenge and no other Big Blue Challenge participant boated a qualifying fish.

Blue Hunter released a marginal fish early in the morning



only to report another hook-up shortly before noon. The eventual winner was leadered two dozen times before it was finally gaffed. The blue was so large, accurate measurements couldn't be made since the tail stuck out beyond the transom.

After a two-hour run back to port, the team still had to wait on the official outcome. Since it was Sunday afternoon, it took some time to locate a crane operator to unload the massive catch. The winning blue had a length (lower jaw to fork of the tail) of 142 inches, with a girth of 73 inches.

Hawaii was the top destination in the 2021 event, with 42 boats competing. Bermuda, a typical hot spot for the World Cup, saw only 26 boats offshore due to high winds. The Gulf of Mexico fielded 12 teams, followed by 10 in Madeira, seven in the Bahamas, and three each off North Carolina's Outer Banks and New Jersey, with the balance scattered elsewhere. A total of 123 teams competed in this year's contest overall, which was an excellent turnout considering many weather issues and some remaining Covid restrictions.

Live updates were provided by the tournament every three hours to keep everyone abreast of what was going on. With travel opening up, there were more places to fish than last year during the height of the pandemic. Hawaii, for example, was nearly back to the normal numbers.







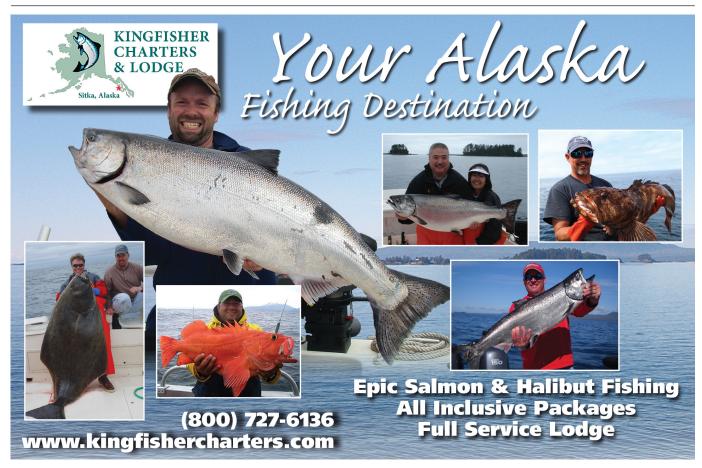


Worldwide Swordfish **Tournament Swordfish Cup** July 24 - 25 2022

The 2nd Annual Swordfish Cup, a tournament with a popular 24-hour format, was to be held July 24-25, 2021. Anglers around the world will be eligible to compete in their respective time zones. This sportfishing contest is being presented by Fly Zone Fishing and RJ Boyle Studio.

"We're excited to announce this new tournament catering to the growing legion of enthusiasts," says Robert "Fly" Navarro, president of Fly Zone Fishing. "We have already heard from multiple teams and I expect to see some hefty entries hoisted to the scales. The popularity of swordfish has exploded in recent years and this tournament is designed to showcase this incredible fishery to the world. We'll be doing live updates every three hours on Facebook and giving away some cool prizes donated by our sponsors for those watching the feeds."

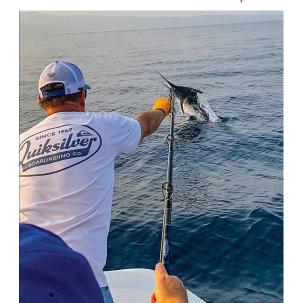
The entry fee for the Swordfish Cup is \$1,500 per team. We have added a regional Calcutta of \$1,500 and \$3,000 with the winner taking 80 percent of the entries for the heaviest fish exceeding the 200-pound minimum weight. All line class weights will be allowed. Calcutta regions will be East Coast (excludes Florida), Florida, East Coast to Key West, Gulf of Mexico,





Caribbean, and others. Contestants may only use conventional rods and reels, including electric reels mounted on rods. Hand gear, bandit gear, and hydraulic reels are not permitted. Harpoons may be used to boat the fish, however. In the event of a tie, *the first* eligible fish boated shall be declared the winner.

Weigh-ins will be conducted at approved scales certified by governmental authorities within the last year. Fishing hours will be from 8 a.m. on Saturday, July 25 until 8 a.m. on Sunday, July 26, in each local time zone. Continuous video verification of the gaffing and boating of the fish with a GPS date and time stamp will be required to prove the catch was made during the specified tournament hours. The winning angler and/or team member may also be required to take a polygraph test to ensure compliance. www.swordfishcup.com 🎓





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