

1st Annual Port Lucaya Marina Billfish Tournament

March 9th – 12th 2011

Tournament Rules

1. **I.G.F.A Angling rules apply:** All anglers and crewmembers are expected to be familiar with IGFA Rules. The angler must hook, fight and bring the fish to gaff or point of release unaided by any other person. No one other than the angler may touch the rod. Double headers are allowed.
2. **HMS Permits Required:** Atlantic HMS Angling Permit (Recreational) description. All owners or operators of vessels fishing recreationally for and/or retaining Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit. 2011 Atlantic HMS permits cost \$20.00 and will be valid from date of purchase until December 31, 2011. www.nmfspermits.com
3. **Tackle:** Rods – Up to six (6) lines may be fished at one time. Lines – 130 pound (60 kg) maximum. Manufacturer's stated lines. Brand and type must be provided if requested by a tournament official. Top-shots, Double line and leader lengths per IGFA.
4. **Baits:** Baits may be artificial lures, natural bait or a combination of natural and artificial. Live bait can also be used. **Mandatory Hook Requirements:** the National Marine Fishery Service now requires Non-offset circle hooks to be used on all natural baits and all natural/artificial combination baits in tournaments that offer prizes for billfish. Circle hooks are defined as any hook regarded as a circle hook designated by the manufacturer and originally designed and manufactured so that the point is turned perpendicularly back to the shank to form a generally circular or oval shape. Traditional J-hooks may still be used on artificial lures.
5. **Hook ups:** All billfish must be reported immediately to the Committee Boat/Port Lucaya Marina. The Captain or designate must notify the committee the species and the name of the angler fighting the fish. A fish must be reported as "boated" or "released" in order to count. Boats must do everything they possibly can to communicate with the committee or other participants. Failure to communicate a hook up, or the boating or releasing of a fish will disqualify the catch. No calls are required for non billfish hook ups or capture.
6. **Release points:** Blue Marlin 400 points. White Marlin 150 points. Spearfish 150 points. Sailfish 75 points. Hatchet Marlin will be ruled as a White. **Sailfish releases** – daily limit of three (3) releases per boat. Total tournament limit of five (5) releases per boat. Fish must be fought and released by the registered boat. There are no transfers allowed from one boat to another. No additional crew can board the fighting boat.
7. **Requirement for Releases:** Catch Release Affidavit and a digital photograph. The release form must be accompanied by a digital image. The image verifies the species on the release form. No point will be awarded if the species and affidavit do not match. The time of the digital image is the official release time. All cameras/Video recorders must be registered and set at registration to the official tournament time.

8. **Anglers:** All anglers must be registered on the entry form that every boat must fill out and sign on the day of registration. Angler substitutions are allowed provided that the committee is notified prior to the start of the day's fishing.
9. **Official Tournament Time:** GPS time.
10. **Fishing Hours:** Thursday, lines in at 8:00am. Lines out at 4:00pm. Friday lines in at 7:00am. Lines out at 4:00pm. Saturday lines in at 7:00am. Lines out at 3:00pm. If a fish has been reported hooked up prior to the 4:00pm lines out of the water deadline, the angler will have unlimited time to fight the fish and report to the weigh-in station. On the last day, the angler will have until 5:00pm to return to the weigh-in station. Digital photo releases on the last day must be brought to the weigh master also by 5:00pm.
11. **Weigh In:** The Game fish weigh-in station and verification station will open at 5:00pm and close at 6:00pm, except on the final day of fishing when it will open at 4:00pm and close at 5:00pm.
12. **Weather:** This is a Captain's choice tournament, fish at your own risk.
13. **Tiebreaker:** in the event of a tie, the winner shall be the first boat to reach winning point total.
14. **Protest:** The tournament is run on the honor system. In the event of a protest, it must be made in writing and handed to the Tournament Director on the day of the alleged violation, prior to the closing of the weigh-in station. Protests are not retroactive. The Committee will render its decision before the conclusion of the tournament. The Committee's decision is final and cannot be appealed.
15. **Boundaries:** There are no boundaries. However boat cannot utilize the Grand Bahama Inland Waterways.
16. **Committee Boat:** The Tournament Director will inform the participant at the Opening Meeting which boat will act as the Committee Boat, after securing a participating boat to volunteer.