

## **The Billfish Foundation**

### **February, 2015**

The tag and release reports are in and the results have finally been tallied. This year was truly a record year for billfish anglers and for TBF's Tag & Release Program. This year TBF also introduced the Gulf of Mexico Marlin Tagging Competition, adding a new region to our international competition to give crews in the Gulf a chance to be recognized and compete in this unique fishery. Below are some of the top anglers and captains from across the world at the apex of this amazing sport. Congratulations to all the winners and we hope to see everyone at our awards ceremony on Friday, February 13 in the Treetop Ballroom at Jungle Island during the 2015 Miami International Boat Show.

Every year, The Billfish Foundation (TBF) recognizes the captains, mates and anglers (including youth and ladies) who tag and release the most billfish in each of the world's oceans. The competition is categorized by billfish species, ocean, and whether the fish were tagged or released untagged. Award winners are recognized at TBF's Annual Tag & Release Awards Ceremony held during the Miami International Boat Show presented by the TBF's 2014 Tag and Release Sponsors: Bisbee's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund, Casa Vieja Lodge, Costa Sunglasses, PELAGIC, King Sailfish Mounts and SIMRAD.

#### **GOM Marlin Tagging Competition**

Top Tagging Captain Blue Marlin

Al Roper- *Michi*

Top Tagging Captain White Marlin

Don Thrasher – *Business Interruption*

Top Overall Tagging Captain

Jimmy Crochet – *Conundrum*

Top Overall Tagging Boat

*Conundrum* – Capt. Jimmy Crochet

#### **Top Overall Tag & Release Winners**

Overall Release Captain – Chris Van Leeuwen

Overall Tagging Captain- Chris Sheeder

Overall Release Angler – Pat McCotter

Overall Tagging Angler – Keith Brandner

Overall Release Lady Angler – Tiffany Sisolak

Overall Tagging Lady Angler – Sandra MacMillan

Overall Release Youth Angler – Gregory Benn

Overall Tagging Youth Angler Shawn MacMullin

#### **Top Tagging Angler- Atlantic Ocean**

Blue Marlin – Gray Ingram

Sailfish – Kasey Swan

Swordfish – Matt Bierley

White Marlin – Laurent Sahyoun

Top Release Angler- Atlantic Ocean

Blue Marlin – Gray Ingram

Sailfish – Gray Ingram

White Marlin – Gregory Benn

#### **Top Tagging Captain- Atlantic Ocean**

Blue Marlin – Ronnie Fields

Sailfish – Fin Gaddy

Swordfish – Mark Pagano

White Marlin – Christian Benazeth

**Top Release Captain- Atlantic Ocean**

Blue Marlin - Ronnie Fields

Sailfish – Dean Panos

White Marlin – John Mumford

**Top Tagging Angler- Pacific Ocean**

Black Marlin – Brady Wild

Blue Marlin – Keith Brandner

Sailfish – Darryl Schroeder

Striped Marlin – Robert Hendricks

**Top Release Angler- Pacific Ocean**

Black Marlin – Barry Alty

Blue Marlin – Pat McCotter

Sailfish – Bill Easum

Striped Marlin – John “Jack” Duvall

Swordfish – John Gregory

**Top Tagging Captain- Pacific Ocean**

Black Marlin – Tim Richardson

Blue Marlin – Josh Temple

Sailfish – Chris Sheeder

Spearfish- Gene Vander Hoek

Striped Marlin – Jaime Gonzalez

**Top Release Captain- Pacific Ocean**

Black Marlin – Brett Alty

Blue Marlin – Pete Rae

Sailfish – Chris Van Leeuwen

Striped Marlin – Chris Bays

Swordfish – John Gregory

**Top Tagging Angler – Indian Ocean**

Black Marlin – Scott MacGowan

Sailfish – Jo-Ann Riley

**Top Release Angler – Indian Ocean**

Black Marlin – Murray Teasdale

Sailfish – Henry Riggs-Miller

**Top Tagging Captain- Indian Ocean**

Black Marlin – Eddy Lawler

Blue Marlin – Eddy Lawler

Sailfish – Jourdain Ellens

Striped Marlin – Eddy Lawler

**Top Release Captain – Indian Ocean**

Black Marlin – Eddy Lawler

Blue Marlin – Ross Newton

Sailfish – Rolly Pierre

**Youth Tag Divisions**

8 and Under

Charles Gaddy & Kyler Swan (TIE)

Runner-up – Caden Alexander

Ages 9-10

Aidan Burke

Runner-up – Kasey Ray Swan

Ages 11-12

Kaleb Richardson

Ages 13-15

Shawn MacMullin

Runner-up – Bo Ingram

Ages 16-17

Nick Brackmann

**Youth Release Divisions**

Ages 8 & Under

Brown Gaddy

Ages 11-12

Jonathan Gaskill

Ages 13 – 15

Bo Ingram

Runner-up- Shawn MacMullin

Ages 16-17

Gregory Benn

Runner-up Curtis Englert