

The Saint Martin Billfish Tournament will take place on the waterfront of Marigot at Marina Fort Louis from June 1st up to June 6, 2010.

Participating boats and or a designated crewmember or representative are requested to report at the Marina Fort Louis in Marigot on June 1st, 2009 between 10am and 5 pm, where they will be assigned a docking space by a committee member.

## **TOURNAMENT ORGANISATION**

### **1 : REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS**

-To be eligible to participate in the Saint Martin Billfish Tournament, each captain should register his boat before June 1st, 2010 7 pm.

-All participating boats should be equipped with the necessary safety equipment as required by the maritime authorities of their country of origin.

-Registrations will not be accepted without proof of these safety requirements.

-The registration fee will be 1000 US Dollars per boat.

A maximum of 5 rods can be fished per boat.

Registrations are only valid after receipt of the required fee.

-It is understood that all participants in this tournaments are participating based totally on their own responsibility. The Association Marlin Blue, the tournament committee, it's sponsors and or associates are not liable for any accidents or mishaps of any participants, crew, family, equipment and or boats before during or after the Tournament.

-With each boat registration 5 access cards will be included giving right to complimentary :

- Breakfast at "O'Plongeoir"

- VIP Bar

- Award giving cocktail

### **3 : PRIZES**

All prizes will be handed to the captain of the boat and or to a person assigned by the captain of the boat.

Any boat fighting a fish at the time at which the lines are supposed to be out of the water will be entitled to one supplementary hour to end the fight.

No boat may leave before 7am without risk of disqualification, however a derogation light be granted by the committee to the boats considered as slow.

## **FISHING RULES**

The tournament is organized inspired by the IGFA rules & regulations.

### **1 : BOATS & VESSELS**

The minimum length of a participating boat is 24 Feet.

The minimum crew on board is two (2) persons.

The maximum line test allowed is 80 lbs mono IGFA Class.

No extra points will be given for catching a fish on lighter line.

Hand lines and wire lines are not allowed. Only dead baits and artificial lures are allowed.

## **2 : FISHING ZONE**

The designated fishing area is the drop off running in the north/east of Saint Martin called the Marlin Boulevard.

The fishing area is comprised between the:  
62W40-18N25/62W20-18N25 and 62W50-17N50/62W20-17N50.

To ensure a fair fishing practise it is forbidden to fish around any FADS (Fish Attracting Devices).

All fish caught around a FAD according to the Observer of the Committee will be disqualified.

## **3 : QUALIFYING FISH / POINTS**

Only Billfish will qualify.

The minimum weight is set at 300 lbs.

All White Marlin, Sailfish and Spearfish must be released.

## **4 : CATCHES, STRIKES AND RELEASES**

All strikes and releases must be reported to the controlling station on VHF Channel 06.

The report must contain the name of the angler, name of the boat and the possible type of fish.

## **5 : RELEASES**

A fish is considered released when the wireman touches the leader or when the leader reaches the rod tip while the fish is still hooked in any case according to the IGFA rules.

Every boat will have a numeric camera , empty and will take pictures of the release

## **6: FIGHTING THE FISH**

Only one angler is allowed to handle the rod after the strike.

## **7 : THE COMMITTEE OBSERVER**

The committee reserves the right to place an observer on each participating boat on tournament day. No boats are allowed to leave the dock without an observer or an explicit authorization of the committee.

Every boat will have a numeric camera , empty and will take pictures of the release

## **8 : FISHING EQUIPMENT**

The committee reserves the right to inspect the fishing equipment of each participating boat. In the case that the equipment is not conforming the tournament rules the committee will disqualify the boat.

## **9 : PROTESTS**

Any protest should be filed in writing by the captain of the protesting boat within one hour after the weight master closing time accompanied by a protest fee of USD 500 payable to the committee.

The sum of USD 500 will not be reimbursed in the case that the protest is deemed unfunded.

## **CALCULATING OF POINTS**

The following are the rules for the point calculation.

Only the points of the best three days will be considered.

The points will be calculated day by day based on the fishing times as stipulated.

To encourage the participation of all crewmembers of the participating boats in all the activities organized by the committee, the committee has decided to award points also for the non fishing activities. That will also count in the final result.

Participation in the first day Bimini Start 100 points.

These points are obligatory taken into account in the total count.

The weight of each fish boated above the minimum (300lbs) will be allotted the same amount of points (ex: fish weighted 456 lbs brings 456 points).

Fish under the minimum weight will be penalized with a total amount of points that is equal to 300 minus the weight of the fish.

Each billfish released will be allotted 250 points.

In any case, and whatever the weight of the fish fished, mutilated fish will not be weighed and consequently will not bring any points to the competitor.

## **TIES**

In case one or more boats end up with the same amount of points, the best place will be attributed to the first boat having reach its total count of points (in 3 days considered).

## **HEAVIEST FISH**

The heaviest fish will be the heaviest fish weighed in during the tournament or the fish that breaks the tournament record.

The number of points of the largest fish will be deducted from the total of the 4 best fishing days.

## **RECORD FISH**

The record fish will be awarded the record price.

The record fish will be the fish that weighs in at least one (1) lbs more than the current record of 781 lbs.

The number of points of the record fish will be deducted from the total points over the best 4 fishing days.

The record fish will be excluded from the price for the heaviest fish of the tournament. In this case the second largest fish of the tournament will be awarded the price for the heaviest fish.

In all cases the decision of the committee on all rules and printform-regulations is final!