

2011 LUHRS BILLFISH SHOOTOUT

**Saturday 19th & Sunday 20th February 2011
PORT STEPHENS NSW AUSTRALIA**

Hosted by: Newcastle & Port Stephens Game Fish Club Ltd

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TOURNAMENT RULES

1. THE TOURNAMENT

The competition will be held over two days Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th February 2011.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE: David Litchfield President NPSGFC & Doug Padman Director NPSGFC.

2. THE COMPETITION

The competition will be for both Tag & Release and Capture and will be fished as per the GFAA & NSWGFA rules – Point scores – Tackle regulations and minimum weights apply for Marlin other billfish species. Line classes to be fished 4kg, 6kg, 8kg, 10kg, 15kg, 24kg, 37kg and 60kg.

Species eligible for the tournament are Marlin, Sailfish, Broadbill Swordfish & Short Bill Spearfish- Note Sailfish, broadbill swordfish & Short Bill Spearfish are not eligible for capture.

Marlin - a minimum of 150kg on any line class. **CIRCLE HOOKS ONLY** are permitted to be used for livebaiting. Crews should make safe reasonable efforts to remove hooks from fish that are to be released.

3. FISHING DAYS & TIMES

7.00am to 5.00pm Saturday 19th, 7.00am to 4.00pm Sunday 20th February 2010. Any reported hook ups prior to end of fishing on Saturday may be fought out.

4. FISHING AREA

The Fishing area for the tournament is South to latitude 33 degrees 15 minutes (Bird Island) and North to latitude 32 degrees and 13 minutes (Latitude Rock)

5. LEAVING PORT

Boats may fish from their home port on Saturday 20th February but CANNOT commence burleying, trolling or fishing before the Radio Operator announces the official start of fishing at 7:00am, if a boat is not at that time within the prescribed fishing area, it cannot commence fishing until such time that is within the tournament boundary. (This also applies to Sunday 20th February)

6. RETURN TO PORT

On Saturday 19th February, ALL boats must return to the Club's port at Port Stephens and leave the Club's port at Port Stephens on Sunday 20th February 2011. Failure to report on your return will invoke a penalty.

7. ENTRIES

Entry fees are \$250.00 (inc. GST) for each competing adult angler and \$100.00 (inc. GST) for each junior angler (under 16 years of age at the start of the Tournament) **Note: Junior entry fee does not include presentation tickets.** There must be a minimum of two registered anglers on board each boat under 8 metres and three registered persons on board each boat 8 metres and over the maximum limit to the number of anglers on each boat shall be as per the limit imposed by vessel capacity plate. There is a MINIMUM ENTRY FEE of \$500.00 for each boat under 8 metres and a MINIMUM ENTRY FEE of \$750.00 for each boat 8 meters and over. **(Maximum of 80 boat entries will be accepted)**

NOTE: All observers must be placed on the entry form and registered, clearly stating their name. All people on board the vessel must be registered on the entry form.

NOTE: The Team Captain, skipper & any person involved in effecting a capture or tag & release must be a paid angler. Any vessel found to be using a person not entered in the tournament assisting in a capture or tag and release will be disqualified from the tournament.

The entry fee includes tournament clothing, briefing, lucky draw entry, boat team kit, Saturday night refreshments and angler draw, trophy presentation function and presentation dinner.

All anglers are to be financial members of a club affiliated with NSWGFA, GFAA or IGFA. Entries close on Thursday 10th February at 5pm. Entries submitted after this date will incur a late entry fee of \$50.00. Tournament clothing may not be available for late entrants at the briefing.

8. INSURANCE

Each vessel is to have their own Third Party Liability insurance and Boat Owner must provide details of insurance covering third party property liability and third party personal liability insurance on the 'Boat Safety Rescue Form'.

9. BRIEFING

There will be a tournament Briefing on Friday 18th February 2011 at the N&PSGFC Clubhouse, 57 Shoal Bay Road, Shoal Bay at 7:00pm. Boats who plan to commence fishing from Port Stephens must have a entered angler from the boat attend the briefing. Tournament bags will be issued at the briefing. Only boats that nominate on the entry form that they will commence fishing on day 1 from another port are exempt from attending the briefing. Tournament bags for these vessels will be available from the tag return and weigh station on day 1.

10. POINTSCORE

Pointscore will be as per the NSWGFA Pointscore System. In the case of a tie the angler or team to reach the tied score first will be deemed the winner.

11. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Will be conducted in accordance with the adopted *NSWGFA Guidelines for Radio Skeds for Tournaments* as are in effect at the time. These shall be conducted by Tournament Base on 2284 SSB, 80 VHF and 27.940 MHz. The scheduled times will be Saturday at 8.10am, 10.10am, 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 4.10pm, Sunday 8.10am, 10.10am, 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 3.10pm. All boats must answer each schedule, giving boat number, boat name, fishing report using the 0:0:0 system and fishing position using the supplied grid chart. If a vessel has radio failure and cannot contact radio base or relay through another vessel, it MUST RETURN TO PORT and notify Radio Base of their actions by other means (phone etc).

Boats MUST keep the air clear 10 minutes prior to Tournament Base may record the end of fishing so late hook-ups. ALL VESSELS MUST SIGN OFF WITH TOURNAMENT BASE ON RETURN TO PORT – or penalties will apply.

12. CAPTURE CERTIFICATES AND TAG & RELEASE CARDS

All capture or tag & releases are to be reported accurately by radio to Tournament Base when affected and the time given by Tournament Base recorded on the tag & release card/capture certificates. **IN THE EVENT OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CONTACT TOURNAMENT BASE, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR NEAREST VESSEL.**

FAILURE TO RECORD THE TIME OF AN AFFECTED CAPTURE OR TAG & RELEASE WILL RESULT IN A TIME RECORDED FOR THE CAPTURE OR TAG & RELEASE AS BEING THE END OF FISHING ON SUNDAY, 3.00PM. All captures or tag & release cards must be lodged at the Weigh Station on the day of capture or tag & release and on Sunday 21st February no later than 6.00pm for fish reported as a hook up prior to the end of fishing. All hand deliveries of equipment and Tag Cards must be at the Weigh station facility by the 6.00pm deadline (**Weigh station will be Fly Point**)

Please note that NSW Fisheries tags only will be accepted. Billfish tags must be used to tag all billfish species. The appropriate flags are to be flown on return to the weigh station.

A fish is considered tagged and released when the tag is secured to the fish and the fish is released alive.

13. BOAT / ANGLER REPLACEMENT

No replacement of boats or anglers for whatever reason will be allowed after the conclusion of entries on Thursday 17th February 5.00 pm. Anglers may only affect a capture or tag & release on the vessel on which he or she is a registered angler.

14. PROTESTS

Must be presented in writing to the Tournament Committee by 6.00pm on the day in question. THE DECISIONS OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE WILL BE FINAL. Whilst decisions of the tournament committee are final on more occasions, if a skipper protests a decision made by a tournament committee on the tournament rules then it can come to NSWGFA.

15. TROPHY PRESENTATION DINNER

The Trophy Presentation Evening will be held at Nelson Bay Bowling Club, Sunday 20th February 2011, commencing at 7:30pm. Additional Trophy Presentation tickets will be available only by prior arrangement with the Tournament Committee.

Saturday 19th February there will be lucky angler draws and BBQ held at the club house of NPSGFC from 7.00pm anglers must be present to claim prize.

16. BAD WEATHER

To avoid taking unnecessary risk in the event of bad weather, the Tournament Committee will decide whether the day will be a competition day or not. In the event of bad weather developing after the start of fishing, the Tournament Committee will decide whether the competition day will be called off for the remainder of that day. All fish caught prior to this time will be eligible for the competition. The Tournament Committee accepts no responsibility for decisions made by individuals as whether to put to sea or not, having regard to the Tournament Committee's decision on fishing for the day. The declaration of a gale warning by the Bureau of Meteorology will cancel fishing for that day. In the event of a declaration whilst vessels are at sea fishing will cease immediately and vessels must return to port.

17. INDEMNITY

THE N&PSGFC accepts no responsibility for actions by entrants in this tournament & shall not be held liable for any damage or loss to any property or person during this tournament. In that regard all entrants indemnify the tournament committee, N&PSGFC & all voluntary workers against any claim for loss or damage to property or person.

Trophy List – 2011 LUHRS BILLFISH SHOOT OUT

Major Prize - Heaviest Marlin \$20,000.00 – Minimum 150kg

Tag & Release Team Prizes

Champion Team 1

Champion Team 2

Champion Team 3

Champion Team 4

Champion Team 5

Champion Team 6

Champion Team 7

Champion Team 8

Champion Team 9

Champion Team 10

Champion junior angler Male & Female

Plenty of giveaways during the event

UHIRS
SPORTFISH