IGFA Introduces new Length Record Category for 127 species

Catch-and-release anglers and conservationists; you asked for it and you got it. The International Game Fish Association has added a new 100% release category to its world records section beginning in 2011.

Based on length rather than weight, the new IGFA’s All-Tackle Length Record category will make 60 freshwater and 67 saltwater species eligible for new world records while requiring the fish to be returned to the water alive after measurement. With 127 new world record vacancies becoming available on January 1, the IGFA’s World Records office is expecting a flurry of competition for new titles in the New Year.

“The new All-Tackle Length record category is another great means of recognizing angler achievement and also has a strong conservation message,” said IGFA World Records Coordinator Jack Vitek. “While the IGFA does not require a fish to be killed for traditional weight category records, and many fish are indeed released alive, this is the first IGFA record category to adopt an all-release format.”

Vitek added that with no need to return to the docks to weigh a catch, anglers pursuing a length record will utilize a standard measuring device (now available online at www.store.igfa.org and soon through several major fishing tackle retailers) to record the length of their catch. According to the official IGFA Rules and Requirements for All-Tackle Length Records, the fish “must be measured at the site of capture and released so that it swims away on its own and in good condition.”

To facilitate healthy release, the document also includes tips on best release practices and prohibits fish entered for length records from also being submitted for traditional weight records; another deterrent from keeping the fish out of the water any longer than necessary.

“Catch and release fishing is becoming increasingly popular worldwide,” stated IGFA Conservation Director Jason Schratwieser. “We know recreational anglers are passionate about conservation, and this new record category reflects their dedication to conserving game fish.”

The new IGFA All-Tackle Length record category will begin accepting applications on January 1. The Official IGFA Measuring device is now available for sale through the IGFA’s website and look for more information on rules, requirements and eligible species of the newly added category to be featured in the upcoming 2011 World Record Game Fishes book sent to members in January. To learn more contact Vitek via jvitek@igfa.org or 954-924-4246.

Six captains and crew to be honored at IGFA Awards Dinner, Feb. 12

A captain and crew can make or break a fishing trip, and anglers across the world will recount the successful catches they attribute to those they consider the best. The time has come to recognize these special fishermen who have contributed to the success of the IGFA and the sportfishing world.
On February 12, from 6 – 10 p.m. at the IGFA Hall of Fame & Museum in Dania Beach, Florida, the IGFA will present the inaugural Legendary Captains and Crew Awards and Dinner. The six honorees, Ron Hamlin, Omie Tillet, Allen Merritt, Buddy Merritt, Charles Perry, and Charlie Hayden will share their stories during the sit-down dinner and awards ceremony.

Seating is limited to 250 people, and tickets are $60 per person. Tables are still available. For more information, contact Lesley Arico at 954-942-4222 or larico@igfa.org.

**Billfish Expo #2 also at IGFA, Feb. 12**

Earlier in the day, the IGFA Hall of Fame & Museum will host the second annual Billfish Expo from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speakers include Captain John Dudas, David Fields, Bark Garnsey, Ray Rosher, Skip Smith, Karl Anderson, and many more covering tournament strategies, daytime swordfishing, satellite tagging and an array of other topics. Tickets are $65.

For more information, visit [https://www.billfishexpo.com](https://www.billfishexpo.com) or call 954-531-7985.

**Bidding is brisk in IGFA’s online auction**

The bidding has become vigorous for the now nearly 150 items -- with new additions this past month -- in the IGFA’s popular online auction running as the lead-up to the 27th Annual IGFA International Auction & Banquet Friday, January 28, 2010.

The auction and banquet will take place at the Breakers in Palm Beach, Florida, U.S.A. It's one of the IGFA’s most anticipated events of the year with spirited bidding from the world over and is now on the conservation association’s website [http://www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org).

“This online auction has become a very fun and anticipated event in itself,” said the IGFA’s Lesley Arico. "Typically 20 - 25% of the online bids have won in the past."

Underway since the beginning of November, the online portion ends at 9 a.m. EST on January 24. The high bid becomes the starting bid for each item at the banquet event on Jan. 28. All bids are in U.S. dollars. Bid raises must be increased by at least $5 increments. Anglers and enthusiasts can win everything from amazing artwork to world-class fishing trips, a fabulous boat and powerful motors to gorgeous jewelry, and hand-tied flies to books for armchair anglers.

**Some unique items up for bid:**

- **SALT WATER SPORTSMAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY PACKAGE** donated by Rip Cunningham is a one-of-a-kind, must-have collection for the serious angler which includes a Russ Smiley original, commissioned by Salt Water Sportsman of the 12 species of fish that Salt Water Sportsman’s editorial staff chose as the most important species to the recreational angler at that time, for the cover of their 50th Anniversary issue in 1989. With the Smiley original is a Special Edition of the 50th Anniversary issue in hard cover signed by then Editor-in-Chief Cunningham and Publisher Spider Anderson, a piece of sportfishing history and a package no one else in the world will have.
• WORLD-CLASS PERMIT FISHING AT MACHACA HILL RAINFOREST CANOPY LODGE IN BELIZE, courtesy of Brian Gardiner, Machaca Hill (www.machacahill.com) is the only place in southern Belize where you can explore the tropical forest or fly fish and enjoy luxurious accommodations and gourmet food. The lodge is on the Rio Grande, just minutes away from the Caribbean Sea, and provides limitless options for the world-class permit fishing and a chance at a “Grand Slam,” by catching bonefish and tarpon too. The trip includes four nights for two people in a one-bedroom tree house, two days of guided fishing, round-trip transfers from/to Punta Gorda Airstrip, all meals, taxes and service charges.

• 2011 MAKO 212 CENTER CONSOLE donated by Tracker Marine, (www.trackermarine.com), courtesy of Johnny Morris this 21’ 5” (6.53 m) long and 8’ 6” (2.59 m) wide is a spacious offshore fishing machine powered by a 250 hp Mercury Verado motor. The wide-open cockpit allows for maximum maneuverability while casting or working a fish. Its legendary smooth- and dry-riding hull design is foam-injected with a one-piece integrated fiberglass stringer grid, swim platforms, stern lounge with port and starboard jump seats, stainless steel rod holders throughout, head enclosure, forward console seat, bow seating with insulated fish boxes plus a tandem axle aluminum trailer custom matched to the boat.

Full descriptions of these and all of the other auction items can be found now on the IGFA website at http://igfa.org/.

Featured artist at the auction is Dr. Guy Harvey

This year’s featured artist is world-renowned conservationist and marine biologist Dr. Guy Harvey, who has donated his original piece “Sharp Turn.”

Arico said, “Guy’s expert use of color brings this painting to life as a majestic black marlin quickly turns to pursue his next meal.” She added the stunning 50” x 40 ½” acrylic on canvas painting is expected to be a highlight of the auction and banquet.

Tickets to attend the banquet at The Breakers are $200 per person. For tickets, information about corporate tables, additional details about auction items or to make a donation of an item, please contact Ms. Arico at 954-924-4222 or larico@igfa.org.
Coming in January: Fishing’s most valued reference book

It’s been described as “the most comprehensive piece of fishing information available anywhere,” a statement made often by serious fishermen and fishing writers alike. The IGFA’s 2011 World Record Game Fishes annual -- the reference book that’s a mainstay in recreational fishing -- continues its legacy as the most reliable and complete resource book of worldwide fishing records and a wide range of fishing-related reference materials. Plus it includes in-depth and entertaining features by top writers across the globe.

IGFA members will begin receiving their 424 page edition in mid-January as one of the many benefits of joining the IGFA. The popular annual is the official guide to saltwater and freshwater catches for over 1100 species around the world in the all-tackle category and nearly 400 species in line class, fly, and junior angler record categories, plus the newly added length record category for 127 species in 2011.

To receive your copy of 2011 World Record Game Fishes and learn about all the other great benefits of being a member of the IGFA, go to http://www.igfa.org/ and sign up.

Observer Training Class February 19 at IGFA

The IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum in Dania Beach, Fla., is the site for the next IGFA Observer Training class to be presented on Saturday, February 19, at 9 a.m. The class instructs experienced anglers, boat captains and crew members as observers for fishing tournaments held across the globe.

The popular course includes species identification, IGFA saltwater fishing rules and tackle regulations, safety at sea and boating etiquette. The IGFA OTC applications are available at the IGFA website http://igfa.org/images/uploads/files/OTC_Application2008.pdf

Pre-registration is required and the $150 fee covers the cost of the training class, course materials, and a one-year membership in the IGFA. Please contact IGFA Conservation Director Jason Schratwieser at 954-924-4320 email: jschratwieser@igfa.org for additional information.

WFN and IGFA present Saltwater Adventures TV series in April

Two fishing industry leaders, WFN: World Fishing Network, North America’s only 24-hour television network and the International Game Fish Association (IGFA), the leading authority on angling pursuits and the keeper of the most current world record fishing catches, are teaming up to present IGFA Saltwater Adventures – a 30-minute weekly fishing travel show.

The 13-weekly episodes will begin airing in April on WFN.

Hosted by popular television fishing personality Bill Boyce, IGFA Saltwater Adventures will be presented in high-definition. The show will take viewers to some of the world’s premiere saltwater fishing
locations including; the Bahamas, California, Costa Rica, Fiji, the Florida Keys, Mexico, New York, Panama, Seychelles, St. Thomas & St. Lucia. Viewers will live vicariously through Boyce as he stays at the best resorts, visits the local hot spots, and goes on the water for a memorable fishing adventure.

"Each week, viewers will be go on a spectacular saltwater fishing vacation at some of the world’s best resorts in just 30-minutes and in stunning high-definition from the comfort of their couches," said Corey Russell, VP of Programming and Production at WFN. "The combination of WFN, the IGFA, our spectacular resort partners and our host Bill Boyce, will make IGFA Saltwater Adventures a memorable trip every week."

Boyce has been active in the angling, conservation, and journalistic aspect of sport fishing his entire life. After 16 years as a fisheries biologist, his career took a turn when interest in his underwater photographs exploded. Now a photojournalist in the sport fishing industry, his underwater video talents have been used in Michael Fowlkes Productions’ Inside Sportfishing and with many filming expeditions with Guy Harvey, and the BBC.

Bill hosted the World Class Sport Fishing series, and then created his own production company, directing, producing, and hosting the TELLY Award winning TV series, IGFA Angler’s Digest. Boyce has been a long standing representative of the IGFA since 1996, and a board member of the NCMC since 2007.

WFN marketing partners for this new series include; Fox International Rods & Reels, WFL Lures, Western Filament Fishing Line, Aftco Clothing and Accessories, Reactor Watches, King Sailfish Mounts, and Plano – makers of travel gear and tackle boxes.

"All of us here at IGFA are very excited about this unique fishing show," said Mike Myatt, Chief Operating Officer at the IGFA. "WFN has created a platform that will highlight great fishing, the world’s premier destinations and excellent corporate partners coupled with Bill’s infectious passion and knowledge of the sport. We anticipate many years of success with this series."

**Experience the Pacific sailfish run like only Guatemala can provide**

It’s one of the most incredible fishing locales anywhere and the IGFA Expedition Series is once again returning to Guatemala's Casa Vieja Lodge on April 14 – 18, for the Pacific sailfish run.

How incredible is it? During last year’s three-day expedition to Casa Vieja Lodge, an amazing 190 sailfish were raised, 138 were hooked, and 63 were released - plus three marlins released on fly and two more released on conventional tackle. The anglers who made that trip said not only was the fishing “red hot,” it’s one they’ll remember for a lifetime.

Leading the 2011 expedition as the trip’s host is Mark Sosin, the man who wrote the rules for saltwater fly fishing. Best known for his ground-breaking 20-year television show Mark Sosin’s Saltwater Journal, he’s also an award-winning writer, photographer and television producer, and an authority on both freshwater and saltwater angling. A 2004 IGFA Hall of Fame Inductee, Sosin calls Guatemala’s Casa Vieja Lodge, “truly one of the best fishing destinations in the world.”

IGFA Development Director Eric Combast added, “This adventure to fish the famous Guatemala sailfish grounds in this beautiful Central America country, follows in the footsteps of the early game fish pioneers exploring the abundant waters for the world’s greatest game fish;”

“It’s three days of fishing for Pacific sailfish which may include other top game species such as Pacific blue marlin and dorado found in the surrounding waters.”

The cost for this all-inclusive IGFA Expedition is $6,950 per angler and $2,500 for non-anglers and includes all in-country transfers, lodging, meals and cocktails. Fees do not include airfare to/from Guatemala.
City and any incidental purchases. All guests have a private room and fish two anglers per boat. Space is limited to 12 anglers per trip.

For more information on this and other exciting IGFA Expeditions go online to the IGFA website at www.igfa.org/Fish/Expedition-Series.aspx, or please call Combast at 954-924-4325 or email ecombast@igfa.org.

IGFA’s new iPhone app appealing for its great features

The IGFA recently enveloped the digital age by launching an iPhone app that is generating significant appeal to anglers worldwide who love having instant fishing knowledge in their hands. Once opened and connected to a cellular or wi-fi connection the IGFA mobile app lets anglers quickly identify their catches with stunning full-color images, then allows them to search for vacant, pending, and IGFA World Records, all at their fingertips.

Here’s a few of its many features:

• World Record Database gives the most up to date records on over 1100 species. It’s great for comparing what you’ve hooked – or in planning to fill a vacant record.

• IGFA Species ID of every record game species is captured in the incredible full-color images of marine artists Diane Rome Peebles and Duane Ravers with extensive ID descriptions and reference material from the experts at the IGFA including habitat information, geographic distribution and anatomy.

• My Catches lets you enter a photo and the details of your fish fight to Facebook or email with one easy step. On the iPhone or iPad, GPS functions will automatically record the location of your catches as you log them.

• Quest List helps you track your progress towards your next IGFA Weight Club (for bass, snook, or bonefish) or IGFA Slam Club. Or create your own customizable quest.

• Official IGFA Weigh Stations are one quick tap away and you’ll know how close you are to one, with maps to help you get there.

• Trip Planning List helps you in preparing for your best shot of having a great day on the water.

• IGFA Rules lets you consult the IGFA International Angling Rules – for both conventional and flyrod – to make sure your next catch won’t be disqualified.

The one-time charge for all of the great features and benefits that the IGFA iPhone Mobile App has is just $8.99. And it also works on the iPad.

Go to www.igfa.org/Fish/IGFA-Mobile.aspx to learn more about this great fishing advancement.
New $15 Digital IGFA E-memberships now available

If you love fishing and you love digital as you find yourself reading more materials, magazines and books online, the IGFA has the perfect membership for you.

The International Game Fish Association has recently introduced a new online e-membership making all of its members-only content, available electronically at a discounted introductory price of just $15 (US). This low cost web-only membership offers the same benefits as a traditional membership in a digital format including:

- Access to International Angler newsletter online
- Access to World Record Game Fishes book online
- Online access to world records
- Discounted world record application - $40
- Discounted scale certifications - $30
- Unlimited free entry into the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum
- 10% Discount on IGFA gift shop purchases
- Invitations to upcoming events
- The latest angling and record-seeking news via email and online

Regularly priced at $20, the e-membership will be available for only $15 during this introductory offer.

To become an IGFA e-member today and to save, sign up online at igfa.org/members and begin enjoying your benefits now. For questions or further information, please contact IGFA Membership at 954-927-2628 or email HQ@igfa.org.

December Hot Catches

Two bright red-colored fish species kickoff the December Hot Catches report for IGFA world records. Jack Vitek, the IGFA’s World Records Coordinator has included pending records from South Africa, Canada, Costa Rica, several from the U.S. and one from the small Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia.

Check out the IGFA Hot Catches gallery for all seven of this month's featured catches!

IGFA’s special Slam Clubs add members

Two men have recently earned entry into the IGFA’s Royal Slam Clubs.

Parke M. Berouzhezmer became the newest member of the Royal Billfish Slam Club after landing a long-billed spearfish, the final of the nine billfish species required, off Ascension Island in the south Atlantic, Nov. 23. Berouzhezmer started his quest in July 1990, when he caught a striped marlin near Mexico’s Cabo San Lucas. In between over the next 20 years, Berouzhezmer traveled to five different countries, including
New Zealand and Australia, to accomplish the other seven fish required for the feat which included Atlantic and Pacific sailfish, Atlantic and Pacific blue marlin, black marlin, white marlin, and swordfish.

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Though by catching a brown trout in 2007 Robin J. Wood, Sr. had all of the seven fish necessary to apply for the IGFA Royal Trout Slam Club, it was just this past fall that he applied to gain access as its newest member. Wood’s quest to become a member of this very prestigious freshwater club, began when he recorded a lake trout caught in 1989. Over the next 18 years he included catches and documentation of brook, bull, cutthroat, golden and rainbow trout.

The IGFA also hosts four other Royal Slam Clubs for specie in the salmon, tuna, shark and bass families. Check out the IGFA website for those plus the IGFA’s Grand Slam clubs and three special weight class clubs for bonefish, snook and a variety of bass.

**Upcoming IGFA Education and Outreach Events:**

**Sign-up for your chance to win a David Wirth Circle Hook Pendant**

The IGFA and world renowned marine wildlife artist, IGFA Representative and Corporate Sponsor, **David Wirth**, have teamed up to provide Junior Anglers with yet another reason to join the IGFA. Now each new member who registers to become an IGFA Junior Angler will automatically be entered in a monthly drawing to win a Bone Hawaiian Style Circle Hook Pendant that David brings from Maui. A total of five hook pendants will be given away each month as winners will be randomly selected. The drawings will be held monthly and will continue each month through July 31, 2011 or while supplies last. To find out more about David Wirth and his marine artwork as well as the story behind the Hawaiian Style Circle Hooks, check out davidwirth.com.

**IGFA Education/Outreach providing funding for lab programs**

The IGFA Education and Outreach Program is currently accepting grant requests for South Florida school groups in grades K-12 to participate in their hands-on lab programs. Funds are available for groups to participate in the lab programs either on-site at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum in Dania Beach, Florida or the IGFA Education Team can come to your classroom to host many of the educational lab programs at your school. Priority for funding is given to Title-I schools. South Florida based programs are available from Monday-Friday during school hours and require a minimum of 20 participants. Funding is also available for schools not located within the South Florida area but programs must meet certain criteria. For more information on how your school group can participate in these marine science programs for free, please contact **Veronica Woods** at 954.924.4309 or email at vwoods@igfa.org.
IGFA Junior Anglers, submit photos to win Costa Sunglasses

The IGFA and Costa, the makers of top sunglasses, are providing Junior Anglers with yet another reason to join the IGFA. Each month, IGFA Junior Angler Members are being asked to submit a picture along with a brief description that lets the IGFA know why you love fishing. The description should fit the program’s tagline of, “Fish, Explore, Discover, Learn.” Photos can include memorable catches, outdoor adventures, fishing locations or anything else that involves the sport of fishing or the habitats where fish live.

Photos and captions can be emailed to JuniorAngler@igfa.org and should include the photo description, the Junior Angler’s name and age, and the attached photos. Winners of the sunglasses from Costa will be selected by IGFA staff and will be contacted using the information provided in the members’ Junior Angler profile.

Visit www.igfa.org/Fun/Contests.aspx for more information on the Costa contest.

Popular IGFA School of Sportfishing returning in February

Look for the popular IGFA School of Sportfishing to return in mid-February with the start of its 17th session. Jeff Mackin of the IGFA’s education department said in addition to some very popular course favorites, the school is planning to introduce some new classes anglers have been asking for. The school was founded in 2006.

“We wrapped up in December after a very successful fall series of nine classes,” Mackin said. “Participants enjoyed a variety of classes focusing mainly on offshore angling taught by some of the biggest names in the sport.”

The IGFA School of Sportfishing classes, which are limited to the first 24 anglers to register, are held on Tuesday nights from 7 – 10 p.m. at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Dania Beach, Florida. For more information on the class subjects please contact Mackin at 954-924-4340 or visit the school’s website at www.igfa.org/educate/School-of-Sportfishing.aspx.

At the IGFA Museum

Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum open New Years Day with New Benefit

Looking for something to do New Year’s weekend? The IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum will be open regular hours Saturday and Sunday January 1 and 2. In addition IGFA spokeswoman Joanie Tomlin said the museum has also been selected to participate in the Bank of America’s “Museums on Us” program.
beginning Jan. 1. "If you have a non-expired Bank of America/Merrill Lynch debit or credit card, that plus a valid photo ID is good for free admission on the first full weekend of each month," said Tomlin. The free admission is for the cardholder only and no other discounts or offers apply. For more information call Tomlin at 954-924-4312 or by email at jtomlin@igfa.org.

**Now in the Changing Gallery “Marc Montocchio: A Life in the Sea”**

An exhibition of photographs by internationally known underwater photographer **Marc Montocchio** is receiving much acclaim from museum visitors. Unlike ordinary ink on paper photos, Montocchio’s photographs are produced as dye-sublimation prints on sheets of highly polished aluminum, giving the images a brilliant, high-definition effect. Born and reared in South Africa, and now living in Morehead City, N.C., USA, Montocchio’s work has taken him on expeditions all over the world, producing cutting-edge photographs of ocean life. **Montocchio’s work will be on display in the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum Changing Gallery through April 2011.** For more information visit [www.occhioinc.com](http://www.occhioinc.com)

**Now In the Art Gallery; The FunkyFishArt of David Roehm.**

**David Roehm** (pronounced REEM) was born and raised in Broward County, Florida and is the creator of [www.Funkyfishart.com](http://www.Funkyfishart.com). He draws inspiration from fishing and snorkeling off the coast and inland waterways of South Florida and the Keys. Many of the quaint old bars, hangouts and fishing spots now gone are depicted in Dave’s artistry, but they are not all done on the usual canvas. He specializes in decorating unusual items such as fire hydrants and wood sculptures. David Roehm's colorful and whimsical FunkyFishArt will be on display through Spring 2011 in the Art Gallery at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum.

**King of Cowboys loved fishing – Roy Roger's exhibition at IGFA**

Movie star, musician, horseman, philanthropist and “King of Cowboys”, **Roy Rogers** was also a true sportsman who had a great love of the outdoors. He was one of those people who seemed to be able to master anything he set his mind to, including fishing. **A selection of Roy Roger’s fishing tackle is on display in the museum’s Places Gallery obtained from the recently closed Roy Rogers - Dale Evans Museum, Vintage fishing lures, reels and other items contained in a beautiful wooden presentation case was recently purchased by a private collector at Christie’s Western Americana auction in New York and is now on loan at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum.**

**New Alligators in the Wetlands**

After faithfully entertaining guests for the past ten years, the IGFA’s last original alligator, “Tyson”, has been retired. Tyson will live out his remaining years in peace and quiet “on the rez” at Big Cypress Nature Preserve. The Seminole Tribe of Florida has in turn donated three new alligators, each approximately 6 ½ - 7 feet long. Once the new residents are happily established in the Wetlands natural exhibit, the IGFA will resume its popular 2 p.m. Saturday feedings. **Please be aware that feeding times may change or be cancelled without notice.**
In the IGFA Lobby

Two stainless steel sculptures “Snookums” and “Table Top Tarpon” are currently on display in the museum’s lobby on loan from Hampton Bays', New York artist Fritz Cass. Fritz’s process begins with drawing his sculptures in 2D onto a plate of metal, even as he’s visualizing them in 3D. He designs a fluid line which he meticulously cuts. Most often these multi-faceted pieces are created from one piece of steel. His kinetic outdoor sculptures seem to flow in the wind; his indoor sculptures capture movement in their stillness. For more information on Cass’s works please visit www.visionsinsteel.us

IGFA Fishing Expo returns March 26 -27

If you’re a fan of fishing and live or will be in the Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., area on the weekend of March 26 – 27, plan to stop by the IGFA Fishing Expo 2011.

The special event will be held at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum in nearby Dania Beach, from 10 a.m. till 6 p.m. each day, showcasing fishing lodges, artwork, tournaments, electronics, unique tackle and more. Dozens of vendors, pro demonstrations, giveaways, and kid’s activities will make it the fishing event appealing for anglers of all ages.

Anglers who love to travel to great fishing destinations will find information and deals on lodges, locations, and charters throughout Florida and Central and South America. Several marine artists will also be presenting their mediums ranging from oil to bronze.

The Fishing Expo is a prelude to the eighth annual World Record Achievement Award celebration, on Saturday evening March 26 at 6 p.m., presented by Mercury Marine, recognizing anglers and companies with the most world records in 2010.

During the Fishing Expo, admission to the main portion of the Museum is just half price ($4) for adults, and children get in free.

For general questions or exhibitor information contact Denise Hartman at 954-924-4243 or dhartman@igfa.org or Joanie Tomlin at 954-924-4312 or jtomlin@igfa.org.

Calendar of upcoming IGFA events for 2011

January 28, 2011 -- 27th Annual IGFA Auction & Banquet at The Breakers in Palm Beach, Fla., USA, beginning at 6 p.m. -- It’s the IGFA’s biggest fundraising event each year with a vast array of nearly 200 silent and live fishing auction items expected to up for bid. Donations are arriving daily including trips, cruises, artwork, fishing gear and more. For two months leading up to the auction the popular on-line portion of the auction is featured on the IGFA website at www.igfa.org. Tickets for the banquet are $200 per person and include the silent auction, IGFA Conservation Awards, dinner, live auction and free valet parking. Corporate tables for 10 are also available for $3000 which includes VIP placement, table favors, an ad in the auction program and more. To make a donation to the auction or for reservations and additional information please contact Ms. Lesley Arico at 954-924-4222 or LArico@igfa.org.

February 12, 2011 – Billfish Expo, IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Dania Beach, Fla., USA -- 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. – Speakers include Captain John Dudas, David Fields, Bark Garnsey, Ray Rosher, Skip Smith, Karl Anderson, and many more covering tournament strategies, daytime swordfishing, satellite tagging and an array of other topics. Tickets are $65. For more information, visit https://www.billfishexpo.com or call 954-531-7985.
February 12, 2011 -- Inaugural Legendary Captains and Crew Awards and Dinner, IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Dania Beach, Fla., USA -- 6 – 10 p.m. -- A captain and crew can make or break a fishing trip, and anglers across the world will recount the successful catches they attribute to those they consider the best. The IGFA honors six special fishermen who have contributed to the success of the IGFA and the sportfishing world. The honorees, Ron Hamlin, Omie Tillet, Allen Merritt, Buddy Merrit, Charles Perry, and Charlie Hayden will share their stories during the sit-down dinner and awards ceremony. Seating is limited to 250 people, and tickets are $60 per person. Tables are still available. For more information, contact Lesley Arico at 954-942-4222 or larico@igfa.org.

February 19, 2011 -- IGFA Observer Training Class, IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Dania Beach, Fla., USA -- 9 a.m. – The class trains experienced anglers, boat captains and crew members as observers for fishing tournaments held around the world. The course includes species identification, IGFA saltwater fishing rules & regulations, safety at sea and boating etiquette. Pre-registration is required. The IGFA OTC applications are available at the IGFA website http://igfa.org/images/uploads/files/COP_Application2008.pdf  The $150 fee covers the cost of the training class, course materials, and a one-year membership in the IGFA. For additional information, please contact Jason Schratwieser at 954-924-4320 or email him at: jschratwieser@igfa.org.

March 26-27, 2011 -- The IGFA Fishing Expo 2011 -- IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Dania Beach, Fla. USA. – 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. -- Dozens of vendors, pro demonstrations, giveaways, and kid’s activities makes this the fishing event for anglers of all ages. This free event highlights an array of tackle, tournaments, motors, and more. Destination anglers will find information and deals on lodges, locations, and charters throughout Florida and Central and South America. Several marine artists will also be on hand on Saturday and Sunday with mediums ranging from oil to bronze. During the free Fishing Expo, admission to the Museum is just half price ($4) for adults, and children get in free. For exhibitor information contact Denise Hartman at 954-924-4243 or dhartman@igfa.org or Joanie Tomlin at 954-924-4312 or jtomlin@igfa.org.

March 26, 2011 -- IGFA’s Eighth Annual World Record Achievement Awards -- IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame & Museum, Dania Beach, Fla. USA. – 6 p.m. This celebration dinner and awards ceremony presented by Mercury Marine highlights the 2010 angling records by men, women, juniors, professional captains and tackle manufacturers across the globe. For reservations, tickets and more information for this ceremony please call Lesley Arico 954-924-4222 or LArico@igfa.org.