

HONDURAS INTERNATIONAL

*Billfish
Open*

Carey Chen

XIII EDICIÓN
20, 21 Y 22 MARZO
2025

OMOA, HONDURAS, C.A.



**ZERO
AZÚCAR**

ERFG

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HONDURAS INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH OPEN

The Honduras International Billfish Open is a tournament organized by the Club de Pesca del Caribe, which through the years has established itself as the most important sport fishing event in Honduras. This tournament aims to encourage sustainable sport fishing among all fishermen in our region, uniting and creating ties within this community through its 3 days of events, but even more importantly, allowing by this means to generate resources that year after year serve as support to organizations and schools with great need within our country.



I. REGISTRATION & ENTRY FEE

All participating boats must go online to:

WWW.CLUBDEPESCADELCARIBE.COM 🔍

in which you will find all the information needed to complete the registration and payment process. The inscription fee for this year's event will be **\$1,400.00 US Dollars**. Once your boat is registered, you will receive a confirmation email with your registry. Please keep in mind that this confirmation must be presented at the captains meeting in order to receive all bracelets, welcome package and any other material.

You will also receive an invite to the WhatsApp group "HIBO-2025", where the official code number will be delivered each day and any other information concerning the event. Note that all participating boats are responsible for having their permits, licenses, and registration in order with the local authorities.

II. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH

- 4:00 pm Distribution of materials, bracelets, and welcome package.
- 6:00 pm Captains meeting at The Marine Restaurant.

2. FRIDAY, MARCH 1ST (1ST DAY OF FISHING)

- 5:30 am Flags will start to be handed out at The Marine Restaurant.
- 5:55 am Random selection of the Day 1's official code-number. Please be sure to have cellphone signal at this time. (Video of random code selection will be posted on WhatsApp chat and Club de Pesca del Caribes Instagram live feed).
- 6:00 am Official departure of all boats in front of The Marine Restaurant (Fishing begins).
- 5:30 pm End of fishing.
- 7:00 pm Weighting station closes. All release videos should be uploaded and submitted at this time in the tournaments official Dropbox link.

T3. SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND (2ND DAY OF FISHING)

- 4:30 am Flags will start to be handed out at The Marine Restaurant. Free Start.
- 4:55 am Random selection of the Day 1's official code-number. Please be sure to have cellphone signal at this time. (Video of random code selection will be posted on WhatsApp chat and Club de Pesca del Caribes Instagram live feed).
- 5:00 am Fishing begins)
- 5:00 pm Tournament ends. All vessels should be inside the marina with all of their catches. All release videos should be uploaded and submitted at this time in the tournaments official Dropbox link or handed to the judges personally.
- 6:30 pm Award ceremony and closing party.



III. TOURNAMENT CATEGORIES & PRIZES



1. BILLFISH POINTS CATEGORY:

Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Sailfish and Spearfish are the only species that qualify for this tournament. The Billfish Division winner is defined by the sum of points awarded for the official release of one or more properly recorded and reported Billfish species.

- **1ST PLACE:**
The boat that reaches the highest accumulation of billfish points first will get \$17,500.00 in cash, plus prizes.
- **2ND PLACE:**
The boat with the second highest accumulation of billfish points will get \$10,500.00 in cash, plus prizes.
- **3RD PLACE:**
The boat with the third highest accumulation of billfish points will get \$7,000.00 in cash, plus prizes.

2. RODEO CATEGORY:

Wahoo, Dolphin, Kingfish and Tuna are the only species that qualify for this tournament. Any catch must weigh at least 20 Lbs to qualify.

- **GRAND CHAMPION:**
The boat that accumulates the most pounds in the rodeo category will receive an rod and reel and other prizes.
- **1ST PLACE**
The boat with the highest fish weight will obtain a prize of \$4,000 in cash, plus prizes.
- **2ND PLACE:**
The boat with the second highest fish weight will obtain a prize of \$2,400 in cash, plus prizes.
- **3RD PLACE:**
The boat with the third highest fish weight will obtain a prize of \$1,600 in cash, plus prizes.

3. CHILDREN'S CATEGORY:

Any species of fish qualifies regardless of their weight. 12 years is the maximum

- **1ST PLACE:**
Goes to the participant with the highest weighted fish.
- **2ND PLACE:**
Goes to the participant with the second highest weighted fish.
- **3RD PLACE:**
Goes to the participant with the third highest weighted fish.

4. SPECIAL AWARDS:

- **TOP TAGGER:**
The boat that manages to TAG the most billfish during the event, will receive a special prize.
- **TOP LADY ANGLER:**
The female angler who gets the most points by adding the billfish & rodeo points.

IV. RULES & REGULATIONS

1.- ACCEPTANCE OF RULES & REGULATIONS

By registering in the Honduras International Billfish Open, all participants accept and agree to the following:

- a) Accept all the rules established by tournament officials.
- b) Accept all decisions made by the Tournament Committee as final. The Tournament Committee is not liable for any type of accidents, damages and/or loss of life, boats and equipment during the event.
- c) It is the sole responsibility of participating anglers, captains, and crews to know and comply with the Honduras International Billfish Open rules.
- d) Anglers and boat captains must attend the scheduled Captain's Meeting. If they don't attend, they automatically accept and agree to be bound to any change to the rules given at the meeting.
- e) The headquarters and scale of the tournament will be located in The Marine, Restaurant and Marina, formerly known as Acantilados del Caribe

2.- TOURNAMENT START & OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

The tournament starts at 6:00 am at The Marine Restaurant. All vessels must be present near the marina checking in with the tournaments base

via radio, thru Channel 63 International Frequency (official radio channel) before its start.

Any vessel that does not comply with these instructions will be immediately disqualified from the event. In case there is an emergency preventing the participating vessel to follow this procedure, the captain and crew must contact the organizing committee to discuss the reason for their noncompliance. The tournament committee will decide if the reason given are valid enough to be reinstated into the tournament.

Since the fishing will be taking place in numerous regions of Honduras and Belize, the official channels to communicate your hook ups and releases will be:





- "HIBO-2024" WhatsApp group.
- Tournaments base cellphone / WhatsApp (+504 9449-4144 and +504-9958-8358).
- Channel 63 International Frequency for boats in the Gulf of Honduras (Puerto Cortes, Omoa, Punta Sal in Honduras and lower Zapodilla keys all the way up to south of Glovers Reef in Belize).

3.- EXTENDED FIGHTING TIME *(Applies only for Day 1)*

If there is a need to extend the fighting time due to a late hook up, then the participating boat must communicate with the base reporting the hookup before 5:30 PM and must be granted the extension by the tournaments' base. This is the only case in which a video can be uploaded after 7:00 pm, but no later than 11:59 pm of that same day. This extension does not apply for the final day of fishing.

4.- FISHING RULES

- a) Only fish caught on rod and reel, trolling, kite and/or drifting, will qualify. Anchoring or bottom fishing will not be permitted.
- b) Artificial and natural baits are allowed. Non-offset circle hooks are mandatory when using live bait.
- c) The line to be used shall not exceed 80 lbs of resistance. The "Top Shot" method is allowed. Wire is not allowed except in the leader.
- d) The use of firearms, explosive devices, harpoons, and electric reels for catching fish shall not be permitted.
- e) If a captain can't be present in a competition (due to illness or travel), he may use a brother, son (over 17 years old), fishing partner or friend to represent him or the boat that was being captained under his name.



f) It is forbidden for one boat to pass specimens to another. If the boat with a specimen their catches presents problems that will disable it from reaching the base, permission must be requested from the organizing committee before the specimen(s) are passed to the boat that will do them the favor of taking them to the base.

g) No holding or touching an angler in a manner that assists them in fighting the fish. Briefly touching or holding the angler to prevent him from falling does not constitute a disqualification.

h) From the time the angler has full control of the rod (in the chair or with the rod in the rod-belt), until the fish is either landed or released, NO person other than the angler is permitted to touch any part of the rod, reel, or line (including the double line) either bodily or with any device.

If an obstacle to the passage of the line through the rod guides must be removed from the line, then the obstacle (whether chum, float line, rubber band, or other material) shall be held and cut free. Under no circumstances should the line be held or touched by anyone other than the angler during this process.

i) Resting the rod in a rod holder or on the gunwale while fighting the fish is not permitted. With the exception for the children's category.

j) The HIBO is a 100% Catch and Release sportfishing event. Any boat that decides to sacrifice a Billfish species will be automatically disqualified from the tournament.

k) Half Mile common courtesy rule during hook up is in effect. If a boat is fighting a fish, other boats must respect that boats boundary and give way if needed. If the common courtesy rule is broken the offending vessel is subject to penalty and/or disqualification by the judges.

l) All IGFA rules apply to this tournament with the following exceptions:

1. Daisy chains and squid chains are allowed in front of the lures.
2. Bird teaser/Boone birds or similar are in front of the lures.
3. Flippy floppies are only allowed as teasers.

5.- REPORTING HOOK UPS & RELEASES

All hook ups and releases must be reported to the tournaments base through any of its official channels, informing the boat name and the time of the hook up and release. The time recorded by the tournaments base is the official time of release. It is the sole responsibility of the boat crew to make sure that the base has received hookup and release time information.



COMISARIATO LOS ANDES

DONDE COMPRAR ES UN PLACER

Since the fishing will be taking place in numerous regions of Honduras and Belize, the official channels to communicate your hook ups and releases will be:

- "HIBO-2025 " WhatsApp group.
- Tournaments base cellphone / WhatsApp (+504 9449-4144 and +504-9958-8358).
- Channel 63 International Frequency for boats in the Gulf of Honduras (Puerto Cortes, Omoa, Punta Sal in Honduras and lower Zapodilla keys all the way up to south of Glovers Reef in Belize).

If your team will be fishing in an area where you can't use any of the 3 means of communication depicted above, we strongly encourage you to take a satellite phone or a messaging device such as inReach, Spotx or similar to report your hook up and release time. Remember, all hook ups and releases must be reported immediately. The release time is recorded by exact hour and minute. The time recorded by the tournaments base is the official time of the release, Failure to comply with this can result in a team losing their position at the leaderboard.

6. FLAG & FILMING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RELEASE VALIDATIONS

All boats must have a High-Definition Video Camera in order to participate in the tournament. Photos will not be accepted as evidence.

Before the start of the tournament, the committee will distribute the specific flags that must be shown in the video at the time of each release and/or capture. Both flags (one for each day of fishing), will have different colors and images to ensure that the fish shown was actually released during the dates of this tournament. The official alphanumeric code will need to be written on the flag (we recommend you use a black or blue marker to write down the code), which will be randomly selected prior to Day 1 and Day 2 fishing times.



A release is considered official when the leader's tip touches the tip of the rod, or when the captain or a crew member touches the leader with his or her hands.

To validate and confirm the points on the billfish you are releasing or your rodeo category specimen, you will need to comply with the following:

1.A High-Definition video uploaded on the tournaments official Dropbox link. This video will serve as evidence for the catch or release. All videos have to be presented or uploaded before the deadline.

The video must contain the following aspects:

For the Billfish Category:

a) The fisherman and crew registered under the boat that is fighting/releasing the fish.

b) The days printed flag with the specific code clearly highlighted. It is very important that the flag is clearly displayed at the time of the release. If the video does not CLEARLY show the flag with the day number and code, the fish will be disqualified.

c) The Billfish swimming next to the boat, clearly identifying if the billfish species is a Blue Marlin, White Marlin, Spearfish or Sailfish. If the species cannot be properly identified, the boat will be awarded the points based on the criteria of the committee and tournament judges. If the video shows the leader in hand but cannot be identified if the specimen is truly a species of Billfish, there will be no points awarded for the release. To avoid this last issue, we strongly suggest using a second underwater camera as backup, which most of the time, if filmed correctly, its shots validate a billfish species that are not clearly shown in the main camera being used. Consider that in order to validate the fish in case this kind of issue presents itself, this second camera also needs to comply with all the aspects mentioned in this section.

d) The Billfish swimming freely away from the boat.



For the Rodeo and Children's Category:

- a) The fisherman and crew registered under the boat that is fighting the fish.
- b) The fish approaching the vessel and afterwards being gaffed and boarded.
- c) The day printed flag with the specific code clearly highlighted. It is very important that the flag is clearly displayed at the time of the release. If the video does not CLEARLY show the flag with the day number and code, the fish will be disqualified.

Failure to comply with any of the aspects detailed above will result in the non-distribution of Billfish Points, as well as the non-validation of a species captured in the Rodeo and Children's Category.

7. VIDEO UPLOADS

On the first day of fishing, all release videos should be uploaded and submitted before 7:00 pm on the tournaments official Dropbox link. Videos uploaded on the Dropbox link must be full HD unedited version. NO low-resolution videos will be accepted. Only a participating boat that has reported a hook up on the first day before 5:30 pm will be able to upload the videos past this time. If this is the case, the participating boat will have until 11:59PM of that same day to upload the videos

On the second day of fishing, all videos should be uploaded and submitted before 5:00pm on the tournaments official Dropbox link.

Additionally, the video will be allowed to be submitted directly to the judge in the base before the upload deadline.





8.- HOW TO SUM UP BILLFISH POINTS & RODEO POINTS

SPECIES	POINTS
A Blue Marlin properly released	Will earn 500 Billfish Points
A White Marlin or Spearfish properly released	Will earn 300 Billfish Points
A Sailfish properly released	Will earn 200 Billfish Points
Tuna, Wahoo, Dorado, Kingfish	Will earn 1 point per pound (20 lbs min)

9. TIE BREAKER

If there is a tie between the Billfish Points awarded to 2 or more boats, the boat that reaches the highest amount of billfish points first wins the prize that is in dispute. This is determined by the time of their last billfish released.

If there is a tie in the rodeo category, the boat that weighs the heaviest fish first will win, regardless of who reported the catch to the base first.

In the same manner, the prize for the Grand Champion (Rodeo Category) will be determined by the boat that reaches the highest amount of points first. The times of catches don't factor in the final result, in both cases whoever weighs first has the advantage.

10. PROTEST

Any protest must be presented to the Tournament Committee before the official closing of the day of the alleged infraction. The Tournament Committee will rule as soon as is feasibly possible.

11. DEAD OR WOUNDED FISH

Any billfish deemed by the crew as dead or injured enough to cause death, must be carefully filmed during the battle and release attempts in order to verify crew's assumptions. The boat is obligated to leave fish at sea. Any boat that brings ashore a dead billfish will be immediately disqualified. Video showing the release attempts and finally leaving fish in the water must be provided

12. WEATHER CONDITION

In the event of unsafe weather conditions, the tournament committee may choose to postpone the tournament until a later date. Captains are ultimately responsible for their crew and should make the decision as to safe sea conditions.



CORPORACION FLORES

JACKPOT HIBO 2024

This modality allows boats to have more chances of winning prizes without the need to be among the first 3 places in the Billfish category. Any boat registered in this edition of the Honduras International Billfish Open may choose to participate in a bracket of optional Jackpots:

Brackets	Day 1	Day 2	Overall	Total
Daily Jackpot "A"	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$100.00	\$200.00
Daily Jackpot "B"	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$200.00	\$400.00
Daily Jackpot "C"	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$400.00	\$800.00
Across the Board	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$700.00	\$1,400.00

It is not necessary to participate in all Jackpots; each boat can choose to participate in the bracket of their choice. The final result of the pot will be the registration value multiplied by each boat that participates within the bracket of your choice. In case the boat wishes to participate in the three Jackpots brackets, the term to be used is "Across the Board" and the total cost will be \$1,400. The winner of each bracket will be the boat that reaches the most BILLFISH POINTS first in the selected Jackpot, thus obtaining the total collected for that specific bet.

RULES:

- The last day to participate in any of these 3 Jackpots is Thursday, February 29. No additional entries will be allowed after this date.
- If there is no winner on Daily Jackpot Day 1, 100% of the pot will roll over to Daily Jackpot Day 2 within the corresponding bracket.
- If there is no winner in the Daily Jackpot Day 2, 100% of the pot will go to the Overall Jackpot within the corresponding bracket.
- If there is no winner for the Overall Jackpot, the funds will be returned to the participants, subtracting only the 5% destined to support the foundations or leaving it as a credit for future use within any of the Club's activities (eg. 2025 membership, 2025 tournament, HIBO 2025 Jackpot, among others)
- In the event of a tie, the billfish points rules apply to determine the winner.
- 5% of the Daily Jackpots and Overall Jackpot will be allocated to support the foundations established by the Caribbean Fishing Club.





TAG & RELEASE PROGRAM

The Billfish Foundation's Tag & Release Program, established in 1990, has generated one of the largest billfish databases in the world thanks to the assistance of captains, anglers, and mates worldwide. Without their help, much of what we know about billfish, including age, growth, movements, distribution and stock structure would not be known. You do NOT have to be a TBF member to participate in TBF's Tag & Release program, although only members can WIN awards for the yearly competitions. All information submitted is important for billfish science and conservation.

- TBF's tag heads are made from surgical-grade hydroscopic nylon and anchors the tag to the fish.
- TBF's tag streamer has a clear plastic covering to prevent the tag from being destroyed by marine growth and its narrow shape reduces drag.
- The steel applicator (FIG. 2) used to deploy the tag, allows for deeper placement of the nylon dart anchor (tag head) and encourages complete healing of the tag wound.
- For smaller fish like sailfish, White marlin, and spearfish the length of the applicator should be adjusted to ensure safe tag placement by placing a cork on the applicator (FIG. 3).



Tag Stick Head



Stainless Steel Applicator



*Please note that older tag slicks use shorter applicators than the new tags slicks. Be sure you are using the appropriate sized applicator for your tag slick. For spearfish and Atlantic sailfish, a cork placed on the applicator can minimize the possible risk of damage potentially caused by long applicators.

TAGGING PROCEDURES

Legibly complete the yellow Tag Issue Report Card and return it to TBF. These cards provide a way for TBF to track our tags and contact the person issued the tags. This information is critical. Not having the original tagging data causes important information to be lost, especially if the fish is recaptured. TIP: Use a mailing label!

To prepare the tag stick for tagging, simply slide the nylon tag head over the pointed end of the stainless steel applicator and push the tag streamer into the notch on the black stopper assembly. (FIG. 5) TIP: You may also wish to wrap a rubber band around the tag stick head and tuck the streamer under the band for extra security.

Bring the billfish safely alongside the boat and continue to idle the boat forward to allow for easier tagging. Once tagged, make sure the fish is properly revived before it is released. TIP: Never attempt to tag a jumping or thrashing fish and never remove the fish from the water. This can be dangerous for the billfish, and you too!

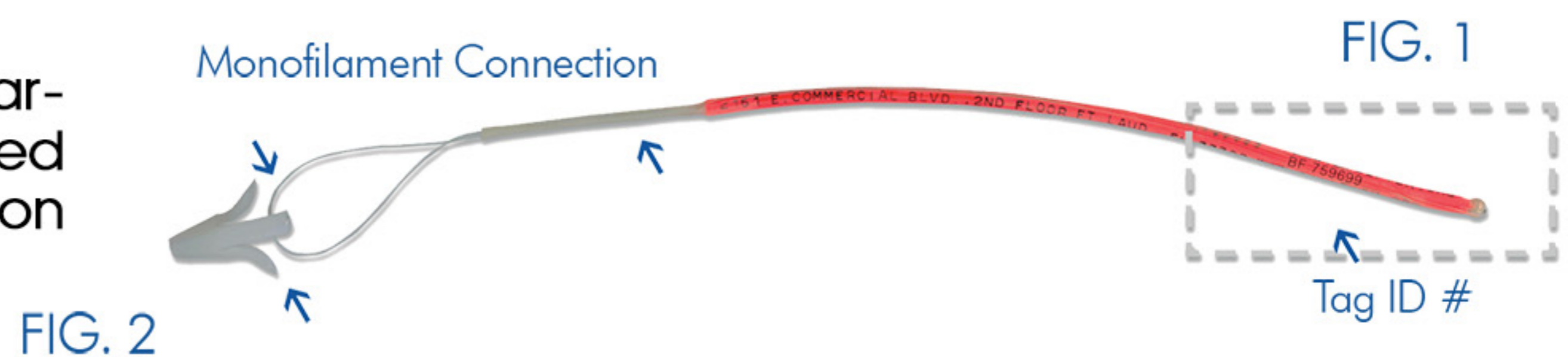


FIG. 2

Tag Stick

FIG. 5



FIG. 3

Cork, float, rubber stopper or similar object

**Work
that
matters**



It is vital that the tag be placed in the dorsal muscle well behind the head and gill plates, above the lateral line and away from all vital organs (FIG. 6). It is not necessary to use a great deal of force to insert the tag. A firm, well-aimed stroke is best. Place the applicator against the fish's flank and push, inserting the tag until the stopper assembly is pressed against the fish. You can also watch TBF's tagging instructional video on our YouTube channel at [Youtube.com /user/Fish TBF](https://www.youtube.com/user/FishTBF).

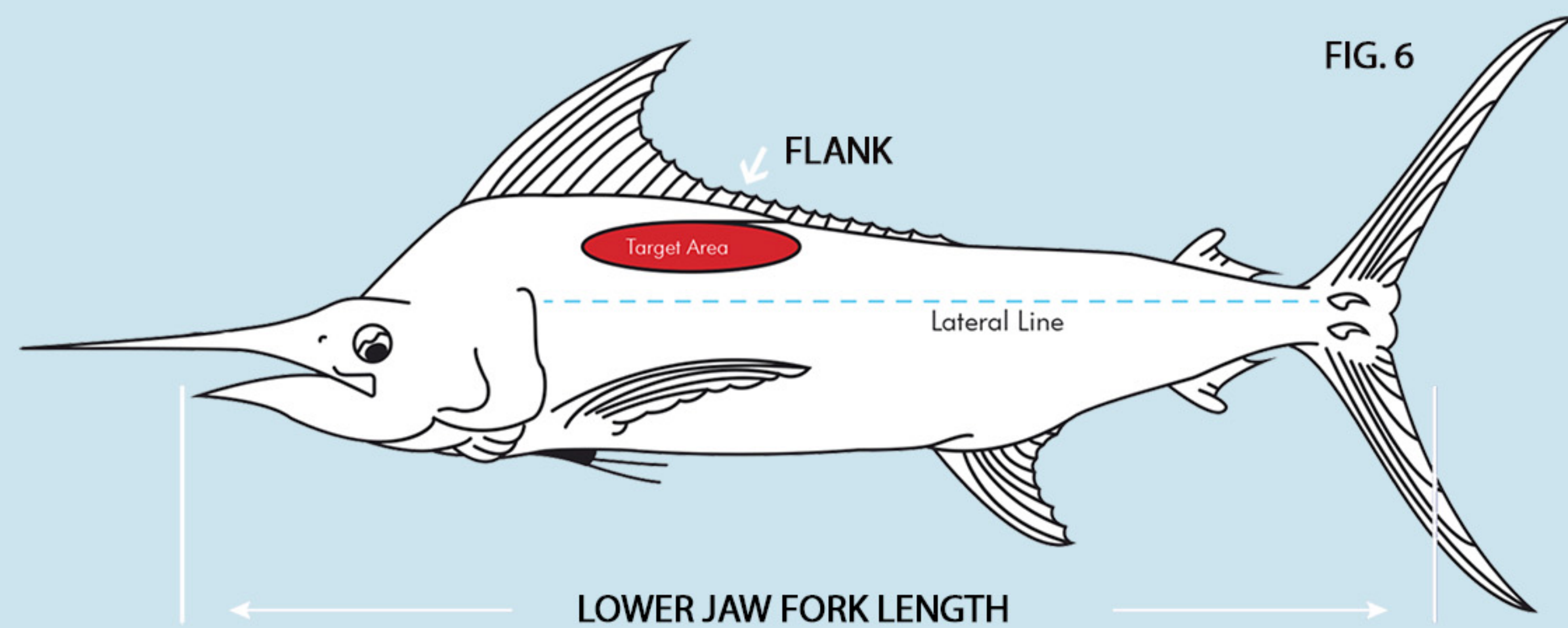


FIG. 6

REPORTING THE RELEASE

After tagging, the fish should be released by removing the hook or cutting the leader as close to the hook as possible. If the fish is exhausted, revive it by allowing it slowly forward until it is resuscitated before release. TIP - This could take up to 20 or 30 minutes, depending on the length and condition of the fish. Fish will regain color and begin to swim freely.

It is important to completely and legibly fill out the Tag Data Report card that accompanies each tag and return it to TBF (FIG. 7) or go online to our new online entry system (TagBillfish.org) and enter your own data. Make sure to report the release date, species of fish and the location (latitude & longitude) of its release. Measure or estimate the lower jaw to fork length LJFL (FIG. 6) and estimate the weight as accurately as possible. A Release Rule/9 can help you determine both length and weight estimates.

Please report your tags promptly by simply drop-ping your pre-paid, self-addressed report card in the mail or "reporting your catch" online at TagBillfish.org. Failure to completely and legibly fill in your data will result in your tagged fish not contributing to the scientific data source for billfish conservation or your numbers in the annual competition.

REPORTING A RECAPTURE

Returning tag recapture information is extremely important. Without recapture information, the scientific loop is not complete. Tags previously placed on billfish are not always easy to find because various forms of marine growth often attach to exposed portions of the tag, making the streamer difficult to recognize. Therefore, you should carefully examine gJJ billfish brought alongside the boat before tagging and releasing. If you can not see the tag number due to the marine growth, please cut the plastic covering to reveal the orange tag number.

To re-release a recaptured, tagged fish, clip the monofilament of the original tag and, if possible, relag with a new tag. Record the date and location of the recapture as well as an estimate of the fish's length and weight then report the recapture by contacting TBF via phone (800) 438-8247, or email (tag@billfish.org) with the information.

Remember the success of this program rests in the hands of all of us. TBF appreciates your support. A TBF recap) lure shirt and recapture certificate will be sent to the original tagging captain, angler and mate and the recapture captain, angler and mate.

RON
Flor de Caña
EST. 1890



aguazul
Todo bien. Todo azul.

COMISARIATO
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