

# **WELCOME TO THE TRISTRAM MARINE OPEN**

## **1. GENERAL**

The purpose of this tournament is to make sure you all have a good time and an equal chance to win some excellent prizes.

To that purpose we have a set of rules. Please read them and make sure you understand them. If there are any matters that need clarification please note them and ask at the briefing.

Any matters not specifically covered by these rules will be covered by IGFA rules, NZSFC rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules and/or at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.

**ENTRY** and registration in the tournament constitutes acceptance of the rules by **ALL** participants, and an agreement to abide by **ALL** judges decisions.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to amend the rules, should it be deemed necessary in the interest of the Tournament.

Competitors participate in the tournament at their own risk. MBGFC does not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the tournament. Leaving port is at the sole discretion of the skipper and crew at all times.

## **2. ELIGIBILITY**

All anglers must be current financial members of Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc (MBGFC) or an affiliated NZSFC Club. Proof must be provided. Day membership to MBGFC will suffice.

NOTE: A commercial vessel must provide a particular approval form under Section 111(1)(a) of the Fisheries Act for the Tournament dates to the Club office before going fishing.

## **3. REGISTRATION & BRIEFING:**

Registration will be held at the MBGFC Office on Friday, 16 February from 1100 -1915, with briefing in the Blue Lagoon at 1930 sharp.

At least one team member should attend and all team members are urged to attend to give sponsors maximum exposure.

All rules and/or clarifications as well as additional instructions given at briefing are deemed to be known and accepted by all participants whether present or not.

This includes the subject of a digital photo to be taken on board a vessel prior to any photos of tagged marlin before release. This subject will also be listed in the starter folders. Do not call "Gamebase" to ask for this subject. Additional subjects will be announced as marlin are tagged to "clear" cameras.

#### **4. FISHING IN**

Fishing in is not permitted in this tournament.

#### **5. LEAVING PORT**

Teams **must not** leave port until briefing is completed.

**THIS RULE MUST BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO AND WILL BE ENFORCED!**

Teams may leave port after briefing if they wish and stay at an overnight ANCHORAGE.

Vessels must not leave port or an anchorage until 0600 on Saturday 17 February (in line with the Nationals rules)

#### **6. FISHING AREA**

The area covered by our Sponsors Grid:

Northern Boundary:	Latitude	36°00'
Southern Boundary:	Latitude	37°20'
Western Boundary:	Longitude	175°30'
Eastern Boundary:	Longitude	176°40'

#### **7. TACKLE**

All tackle used **MUST** comply with IGFA and NZSFC regulations.

It is the angler's responsibility to be conversant with these regulations.

Line classes are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 15, 24, 37, 60kg.

#### **8. ELIGIBLE SPECIES**

Billfish (All species)

Tuna (All species)

Mahimahi

Kingfish

Snapper

Kahawai

Trevally

One of each species per angler per day. This applies to the date of catch (as per the catch card), not the date of weighing.

#### **9. MINIMUM BOATED FISH WEIGHTS & SIZES:**

Striped Marlin 90kg (Billfish Moratorium Agreement)

Kingfish 100cm (NZSFC Recommendation)

Snapper 37cm (Club Tournament Rule)

Trevally 37 cm (Club Tournament Rule)

Apart from these restrictions there are no minimum weights, i.e. Fish do **NOT** have to go line weight in this tournament.

## **10. RADIO**

Contest Channel	Channel 61 Gamebase
Boat to Boat	Channel 6 & 8
Coastguard	Channel 63
Continuous Weather	Channel 20
Marina	Channel 61

For safety reasons it is the responsibility of all skippers to ensure that their vessels have operational VHF radios. It is the skipper's responsibility to ensure that they meet the daily sched and are able to call Gamebase from the area they are fishing in.

## **11. FISHING TIMES:**

Fishing must not commence until announced on Channel 61 on Saturday 17 Feb at 0800 and must stop when 'stop fishing' is announced at 1500 on Saturday 24 Feb. In the event of a fish being played at stop fishing radio notification must have been given prior to stop fishing.

## **12. WEATHER:**

In the event of bad weather the Tournament Committee reserves the right to make one or more of the following decisions:-

- (a) postpone the start on any day
- (b) cancel fishing on any day
- (c) restrict the fishing area on any day

Confirmation will be on channel 61 at 0600 each day. If in doubt call Gamebase.

## **13. MULTIPLE STRIKES:**

If a multiple strike occurs with more fish than anglers, the team must not present any fish caught on rods that were not immediately removed from the rod holders. The same angler may not present more than one fish (the first chronologically) from a multiple strike.

## **14. REPORTING:**

- (a) All vessels must contact Gamebase on departing from port, arriving and departing an overnight anchorage (or staying out wide), and returning to port. Failure to do so will make that days catch ineligible.  
N.B. This notification is not a SAR trip report. SAR trip reports and emergencies MUST be through Coastguard Ch 63.
- (b) Large fish hooked up trolling or baiting must be called in to Gamebase on hook up and when boated, tagged or lost giving the vessels name and the area from the Sponsors Gridmap.
- (c) All other fish likely to be weighed must be called in to Gamebase during the sched.
- (d) There will be a sched of all teams at 1500 each day.  
Vessels missing the sched have until 1600 to contact Gamebase otherwise their days catch will be ineligible.

- (e) Reporting will cease between the hours of 2000 and 0600.

### **15. BILLFISH TAGGED AND RELEASED:**

Billfish must **NOT** be removed from the water during the tagging and releasing process.

N.B. Spearfish are not eligible for T & R

### **16. WEIGH IN**

a) Catch cards & Tag cards

**ALL** sections **MUST** be filled in **BEFORE** fish are brought to the weigh station. First and last name must be written in full, not initials.

**Latitude and longitude must be entered on tag cards.**

Team number and angler numbers must be clear.

- b) Along with the **FULLY COMPLETED** catch card and/or tag card each angler must present the rod, reel, lure and or terminal tackle which the fish was caught on, and anything else required by the weigh masters such as gaffs, tailropes, any securing ropes used to transport the fish to the weigh station.

**A FISH IS NOT DEEMED TO BE CAUGHT UNTIL IT HAS BEEN WEIGHED (or tagged).**

- c) Digital photos clearly showing the tag in place must be shown to the weigh masters when tag cards are presented.

d) Weigh masters Indemnity

It is the anglers responsibility to present all cards and equipment when weighing in, **NOT** the weighmasters. If any of the required equipment is not in the hands of the weighmasters along with the completed catch card and fish by the close off time, the fish will not be accepted as being on time.

No responsibility will be accepted by MBGFC or its weigh masters for any failure to do so.

- e) The weigh station is open from 1530 to 1830 on days one to seven. Any extension to these hours is at the discretion of the weigh masters.

- f) The weigh station is open from 1500 to 1700 on Saturday Feb 24.

*On Saturday Feb 24, unless a fish is being played at stop fishing all anglers must have their fish, catchcards and tackle in the weighmasters hands by 1700. The location of a boat at stop fishing must take into consideration its steaming time to the weigh station.*

*In the case of a fish being played at stop fishing radio notification must be given prior to stop fishing. For such a fish to be eligible for prizes in this tournament it must be at the weigh station by 1730.*

## **17. POINTS**

- a) Fish weighed will gain points as follows: **FISH WEIGHT X 100**  
**LINE WEIGHT**
- b) Billfish tagged and released will gain points as follows:  
Marlin & Broadbill – 450 points  
NB: Shortbill Spearfish are **NOT** eligible for T & R points.

## **18. LINE TESTING**

Lines may be tested at the weigh station. Lines that over test will be moved up to the appropriate line class. Under testing lines will **NOT** be moved down.

## **19. DISPUTES**

The MBGFC will appoint a disputes committee to investigate any disputes. Any disputes must be received in writing by 1800 on Saturday 24 February. The disputes committee decision shall be final and binding.

## **20. PRIZE GIVING:** (Held in the Blue Lagoon)

Dinner will commence at 1800 on Saturday 24 February 2018 with prizegiving scheduled to start at 1930.

## **21. PRIZE ALLOCATION:**

In the event of a tie the winner will be the first recorded caught. (as per the catchcard)

### **(a) SPECIES PRIZES**

	Light Tackle Section (on Points)	Open Section (By Weight)
Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Broadbill		1 <sup>st</sup>
Striped Marlin		1 <sup>st</sup>
Shortbill Spearfish		1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Tuna (Bluefin, Bigeye, Yellowfin)		1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Albacore		1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Skipjack		1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Tuna (all species combined)	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Mahimahi	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Kingfish	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Snapper	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Kahawai	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Trevally	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup>

NB. Light tackle prizes will not be drawn if fish are not caught

### **(b) TAG & RELEASE:**

Teams tagging 1 billfish will receive a 50W reel. Teams tagging 2 billfish will receive a 24kg rod and line to go with the reel. Teams tagging 3 billfish will be upgraded to an 80W combo. Teams tagging 4 billfish will receive an additional 50W reel, etc.

**(c) LIGHT TACKLE TEAMS (On Points)** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Each team will have only their highest points scoring fish of each species eligible for team totals.

**(d) TEAMS (On Points)** 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>

Each team will have only their highest points scoring fish of each species eligible for team totals. All Tagged & Released billfish will count however.

**(e) \$50,000 for the heaviest Striped Marlin 175kg or more.**

N.B. Prizes presented in error at Prizegiving remain the property of the Club and must be returned for correct allocation upon notification within seven days.

**22. WHARF:**

Mercury Bay Game Fishing Club Inc will not be responsible for any harbour, wharf or berthage charges.

**23. TERM DEFINITIONS**

"TAIL ROPES" - A tail rope is any rope used in either or both the capture of the fish and securing the fish for transport to the weigh station. **NO** "Tail rope" may exceed 9.14m in length.

"RULES" - Includes all rules written herein, IGFA Rules, NZSFC Rules, MBGFC Fishing Rules and/or any changes and additions made by MBGFC during the Tournament.

"WEIGHT" - The weight of a fish as deemed correct by both the weigh masters and the angler signed off on the catch card.

"CAUGHT" - A fish is not deemed to be caught until it is weighed or tagged.

"ANCHORAGE" – Vessels must be attached to the seabed by an anchor or mooring, in a depth of not more than 20m.

*GOOD LUCK AND GOOD FISHING*

**Team Number.....**

**Angler Names**

**Angler Nos.**

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

6.....

7.....

8.....