

Conservation Update

TBF Submits Comments on Conservation Act

On July 3, The Billfish Foundation submitted their official comments to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as part of the scoping process for the Billfish Conservation Act of 2012. Signed into law on October 5, 2012, NMFS is seeking public comment on the potential scope of any future regulations to implement the BCA.

Two exemptions placed in the legislation would allow Pacific billfish caught by domestic vessels and landed Hawaii and the Pacific Insular Areas to be excluded from the general prohibition within the legislation. The legislation also allows foreign vessels to land billfish in Pacific Insular Areas for exports outside of the United States. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is currently accepting comments on the scope of the exemptions in the Billfish Conservation Act and the possible regulations, if any, that can be used to restrict the trade or sale of billfish landed by U.S. boats in Hawaii. Click here to read the complete list of comments: http://www.billfish.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/TBF_BCA_ANPR_Comments.pdf

The Billfish Foundation (TBF) was founded in 1986 with a mission of conserving billfish worldwide by the late Winthrop P. Rockefeller along with a group of fifty founding members. TBF's keystone program, the traditional tagging program, was begun in 1990. Today, it has grown to be the largest international billfish tagging program in the world.

TBF's initial focus was on research and educational programs. In 1990, TBF's focus was expanded to include advocacy for responsible fisheries management, recognizing that influencing decision makers with sound science was a crucial step in successful billfish conservation.

The Billfish Foundation is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information visit www.billfish.org.

IGFA to Attend World Recreational Fishing Conference

The WRFC is the only conference series of its kind for the recreational fisheries sector, both freshwater and saltwater, targeting groups are representatives from NGOs, management agencies, the tackle trade business, angling tourism and multidisciplinary sciences. It highlights trends, recent findings and interesting experiences across continents and within the angling community. The IGFA hosted the Fifth WRFC at the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame and Museum in Dania Beach, Florida in 2008. The tri-annual conference will next be held September 1 – 4, 2014 in São Paulo, Brazil at the Convention Center of the State University of Campinas.

Brazil IGFA Representative Ezequiel Theodoro da Silva, Unicamp professor and general Coordinator of the WRFC Organizing Committee, has emphasized that recreational fishing is a mosaic of several segments, including the fishing guides and the large fishing equipment manufacturers. "This conference opens up an opportunity and a space for the several stakeholders of the recreational fishing world to

discuss and deepen their knowledge about the problems and needs of the area, enabling international cooperation, the exchange of research results and, most importantly, the actions towards sustainability of fishing practices in different regions.” For more information on the IGFA visit www.igfa.org.