Presidential Challenge Charitable Foundation

SPORTING TRADITIONS

THE MAGAZINE 2020

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EAGLE CLAW LAZER SHARP

MARINA FLAMINGO COSTA RICA

KING Sailfish MOUNTS

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Carey Chen

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SUPERIOR FINISH LASTS
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HOOK : L2004EL
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Welcome to

SPORTING TRADITIONS

MAGAZINE 2020

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2020 PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE EVENTS
- Presidential Flamingo Fishing Rodeo
- Varadero Aruba Caribbean Cup

THE PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE CONSERVATION SERIES
Presented by

PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC.
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THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE EVENTS WERE SANCTIONED BY THE OFFSHORE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP & BILLFISH TOURNAMENT SERIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA

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www.igfto.com

Visit www.preschallenge.com for Current Tournament Results,Conservation News, Tournament Dates, Rules and Information.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

For more than 20 years, the Presidential Challenge Conservation Series has been dedicated to the initiatives of game fish conservation as well as promoting sport-fishing eco-tourism as a sustainable business throughout Central America and the Caribbean. Here are just a few highlights:

In 1997, the PCCA worked closely with the country of Panama to sign a Billfish Protection Law. That same year, PCCA officials also pressed the government of Guatemala to pass a Sailfish Protection Law. At the time, both were groundbreaking legal moves by Third World nations. Two years later – in 1999 – the PCCA became the first tournament series in the world to switch to all circle hooks, a move that led the way in transitioning to a safer billfish release and more ethical angling practices across the globe.

In 2006, the PCCA coordinated the Adopt-A-Billfish satellite tagging program in East Cape, Mexico. The program was founded in 2002 in conjunction with the Center for Sustainable Fisheries at the University of Miami and led the way as one of the first dedicated satellite tagging research programs in the world. In 2008, the organization gained 501(c)3 status as an international conservation organization. That same year, over $50,000 was donated to the IGFA and The Billfish Foundation for their work around the world on a variety of conservation initiatives.

By 2011, Phase II of the Adopt-A-Billfish program was underway, with simultaneous white marlin satellite tagging research taking place on the East Coast as well as in the Caribbean. Phase II was completed in 2012 in Aruba with Dr. Eric Prince and John Houlihan of NOAA participating. That same year, funding was included for education on the use of circle hooks to anglers in Kenya, in conjunction with the IGFA and the African Billfish Foundation. Work continues today to develop circle hook usage in East Africa. The Presidential Challenge has also joined Costa's Kick Plastic campaign, encouraging ways to reduce single-use plastics through a number of initiatives.

As we move into a new decade, the organization continues to evolve. The highly popular Presidential Flamingo Fishing Rodeo carries on the traditions of fun, family angling competition in a low-stress environment; since its inception just a few years ago, it's become the largest summer tournament in the seaside community of Flamingo in northern Costa Rica. We will also redouble our conservation efforts in Central America. The Presidential Challenge Charitable Foundation now has a seat on Costa Rica's Sport Fishing Commission and will continue to be a watchdog over policy-making in Costa Rica to help protect the interests of recreational anglers.

There is also exciting news from Flamingo as well. As the construction of the new Marina Flamingo project moves forward, we will expand and improve the Flamingo Fishing Rodeo, which has become a major summer event. The marina will be the center of activity for this quaint beachside community and we will make the Rodeo a true community event by hosting boats and teams from throughout Costa Rica. The low entry fees, multiple species to fish for and minimal rules make this one a real winner for everyone.

In order to fulfill our mission of educating the next generation of scientists, we have also established the Capt. Harry D. Vernon Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded each spring to a graduate student at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Studies who is focusing on billfish-related science or marine environment studies. We will gladly accept donations toward this scholarship.

We also need to thank our sponsors, many of whom have supported the Presidential Challenge for decades. Without your support, none of this work would be possible. The same goes for our anglers, volunteers, observers, scientists and all the others who have worked tirelessly to ensure a bright future for billfish species around the world.

Tight lines in 2020 and beyond!

Joan Vernon

Joan Vernon
Director, Presidential Challenge Conservation Series

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Presidential Challenge Flamingo Rodeo

AUGUST 6-8, 2021

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360°

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REMOVING BILLFISH FROM THE WATER: DON'T DO IT!

Anglers love hero shots with their fish, especially if it's their first one. Of all the billfish species, sailfish lend themselves particularly well to this type of photo, since they're usually small enough to lift up, have particularly gorgeous colors and that massive sail to hold out like a giant flag.

But don't do it! Removing any billfish species from the water, even for a few moments for a photo, is illegal, both in Costa Rica and the United States. Studies have shown that by scraping the fish over the gunwale of the boat, we are actually harming internal organs and removing the fish's protective slime layer that acts as a barrier coat against harmful diseases, parasites and infections. Even though you intend to release the fish, by removing it from the water you may have just signed its death warrant instead.

Here are a few things you can do to still get a great photo of your catch. First, be ready with the camera. Few things are more frustrating for your captain or mate than having the fish ready at boatside while someone fumbles for a camera deep inside a duffle bag or backpack. Be ready! Take a few shots during the fight, with the angler grinning from ear to ear.

Once the fish is ready for release and the leader has been cut, the angler can don a pair of gloves, lean over the side and hold the fish by the bill and the sail as it's revived alongside the boat. The cameraperson should lean out over the side and shoot back toward the angler and the fish. After a few moments, the fish is ready for a healthy release.

Another option: the extended selfie stick and GoPro. Many crews are now using this setup to shoot wide-angle shots back at the boat and anglers. It's simply a GoPro set on camera mode to shoot every second or so after the shutter is activated. It's mounted to a long pole that's held out away from the boat, and the images it reveals are usually very memorable.

Video is a third way to remember the fight. Using that same GoPro, mount it to either a fixed mount on the boat or just hold it in your hand to capture a full video of the fight and the release. All smartphones have a video capability these days as well.

So really, the need to remove a marlin or sailfish from the water just isn't there. Be smart, keep them in the water where they belong.

INCORRECT RELEASE

CORRECT RELEASE

GAMEFISHER II WINS

PRESIDENTIAL FLAMINGO VIRTUAL FISHING RODEO

THE WORLD'S FIRST TRULY VIRTUAL FISHING TOURNAMENT SEES OVERWHELMING SUCCESS

The Presidential Flamingo Virtual Fishing Rodeo, Presented by Marina Flamingo and Powered by CaptApp, represented a truly unique step forward into the world of tournament fishing. Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, tournament organizer Joan Vernon turned to Capt. Joe Crawford, founder of CaptApp, a popular sport-fishing data tracking application. Thanks to the app's unique properties of date-stamped video capture, among many others, this year's Presidential Flamingo Fishing Rodeo was truly virtual in nature: Vernon worked from her home in the Florida Keys while Crawford was in Costa Rica; communication among the teams was accomplished via Zoom and WhatsApp. Boats were able to fish out of their respective home ports and reported their releases and game fish catches via the CaptApp application each afternoon upon returning to port, where the videos were verified and scored accordingly. The 2020 event saw 21 boats participating. With a focus on fun, family fishing, there were 18 lady anglers, eight juniors and 18 families participating this year.

Aside from the outstanding participation levels amid an ongoing health crisis, the other good news was the red-hot fishing, especially right off Flamingo. The *Gamefisher II*, a perennial favorite captained by Junior Bustos, led the way with an amazing nine blue marlin releases on Day One alone. Most of the marlin were released by junior anglers, Joseph Irish, Jr. (age 11) and Joe Molloy (age 9). The kids allowed their fathers to catch one marlin each as well. The team scored 5,200 points for the two-day tournament. Vernon says, "They are such close friends that when the scores for top junior showed a tie, they refused to go by the time of last release to break the tie, so they will share the glory of first place between them." Keep in mind that these marlin were caught trolling conventional tackle in the open ocean, not around a FAD using live bait. The Flamingo fishery in the summer is hot-hot-hot!

Day Two saw the *Pacific Fly*, a 42-foot Maverick owned by Scott and Alix Kozak and fishing out of Marina Pez Vela in Quepos, make their move. The duo turned in 16 sailfish releases to move into second place for the tournament with a total of 2,000 points; Scott was Top Male Angler and Alix was the Top Female Angler for the event. Landing in third place was the Trifecta, fishing out of Marina Los Sueños with Capt. Brandon Waldon at the helm, scoring 1,000 points.

The top inshore boat, also fishing out of Flamingo, was *Yellowfin III* with the Suarez family aboard. Fourteen-year-old Allan Suarez was the second-place junior boy and his sister, eight-year-old Catalina, was the top girl junior angler.

Vernon thanked all the participants as well as the tournament's Presenting Sponsor, Marina Flamingo. Construction continues on this very important project, which is slated for 175 boat slips and dockage for boats from 35 to 125 feet in length. Plans also call for commercial buildings with restaurants, local shops, and eventually, a condominium development. Completion of Phase I is expected within the next two years; the marina will serve as an important economic driver and cornerstone of the Flamingo community.

The dates for the 2021 Presidential Flamingo Fishing Rodeo are August 6-8 so make plans now to attend. For more information, please visit www.preschallenge.com.

MARINA FLAMINGO
COSTA RICA

21 BOATS / 18 WOMEN / 8 JUNIORS / 18 FAMILIES

TOP OFFSHORE BOAT: *GAMEFISHER II* 5200 POINTS
HOME PORT:POTRERO/FLAMINGO, COSTA RICA - CAPT. JUNIOR BUSTOS
ANGLERS: TOM & JOE MALLOY · JOE IRISH SR. & JR.

TOP INSHORE BOAT: *YELLOWFIN*, 266 POINTS
SUAREZ FAMILY, FLAMINGO, COSTA RICA

TOP LADY ANGLER: ALIX KOZAK-*PACIFIC FLY*- 600 POINTS
MARINA PEZ VELA, QUEPOS, CR

TOP MALE ANGLER: SCOTT KOZAK - *PACIFIC FLY*- 1400 POINTS
MARINA PEZ VELA, QUEPOS,CR

TOP JUNIOR BOYS: JOSEPH IRISH, JR (age 11)/JOE MOLLOY(age 9) - 2100 POINTS EA.
GAMEFISHER II- FLAMINGO, COSTA RICA
2 ALLAN SUAREZ(age 14), *YELLOWFIN* - 80 POINTS, FLAMINGO, CR

TOP JUNIOR GIRL:
1.CATALINA SUAREZ (age 8)- 186 POINTS - *YELLOWFIN* - FLAMINGO, CR

TOP FAMILY: TIE - MOLLOY/IRISH FAMILY - 2600 POINTS EACH
GAMEFISHER II, POTRERO/FLAMINGO, CR

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LONGEST FISH MEASURED WITH THE CAPTAPP MEASURING TAPE:

TUNA: *WETASS II* 57 INCHES - FLAMINGO, COSTA RICA
LONGEST MAHI: *FIREFLY* 53 INCHES - LOS SUENOS, COSTA RICA
LONGEST WAHOO: *GOOD DAY* 41 INCHES- MARINA PEZ VELA, QUEPOS, CR
MOST CUBERA RELEASES: *GO FISH* - LOS SUENOS, COSTA RICA
MOST ROOSTERFISH RELEASES: *CHLOE FRIJOLE*, MARINA PEZ VELA, CR

Flamingo 2020

MARINA FLAMINGO CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The Marina Flamingo development team is steadfastly committed to maintaining a clean, environmentally responsible, and safe site for the good of the local environment, our contractors, and the local Costa Rican community.

Construction has been progressing throughout 2020 according to the project schedule and the Marina basin has taken its final shape in recent months following the massive onsite dredging operation.

As shown below, the construction of the new Marina is progressing exactly in accordance with the Marina Flamingo master plan. The image on the right shows the completion on the north breakwater along with the eastern breakwater and landmass.

Learn More About Marina Flamingo:

Marina Flamingo's website is now available and offers visitors the opportunity to reserve a slip or enquire about commercial space opportunities along with highlighting all the amenities of the Marina. You can also follow Marina Flamingo on Facebook and Instagram for all the latest news:

Presidential Challenge Flamingo Rodeo

MARINA FLAMINGO COSTA RICA

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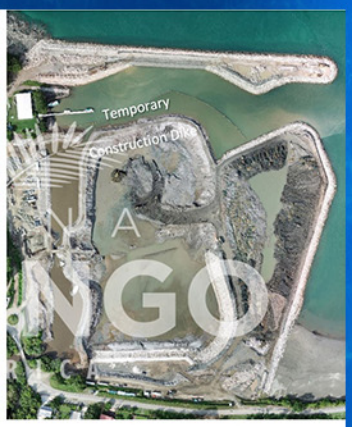
Marina Flamingo Master Plan



Aerial Photo October 2020

GUATEMALAN TEAM WINS

INAUGURAL PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE OF CENTRAL AMERICA VIRTUAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

FIRST FULLY VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT DEEMED A SUCCESS BY ORGANIZERS

The Guatemala-based *Sur Reel* team won the Billfish and Sailfish divisions in the inaugural Presidential Challenge of Central America Virtual Billfish Tournament, Powered by CaptApp. Anglers Eric Goetz, Diego Garcia and William Scarborough, fishing with Capt. Josue Hernandez, amassed 2,500 points to earn the Eagle Claw Grand Champion Team of Central America award.

In second place in the Sailfish division was the Prime Hook team, fishing aboard the *Typhoon* captained by Kennedy Hernandez, another Guatemalan boat. They scored 1,100 points. The Costa Rica-based *Double Nickel* team, led by Nick Froelich, came in third in the Sailfish division with 200 points.

In the Marlin division, the *Grand Slam* team with Cristian Siebold, Rafael Buonafina and Pablo Velez scored 1,000 points. They also fished out of Guatemala. The Panamanian entry, *Pescalo,* earned a second-place finish, with 500 points for anglers Albert and Ernesto Btesh. Team Oasis Azul, fishing aboard the *Allure II* with Capt. Kiwi Van Leeuwen, took third place in the Marlin Category. With their 500 points added to the other Guatemalan boat totals, this gives Guatemala the distinction of being the winning country in the 2020 Presidential Challenge of Central America.

This was the first virtual billfish tournament held in the world, with anglers competing throughout Central America simultaneously. Each team used the CaptApp scoring app with video to log their catches, which were reviewed by independent judges each evening for accuracy. CaptApp, created by Capt. Joe Crawford, is a revolutionary new sport-fishing application for mobile devices, which allows anglers, captains and crews to accurately track their catches as well as use video to verify the time, species, location and other information.

Now in it's 23rd year, the Presidential Challenge of Central America supports a variety of conservation-based initiatives through the Presidential Challenge Charitable Foundation, The Billfish Foundation, IGFA and others. It promotes sport-fishing eco-tourism in Central America and elsewhere around the world.

Presidential Challenge of Central America Results

BILLFISH DIVISION
SUR REEL 2500 POINTS

SAILFISH DIVISION
1. *Sur Reel* 2500 points (Guatemala)
2. *Typhoon* -Team Prime Hook – 1100 points (Guatemala)
3. *Double Nickel* -200 points (Costa Rica)

MARLIN DIVISION
1. *Grand Slam*- 1000 points (Guatemala)
2. *Pescalo* -1000 points (Panama)
3. *Allure II* (Team Oasis Azul) – 500 points (Guatemala)

PERPETUAL TROPHY

The Presidential Challenge of Central America is honored to have our Perpetual Trophy, Balling the Bait by Renee Headings, on display at the I.G.F.A. World Fishing Center in Dania, Florida. We hope that you will visit the Center when ever possible.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our sponsors who had the faith and confidence to invest in the future of sport fishing:

Albemarle Boats · Buddy Davis Boat Works · Curacao Yacht Club
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Jan Sofet Anglers - Curacao .

The replica of this trophy is awarded to the Grand Champion Team of Central America. We are grateful to ARTMARINA S.A. for sponsorship of the replicas.

EAGLE CLAW GRAND CHAMPION TEAM

1997 – GUATEMALA
1998 – GUATEMALA
1999 – 'TOMATOES'
2000 – MIAMI ROD & REEL CLUB
2001 – PICAFLOR
2002 – PRIORITY
2003 – FLORICAL
2004 – PICAPLEITOS
2005 – LONESOME DOVE
2006 – A-FIN-ITY
2007 – A-FIN-ITY
2008 – A-FIN-ITY
2009 – A-FIN-ITY
2010 – OBX/DECISIVE
2011 - SOUTHERN PRIDE
2012 - SEA ANGEL
2013 - TRANQUILO
2014 - TRANQUILO
2015 - TRANQUILO
2016 - NAIRA
2017 - NAIRA
2018 - TARA
2019 - ENERGY
2020 - GUATEMALA

EAGLE CLAW GRAND CHAMPION ANGLER

1997 – JULIO MANSYLLA
1998 – ANTONIO KOZINA
1999 – PAUL PFAFF
2000 – JOHN RICHARDSON
2001 – JOHN RICHARDSON
2002 – ANDY JACOBI
2003 – JIM McCORD
2004 – MARGIE ADAMS
2005 – JIM VAUGHN
2006 – JIM VAUGHN
2007 – LARRY DRIVON
2008 – HENRY RIGGS-MILLER
2009 – DAVIS CLAPP
2010 – MIKE VIVEIROS
2011 - ARTURO MORENO
2012 - MARC STANLEY
2013 - KEN COFER
2014 - J. GODWIN
2015 - KEN COFER
2016 - CARLOS ISAZA
2017 - YILSON IRIARTE
2018 - GARRICK ROBLES
2019 - BONNY CROES
2020 - SUR REEL

PRESIDENTIAL CHALLENGE OF CENTRAL AMERICA VIRTUAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT 2021

&

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AUGUST 6-8, 2021

PRESENTS

MARINA FLAMINGO
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