



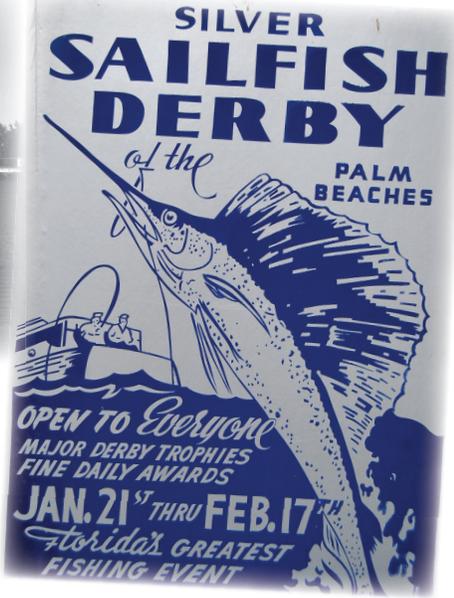
*75th Anniversary*

# SILVER SAILFISH DERBY

*'World's oldest sailfish tournament'*

January 4 - 7, 2012

**A West Palm Beach Fishing Club  
tradition since 1935**



# Silver Sailfish Derby

“To say that the *Silver Sailfish Derby* is the touchstone for all other billfish tournaments is not a small thing. Today such contests are held by the hundreds in all the world’s seas. Their range of awards, formats, rules and entry requirements is as vast as angling itself. However, they are all descended from a special place and time: West Palm Beach in January of 1935. The very first *Silver Sailfish Derby* ran for about two weeks that year and was designed primarily to serve as a spur to the beleaguered charter boat industry, most of which was located at the City Docks directly across from where the WPBFC clubhouse now sits. Its promoters were amateurs on the skinniest of budgets. Planning was hasty at best. Nonetheless, that the event survives today as the great and worthy patriarch of so many others is nothing short of remarkable.”

- Mike Rivkin, big game fishing historian & author of *The West Palm Beach Fishing Club: A 75-Year History*



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## Celebrating our 75th Anniversary...



The *Silver Sailfish Derby* was established by the West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC) in January 1935 to promote the region and aid its struggling charter boat fleet during the Great Depression era. The fact that it has endured the past 75 years speaks volumes. While structured quite differently today, the event remains the world's oldest sailfish tournament. The only three years the *Derby* didn't run was 1943 to 1945, during the Second World War.

At one time, famous American author and avid big game angler, Ernest Hemingway was a *Derby* trophy sponsor. While many different sports and entertainment celebrities have participated in the prestigious event through the years, it is the *Derby's* longstanding support of billfish conservation efforts that has been its hallmark. The *Derby* is credited with advancing the 'catch and release' ethic that has been enthusiastically embraced by sportsmen around the globe. Perhaps the most notable conservation contribution attributable to the *Derby* is the development of the red release pennant. The West Palm Beach Fishing Club began flying the pennants in the late 1930's. Today, the little red pennant is recognized around the world as a way to signify a sailfish release. The *Derby* was also among the first tournaments to incorporate gamefish tagging for scientific purposes into a competitive format and encouraged the use of circle hooks (a hook that reduces post-release mortality) long before it was mandated by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The *Derby* has an outstanding reputation and a loyal following among those who enjoy pursuing sailfish, including some of the most accomplished captains, crews and anglers the sport has ever seen. It is a fun and very competitive event with rules designed to 'level the playing field' for boats of all sizes. While there are scores of sailfish tournaments each season off of southeast Florida, few possess the rich traditions and unique character of the *Silver Sailfish Derby!*

The pages that follow chronicle the incredibly rich history of this prestigious event. We hope you enjoy this entertaining glimpse into the past. The West Palm Beach Fishing Club gratefully acknowledges all those who have fished, volunteered, sponsored and supported the *Silver Sailfish Derby* throughout our 75 years.   
- *The Tournament Committee*



### FOLLOW THE DERBY ON FACEBOOK!

Stay up to date on tournament happenings by 'liking' the *Silver Sailfish Derby*. Boat entry updates, notable catches, fishing conditions, tournament standings, pictures and award winners will be posted on the page throughout the event. To catch all the action go to:

[www.facebook.com/SilverSailfishDerby](http://www.facebook.com/SilverSailfishDerby)

## Join the Club, Support our Foundation

Big Game historian and noted author Mike Rivkin describes the West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC) this way, "There are fishing clubs, and then there are fishing clubs. More and more, these institutions have evolved into virtual form as anglers find it easier to troll on-line for the latest information or reports. However, this wasn't always so. At one time, fishing clubs dotted the eastern seaboard from Nova Scotia to Key West. Some were little more than shacks while others had expansive clubhouses. Each was supported by a community of anglers united in their enthusiasm for the sport and eager to share it with others. Alas, most are gone now, unfortunate victims of the changing times. However, a handful remain and a few continue to stand out as shining examples of their kind. Among the very best was and remains the West Palm Beach Fishing Club".

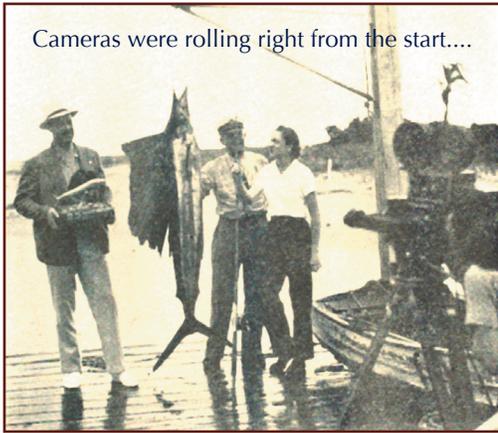
Membership in the Fishing Club and participation in club tournaments like the *Silver Sailfish Derby* ultimately support the conservation and education initiatives conducted by the club and its charitable affiliate, the Palm Beach County Fishing Foundation (PBCFF). *Kid's Fishing Days* for less fortunate youth, *Rods & Reels for Kids*, annual marine biology scholarships, artificial reef building, estuarine habitat enhancement and historic preservation are just some of the programs that are supported by your WPBFC membership and *Silver Sailfish Derby* participation. If you are not already a WPBFC member we encourage you to join the club. To learn more about the WPBFC and PBCFF, visit [www.westpalmbeachfishingclub.org](http://www.westpalmbeachfishingclub.org). Membership is available on line, or better yet stop by the clubhouse and see first hand what makes the WPBFC so special.

Magazine photo credits: Leonard Bryant Photography & WPBFC archives



*World's oldest sailfish tournament'*





Cameras were rolling right from the start....

**Official Silver Sailfish Derby Boats**

Boat	Captain	Phone	Dock
Lady Helen	James Moore	8294	Swamp
Jillian II	K. L. Howell	Riviera 240	Riviera
Fun	Kenneth Foster	9120	Poinciana
Tomahawk	George Sheaf	5294 & 1w 88	Sailfish Club
Geo. G.	Howard Lauer	8291	Municipal
Amberjack	M. A. Bishop	7242	Bishop's
Olga	E. H. Steyer	8281 & 9201	Municipal
Calmet	Harry Crawford	8291	Municipal
D. H. I.	John Weiss	8288	Municipal
Duchess	Mickey Morse	7242	Bishop's
Tom Yam	Frank Dolinger	7242	Bishop's
Black Hawk	Francis McBride	9120	Poinciana
Miss Sally	Walter Galloway	9120	Poinciana
Jubilee	Mel Eldred	9120	Poinciana
Kadilla	Harry Arnold	9201	Poinciana
Fidel May II	C. J. Darenberg	9204	Municipal
Lady Neptune	Olle Govey	9201	Yacht Club
Blackjack	Rudy Steinhasser	9120	Bohemia
Olga	Frank Steyer	8288	Poinciana
Miramy	Thomas E. Jones	9120	Hiscock's
Imp	Harry Hunt	9120	Poinciana
Reveler	Gilbert Drake	9120	Poinciana
Sailfish	Frank Soderberg	9201	Poinciana
Mia	Sherrick Hiscock	8288	Municipal
Goldfish	Bert Hiscock	8288	Hiscock's
Ova	Herman Gray	9120	Poinciana
Snoopy	James Jorgensen	Riviera 240	Riviera
Stroller	Jim Cronin	9201	Municipal
Parsona	Geo. W. Barclay	9201	Municipal
Jim Jams	W. P. Keener	8291	Yacht Club
Sylvia	H. C. Dick	9120	Municipal
The Ripple	Billy Knight	Hillbore 2	Boys' Aston
Bay Ova	Herman Gray, Jr.	9120	Poinciana
Betty M.	Riley McClain	9204	Yacht Club

**Private Craft Registered for Derby**

Boat	Owner	Captain
White Flash	Frederick Hoosman	Carl Whitney
Moon IV	J. O. Beasly	E. Matthews
Vaquero	Henry O. Bea	Nat. Thompson
Sam Smit	Clifford V. Brakow	C. V. DeLay
Marilyn S.	Erwin G. Lander	R. J. Penney
Blue S.	A. J. Stables	Joseph Black
Poppy	Joseph V. Simusky	J. V. Simusky
Ally Dop	Wolworth Donahue	Wolworth Donahue
Ide Hor	R. P. Travis	R. P. Travis
Harriet II	Elmer Beck	Joe Marzette
Marlin	Mayor Jas. M. Owens	Jas. M. Owens
Pip	Louis S. Rosenthal	Joe Marzette
Marjac	P. Seymour Barr	Capt. Kristinnson
Andy	C. E. Jacobs	C. E. Jacobs
Henry Bunny	Hugh Dillman	D. S. Eberhard
No News	Don Morris	Don Morris
Olefin	Ed Hamilton	Ed Hamilton
Son Scott	Tommy Connell	Walter Finkett
Kathryn S.	Tommy, Inc.	George Dalby
Iron Wings III	W. M. Gray	George Snyder
Shall	George Snyder	George Snyder
	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Moore	Charles Lockwood
	O. W. Johnson	

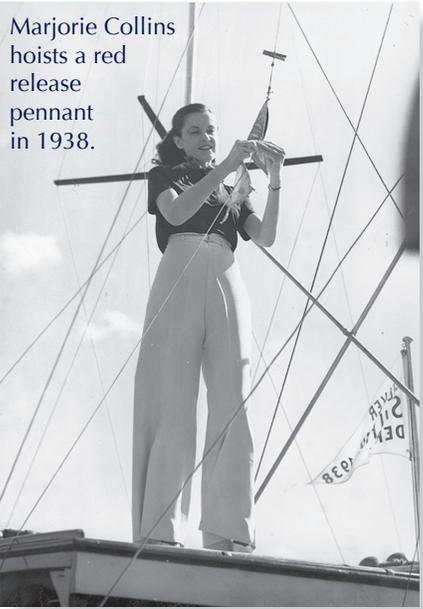
**FLORIDA'S PREMIER FISHING EVENT**  
The Second Annual  
**SILVER SAILFISH DERBY**  
JANUARY 26TH TO FEBRUARY 15TH

Featuring the Famous  
**SILVER SAILFISH TROPHY**  
Presented by MRS. HENRY R. REA,  
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DAILY AWARDS TOTALING \$600.00  
Open to All Persons Fishing from  
Registered Boats. No Fee for Entering.

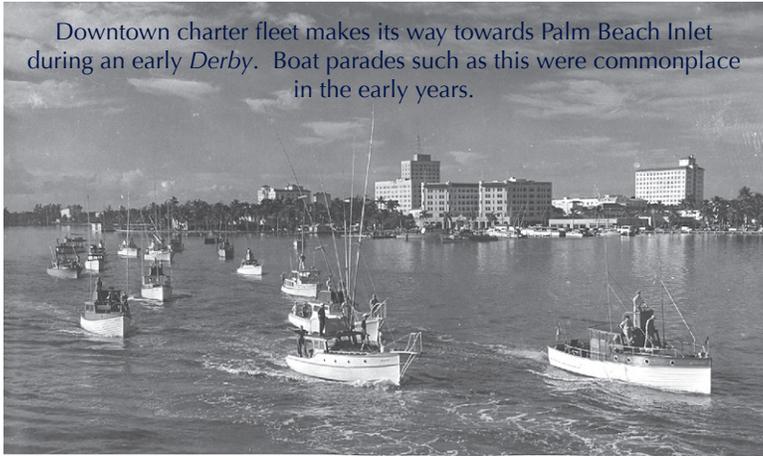
Auspices  
**West Palm Beach Fishing Club**  
HOTEL ROYAL WORTH TELEPHONE 4333  
City of West Palm Beach and Town of Palm Beach, Co-sponsors

front & back cover of the flyer for the 2nd annual Silver Sailfish Derby

The birth of the Silver Sailfish Derby, the patriarch of many billfish tournaments today, was based as much on need as it was a desire to showcase the incredible sailfishing found at the doorstep of the Palm Beaches. Lead by West Palm Beach Fishing Club president, Cecile 'Zeke' Cornelius, and other community leaders the Derby was established to bring business to the local charter boat industry and boost tourism, both of which had been ravaged by the Great Depression. It was an experiment of sorts since no other events like it existed at the time. Anglers were eligible for a wide array of prestigious awards only if they were fishing from an officially registered Derby boat. The unique event, with its important civic cause, instantly brought newfound business to the charter docks and focused positive media attention on the region. In a few years newsprint articles began billing the Derby as 'America's Outstanding Sports Fishing Event'. Organizers were elated with their early success. With increasing popularity, soon came concern for the health of the fishery and the realization that putting hundreds of sailfish on the dock each year was simply unsustainable. In 1938 the West Palm Beach Fishing Club introduced a new program in the Derby by which boats hoisted a small triangular red pennant from their outrigger for each sailfish that was released. The catch and release ethic that the red release pennant fostered remains one of the Derby's greatest conservation legacies and is now accepted world-wide.



Marjorie Collins hoists a red release pennant in 1938.



Downtown charter fleet makes its way towards Palm Beach Inlet during an early Derby. Boat parades such as this were commonplace in the early years.

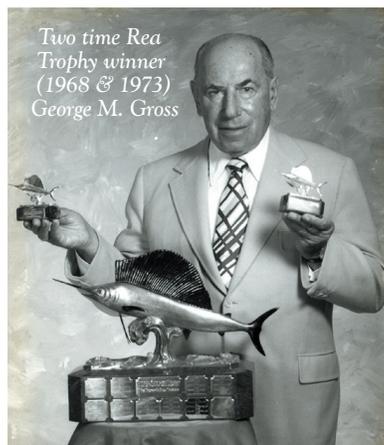


1939 Rea Trophy winner Stephen 'Laddie' Sanford & his wife, Mary.



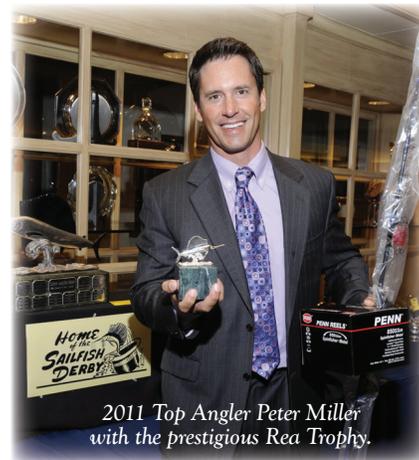
# The Rea Trophy

One of the grandest traditions in the Silver Sailfish Derby is the annual presentation of the Mrs. Henry R. Rea trophy to the top individual angler. Henry Rea was a seasonal resident of Palm Beach and member of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club. In 1935 Mr. Rea agreed to support the Derby's civic cause by sponsoring a trophy to recognize the top Derby angler. No expense was spared since the prize was going to bear his wife's name. Well-known New York jeweler Milton A. Fuller, a seasonal resident of Palm Beach and angler as well, was commissioned



Two time Rea Trophy winner (1968 & 1973)  
George M. Gross

to design the top trophy. Anglers winning the coveted prize receive an exquisite sterling silver sailfish miniature of the perpetual award. For much of the Derby's early history the Rea Trophy was presented to the individual catching the longest sailfish of the then multi-week contest. The award would later be used to recognize the angler posting the most individual sailfish releases, a change that reflected the Fishing Club's strong conservation ethic and one that placed more emphasis on angling skill. Winning the Rea Trophy remains one of the most prestigious honors in all of competitive sport fishing.



2011 Top Angler Peter Miller with the prestigious Rea Trophy.



Bobbi Nettles  
1994

## Past Mrs. Henry R. Rea Trophy Winners...

- 1935 - Alan McMartin, Montreal, CAN
- 1936 - Jack DeRuyter, New York, NY
- 1937 - Henry Henninger, Cleveland, OH
- 1938 - Sam Sprott, West Stockbridge, MA
- 1939 - Stephen Sanford, New York, NY
- 1940 - M.F. Bauger, Palm Beach, FL
- 1941 - Royal Shannonhouse, III, WPB, FL
- 1942 - William Morris, Birmingham, AL
- 1943 - 1945 World War II (no tournament)
- 1946 - Henry Chanin, Atlanta, GA
- 1947 - John P. MacNeil, Philadelphia, PA
- 1948 - Eugene Dillahunt, Bronx, NY
- 1949 - Richard Smith, Jr., New York, NY
- 1950 - Henry Chanin, Atlanta, GA
- 1951 - Jack Dulleck, Hackensack, NJ
- 1952 - Fred Grundy, Savannah, GA
- 1953 - Edna Schueler, Cincinnati, OH
- 1954 - John C. Prizer, West Orange, NJ
- 1955 - Gloria Carlson, Point Pleasant, NJ
- 1956 - Howard H. Craig, Plainfield, NJ
- 1957 - Blanche Del Deo, Nutley, NJ
- 1958 - William Bozman, Baltimore, MD
- 1959 - Maurice Neinken, Perkasio, PA
- 1960 - Maxwell Sherbourne, Tyngsboro, MA
- 1961 - Dr. Joseph Doolan, Jr., Savannah, GA
- 1962 - Harry Loman, Philadelphia, PA
- 1963 - James Baldwin, Locust Valley, NY
- 1964 & 1965 Norman Armour, Manalapan, FL
- 1966 - John E. Larson, Washington, D.C.
- 1967 - George Lucas, Jr. Essex Falls, NJ
- 1968 - George M. Gross, New York, NY
- 1969 - Richard J. Chase, Jackson, MS
- 1970 - Eleanor Kline, Philadelphia, PA
- 1971 - Cynthia Boomhower, Palm Beach, FL



Jim Gill (c) - 2003  
& Capt. Tore Turney



Nancy Paul -  
2005  
& Tom Twyford

- 1972 - Julian Corish, Jr., Savannah, GA
- 1973 - George M. Gross, New York, NY
- 1974 - Marjorie Daly, Yarmouth Port, MA
- 1975 - Kenneth Daly, Yarmouth Port, MA
- 1976 - Helen Grant, Dayton, OH
- 1977 - Dr. C. Maurice Whiddon, Savannah, GA
- 1978 - Dr. Donald Sherwin, Jr., Bradenton, FL
- 1979 - Douglas Anderson, Cedar Rapids, IA
- 1980 - Louis Perrotti, West Greenwich, RI
- 1981 - June Crisafi, West Palm Beach, FL
- 1982 & 1983 Donald Leas, III, Lantana, FL
- 1984 - Dr. Edward Bundy, Cheshire, CT
- 1985 - Raymond Billmeyer, Indian River, MI
- 1986 - Gerald Kaplan, West Long Branch, NJ
- 1987 - James Murray, II, Pompano Bch, FL
- 1988 - J. Bruce Beattie, West Palm Beach, FL
- 1989 - Adrienne Sorg, North Palm Beach, FL
- 1990 - Nick Smith, North Palm Beach, FL
- 1991\* - Adrienne Sorg/Nick Smith, NPB, FL
- 1992 - Nick Smith, North Palm Beach, FL
- 1993 - Michael Piacentino, Marion, OH
- 1994 - Bobbi Nettles, North Palm Beach, FL
- 1995 & 1996 Suzanne Litty, Oxford, MD
- 1997 - Dr. Thomas Floyd, West Palm Beach, FL
- 1998 - Tom Garvey, Yardley, PA
- 1999 - Janeen Davis, Riviera Beach, FL
- 2000, 2001 & 2002 - Nick Smith, North Palm Beach, FL
- 2003 - Jim Gill, West Palm Beach, FL
- 2004 - Peter Miller, Miami, FL
- 2005 - Nancy Paul, Topeka, KA
- 2006 - Christopher "Kitt" Toomey, Coral Gables, FL
- 2007 - Art Frigo, Jupiter, FL
- 2008 & 2009 David Dickerson, Jupiter, FL
- 2010 - Mark Wodlinger, Singer Island, FL.
- 2011 - Peter Miller, Miami, FL.

\* indicates tie

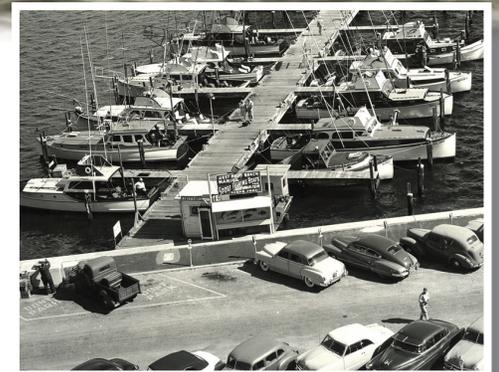


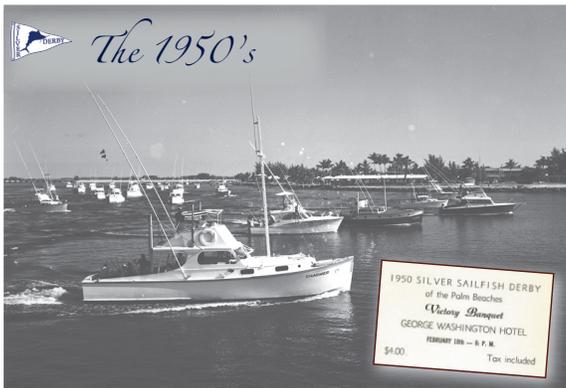
World's oldest sailfish tournament





If you do the math you'll note that more than 75 years has past since the inaugural Derby. That's because the annual tournament was interrupted in 1943, 1944 and 1945 when the country was pre-occupied with a far more important event, World War II. Gasoline rations and the threat of German U-boats off our coast were simply not compatible with a sailfish contest. Many charter boat captains and mates were defending our freedom overseas. When war ended the Derby picked right back up where it left off as the country's premier angling contest. Technological advancements in materials like nylon, fiberglass and electronics set the stage for radical innovations in boat designs and fishing tackle. In 1947 three brothers named Tommy, Emil and Johnny designed and built a new style fishing boat at their father's boat yard that would alter the sport fishing landscape forevermore. The first Rybovich sport fishing boat, the Miss Chevy II, was soon a regular fixture among the Derby fleet. Johnny Rybovich would serve multiple times, 15 years in all, as the West Palm Beach Fishing Club's president developing influential life long contacts for the club and instilling a conservation ethic that continues to this day.





This was the 'Golden Era' of big game angling according to Mike Rivkin, noted big game angling historian. The country's economy was hitting on all cylinders and people had more disposable income than ever before. Derby organizers seized the opportunity and took their promotional efforts to new heights. The Fishing Club's program of issuing sailfish certificates to those who released or landed a trophy sail had reached a crescendo. Thousands of these certificates were distributed nationwide commemorating the thrilling experience of catching a sailfish off the Palm Beaches, many which were landed during the Derby. Nobel prize winning author, Ernest Hemingway, became a Derby sponsor

with his 'Old Man and The Sea' trophy. Sports greats, Sam Snead and Ted Williams, were enlisted to promote the Derby through a 'Sailfish Grudge Match' in advance of the tournament. Nationwide the media responded in a huge way with feature articles, catch reports and Silver Sailfish Derby standings updates appearing in publications like Field & Stream magazine and major daily newspapers such as the Philadelphia Inquirer, Detroit Free-Press, Newark New Jersey Star Ledger and even the Wall Street Journal. Soon sailfishing was the 'in thing' to do when visiting the Palm Beaches.



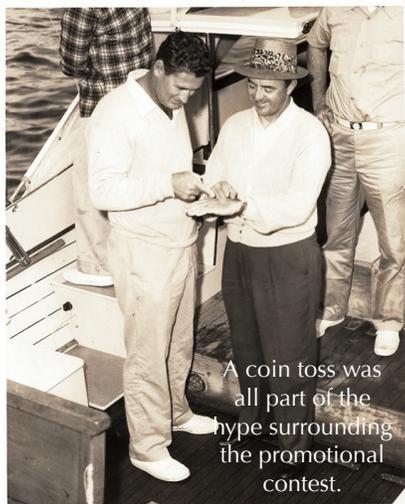
Hemingway autographs his classic novel for the Derby (above). Capt. Frank Ardine guided Rose Hampp to the 'Old Man & The Sea' trophy in the 1957 Derby.



## A Sailfish Grudge Match

Tournament organizers were able to capitalize on the Fishing Club's influence and the Derby's appeal in advance of the 1956 Derby with a new promotional event called the 'Sailfish Grudge Match.'

The made for media contest featured golf great Sam Snead fishing against baseball legend Ted Williams to see who could release the most sails. To Williams' dismay, Snead won the match. However, the real winner was the Derby and the Palm Beaches. Sportswriters jumped all over the story and the resulting nationwide media coverage exceeded everyone's wildest expectations.



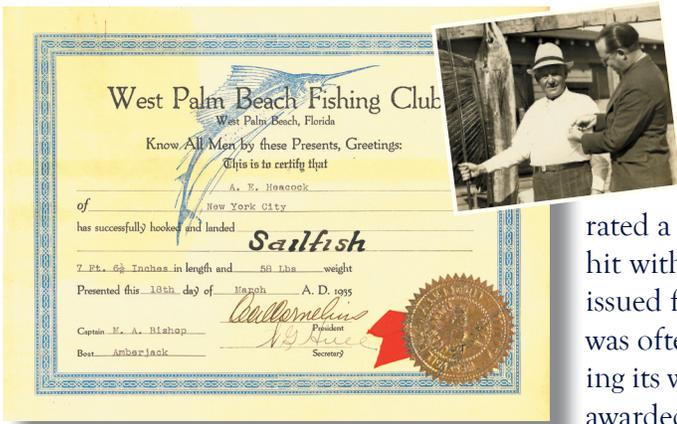
A coin toss was all part of the hype surrounding the promotional contest.



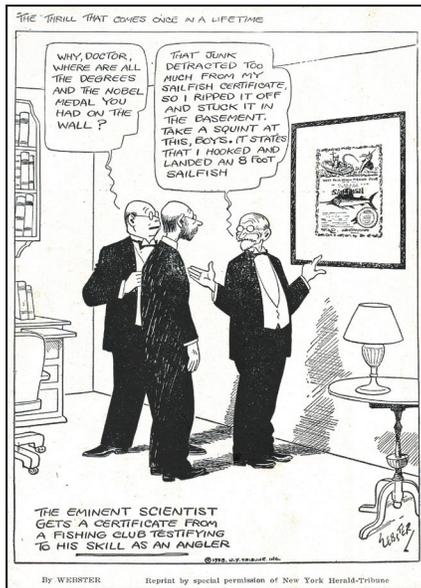
Snead (l) and Williams (r) flank Nelson Benedict, well known outdoor writer with the Newark, NJ, Star Ledger.



# The Sailfish Certificate



Early certificates were bland but official looking - WPBFC President Zeke Cornelius issues a gold button.

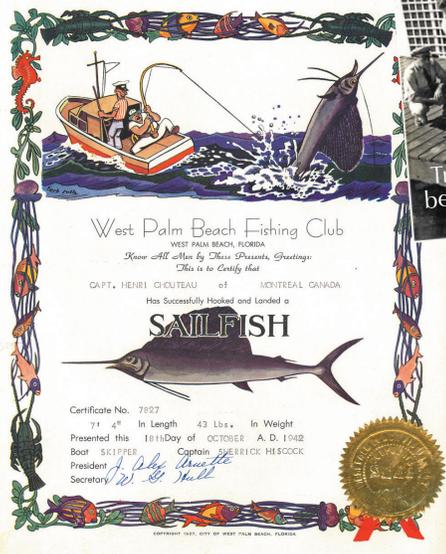


This cartoon appeared in a 1938 edition of the NY Herald-Tribune underscoring the widespread popularity of the certificate program.

Beginning in 1935 the West Palm Beach Fishing Club started a program issuing 'Official Catch' certificates to anglers landing a sailfish. The idea, which commemorated a successful day on the water off the Palm Beaches, was a huge hit with charter captains and anglers. Initially, the certificates were issued for sails that were brought back to the dock. Much ceremony was often made over measuring the length of the sail and documenting its weight. Trophy sails, those measuring over eight feet, were also awarded special buttons. To the delight of the charter fleet, the Fishing Club's sailfish certificate program made the anglers catch all the more memorable and fueled repeat business. Soon the somewhat bland certificates were updated with colorful artwork designed by famous cartoonist Herb Roth.

As the popularity of the certificate program grew the media savvy Fishing Club began distributing press releases and photos of the catch to the angler's hometown newspaper. Papers were quick to run the story of a local resident's successful battle in the famed 'Sailfish Sector of the Gulf Stream' and the proud angler had the official WPBFC catch certificate to back it up. Recipients often framed their certificates and hung them in their home or office where friends would be able to see the notable angling accomplishment. By the early 1940's more than 5,000 catch certificates had been distributed by the Fishing Club. As big-game angling historian Mike Rivkin noted in his WPBFC history book, "Before long they had become a widely recognized part of American culture. The Palm Beaches never shined so brightly." By 1949 certificates were being issued by the club's newly formed affiliate, The Sailfish Conservation Club, for released sailfish. The new release certificates featured the artwork of acclaimed artist William Goadby Lawrence and further promoted the catch & release ethic. Through the decades the Fishing Club estimates it has issued nearly twenty thousand of these certificates. These days it is not

uncommon for the club to get a call from someone in another state, usually from the Midwest or northeast, who says something like this, "I was cleaning out my dad's house and found a sailfish certificate from the West Palm Beach Fishing Club..."



Cartoonist Herb Roth provided the artwork for a more colorful certificate.



Trophy sailfish being measured at the dock.

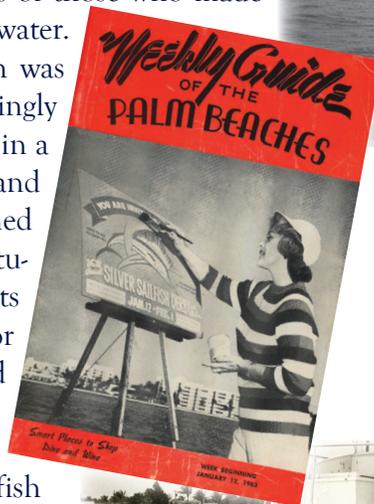
Johnny Rybovich (l), Charlie Johnson (2nd from left), & others admire certificate artwork provided by artist William Goadby Lawrence. To this day the rendering still graces WPBFC release certificates.





A new interstate highway system and commercial airlines were making it far easier for snowbirds from the north to make seasonal visits to the Palm Beaches. When they came, they liked what they saw. Advancements in outboard powered boats were now giving anglers of even modest means the ability to fish the famed 'Sailfish Alley'. Anglers no longer had to rely solely on charter boats to get offshore to catch a sail. Development of the region was booming. Consequently, the impacts from such rapid growth began to take its toll on our coastal resources. Anglers were among the first to sound the alarm. Diminished water quality, loss of critical habitat in the Lake Worth Lagoon and impacts from industrialized fishing fleets creeping ever closer to our coast were on the minds of those who made their living on the water. Catching a sailfish was becoming increasingly

difficult and many were concerned that sailfish populations were in a steep decline. Once again Derby organizers responded to the call and launched a cooperative sailfish tagging effort between concerned anglers and marine scientists at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. This unique partnership between sportsmen and scientists became an efficient way to capture critical migratory and behavior data on Atlantic sailfish. By the end of the decade Silver Sailfish Derby anglers had tagged 882 sails for science. To date, well over 3,000 sailfish have been tagged in the Derby alone and tens of thousands by WPBFC members since inception of the cooperative game fish program.



Nearly three decades after its inception, the Derby was still receiving top billing. Organizers weren't afraid to use a little 'cheesecake' in their promotional efforts.



Longtime Club employee Frances Doucet emcees the 1967 Derby awards banquet.



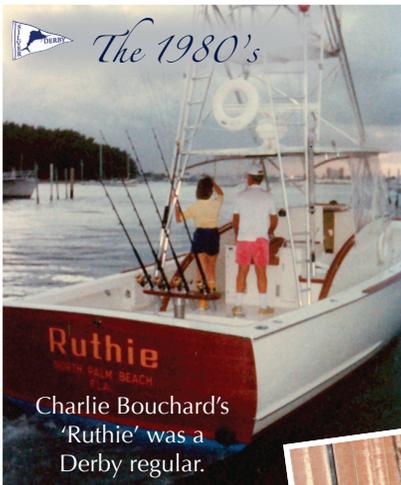
Frances Doucet & Capt. Jack Morrow

As the region grew, Derby organizers found themselves having a harder time maintaining the tournament's popularity. More forms of entertainment and a wider variety of sporting events were now available to seasonal visitors, as well as full time residents. Additionally, there were more sailfish tournaments on the calendar than ever before, many spawned as a result of the Derby's success. Outside promoters were coming to the area producing events that offered big prize money, a departure from the traditional trophy tournament format that had put the Derby on the map. The Derby fleet was shrinking. The make up of the fleet was changing as well. Once comprised entirely of professional charter boats, the Derby now had more private craft on its roster. The charter industry was evolving, no longer were captains the owner and operator of their craft, but rather the boats

were increasingly owned by corporations, used as tax shelters providing benefits for company staff and clients. Gasoline shortages and inflation were also eroding participation. Despite it all, the Derby stuck to its core format. The dedicated service of longtime director Frances Doucet, a Derby fixture at Inlet Annie's Dock collecting score sheets with her cane pole and clothespin, was the glue that kept the tournament together. The Derby also had plenty of loyal followers to keep the tradition going. Fishery scientists were continuing to use tournaments to monitor the condition of sailfish stocks. The Derby was one of the best for this purpose because of its decades long tenure and meticulous baseline data. Derby catch rates revealed wide yearly fluctuations but no overall declining trend in sailfish abundance according to scientific papers published by a young biologist by the name of John Jolley.



John Jolley in the lab



Charlie Bouchard's 'Ruthie' was a Derby regular.

Small boat participation was not allowed in many sailfish tournaments of the day, however Derby organizers embraced their involvement. In fact, Silver Sailfish Derby rules were modified during this era in an effort to keep the playing field as level as possible no matter what size boat you were fishing from. A limit of four lines and allowing the use of fishing kites were just some of the rule modifications made in order to give the smaller boats a competitive chance. Center consoles became a regular part of the fleet as live bait fishing became the norm. The Derby also experimented with a variety of new award categories including a 'Fly Fishing' award. Since no one ever caught a sail on fly tackle during the Derby the award was short lived. Separate Private Boat and Charter Boat divisions were briefly established, but organizers found it increasingly difficult to distinguish between the two. By the end of the decade Derby participation had waned to the



Tibby Bartram & Rodman Leas (I) and John Mooney (above) were trophy winners in 1985.



Capt. Bob Rast, James Murray II & Michael Rea

point where organizers had even considered discontinuing the tournament. They were coming to the harsh realization that the multi-week format was just too outdated for the times. Big changes were on the horizon.

# The Single Day Sailfish Record

The West Palm Beach Fishing Club has a strong connection to one of anglings most coveted records; the most Atlantic sailfish caught in a single day. There have been many incredible release totals posted by boats through the years, but none eclipse the day that Capt. Albert Johnston, WPBFC member Louis Boski and one other angler experienced on February 3, 1980. They were fishing aboard Boski's boat the Elbo 7, a 53' Monterey. A blanket of thick fog in the morning had been hampering everybody's efforts to find fish. In fact, longtime WPBFC member Nick Smith and his son Michael fishing from an open boat were forced off the water that morning because of the extremely frigid and damp conditions. Also on the water that memorable day was WPBFC member Capt. Jackie Morrow who was at the helm of the charter boat No Problem. When the weather cleared both Morrow and Johnson found schools

of sailfish balling bait east of Boynton Inlet. The bite was literally non-stop. When the incredible flurry of action ended Morrow's boat had posted 54 releases and Boski's had released an amazing 83 sailfish, a single day Atlantic sailfish release record that still stands today. "For a longtime following that catch my dad and Capt. Johnson were able to keep a critical fishing secret under their hat, which is no easy feat when you are a fisherman. Their big secret was live ballyhoo. Everybody thought they were fishing live goggle-eye, but it was really ballyhoo. They had a routine where they would take a small boat out early in the mornings and cast net lots of ballyhoo, then the big boat would rendezvous with them offshore so nobody could see what kind of bait they had in the well," said Kurt Boski, Lou Boski's son. "My dad went to every tackle shop in town that day and bought all the red release pennants they had."

# 83

## Louis S. Boski Memorial Trophy



2001 winner  
Bonnie Carpenter

Awarded to the individual who makes the most outstanding catch or release, or who makes a unique angling contribution to the tournament as determined by the Tournament Committee. The award is sponsored by WPBFC member Kurt Boski & family in memory of Kurt's father, Louis.



1992 winner Dave Webb (l)  
with father, Jesse.

## Recent Boski Trophy Winners...



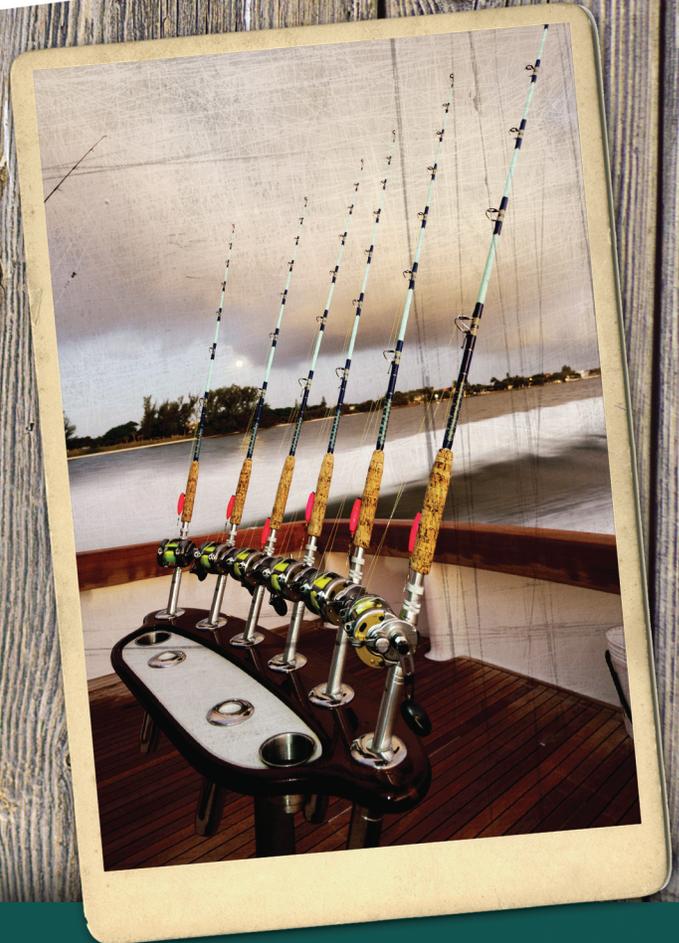
2006  
winner  
Mark  
Wodlinger

- 1996: Patricia J - Adam & Andy Lavelle: junior anglers who released their 1st ever sailfish
- 1997: Blue Rose - Charlie LaFlamme & Mario Todaro: released their first ever sail in a tournament
- 1998: Mer-Lin - Chet Stewart & Pete Michalczyn: landed triple-header sailfish on dead bait
- 1999: Fishtales - Suzie Donnellan & Jay and Bonnie Carpenter: girls released 7 sailfish in 40 minute period
- 2000: CommOcean - Gwen Hahn: caught and released 7 sailfish last day of Derby
- 2001: Fishtales- Bonnie Carpenter: after a 1 hour, 20 minute battle released an estimated 100 pound sailfish
- 2002: Tuff Cookie - Sean Quinn: lead his team to a sailfish quad catch and release
- 2004: Fubar - Mike Peligini: caught & released his first ever blue marlin (est. 90 lbs.)
- 2005: Man-O-Warrior - Andrew Simko (age 12) caught and released his 1st & 2nd ever sailfish
- 2006: Catch One - Mark Wodlinger: jumped overboard to catch a sailfish
- 2007: Dos Amigos - Steve Alexander: caught & released a sail on dead bait from 23' boat (smallest in fleet) in 6-8 ft. seas
- 2008: Drag'n Slayer - Joe Garberoglio: 5 sailfish caught & released from 25' boat under extreme sea conditions, Day 1
- 2009: Vic & Beth Nelson of New Milford, CT, having fished the Derby religiously for over 30 years
- 2010: Pat O'Hara & Team 'Cool Breeze': smallest boat in fleet (27' ) & consistently only all female team in tournament
- 2011: Justin Lord, fishing aboard the 'Barefoot' caught a 42 lb. wahoo using a light monofilament leader and a single circle hook





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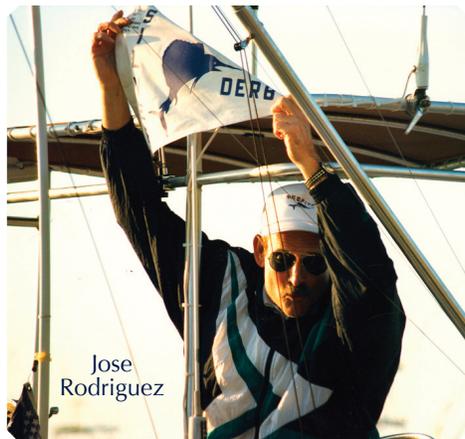
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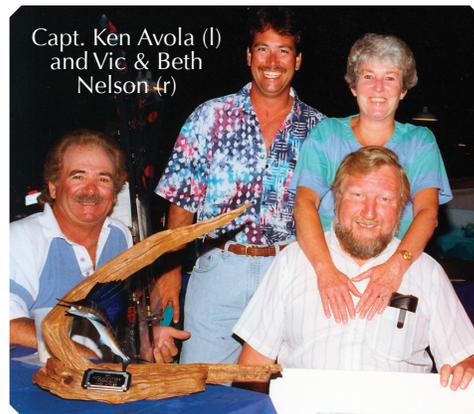


*The 1990's*

Donald (l) & Rodman (c) Leas



Jose Rodriguez



Capt. Ken Avola (l) and Vic & Beth Nelson (r)



Suzanne Litty (l) & Janeen Davis

In 1992, after more than 50 years of being a multi-week event, Derby organizers went from a three-week format to a three-day contest. Anglers immediately responded to the change and participation was back on the rise. The new format also prompted rule changes that included real time VHF radio confirmations for released fish and the use of observers. The Late 'Buccaneer Bob' Reddy became the 'Voice of the Silver Sailfish Derby' adding local character and flavor to the event. In keeping with the tournaments commitment to billfish conservation, organizers also began encouraging the use of circle hooks by offering a new award for the most sailfish released using the conservation minded hook.



'Buccaneer' Bob



Tony Gory's 'Princess Karen'



Glen Stroud



1997 Top Tag Team 'Liquidator'. Mate John 'Beaker' Mead, Dan Kleiser, Tom Floyd & Capt. Wink Doerzbacher.



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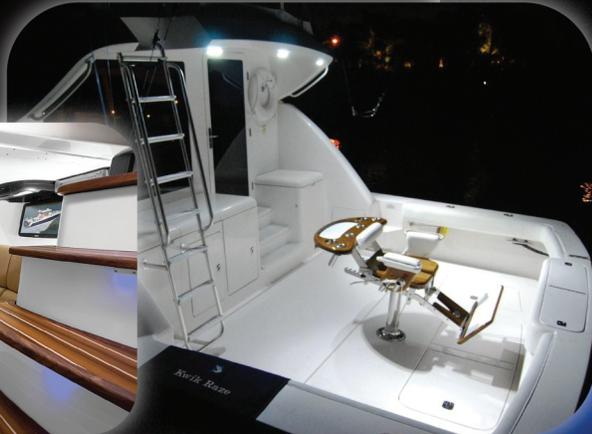
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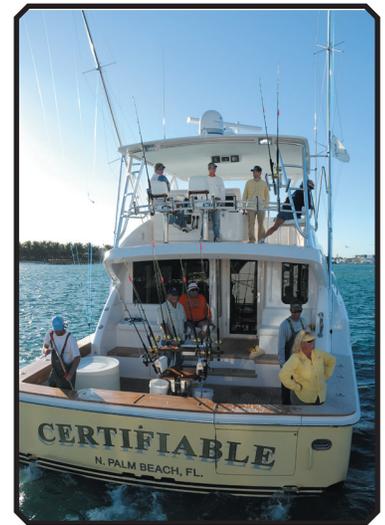
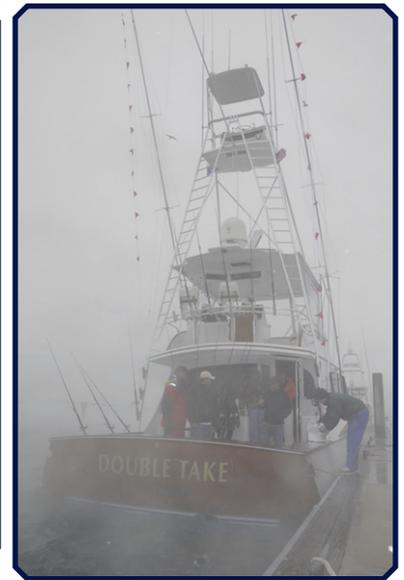
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Initially, there was a great deal of debate and controversy over the use of circle hooks. As with any kind of change, some captains and anglers were slow to embrace the new style hook in their fishing routine.

The Fishing Club took extraordinary steps, along with The Billfish Foundation and scientists at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Miami, to familiarize the angling community with the use of circle hooks by conducting in-depth public seminars on their use and conservation benefit. This style hook almost never lodged anywhere except in the corner of the sailfish's jaw and angling mortality was dramatically reduced. In 2004, after years of promoting circle hooks, the Derby partnered with Eagle Claw and made their use mandatory in the tournament. Any lingering doubts regarding their effectiveness were soon quelled when the Derby fleet of 59 boats released a record setting 636 sailfish that year. Two years later a Derby fleet of 50 boats would catch and release an incredible 958 sailfish on circle hooks as if to add an exclamation point to the end of the debate. Throughout the decade many captains, crews and anglers witnessed tremendous sailfishing, some say the best they've ever seen. There is no question that the catch and release ethic that began in the Derby 75 years ago has had a lasting impact on the fishery and angling as we know it.





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# SAILFISH PAST & PRESENT

by John Jolley

Torrential rains were drenching the town of Stuart, Florida, when Captain Johnson Whiticar piloted his charter boat, *Mermaid II*, out of its moorings and headed toward the blue Gulf Stream. Clearing the St. Lucie Inlet the craft began to roll and pitch when his charter shouted from the cockpit, "It doesn't look like fishing weather to me." Captain Whiticar replied, "It's only a local squall."

Together with his wife, Dottie, Jim Bob Tinsley had arranged their first ever offshore ocean fishing trip, and he wanted conditions to be right. They weren't disappointed. After about a forty minute run to the fishing grounds the mate put out rigged, deboned mullet baits on four separate rods, two outriggers and two flat lines. Within minutes they raised a quadruple header of sailfish and caught two. By noon Jim and Dottie landed three and released six of the billed tribe along with two dolphin. Exhausted, they called an end to the action after four hours. Captain Johnson turned his boat and headed the *Mermaid II* back toward St. Lucie Inlet. Above the bridge nine flags were flying to denote their catch. Another charter boat caught nineteen sails and ran out of bait. It was one of the best sailfishing days the Stuart skippers had experienced in over eight years. The date was December 22, 1949.

According to author Jim Tinsley, the sailfish is one of the most glamorous of all saltwater gamesters. In his 1964 book entitled, "*The Sailfish, Swashbuckler of the Open Seas*," Tinsley carefully related this first ever sailfish encounter. During his return back to the dock he thought to himself, "This is how fanatics are made." He never forgot!

Sixty-plus years later this same kind of success occurs at least seasonally with sailfishermen somewhere in the western North Atlantic: off Florida's east coast or up off the Carolina's and into the Caribbean or Gulf of Mexico. Hot spots include Venezuela and Isla de Mujeres, near Cancun, Mexico. Catch rates in these areas can escalate up to 10 or 20 sailfish per day and some-

The 'Sail Ahoy' with Capt. Frank Ardine on the bridge and Jackie Morrow in the cockpit, returns to Palm Beach after a tremendous day's fishing in the 1957 Silver Sailfish Derby. They released a total of twenty-nine (29) sails that day, with 19 of them credited to Mrs. Rose Hampp.



times exceed 30 or more. The one-day record in Florida occurred off the Palm Beaches in 1980 aboard Louis Boski's 53 foot sport fisherman, *Elbow 7*, with Captain Al Johnston and crew capturing and releasing 83 sails. This feat was highly unusual, but the crew had heard reports from Captain Jackie Morrow on the *No Problem*, who had found sailfish "balling the bait". It was wild! Morrow and company released another 54 that same day when sailfishing history was made.

Since then, voluminous articles have depicted episodes of anglers and crews chasing these acrobatic gamesters all over the world in tropical and subtropical seas. Yet some of the most exciting adventures have continued right in Florida's back yard, where it all started back in the 1930's in a special place called "The Sailfish Sector of the Gulf Stream," and later on simply, "Sailfish Alley."

It is a testament to the restorative powers of sailfish that it has been able to withstand decades of increasing recreational and commercial fishing pressures throughout the western North Atlantic. It's a phenomenal story when one considers what is happening in other areas of the world and to other stocks of pelagic fishes. I'm particularly comparing with bluefin tuna, white and blue marlins and in the recent past, swordfish, although the latter has seen some recovery since the late 1980's. All have been seriously impacted at one time or another.

For decades I have been fascinated by how well stocks of sailfish have behaved in the western North Atlantic. Despite dramatically increasing fishing activities sailfish have shown few if any obvious signs of biological stress. Size and age class structure seem to be holding up well, and average size of fish caught remains the same after 60 years, close to 7 feet total length (TL) and 40 lb. Recreational catch rates over large geographical areas still vary from year to year reflecting changes in local availability, but similarly show no evidence of sustained decline.

Results from just two prominent South Florida tournaments highlight just how good sailfishing has been. ➔



In the 2004 Silver Sailfish Derby, team 'Get Lit', led by Capt. Ray Rosher, took first place with an impressive forty-five (45) sailfish releases in the 3 day event. Two years later, the team would release a record setting 59 sailfish in the tournament.



World's oldest sailfish tournament'



- continued from previous page -

In 1998, the Stuart Sailfish Club of Florida held its 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Light Tackle Tournament in December with 45 boats participating. At its conclusion, anglers had caught and released 539 sails on trolled dead baits for an average catch rate (CPUE) of 3.0 sails/boat-day, almost three times the historical average. Just eight years later in 2006, the venerable West Palm Beach Fishing Club (WPBFC) pulled off a real shocker! During its 69<sup>th</sup> annual Silver Sailfish Derby, the longest running billfish tournament in the world, anglers using live baits, captured and released an unprecedented 958 sailfish in just three days (January 5, 6 & 7) aboard 50 participating boats. CPUE, another record, was approximately 6.4 sails/boat-day and five times the historical average. These results are not typical but demonstrate how successful fishing can still be. This doesn't sound like what should be happening given the changes we have witnessed with other billfish species and with bluefin tuna.

Why has this happened for sailfish? Will it continue? What can we do to insure such good fishing results in the future?

To look at this subject more closely I contacted some of the best informed people in marine science, oceanography and conservation – those who have their “fingers on the pulse” of what’s happening. Researchers at the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) and principals at the National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC) and The Billfish Foundation (TBF) were all eager to help. Dr. Eric Prince, NMFS’s billfish expert at the Southeastern Fisheries Lab in Miami, along with Ellen Peel, President of TBF, and Dr. John Graves at VIMS all agreed that the western North Atlantic sailfish stock was doing better than the eastern stock off West Africa. They suggested this was a particularly propitious time to again be evaluating the robustness of sailfish because the most recent stock assessments had just been finished. Ken Hinman, President of NCMC, was gracious in forwarding the document (over 100 pages) prepared by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) that is also supposed to manage billfish. Ken’s immediate response was that reduced U.S. longlining and closed areas might be providing the western sailfish stock sufficient respite.

A lot has happened since the 1970-80 period when I was deeply engaged in sailfish research. By then, my colleague, Ed Irby, and I had concluded that the biological status of western North Atlantic sailfish remained healthy (*Saltwater Sportsman*, Dec. 1980). Available scientific evidence supported our conclusion. At that time Japanese commercial longline CPUE in the western North Atlantic had not changed significantly during 1962-78. On average they were landing only about 9,000 sailfish annually from 4,000,000 square miles of the western North Atlantic while recreational fishermen were catching and often releasing six to eight times that amount of sailfish.

Long term catch statistics from the Silver Sailfish Derby. Graph prepared by John Jolley & Ed Irby for presentation to the American Fisheries Society in 1979.

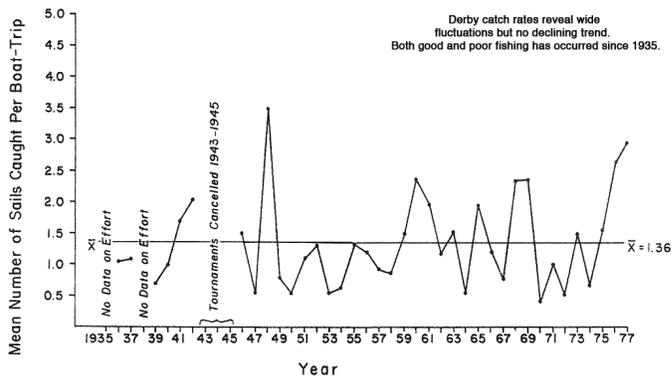
Recreational tournaments and captains’ logs throughout a wide geographical area examined for 1935-77 revealed CPUE varied significantly on an annual basis, but showed no evidence of sustained decline (see graph below). The average CPUE for winter tournaments along much of Florida’s southeast coast was calculated to be about 1.3 sailfish/boat-trip. Catch rates in the Florida Keys were about half that and in the Gulf of Mexico lower still.

As we came to know the winter fishery in southeast Florida better over the years we realized and documented that weather (frontal activity) was one of the most important factors in determining local availability and thus successful sailfishing. Biological data on size/age composition of the population was decidedly steady during 1956-79. All this evidence attested to a relatively healthy stock in the western North Atlantic by 1980.

Since then much has happened. Increasing fishing pressures, both recreational and commercial, have ensued. Other countries entered the North Atlantic and began longlining. Both illegal fishing and the development of artisanal fisheries throughout the Caribbean complicate assessments according to Ellen Peel. To date these multiple impacts have not been

quantified. The previous stock assessment by ICCAT took place in 2001. Results suggested overfishing might be occurring for sailfish and even more so for the marlins. These conclusions were based on less robust information than used in the 2009 assessments. However, in both cases conclusions suggest that the western stock of sailfish is fully exploited or slightly overfished while condition of the eastern stock off Africa is more pessimistic. These data and ICCAT’s complex calculations remain hypothetical and subject to various interpretations. Nevertheless, this judgment represents the “best available evidence” of the current stocks’ conditions. All my contacts agreed.

The more depressed condition of the eastern stock is worrisome. Of particular concern, according to Dr. Prince and his colleagues, is the influence of “hypoxia-based habitat compression.” This is a technical scientific description of what restricts tropical pelagic fishes vertical distribution in the water column. It means that lower dissolved oxygen levels in the water at depths force fish of vari- ➤



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ous species (including billfish) to remain closer to the surface where oxygen levels are higher, thus making them more vulnerable to fishing pressures. This is new and striking evidence.

These conditions occur in the eastern Atlantic and eastern Pacific oceans but rarely in the western North Atlantic. According to Dr. Prince, such conditions may be a clue to why the status of the eastern North Atlantic sailfish stock is reduced. That these hypoxic conditions are not common in the western Atlantic may be a key factor influencing more favorable assumptions for the sailfish on this side of the Atlantic.

There are other reasons at work on this side as well. For example, one important characteristic is that sailfish are more "coastal in nature" than other billfish or bluefin tunas. Tag and release and recapture data for over fifty years (Woods Hole Cooperative Tagging Program, NMFS and TBF) show decidedly that sailfish do not cross the Atlantic like other highly migratory pelagic species. So, it is unlikely that east and west stocks mix to any great extent. Greatest concentrations of sailfish occur near land masses and inside the continental shelf (less than or equal to 600 foot depths). This is advantageous because there, they do not come under the greatest fishing pressures of the high seas longline fleets. For fishery management purposes

Early promotional efforts advocating the catch & release ethic for sailfish included this billboard seen by all fishing boats leaving Palm Beach Inlet.



this is where our stock of sailfish reside and where we should be most vigilant. This constitutes the area encompassing the mid-Atlantic westward through the Gulf of Mexico and southward to northern Brazil and Venezuela and all the Caribbean Sea.

Also, sailfish probably have greater numbers of individuals in their population than the blue or white marlins, especially now with marlins' estimated reduced biomass levels. Sailfish are also known to aggregate in large numbers near land masses, and this behavior increases the

possibility of finding each other for spawning purposes regardless of where they migrate along vast reaches of coastline. Such characteristics appear to be pivotal in helping sustain the western Atlantic stock during past decades of increasing fishing pressure.

Last, but far from least, one other positive aspect of the western Atlantic sailfishery is unique. Anglers and their crews have developed an almost universal catch-and-release ethic. This was pioneered back in the 1930's and 1940's by the WPBFC and others. The WPBFC saw the futility of charter boats landing all or most of their catch sometimes in great numbers, "back in the good ole days." It was a common sight in Florida between Ft. Pierce and Miami, and some in the angling community believed it should stop. Members of ➤

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the Sailfish Conservation Club (an offshoot of the WPBFC) set about developing and promoting the catch-and-release technique used today. They promoted and advertised a slogan: “be a sportsman and release your catch.” The club popularized it by inventing the “red release pennant” now universally accepted worldwide – one red pennant for each sailfish released. Charter crews could now advertise their success without boating every sailfish. The captains and crews came to accept this practice, and in the end the rest became history.



Today, a majority of all sailfish caught recreationally are released according to several sources, and most survive. Studies using various techniques suggest survival is high, probably about 70% to 85%. According to Dr. Graves and Dr. Prince, in many cases, survival using circle hooks can approach 100% when crews use extra care in releasing billfish. That care may necessitate reviving exhausted fish alongside the boat while moving slowly forward to help flush water over their gills before release.

In addition to this catch-and-release ethic, the development of “release-a-dermy” has played another positive role. No longer requiring the skin, fins or bills of these fish, taxidermists routinely reproduce exact replicas of one’s catch with just one phone call, the species, an estimate of size and a cash deposit. These new “release-a-dermy” mounts are beautiful, and they maintain luster and appearance longer without repair. According to one source, this technique is probably saving over 15,000 sailfish annually in the western North Atlantic alone.

According to NMFS’ marine recreational fishing surveys (MRFSS) sailfish catches by U.S. anglers now greatly exceed my 1980 “guessimates” of around 60,000 specimens annually. So it appears likely that this release ethic is having some impact. This is not the case in many other parts of the world because developing countries don’t have the same incentives. Many fishermen retain their catch for local consumption or for export to developed countries. Much billfish still comes to the United States via imports, according to Dr. Russell Nelson at TBF. The International Game Fish Association (IGFA), TBF and NCMC are now hard at work with campaigns to ‘Take Marlin off the Menu’ by banning foreign importation and sale of billfish in the U.S. This is a luxury we can well afford to relinquish. It seems reasonable here, given the reduced biological status of most billfish and the need to maximize the recreational experience for anglers by maintaining high availability of the sought after species. The economic value of recreational billfishing in many developing countries is significant, and this is one area of study that TBF and IGFA are emphasizing.

If sailfishing in the western North Atlantic is to continue doing relatively well, what else can we do to insure sustainability? Without a doubt this release ethic must continue to spread elsewhere because anglers are still responsible for a significant portion of the total catch (not landings). Domestic no sale rules must be approved and

enforced. Our support for TBF, NCMC and others needs to be vigorous. Their efforts nationally and internationally have begun to payoff. Success at ICCAT must improve. As recreational users, our concerns are not always taken seriously. Explaining the economics and demonstrating our resolve at ICCAT may change that.



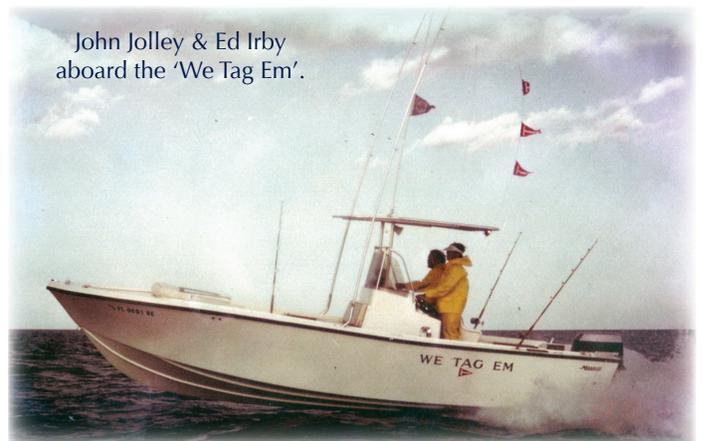
Lastly, having personally witnessed the remarkable staying power of sailfish for over 45 years, I’m more optimistic that these magnificent animals can be maintained in the western North Atlantic. In other areas around the world, I’m skeptical! Human populations, currently about 6.5 billion, are expected to surpass 8.9 billion by 2050

according to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. Many will want to eat fish. Will our ability to sustainably harvest fish for food become more successful?

Scientific investigations must proceed. We may not have all the information we want for management, so efforts must focus on the most vulnerable species and most useful scientific needs. That means the marlins and bluefin tuna. Presently, the clock is ticking for them and time may be running out!

Conversely, sailfish stocks remain healthy enough here in the western North Atlantic, and we can still experience days like Jim Bob Tinsley did in 1949. So, tight lines! 🍷

*ABOUT THE AUTHOR: John W. Jolley is a former senior marine research scientist and sailfish specialist for Florida’s Marine Research Institute. His work has been published in various scientific and popular journals. Jolley is a 30+ year member of the West Palm Beach Fishing Club board of directors, and is the Fishing Club’s former chairman and past president. He also serves as the WPBFC’s scientific advisor. John is the current Florida representative for recreational fishing on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. He also currently serves as an advisor representing Florida on the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program. Jolley originally authored this article for Marlin magazine, March 2011 issue. The article has been reprinted with a few edits courtesy of John Jolley and our friends at Marlin magazine.*



John Jolley & Ed Irby aboard the ‘We Tag Em’.



# Jim Barry: Environmental Advocate, Angler & Artist

Jim Barry often jokes that he is the West Palm Beach Fishing Club's most tenured 'non-member'. For decades Jim has volunteered and collaboratively worked with the club in many ways. In recent years he has created multiple pieces of original art for the club's annual *Palm Beach County KDW Classic* and *Silver Sailfish Derby*, including the Derby's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary design (He spent a 'rushed' four months creating the leaping sailfish design). Jim has logged thousands of volunteer hours making these works of art for the Fishing Club. Unlike many other wildlife and marine artists, Jim has had no formal training. Instead he draws upon a lifetime of experiences spent on and under the water to find inspiration.

Anyone who fishes in Palm Beach County owes a debt of gratitude to Jim Barry. His positive impact on the resources of the region cannot be understated. Jim is a retired public servant of 41 years working for Palm Beach County's Health Department and Department of Environmental Resources Management (ERM), where he served as the county Environmental Director for 22 years. He is a local boy who spent much of his youth fishing on the Palm Beach, Lake Worth and Juno piers and paid his own way through college by commercial fishing



to obtain his degree in marine biology from the University of Miami.

Jim's accomplishments have been far reaching. In the early 1980's he met with the late John D. MacArthur on multiple occasions and was the principle force in convincing the eccentric land baron to preserve an environmentally sensitive area we now call MacArthur Beach State Park. Around that same period Jim spearheaded the effort to get the first mangrove protection ordinance passed, the first of its kind in the state. Jim was at the forefront of the successful effort to get the Juno Beach fishing pier rebuilt in a fashion that balanced its environmental impact on marine turtles with the need for increased public fishing access. Jim Barry's fingerprints are on some of the Lake Worth

Lagoon's most significant restoration projects, including Munyon Island (45 acres), Peanut Island (79 acres) and Snook Islands (80 acres). He is one of the original members of the Palm Beach County Artificial Reef & Estuarine Enhancement Committee where he continues to serve today. Most importantly during his tenure as the county's Environmental Director he helped develop a funding mechanism for habitat restoration projects and created a culture of environmental innovation at ERM that continues to this day. Arguably, Jim Barry may be one of the most influential environmental stewards that Palm Beach County has ever known, especially as it relates to the management of marine and estuarine fisheries, protecting and restoring wetlands, and improving water quality.

The same attention to detail that Jim gave to countless environmental projects; he now applies to his art. He has made highly collectible knives for over 40 years, many of which feature elaborate scrimshaw drawings. In recent years he has developed a passion for creating highly detailed pencil drawings. He enjoys the challenge of creating depth and contrast with just a pencil. WPBFC member Dr. Ray Waldner, an ichthyologist and biology professor at Palm Beach Atlantic University, describes Jim's drawings this way, "Jim is a perfectionist. He gets every membrane. There's art and there's biological illustration. Jim crosses that border." The Fishing Club is grateful and honored to have the continued support of Jim Barry...he is indeed a man of many talents.

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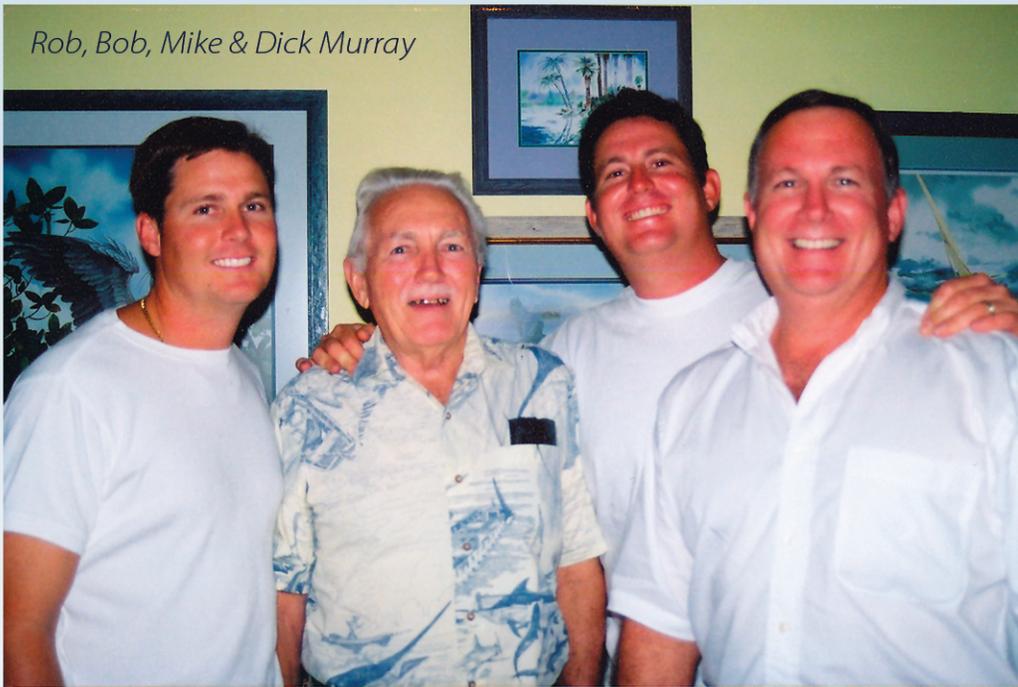
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# 2012 Tournament Rules

**ANGLER ELIGIBILITY:** Open to all anglers except professional captains and crew (professional is defined as anyone who has been paid to crew or captain on a boat in the last six (6) months). All entrants must fish on boats officially entered in the *Silver Sailfish Derby* and must fly the official Derby Pennant.

**LIMITED ENTRY:** Tournament limited to 60 boats.

**DEPARTURE:** All boats must visually check out of Palm Beach (Lake Worth) Inlet each morning between 6:30 a.m and 8:00 a.m. Any boats departing after 8:00 a.m. must visually check out at the Sailfish Marina. You must show your boat number and be audibly confirmed prior to leaving the inlet. **All boats must return to Sailfish Marina by water, in the boat you fished on, to submit their daily score sheet by the designated time.**

**BOATS WITH OBSERVERS:** Tournament boats that are assigned an observer can make arrangements to pick up their observer at Sailfish Marina no earlier than 6:00 a.m.

**FISHING HOURS:** Official "Lines In" is 8:00 a.m. and official "Lines Out" is 4:00 p.m. each day, except the final day when "Lines Out" will be at 2:00 p.m.

**BOUNDARIES:** **North:** Fort Pierce Inlet (Lat. 27° 28.2' N) **South:** Port Everglades Inlet (Lat 26° 05.36' N)

**DAILY REPORTS:** The tournament supplied Daily Report Form must be completed and submitted by boat at the designated Sailfish Marina Dock no later than 90 minutes (1 1/2 hours) after "Lines Out". **Register names of all anglers aboard**, whether eligible fish were caught or not (this helps us compute the tournament catch per unit of effort data). List tag numbers if

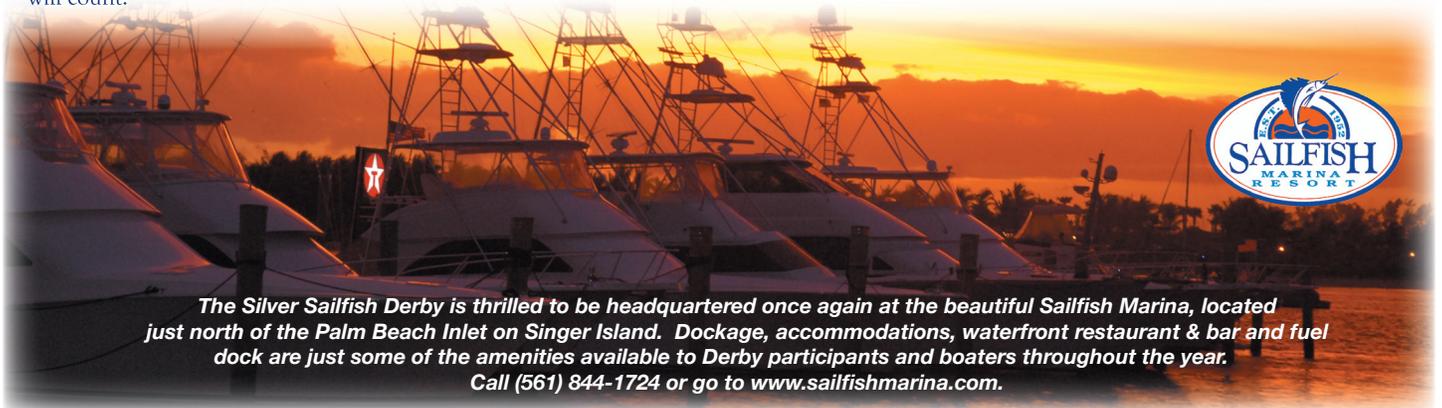
applicable; note estimated weight and length of released sails; **official time of release must be indicated for each sailfish**; weigh and record dolphin/kingfish/wahoo/cobia/tuna at the marina on an official tournament scale. If a boat breaks down, their report may be delivered prior to the deadline by some other boat. The Sailfish Marina is the **ONLY** official weighing and recording station.

## BAIT & TACKLE SPECIFICATIONS

1. All anglers are limited to fishing 20 lb. (maximum) test line. Leader (any material) is limited to 15 feet including floats/corks. The combined length of double line and leader shall not exceed 20 feet. (IGFA rules).
2. Tournament boats are allowed to fish a maximum of four (4) lines at any one time. This includes the use of bait rods. Eligible fish (sailfish, dolphin, etc.) cannot be caught using a bait rod. No wire lines or planers allowed. Downriggers and kites are permissible. **Any type of live, dead or artificial bait can be used and are scored equally.** Dead bait and artificial (hookless) teasers/dredges are permitted. Chumming sailfish with live or dead bait is prohibited.
3. All boats are required to fish with tournament approved zero degree offset circle hooks when fishing with live or dead baits. **The approved hooks are: Eagle Claw L2004EL (black hook) & Eagle Claw L2004ER (red hook).** Hooks must not be altered in any manner whatsoever. A limited supply of size 7/0, 8/0 & 9/0 hooks will be included in your tournament boat kit. The use of other traditional hook styles is permitted only when fishing with unbaited artificial lures.

## ANGLING RULES

1. All participants must comply strictly with IGFA rules (included in boat kits). The only exception will be in the event of multiple hookups. Then the angler may fight additional fish from a rod holder. Anglers must fight their own fish unassisted. Fish will be disqualified if rod, reel or line is handled by anyone other than the angler while fish is baited, hooked up and fought.
2. No one may retain hold of the leader to hook a fish. The fish must pull drag from the reel.
3. A sailfish release is official when the angler reels the swivel, float or leader into contact with the rod tip and/or the mate takes hold of the leader. Floats must come tight to top of leader at time of release. Release sailfish by cutting the leader. A reasonable effort must be made to cut the leader as close as possible to the mouth of the fish. Breaking the leader by jerking or snatching is not permitted & will disqualify a catch.
4. The intentional abandonment of the boat to fight or land a sailfish is prohibited. All anglers must remain in the boat while fighting fish.
5. Boats must retain all baits (fresh or used) during fishing hours.
6. Marlin releases do not count towards sailfish release points, but will be eligible for special awards.
7. If fish are being fought at "Lines Out" time, the captain **MUST** report the number of fish hooked up and only those fish, if successfully released, will count.
8. The official *Silver Sailfish Derby* VHF Channel will be announced at the Captain's Meeting. All sailfish releases (time of release) must be radioed to the tournament score keeper. Each release will be audibly verified on the VHF. **It is the responsibility of each boat to have a sufficient VHF radio and/or cellular phone.** Tournament standings will also be reported on the radio at the start and conclusion of each day and a scoreboard will be posted at Sailfish Marina daily.
9. If tagging sailfish, care should be exercised in placement of the tag, avoiding eyes, gills & stomach. **Billfish Foundation Tags** will be available at the Captain's Meeting.
10. Derby officials may disqualify any entrant/entry/captain/boat for any rule infractions and will interpret all rules and constitute final authority. Any protests must be submitted in writing immediately to the Derby Committee and **MUST** be accompanied by a \$500.00 non-refundable protest fee.
11. All boats are subject to having an official observer on board at the sole discretion of the tournament committee.
12. All anglers must be properly licensed for fishing in salt water. Anglers, crews and captains fish at their own risk.
13. No individual angler can win more than three (3) major tournament awards including the Rea Trophy. Also, individuals can win only one daily sailfish release award.



The Silver Sailfish Derby is thrilled to be headquartered once again at the beautiful Sailfish Marina, located just north of the Palm Beach Inlet on Singer Island. Dockage, accommodations, waterfront restaurant & bar and fuel dock are just some of the amenities available to Derby participants and boaters throughout the year. Call (561) 844-1724 or go to [www.sailfishmarina.com](http://www.sailfishmarina.com).

# 2012 Derby Awards - Angler

The Rea Trophy - Angler with most releases overall

Angler with 2nd Most  
Releases Overall



Angler with 3rd Most  
Releases Overall



Angler with 4th Most  
Releases Overall



Daily Sailfish Release Awards

Awarded to the individual who releases the most sailfish each day

Daily 1st Billfish Release



Daily last Billfish Release

A special award for the 1st & last sailfish released each day

Lucky Sailfish Award

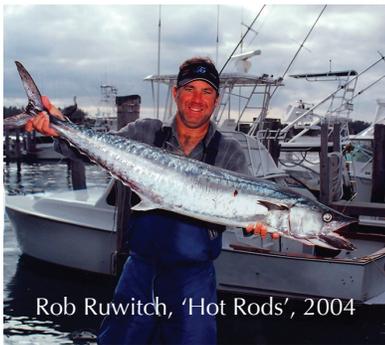
A weekend getaway at Sailfish Marina presented to the angler whose sailfish release number is randomly drawn.

Daily Weight Fish Award

An assortment of C&H Lures for the heaviest weight fish entered each day. Eligible species: kingfish, dolphin, wahoo, cobia & tuna

Grand Champion Weight Fish Award

Engraved crystal plus a \$500 gift certificate for Kluch Clothing presented to the angler catching the largest weight fish entered in the Derby. Eligible species: kingfish, dolphin, wahoo, cobia & tuna



Rob Ruwitch, 'Hot Rods', 2004

Recent Grand Champion Weight Fish  
Winners...

- 2000: R&R - Janeen Davis: 36 lb. Cobia
- 2001: Perfect Parts- Pico Cassada: 24 lb. Dolphin
- 2002: Envy - Ronnie Appleton: 31 lb. Wahoo
- 2003: Envy - Tom Edwards: 28 lb. Dolphin
- 2004: Hot Rods - Rob Ruwitch: 29.25 lb. Kingfish
- 2005: Reformed - Joe Farish: 49 lb. Kingfish
- 2006: Ale N Rye - Tim McClure: 53 lb. Wahoo
- 2007: Sea Hunter - Paul Sachse: 35 lb. Dolphin
- 2008: Catch One - David Kairalla: 32 lb. Dolphin
- 2009: Permitted - John Kazaros: 46.4 lb. Kingfish
- 2010: Offshore Account - John Rearden: 30.5 lb. Wahoo
- 2011: MD 20-20 - Adam Yunis: 44 lb. Cobia



David Kairalla & team 'Catch One', 2008



2011 winner Adam Yunis from team 'Mad Dog 20-20'

The Louis Boski Memorial Trophy Award - presented to the angler with the Most Outstanding Catch



# 2012 Derby Awards - Boat

## Top Boat Trophy

The Derby's top boat award presented to the boat registering the most overall sailfish releases during the tournament.



2011 2nd Place Boat Overall  
*'Weez In The Keys'*

2nd place boat  3rd place boat  
4th place boat

Top Daily Boat  
Sailfish Release

Awards



Top Tag  
Team



2011 Top Boat honors went to Team  
*'Get Lit'*

Top Captain  
Award

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## Recent Top Boat Trophy Winners...

- 1995: Ruthie - Capt. Charlie Bouchard (16 releases) Anglers: Gus Buonaiuto & Sherman Miller
- 1996: Toy II - Capt. Bill Weyand (7 releases) Anglers: Bill Weyand, Richard Denti & Martha Chisholm
- 1997: Liquidator - Capt. Wink Doerzbacher (31 releases) Anglers: Dr. Tom Floyd & Dan Kleiser
- 1998: Permitted - Capt. Greg Bogdan (16 releases) Anglers: David Leavitt & Flint Harner
- 1999: Strictly Business - Capt. Vinnie Donato (14 releases) Anglers: Dave & Donna Dickerson, Pete Farkas
- 2000: Old Reliable - Capt. Ray Rosher (19 releases) Angler: Nick Smith
- 2001: Hot Rods - Capt. Jeff Archer (16 releases) Anglers: Rob Ruwitch, Jeff Archer & Al Castro
- 2002: Old Reliable - Capt. Ray Rosher (13 releases) Angler: Nick Smith
- 2003: Reel Lucky - Capt. Tore Turney (14 releases) Angler: Jim Gill
- 2004: Get Lit - Capt. Ray Rosher (45 releases) Anglers: Peter Miller, Kitt Toomey, Jon Cooper & Charmain Williams
- 2005: Get Lit - Capt. Ray Rosher (12 releases) Anglers: Peter Miller, Kitt Toomey, Jon Cooper & Charmain Williams
- 2006: Get Lit - Capt. Ray Rosher (59 releases) Anglers: Peter Miller, Kitt Toomey & Carlos Garcia
- 2007: Reel Lucky Too - Capt. Tore Turney (11 releases on time) Anglers: Jim Gill & Art Frigo
- 2008: Sandman - Capt. Neil Orange (18 releases) Anglers: Jason Roe, Kitt Toomey, Todd & Sandra Kirkpatrick
- 2009: Certifiable - Capt. Frank Gibbs (12 releases) Anglers: Syd Sussman, Janeen Davis, Molly Fleming & Dave McCleod
- 2010: Double Take - Capt Mike Laufle (27 Releases) Anglers: Craig Lindner, Tony Cummings, Mike Causley & Todd Peter
- 2011: Get Lit - Capt. Quinton Dieterle (37 sailfish releases) Anglers: Kitt Toomey, Peter Miller & Claudio Martinez

## DAILY RADIO GIVEAWAYS...

The Derby fleet is reminded that throughout the 3-day tournament, boat numbers will be drawn randomly for VHF radio prize giveaways of items donated by various tournament sponsors.

Winning boat numbers will be announced over the VHF & prizes can be picked at the Sailfish Marina when turning in your daily score sheet.



## SHOW YOUR PASSION FOR SAILFISHING!

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World's oldest sailfish tournament'



# Silver Sailfish Derby Records

## Best First Day of 3-Day Derby

258 sailfish releases on January 5, 2006 during 69th Derby.  
(Previous record was 155 sailfish releases in 2004 Derby).

## Best Second Day of 3-Day Derby

397 sailfish releases on January 6, 2006 during 69th Derby.  
(Previous record was 373 releases on day #2 of 2004 Derby).

## Best Single Day Derby Total Ever

397 sailfish releases on January 6, 2006 during 69th Derby.  
(Previous record was 373 releases on day #2 of 2004 Derby).

## Best 3-Day Derby Total

958 sailfish releases by 50 boats fishing in 69th Derby January 5 - 7, 2006. Believed to be a world record for Atlantic sailfish during three consecutive days of tournament fishing  
(Previous record was 636 sailfish releases by 59 boats in 2004 Derby).\*



Rea Trophy winner Nick Smith (c) is flanked by Capt. Ray Rosher (l) & mate Alex Castellanos

## Angler to Win the Derby's Rea Trophy the Most Times

Nick Smith of Stuart, Florida, has won the prestigious *Rea Trophy* 6 times (1990, 1991, 1992, 2000, 2001 & 2002). The *Mrs. Henry R. Rea Trophy* is the Derby's Top Individual Angler Award and is presented to the angler who releases the most sailfish during the 3-day tournament.

## Most Boats to Post Double Digit Score during 3-Day Derby

36 boats released 10 or more sails during the 2006 Derby, just under 3/4 of the tournament fleet (Previous record was 28 boats during the 2004 Derby).

## Most Anglers to Catch at least one Sailfish During Derby

177 different individual anglers during 2004 Derby.

## Best Catch/Per Boat Day Average for 3-Day Derby

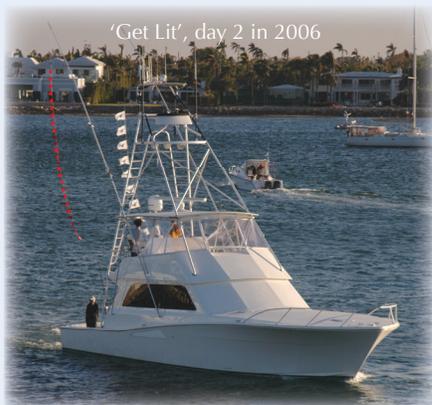
6.45 sails per boat day during 74th Derby in 2011 (Previous record was 6.39 sails per boat day during 2006 Derby. The Derby's historical tournament average is somewhere between 1.3 and 1.5 sails per boat day).

## Best Single Day Catch Per Boat/Day Average in Derby

8.2 sails per boat/day on Friday January 7, 2011. 35 boats released 287 sails (Previous record was Day #2 during the 2006 Derby when 50 boats registered 7.94 sails per boat/day).

## Most Sailfish Released on Circle Hooks in any Tournament held in United States

In the 2006 Derby, 958 sailfish were released by 50 boats all using tournament approved zero degree-offset circle hooks: Eagle Claw Lazer Sharp L2004EL and Penn International Billfish hook P170 (Previous record was 636 releases by 59 boats in 2004 Derby).



'Get Lit', day 2 in 2006

## Best Single Day Total by one Boat in 3-Day Derby

Team *Get Lit* lead by Capt. Ray Rosher of Miami with 35 releases on Day #2 of 2006 Derby (Previous record held by team *Cookie* with 30 sails Day #2 of 2004 Derby).



Chip Sheehan (l) on 'Cookie' in 2004

## Best Single Day Total by one Angler in 3-Day Derby

Chip Sheehan of Boynton Beach fishing aboard the *Cookie* with 19 individual sailfish releases on Day #2 of 2004 Derby. (of note: Angler Jim Gill of West Palm Beach posted an impressive 18 individual sailfish releases on Day #2 of the 2006 *Silver Sailfish Derby*).

## Best Tournament 3-Day Total by a Derby Boat

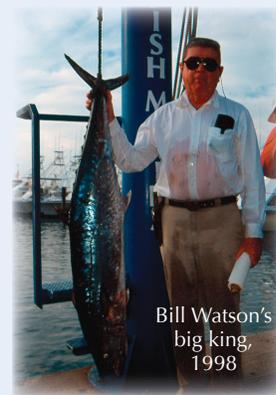
Team *Get Lit* from Miami (Capt. Ray Rosher, Kitt Toomey, Peter Miller, Carlos Garcia) with 59 sailfish releases during 69th Derby in 2006

## Most Individual Sailfish Releases in 3-Day Derby Overall

Tie: Peter Miller of Miami aboard team *Get Lit* with 26 during 2004 Derby and fellow team mate Christopher "Kitt" Toomey of Miami aboard team *Get Lit* with 26 releases during 69th Derby in 2006  
(Previous record set by Dr. Thomas Floyd on team *Liquidator* in 1997 with 22 sails individually overall).

## Heaviest Weight Fish Entered in 3-Day Derby

54.5 pound kingfish caught by Bill Watson aboard team *Loose Connection* during the 1998 Derby (Eligible weight fish are: Kingfish, Dolphin, Wahoo, Cobia and Tuna).



Bill Watson's big king, 1998

\* These records do not include tournament totals for the *Silver Sailfish Derby's* held prior to 1992 when the event was three weeks, sometimes nearly 4 weeks long (1935 to 1991). Interestingly however, since the first *Silver Sailfish Derby*, held in 1935, there are only 3 occasions when the Derby fleet caught more than 958 sails (the number of sailfish released during the three-day Derby in 2006). The dates of those events were: 1941 = 1,035 sails; 1942 = 1,238 sails and 1948 = 1,579 sails.

# 2012 Schedule of Events

Wednesday, January 4 • 6:00 pm

Tournament Captain's meeting at the historic WPBFC clubhouse (201 5th St., WPB). Receive boat kits and review Derby rules. Enjoy cocktails, complimentary hors d'oeuvres, beer and soft drinks. Billfish Foundation tags, derby dinner tickets and tournament merchandise will be available for purchase. **Mandatory attendance from at least one crew member.**

Thursday & Friday, January 5 & 6

Silver Sailfish Derby Tournament Fishing Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Informal rum punch gathering by the Derby scoreboard at 5:00 p.m. dockside at the Sailfish Marina. Teams must submit completed report forms **by boat** at Sailfish Marina no later than 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 7

Final Day of Tournament Fishing: 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Teams must submit completed report forms **by boat** at Sailfish Marina no later than 3:30 p.m.

Saturday Evening • 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Derby Dinner & Trophy Presentations at the Sailfish Club of Florida, located in Palm Beach. There is ample seating at the dinner, however, tickets must be purchased prior to January 7th. Please note this is not a Sailfish Club event, so all Derby dinner tickets must be purchased through the Fishing Club. Jacket required, tie is suggested. No jeans or shorts please.

7:00 - 7:45 p.m. Cocktails & social

7:45 - 8:30 p.m. Prime rib & seafood buffet

8:30 - 9:30 p.m. Trophy presentations & 'Bucket of Silver' raffle drawing

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## Craving More Fishing History?

If this commemorative magazine has wetted your appetite for more angling history then we suggest you purchase a copy of *The West Palm Beach Fishing Club: A 75-Year History* by historian Mike Rivkin. The colorful hard cover book chronicles the vast contributions, rich history and angling traditions of the venerable club that has been headquartered in downtown West Palm Beach for over 77 years. Rivkin eloquently reveals that there is much more to the club's past than the *Silver Sailfish Derby*. Beyond the great stories, the book is filled with wonderful images and photographs from angling eras that are long gone. To order the WPBFC history book online visit [www.westpalmbeachfishingclub.org](http://www.westpalmbeachfishingclub.org). Mike Rivkin has authored other entertaining books on big-game angling history as well including, *Angling and War: The Collision of Big-Game Fishing and WWII*, *Big-Game Fishing Headquarters: A History of the IGFA*, and *Big: The 50 Greatest World Record Catches*. To purchase these and other titles visit [www.silverfishpress.com](http://www.silverfishpress.com).

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