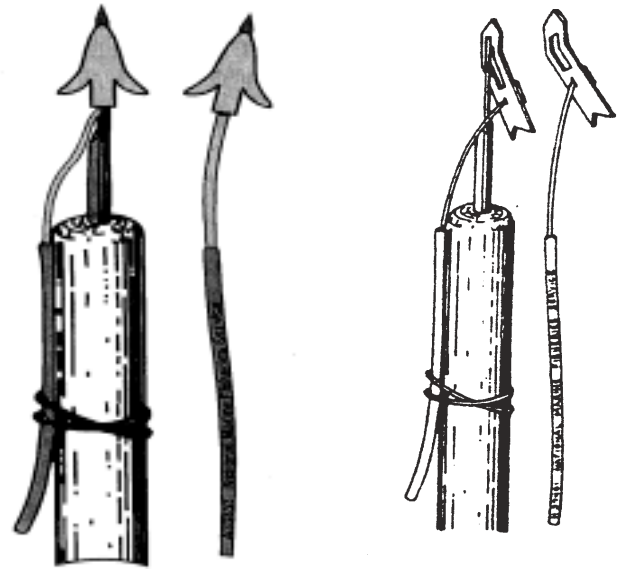


# HOW TO TAG YOUR BILLFISH

There are two styles of tags in use in the Marshall Islands. The common stainless steel ones and the newer nylon ones from The Billfish Foundation. Both use different applicators so make sure you have the right stick for your tags.

**First, have your tag loosely affixed to the applicator tip with a rubber band before you start to leader your fish.**

When the fish is brought alongside your boat, allow the fish time to calm down so you can better control it for accurate tag insertion. The target zone has been revised just recently due to evidence of tags falling out. The picture at the bottom of this page shows the new target zone in the fish on the right compared to the old zone in the fish on the left. The tag is inserted in the dorsal back muscle just below and behind the tallest part of the dorsal fin. (Pictured below). The tag should be inserted a full two inches into the muscle and at an angle matching the flow of water over the fish's back. Take care to avoid the head and gill areas

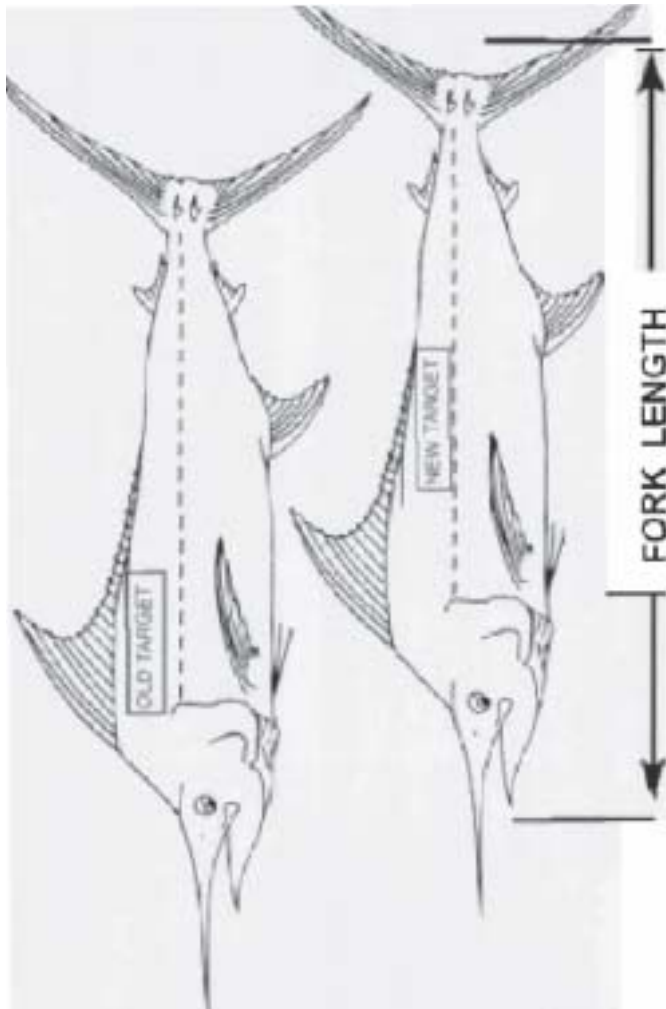


Please fill out "Tagging Report Card" clearly. Tagging cards may vary. Below is a sample of a filled card. Be sure to ask your charter boat captain for assistance.

## BILLFISH TAGGING REPORT

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION CLEARLY	SPECIES Blue Marlin	TAG DATE 2/18/93	BOAT NAME Tag Em	TAG # 000058
	LATITUDE 11°	LONGITUDE 65° 50'	LENGTH 115	
	LOCALITY La Guata, Venezuela		WEIGHT 350	
	OWNER Sally Smith		CAPTAIN Bill Jones	
ADDRESS 10345 NW 103 St Avalon, CA 90704		ADDRESS 2450 SW 28 Avenue Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33178		
CITY/STATE/COUNTRY Avalon, CA 90704		CITY/STATE/COUNTRY Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33178		
FISH CONDITION/REMARKS Good		Bait Type <input type="checkbox"/> LIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Artificial <input type="checkbox"/> Dead <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
Time to Tag 1 hr. 40 min.		IF YOU WOULD LIKE A RELEASE CERTIFICATE, CHECK BOX (BILLFISH SPICES ONLY)		PLEASE SEND ME AN ORDER FORM

Please complete and return to us today. Otherwise tagging is of no value. PLEASE PRINT



Below is a picture of properly tagged fish Shown within circled area..



# Majuro Sept 2nd - Sept 5th, 2005

## 13th Annual All-Micronesia Fishing Tournament

### OFFICIAL RULES AND SCORING

**REGISTRATION** — Each team shall pay registration and boat charter fee of \$850.00. Registration of each team must be done no later than 9:00p.m., on Friday, September 2nd, 2005.

**TEAM REQUIREMENTS** — Each team shall consist of a minimum of two and a maximum of three anglers. No more than five people will be allowed on each boat entered in the tournament (including captain and crewman). The names of each team member must appear on the registration form for the team. Each team must designate a Team Captain to represent the team in all meetings or decisions regarding rules. Team Captains must be on board the boat during fishing.

**CHECK-IN & CHECK-OUT** — All boats must check-out with tournament officials at the Uliga dock before starting to fish. After checking out, the boat must go directly fishing; **absolutely** no stops on shore will be allowed. If a boat stops anywhere after checking out, it must return to the dock and check out again. All boats must return to the dock directly after fishing. If a boat proceeds to any other landing area prior to checking in, all fish on that boat will be disqualified. For safety's sake, all boats are required to check in at the dock after fishing.

**FISHING HOURS** — Start of fishing is 7:00 a.m and end of fishing is 5:00 p.m. This means lines out of the water at 5:00 p.m. All boats must be in the immediate vicinity of the dock by 5:30 p.m.

**LATE HOOKUPS** — In the event that a team is hooked up with a fish before 5:00 p.m, but has not boated the fish by that time, the fish may continue to be fought provided that the hookup is reported by radio prior to 5:00 p.m. or can be verified by another team entered in the tournament who witnessed the hookup.

**FISHING EQUIPMENT** — All fish must be caught using only normal fishing equipment, including standard rods, reels or handlines. Lures or live bait may be used. Outriggers, down-riggers and/or kites may be used.

**RADIO CONTACT** — Radio contact with tournament officials will be on marine VHF channel 69. All boats are required to have a radio on board and turned on at all times. Radio round-ups will be conducted at 10:00a.m, 12:00, 2:00p.m & 4:00p.m. each day, during which time boat captains will be required to report the number of strikes, hookups and fish boated during the previous two hours. In addition, boat captains must immediately report any hookup by radio to tournament officials as soon as it occurs. There is a grid map chart of the immediate vicinity of Majuro and Arno Atolls, when reporting your fishing activity you must refer to the grid map to give your location (your boat captain and crew can assist you with orientation).

**RESTRICTIONS** — All fish must be caught on hook and line only. Unattended lines, such as those attached to balls or other floats placed in the water are not allowed. Multiple hooks may be used but fish caught on two lines will be disqualified. Fish must be in good condition in order to qualify. Shark-bitten or mutilated fish will be disqualified. Based on the decision of the tournament judges, fish, which have been mutilated during gaffing, may also be disqualified.

**MINIMUM QUALIFYING WEIGHTS** — requirements are as follows: Billfish 100 lb.; Sailfish 50 lb.; Tuna 40 lb.; Wahoo 25 lb.; Mahi-mahi 15 lb.; & Barracuda 15 lb. **\*Billfish or Sailfish that do not meet the minimum requirements will be disqualified, Anglers are encouraged to tag & release.**

**BILLFISH TAG AND RELEASE** — Marshalls Billfish Club and All-Micronesia tournament officials strongly encourage conservation of all marine resources. In conjunction with this, teams will be awarded 200 points for each billfish, which is properly tagged and released. In order to qualify as a tagged and released fish, the billfish must be caught in accordance with all tournament rules. The fish must be brought to the side of the boat with the leader securely in hand, must have the hook removed or cut off, then be properly tagged, and released alive. A Tag

and Release form must be submitted to tournament officials at the dock. The decision of whether to release or boat a fish shall be made by the team captain, **not** by the boat captain. Tag sticks will be provided by the club to all boats.

**TOURNAMENT TROPHIES** — Trophies will be presented for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd biggest fish caught in each of the following categories: Billfish, Tuna, Wahoo, Mahimahi and Barracuda.

**TEAM POINTS** — Cash prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be presented to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams based on the two days of fishing. Team standings will be determined on a total point basis with two (2) points awarded for each qualifying fish caught on 50 lb. test line or below for fish weighing over 50 lb. And one point five (1.5) points for each trolling category fish over 80 lbs. caught on 80 lb. or less test line. And one (1) point per pound for qualifying fish caught on 130 lb. test line or below.

**CHARTER BOAT PRIZES** — Cash prizes of \$500, \$300 and \$200 will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place charter boat captain based on the two days of fishing. Charter boat standings will be determined on the same total point basis as utilized for team point standings.

**BILLFISH RECORD CASH PRIZE** — A cash prize of \$3,000 will be awarded to any team entered in the tournament who holds the new All Micronesia Tournament record for Billfish after Sundays weigh-in. Currently the record stands at 562 lb. held by team Dragon from Majuro.

**OFF ISLAND TEAMS** — Visiting teams must have at least one member who has traveled from the Island where they are resident and are representing. Maximum of three members per team. If wanted, the visiting team may have one local angler join the team. However the visitor is to be captain and fish on both days without exception.

**\$5,500 CASH PRIZES** — Cash prizes totalling \$5,500 will be awarded to the off-island team entered in the charter boat pool that catch the **biggest fish** in each of the trolling categories. *This may not necessarily be a qualifying fish except Billfish or Sailfish, which must meet the minimum qualifying weights as outlined in the "Minimum qualifying weights".* This does not include fish tagged and released. The prize money will be awarded as listed: \$3,000 billfish, \$1,000 Tuna, \$500 Wahoo, \$500 Barracuda, \$500, Mahimahi. In the event that a fish is not caught in a particular category the prize money will be added to the Billfish prize. If a Billfish is not caught the money will be added to the Tuna prize. Should neither a Billfish or Tuna be caught the prize money will be divided between the remaining categories.

**BOATING SAFETY** — Everyone involved in the tournament is expected to demonstrate good boating safety practices at all times. Only one boat at a time should enter the channel under the bridge; following boats should wait until the first boat has completely cleared the channel before entering it. When approaching the dock, all boats should slow to a safe harbor speed and avoid creating waves, which can be damaging to other boats and/or people. Charter boats, which violate these rules, may be disqualified from receiving bonus prizes and/or full charter fee. All Charter boats will be required to have the following safety equipment on board, VHF radio, flares, life jackets, first aid kit, and life ring.

**DISPOSITION OF FISH** — All fish caught during the tournament belong to the charter boat for disposition at the discretion of the boat owner or captain. Anglers wishing to take fish with them may negotiate such an arrangement with the boat captain.

**JUDGES' DECISION** — a three-member committee consisting of the Director of Tournaments or his designee, the Official Weigh-master, and an Official Judge appointed by the tournament committee will make all tournament decisions. Any protest against a decision of the judges must be lodged by the team captain immediately. Protest must be registered with a tournament official no later than one (1) hour after completion of each day's weigh-in.

# 12th All-Micronesia Tournament: TRIPLE TREAT FOR POHNPEI

*International visitors catch lots of fishy flesh in 12th All Micronesia tourney*

It was a triple treat for the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei because the last two years' All Micronesia Fishing Tourneys were taken out by Pohnpei's champion fisherman Alex Tretnoff and his crew, while this 12th saw Pohnpei's Eric Mecklenburg and his team as the overall winners.

As the Pohnpei team's boat came into view on the last day of

fishing, the crowd at Uliga Dock let out a cheer. Draped athwartships over the back of the sportsboat Baby Mimi was a significant beast of the deep and one that was obviously going to be the biggest of the tournament.

The huge 427-pound marlin turned out to have 289 more pounds of fishy flesh than any other fish caught on the weekend.

The Pohnpei team of

Mecklenburg, Tony and Saimon Mix, and XXXX representative Evan Williams also brought in a 121-pound marlin, five wahoo and a barracuda over the weekend's fishing. As well, they registered a tag and release, bringing their total points to 775. The weather for both days was sunny with relatively calm waters for the 15 international teams.

Fiji, Guam, US (Hawaii and Kwajalein), Nauru, Pohnpei, Taiwan, Saipan, Kiribati, New Zealand, and the Marshall Islands were all represented in the 12th annual tourney, whose major sponsors were Saipan's Tan Hold-

**POHNPEI WINNERS:**

*The two Pohnpei teams — Tony Mix, Alex Tretnoff Jr., Eric Mecklenburg, Conrad Englberger, Alex Tretnoff, and Saimon Mix — pose with the tourney's biggest fish*

