

# The Best Fishing Tournament in the World

By Ricky Jaén, Chairman, International Billfish Tournament



**I**magine moving fast, cruising toward “Marlin Alley,” one of the best fishing spots in the world, right here in San Juan and a few miles away.

Now imagine you are on board a comfortable fishing yacht—a battlewagon—to spend a day out at sea in a fun and competitive tournament setting.

All this happens during the International Billfish Tournament (IBT) hosted by Club Náutico de San Juan (CNSJ) and this year’s installment, our 61st edition, will be held Sept. 3-9.

This is the longest consecutively held international big-game fishing tournament in the world. It has been described as “One of the most successful contests in the Americas... San Juan’s legacy is beyond compare” by *Marlin* magazine and last year a record 145 blue marlins were released by 176 anglers from eight countries fishing aboard 46 boats. It is no wonder most experienced deep-sea fishing anglers regard the IBT as one of the top fishing tournaments in the world.

One of our tournament’s great characteristics is the fact that we have international participants fishing as “rotating” anglers and enjoying the action on a different boat every day. Tournament events include a fun boat parade, a traditional flag ceremony, a shootout start past the astonishing San Felipe del Morro fort, four fishing days, cocktails, a *fiesta típica* (a party with local flair), a grand awards banquet with over 30 acknowledgements, and the hospitality of CNSJ members.

With available digital technology, we can predict the best fishing spots for the following day. We review satellite images, identify ocean spots where the water is cleaner and looks bluer, search for areas where marlin move for food, and check for proper water temperatures and currents. It has proven to be a great tool and marlins are biting!

Now is a good time to register for the tournament. Boat owners who want to stay within the same fishing group throughout the event can fish with an International Game Fish Tournament Observer (IGFTO), a new alternative this year. We also have an irresistible offer for teams: fish with three and pay for two anglers. This “early bird” promo offer is valid until July 31 (you must register and pay by this deadline).

Go to [www.sanjuaninternational.com](http://www.sanjuaninternational.com) for information,



daily results, videos, photos, and Twitter feeds. You may also contact us through e-mail at [chairman@sanjuaninternational.com](mailto:chairman@sanjuaninternational.com) or call Club Náutico de San Juan at 787-722-0177. A new era begins for world-class blue marlin fishing, and you are invited!