



The International Billfish Tournament is back!

Over 240 anglers competing, including 50 international anglers

August 16, 2021

The International Billfish Tournament (IBT) of Club Náutico of San Juan, top deep sea fishing competition in the world, is back with 60 participating battlewagons and over 240 competitors, including 50 international anglers, from August 17 to August 21 in waters north of San Juan.

Roger Casellas, chairman of this 68th edition, announced the tournament will be joining a new fishing circuit, the “Sport Fishing Championship,” which gathers 11 different fishing tournaments in which participants can compete for a grand final prize and a three-foot high sculpture of a marlin.

“Various international anglers who visit us will be part of the championship and we are proud that the founder of the circuit, Mark Neifeld, has selected the IBT as a platform to launch the championship and announce the circuit’s results in 2022. We continue to share our competitive edge in the deep sea waters north of San Juan with outstanding international anglers, and with the hospitality that characterizes us,” said Casellas.

Neifeld, chief executive officer of Dallas-based Momentum SE, explained that “this championship represents the shared vision of our partners through different tournaments that collectively promote 400 years of rich fishing tournament history and welcome some 1,300 vessels through SFC’s five-month season.”

Casellas said that Club Náutico of San Juan will follow all the preventive measures against COVID-19. Local and international participants, visitors and employees are required to show proof of vaccination or show results of PCR or antigen tests taken within 72 hours from the official beginning of the tournament (Tuesday, August 17).

Similarly, to maximize the safety of everyone a lab offering rapid testing will be available on registration day from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. “We are taking all the cautionary measures for everyone’s wellbeing. Neither COVID-19 nor storms or hurricanes will stop the celebration of this event so important for Puerto Rico’s nautical tourism,” Casellas said.

Fifty pound fishing test-line will be used by competitors in three days — Thursday 19 through Saturday 21 — from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and the last day until 4:30 p.m. Registration will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; meetings and the flag ceremony on Wednesday 18 at 6:00 p.m.; the shootout from El Morro on Thursday 19 at 7:45 a.m.; the “Fiesta Típica,” on Friday 20 at 7:00 p.m. followed by award dinner on Saturday 21 at 7:00 p.m.



Participating countries are Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Venezuela, United States, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, all of which are represented in this edition of the longest consecutively held big-game fishing tournament in the world, 68 years, working towards conservation of billfish for future generations.

Vessels from various Puerto Rico municipalities will compete such as of Cabo Rojo, Arecibo, Lajas, Ponce, Salinas, Humacao, Fajardo and Carolina.

For two decades the tournament has distinguished itself for being an “all release” event: all marlin return to the ocean in good shape. In 2018, 89 billfish were released; 56 in 2019 during a three-day competition and last year (the first pandemic year), 38 billfish went back into the water during a two days event.

“This year we are expecting an excellent bite. We will be delivering information on ‘hot spots,’ those areas with greater chances to hook a marlin based on water temperature, color of the water and currents that move food for fish,” Casellas said.

For more information go to www.sanjuaninternational.com or check social media platforms (Facebook @San Juan IBT, Instagram @cnsj_ibt or Twitter IBT68 News & Reports), send e-mail to chairman@sanjuaninternational.com or call 787.722.0177.

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