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Invitation

Dear Boat Owner, Skipper & Angler

It is with great pleasure to announce our 32nd Billfish 15 000 Tournament.

During the week of the **12th to the 16th of November 2018**, Dorado Ski Boat Club will once again host the Annual Billfish 15000 Tournament.

This is the biggest event of its kind in the world, and we have had participating teams from Finland, Wales, Italy, Australia, England, Hawaii, Zimbabwe, Azores, Namibia, Germany, Canada and Swaziland. The tournament program consists out of registration (where every angler receives a hamper with T-shirts, caps, glasses, magazine etc.), a grand opening function (all functions are held in a 30 x 40mtr marquee tent), fishing (Monday - Friday from first light - 15h00), daily weigh-in and happy hour and a spectacular prize-giving function on the Friday evening.

In the past years we have relied on various sponsors to support us by means of buying an advertisement in our annual magazine or folder, sponsor towards TV broadcast, cash sponsorships or some of their products as prizes. In the light of the Tournament's past success, we kindly ask for your support towards the Billfish 15000.

This tournament has a unique point system in place. Thereby they determine their winners, but also enforcing conservation through tag and release. This tournament evolved in to a fully tag and release competition. The biggest billfish caught in the history of the tournament was a Black Marlin of 375kg caught off the boat Mitsufishi in the 2000 tournament. In 2010 a Black Marlin was caught off the boat Sledge Hammer and weighed 351KG the second biggest for the Billfish 15000 in 24 years. The Billfish 15000 actively contributes towards research by assisting O.R.I in collecting all statistics of catches of game fish, T&R of every billfish that is released. We also generously contribute financially towards Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife for conservation and development.

In 1987 the first Billfish 15000 took place and had 60 Boats competing for R15 000. In the 2000 tournament, 179 boats competed for prizes (Cash, Big Bangers etc.) to the value of R1.5 Million. There was one important difference apart from the major increase in the value of the prizes and the number of participants, and that was the number of billfish released. In 1987 virtually no billfish were released. During the 2009 tournament in which there were only 2 days of angling due to weather conditions 4 Marlin were caught and weighed and 14 Billfish were released. In 2010 a record number of 62 releases were made. The Billfish 15 000 made headlines with a new world record in 2011 where 133 billfishes was successfully released in 5 days. The current average ratio is 27:1. Twenty seven billfish released for every billfish weighed. In 2012 the Billfish 15 000, again successfully tag & released a total of 89 Billfish. In 2013 the competition was won on the last day when Real Passion had a double strike and successfully released both the fishes. In 2016 we had our 30th anniversary year and Captain Fine walked away with the prize money and where crowned the winners of the tournament. With a new face to the Billfish 15000, Team "Mrs Seevarkie" won the 2017th Billfish 15000 after 22 years of competing in it and took home a Carry Cat 670 Boat on trailer, with X2 Yamaha F70hp motors and lots of extras.

The Billfish 15000 committee has been brainstorming for a while trying to make this tournament even more special & unique, without complicating it or changing its character. It has to remain beyond doubt the only tournament of its kind in the world. Is this possible?

Our statistics point out that anglers have caught 5 billfish species on the Monday of the Billfish 15000 tournament during the last couple of years. This is a great achievement both nationally and international. There are very few billfish grounds around the world where you can successfully target black, blue & striped marlin, sailfish and short bill spearfish on the same day. We know that the best of the best billfish anglers are competing in our tournament and we are convinced that we can achieve something greater, with the combined knowledge and skills of all these exceptional anglers.

The only available specie of billfish that we have not yet been caught during the Billfish 15000 is the Gladiator of the deep – *Broadbill*. Can it be done?? Of course!!!

Various anglers have caught broadbill at Sodwana during day time fishing hours in the past 5 years. Obviously the technique is new and different to that what most of us are familiar with. Unfortunately the weather was not suitable yet for Broadbill during the Billfish 15000 tournament, but never the less the anglers did try their best and will again this year.

Interesting Statistics 1987 - 2017

Number of anglers that participated	11790	anglers
Number of boats that participated	2785	boats
Man-hours fished for billfish	425200	hours
Fuel consumed by boats only (excl. Vehicles)	18579700	litres
Committee hours to organize these tournaments	138863	hours

The tournament is limited to a specific amount of boats and works on an invitation-only-basis. The Billfish 15000 organizing committee scrutinizes every entry to ensure that only the best of the best compete in this prestigious event.

Prizes will be allocated to the boats with the most points. Only fully paid up boats will be entered in the competition.

Enter now to avoid disappointment!

We will bring you updates via E-mail, Facebook and What's App, as to the progress of the competition.

If you have any queries or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me on, Cell: 079 635 4116 / 082 805 2569 or via Email: billfish@dorado-sbc.co.za

Yours in angling,

Blyde Pretorius

Coordinating & Administrating
Billfish 15000

