

General Information and Fishing Rules

Zane Grey Caribbean International Billfish Tournament

Wednesday 13th March to Saturday 16th March 2019

Entry Fees:

No team or angler can compete in the tournament unless their entry fee and membership payments have been made in full prior to start of fishing. A team must consist of 2 or more anglers and no more than 6 anglers. Teams may register and fish less than the 4 scheduled days but shall pay the full entry fee plus membership payment, if required.

Tournament Memberships:

If an angler is not a member of a Club affiliated to the New Zealand Sport Fishing Council then they must also pay a tournament membership of \$25 before their team starts fishing.

Meet the Teams Registration and Briefing:

Registration: Tuesday 12th March 5.00pm – 6.00pm with the briefing starting at 7.00pm at BOISC Russell. All crews must be represented by a fishing member of the crew and must register and make full payment of Entry Fees and Tournament Memberships on this night to be eligible to fish the tournament. Any communication or notice to one team member is notice to all team members, whether at the briefing, over VHF Radio CH3, or by phone.

Prize Giving:

There will be a prize giving and dinner on Saturday 16th March at the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club Russell starting at 7.00pm and all teams must attend to be eligible for prizes. Non-attendance of a winning angler, or team if it is a team prize, will result in forfeiture of any prizes and no disputes will be entered into on this issue.

Fishing Days and Times:

Wednesday 13th March

7.30am – Shotgun Start

All boats must be behind the line of Russell Point and Waitangi Flag Staff.

Thursday – Saturday	start fishing	7.00am
Wednesday – Friday	stop fishing	6.00pm
Saturday 16 th	stop fishing	3.00pm

Eligible Fish Species:

Billfish (Marlin & Broadbill)

Points: Tagged Billfish	-	37kg line	500 points
		24kg line	650 points
		15kg line	800 points

Weighed Billfish and Tuna

Weight of fish x 100 divided by line weight

Marlin must exceed 90kg, if weighed, to be eligible

Spearfish tagged only: 100 points

Tuna tagged: 100 points

There are no points for sharks.

Calling in catches:

All catches must be called in on VHF CH3 Zane Grey HQ within 30 minutes of the capture being completed. All hook ups must be called in also on VHF CH3 Zane Grey HQ. If unable to make contact with VHF CH3 One Base HQ then calls may be relayed or phoned (number to be confirmed).

Line weight:

Minimum 15kg – Maximum 37kg

Tournament Fish Rules:

For all tournament awards, fish must be equal to or exceed the following weights or measurements if weighed in:

- Marlin 90kg
- Tuna - Yellowfin 10kg Big Eye 20kg or exceed line weight
- All fish must be caught in accordance with IGFA rules to qualify for this tournament.

Catch Limits:

Marlin, Broadbill, Tuna, Spearfish – a limit of two of each species per team per day and one of each species per angler per day may be weighed in.

No limit on the number of Marlin, Broadbill, Tuna and Spearfish that may be tagged and released.

Live or Dead Bait Hooks

All live or dead baiting must be carried out using non-offset circle hooks (the definition of non-offset hooks is that they have straight shanks that lie flat on a flat surface).

Weigh Sheets and Tag Cards:

All fish captured or tagged must be accompanied by a correctly filled out Bay of Island Swordfish Club Weigh Sheet when handed in at the weigh station or handed into tournament control. All tagged fish claims must also be accompanied by the correctly filled out tag card with the weigh sheet. Please make sure your weigh sheets, and accompanying tag cards, are correctly filled out as this can lead to fish being disqualified if they are not correct. Ensure weigh sheets are signed by both angler and skipper.

Radio Round Ups:

The official tournament radio call sign will be 'Zane Grey HQ VHF CH3'.

Radio Round Ups will be at 12 noon daily and 5.00pm Wednesday to Friday and Saturday 11.00am and 2.00pm.

Fish Categories:

Marlin, Spearfish, Broadbill, Tuna

Prizes:**60th Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT) package**

Win entry and flights to one of the great fishing institutions, the 2019 HIBT.

1. Entry to the HIBT and flights to Hawaii are limited to Four anglers and these must be registered and fully paid up for the tournament.
2. Flights are to be booked through our nominated travel agent.
3. Flights are in Economy class.
4. Flights are return, exiting Auckland. Domestic flights are not included

Win Eligibility to compete in the Offshore World Championship in Costa Rica

+ other fantastic prizes including, 2x Furuno DB 9 inch touchscreen charter and plotter with P66 transducer

Prize Categories:

- Winning team, most points
- Runner up highest scoring team
- Heaviest Billfish
- 2nd and 3rd heaviest Billfish
- Angler most tagged points
- Heaviest other species

IGFA Satellite Tagging Program

Free team entry to 2020 Zane Grey tournament to the Marlin that travels the furthest distance

Fishing Area:

Northern Boundary is no further west than longitude 173E and no further north than latitude 34.20S no further south than latitude 35.40S. No eastern boundary exists. All fish caught outside this area are deemed non-tournament fish. Boats may anchor in Tom Bowling Bay but must not fish in this area. No fish may be caught on the west coast of New Zealand.

Weigh Stations:

All weighable fish must be weighed within 24 hours of having been landed and can be weighed at any Zone 1 Club except for the last day (see below). Official hours of the Weigh Stations are 6.00pm – 8.00pm Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th March. Fish may be weighed outside these hours at the discretion of the weigh master. On Saturday 16th March all fish landed must be weighed at the Russell Weigh Station between 3.00pm and 6.00pm. No fish accepted after official weigh times on Saturday 16th March.

Tackle used to capture or tag fish must be presented to the weigh master with the weigh sheet and tag card. Tackle includes lure, hook(s), trace, rod and reel with double line and trace attached to lure, gaffs and ropes. If the tagged fish was taken using a live bait then the trace must be cut as close as safely possible to the fish.

All weigh sheets and tag cards must be received by the Club no later than 6pm on the last fishing day of a tournament.

Stop Fishing:

Zane Grey HQ VHF CH3 will call STOP FISHING on Wednesday - Friday at 6.00pm and their call will be the official stop fishing time. Any fish hooked up before 'stop fishing' can continue to be played until boated or tagged. If this takes the angler past the daily check in times, or weigh station times, then the fish will count for the following days tally. Special dispensation will be granted on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, however, on Saturday 18th March if the weigh sheet and accompanying tag card, or the fish, cannot be brought to the weigh station during the official weighing times, then the tagged or weighed fish that day will not be eligible for the tournament.

SAFETY NOTICE:

THE ZANE GREY INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR 4 DAYS OF COMPETITION AND IT IS THE SKIPPERS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO DETERMINE THAT ON ANY ONE DAY, THE SEA CONDITIONS AND WEATHER FORECASTS ARE SAFE FOR THEIR BOAT TO PUT TO SEA.

IT IS THE SKIPPERS RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT THE BOAT THEY INTEND TO PARTICIPATE IN IS CAPABLE OF PUTTING TO SEA AND MEETING LOCAL COAST GUARD REQUIREMENTS.

PARTICIPATION IN THE ZANE GREY INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT DOES NOT DIMINISH EACH SKIPPERS SOLE RESPONSIBILITY UNDER MARITIME LAW, NOR SHIFT ANY OF THAT RESPONSIBILITY TO THE BAY OF ISLANDS SWORDFISH CLUB, EVEN IF THE EVENT OFFICIALS MAKE THE DECISION ON THE CONDITIONS FOR THAT DAY.