

2016 AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

& Cairns  
50<sup>th</sup>

CPGFA PRESENTS

ANNIVERSARY  
BLACK MARLIN  
TOURNAMENT

25-30 SEPTEMBER 2016

COMMEMORATING THE FIRST 1,000LB BLACK MARLIN CAPTURE



[WWW.CPGFA.ASN.AU](http://WWW.CPGFA.ASN.AU)

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# ABOUT THE EVENT

## The 50th Anniversary & Australian International Billfish Tournament

To celebrate this historic milestone, The Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association Inc. will host a four day anniversary tournament and related events. This event is also the nominated Australian International Billfish Tournament (AIBT) for 2016.

### Schedule:

- 25th Sept - Registration from 1300 - 1430 Commemorative black marlin sculpture unveiling - 1830 Welcome reception / briefing at the Cairns Convention Centre.
- 26-29th Sept - Fishing (4 days).
- 29th Sept - Compulsory return to Cairns Marlin Marina - Informal debriefing for sponsors, anglers, crew and guests with drinks and tall tales.
- 30th Sept - Rest day - Evening tournament presentation gala & Hall of Fame Awards from 1830 at the Cairns Convention Centre.



# COMMEMORATING 50 YEARS OF CAIRNS BLACK MARLIN HISTORY

Captain George Bransford first visited Cairns in 1943 as an American Paratrooper, and was fascinated to hear the locals' tales of enormous billfish along the Great Barrier Reef that smashed the professional fishermen's gear and stole their catches.

He was intrigued enough to sell his Fort Lauderdale charter business and move with his family to Cairns where he had the 32ft vessel *Sea Baby* built in 1963.

After 3 years of heart-break looking for 'that one big fish' and losing many, on 25 September 1966, Bransford made world fishing history when he and deckhand Richard Obach landed a 1,064lb black marlin (pictured above right), the first grander ever landed in Australian waters.

This fish was also a new world record, eclipsing the old mark of 871lbs and the was also the first marlin ever caught on rod and reel over 1,000lbs using 80 pound line.

The capture of this first 'grander' black marlin put Cairns on the world



game fishing map.

After that the Cairns fleet grew and as many more big fish followed over the many years since, tens of thousands of anglers have enjoyed fishing in the Cairns region.

These days, Cairns remains the undisputed black marlin capital of the world where modern anglers use 1000lbs as a benchmark for an outstanding catch.

99% of these fish are now released - all thanks to the foresight and passion of Captain George Bransford.

# CAIRNS BLACK MARLIN 50TH ANNIVERSARY & AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT RULES

The tournament is tag and release only.

Only non-offset circle hooks may be used for bait.

GFAA Rules and Equipment Regulations apply.

## Sailpast

All boats must participate in the sailpast at 0700 hours on Monday morning, 26 September, 2016, proceeding past the Cairns Marlin Marina in single file as outlined at the briefing.

## Fishing Area

The fishing area is east of the Great Barrier Reef, between the northern end of #6 Ribbon Reef and the southern end of Channel Reef. Be aware of Green Zone rules/regulations.

## Line Class

Heavy tackle 24kg, 37kg and 60Kg only, that conforms to GFAA rules.

## Scoring

There is no line class point score, a tag counts as one [1] fish. Most fish tagged wins. NSW DPI "Billfish only" tags are to be used.

All billfish must be tagged and released. Only marlin (blue, black and striped marlin) count towards point score.

## Anglers

Maximum 4 anglers per team.

Anglers must be current financial members of a club affiliated with IGFA, GFAA or QGFA or another GFAA member state's club (IGFA e-memberships does not suffice) to be eligible to fish. Proof of membership may be required.

Non-members will be invited to join the [Cairns Bluewater GFC](#) (apply at registration).

## Vessels

Team arrange their own boat and any related charter fees. Boats must be seaworthy and have public liability insurance. In case of bad weather, participation is the responsibility of the skipper.

## Compulsory Attendance

Boat Skipper and Team Captain **MUST** attend the registration and welcome reception/briefing.

All boats must be present at the Cairns Marlin Marina before the sailpast with equipment available for checking by the tournament judges.

## Compulsory Return to Port

All Vessels and Anglers **MUST** return to the Cairns Marlin Marina on Thursday 29 September, by 1930hrs to qualify for any prizes.

Captains must advise Tournament Base upon return to the Marina or otherwise before 1930 hours, 29 September.

## Judging and Protests

Tournament judges will be appointed by the committee. Protests must be submitted in writing and in the hands of the judges by 1930 hours on Thursday, 29th September.

The judges' decision is final.

## Fishing Times and Scoresheets

Fishing times will be 1000 hours to 1700 hours, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday will be 1000 hours to 1600 hours.

All hookups, tags, and lost fish must be reported as soon as possible to Tournament Base and acknowledged.

Tag cards and score sheets must be handed to judges at the Marlin Marina by 1930 hours on Thursday 29th in order to qualify for prizes.

## Radio Skeds

Radio Skeds will be conducted on VHF channel 81 by Tournament Base at 1205, 1405 and 1705 hours on Mon to Wed.

Thursday at 1205, 1405 & 1605 hours.

Captains must on 1st Sked for the day advise number of people onboard (POB) and location. And at last Sked for the day advise location staying overnight i.e. anchorage or returning to a port.

VHF channel 23 or 82 in the Cooktown area may be used for relays if required. Mobile phones and Satphones must be used if Radio comms cannot be established. Any phoned in sked information will be relayed to all participants on the radio.

In a situation that a boat is not able to contact base via VHF they must relay through another vessel or try via mobile phone or sat-phone or other. Failure to contact base on two successive skeds will result in disqualification of the day's results.

All anglers and crew should comply with the Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association '[Code of Practice](#)'.

# AWARDS LIST

CHAMPION BOAT/ TEAM / **EW PALMER TROPHY CHAMPION TEAM (AIBT)**

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RUNNER-UP CHAMPION BOAT/ TEAM / **MORETON BAY TROPHY RUNNER UP TEAM (AIBT)**

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CHAMPION SKIPPER AND CREW

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**MAL RAMSAY TROPHY CHAMPION ANGLER (AIBT)**

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CHAMPION MALE ANGLER

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CHAMPION FEMALE ANGLER

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JACK ERSKINE MEMORIAL TROPHY (CHAMPION 'MASTER' ANGLER)

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FIRST MARLIN TAGGED DAILY

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DAILY CHAMPION TEAM (MOST MARLIN TAGGED)

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LAST MARLIN TAGGED DAILY

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The Champion Boat will receive FREE entry to Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic.



## TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Please contact Cairns Professional Game Fishing Association's Cairns Black Marlin 50th Anniversary Committee:

Enquiries by email to: [50th@cpgfa.asn.au](mailto:50th@cpgfa.asn.au)

**Chairman:** Dan McCarthy President, CPGFA, **Vice Chair:** John Pecl, President Cairns Bluewater GFC, Zone 1 Rep QGFA, **Secretary:** Kelly Dalling-Fallon, CPGFA Secretary

**Committee:** Dianne Hance, VP QGFA & VP Ribbons LGFC, Kay Fallon-Remedio, President, Ribbons LGFC, Doug Sanderson, President, GFAA.

## ENTER ONLINE AT

[www.cpgfa.asn.au/50th-tournament-entry/](http://www.cpgfa.asn.au/50th-tournament-entry/)

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