



SOLITARY ISLANDS GAME FISHING CLUB



HEAVY TACKLE CHALLENGE 2017



**25 & 26
March
2017**





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The **Solitary Islands Game Fishing Club** is holding a limited species heavy tackle game fishing tournament over two days on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th of March, 2017. The event will be based in Coffs Harbour, although anglers may fish from any port between Ballina and South West Rocks, and may even launch and recover from any port outside the SIGFC designated fishing area (subject to certain limitations).

The tournament is a heavy tackle event and the minimum line class eligible for use will be IGFA certified 24kg. Relevant IGFA and GFAA tackle, equipment and tournament rules will apply, unless specifically varied in the Heavy Tackle Challenge tournament rules.

The event is about catching marlin, and in particular blue marlin, and a unique point scoring system should make for a great tactical event. Plus there is the added benefit of being encouraged to bring home other game fish that will taste great on the barbecue. Only game fish shown in the point score table below are eligible. Points are awarded for tag and release of billfish only, with additional points awarded for captures over a specified species minimum base weight. *Points will be deducted for captures of fish under each minimum species base weight.*

Species	T&R Points	Species Base Weight	Points/kg Over	Points Under
Blue Marlin	250	200kg	+1	-100
Black Marlin	200	100kg	+1	-50
Striped Marlin	200	100kg	+1	-50
Broadbill Swordfish	100	150kg	+1	-75
Shortbill Spearfish	75	30kg	+1	-38
Sailfish	75	30kg	+1	-38
Tuna*(yellowfin, bigeye, longtail)*	N/A	20kg	+1	-20
Wahoo*	N/A	15kg	+1	-15
Mahimahi (Dolphin fish)*	N/A	10kg	+1	-10

Notes:

1. Tag and release of blue marlin will only be eligible for the full 250 points if accompanied by at least one clear digital photo of the fish with the special boat identifier card for the day also in the same image. The image (or images) must allow the Tournament Director to clearly determine the species of marlin. If positive identification is not possible in the Tournament Director's opinion, or a digital photo is not supplied, blue marlin will score only 200 points as per striped or black marlin. The Tournament Director's decision on this and all other matters relating to the event will be final and not subject to appeal.
- 2.* Non-billfish scoring limit of 5 fish per day per boat.
3. Billfish species lifted from the water for hook removal and/or photos will *not* accrue any points.

The HTC Event Schedule:

Friday, 24 th March	Welcome and event briefing — Coffs Harbour Yacht Club at 1830hrs, followed by the Calcutta boat auction.
Saturday, 25 th March	Start fishing at 0700hrs, stop fishing at 1700hrs. Dinner — Coffs Harbour Yacht Club at 1830hrs.
Sunday, 26 th March	Start fishing at 0700hrs, stop fishing at 1600hrs. Presentation Dinner at 1830hrs at the Coffs Harbour Yacht Club.

Coffs Harbour boasts a marina, a safe, all-weather harbour, a trailer boat ramp, and one of the shortest runs to the continental shelf on the east coast of Australia.

The marina website is <http://www.coffsharbourinternationalmarina.com.au/>

This tournament features a unique fishing and travel option for boat owners on the NSW north coast. The tournament rules allow boats to fish this tournament by launching from home ports and then fishing en-route within a day's transit from Coffs Harbour. For example, if your boat is moored at Port Macquarie or Ballina, you may leave by boat, sign on with the Tournament Base in Coffs Harbour, fish en-route to Coffs Harbour during the first day of the contest (once within the designated fishing area), overnight at the Coffs Harbour Marina, then fish again on your way back to Port Macquarie or Ballina on the Sunday.

Fishing in transit stipulations, general rules and information

- 1) The designated SIGFC fishing area is from abeam Broken Head (S28.44.00) to abeam Hat Head (S31.03.00). Fishing can only be conducted within this area — this includes boats intending to fish in transit.
- 2) At the end of fishing on Saturday 25th March, all boats fishing in transit must travel to, berth, and spend the night at Coffs Harbour.
- 3) All boats with fish or tag cards and photos must present these to the Weighmaster or Tournament Director immediately upon entering the harbour.
- 4) The weigh station will open at 1700hrs on Saturday, and 1600hrs on Sunday, and will remain open until the last boat returns to harbour. Skippers please note: on Sunday 26th of March all boats with tags and/or captures must be *inside* the outer harbour by 1700hrs.
- 5) Boats fishing in transit back to home port on Sunday 25th of March must have messaged or emailed a copy of any tag cards and photos to the Tournament Director no later than 1700hrs.
Email james.mcginity@clubassist.com.au or mobile 0418 96 97 98.
- 6) Boats wishing to fish in transit will not be allowed to fish until signed on with Tournament Base either on VHF Channel 81, or via mobile phone with the Tournament Director.
- 7) Boats fishing in transit must maintain a radio or mobile phone watch with Tournament Base.
- 8) Skippers of boats wishing to utilise the “fishing in transit” option must obtain a verbal tournament briefing by phone and/or email from the Tournament Director before the tournament commences.
- 9) If “fishing in transit” on Sunday 25th of March, only tag and release points can be accrued unless the boat returns to Coffs Harbour to weigh any claimed capture.

Entry fees will be **\$440** per boat in total, with no individual angler entry fees for the first four anglers (an “angler” being anyone on the boat involved in the handling, tag or capture of a fish) on each boat, including the skipper. Additional anglers over four must pay an entry fee of \$110 each.

All non SIGFC anglers fishing the tournament (including boat skippers) must be a full member of either IGFA, ANSA, or a GFAA affiliated game fishing club. Membership validity will be checked.

AYLWARD AUCTIONEERS EARLY ENTRY PRIZE DRAW.



All fully paid tournament entry forms received before close of business 17th March 2017 will be automatically entered in a presentation night draw for a \$1000 cash prize, with thanks to Aylward Auctioneers.

The entry fee also pays for the Presentation Dinner on Sunday night for a maximum of four crew members. Additional crew and all guests will be charged \$35 per head. The bar will be pay-as-you-go, and the Saturday evening barbecue and get together is included in your boat entry fee to a maximum of four crew members. Additional tickets will be available for \$15.00 each.

All boats entering the tournament will be required to include a copy of their current certificate of insurance cover page with their entry form, and that policy must indicate a minimum of \$5,000,000 public liability insurance.

All boats must complete and sign the Safety Equipment Declaration sheet included with the tournament entry paperwork, and include a current photograph of the boat. All anglers must have a current NSW fishing licence to fish this tournament. Interstate anglers can obtain a 3-day NSW fishing licence at a cost of only \$7 each online at https://www.licence.nsw.gov.au/gls_eservice/renewals/Application.aspx

Anglers holding certain Centrelink, Seniors, Pensioner and DVA Gold Cards do not require a NSW fishing licence. This is fully explained on the NSW DPI website.

COMMUNICATIONS & RADIOS

The Solitary Islands Game Fishing Club has an extended range VHF radio repeater system, and will be running normal radio sign-on, sign-off and routine 2-hourly skeds on the duplex VHF Channel 81. A 27MHz backup frequency will be advertised at the tournament briefing. All boats will be required to have a serviceable VHF marine band radio fully functional on at least Channel 81 (international duplex), Channel 19 (Coffs Harbour Marine Rescue communications channel) and the distress channel 16. Each boat entering the contest will also be required to carry at least one mobile telephone pre-registered with Tournament Base. Competitors are reminded that failure to communicate with Tournament Base either directly or by relay or mobile phone for two consecutive radio skeds may result in disqualification for the day, and instigate commencement of search and rescue procedures.

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

Any weather cancellations will be advised by text message to all skippers' mobile phones as well as broadcast via radio. Weather cancellations will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director and the Solitary Islands GFC committee.

LATE ENTRIES

Entries received after Wednesday, March 22nd will be subject to an additional \$25 late fee to facilitate catering changes.

DISPUTES/ SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Heavy Tackle Challenge Tournament Director and Executive members of the Solitary Islands GFC committee will adjudicate on any dispute or breach of rules by a competitor.

BRIEFING & REGISTRATION

Competitors are required to register on arrival at the briefing room and confirm details of crews and boats etc. A briefing for competitors regarding rules, weather conditions and restrictions on any events due to inclement weather will be held at 1830hrs on Friday, March 24th downstairs at the Coffs Harbour Yacht Club. Phone registration and briefing is available for boats exercising the fishing in transit option. Attendance by skippers with the exception of transiting boats is compulsory.

TROPHIES & PRIZES

All prizes will be awarded on the basis of total aggregate scores, **boat prizes only**.

Champion Boat - \$5000

Second Place Boat - \$2500

Third Place Boat - \$1250

Fourth Place Boat - \$800

Fifth Place Boat - \$500

Plus Lucky Boat Draws will be held at the presentation with prizes from our great sponsors.



In addition to our above product sponsors, none of this would be possible without the support we receive from sponsors who graciously donate their hard-earned cash. Please support these people whenever you can, and all our sponsors for that matter, as we wouldn't be here without them!



PROTESTS

Any protests must be made in writing and handed to the tournament sub-committee by 1900hrs on Saturday or 1700hrs on Sunday.

CONDUCT

Competitors are required to behave in a sportsmanlike manner, to observe all relevant rules, and to display exemplary fishing etiquette at all times.

DISPOSAL OF CARCASSES

In the event a fish is captured and brought to the weighstation, or dies during fighting or prior to release, that fish must be disposed of beyond three nautical miles from the coastline or beyond the 30-fathom contour. Prior to disposal, the belly of the fish must be slit open to ensure that it remains submerged.

COMPLIANCE

All competitors must comply with any rules or regulations laid down or in force during the tournament by the host club or any statutory body, local government or other government body. Commercial fishers must declare their amateur status to the host club at the time of entry and must cover LFB numbers on their vessel.

IGFA & GFAA ANGLING & EQUIPMENT RULES

IGFA tackle and fishing rules are explained at <http://www.igfa.org/Fish/INTERNATIONALANGLING-RULES.aspx>.
Note that the Solitary Islands GFC only allows the use of non-offset circle hooks for all live or dead bait tournament angling.

ANSA CODE OF PRACTICE

All actions and activities undertaken by ANSA Clubs and members in connection with a sanctioned convention should be pursuant with the ANSA National Code of Practice for Recreational and Sportfishing. Details of the COP are available on the ANSA National website www.ansa.com.au

BOATING SAFETY

All boats must comply with safety requirements as promulgated by NSW Roads and Maritime Services, as well as all mandatory NSW RMS boat safety equipment requirements for operations in open waters. Any boat not complying with these regulations will risk disqualification. Boat Safety Equipment Forms are attached to the Entry Form, and must be completed and forwarded to the Tournament Director no later than the Briefing on Friday 24th March 2017. The SIGFC Committee reserves the right to inspect any boat to ensure compliance.

Alcohol and boating don't mix. The blood alcohol limit on the water is the same as on the roads — 0.05%. Be mindful of the combined impact of wind, sun and wave action multiplying the effect of alcohol. Your chances of disorientation and drowning are increased — this applies to everyone, the skipper, crew and passengers. Coffs Harbour is a NSW Water Police regional base, and the water police actively monitor boating activities, including random breath testing of skippers and checking of angler licences and boat safety equipment.

Ensure you have sufficient approved lifejackets, and that everyone on board knows where they are located and how and when to use them. On rare occasions, waves will break across the mouth of the harbour, and during high swell conditions all skippers should ensure that crew members comply with the regulations regarding the wearing of life jackets when crossing open ocean bars (Coffs' real time harbour mouth camera can be viewed at <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/maritime/using-waterways/web-cameras/coffs-harbour.html>)

Always check the weather (Weather Info line 1900 937 107) and log your boat on and off with "Tournament Base" as a minimum, and ideally, the local Marine Rescue base ("Marine Rescue Coffs Harbour" on VHF Ch 19, 27MHz Ch 94). Maintain a continuous radio alert for weather changes or warnings. Tournament Base will broadcast warnings issued by the BOM, as does Marine Rescue. Do not hesitate to seek assistance if you need it. Do not rely solely on a mobile phone for help, as the range of most mobile phones is limited at sea.

Most boating accidents involve recreational craft of less than six metres. It is important you know the wind and wave limits of your boat and don't take chances in conditions you might not be able to handle. If you do capsize, stay with the boat and your chances of rescue are improved.

DISCLAIMER

The Solitary Islands GFC, the Tournament Committee will not be responsible for any accident or injury associated with this tournament. Competitors enter entirely at their own risk. The attached Entry Form must be completed by boat owners wishing to compete in the Heavy Tackle Challenge. Visiting boats must also submit the Boat Safety Self-Certification Form. Once completed, these forms are to be mailed or emailed to the address shown on the form. Once entry forms are received, skippers will be contacted and entry fee payment will be by EFT to the SIGFC bank account.

Enquiries may be directed to:

James McGinty, Tournament Director – Mobile 0418 96 97 98, or email james.mcginty@clubassist.com.au



ENTRY FORM

2017 Heavy Tackle Challenge

Solitary Islands Game Fishing Club



March 25th & 26th 2017

Boat Name _____ Boat Registration _____

Make _____ Length _____

Skipper's Name _____ Member Club _____

Postal Address _____

Email Address _____ Skipper's mobile on board _____

I/We wish to enter in the above Tournament and agree to participate at our own risk. I/We agree to abide by the Tournament rules as set down by the organising committee and are aware the Solitary Islands Game Fishing Club accepts no responsibility for actions by entrants in this Tournament and shall not be held liable for any damage or loss to any property or person during the Tournament. All competitors hereby indemnify the Tournament Director, Organising Committee, SIGFC Committee, and the Solitary Islands Game Fishing Club and all voluntary workers against any claim for loss or damage to property or person.

I/We understand, as stated in the tournament rules, that the safety of my crew and vessel is solely my responsibility whilst at sea and the ultimate decision to put to sea or return to port shall be my responsibility.

Signed.....(Owner) Signed.....(Skipper if different) Dated.....

Please note: a minimum crew of two adults or one adult and one junior is mandatory in this event.

Registered Anglers MUST BE CURRENT FULL MEMBERS OF GFAA, ANSA, OR AN IGFA AFFILIATED CLUB*

Crew 1 _____ Email _____ Mobile _____ M'ship No _____

Crew 2 _____ Email _____ Mobile _____ M'ship No _____

Crew 3 _____ Email _____ Mobile _____ M'ship No _____

Crew 4 _____ Email _____ Mobile _____ M'ship No _____

Crew 5 _____ Email _____ Mobile _____ M'ship No _____

Crew 6 _____ Email _____ Mobile _____ M'ship No _____

ENTRY FEE

Boat Fee \$440

Additional anglers over 4 (including skipper) – No. _____ @ \$110ea \$ _____

Saturday Burgers – No. of additional Persons _____ @ \$15ea \$ _____

Sunday Presentation Dinner – No. of additional Persons _____ @ \$35ea \$ _____

Total Due \$ _____

ALL BOAT ENTRY FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL AND THE TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE RECEIVED BEFORE BEING ACCEPTED INTO THE TOURNAMENT. Payment either by cheque attached to mailed entry form, or by direct deposit to the SIGFC bank account at BSB-533000, Account No 218353. If making direct deposit, please include vessel name in deposit details, and then email deposit receipt to below email. All correspondence Attn: SIGFC via Email: james.mcginity@clubassist.com.au Mail: Solitary Islands GFC, Coffs Harbour Jetty LPO, PO Box 4152, Coffs Harbour, NSW, 2450.

Solitary Islands Game Fishing Club

BOAT SAFETY SELF CERTIFICATION FORM

(Not required if already registered with the SIGFC)

NOTE: IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OPERATOR OF THE VESSEL TO ENSURE ITS SAFE OPERATION & SEAWORTHINESS AT ALL TIMES.

Name of Vessel: _____

Rego/Survey No: _____

Name of Owner: _____ Email: _____

Postal Address: _____

Phone No. _____ Mobile: _____

Type of Vessel: _____ Flybridge: (Y/N) Tower: (Y/N)

Colour of Vessel: _____ (Hull) _____ (Superstructure)

Length of Vessel: _____ m Beam _____ m Draught _____ m

Type and number of engine(s) _____ Prop type: Shaft____ Stern____ O/B____

Fuel Type: _____ Capacity: _____ ltrs

Fresh Water Capacity: _____ ltrs (minimum 2 ltrs per person on board)

No. of Life Jackets: _____ Life Raft: _____ (Y/N) (for vessels 12m and over)

Lifebuoy/Rescue Quoit: _____ (Y/N) (for vessels 8m and over)

No. of Flares: _____ EXPIRY DATE: _____ (Specify)

Fire Extinguishers: _____ CHARGE CHECKED: _____ (Y/N)

406 EPIRB: _____ Registration No. _____ EXPIRY DATE: _____

No. of Bilge Pumps: Manual _____ Engine driven _____ Electrical _____

Anchors: Reef _____ Sand _____ Sea _____

Compass: _____ V Sheet: _____ Torch: _____

Bucket and lanyard: _____ (Y/N)

RADIOS & FREQUENCY 2 MHz SSB (Frequencies): _____

27 MHz: _____ VHF: _____

INSURANCE COVERAGE DETAILS: Insurer: _____

Policy Number: _____ Expiry Date: _____

*****Please attach Insurance policy cover page – policy must provide minimum \$5,000,000 public liability**

I confirm that the vessel described above meets or exceeds all relevant NSW Maritime Authority Safety Regulations and requirements for a vessel of its size and intended use.

(Owner/Skipper SIGN HERE PLEASE)

Skipper's Boat Operator License Number _____

****** Please attach 1 recent photo of vessel here******

Completed form received by Tournament Director DATE:..