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Mike Carney Toyota



30<sup>TH</sup>



Mike Carney Toyota



BILLFISH CHALLENGE 1982 - 2012



31 AUG - 3rd SEPT 2012

Mike Carney Toyota



TOWNSVILLE YACHT CLUB • TOWNSVILLE • AUSTRALIA



RETURN TO PORT PARTY

Proudly supported by GGQ Hydraulic Solutions.



This event will be host by the Barbary Coasters 3 piece band including Jimmy Buffett music. All to come dressed in your favourite tropical themed outfit for a night of fun and dancing. Many give away prizes throughout the night.



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www.townvillegamefishclub.com



# WELCOME

The 2012 "Mike Carney Toyota Billfish Challenge" will be held from 30th August to 3rd September 2012. It is now a major event on the 2012 fishing calendar with great prizes and prize money up for grabs, but most of all a terrific social event fishing the world famous Bowling Green Bay fishing grounds. The tournament is now a premium social event for the whole of the North Queensland as well as keen game fishermen from all corners of Australia and worldwide. This event contributes greatly to promoting Townsville to a huge tourism market, and serves as a great stopping off point for the Professional Game Fishing Fleet on their way north.

Mike Carney Toyota has returned this year as our major sponsor. Many company owners have participated in this tournament for several years now and have found it to be a great opportunity to invite valued customers, suppliers and friends along for a day or two fishing and socializing. The word has spread throughout North & Western Queensland industries that this is the event to attend.

As you may have noticed, this year the tournament has a return to port party, which has been very well accepted by all involved. Skippers will be required to advise the weigh master prior to the day if a substitute angler will be fishing and a \$55 fee will be required to be paid for each day fished by a substitute. Substitute anglers are able to attend all tournament events at no charge (excluding the Presentation Dinner). Additional Gala Presentation tickets may be purchased for \$100 up to & including Friday 31st August 2012.

With the Cairns Heavy Tackle Season commencing soon after this event, this is a great opportunity for boats heading North to stop off and experience Townsville's hospitality and the best light tackle fishing the area has to offer.

# ACTIVITIES PROGRAM

## THURSDAY 30th August

**1300 - 1630**  
Sign-On and briefing at the Townsville Yacht Club  
**1700**  
A compulsory Skipper's briefing  
**1700 - 2300**  
Meet & Greet  
**1800**  
Calcutta

## FRIDAY 31st August

**0700**  
Breakfast  
**0730**  
Blessing of The Fleet  
**0745**  
Sail past  
**0800**  
Shotgun Start  
**1700**  
Cease Fishing - Stay out at sea OR return to port

## SATURDAY 1st September

**0800**  
Commence fishing  
**1700**  
Cease Fishing - All boats return to port for weigh in followed by entertainment  
**1900 - 2300**  
"Party on the Deck" to Live Band, Give Aways, food & beverages provided

## SUNDAY 2nd September

**0900**  
Commence fishing  
**1700**  
Cease Fishing - Stay out at sea OR return to port

## MONDAY 3rd September

**0800**  
Commence fishing  
**1500**  
Cease fishing, tournament conclusion  
**1700 - 1830**  
Weigh-in  
**1900 - 2300**  
Presentation Dinner at The Southbank Convention Centre

## \$50,000 worth of prizes up for grabs

<b>1ST BOAT (OVER 8m)</b>	<b>\$12,000 CASH + 4 PRIZES</b>
<b>2ND BOAT (OVER 8m)</b>	<b>\$5,000 CASH</b>
<b>1ST BOAT (8m &amp; UNDER)</b>	<b>\$6,000 CASH + 4 PRIZES</b>
<b>2ND BOAT (8m &amp; UNDER)</b>	<b>\$2,500 CASH</b>

- **CHAMPION ANGLER (OVER 8m)**
- **CHAMPION ANGLER (UNDER 8m)**
- **RUNNER UP ANGLER (OVER 8m)**
- **RUNNER UP ANGLER (UNDER 8m)**
- **CHAMPION JUNIOR ANGLER (MALE)**
- **CHAMPION JUNIOR ANGLER (FEMALE)**
- **EARLY BIRD PRIZE - \$1000 cash**
- **HEAVIEST OTHER GAME FISH (FRI - SAT)**
- **HEAVIEST OTHER GAME FISH (SUN - MON)**
- **FIRST MARLIN PER DAY**
- **FIRST SAILFISH PER DAY**
- **LAST BILLFISH**
- **BEST PHOTO**

# TOURNAMENT RULES

## GENERAL

This tournament is a BILLFISH TAG & RELEASE EVENT. The tournament will be conducted from Friday 30th August to 3rd September 2012.

## TEAM SIZE

Teams shall consist of not fewer than two or more than four anglers. Mixed teams using substitute anglers are eligible for all prizes.

When using a substitute angler the weigh master must be advised before start fishing with club membership and the angler fees paid in advance.

## DROPPED DAYS

8 metre & under Boats The tournament's 4 fishing days are Friday 31st August to 3rd September 2012. Sail past is compulsory for all boats, including under 8 metre boats. All boats must also be moored in the Townsville Yacht Club Marina for the evening of Monday 3rd. Boats 8 metres and under have the option to fish any combination of the four days but scoring for this category is only based on three days total points. This is so smaller boats are not disadvantaged by bad weather or unavailability. Any team fishing more than three days has the option to "drop" their less successful day. All points from their selected "dropped" day will be deducted from both the team and individual anglers scores. Tournament base must be notified by 1600 hours Monday 3rd September 2012 of the selected "dropped day". Trailer boats may launch from any boat ramp to access the the tournament fishing zone but must all return to port for Tuesday night with their boat either by road or sea, failure to do so will result in loss of points.

## QUALIFICATIONS

To participate in the tournament, each angler must be a current financial game fish member of a club affiliated with QGFA or GFAA. International Anglers need to be a current member of a affiliated IGFA Club and all anglers must produce proof of membership at the sign-on. Those anglers not affiliated with any of the above will be levied \$120.00 per angler for membership to the Townsville Game Fishing Club Inc.

## DISQUALIFICATION

Anyone discovered or reported and proven to have broken these rules will be disqualified from this tournament without refund of nomination fees.

## REGISTRATION & BRIEFING

All anglers and crew must register at the Townsville Yacht Club Marina between 1300 and 1600 hours, Thursday 30th August 2012. It is MANDATORY that all skippers and crew attend the 5pm briefing. Following the briefing, a Meet & Greet will be held at the Townsville Yacht Club Marina, from 5pm.

## FISHING GROUNDS

Closed - as per grid map. SAILPAST - Following the Blessing of the Fleet all vessels will assemble in the position indicated at the briefing for the Sailpast at 7.30am. During the Sailpast all skippers are to maintain a safe margin of distance between their and all other boats with a speed of 6 knots to outer limits of the Breakwater. All vessels are to have their radio on frequency VHF Channel 22. Safe anchorage for Friday and Sunday will be behind Bowling Green Bay Spit.

## SHOTGUN START Time 8.00am

The fleet will be assembled by Townsville Volunteer Coast Guard. Following the Sailpast, the Coast Guard vessel will lead the fleet out to the start line, the coast guard vessel will also assist with the start. A radio call will signal the start and then the run to Cape Cleveland Lighthouse will commence.

## TAGGING

Tagging for points applies for Billfish only. Tag poles are limited to a maximum of 15 feet. The use of more than one tag pole at any one time is allowed. Fish should be released as quickly and as humanely as possible.

## FIRST AND LAST BILLFISH TAGGED

The first marlin and sailfish tagged daily is eligible for sponsored prizes. This award is made to the angler who successfully tags the first billfish in accordance with G.F.A.A. rules. Tag times must be presented to the weigh master on the score sheet. Calling in the first billfish is not required.

## SCORING SYSTEM

The method adopted to identify award winners is 1,000 points per billfish system. There are no points awarded for other gamefish. In the event of a tied score, the angler tagging the most billfish first will be declared the winner.

**NOTE:** It is important for anglers to record the time of actual tagging on their daily score sheet, as this information is used to identify winner in the case of a tied score.

## DAILY SCORE SHEETS

**NOTE:** It is MOST IMPORTANT that the daily score sheets are clearly & correctly compiled and returned to the tournament weigh master on Saturday and/or Monday nights. This will be the responsibility of the team captain. A returned score sheet must show the daily results for each team member. No score sheet will be accepted by the weigh master after the close of weigh in, except in the case of fish notified as being played before cease fishing was called, and then it is tagged and where the return journey prevents the angler making the advertised weigh in time. In the event of an angler still playing the fish after cease fishing on the last day, a three hour time limit will apply from the time cease fishing is called to the presentation of the score card to the weigh master.

## SPONSORS' FLAGS

In support of our sponsors, boats will be required to fly issued sponsors' flags, whilst at berth, and when departing and returning to marina. A 500 point penalty may be imposed for failure to comply with this rule. All flags must be returned to the organising committee at the conclusion of the tournament.

## CODE OF ETHICS

The 2012 Mike Carney Toyota Billfish Challenge is a fishing tournament based on rules providing all competitors with a fair and equal chance of scoring tournament points. It is important that all competitors retain a high degree of sportsmanship during their fishing activities. Even more important is that all competitors adopt an attitude of safety first at all times. The TGFC Inc. has adopted the following rules to be incorporated in this tournament:

- Rules of the sea will prevail whilst trolling, and vessels must give right of way.
- At all times a safe distance between boats must be maintained.
- It is expected that each angler in a team have an equal amount of fishing time.
- No fish shall be gaffed then tagged and released.

## TROPHIES & PRIZES

To be eligible for any of the trophies/prizes all anglers and the skipper of the vessel must sign a Statutory Declaration at the time of registering, stating that all fishing during the tournament will be in accordance with all rules of G.F.A.A.

## COMMUNICATIONS - SCHEDULES

Radio schedules (skeds) reporting activities are compulsory and must be observed by all competing boats. Sked Radio times from Friday to Monday are: 11.10am, 2.10pm and 4.15pm. Silence period from the end of the 4.15pm sked to the call of cease fishing at 5.00pm each day. All hook ups during this period must be called immediately to qualify for playing out after cease fishing. VHF Working Channel 22.

## REPORTING FISHING ACTIVITY

The first digit refers to the strikes, the second to hook ups and the third to tagged billfish and refers to activity since the last sked only.

Vessels will be called in alphabetical order of boat name. The report is to be in the order of boat name, map reference, activity and species. For example: Sea Baby - MIKE CARNEY 3 - Three, two. One - black marlin. All boats must sign off on reaching safe waters at the end of each day.

## WEATHER

Bad weather - The decision to put to sea is entirely the responsibility of the skipper of the boat. The Townsville Game Fish Club Inc. (TGFC) committee takes no responsibility for decisions made by individual boat crews who decide whether to put to sea or not. No allowance will be made for fishing time lost as a result of bad weather. The Committee reserves the right to cancel or postpone any day/s due to bad weather.

## BREAKDOWNS

In the event of a breakdown, where the vessel will be unable to effect repairs that would allow it to return to port within the prescribed weigh in times, the team captain or crew member will be permitted to transfer to another competing vessel to enable the presentation of the score cards and or fish to the weigh master.

## FISHING RULES / LINE CLASS

This tournament will be fished under the "Fishing Rules and Tackle Regulations" of the G.F.A.A. as in effect at the time. Line class shall be up to 10kg. Only non-offset circle hooks shall be used for live baiting. Reminder: Total leader lengths not to exceed 20ft (6.10mtr) Leader not to exceed 15ft (4.57mtr) and doubles/lure bait not to exceed 5ft (1.53mtr) Tournament judges will be checking.

## JUDGES

Two judges and one reserve judge appointed by the committee will be announced at the time of briefing and shall be the sole adjudicators of the tournament, and their ruling shall be final. Lines and other equipment may be tested or inspected at the discretion of the weigh master or the judges.

## PROTESTS

Any protests must be submitted in writing to the judges no later than close of weigh in on the last day. The judge's decision shall be final and no correspondence will be entered into. No other form of protest shall be accepted.

## RULES

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to alter or change any rules or any part of the program without notice. Tournament participants will be notified of all changes ASAP. The tournament official rules are held by the tournament committee and organiser.

# CONTACT US

**TOURNAMENT ORGANIZER:**  
**Stav Bogiatzis**  
0428 492 023

**TOWNSVILLE GAME FISHING CLUB:**  
**TGFC mobile:** 0452 633 474  
**TGFC email:** tgfcinfo@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 5981 Townsville. Q. 4810

# ENTRY FORMS

Tournament entry forms and other information can be viewed and / or downloaded on the Townsville Game Fishing Club website.  
**www.townsvillegamefishclub.com**