



# IGFA OFFSHORE WORLD CHAMPIONS

2011 – Cabo San Lucas, Mexico



## ‘THE DREAM TEAM’ WET DREAM FISHING TEAM *Islamorada, Florida*



### **Dream Team Wins IGFA Offshore World Championships**

*May 13, 2011 – Cabo San Lucas*

A global fraternity of anglers competed last week in the world’s largest offshore tournament series finale in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, where the *Wet Dream Fishing Team* of Islamorada captured the 12<sup>th</sup> annual IGFA Offshore World Championship billfish tournament crown. IGFA representative Kevin Clark captained the team of Sam Worden, Hunter Barron, Glen Miller and Frank Juliano to release 15 striped marlin and 2 sailfish over the four day event, edging out the team representing the Harbourside Marine Bahamas Rotary Tuna Classic by one fish. The Bahamian team also finished second in the 2010 main event, which is considered the Olympics of sportfishing. Third place went to the 2008 IGFA Offshore World Championship team lead by Robert Collins, also of Islamorada.

Worden and Barron finished 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, respectively, for top angler honors among the 280 participants, each releasing 7 billfish. To get to Cabo the team won the Islamorada Fishing Club’s Captain’s Cup sailfish tournament back in December. That tournament was one of 130 worldwide qualifying events, which sent 60 teams from 25 countries to the fertile fishing grounds found off the Baja California Sur, and flags from competing team’s countries hung from the balconies at the host Finisterra Hotel. Teams competed from Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Angola, Senegal, Croatia, Italy, Panama, Tonga, S Africa, Kenya, Spain, Bermuda, Canada, Samoa, St. Lucia, Papua New Guinea, Guatemala, Mauritius, Cayman Islands, Mexico and Trinidad & Tobago. A team from Russia won their qualifying tournament in Cuba.

While many billfish tournaments have six figure payouts, this International Game Fish Association event offered no prize money. “The tournament is meant to test the angler’s skills on a level playing field. You compete for the pride of your country and bragging rights, not cash,” said Mike Myatt, COO of the IGFA. “All teams in the tournament have to use 30 pound Hi-Catch Momi line. Teams draw for boats and fish on a different charter boat each day, with different captains and mates, and each team was given ten live baits daily,” noted Myatt. Dead baits and artificial lures were also allowed.

While there was not a cash purse for this event, the winners did receive championship rings by Vanmark Jewelry, Geoffrey Smith sculpture trophies, Guy Harvey artwork, championship apparel by Hook & Tackle, Costa Del Mar sunglasses, Fin-Nor rod and reel combos, Momi line and a Reactor Championship Diamond watch. The team also won a lifetime invitation to fish in future IGFA Offshore World Championships.

The Dream Team used Local Hooker rods for all of their catches – the same gear the team uses successfully in sailfish tournaments in the Keys. “The big difference is that the sails we catch here average 30-50 pounds, while the striped marlins we were catching in Cabo were 3-4 times bigger,” said Clark. “Local Hooker makes a unique ‘acid wrap’ design that changes the angle of the eyes so that while the eyes start on top like most conventional rods, by the time they get to the tip they have rotated 180 degrees, resulting in superior handling and performance. We feel our equipment was the very best, and our mates Sam and Hunter made the transition from sailfishing to fishing for marlin really fast. Our entire team caught more marlin in the four day world championships than the five of us had caught combined lifetime previously,” said Clark, also noting that not one of the team members had ever been to Cabo before. “To me, that is truly amazing and a credit to the fishing talent being developed here in south Florida. Four of the last seven world championship teams have come from Miami or the Upper Keys (Ray Rosher of Miami won in 2005 and 2006), and we were proud to represent the United States and the Islamorada Fishing Club in this incredible event.”