



Houston Big Game Fishing Club

2024 Awards Program

The HBGFC Awards Program has been established for Texas, and International Divisions. Categories and rules are the same for each division, except where noted. All members of the HBGFC are eligible to participate in the Awards Program. There are no entry fees. 2024 Awards will be presented to the winners at the Annual Fundraising and Awards Banquet in 2025.

AWARDS CATEGORIES

TEXAS	
<p>George Gartner Memorial Award for Largest Blue Marlin - 3 Places Blue marlin caught, weighed and counted in a recognized Texas tournament that awards prize money for weighed blue marlin. Blue Marlin weighed will count 500 points OR 1 point per pound for fish over 500 pounds to the Top Boat and Top Outboard Boat Category, Top Male, Top Female, Top Captain, Top Mate or Top Junior Angler Categories.</p>	<p>Largest Yellowfin, Wahoo, Dolphin and Swordfish- - 3 Places Minimum weight is 25 pounds for yellowfin, wahoo and dolphin, and 150 pounds minimum for Swordfish. Largest fish awards are given to the angler regardless of member classification, i.e. Male, Female or Junior. Fish may be weighed at any Club weigh station, IGFA Certified Scale, or certified by recognized tournaments as stated above. See weigh station information.</p>
<p>Swordfish – 3 Places Swordfish are worth 250 boated or released. This is a boat only category and does not count toward overall release points or angler, captain or mate points. IGFA Rules do NOT apply in Swordfish Categories.</p>	<p>Top Boat of the Year – 3 Places Awarded to the private boat of a member owner for most weighed blue marlin points plus release points.</p>
<p>Top Outboard Boat of the Year – 3 Places <i>(Separate from Top Boat of the Year)</i> Awarded to the private outboard boat of a member owner for most weighed blue marlin points plus release points.</p>	<p>Top Male and Top Female Angler of the Year – 3 Places Awarded to the adult male and female members for most weighed blue marlin points plus release points.</p>
<p>Junior Angler of the Year – 3 Places Awarded to the junior member for most weighed blue marlin points plus release points. If no blue marlin are weighed or released points submitted, the award will go to the junior member with the heaviest weighed yellowfin tuna, wahoo or dolphin.</p>	<p>John Cochrane Memorial Award for Top Captain – 1st Place 2nd and 3rd Place Captain – 2 Places Top Mate of the Year – 3 Places Awarded to the top professional (fulltime/paid) captain member and mate member on any HBGFC boats combined for most weighed blue marlin points plus release points.</p>

INTERNATIONAL	
<p>Largest Blue Marlin - 3 Places Blue marlin caught and weighed on a certified scale. Blue Marlin weighed will count 500 points OR 1 point per pound for fish over 500 pounds to the Top Boat Category, Top Male, Top Female, or Top Junior Angler Categories.</p>	<p>Largest Black Marlin - 3 Places Black marlin caught and weighed on a certified scale. Blue Marlin weighed will count 500 points OR 1 point per pound for fish over 500 pounds to the Top Boat Category, Top Male, Top Female, or Top Junior Angler Categories.</p>
<p>Swordfish – 3 Places Swordfish are worth 250 points boated or released. This is a boat only category and does not count toward overall release points or angler points. IGFA Rules do NOT apply in Swordfish Categories.</p>	<p>Top Private Boat of the Year – 3 Places Awarded to the private boat of a member owner for most weighed blue and black marlin points plus release points.</p>
<p>Top Charter Boat of the Year – 3 Places Awarded to the charter boat of a member owner for most weighed blue and black marlin points plus release points.</p>	<p>Top Male and Top Female Angler of the Year – 3 Places Awarded to the adult male and female members for most weighed blue or black marlin points plus release points.</p>
<p>Junior Angler of the Year – 3 Places Awarded to the junior angler for most weighed blue or black marlin points plus release points. If no blue or black marlin are weighed or release points submitted, the award will go to the junior angler with the heaviest weighed yellowfin tuna, wahoo or dolphin.</p>	<p>Top Captain and Top Mate of the Year – 3 Places Awarded to the top professional (fulltime/paid) captain member and mate member on any HBGFC boats combined for most weighed blue and black marlin points plus release points.</p>



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Top Boat, Top Outboard Boat, Top Male and Female Anglers, Top Captain and Top Mate, and Junior Angler Divisions may only win first place two years in a row. After the second year, they must abstain from participating for one year. Membership dues may not lapse during that year. This rule does not apply to meat pots.

Points may only be awarded to the Top Boat or Top Outboard Boat division and either the: Top Male, Top Female, Top Captain, Top Mate or Top Junior Angler Division. Points will not be applied to multiple divisions.

Should there be no fish caught for awards in a category, the award may be presented based on other angling accomplishments at the discretion of the Board of Directors.



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RELEASE SCORING

Points:

Blue Marlin - 500 Points, Black Marlin - 500 Points, White Marlin - 200 Points, Striped Marlin - 200 Points, Sailfish - 100 Points, Spearfish - 100 Points

Bonus Points:

Angler Grand Slam - 500 Points

(Any three billfish species caught by the same angler on the same calendar day)

Boat Grand Slam - 500 Points

(Any three billfish species caught on a Member's boat on the same calendar day by different anglers)

Line Class World Record - 1000 Points

RULES

Points will be awarded for all eligible fish caught on or after January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2024. The angler or boat owner must be a member in good standing on the date of the catch. Renewing members must have renewal paid by the March 1, 2024 renewal deadline to receive points for fish caught prior to that date.

*White Marlin, Striped Marlin, Sailfish and Spearfish will count only toward release points. These species will not be weighed. In the Texas Division, weighed Blue Marlin are eligible only if caught, weighed and counted in a recognized Texas tournament that awards prize money for weighed blue marlin.

*A boat is eligible for boat points only if the owner is a member in good standing. Angler points will be awarded to members regardless of the boat owner's membership status.

*Any guest (non-member) catching a fish on a member's boat will not be eligible for individual awards. However, the boat will be credited boat points for that fish.

*Boats must leave from a Texas port and return to a Texas port for Texas Division.

*Departure or Return to or from any Port other than a Texas Port will be considered International.

*A junior member must be 18 years old or younger on the date of catch or release.

*On weighed fish, points will only be awarded if a verification form is turned in and includes the signature of the weigh master. All weights will be verified by the committee from the tournament(s) involved. Weighed fish must be weighed on a certified scale.

*A legal Billfish release is by standard measure: The mate touching the leader, or wind-on leader to the rod tip. Tagging is encouraged but is not required. Billfish boated for any reason will not be eligible for release points.



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*A verification form must be submitted by mail or fax to the club, through the Club Awards App, a committee member or club board member for each fish **within 30 days of capture/release. No verification form, no points.**

*In case of a tie on total points, the first angler or boat to reach that total wins. This will be determined by the time/date of last reported catch on the verification form.

*All IGFA saltwater angling and tackle rules apply with the following exceptions: 1. An angler may receive assistance getting the rod to the chair or harness immediately after hookup. The angler must then fight the fish unassisted. 2. An angler or mate may set the hook and pass the rod to another angler after hookup. This may occur one time immediately after hookup.

*Any protest of rule violations must be filed by a current HBGFC member within 30 days of the potential violation and will be reviewed by the HBGFC Board of Directors.

TEXAS WEIGH STATIONS

Fisherman's Wharf - Port Aransas - 361.749.5448

Hours of operation are:

Monday - Sunday 6:00am - 6:00pm

Galveston Yacht Basin - Galveston - 409.765.3088

Hours of operation are:

Monday - Sunday 6:00am - 8:30pm

Pelican Rest Marina - Galveston - 409.744.7754

Hours of operation are:

Monday - Sunday 8:00am - 5:00pm

Port O'Connor Fishing Center - 361.983.4440

Hours of operation are:

Monday - Thursday 5am - 6pm, Friday - Sunday 5am - 7pm

Fishing Center scales will only weigh up to 100 pounds.

Russell's Bait and Tackle - Matagorda - 979.863.7620

Hours of operation are:

Sunday - Thursday 5:30am - 6:30pm

Friday - Saturday 5:30am - 7:30pm

Surfside Marina - Freeport - 979.230.9400

Hours of operation are.

Monday - Sunday 6:30am - 6:30pm

PLEASE TIP YOUR WEIGHMASTER

CLUB AWARDS PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Ryan Doxey, Chairman 281-455-9444

Kevin Deerman 409-789-2975, Anthony Lopez 713-504-1308, James Helm 361-648-3536,

Robert Nichols 713-299-5294, Troy Day 979-285-5525