



**MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY**  
**News Release**

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**RECORD MARLIN AT SAIPAN INT'L FISHING TOURNAMENT**

**Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI)** – A 942-lb. blue marlin caught on July 14, 2012, has set a new record for the Saipan International Fishing Tournament, winning the tournament grand prize and besting the 1997 record of a 624.34 lbs. Pacific Blue Marlin.

The mighty marlin was brought in by Captain Mike James and angler Frank James, John Hattig, and George Arriola of the vessel Emmanuel of Guam. The fish was too large to haul aboard the vessel and had to be towed to the weigh station at Smiling Cove Marina. The boat earns \$10,000 cash for the record-breaking fish.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament was held on July 14 and 15, 2012, and attracted 50 boats from the region.

In the Total Weight category, Luka & Ben weighed in at first place with 217.60 lbs. The vessel was captained by Rick George with anglers Ben Fitipol, Steve Igisair, Melvin Aldan, Phillip Aldan, and Mike George aboard.

Placing in the Bill Fish category where vessels Magnificat (335.50 lbs.), Carmelita (243.50 lbs.), and Fish Hunter (211.65 lbs.).

Top winners in the Yellowfin category were Saint James (43.30 lbs.), CM-0086-PU (34.25 lbs.), and San Juan II (33.35 lbs.).

Wahoo category winners were Keilani Ko (32.15 lbs.), Padre de Familia (30.75 lbs.), and Rose Marie (30.60 lbs.).

The Mahi-mahi category went to Saint Andrew (26.65 lbs.), Debbie I (8.55 lbs.), and Mizuwari (8.15 lbs.).

In the Skipjack category, CM-0886-PU placed again (18.95 lbs.) and Victoria came in second (18.80 lbs.). Third place went to Lady Gora, who tied with Padre de Familia at 18.60 lbs. but checked in first on Saturday.

The Saipan International Fishing Tournament is organized annually by the Saipan Fishermen's Association. This year's co-sponsors and supporters included the Marianas Visitors Authority, MARPAC, Chong's Corporation, National Parks Service, Saipan Sabalu Farmer's Market Inc., Saipan Industrial Gas Inc., Pacific Marine Resources Institute, JWS Refrigeration & Air Conditioning, Mobil Oil Micronesia, Inc., Joe's Bar/PBIC, Joeten Motors Company, Delta Air Lines, Pacific Air Conditioning & Refrigeration, J.E.T. Holding Company Inc., McDonald's, Micronesian Woodcrafts, NTT Docomo Pacific, Microl Corporation, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, Car Quest, Pacifica Insurance, Triple B Forwarders, NMC-Cooperative Research & Education Service (CREES), NMC-Community Development Institute (CDI), Micronesian Marine, Marianas Resort, Shenanigans, Hyatt Regency Saipan Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan Sea Ventures, American Red Cross, Pacific Islands Club, Seafix, Congressman Joseph Guerrero, DLNR Secretary Arnold Palacios, Div. of Fish and Wildlife, Smiling Cove Marina, Congressman Ramon Tebuteb, Senator Pete Reyes, Joeten Super Store, Department of Public Safety (Boating/Traffic Division), Coastal Resources Management (CRM), and Emergency Management Office (EMO).



Grey skies in the morning did little to deter anglers in the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 14-15, 2012. The event finished with a record-breaking 942-lb. marlin.



Vessel Blu-by-u crew show off their second day catch at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Saipan International Open Water Fishing Tournament on July 14-15, 2012.



Day two of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 14-15, 2012.



Derby enthusiast Martin Duenas, in red, of Saipan poses with the record-breaking 942-lb. marlin landed at the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 14-15, 2012.



The Benavente family of vessel Victoria served fresh sashimi aboard at the conclusion of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 14-15, 2012. At Smiling Cove Marina from left are Captain Diego and anglers Vicky, Ron, and James.



Captain and crew of vessel Emmanuel earned the grand prize and \$10,000 cash for reeling in a record-breaking 942-lb. marlin during the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 14-15, 2012. From left are Michael James, Frank James, John Hattig & George Arriola.



Tournament official Louie Duenas weighs a mahi-mahi on day two of the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 14-15, 2012.



Fisherman Frank Tudela, second from right, shares his catch on the final day of 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament on July 14-15, 2012. Family, friends, and spectators lined Smiling Cove Marina on both days and benefitted from the generosity of competitors.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo and Osaka in Japan by Delta Air Lines and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct flights from Seoul and Busan. China is served from Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou. For more information visit [www.mymarianas.com](http://www.mymarianas.com).

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