

2025 IGFA TOMMY GIFFORD AWARDS CEREMONY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025 • 6:00 PM
321 N FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH BLVD, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33304



John Bayliss



Billy Borer



Barry Cross



Paul Dixon



Gene Grimes



Kevin Nakamaru





The International Game Fish Association

Officers

Roy W. Cronacher Jr.
Chairman
Chase Offield
Vice Chairman
Jason Schratwieser
President
Robert Kurz
Treasurer
Jill Tapia
Secretary

Board of Trustees

Jose "Pepe" Anton
John Barrett
Ryan Bergeron
Massimo Brogna
Gary Carter
Stephanie Choate
Brett Cleary
Karen Comstock
Mike Criscola
Roy W. Cronacher Jr.
Robert Cunningham
Mark Davis
Molly Fleming
Juan Pablo Gozio
Gregg Hemingway
Nassim Joaquin
Mohamed Kaddah
Robert Kurz
Nathaniel Linville
George G. Matthews
Andy Mill
Chad Moss
Chase Offield
Sam Peters
Amanda Sabin
Chris Schorn
Ryan Seiders
Bill Shedd
Ricardo Solá Tanca
Ralph "Agie" Vicente
Johan Zietsman

Past Chairmen

William K. Carpenter
Charles W. Duncan III
Elwood K. Harry
Michael Lerner
Michael J. Levitt
George G. Matthews
Paxson H. Offield

Trustees Emeriti

Pierre Affre
Terri K. Andrews
Martin Arostegui M.D.
Pamela S. Basco
Jose Luis Beistegui
Tim Choate
Carlos Duncan III
Michael L. Farrior
Peter S. Fithian
Guy Harvey, Ph.D.
Rob Kramer
Michael Leech
Michael J. Levitt
John L. Morris
K. Neil Patrick
Carlos F. Pellas
Robert E. Rich Jr.
Joan Salvato Wulff

Dear IGFA Supporter,

We are thrilled to announce that the **2025 Tommy Gifford Awards** will take place on **October 30th** at the **Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort**. This prestigious event honors six remarkable individuals whose innovation, leadership, and angling achievements have significantly advanced the sport of fishing. This year's honorees are **John Bayliss, Billy Borer, Barry Cross, Paul Dixon, Gene Grimes, and Kevin Nakamaru**.

Your support can help make this celebration truly memorable. More importantly, it will directly benefit the **IGFA's global conservation and education programs**, which are vital to the future of recreational fishing.

As a **501(c)(3) nonprofit organization**, the IGFA is dedicated to:

- **Conserving game fish** through science-based initiatives,
- **Educating anglers** of all ages and backgrounds, and
- **Promoting ethical angling practices** through rulemaking and recognition.

Held during the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, the Tommy Gifford Awards attracts a distinguished audience from across the sport fishing industry—including boat builders, marine manufacturers, and legendary captains. In the lead-up to the event, sponsors gain valuable brand exposure through targeted marketing to IGFA's global membership and active social media following. This event presents a unique opportunity to elevate your brand among a highly engaged and influential community of industry leaders and fishing enthusiasts.

We invite you to **partner with us as a sponsor** of this important event. Your support will not only provide valuable exposure for your business but will also contribute to the IGFA's mission of preserving our sport for future generations.

Thank you for your continued support of the IGFA and the sport fishing community.

Warm regards,

Eric Combast
IGFA Development Director

Phone: 954-924-4325 Email: ecombast@igfa.org

The International Game Fish Association is a nonprofit organization committed to the conservation of game fish and the promotion of responsible, ethical angling practices through science, education, rule making, record keeping and recognition of outstanding accomplishments in the field of angling.

Event Overview



The IGFA will bestow the prestigious IGFA Tommy Gifford Award upon six recipients in recognition of their extraordinary contributions to the advancement of sport fishing through innovation, outstanding angling achievements, or noteworthy examples of leadership in their trade. The IGFA Tommy Gifford Award is named for one of the greatest saltwater charter skippers of all time and recipients are selected through a rigorous process conducted by the Legendary Captains and Crew Committee.

When: Thursday, October 30, 2025

6:00-7:00 PM EST: Cocktail Reception

7:00 PM EST: Dinner and Award Presentations

Where: The Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort

321 N. Fort Lauderdale Beach Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

Tommy Gifford Award



Tommy Gifford (1896-1970) is considered one of the most innovative bluewater anglers who ever lived, and one of the greatest charter skippers to guide anglers to the major game fishes of the sea. He began his chartering career in Miami in 1920 at 23, and within a few seasons had earned a stellar reputation.

Gifford was the first to use spreader outriggers on the U.S. East Coast and the first to catch an Atlantic blue marlin with the new devices. Over his 50-year career, he developed an encyclopedic knowledge of game fish and techniques to catch them, and he served as guide and consultant to some of the most famous names in saltwater angling: Ernest Hemingway, Michael Lerner, Charlie Lehman, and Van Campen Heilner. He never lost his zest for the sea, nor his awe at the creatures beneath the waves. Raymond Camp wrote, "Big game angling has a brief history, but Tommy Gifford's name is sharply etched on every page."

Meet the 2025 Recipients



John Bayliss – John is one of the most respected figures in the boat building industry. *Bayliss*-built boats are renowned for their innovation, craftsmanship, and consistent tournament success—a true reflection of John’s dual legacy as both a world-class captain and visionary boatbuilder.



Billy Borer – Billy spent 12 years as captain of the game fish boat that was part of the legendary *El Zorro* mothership operation. From the Red Sea and the Suez Canal to Brazil, the Canary Islands, and St. Thomas, he earned a reputation for his exceptional skill, adaptability, and unwavering dedication to the craft of sport fishing.



Barry Cross - Barry built a thriving charter business centered around the excitement of big game fishing, drawing anglers from across the globe. Renowned for his expertise in light tackle fishing for marlin, sailfish, and yellowfin tuna, Barry’s influence extended far beyond his home waters. His travels between the Great Barrier Reef and Papua New Guinea allowed him to share his deep knowledge with a diverse and international community of anglers.



Paul Dixon - Paul is widely recognized as a pioneer of sight fishing for striped bass in the Northeast, a technique that blends precision, patience, and artistry. His guiding career spans decades and includes not only the waters of the Florida Keys but also international destinations such as the Seychelles, Belize, and Wales, U.K. Paul’s innovative approach and global experience have left a lasting impact on the sport fishing community.



Gene Grimes – Gene captained the *Legend* out of Southern California for over 30 years, earning widespread recognition as one of the foremost authorities in swordfishing. His deep expertise, coupled with a generous spirit and eagerness to share his knowledge, made him a trusted mentor to many. Through his guidance, countless anglers experienced the thrill of landing their first swordfish.



Kevin Nakamaru – Kevin solidified his reputation as one of the premier captains in sport fishing while at the helm of the *Pesca Grossa* in Madeira, where he achieved the remarkable feat of landing two Atlantic blue marlin weighing over 1,000 pounds. Today, he continues to make waves as the captain of the legendary *Northern Lights* in Kona, consistently leading anglers to extraordinary catches. Kevin’s unwavering passion for the sport and dedication to excellence have inspired anglers around the world.

Sponsorship Opportunities

PRESENTING SPONSOR

The Premier IGFA Tommy Gifford Award Ceremony Sponsor (SOLD OUT)

Sponsorship benefits include twenty (20) tickets to attend the Tommy Gifford Awards Ceremony with VIP seating across two (2) reserved tables. Tickets include complimentary beverages, hors d'oeuvres and dinner.

- Placement in the official Tommy Gifford Awards' Printed Program including one (1) full-page, full color acknowledgment on the back cover and placement on the front cover
- Acknowledgement on event signage
- Sponsorship recognition on all event branding including digital invitations, social media, and event website
- Approved use of IGFA logo for one (1) year
- Verbal recognition at event with speaking benefit
- Opportunity to provide approved marketing material to attendees
- Individual recognition across IGFA social media accounts.



Marlin Sponsors

\$5,000

Sponsorship benefits include ten (10) tickets to attend the Tommy Gifford Awards Ceremony with VIP seating across one (1) reserved table. Tickets include complimentary beverages, hors d'oeuvres and dinner. Placement in the official Tommy Gifford Awards' Printed Program with one (1) full-page, full color acknowledgment.

- Recognition on the event website with a hyperlink and message
- Acknowledgement on event signage
- Sponsorship recognition on all event branding including digital invitations, social media, and event website
- Opportunity to provide approved marketing material to attendees
- Individual recognition across IGFA social media accounts



Sailfish Sponsors

\$3,500

Sponsorship benefits include ten (10) tickets to attend the Tommy Gifford Awards Ceremony across one (1) reserved table. Tickets include complimentary beverages, hors d'oeuvres and dinner.

- Placement in the official Tommy Gifford Awards' Printed Program with one (1) half-page, full color acknowledgment
- Recognition on the event website with a hyperlink
- Acknowledgement on event signage
- Sponsorship recognition on all event branding including digital invitations, social media, and event website



Dorado Sponsors

\$2,500

Sponsorship benefits include ten (10) tickets to attend the Tommy Gifford Awards Ceremony across one (1) reserved table. Tickets include complimentary beverages, hors d'oeuvres and dinner.

- Placement in the official Tommy Gifford Awards' Printed Program with one (1) full-color logo
- Recognition on the event website
- Acknowledgement on event signage

Event Program Advertising Specifications

All sponsors receiving ad placement in the official IGFA Tommy Gifford Award Ceremony Program must submit materials according to the following guidelines:

Submit artwork to: Adrian Gray at agray@igfa.org

Deadline for Artwork Submission: **October 1, 2025**

Size:

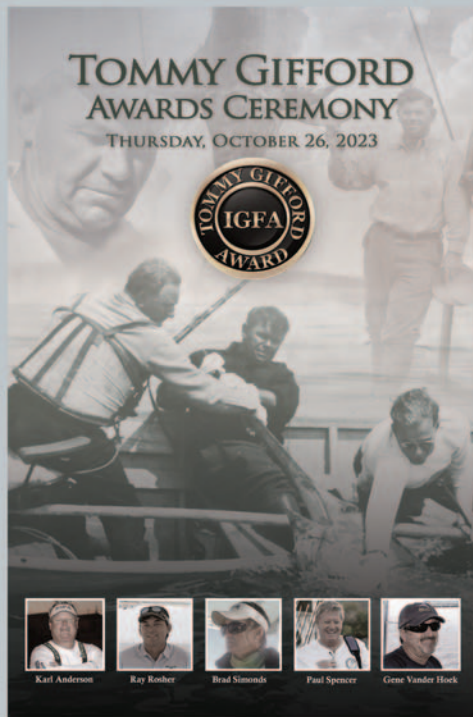
- Full-Page Ad: 5.5" x 8.5" (with 0.25" bleed on all sides)
- Half-Page Ad: 5.5" x 4.25" (with 0.25" bleed on all sides)

Format:

- High-resolution PDF (300 dpi, CMYK)
- Include outlined fonts or embed them

2025 IGFA TOMMY GIFFORD AWARDS

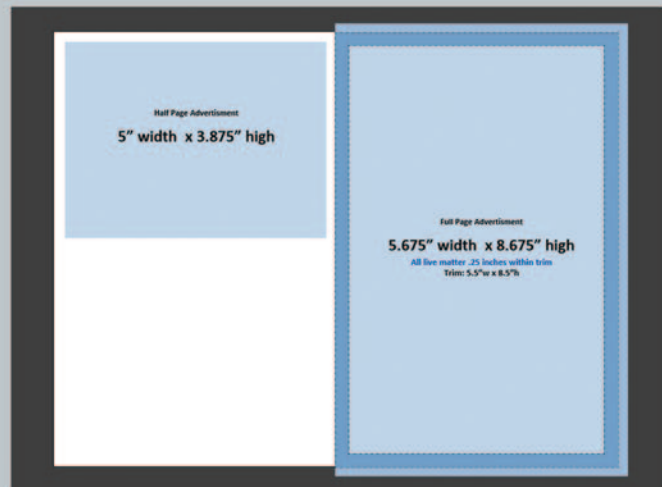
EVENT PROGRAM ADVERTISEMENT SPECIFICATIONS



Full Page – 5.675" width x 8.675" high
All live matter .25 inches within the trim
Trim: 5.5"w x 8.5"h



Half Page – 5" width x 3.875" high



For event sponsorship please contact:

Eric Combast

Development Director
International Game Fish Association

300 Gulf Stream Way
Dania Beach, FL 33004

Office phone: 954-924-4325 Email: ecombast@igfa.org