

The Caribbean Billfish Project



What are billfish?

Marlin, sailfish, and spearfish (family Istiophoridae) are some of the largest and most magnificent fish that roam the ocean. They are top-of-the-foodchain predators that use their long bills to slash and stun their prey. They can also swim at extraordinary speeds and even propel themselves out of the water to heights of over ten feet.

Why are they important?

Not only are billfish treasured by anglers all over the world, but they are also really important to economies. They are particularly important in recreational fisheries that generate millions of dollars in revenue for opportunities to catch and release billfish.

What are they in trouble?

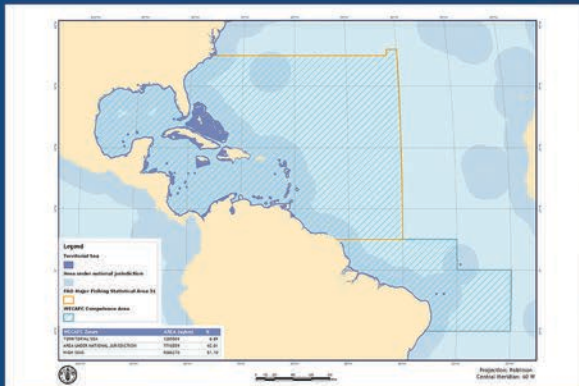
Billfish populations have dropped dramatically over the last several decades because they are caught by commercial fishermen targeting tuna, swordfish, and other types of fish.

Should I eat billfish?

No. Not only are billfish populations in danger, but billfish can contain unhealthy levels of mercury and other toxins that are harmful to humans

Did you know?

- Female blue marlin are capable of producing over six million eggs in a single spawning event
- Blue marlin's eyes are specifically adapted to cope with the low light conditions of deeper water they often hunt for food.
- White marlin spend most of their time near the water's surface but can also dive to depths of over 600 feet.
- Sailfish are capable of bursting into speed at 20 miles per hour- that's over four times faster than Olympic Gold Medal Swimming Champion Michael Phelps



For more information about billfish and what IGFA is doing to protect them, visit www.igfa.org