

# 2024 ECBC FACT SHEET

revised October 24, 2023

## CURRENT YEAR INFORMATION (22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL)

**Summary:** June 19-23, 2024: 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Emerald Coast Blue Marlin Classic at Sandestin – the Gulf Coast’s favorite tournament with luxury accommodations and a purse over \$2 million. Call Julia for information at 910-264-3947 or email [julia@tournamentcontrol.com](mailto:julia@tournamentcontrol.com); find details at [fishecbc.com](https://fishecbc.com).

**Dates:** Wednesday, June 19 – Sunday, June 23, 2024

**Host Facility:** Sandestin® Golf and Beach Resort

**Location:** Miramar Beach, Florida USA

**Mailing Address:** ECBC, PO Box 6128, Miramar Beach, FL 32550

**Shipping Address:** Emerald Coast Blue Marlin Classic at Sandestin, 9300 Emerald Coast Pkwy W, Miramar Beach, FL 32550, Attention: Jason Draughn, Recreation Department

**Contact:** Julia Brakhage | 910-264-3947 | [julia@tournamentcontrol.com](mailto:julia@tournamentcontrol.com)

**Website:** [fishecbc.com](https://fishecbc.com)

**Entry Fee:** \$6,000 (base entry) – \$77,750 per team with optional entries

**Cash Purse:** Over \$2 million

**Entry Limits:** No limits on number or size of boats, open to both private and charter boats

**Target Species:** blue marlin (110” minimum), white marlin, sailfish, spearfish (release only), yellowfin and bigeye tuna (20 lb. & 27” minimum), dolphin (20 lb. minimum), wahoo (20 lb. minimum)

**Format:** Modified release: 110” minimum on blue marlin, release only on all other billfish species

**Angling Rules:** Expected to follow the spirit of the IGFA Saltwater Angling Rules

**Sanctioned by:** Gulf Coast Triple Crown Championship, InTheBite’s Captain of the Year Cup, Sport Fishing Championship, Offshore World Championship

**Charities Supported:** The Billfish Foundation, Sandestin Foundation for Kids

**Publications:** Annual tournament program published by Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort

## HISTORY

**Tournament Started In:** 2003

**First Year Statistics:** 45 teams, 180 anglers, \$329,625 cash awards

**2023 Statistics:** 80 teams, 486 anglers, \$1,810,250 cash awards

**Highest Purse Paid to Date:** \$2,040,200 in 2018

**Highest Number of Boats Participating to Date:** 91 in 2018

**Highest Purse Paid to Date to a Single Team:** \$596,025 in 2019 to *It Just Takes Time* for 1st Place Marlin

**Highest Purse Paid to Date to a Single Team All-Release:** \$328,885 in 2018 to *Born2Run* (4 blue marlin)

**Best Years of Fishing:** 2023–63 billfish caught, 2013–118 gamefish weighed

**Other:** Placement on Perpetual trophy awarded to team with most released billfish; average number of teams receiving awards each year: 22; 2010 tournament canceled due to BP-Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf.

## DESCRIPTION

Taking place in one of the most productive fisheries in the United States, timed to coincide with the peak of the Gulf Coast’s blue marlin season and located at the South’s number-one ranked resort destination, the Emerald Coast Blue Marlin Classic at Sandestin (ECBC) has set the precedent for world-class sportfishing tournaments.

This annual event offers something for everyone. Most importantly, for the angling teams, there are the deep blue waters of the Gulf of Mexico, red-hot billfish action, and cool green cash. While onshore, both tournament participants and their families can enjoy the wide variety of recreational activities offered at the Sandestin® Golf and

Beach Resort and The Village of Baytowne Wharf. The spectacular night-time weigh-ins held at the Baytowne Marina at Sandestin are free and open to the public.

Named as one of the top ten big-money tournaments in the world by *Marlin* magazine, the ECBC's cash awards surpass \$2 million – and with over 27 optional entry levels, there are plenty of ways to win a piece of the pie.

The ECBC is a “modified-release” tournament and led the Gulf Coast tournament circuit in setting a high minimum length for blue marlin, which are the only billfish that may be weighed. Release points are awarded for blue marlin, white marlin, sailfish and spearfish. The three heaviest weighed blue marlin, dolphin, tuna and wahoo are eligible for cash awards, as are the top three teams entered in the Release Division, and the top three Crews entered in the Crew Division. Awards are presented to the top overall, release, lady and junior anglers, and the top overall release team has its name engraved on the Magnificent Blue Perpetual Trophy, donated by Galati Yacht Sales and Viking Yachts, sculpted by Chris Barela and on permanent display at the Baytowne Marina Bar & Grill.

## RECORD FISH

**BLUE MARLIN (2015) — 899.6 lbs.,** *Cotton Patch*, 60 ft. Hatteras out of Orange Beach, AL

Capt. Johnny Dorland from Orange Beach, Alabama USA; angler Lance Hill from Orange Beach, Alabama USA

**DOLPHIN (2023) — 59.8 lbs.,** *Salt Shaker*, 58 ft. Viking out of Destin, FL

Capt. Dennis Bennett from Santa Rosa Beach, Florida USA; angler Jason Bense from Lynn Haven, Florida USA

**YELLOWFIN TUNA (2021) — 231.1 lbs.,** *Quick Time*, 70 ft. Viking, out of Orange Beach, AL

Capt. Wilks Hammock from Pensacola, Florida USA; angler Robert Burroughs from Laurel, Mississippi USA

**WAHOO (2016) — 112.2 lbs.,** *Lucky 2*, 51 ft. Bertram out of Destin, FL

Capt. Tommy Green from Destin, Florida USA; angler Lynn Layton from Decatur, Alabama USA

## 2023 TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS

80 Boats Participated

1836 .....	Hatteras 60'	LIFELINE .....	Hatteras 60'
ALL-IN .....	Viking 62'	LINED OUT .....	Contender 35'
ANGELS' SHARE II .....	Hatteras 65'	LIQUID APPLE .....	Viking 68'
BADONKADONK.....	Whitaker 76'	LUCKY DOG .....	Bayliss 57'
BENEDETTA.....	Viking 70'	MADE IT BACK .....	Hatteras 50'
BIG DADDY'S .....	Viking 58'	MAE .....	Blackwell 65'
BIG ENOS .....	Custom Carolina 66'	MISS MA'AM .....	Viking 70'
BIMINI BABE .....	Viking 82'	MOLLIE .....	G&S 66'
BIRD DOG .....	Ritchie Howell 65'	NEVER SETTLE .....	Viking 74'
BLANCHITA .....	Viking 72'	NIKKI BELLA .....	Viking 92'
BLUEPRINT .....	Viking 60'	NOTHIN' MATTERS.....	Albemarle 44'
BREATHE EASY.....	Viking 72'	PALUSTRIS .....	Bertram 60'
BRIAR PATCH .....	Viking 68'	PANHANDLER .....	Hatteras 63'
BUCKET LIST.....	Miller Marine 52'	PEARL.....	Viking 48'
CHANGE ORDER .....	Hatteras 46'	POP N' CORKS.....	Invincible 40'
CODE BLUE .....	Hatteras 60'	POUR INTENTIONS.....	Viking 66'
COTTON PATCH.....	Hatteras 60'	QUANTIFIED .....	Spencer Yachts 64'
DEVOTION.....	Viking 60'	QUICK TIME .....	Viking 70'
DIANE KAY.....	Viking 55'	QUIET PROFISHIONAL.....	Grady-White 37'
DOCTORS ORDERS.....	Gillman 57'	REBECCA .....	F&S 63'
DONE PICKIN'.....	Viking 68'	REEL CRUDE.....	Invincible 43'
DON'T BLINK .....	Viking 76'	REELTLESS.....	Freeman 37'
EVIL EYES.....	Viking 64'	RELENTLESS PURSUIT.....	Jim Smith 95'
FINS .....	Viking 62'	RISING SON'S.....	Viking 58'
FISH HEADS.....	Freeman 42'	ROBIN LYNN .....	Hatteras 65'
FLEUR DE LIS.....	Viking 68'	SALT SHAKER .....	Viking 58'
GLASSY HOOKER.....	Buddy Davis 68'	SEA YA.....	Chris Craft 58'
GROCERY ISLE .....	Weaver Boat Works 80'	SKIN DEEP .....	Ricky Scarborough 63'
GUNNSLINGER.....	Viking 72'	SLICK NICKEL.....	Bertram 60'
HIGH COTTON .....	Viking 92'	SOUTHERN CHARM.....	Hatteras 63'
HOME MADE .....	Tim Winter 64'	SQUID ROW .....	Viking 50'
INTENSE .....	Contender 44'	SUNRISE .....	Guthrie 53'
IT DON'T MATTA.....	Viking 61'	TEAM 2 .....	SeaHunter 45'
IT JUST TAKES TIME .....	Viking 80'	TEAM SUPREME .....	Viking 72'
JOLENE .....	Viking 60'	TEXASFLOOD .....	Yellowfin 42'
JOLLY B.....	Bertram 30'	THE POINTE .....	Donzi 73'
JUBILEE.....	Hatteras 68'	TIGHTEN UP.....	Viking 58'
JUST LOOKIN' .....	Viking 82'	UP TO IT .....	Viking 52'
JUST THE TIP .....	Viking 56'	WYNSONG .....	Viking 80'
KNOT ON CALL.....	Hatteras 60'	YELLOW STEEL.....	Viking 72'