

## 2008 MARINE ENHANCEMENT RECIPIENTS

The Yamaha Contender Miami Billfish Tournament has donated over \$600,000 to marine enhancement programs in the South Florida area. We are extremely proud of this accomplishment and thank all the event supporters that help us to make this happen.

### YCMBT - Dedicated to Marine Conservation for Over 26 Years!

#### **Capt. Harry Vernon, Jr. Scholarship Fund \$4,200**

This scholarship fund has been created as a dedication for the late Capt. Harry D. Vernon, Jr. This year, the scholarship is awarded to five worthy students studying billfish conservation research at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School. (305-361-9258)

#### **Circle of Friends Memorial Scholarship \$4,000**

This scholarship fund has been created in memory of Jim Hardie. The scholarship helps fund students at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School who are studying fisheries science and management. This year, the scholarship is awarded to seven students.

#### **University of Miami Experimental Hatchery \$4,000**

We are honored to continue our support of the University's study of billfish, which presently is focussing on the enhancement of life larval billfish collection. These funds will help with the purchase of collection nets and related equipment. [www.rsmas.miami.edu](http://www.rsmas.miami.edu)

#### **Florida Keys Marine Laboratory \$2,500**

Located in Layton, the Keys Marine Lab facility hosts 100 marine research and education projects yearly. The facility offers dorm style housing, boats with operators, experiment holding facilities, wet & dry labs and collecting assistance to off-site researchers. The lab facilitates research in this unique and delicate environment. (305-664-9101)

#### **Guy Harvey Research Institute \$5,000**

This scientific research organization was formed as a collaboration between the artist and the Oceanographic Center of Nova Southeastern University. Funds will be used to expand research into forensic technologies to identify pelagic fish body parts in trade. Our contribution will enable them to expand this research to include additional billfish species, specifically blue and white marlin (currently this is being used on sharks) for both management purposes as well as investigations of billfish early life history ecology for conservation purposes. [www.nova.edu/ocean/ghri](http://www.nova.edu/ocean/ghri)

#### **National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCCM) \$1,000**

The NCCM is the nation's oldest public advocacy group dedicated exclusively to conserving ocean fish and their environment. Our donation will contribute to the maintenance and expansion of their web-based educational activities specifically, to purchase new software to upgrade their web design to enhance the existing Email Action Network (the development and launch of which was made possible by a previous YCMBT grant). [www.savethefish.org](http://www.savethefish.org)

#### **The Billfish Foundation \$5,000**

With matching funds from the Presidential Challenge. This scientific organization funds billfish research to ensure a stable future for these amazing creatures. Our donation funds the International Tagging Program, which will collect data to support age & growth studies, migration patterns and other scientific data to manage stocks globally. [www.billfish.org](http://www.billfish.org)

#### **Coastal Conservation Association of Florida (CCA) \$4,000**

An affiliate of the national CCA, the CCAF seeks to protect and conserve Florida's marine resources. Once again, our donation will underwrite the cost of one issue of CCA FLA Seawatch newsletter. [www.joincca.org](http://www.joincca.org)

#### **International Game Fish Association (IGFA) \$2,500**

This organization keeps world records and historical artifacts and data on fishing worldwide. IGFA also established and upholds ethical angling standards for world record and everyday catches. This money will go to the Certified Observer Program and pay for its training manuals [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org)

#### **The Education Fund (IMPACT) \$3,000**

The Ed Fund encourages the development and dissemination of innovative classroom curriculum by teachers, provides material resources to classrooms, improves libraries/media centers, promotes information and computer literacy among students and their families, and fosters teacher leadership in schools. The funds will support the continuation of district-wide sharing of marine conservation projects to all 20,000+ teachers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. [www.educationfund.org](http://www.educationfund.org)

#### **The Officer Snook Program \$1,500**

This program focuses on educating youth on water pollution prevention, incorporating other priority issues, including aquatic and marine ecosystem education and environmental sustainability. These funds will pay for the printing of 5,000 Officer Snook Billfish Book Covers. (305-672-7675)

#### **Youth Fishing Foundation \$1,000**

This organization was established to introduce fishing to underprivileged children in South Florida. YCMBT funds will purchase rod and reels to be given to children who attend their educational and conservation oriented seminars. (305-235-4883)

#### **Pelican Harbor Seabird Station \$500**

Pelican Harbor Seabird Station is dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation and release of sick, injured and orphaned wild birds in and around Miami's Biscayne Bay. While the majority of their patients are seabirds, they accept any injured wild bird that is brought to the facility. [www.pelican.bizland.com](http://www.pelican.bizland.com)