

2011 MBT MARINE ENHANCEMENT RECIPIENTS

The Miami Billfish Tournament has donated over \$675,000 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.

Capt. Harry Vernon, Jr. Scholarship Fund \$1,050

This scholarship fund has been created as a dedication for the late Capt. Harry D. Vernon, Jr. This year, the scholarship is awarded to three worthy students studying billfish conservation research at the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School. Sean Bignami, Andrew Cox and Mark Fitchett.

Florida Keys Marine Laboratory \$2,000

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 Ocean Foundation \$5,000

The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation funds inspired scientific research and innovative educational programs to encourage conservation and best management practices for sustainable marine environments. Through the support of organizations like the YCMBT, leading scientists will develop new strategies for sensible fisheries management and educators will create novel instructional programs to stimulate future scientists and new stewards of the marine environment. The Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation will help ensure that future generations will enjoy and benefit from a naturally balanced ocean ecosystem where fish and other marine wildlife flourish.

www.guyharveyoceanfoundation.org

National Coalition for Marine Conservation \$500

The NCMC 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

Circle of Friends Memorial Scholarship \$2,500

This scholarship fund is 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 was awarded to 5 students. Travis Moore, Andrea Bernard, Teagen Gray, Christine Testerman and Jessy Adams.

The Officer Snook Program \$1,000

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)

The Billfish Foundation \$6,000

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

Coastal Conservation Association of Florida \$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

International Game Fish Association (IGFA) \$1,000

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

The Education Fund (IMPACT) \$1,200

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

Save Our Seas Shark Center \$1,000

The Save Our Seas Shark Center (SOSSC) was established in 2010 at Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center. The SOSSC's mission is to conduct targeted research and education to facilitate better management and achieve major conservation outcomes for the world's sharks and rays. One effective way to reduce the demand for shark fins is to increase public awareness of possible health risks associated with shark fin consumption. To this end, the Save Our Seas Shark Center researchers are investigating the prevalence of toxic pollutants in market-derived shark fin products. Call 954-262-3653 for more information.

Sea Grant \$500

The Florida Sea Grant Program uses research, education, and extension activities to enhance the responsible use and conservation of marine and coastal resources to create a sustainable environment and economy. Our donation will be used to support the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program in Miami-Dade County, which aims to decrease the amount of hazardous fishing line left in the environment. http://miami-dade.ifas.ufl.edu/environment/sea_grant.shtml

MBT - Dedicated to Marine Conservation for Over 29 Years!