

# 2005 MARINE ENHANCEMENT RECIPIENTS

This year we are proud to donate nearly \$52,000 to local and national marine enhancement programs. We thank all the tournament supporters that help us to make this possible.

## Capt. Harry Vernon, Jr. Scholarship Fund \$6000

This scholarship fund has been created as a dedication for the late Capt. Harry D. Vernon, Jr. This year, the scholarship is awarded to four worthy students studying billfish conservation research. (305-361-9258)

## Guy Harvey Research Institute \$5000

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)

## Youth Fishing Foundation \$2000

This organization was established to introduce fishing to underprivileged children in South Florida. YCMBT funds will purchase rod & reel combos to give to kids who participate in their marine education and hands - on catch and release fishing programs (305-235-4883)

## Florida Keys Marine Laboratory \$4000

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. Our donation will contribute to new boat fund, which will accommodate 15 or more passengers. (305-664-9101)

## National Coalition for Marine Conservation (NCMC) \$5,400

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 their web-based educational activities in 2005, specifically, to maintain and improve the Bring Back the Big Fish! on line campaign (the development and launch of which was made possible by a previous YCMBT grant), maintain and improve the new in-house Email Action Network. [www.savethefish.org](http://www.savethefish.org)

## Marine University \$1000

Formally known as CEERI, MU provides education programs to the public and community to help ensure our environment and waterways remain safe and clean, as well as teaching safe boating. Funds will support printing of the newly revised 2005 version of the Boater 101 Boating Safety Manual. Their goal is to provide this manual to all boat purchasers in Florida. The manual is a family oriented instructional course in boating safety.

## The Nature Conservancy \$2000

TNC is one of the oldest and most respected conservation groups in the world. Our funds will support their new coral reef resiliency project in South Florida and the Keys. [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)

## The Billfish Foundation \$5,000

This scientific organization funds billfish research to ensure a stable future for these amazing creatures. Our donation funds the International Tagging Program, which will enable TBF to supply free tags to regions where they are promoting release, release survival and billfish management. This money will purchase 3,500 tags. [www.billfish.org](http://www.billfish.org)

## Florida Sea Grant \$850

This organization is working towards educating the boating and fishing industries to reduce marine debris and increase awareness of its impact on the environment and economy. These funds will underwrite the Monofilament Recovery and Recycling Program public service message in the 2005 US Chart Map Miami to Biscayne Bay. [www.flseagrant.org](http://www.flseagrant.org)

## International Game Fish Association (IGFA) \$2,000

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 training classes and assist with training manuals, species ID videos/DVD's, Facility Rentals and Travel Expenses for IGFA instructors. [www.igfa.org](http://www.igfa.org)

## The Officer Snook Program \$5100

This program focuses on educating youth on water pollution prevention. It incorporates other priority issues, including aquatic and marine ecosystem education and environmental sustainability. Our donation will fund the set up of a permanent water pollution exhibit at the Anacostia River Aquatic Education Center in Washington, DC. The Center will have classrooms for students as well as activities and events for the many visitors expected to attend each year. (305-672-7675)

## Coastal Conservation Association of Florida (CCA) \$6000

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

## The Education Fund (IMPACT) \$4000

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 19,000 teachers in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. [www.educationfund.org](http://www.educationfund.org)

## University of Miami Experimental Hatchery \$3600

We are honored to continue our support of the University's study of billfish. This year, YCMBT funds will contribute to the purchase of 4 electrodes and accompanying service kit to assist in the continuation of the larval and juvenile physiology study of billfish. [www.rsmas.miami.edu](http://www.rsmas.miami.edu)