

Catch and release fishing is a great way to help protect threatened fish species, but it requires the use of proven techniques ensuring continued fish health.

BEST PRACTICES FOR CATCH AND RELEASE FISHING

Hooks

- Hooking location and time removal affect survival rate
- Always use barbless hooks
- When fishing with bait, use circle hooks



Fight Time

- Shorter fight time increases survival
- Tackle should match conditions and size of fish
- Always land fish before it is exhausted and loses equilibrium when released
- If fish loses equilibrium after you land it, revive it until it can swim upright



Handling

- Minimize handling of fish: slime and scales can be easily damaged and removed
- Use hemostats/ pliers to quickly remove hooks while keeping the fish in the water
- Avoid exposing fish to air, even when taking pictures, limit exposure to 15 seconds
- Avoid touching the gills, it can cause damage and impair breathing



CZMAI now hosts the Belize Game Fishing Association (BGFA) Perpetual Trophy



Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute
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Sport Fishing In Belize



Mission

"To support the allocation, sustainable use and planned development of Belize's Coastal Resources through increased knowledge and building alliances, for the benefit of all Belizeans and the global community."

What is Sport Fishing?

Sport fishing is fishing that is done either for pleasure or competition, where the fish is caught and released, and not retained for the commercial purpose of selling, exporting, or otherwise.

"Catch and Release" means the act of catching fish and then immediately releasing the fish into the waters in the same state that the fish was landed.

Belize is renowned around the world as a key sport fishing destination, offering anglers the opportunity for a "Grand Slam" flat fishing experience.

Sport fishing includes:

- Fishing from shore
- Reef fishing
- Deep sea fishing
- Coral flat fishing
- Salt water fly fishing
- Fishing tournaments

Popular Sport Fishing Tournaments



*Tres Pescados Slam Fishing Tournament
Ambergris Caye



*Annual Blue Water Classic Fishing Tournament
Ambergris Caye



Dorado Rodeo Fishing Tournament
Ambergris Caye



*Placencia Yamaha Saltwater Fishing Tournament
Placencia Peninsula



Dia de San Pedro Fishing Tournament
San Pedro

*CZMA has co-sponsored the event in form of cash prizes

Legislation that protect Sport fishing Species

In 2009, the Government of Belize enacted two sport fishing regulation to protect sport fishing species. These are:

- (i) Coastal Zone Management Authority (Sport Fishing) Regulations, implemented by CZMAI and
- (ii) Fisheries (Species Designation Protection) Regulations, implemented by the Fisheries Department.

The CZMA specifically has the mandate to safe guard and protect 3 key sport fishing fish species: (i) Bonefish (*Albula vulpes*), (ii) Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*), and (iii) Permit (*Trachinotus falcatus*).

Sport Fishing Licenses

With the passage of the CZMA (Sport Fishing) Regulations, CZMAI has the mandate to implement a Sport Fishing License Program.

Licenses can be purchased at CZMAI's office, on-line at www.coastalzonebelize.org or at authorized agents :

Go Fish Belize

Placencia Tourism Center

Sittee River Marina

Boca del Rio
San Pedro

Placencia
523-4045

Sittee Point, Dangriga
Tel: 533-7888

Tel - 226-3121



Sport Fishing Fee Schedule:

Fishing Period

Fees in Belize Dollars

One (1) day

\$20.00

One (1) week

\$50.00

One (1) year

\$100.00

**Anglers wishing to purchase 1 year licenses need to apply in person at CZMAI's office and must present a valid ID **

Fish Species Designated For Sport Fishing

Common Name

Scientific Name

White Marlin



Tetrapturus albidus

Blue Marlin



Makaira nigricans

Sailfish



Istiophorus platypterus

Atlantic sailfish



Istiophorus albicans

Swordfish



Xiphias gladius

Cobia



Rachycentron canadwn

Dolphin fish



Coryphaern hippurus

Wahoo



Acanthocybiurn solandri

Spanish Mackerel



Scomberomorus maculatus

King Mackerel



Scomberomorus cavalla

Cero



Scomberomorus regalis

Skip jack tuna



Katsuwonus pelamis

Big eye tuna



Thunnus obesus

Little tunny



Euthynnus alletteratus

Sword spine snook



Centropomus ensiferus

Fat snook



Centropomus parallelus

Tarpon snook



Centropomus pectirntus

Mexican snook



Labotes surtnamensis

Tripletail



Centropomus poeyi

Pompano



Alectis ciliaris

Florida pompano



Trachinotus carolinus

Palometa pompano



Trachinotus goodei