



BROOME FISHING CLUBS' 2026 BILLFISH CLASSIC incorporating, FATTY'S DAY

Briefing Night – Thursday 23rd – 1730pm sharp

The Broome Billfish Classic briefing night is compulsory for all anglers, including Fatty's Day anglers. An evening meal will be provided for all anglers and registered participants (extra tickets can be purchased for partners/family/friends but must be done prior to the briefing night).

Teams competing in the Broome Billfish Classic will receive a Billfish Classic boat pack, including: one shirt per angler, score sheets, NSW DPI Billfish Tags (for marlin only), an evening meal ticket for the briefing night, fishing days and presentation night and loads of goodies from our fabulous sponsors.

Teams competing in the Fatty's Day competition will receive a Fatty's Day boat pack, including score sheets, NSW DPI Billfish Tags (for marlin only), and an evening meal ticket for the briefing night, fishing day and presentation night.

*Additional meal tickets must be purchased in advance for partners/family/friends who attend the briefing night, presentation night and evening meals at the Broome Fishing Club (cost \$25 per night adult; \$15pp per night child)

Fishing days & times

Friday 24th & Saturday 25th July – Days 1 & 2 of fishing - Lines in 0700hrs and lines out 1600hrs

Sunday 26th July – Day 3 of fishing & Fatty's Day - Lines in 0730hrs and lines out 1600hrs

Monday 27th July – Day 4 final day of fishing - Lines in 0700hrs and Lines out 1400hrs

These rules will apply to both the Billfish Classic and Fatty's Day

Only 10kg tournament line class and 10kg tippet for fly is allowed.

The Broome Billfish Classic incorporating Fatty's Day will be fished within the current angling rules and equipment regulations of the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA). A copy of these rules will be included in the boat pack.

In addition to GFAA rules the following rules will apply:

Only monofilament nylon is to be used for leader and trace. Dacron wind on leaders will be acceptable.

Lures may only contain up to 2 hooks and can be either circle or J

Only ONE in line circle hook can be used for any bait

All anglers and nominated crew must be affiliated with WAGFA

Only one rod per angler may be in use at any given time

No live baits allowed

20m of 10kg line class is allowed over the top of braid

Sailfish are to be free released, and Marlin can either be free released or tagged using NSW DPI Billfish Tags as per the tagging section of these rules.

Tag poles must conform to GFAA regulations. Please refer to GFAA guidelines for tag needle specifications.

In addition to GFAA rules the following rules will apply cont'd:

Tag poles must not exceed 10ft overall length. The tag pole or holding device must be in the hand when the fish is tagged. One or more persons, in addition to the person holding the leader, may tag or assist in tagging the fish.

A fish is considered tagged when the tag is secured to the fish, and it is released alive.

Shorter tag poles are recommended, as a shorter pole can achieve a more accurate tag placement.

Please take your time when tagging fish. Good tag placement will not hurt a fish, but a poor tag placement may.

If a billfish is hooked prior to lines out (1600hrs), the associated tagging/free release time for that billfish may extend past 1600hrs, however radio base must be notified before 1600hrs for the points to be awarded. The same rules apply for the last day; however, this must be done before 1400hrs.

Compulsory scrutineering

Checking of leaders will be conducted prior to the briefing night between 1630hrs and 1730hrs on Thursday 23rd July. All teams must present one of their rods equipped with 10kg line, double, leader and hook rig. Fishing tackle and equipment must be made available for inspection if requested at the discretion of the Broome Billfish Committee at any time throughout the event.

Fatty Albert Memorial Day Sail Past – COMPULSORY FOR ALL BOATS

Sunday 26th July, all boats must gather in front of Cable Beach for the start of the sail past by 0615hrs. The flare will be fired at 0630hrs.

Teams

Only registered anglers and/or nominated skippers and deckhands may participate in any act which directly contributes to the free release or tag of a fish during the tournament. Acts include driving the boat, bait preparation, tagging fish, running out lines, retrieving lines, clearing teasers or taking the leader.

Teams may consist of no less than two anglers and have no more than four anglers.

Each team has the option to nominate an additional skipper and/or deckhand to assist the registered anglers.

Skippers and deckhands will pay a nominal fee to cover costs of included meals and a Billfish Classic shirt.

Anglers

Junior anglers must be under 16 on the first day of the competition, Friday 24th July 2026.

Adult anglers are anyone who is 16 or over on the first day of the competition, Friday 24th July 2026.

Senior anglers are anyone who is 55 or over on the first day of the competition, Friday 24th July 2026.

Anglers will only be eligible for prizes awarded in their entered category.

Tagging & Score Sheets

There is a score sheet and grid reference map in your boat bag, these may be used either digitally or manually.

Further information regarding the digital versions will be available on the briefing night. You are required to complete all sections of the score sheet for fish to be eligible for points. It is important to report the grid references as accurately as possible as this data will be used for research purposes and to provide heat mapping and catch data that can be used to promote the benefits of allowing free release sections for game fishing in the future. You will not be asked to give this information out over the radio during fishing however this data may be used to advise other anglers where the hot spots were for the day during presentations each evening. The grids are 10nm x 10nm so even within each grid there are multiple areas in which fish could be found.

For research purposes we would like for all Marlin to be tagged, Marlin 5 kg and under should be hand tagged only.

If the Marlin is deemed too small by the Skippers' discretion, it is preferable for the fish to be leadered and the hook removed. **Please avoid lifting any fish out of the water. Points will be awarded for both tagged and free release Marlin as per the scoring section.** Score sheets and any tag cards must be presented to the club before 1900hrs at the end of each day for points to be awarded. Should circumstances prevent this, base must be notified prior to 1800hrs. Please return all completed and unused tag cards to the radio room prior to the Presentation Night. On the 27th of July score sheets and tag cards must be in no later than 1700hrs. **Please have score sheets and tag cards to the club at your earliest convenience to help organisers prepare for presentation night.**

Eligible Species & Points

Free Released Sailfish – 500pts

Tagged Marlin – 1000pts

All size fish count

Free Released Marlin – 500pts

Tagged Spearfish – 1000pts

Communication

All competing vessels must carry VHF radio in good working order. All competing vessels must always remain contactable via radio, with either radio base or another vessel. Failure to maintain radio contact may result in team disqualification. Radio base will monitor VHF Ch 22 from 0600hr until 1930hr or until all boats have signed off each day. All boats must notify radio base of departure and return each day. Radio base must be notified as soon as practical upon tagging/free releasing a billfish with time, boat name, angler name and species.

Skeds

Radio skeds will be conducted each fishing day at 1000hr, 1300hr and 1600hr. Skeds on the last day the 27th of July will be at 1000hr and 1400hr. Radio base will contact each boat for the following information: number of fish; raised, hooked up, and tagged/free released. Sked information is to be kept separate for each time period. That is, the number of fish reported during the skeds throughout the day is NOT cumulative.

If a billfish is hooked prior to lines out, the associated tagging/free release time for that billfish may extend past 1600hrs, however radio base must be notified before 1600hrs that you intend to continue fighting the fish for the points to be awarded. On the last day base will need to be notified by 1400hrs and the latest time for any tag/free release card to be lodged will be 1700hrs.

Presentation Night – Monday 27th July

An evening meal will be provided for all anglers and nominated skippers and deckhands (extra tickets must be purchased for partners/family/friends). Live entertainment will be provided.

Billfish Classic Prizes

Champion Boat Overall – Perpetual Trophy

Champion Boat 7.5mt and over

R/Up Boat 7.5mt and over

Champion Boat 6mt to 7.49mt

R/Up Boat 6mt to 7.49mt

Champion Boat under 6mt

R/Up Boat under 6mt

Champion Senior Angler

R/Up Senior Angler

Champion Male Angler

R/Up Male Angler

Champion Female Angler

R/Up Female Angler

Champion Junior Angler

R/Up Junior Angler

1st Billfish – Trophy Only

Fatty's Day Prizes

Champion Boat Overall – Perpetual Trophy

Champion Senior Angler

R/Up Senior Angler

Champion Male Angler

R/Up Male Angler

Champion Female Angler

R/Up Female Angler

Champion Junior Angler

R/Up Junior Angler

Any anglers who have travelled to Broome specifically to fish the Billfish Classic or Fatty's Day and do not normally reside in Broome will go into a draw to share in \$1500 worth of prizes.

Judges

The Broome Billfish Classic Committee will appoint Judges. The judge's decision in relation to all disputes, protests and claims will be final and no correspondence will be entered into. Protests should be lodged in writing before 1900hrs on the day of the alleged incident and before 1700hrs on the last day.

Officials will be present throughout the Broome Billfish Classic to scrutinise for breaches of rules.

Billfish Classic incorporating Fatty's Day Terms and Conditions of Entry

The word "boat" used in this form includes any floating object used to transport or accommodate any person, whether it is powered or not, & includes but is not limited to a kayak.

1. The Broome Fishing Club (BFC) – is the organiser of the Billfish Classic incorporating Fatty's Day Tournament.

2. I agree that:

- a. I am participating, alternatively will be the skipper, crew or a passenger on board a boat used for the purpose of or involved, in the Billfish Classic incorporating Fatty's Day Tournament;
- b. further or alternatively to paragraph 2a, I own the boat identified in my entry form;
- c. THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT is a recreational activity to which the Civil Liability Act 2002 (WA) applies; and
- d. by performing any of the activities referred to in paragraph 2a above, alternatively permitting my boat to be used in THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT, I am engaging in a recreational activity.

3. I have been warned of and am aware of the risks of participating in THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT, which include (but are not limited to)

- Injury, death or property loss or damage caused or contributed to by a. exposure to weather, tides or waves;
- Exposure to sun, wind or water;
- Submerged or floating objects, marine life, hazards at sea, fishing or boating equipment or naturally occurring or human made structures;
- The driving of vehicles or boats;
- Skipper error;
- Vehicle driver error;
- The launching, retrieving, anchoring, mooring, berthing or releasing of boats;
- The use of boating trailers;
- Failed, defective or inoperative boating equipment, safety equipment or boat related mechanics;
- Loss, damage or capsizing of a boat;
- Fire;
- Slippery or sharp boat surfaces, jetties or land-based floors or structures; and
- Trip hazards.

4. I have informed myself and my team and am aware of all hazards and risks and the Western Australian and Australian laws applicable to the areas where I intend to fish or be present during THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT.
5. I have informed myself and my team of and agree to comply with all:
- Western Australian and Australian laws applicable to the areas where I intend to fish or be present during THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT; and
 - Game Fishing Association of Australia and BFC Rules and Regulations applicable to THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT.
6. I warrant that the boat that I will use in THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT is insured for loss and damage and public liability insurance has been effected and maintained by the boat owner for the duration of THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT in respect of loss or damage caused by the use of the boat.
7. Upon request by BFC, at any time, I must produce to BFC a complete and true copy of the property and liability insurance contract(s) referred to in paragraph 6 above.
8. I warrant that the boat I will use in THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT is seaworthy, fit and proper and contains all relevant safety equipment (including but not limited to VHF radio, life jackets, EPIRB, flares, bailer and fire extinguisher) for use in THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT.
9. I warrant that the boat I will use in THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT is fitted with an operating and well-maintained VHF radio.
10. I release the BFC, its officers and members from any and all liability, whether at law or in equity, in respect of damage to or the loss of my property or my personal injury or death arising from or in any way connected to THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT.
11. I release the BFC, its officers and members from any and all liability, whether at law or in equity, for contribution or indemnity in respect of legal proceedings commenced against me by, or my legal liability to, any person arising from or in any way connected to THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT.
12. I have read and agree that BFC's THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT Cancellation Policy is incorporated into and forms part of these terms and conditions.
13. I agree that if this my entry is submitted to BFC after June 21st, 2026, the persons referred to as skipper or anglers on my entry form may not receive a correct sized tournament T-shirt.

If any person referred to above is under the age of 18 years (minor), please ensure that his/her parent / legal guardian completes the entry form.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Participants

1. If the entire BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT 2026 event is cancelled due to actual or forecasted weather, an order, direction or notice issued by the Australian, Western Australian or Broome

government or one of their agencies or departments, or an event or omission that is not within Broome Fishing Club's (BFC) control, then each person who:

- a. intended to be a participant in the cancelled fishing tournament; and
 - b. had prior to the event commencement date correctly completed and submitted to BFC the applicable Entry Form and paid the applicable entry fee:
 - i. may collect his/her tournament bag and tournament shirt from the BFC clubhouse – at times specified by BFC; and
 - ii. subject to paragraph 3 below, will be refunded 50% of his/her paid entry fee. The remainder of his/her entry fee will be retained by and forfeited to BFC.
2. If any portion of the BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT 2026 event is cancelled or has restrictions imposed on it due to actual or forecasted weather, an order, direction or notice issued by the Australian, Western Australian or Broome government or one of their agencies or departments, or an event or omission that is not within BFC's control, then any paid entry fees will not be refunded. All entry fees will be retained by and forfeited to BFC.
3. A person is not entitled to a refund of any paid entry fee by reason of the BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT 2026 event being cancelled unless she/he requests the refund from BFC in writing by email sent to billfish@broomefishingclub.com.au and that request is received by BFC within 7 days of the BFC determining that the event is cancelled.
4. A person who has completed and submitted to BFC the applicable Entry Form and paid the applicable entry fee may by email sent to billfish@broomefishingclub.com.au deregister from THE BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT 2026 event. However, she/he is not entitled to a refund of his/her entry fee unless:
- a. the email giving notice of such deregistration is received by BFC prior to 21st June 2026; and
 - b. prior to 21st June 2026, she/he pays to BFC a \$50 administration fee.
5. Any person who deregisters from the BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT 2026 event must not participate in the BILLFISH CLASSIC INCORPORATING FATTY'S DAY TOURNAMENT 2026 event.
6. Save for in the circumstances expressed in paragraphs 1, 3 and 4 above, no person is entitled to a refund of his/her paid entry fee.

Safety & Regulations

All boats must carry all safety gear to the standard required by the Western Australian Department of Transport. www.transport.wa.gov.au. Furthermore, all boats must have at least one person with a valid Western Australian Department of Fisheries issued Recreational Fishing from Boat License.

Broome Fishing Club – Fishing Tournament Wind Policy

When considering the extent to which a BFC fishing competition is safe having regard to local or forecasted wind conditions, the BFC must consider and comply with this policy.

Broome Fishing Club Weather Guidelines

At times where fishing tournament wind conditions are or are predicted to have the speed referred to in column 1, then, as a minimum, the BFC must impose the restrictions referred to in column 3 and consider the issues in column 4.

Forecast Wind Speed (knots)	WMO Classification	Minimum Restrictions	Minimum Considerations
17 – 21	Fresh Breeze	Notify Skippers that it is up to their discretion as to whether they fish or not. Possible reduced fishing times.	Swell height, wind direction, currents and tides
Forecast Wind Speed (knots)	WMO Classification	Minimum Restrictions	Minimum Considerations
22 – 26 Or Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) Strong Wind Warning	Strong Breeze	Monitor official forecast (BOM) at each update for any increase in forecast wind – any increase to 27 knots or above and fishing is cancelled	Swell height, wind direction, currents and tides Specific risks for specific participants (e.g. juniors) Obtaining official advice (e.g. from WA Police, BOM etc.)
27 and above Or BOM Strong Wind Warning	Near Gale	Fishing cancelled for the relevant day	N/A
Cyclone	Hurricane	Tournament cancelled until all clear given.	N/A

BFC must inform all skippers of imposed restrictions.

The Beaufort Wind Scale

Force	Wind (Knots)	WMO Classification	Appearance of Wind Effects	
			On the Water	On Land
0	Less than 1	Calm	Sea surface smooth and mirror-like	Calm, smoke rises vertically
1	1-3	Light Air	Scaly ripples, no foam crests	Smoke drift indicates wind direction, still wind vanes
2	4-6	Light Breeze	Small wavelets, crests glassy, no breaking	Wind felt on face, leaves rustle, vanes begin to move
3	7-10	Gentle Breeze	Large wavelets, crests begin to break, scattered whitecaps	Leaves and small twigs constantly moving, light flags extended
4	11-16	Moderate Breeze	Small waves (1-4 ft) becoming longer, numerous whitecaps	Dust, leaves, and loose paper lifted, small tree branches move
5	17-21	Fresh Breeze	Moderate waves (4-8 ft) taking longer form, many whitecaps,	Small trees in leaf begin to sway

			some spray	
6	22-27	Strong Breeze	Larger waves (8-13 ft), whitecaps common, more spray	Larger tree branches moving, whistling in wires
7	28-33	Near Gale	Sea heaps up, waves (13-19 ft), white foam streaks off breakers	Whole trees moving, resistance felt walking against wind
8	34-40	Gale	Moderately high waves (18-25 ft) of greater length, edges of crests begin to break into spindrift, foam blown in streaks	Twigs breaking off trees, generally impedes progress
9	41-47	Strong Gale	High waves (23-32 ft), sea begins to roll, dense streaks of foam, spray may reduce visibility	Slight structural damage occurs, slate blows off roofs
10	48-55	Storm	Very high waves (29-41 ft) with overhanging crests, sea white with densely blown foam, heavy rolling, lowered visibility	Seldom experienced on land, trees broken or uprooted, "considerable structural damage"
11	56-63	Violent Storm	Exceptionally high (37-52 ft) waves, foam patches cover sea, visibility more reduced	
12	64+	Hurricane	Air filled with foam, waves over 45 ft, sea completely white with driving spray, visibility greatly reduced	



For further information please email billfish@broomefishingclub.com.au or visit the Broome Fishing Club website www.broomefishingclub.com.au or phone Tacka on 0439928361 or Tracey on 0438930319