

NOTE TO EDITOR:

Photo Captions at the End of the Press Release

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## BIMINI CELEBRATES 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF RECORD BONEFISH CATCH

### **Journalists and Residents Mark The Occasion with Tournament and Parade**

ALICE TOWN, BIMINI—MARCH 7, 2011—In 1971 a Virginia Beach sportsman named Jerry Lavenstein and local Bimini bonefish guide Ansil Saunders headed out on the Bimini mud flats to cast their luck and hope for a trophy catch.

Lavenstein and Saunders gained immortality that day with a record catch, a 16-pound, 3-ounce monster bonefish, caught just 300 yards from the historic Big Game Club.

Jump ahead to early 2011 and new Big Game Club Outpost owner, celebrated artist Guy Harvey and his group of partners, had just opened a new outfitter operation, Bonefish Bimini with fly fishing guru Vaughn Cochran at the helm. Celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that record bonefish catch just off their docks made good sense to Dr. Harvey and his Outpost team, so the first annual Bonefish Challenge was born.

The Bonefish Bimini team invited some of the world's top fly fishing writers to officially commemorate the occasion this past month with a bragging-rights tournament and local islanders pitched in with a junkanoo style parade, complete with a paper-mache replica of a bonefish and a grand marshal lead boat float led by Ansil Saunders, now considered the dean of Bimini's legendary group of bonefish guides. Cochran, also a well-know marine wildlife artist, made the parade a viral global event, by encouraging fans to enter a virtual parade design entry to celebrate the record catch anniversary.

As for the journalists, awards went to:

--Top Bonefish Angler—Glenn Pittard with [www.midcurrent.com](http://www.midcurrent.com)

--Top Bonefish Team—Glenn Pittard, Photographer Pat Ford and Guide Eagle Eyes Fred Rolle

--Top Bonefish Team/Second Place—Colin Archer, [www.theaverageangler.com](http://www.theaverageangler.com), Jim Sutton, Jacksonville Times-Union and Guide Bonefish Ebbie David

--Largest Bonefish Caught and Released—Rick Low, Saltwater Adventures, with Guide Bonefish Tommy Sewell

--Top Permit Angler—Rick Low with Bonefish Tommy Sewell

--Hell's Bay Strongest Guide Award—Eagle Eyes Fred Rolle

--Wild Thing—Bonefish Ebbie David

The biggest award of the day went to Ansil Saunders, who received a plaque honoring the record catch, complete with a picture of he and the late Jerry Lavenstein admiring their record catch.

Today, Bimini is home to three Bonefish world records as well as being recognized for some 50 record setting catches in its surrounding waters.

A top-of-class bluewater tournament comes to Bimini on May 18<sup>th</sup> with the Billfish Invitational, which marks the Big Game Club's return to a world-class tournament, after a decade long hiatus.

About Bimini Big Game Club, a Guy Harvey Outpost Resort and Marina

Founded as a dinner club in 1936 in Alice Town, the island's cultural hub, by Nassau entrepreneur and bon-vivant, Neville Stuart, the Big Game Club has over the last 74 years hosted world-class fishermen, major tournaments, international celebrities and tens of thousands guests looking to bask in the unique "Islands in the Stream" mantra made famous by author Ernest Hemingway who lived and fished in Bimini in the mid 1930s.

Today, the Big Game Club's Outpost concept is designed to take the resort beyond that of a "fishing lodge" (though admittedly a majority of visitors will be there for the world class fishing) to create an eco-destination attracting both fishing and diving enthusiasts while focusing on adventure travel, sustainable tourism and marine conservation.

Guy Harvey Outpost Resorts has teamed with top-of-class sportsmen to deliver top-of-class fishing and diving experiences, known to the group as Outpost Pursuits.

Renowned dive authority Neal Watson oversees the Club's new dive operation, Dive Bin, showcased by its 60 ft. double deck, glass bottom dive boat, the largest in the Bahamas out-islands.

Bonefish Bimini, headed by artist, conservationist and fly fishing personality, Vaughn Cochran, works with the island's elite bonefishing guides and is quickly restoring awareness of Bimini's legendary "Big Bones".

Sportfishing charters operations have been established at the Club, with the recent arrival of record setting Captain Billy Black, a fixture on the Bahamas offshore fishing circuit.

The Big Game Club, which is located on the main navigation channel in Bimini Bay,

currently features a 51-room resort and a 75-slip marina capable of accommodating boats up to 145 feet in length. A full service fuel dock will be operational by Spring 2012.

Guestrooms and suites have been fully renovated, as with the new Bimini Big Game Bar & Grill, and completion of the Hemingway Lounge and Gulfstream conference center. The Club also offers the Guy Harvey Outfitter Shop, for the best in sportswear, gifts and accessories. Upcoming plans include completion of an exercise center, and development of a field research installation to showcase the work of the Guy Harvey Research Institute and the Nova Southeast University Oceanographic Center.

Location:	Alice Town (North Bimini's Southern Tip)
Marina	
Facilities:	75 Slips
Regular Rooms:	35
Penthouse Suites:	4
Cottage Rooms:	12
Restaurants:	Bimini Big Game Bar & Grill, Hemingway Lounge
Meeting Space:	Gulfstream Conference Center
Pools:	Freshwater
Other	
Activities:	Outpost Outfitter Shop, Deepsea Fishing, Flats Fishing, Diving, Snorkeling, Shopping, Sightseeing, Sunset Cruises, Picnics
Reservation:	1-800-867-4764
Website:	BigGameClubBimini.com



Parade in Alice Town commemorating world record Bonefish catch in 1971



Legendary Bimini Bonefish Guide Ansil Saunders with Bahamas M.P. Obie Wilchcombe



Left-to-Right: Randy Rolle, Ministry of Tourism/Sports Tourism Department; Bonefish Tommy Sewell; Mark Ellert, President of Guy Harvey Outposts; Ansil Saunders; Ned Stone, Program Director Bimini Big Game Club; Fred Mitchell Bahamas M.P.; Bonefish Ebbie David and Eagle Eyes Fred Rolle.



Bonefish Tommy Sewell and Vaughn Cochran of Bonefish Bimini



Mike Myatt, COO IGFA (International Game Fish Association) and Ansil Saunders



Jerry Lavenstein and Ansil Saunders with record bonefish in 1971