THE HIGHEST PAYING **TUNA TOURNAMENT** ***IN THE WORLD*** SINCE 1999

CABO TUNA JACKPOT

WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS
EST. 1953

PRESENTED BY YAMAHA

NOVEMBER 4-7, 2026

LOSCABOSTUNAJACKPOT.COM

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Schedule details subject to change

TUES., NOVEMBER 3

1 - 5:00 pm

Early Check-in

LOCATED INSIDE TESORO RESORT

WED., NOVEMBER 4

3 - 6:00 pm

Check In/ Registration Day

7:00 pm

Captain's Meeting*

*Captain's meeting MUST be attended by at least 1 team member/captain

BOTH LOCATED INSIDE TESORO RESORT

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Day 1 of Fishing

5:45am: Costa Start Boat departs outside Baja Cantina
7:00am: Shotgun Start
3:00pm: Weigh-in Opens
6:30pm: Weigh-in Closes

LOCATED AT THE MARLIN STATUE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Day 2 of Fishing

5:45am Costa Start Boat departs outside Baja Cantina
7:00am: Shotgun Start
3:00pm: Weigh-in Opens
6:30pm: Weigh-in Closes

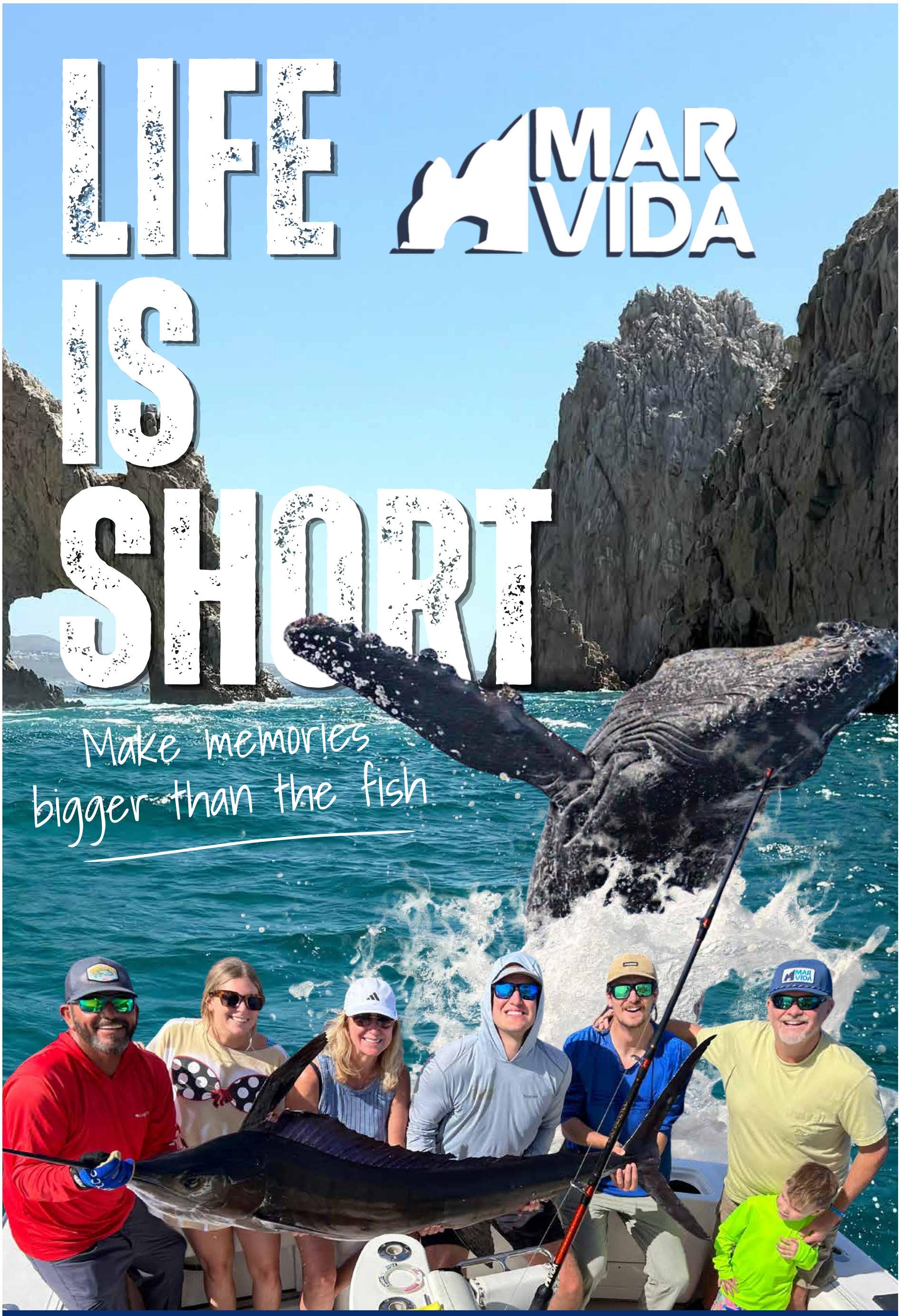
LOCATED AT THE MARLIN STATUE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

5 - 9:00 pm

Awards Show Dinner at the Cruise Ship Pier

Catered by Solomon's Landing. Additional Tickets will be available to purchase



U.S.A. (760) 481-7667
MX (624) 172-0085

info@marvidacabo.com
marvidacabo.com

WHAT'S IN THE BAG + RAFFLE PRIZES!

*giveaway items subject to change



CTJ x PENN PERFORMANCE SHIRTS

CTJ x MAR VIDA SPORTFISHING HAT



BAGS FROM GAMAKATSU

DECKHAND SPORTS RALLY TOWELS

COSTA



GEAR FROM COSTA

Contingency Prize:



PENN INTL. 50 VISX 2-SPEED

To be awarded to one chosen team that brings a PENN rod or reel to the stage with their catch at weigh-in!

One Per Team:



OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT FLAG FROM PREMIUM SPORTFISHING



SAVAGE GEAR PANIC POPPER

SAVAGE GEAR

Raffle Prizes:

TESORO

STAY AT TESORO RESORT



Premium Sportfishing Cabo San Lucas

CHARTER FROM PREMIUM SPORTFISHING

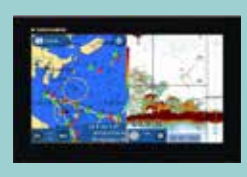


PRIZE PACKS



FURUNO

1971F MULTI-TOUCH PLOTTER



TZ MAP 13



PENN

FATHOM II REELS AND CARNAGE III RODS







COSTA SUNGLASSES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does the Cabo Tuna Jackpot allow cash payments on registration day?

No. CTJ does not accept cash during registration day. Teams that want to enter or add additional optionals on site during registration day must do so via credit card (processing fees will apply).

How do I pay for my entry and/or optionals at CTJ?

Payments can be made via CatchStat directly. If you would like to pay via check, please mail by October 1st to:
Western Outdoor News
Los Cabos Tuna Jackpot Tournament
P.O. Box 73370, San Clemente, CA 92673
Deadlines: All entry and jackpot fees must be paid in U.S. funds. Payments can be made by personal check or U.S. Certified Cashier's Check, made payable to Western Outdoors Publications and mailed . After October 1, 2026 payment must be made by U.S. Certified Cashier's Check, Money Order, or Wire. (No Personal Checks After Oct. 1, 2026). For wiring details please email michelle@wonews.com

How many people are allowed on my team's boat?

There is a maximum of 11 people allowed on each boat.
Max.: 6 Anglers, 3 Crew Members, 2 Guests.
The 6 anglers are the only passengers allowed to participate in fishing/reeling in a catch. The 6 anglers are the only team members that have a say in the percentage each member of his or her team's are paid out, besides the mandatory minimum 10% payout to the captain if the trip is chartered.

How do I sign up for the Cabo Tuna Jackpot Tournament?

You can sign up online at CaboTunaJackpot.catchstat.com/ or you can fill out and mail an entry form to the address above or via e-mail michelle@wonews.com or call 949-366-0827

Base entry is $1,000 per TEAM, with a maximum of 6 team members.





2025 MONEY WINNERS – $1.43 MILLION PAYOUT!

ESTRELLA DEL NORTE
OPTIONALS: Day 2 - $500 - $1,000 - $2,000 - $3,000 - $5,000 - $10,000 - $20,000



$572,225

253.75 POUNDS

STRICTLY BUSINESS II
OPTIONALS: Day 1 - $500 - $1,000 - $2,000 - $3,000 - $5,000 - $10,000



$471,400

196.05 POUNDS

ANGELES ROOFING
OPTIONALS: N/A



$3,225

190.50 POUNDS

SNEAK ATTACK
OPTIONALS: Day 1 - $20,000



$136,000

170.05 POUNDS

RANCHEROS DE TODOS SANTOS
OPTIONALS: Day 1 - $1,000 - $3,000 Wahoo



$84,400

70.60 POUNDS

LOS CABRONES
OPTIONALS: Day 2 - $1,000 Wahoo



$41,200

59.20 POUNDS

TNT
OPTIONALS: Day 2 - $3,000 Wahoo



$43,200

47.30 POUNDS

NEGOTIATOR
OPTIONALS: Day 1 - $1,000 - $3,000 Dorado



$85,200

28.40 POUNDS

DREAM MAKER
OPTIONALS: Day 2 - $ 3,000 Dorado



$39,600

27.40 POUNDS

CANNING HOOKERS
OPTIONALS: Day 2 - $3,000 Dorado



$45,600

25.20 POUNDS

TESORO RESORT
BOOK ONLINE OR BY PHONE: +52 624 173 93 00



Smiles International raises $21,800 for charitable surgical care

Proceeds go toward charitable surgical care internationally

The 2025 Cabo Tuna Jackpot Fundraiser proved to be an outstanding success, and Smiles International Foundation extends its heartfelt gratitude to all contestants, sponsors, starter-boat participants, and donors. This year, starter-boat contributions totaled $6,400, and the Grand Raffle brought in an impressive $9,600.

We would also like to recognize several generous supporters. Team Prime Time once again championed our mission with a $5,000 donation. An additional $4,000 gift was made by an anonymous donor inspired by this year's awards-show video. Team Burro also contributed $5,000 after registering for the tournament.

Thanks to our partnership with Western Outdoor News (WON), we are proud to announce that the total raised for 2025 exceeded $21,800.

A special thank-you goes out to our sponsors: Scott and Bonnie Womack for hosting an incredible 2025 Green Hair Party; Costa; John Petty Goldsmith for his exceptional jewelry contributions; Gamakatsu; Penn; Berkeley; Terrafin; and of course Western Outdoor News. The generosity behind these donations would not be possible without the Cabo Tuna Jackpot Tournament.

These contributions make a profound difference in the lives of children in Cabo and Tecate with maxillofacial deformities. Their gratitude—and ours—is immeasurable. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the doctors, nurses, and counselors who volunteer their time and expertise to make this mission possible.

Once again, thank you to Western Outdoor News and to everyone who participated in making this year's tournament truly spectacular.

In grateful Service,
Cat, Development Director
Prof. Dr. Jeffrey James Moses DDS
FAACS Diplomate, American Board Oral/ Maxillofacial Surgeons
Diplomate, National Board of Dental Anesthesiology
President, Founder, Smiles International Foundation www. SmilesInternationalFoundation.org



THE SMILES team selling tickets for the Costa Start Boat.

COSTA START BOAT
5:30 AM - 8:00 AM
Costa Start Boat
departs from Baja Cantina
Tickets are purchased from
SMILES INTERNATIONAL
During registration
100% of ticket price is donated to Smiles International Foundation and include breakfast and drinks
COSTA



Gamakatsu's New Pluggin' Single HD-Ringed hooks check multiple big-game boxes

Cabo Tuna Jackpot cinch bags courtesy of Gamakatsu

Casting big lures for tuna and other big game species is a tactic that has skyrocketed in popularity from the Channel Islands through the offshore banks all the way to the waters off the top of Baja. Of course, the industry responds by putting more surface plugs and poppers and such on the market, but oftentimes, the hardware they're built with isn't heavy duty enough, so the first thing many anglers do after opening the packages is replace hooks and rings with beefier versions.



Gamakatsu has always been at the forefront of these trends, and this year the globally-respected hook manufacturer has launched a product that not only fits that bill, but it's also ideally suited for a more classic (yet still deadly) big tuna stickin' technique.

Gama'e Pluggin' Signle HD-Ringed hooks are an instant upgrade to stock treble (or even similar single) hooks on lures, but they are also perfect for chunking for tuna as well as for a variety of live-bait techniques calling for heavy-duty dependability and natural bait action due to the ringed hook.

Like all Gamakatsu hooks, it's crazy sharp, extra tough and corrosion resistant. Ranging in sizes between 7/0 and 11/0, there's really no reason a serious big game angler should not have some of these versatile and dependable tools in his or her arsenal.

– Gamakatsu.com



GAMAKATSU came through with cinch bags.

MINERVA SAENZ-SMITH

2026 'LOCAL LEGEND' *"STILL TACKLING BAJA"*



MINERVA SAENZ-SMITH honoring Captain Julio Castro Verdugo, last year's Local Legend, with Rebecca and Tracy Ehrenberg at the Cabo Tuna Jackpot Captain's Meeting.

BY MIKE STEVENS
WON Staff Writer

CABO SAN LUCAS – A common thread among each Local Legend honored at the WON Cabo Tuna Jackpot is unwavering passion and energy that burns consistently over the course of decades between the day they realize they want to spend their lives woven into Cabo's storied sportfishing fabric, and the time their hard work and dedication is being formally recognized in a room full of friends, family, peers and competitors. Pioneering Cabo businesswoman Minerva Saenz-Smith will stand as the Local Legend at the 2026 Cabo Tuna Jackpot, and it's as well-deserved as it gets.

Born Minerva Saenz-Valenzuela in Navojoa, Sonora, Mexico, she emigrated to the United States with her parents who opened the Tamale Factory restaurant in Riverside which remains a very popular eatery to this day. Minerva met Bob Smith shortly after high school, a passionate angler with dreams of moving to the tip of Baja one day, and after returning from a trip to Cabo San Lucas, he drove straight to Minerva's house and convinced her to pack up and make the 1,000-plus-mile drive back down. This was in the fall of 1976, and in the days following their arrival, Minerva knew she was ready to make Bob's dream hers and make Cabo home.

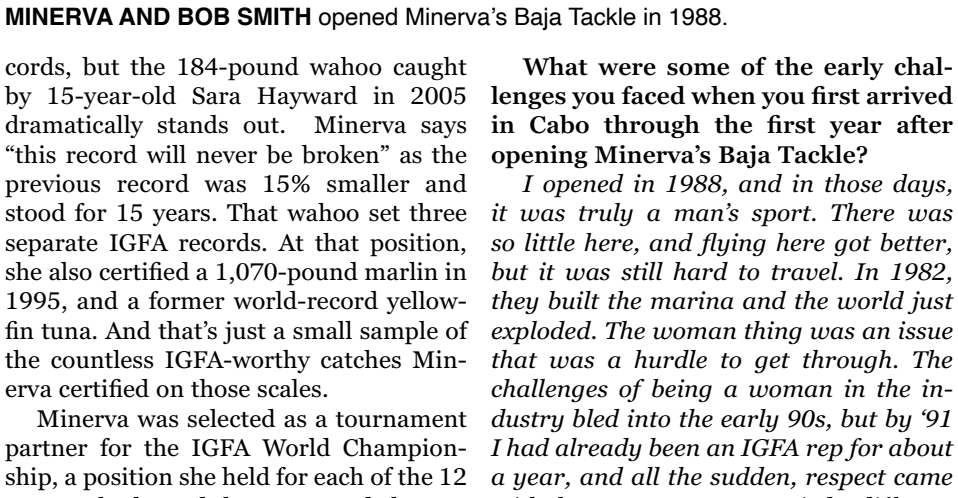
In those early days, no boat rentals were available so, Bob and Minerva towed down a small trailer and parked it where today stands Maria Corona Restaurant, and they set up a home. Bob immediately left for California to get a yacht to piggyback to Cabo so he could start his dream of chartering. The boat was called *No Problema*, which they intended to ultimately offer for local charters. That business was flourishing by the time Minerva married Bob in 1978, and following another passion, she opened Sunset Riding Stables with 13 horses Bob purchased in California and trailered down. Among the services offered were horseback riding tours of Cabo led by Minerva herself.

About 12 years after the original charter business started, Minerva and Bob opened Minerva's Baja Tackle in 1988 which currently stands as the most-popular tackle shop in Cabo San Lucas. The shop carried carried everything for an angler to fish the Baja, and they also offered rod and reel repair at the shop which was an invaluable service to both visiting anglers and other local operations alike. Reel parts and rod components are not easy to come by in Mexico – especially in years past – but the Smiths smartly ordered it in huge quantities to ensure it was always on hand. Minerva and Bob continued operating a thriving charter business with multiple boats, each boasting top-notch captains and crew. That tackle shop/charter business combo results in daily fishing information delivered in as close to "real time" as possible, so Minerva's Baja Tackle customers always knew what to buy and where to go once they hit the water. It became the epitome of a "one-stop-tackle-shop" with every visiting and local angler's needs covered.

Next year, Minerva will be entering her 50th in the business, and she's been hands on from the get go: rigging line, tying connection nots, filling reels, teaching knots to her charter crews and even designing live-bait leaders for wahoo that are still used to this day. She's a real "fisherlady" who used to fish pangas alone, and just her and captain in tournaments.

"I'm not going be an owner/operator from a desk," she told Western Outdoor News. "I'm going to run the store. I'm going to be hands on."

Quickly recognizing the world-class potential of the fishing grounds off Cabo San Lucas, Minerva bought a pair International Game and Fish Association (IGFA) certified scales, and she successfully applied to become a regional IGFA representative as well as an IGFA-certified weigh station. Minerva has weighed and certified many qualifying world records, but the 184-pound wahoo caught by 15-year-old Sara Hayward in 2005 dramatically stands out. Minerva says "this record will never be broken" as the previous record was 15% smaller and stood for 15 years. That wahoo set three separate IGFA records. At that position, she also certified a 1,070-pound marlin in 1995, and a former world-record yellowfin tuna. And that's just a small sample of the countless IGFA-worthy catches Minerva certified on those scales.



MINERVA AND BOB SMITH opened Minerva's Baja Tackle in 1988.

Minerva was selected as a tournament partner for the IGFA World Championship, a position she held for each of the 12 years Cabo hosted the event, and she was also recognized by the IGFA for her fierce conservation efforts including but not limited to removing marlin from menus in Cabo, encouraging the use of circle hooks and taking on the Mexican government in matters of flawed fisheries legislation. Minerva is also very proud of the role she played in helping propel Cabo to the forefront and catch-and-release fishing for striped marlin.

Minerva has been a key component of the Local Legend program since it started. Her knowledge of the areas fishing history and the amazing people who keep it going allows her to not only lead in the selection process, but she's also interviewed honorees, wrote their stories and stood on stage honoring them.

Minerva's husband, Bob Smith, passed away on August 14, 2025, just a month after the shop moved to its new location a couple blocks away to Calle Miguel Hidalgo. Yet another challenge she had to work through, but she came out the other side even stronger, and her position within the community remains as strong as ever.

She recently connected with *Western Outdoor News* for a quick Q&A session, shortly after it was decided that she will be the next Local Legend.

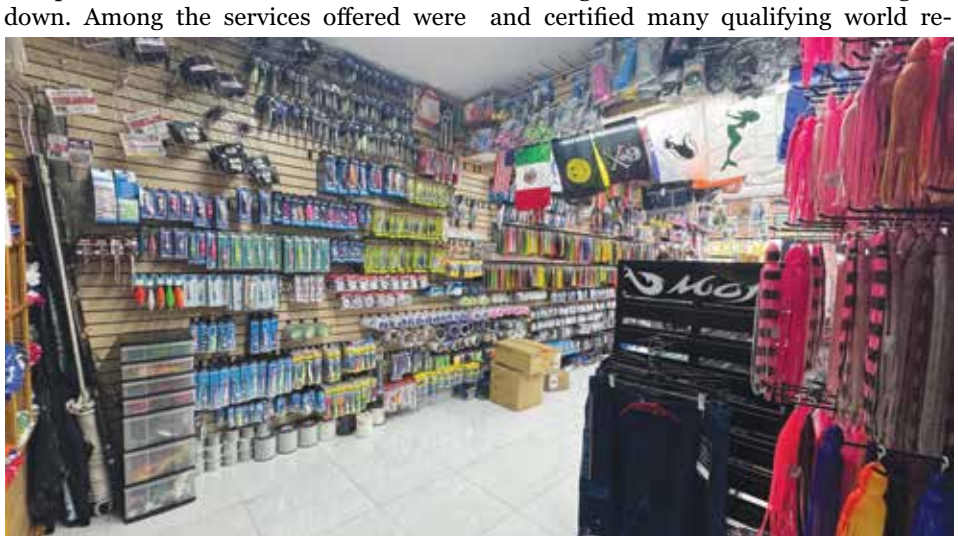
What were some of the early challenges you faced when you first arrived in Cabo through the first year after opening Minerva's Baja Tackle?

I opened in 1988, and in those days, it was truly a man's sport. There was so little here, and flying here got better, but it was still hard to travel. In 1982, they built the marina and the world just exploded. The woman thing was an issue that was a hurdle to get through. The challenges of being a woman in the industry bled into the early 90s, but by '91 I had already been an IGFA rep for about a year, and all the sudden, respect came with the name IGFA. It carried a different weight. That gave certification and credibility to my store, and that was really important. Once I had that credibility, there was nothing that vendors like Penn, Mustad, AFTCO, Calstar and Izorline would not do for me. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for all of them. When those guys met me, it took off. Being a woman in sportfishing was only a stumbling block only for a very short time.

In an interview with Gene Kira of WON 25 years ago, it was written that you and Bob had concerns about the possibility of development "getting out of hand." Looking back between then and now, how do you feel it's played out?

We get asked that every day. I think that was not a big revelation that not only we had, but everybody had it. When we saw the Marina come in in '82 we were quadrupling ever year with the massive growth and everybody wanting a piece of the pie. It exploded the way we knew it would, from the outside in, and we are still in the explosion stage, but I still feel very fortunate to live here. It's still good times and a beautiful community of people.

LOCAL LEGEND/NEXT



MINERVA'S BAJA TACKLE is the ultimate one-stop-shop for anglers enjoying the rich waters out of Cabo San Lucas.

Local Legend...

Continued from previous page

What would you say is better today?

The store gets packed with women shoppers at times during these new women's tournaments. We are seeing women coming with their families. We now have many more women over the last 20 years. And look at us, we hold the biggest, richest tuna tournament in the world. The six biggest weeks of my business are October 1 through mid-November, when those tournaments are here. When there is fishing excitement here, nobody can deny that the streets are full.

When you've been on stage with previous Local Legends, it's clearly an emotional moment for you. Why is that?

Some of these Legends I've known since they were little kids. I'm so connected to them through the fishing. I feel at home with them, and they feel at home with me. I think Mexican fisherman are the greatest fishermen in the world. I watched these kids start with nothing and I'm emotionally tied to them, and I don't want that to ever change. It's important to me that they feel like I care.

What does it mean to you to join them as a Local Legend?

They're all very proud, and they all still fish the old way. They know they have skill, and all this gives them a chance to prove it. It's in their blood. I want to be an expression of them, and their parents and grandparents who gave me the love to do all this. I'm just another dimension, and I'm pretty humbled.

I want to be an expression of them, and their parents and grandparents who gave me the love to do all this. I'm just another dimension, and I'm pretty humbled.

You certainly aren't showing any signs of slowing down. What's next?

I feel like I'm reinventing myself. It's a really happy time for me. It's a natural rebranding , and I feel refreshed, re-energized and motivated. It's taken a natural turn for me to want to be better than ever servicing the fleets and tourism even if it has nothing to do with fishing. Nothing is going to change, but I want to be better at it.

As a pioneering woman on the Cabo San Lucas sportfishing scene, it's very appropriate that Minerva Saenz-Smith will be the first lady recognized as a Local Legend prior to the 2026 installment of the WON Cabo Tuna Jackpot.





MINERVA'S HUSBAND Bob Smith passed away last year, but he left a lasting mark on the Cabo San Lucas sportfishing community.





AFTCO Samurai Sun Protection shirts keep offshore anglers in the fight

Designed specifically to handle the punishing conditions of open-ocean pursuits, the AFTCO Samurai Long Sleeve Sun Protection Hoodie serves as a core technical layer for serious big-game anglers. Built for extended days offshore targeting billfish, tuna and whatever else the Pacific serves up, this flagship performance top delivers maximum defense against relentless UV exposure, harsh sea spray and constant physical exertion on the deck.

At the heart of its technical construction is AFBLOCK UPF 50+ solar protection, which safeguards anglers by blocking over 98% of harmful ultraviolet rays. Crafted from a lightweight 92% polyester and 8% spandex performance blend, the shirt offers responsive four-way stretch. This ensures total freedom of movement whether casting heavy topwater lures, fighting fish and weilding gaffs. A generous athletic cut through the chest, shoulders, and hood allows unrestricted movement without causing overheating or binding.

To combat intense tropical weather and grueling battles with heavy gamefish, AFTCO integrates AFCOOL quick-dry, moisture-wicking technology. This active cooling fabric rapidly draws sweat away from the skin for fast evaporation, keeping captains and deckhands dry and comfortable throughout long spreads.

Because offshore sportfishing is inherently messy, the Samurai is finished with AFGUARD stain release technology, engineered to easily shed stubborn fish blood, slime, bait oils, and deck grime during washdowns. An added antimicrobial treatment inhibits odor-causing bacteria, keeping gear fresh across multi-day tournament runs. Combined with an ergonomic hood that protects the head and neck without restricting peripheral vision, the AFTCO Samurai Hoodie is an essential, hard-wearing staple for high-stakes offshore environments.

For more info, visit AFTCO.com

Costa delivers 'full screen' vision with Pilothouse PRO



Inspired by the control center of a boat and engineered for elite protection on the water

Costa Sunglasses unveils Pilothouse PRO, the first semi-rimless shield delivering a "full-screen" high wrap view of the water. The launch marks the return of shield eyewear from the brand for the first time in 15 years, offering advanced lens technology for unparalleled clarity and superior protection from the elements in a new full coverage shape. Inspired by the Control Center of a boat, Pilothouse PRO delivers a commanding, uninterrupted view of the water when it matters most.



Pilothouse PRO takes the PRO Series to new heights as the first from Costa's lineup to meet the American National Standard for Occupational Eye and Face Protection Devices (Z87.1+ safety rating). By passing rigorous impact tests including a ¼-inch steel ball traveling at 150 feet per second as well as high-mass and high-velocity pointed-impact trials, watermen gain an added layer of confidence when conditions get demanding.

Constructed from injected bio-resin, Pilothouse PRO also features advanced airflow in both the frame and lens to help manage heat and fog, for ventilation you can feel, not see. Anti-skid top brow and Hydrolite® retention temples stay put when the seas don't, while an integrated eyewear drainage system stops sweat from pooling and beading, and keeps surfaces clear when conditions turn sticky.

David Fried, Costa Sunglasses Product Manager, shares, "Designing a semi-rimless shield with ANSI-level impact protection was the biggest challenge, and the biggest breakthrough. We engineered Pilothouse PRO to maximize field of view while still meeting rigorous safety standards, then layered in airflow, drainage, and retention based on real time feedback on the water with our Costa Pros. The result is a design built around function first, because at the end of the day, clarity and protection are non-negotiables."

Retailing at $280–$301, Pilothouse PRO is available in various colorways, including Blue & Gold Mirror, Copper, Gray, Rose 580P and Clear lens options, now on CostaDelMar.com. Follow @CostaSunglasses on Instagram to stay up to date on the latest Costa news.



Premium Sportfishing once again delivers incredible raffle prize

The official flag sponsor of the CTJ, Premium is no stranger to the winner's circle

CABO SAN LUCAS — Premium Sportfishing is a Cabo San Lucas based sportfishing team offering boats for charter as well as fractional ownership.

Known for their impressive track record fishing the waters out of Cabo San Lucas, Premium sportfishing team has 6 division wins in 4 tournaments over the last 3 years. Premium Sportfishing offers full-day and half-day trips as well as visits to the Finger Bank, Magdalena Bay and really wherever area fish are biting.

Premium Sportfishing is not only the official flag sponsor of the 2026 Cabo Tuna Jackpot, but they also have vessels competing in the event including the 29-foot Blackfin El Cazador, 31-foot Cabo El Cazador III, 31-foot Cabo El Cazador IV, 65-foot Hatteras Premium, and Matt Chancellor running the private 70-foot Hatteras Negotiator and they are looking for another division win for the third-straight year.

They're also putting up a very impressive trip as a top shelf prize in the grand raffle: an all-inclusive 8-hour trip aboard El Cazador for four anglers. That amazing trip will include licenses, lunch and drinks including beer. That trip (tournament days excluded) carries a value of almost $1,000.

El Cazador is impressively equipped for a boat that size, and it starts with twin 360-horsepower motors delivering 720 horsepower and a top speed upward of 34 knots. The fishing arsenal includes updated electronics, radar and Panoptix forward-scan sonar. Starlink is among the creature comforts of the top-notch vessel that an angler really has to see to believe. Since El Cazador is very active on a year-round basis, she is very well-maintained and ready to deliver those bucket list trips or fish of a lifetime. Premium Sportfishing has other vessels at its disposal for long-range trips and otherwise including the 65-foot Hatteras, Premium and two 31 Cabos El Cazador III and El Cazador IV.

Premium Sportfishing has been competing in the Cabo Tuna Jackpot for almost 20 years accumulating north of $170,000 in winnings, and tournament anglers are stoked to have them as a supporter as well with that incredible prize trip.

"I love the way you guys have kept it simple," said Matt Chancellor of Premium Sportfishing. "It's a solid, steady tournament, you know what to expect, and it's a lot of fun for us."

Premium sportfishing is now offering fractional ownership of some of their boats, this program is new for 2026 and designed to help people get on the water in Cabo as an owner without the hassle of finding the almost impossible slip and headaches of boat ownership contact Matt Chancellor for more information (916-539-4506) or 2neelsons99@gmail.com

For more information on charters with Premium Sportfishing, visit PremiumSportfishing.com, @premiumsportfishing on Instagram or call 916-539-4506. Trips on El Cazador can also be booked through PiscesSportfishing.com



THE OFFICIAL 2026 CTJ FLAG provided by Premium Sportfishing.



COMPETITIVE ANGLERS know they're getting a great shot at money-making fish when they head offshore with Premium Sportfishing.



PREMIUM SPORTFISHING on the 2024 WON Cabo Tuna Jackpot weigh-in stage.



THE KIND OF MIXED BAG that could be worth big bucks at the Cabo Tuna Jackpot.

AFTCO



PINNACLE
FISHING SHORTS

The Pinnacle Short features lightweight, quick drying fabric with stretch where it counts, built for long days on the water and everything that follows. The perfect short for any fish, any water.

AFTCO

PRECISION TACKLE
Any Fish. Any Water.

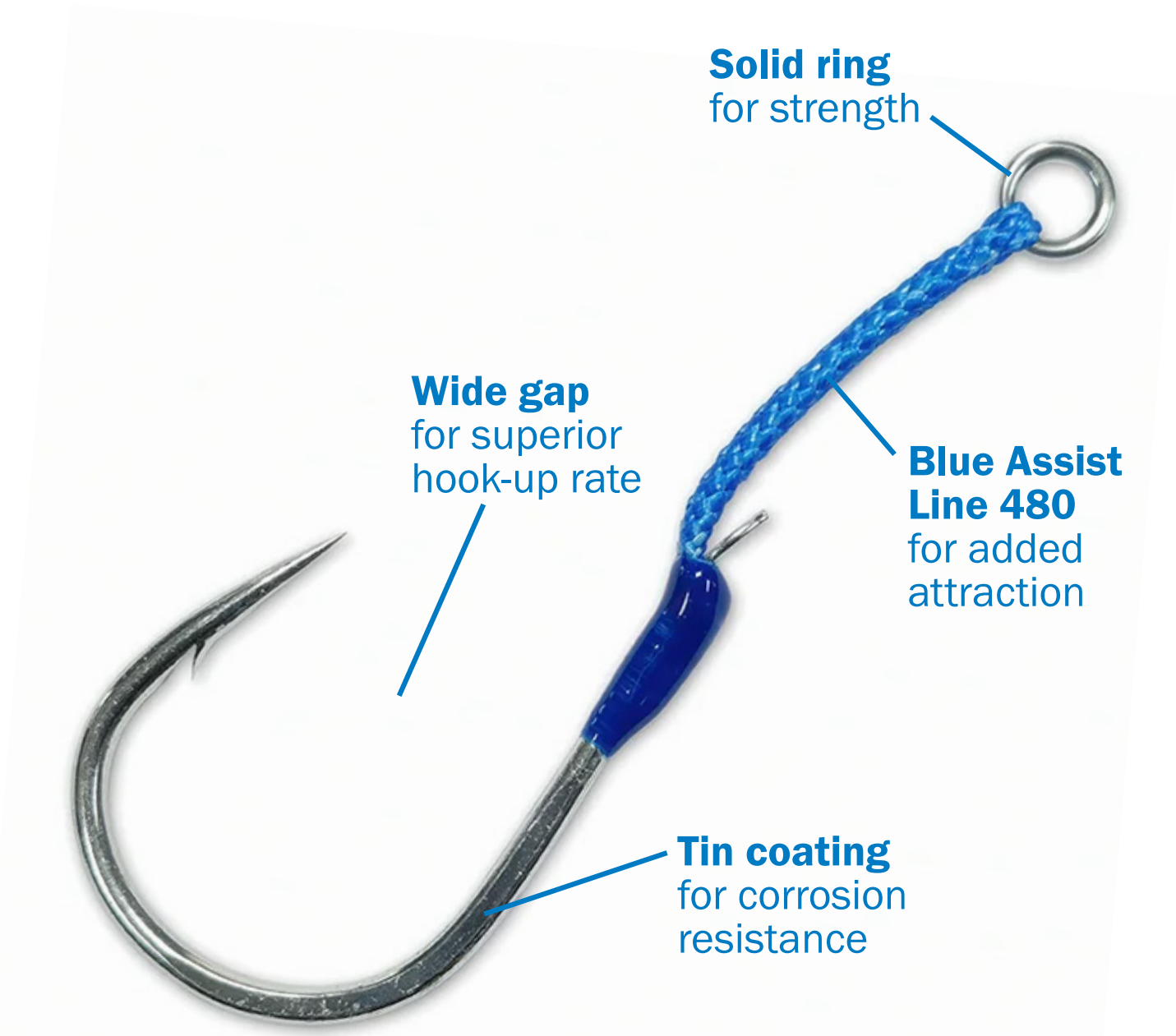





SEE
WHAT'S
OUT
THERE
COSTA
WITH PILOTHOUSE PRO
• 580® semi-rimless shield
• Safety Eyewear Rated Z87.1 + certified
• Frame & Lens ventilation
EMMANUEL WILLIAMS
FISHERMAN

ASSIST VERTICAL LIMIT

Gamakatsu®



ASSIST VERTICAL LIMIT SHORT

Options: ***5/0*** *(3pk)*
6/0 *(2pk)*
7/0 *(2pk)*
PE Line Length: 1.37”
PE Line Test: 175#

ASSIST VERTICAL LIMIT LONG

Options: ***5/0*** *(3pk)*
6/0 *(2pk)*
7/0 *(2pk)*
PE Line Length: 1.57”
PE Line Test: 175#

Learn more at gamakatsu.com

Penn's back with a strong Cabo Tuna Jackpot presence, especially in the Grand Raffle

CABO SAN LUCAS — American fishing tackle giant Penn is once again playing a big part in the WON Cabo Tuna Jackpot, and anglers competing in the event will feel Penn's presence the most in the Grand Raffle held at the party. Here's what Penn is bringing to that particular table

Penn International VISX Extreme 2-speed

At the Cabo Tuna Jackpot, a Penn International 50 VISX Extreme 2-speed reel will be going home with a lucky angler. That reel features machined and anodized aluminum body and sideplates, stainless main and pinion gears, a modern Quick-Shift II 2-speed system, Dura-Drag, Versa Strike which allows angler to adjust where the "strike" spot on the drag level hits, double-dog ratchet anti-reverse and line capacity rings to name a few.

Short version: it's a fully-modernized version of a series of reels with a deep, big-game history built specifically to handle the tactical evolution (kite fishing, sinker rigs, knife jigs, etc.) that has occurred in recent years on the West Coast, offshore stage.



Penn Fathom II reels

Penn's new and improved Fathom II reel is easier to use and quicker to service, giving anglers the ultimate torque for closing the deal on big fish. The all-new PENN Fathom II Lever Drag reels take a class-leading reel and raise the bar even more with new models, sizing, features, and optimized billfish models round out the assortment to give a model for every application. Integrating the palm side plate and frame allows the PENN Fathom II Lever Drag reels to be more compact in hand and increases strength. The Pull-to-Turn preset knobs allow the angler to truly set it and forget it. At the PENN Fathom™ core is a stainless steel main and pinion gear and a forged and machined aluminum spool for maximum durability.

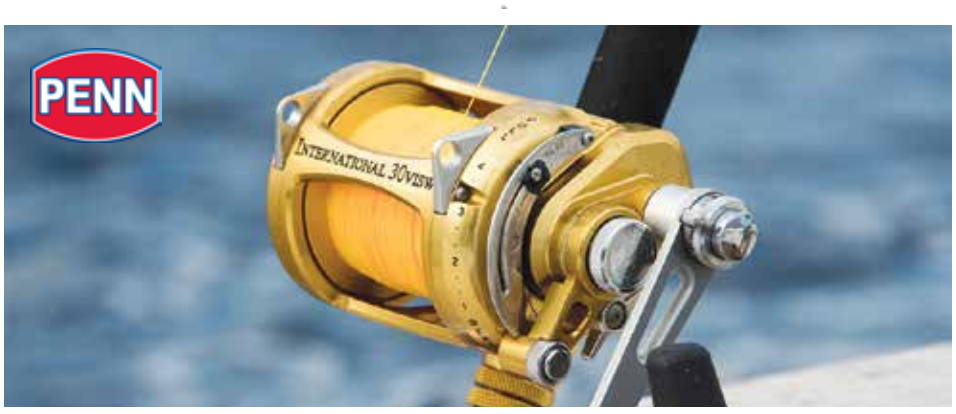


Penn Carnage III rods

Featuring West-Coast-Specific actions, Penn Carnage III rods are truly in a class of their own The PENN® Carnage® III rods are truly in a class of their own. These rods represent the next generation of high-performance rod building with powerful, lightweight blanks that are also extremely durable. Our proprietary SLS3 blank construction provides a very thin diameter blank, while maintaining a lightweight feel which is ideal for heavier boat, jig, surf, and nearshore models. Spec'd with high-end components like Fuji® HB Guides, Sea-Guide® and Fuji® reel seats, and Hypalon/Rubber Shrink tube handles, this rod will be anglers' next go-to workhorse.

For more information, visit PennFishing.com





THE PENN INTERNATIONAL 50 VISX 2-speed is ideally suited for competitive big-game fishing, and one is up for grabs at the 2026 WON Cabo Tuna Jackpot.



THE 2024 Penn International winner



A FAVORITE OF CABO ANGLERS, the Penn International



BRINGING THE RIGHT ROD OR REEL to the weigh-in stage can really pay off in 2026!

Weigh-in with Penn gear for a shot at an International VISX Extreme 2-speed

Cabo Tuna Jackpot anglers have come to expect an impressive array of prizes in the tournament's Grand Raffle, thanks to event sponsors. While the prize haul remains consistent each year, CTJ organizers enjoy finding creative ways to award some of the top prizes—and this year's edition of the world's richest tuna tournament will be no exception.

Anglers who bring a Penn product with them to the weigh-in stage each day will be entered into a special drawing for a Penn International VISX Extreme 2-speed reel. There's always plenty of Penn representation – both rods and reels – among the teams, so it's a very easy way to get in the running for the top tackle prize of the event.

Anglers who bring a Penn product with them to the weigh-in stage will be entered into a special drawing for a Penn International VISX Extreme 2-speed reel.

Penn Internationals are appropriately named given their track record on the global big game fishing scene dating back 60 years. Penn maintains a rock-solid relationship with Western Outdoor News and the WON Cabo Tuna Jackpot, and along with that International, Penn also came to Cabo with Fathom II reels and Carnage III reels. Due to popular demand, Penn brought back the "O.G. Black Fathoms" last year, and the Carnage Family of rods was designed largely around the advisment of Penn's long-time Southern California-based rep, Steve Carson. His input resulted in West Coast-specific actions and performance measurables being well represented in the collecton, and these high-end Penn rods earning the respect of serious Pacific anglers.

So, CTJ anglers, there's a very good chance there are Penn products already on your boat, so make sure you bring them on stage when you weigh-in your fish. You could be going home with one more great one.

Savage Gear Panic Popper has won the hearts of competitive offshore anglers

Savage Gear's Panic Popper is designed to cater to the needs of serious anglers on the hunt for big-game. The Panic Popper is well known for drumming up explosive topwater strikes and unrivaled performance in targeting big predatory gamefish.



Available in four sizes and built for punishing offshore fishing, the Panic Popper's distinctive cupped-face causes a splash unmatched by other saltwater poppers. They're equipped with heavy-duty hooks and split rings, and an overall construction capable of withstanding up to 120 pounds of pulling pressure, all in a sleek, long-casting package.



"Savage Gear is dedicated to providing anglers with the tools they need to embark on big adventures and reel in the biggest fish," said Adam Ott, Brand Manager for Savage Gear. "The Panic Popper is a testament to our commitment to innovation and performance. Its exceptional design and incredible action will undoubtedly enable anglers to conquer the biggest and toughest fish, experiencing unrivaled success and excitement on the water."

For more info, visit savagegear.com

REMOVE THE BOUNDARIES AND UNLEASH THE POWER.

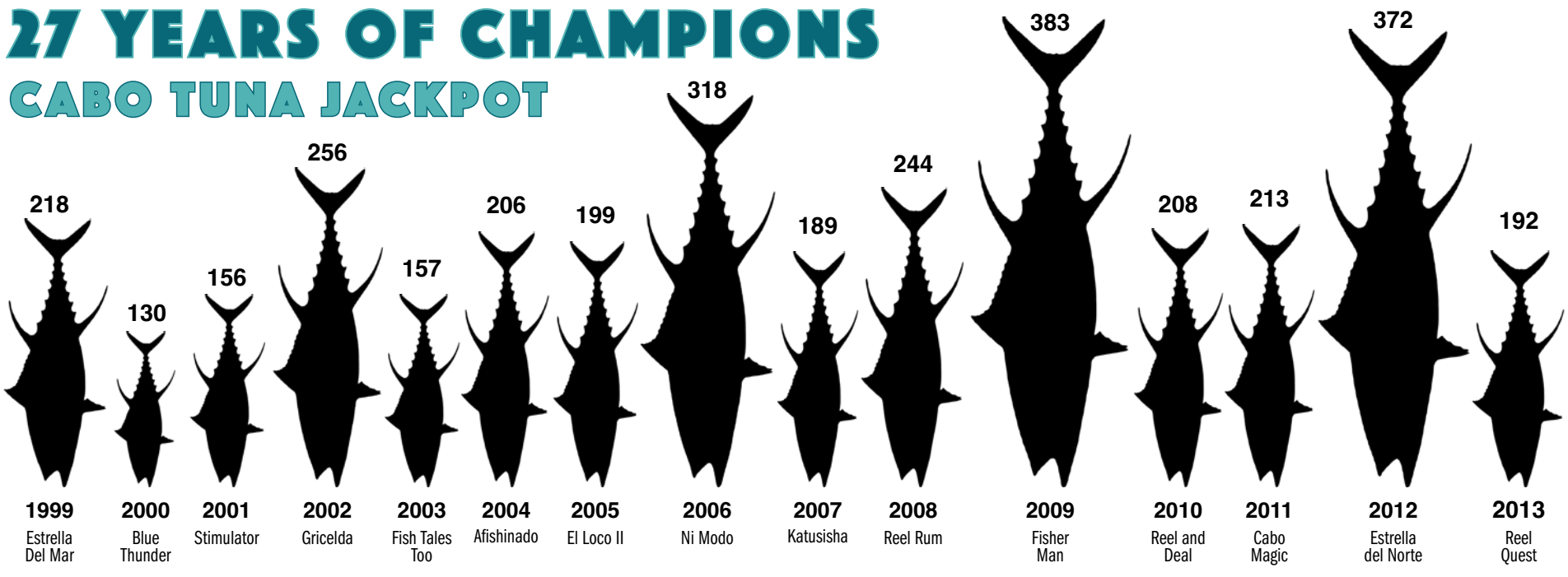


PENN

An innovative, first of its kind, CORDLESS ELECTRIC reel. Built on the legendary platform of the PENN® Fathom™ II Lever Drag reels, the Fathom Electric features a fully integrated and replaceable Lithium Ion battery pack, so you never have to be worried about being tied down with cord or limited to spots with a plug. Highly versatile in its use, engineered and fine-tuned for deep dropping thanks to its unique cordless design. PENN. LET THE BATTLE BEGIN™.

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Last year, Team Estrella del Norte grabbed its third WON Cabo Tuna Jackpot championship

BY MIKE STEVENS
WON Staff Writer

LOS CABOS, BCS – A total of 131 teams erupted out of Cabo Marina in the 2025 Western Outdoor News Cabo Tuna Jackpot (CTJ) on the hunt for huge tuna, wahoo, dorado and payouts. The fishing at this installment of "the richest tuna tournament in the world" did not disappoint, with a record number of fish brought to scale to go along with a total payout of $1,438,500. Three teams earned six-figure payouts after the two-day event, and a team that's no stranger to the CTJ winner's circle hauled home over a third of the total purse.

This time, it was a 253.75-pound yellowfin tuna weighed in late on Day 2 that made team Estrella del Norte tournament champions and earned $54,825 (the base payout) of their total cash score, but that was just a drop in the bucket. The fact that the real money is made in the optional side pots for each species was not lost on the CTJ veterans, and they were in the tuna optionals across the board. When the payouts for each of the seven tuna jackpots (ranging from $500 to $20,000 to add them to the basic tournament entry fee) were factored in, Estrella del Norte laid claim to a total haul of $572,225, all for catching a fish.

A 196.05-pound tuna boated by team Strictly Business II Tuna on Day 1 held the top spot for much of the tournament before Estrella del Norte played spoiler a day later. Strictly Business II Tuna finished in second place after holding off third-place-finishing Angeles Roofing who brought a 190.5 pounder to the scale. Base payouts plus optionals, Strictly Business II cashed a check for $387,850.

As for Estrella del Norte, this wasn't their first rodeo. In fact, it wasn't their second either. With this victory Estrella del Norte with Team Captain, James Rosenwald, stands as the only team to win the CTJ three times. They won it with a 372-pound "super cow" in 2012, and with a 228 pounder in 2017. This year, Estrella del Norte was fishing aboard Feelin' Azul, a very fast 38-foot Yellowfin powered by three 300hp Mercury motors.

This wasn't their first rodeo. In fact, it wasn't their second either. With this victory Team Estrella del Norte, stands as the only team to win the CTJ three times

In a post-victory interview with Western Outdoor News, Rosenwald attributed a lot of his team's success to the fact he spends a ton of time with these top-shelf local fishermen who live in Pueblo la Playa. That's where Rosenwald stays when he's not home in Minnesota, and he said that Estrella del Norte gets somewhat of a head start as a

ESTRELLA DEL NORTE/NEXT



TEAM #117 ON ESTRELLA DEL NORTE team members James Rosenwald, Victor Locklin, Luis Roberto, Beltran Cassezus, and Adrian Miranda Camacho won $252,425 in 2017.



THE TOP MONEY WINNERS OF 2012 were Estrella del Norte team members and crew of the Estrella del Norte, which took home all but one of the day 2 tuna optionals for $223,540.



Fujinon delivers peak bino-performance for every level of angler



Fujinon makes some of the most angler-specific binoculars on the market, and they not only will have a presence at the Cabo Tuna Jackpot, but they will be awarding a pair of their wildly-popular Techno-Stabi 1440 binos at the event.

Western Outdoor News staffers have been field testing the Fujinon TS-X1440 for over a year now with impressive results, and anglers are seeing the same thing while also appreciating the accessible price points of this particular line of overachieving optics.

CTJ anglers can expect Fujinon products to be on hand at the event to get their hands on, or more to the point, their eyeballs, and some of them will even be available to purchase on site.

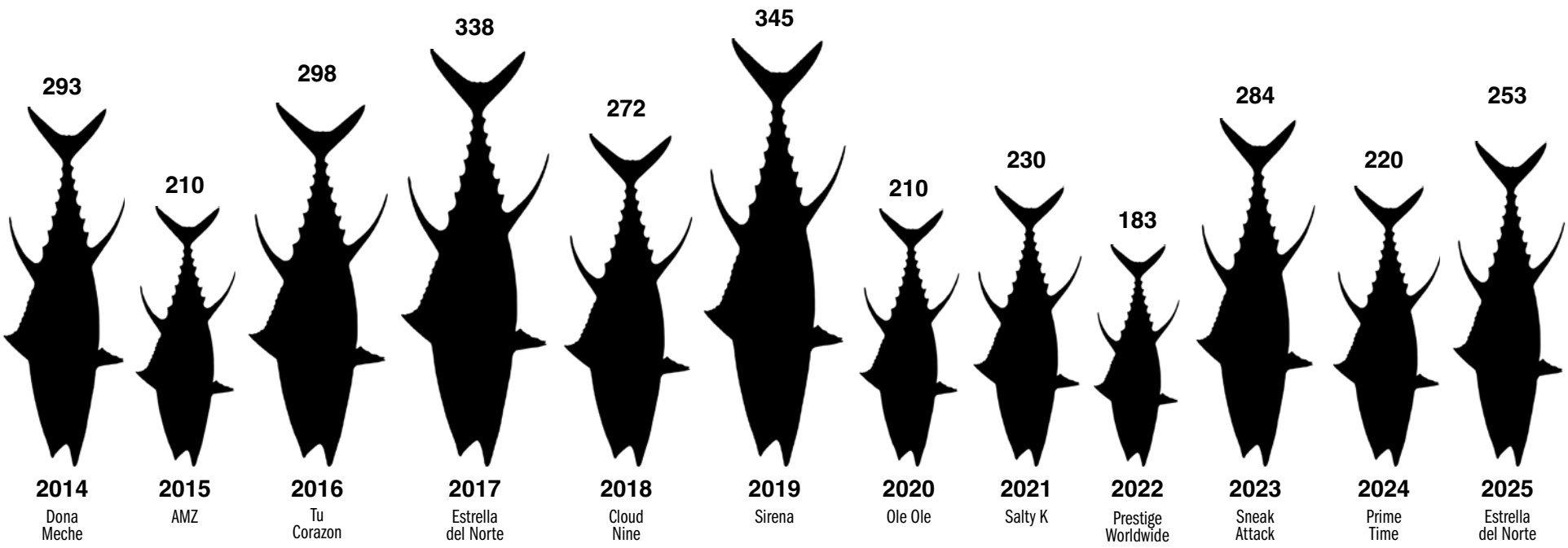
Check out WON's multiple stories on the Fujinon TS-X1440 (with diagrams) by visiting WONews.com and searching "Fujinon" and for more info on the entire line, check out fujifilm.com/us/en/consumer/binoculars, or stop by Baker Marine in San Diego (they are absolute pros).



WESTERN OUTDOOR NEWS staffer Landon Thomas putting the Fujinon Techno-Stabi Binoculars to the test.



ESTRELLA DEL NORTE with their winning 253.75-pounder, which awarded them $572,225 in 2025



Estrella del Norte...

Continued from previous page

result. Estrella del Norte has fished in every CTJ since 2009, each with the same core crew led by Captain Roberto Beltran of Pueblo la Playa.

Rosenwald told WON that this year, they "knew" the big ones were in the area they like to fish.

"It varies every year, but this year we knew there were bigger tuna on both banks (inner and outer Gordo)," said Rosenwald. "I got into the $20,000 optional because I knew the odds were in our favor."

According to Rosenwald, Estrella del Norte pulled on a big tuna for about an hour-and-a-half on Day 1 that died, sunk out and broke the line. Prior to fishing on Day 2, they shot out to a spot 10 miles past Gordo Banks to fish for a specific scad-type mackerel to use for live bait, and sure enough, that's what the winning tuna was caught on.

After they bagged their big tuna, team Estrella del Norte switched gears and targeted wahoo. They got a couple including one that was also brought to the scale on Day 2, but they also lost one at the boat that Rosenwald said was in the 70-pound class.

"That would have been exciting to also get the winning wahoo for the day," he said.

For more info, results and payouts,cabotunajackpot.catchstat.com





CABO TUNA JACKPOT
NOV. 4–7 • 2026 ENTRY FORM

FISHING DAYS: NOVEMBER 5–6

$1.4 MILLION
PAID OUT iN 2025

TEAM NAME: _____ **BOAT NAME:** _____

CHARTERED BOAT ❑

ANGLER 1
NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: _____

ANGLER 2
NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: _____

ANGLER 3
NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: _____

ANGLER 4
NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: _____

ANGLER 5
NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: _____

ANGLER 6
NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: _____

ENTRY FEE

❑ **$1,000** per team

- Team of 1 to 6 Anglers
- Top 3 Biggest Tuna of the Event Awarded
- Includes Giveaway Items, Catered Awards Dinner, Prize Raffle Tickets

OPTIONAL DAILY JACKPOTS

TUNA

❑ $500 tuna ($250 each day)
❑ $1,000 tuna ($500 each day)
❑ $2,000 tuna ($1000 each day)
❑ $3,000 tuna ($1,500 each day)
❑ $5,000 tuna ($2,500 each day)
❑ $10,000 tuna ($5,000 each day)
❑ $20,000 tuna ($10,000 each day)

$20k opt.: MUST BE ENTERED IN ALL TUNA OPTIONALS TO QUALIFY

WAHOO

❑ $1,000 wahoo ($500 each day)
❑ $3,000 wahoo ($1,500 each day)

DORADO

❑ $1,000 dorado ($500 each day)
❑ $3,000 dorado ($1,500 each day)

Separate Wahoo, Dorado Optionals!

TOTAL ENTRY FEES (incl. optional jackpots) $ _____

For more information visit loscabostunajackpot.com

Sign up and pay online at cabotunajackpot.catchstat.com or send form via EMAIL to michelle@wonews.com

Deadline: All Mailed or Wired Entry Fees And Jackpots Must Be Received at Western Outdoors Publications by Nov. 1, 2026

All Entry and Jackpot Fees Must Be Paid in U.S. Funds. Payments Can Be Made By Personal Check Or U.S. Certified Cashier's Check, Made Payable To Western Outdoors Publications

- After October 1, 2026 Payment Must Be Made By U.S. Certified Cashier's Check or Money Order. (No Personal Checks After Oct. 1, 2026)
- Credit card payments subject to a 3.5% processing fee
- Send Legibly Printed Entry Form and Check or Money Order for Entry Fee and Optional Jackpots To:

Western Outdoor News
Los Cabos Tuna Jackpot Tournament
P.O. Box 73370
San Clemente, CA 92673

- Or E-Mail form to Michelle at michelle@wonews.com

For overnight please call 949-366-0827

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Yamaha's in-line four mid-range dominators: the F150 and F200 outboards

Yamaha's modern 150 hp and 200 hp in-line four-cylinder four-stroke engines form the backbone of the mid-to-high horsepower marine industry. Both platforms strike an exceptional balance between lightweight utility and maximum displacement, serving as standard propulsion for center consoles, pontoon fleets, and diverse bay boat setups.

At the entry point of this bracket, the legendary Yamaha F150 is split between a 2.7-liter mechanical layout and a 2.8-liter Digital Electronic Control (DEC) system. It is highly efficient, pulling mid-3 mpg cruise loops on intermediate fishing hulls.

Stepping up to the Yamaha F200 expands capability with a standard 2.8-liter DOHC powerhead equipped with Variable Camshaft Timing (VCT). VCT actively manages intake and exhaust efficiency, delivering instantaneous throttle snap to lift heavy hulls or handle sudden offshore sea state transitions with authority.

Both models feature integrated steering loops—built directly into the transom housing—which removes external hydraulic lines for a pristine, clutter-free bilge layout. Additionally, their massive 50-amp alternators easily handle multiple high-draw electronic networks, including advanced radar arrays and livewell pumps.

For older hulls built around historic two-stroke space parameters, these outboards are premium repower choices. They utilize a industry-standard 26-inch mounting width and familiar bolt-hole dimensions. This allows single or twin upgrades to modern cleanly rigged powerplants without necessitating extensive modifications to the fiberglass transom. Whether optimizing a family cruising pontoon with an F150 or pushing near-offshore boundaries with an F200, Yamaha's inline-four engineering provides durable, refined, and tour-ready marine performance.

For more info, visit YamahaOutboards.com





SoCal-based Deckhand Sports more than just the best kill bags on the Pacific

At Deckhand Sports, fishing isn't just a pastime—it's a way of life shaped by early mornings, salt air, and respect for the ocean. Based in San Clemente, California, Deckhand Sports was built by anglers who spend as much time on the water as they do designing gear.

Every product is born from real-world experience and a simple goal: create equipment anglers can rely on when it matters most. From rugged kill bags to dependable dry bags and essential fishing gear, the focus has always been durability, function, and simplicity. Deckhand Sports understands that conditions offshore can change quickly, gear takes a beating and reliability isn't optional. That's why Deckhand Sports products are tested where they're used—on boats, docks, beaches and decks up and down the Pacific Coast.

Deckhand Sports was founded with a blue-collar mentality rooted in hard work and accountability. They believe good gear should work as hard as the people who use it. No unnecessary frills—just thoughtfully designed products that perform day after day. Whether you're chasing tuna offshore, targeting local species, or spending long hours on the water with friends and family, our gear is built to support the experience, not distract from it.

The sportfishing world is tight-knit, Deckhand Sports is proud to be part of a culture that values knowledge-sharing, stewardship, and respect for the resource. Events like the Cabo Tuna Jackpot bring anglers together to celebrate the lifestyle, the innovation, and the people who keep the sport moving forward. Deckhand Sports is honored to be included and to stand alongside brands, captains, and anglers who share the same passion. Looking ahead, Deckhand Sports remains committed to refining products, listening to anglers and staying true to its roots. Thank you to everyone who supports our brand and believes in quality gear built by people who live the sport every day. We'll see you on the water—and at Cabo Tuna Jackpot 2026.

SAVE THE DATE & JOIN US NEXT YEAR!
NOVEMBER 3-6, 2027



Small Footprint. Serious Power. Furuno Launches TZMAP Stand-Alone MFDs

CAMAS, WA - Furuno is expanding its line with the introduction of the TZMAP9 and TZMAP13, two new, powerful all-in-one stand-alone Multi Function Displays with built-in TruEcho CHIRP™ Fish Finders that bring the power of Furuno's acclaimed TZ MAPS cartography to smaller vessels desiring to operate from a single display. Designed for boaters who want simplified, reliable navigation without network complexity, these models deliver powerful features through a user-friendly multi touch interface for a variety of boat types and sizes.

The 9" TZMAP9 and 13" TZMAP13 feature responsive, sunlight-readable multi-touch displays powered by a streamlined version of the TZtouchXL operating system. These MFDs are equipped with a 300W/600W/1kW, single-frequency TruEcho CHIRP™ or dual-frequency CW Fish Finder, CHIRP Side-Scan capability (230kHz or 455kHz), and advanced chart plotting capability built around Furuno's revolutionary TZ MAPS platform. With a free My TimeZero account, waypoints and routes can be easily backed up or retrieved from the cloud with just a few taps, ensuring critical data remains safe and secure.

Designed for simplicity while retaining advanced functionality, these units support Radar options such as the Solid-State Doppler DRS2DNXT and DRS4DNXT. They also offer integration with the TZ iBoat App and support AI Routing, helping boaters plan smarter, safer routes.

TZMAP units come ready-to-navigate out of the box with pre-loaded, official NOAA Vector charts for the entire coastal US. For a serious upgrade at an incredible value, optional TZ Maps charts can be purchased directly from the MFD. TZ Maps delivers customizable, detailed cartography built on a foundation of official hydrographic charts, high-resolution BathyVision™ bathymetry, satellite imagery, and community-sourced data. It's the most intuitive and powerful charting system Furuno has ever offered, and it's built right into every TZMAP9 and TZMAP13. Plus, your first chart purchased through the TZMAP MFD is available at a special low introductory price of only $150 - an incredible price for the entire USA, or any other chart area. With details this precise and coverage areas this large, TZ MAPS is one of the most affordable chart options on the market.

From bay boats to kayaks and sailboats to cruisers, the TZMAP9 and TZMAP13 offer an accessible entry point into Furuno's navigation ecosystem. These units are ideal for boats 16' and up in need of essential fish-finding tools, cutting-edge charts, and affordable Radar options in a clean, stand-alone package.

For more information on the TZMAP9 and TZMAP13, contact your authorized Furuno dealer or visit www.FurunoUSA.com.



FURUNO IS EXPANDED ITS LINE with the introduction of the TZMAP9 and TZMAP13, two new, powerful all-in-one stand-alone Multi Function Displays with built-in TruEcho CHIRP™ Fish Finders that bring the power of Furuno's acclaimed TZ MAPS cartography to smaller vessels. Designed for boaters who want simplified, reliable navigation without network complexity, these models deliver powerful features through a user-friendly multi touch interface.

Where the Desert Meets the Deep

Fishing cabo san lucas any month of the year with Mar Vida

There's a moment every angler chases, the second the line goes tight and the reel starts screaming, and in Cabo San Lucas that moment is never more than a boat ride away. This is one of the rare places on earth where two oceans collide. The cold, nutrient-rich currents of the Pacific push against the warm waters of the Sea of Cortez right at the tip of the Baja Peninsula, and that collision creates something anglers spend their whole lives searching for: a fishery that never really shuts off.

Ask ten captains in Cabo what the best month to fish is and you'll get ten different answers, and they'll all be right. Striped marlin show up thick in the winter months, often in numbers that make the ocean look like it's boiling. Spring brings dorado racing through the current lines in flashes of green and gold, along with wahoo that hit so hard they'll strip line before you've even set the hook. Summer belongs to blue and black marlin, some pushing past 500 pounds, alongside yellowfin tuna that travel in schools big enough to bring seabirds diving from every direction. By fall, the roosterfish are working the beaches and the sailfish bite picks back up, setting the stage to start the whole cycle over again. Twelve months, one destination, and always something worth chasing.

What makes Cabo different isn't just the variety, it's the sheer density of life packed into these waters. Deckhands here talk about days when it's hard to tell where the fish end and the bait balls begin, when porpoises are working alongside the boat and frigate birds are stacked overhead pointing straight down at feeding fish. It's not unusual to boat a marlin release, watch a pod of dolphin ride the bow wake on the way back in, and pass a sea turtle drifting on the surface before you've even cleared the marina channel. The Sea of Cortez has been called the aquarium of the world for good reason, and spending a day on it makes that nickname feel like an understatement.

Then there are the whales. From late December through March, humpbacks migrate down from Alaska to breed and calve in these warm waters, and they don't exactly keep a low profile. Breaches that send forty tons of whale clear out of the water, tail slaps that echo off the rock formations, mothers nursing calves close enough to the boat that guests forget to keep their cameras rolling because they're too busy watching. Gray whales pass through the same season, and it's not unheard of to spot orcas working the outer grounds. Even guests who came strictly for the fishing end up talking about the whales for years afterward. There's something about watching a creature that size move through the water with that much ease that stays with people.

None of this is worth much, though, if the trip around it falls apart. That's the piece MarVida built its name on. Fishing charters are only one part of getting a trip in Cabo right, and MarVida operates as a true concierge outfit, handling the parts that usually turn into headaches. Lodging gets arranged before guests land. Airport transportation is coordinated so nobody's standing on a curb figuring out logistics after a long flight. Restaurant reservations get locked in at the spots actually worth eating at, not just the ones with the best marketing. Day excursions beyond the boat, whether that's a trip into town or time on the beach, get built into the itinerary instead of left to chance. The idea is simple: guests should be thinking about fish and whales, not shuttle schedules.

Based out of The Porch on the Cabo marina, MarVida has spent more than two decades building relationships up and down this coastline, from captains who know these grounds better than anyone to restaurant owners who save the best tables for people who ask right. That kind of experience is hard to fake and even harder to build quickly, and it shows in how smoothly a MarVida trip runs from the moment guests land to the moment they're heading home with photos of a striped marlin, a breaching humpback, and a week they won't stop talking about.





Cabo doesn't have an off season. It has seasons, plural, each one worth the trip for a different reason. The only real question is which one gets you on the water first.

Visit www.marvidacabo.com to learn more about us and book a trip.



THE NEW F150 & F200

PERFECT JUST GOT PERFECTED.



NOW WITH
INTEGRATED STEERING

Just when you thought two of the most reliable outboards of all time couldn't get any better. They did. The new I-4 F150 and F200 are now available with features and options you'd only expect from larger outboards—like Integrated Steering, TotalTilt® and Helm Master® EX compatibility. The Yamaha I-4 F150 and F200—sheer perfection at every turn.

Learn more at YamahaOutboards.com/InLineFour



REMEMBER to always observe all applicable boating laws. Never drink and drive. Dress properly with a USCG-approved personal floatation device and protective gear. © 2026 Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A. All rights reserved. 1-866-894-1626

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