



455 NE 5th Ave., Suite D-170, Delray Beach, FL 33483

April 10, 2020

Dear Friends, Captains, Anglers, and Sponsors,

This year has been filled with unprecedented events and challenges. Normally at this time of year, we are full swing into the planning and preparation for the Mark Gerretson Memorial Fishing Tournament. Because of COVID-19, stay at home orders, lay-offs, incredible social and financial impacts both today and for the unforeseeable future, the committee has had discussions about whether or not to hold the tournament this year.

We have come to the conclusion, reluctantly, with heavy hearts, to cancel this year's tournament. Most of the best-case scenarios are tending towards June or July to even begin to return to normal life. Because there are people who are getting little to no paychecks, businesses that have had their income devastated, and the complete uncertainty of when we will return to "normal", (whatever the new normal becomes) we simply don't feel that we can do justice to what this tournament is about, who it represents and who it helps.

We believe that it would be unfair to ask people and businesses who will be in the midst of recovery to stress themselves to donate to the tournament, as worthy as the MGMFT's purpose is. Obviously, we hope the timeline of recovery is much sooner but it is not fair, nor wise, to hold off on a decision like this as things would get rushed and not be a success. Therefore, we feel it best to make this hard decision now to cancel and start preparing for 2021 when we hope all come back with a bang.

We, the committee members, want to say, "Thank You" for all that each of you has done for the tournament over the past 25+ years. We look forward to putting on the tournament next year in celebration of our community's recovery and resilience. NONE of this would be possible without YOU. We wish you all the success, health and healing possible this year and into the future. Please keep up with us on Facebook and our website for news and updates. Any thoughts, concerns or questions please feel free to email or face book us.

**The Committee:**

*Tim Knapp*

*Patricia Gerretson*

*Keith Kern*

*Brittany Gerretson-Roberts*

*Paul Shersty*

*Jen Buce*

*Kaycee Chapman*

*Chris Reich*

*Jim Gerretson*

*Falcon (Gary Musial)*

**501(c)-3**

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