



TAG FLAG

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE **T**OURNAMENT **A**NGLERS **A**SSOCIATION
October 2004

STEVE LYNCH Wins 2004 Eastcape

Steve Lynch won the Eastcape Billfish Tournament (EBT), with total catch and release of seven (7) marlin. His catch was the best among the 29 anglers participating in the Tournament, held June 11–13, 2004.

The 18th EBT (the first in 1984, and none held from 1989-1991) was co-chaired by Mike McElroy and Bill Evans. While Mike was eventually sidelined due to an illness in his family, Bill and his daughter, Kelly, took charge of the Tournament and did a superb job.

The first two days of fishing resulted in only 20 billfish caught and released. Day 1 of the Tournament found boats heading in different directions in search of the elusive striped marlin. Eight (8) anglers caught 8 marlin. While many more were seen, few were caught.

Day 2's catch improved a little, with 11 anglers releasing 12 marlin. Only Jerry Yahiro caught more than one fish (2). However, Day 2 set the stage for the final day of the Tournament.

On Days 1 & 2, several boats fished the Gordo Bank area, which is approximately one and a half hours away from the starting point, Hotel Palmas De Cortez. Most boat skippers did not want to take a chance and go this distance. On both days those fishing the Bank arrived too late and missed the bite!

Day 3 was different. Every boat headed for Gordo! Upon arriving, several marlin were seen jumping and feeding on baitfish. Several boats from other marinas were already hooked up.

Other boats were charging the bait ball clusters, with anglers casting/dropping their live bait into the flurry. Hookups were frequent, with many catches/releases made. However, some fish were lost due to lines being cut by another angler's line or a charging boat.

This frenzied action continued for most of the day. Marlin were caught and released. When a bait ball disappeared, another would appear in a different area and the boats would again converge on that spot.

More hookups were made, marlin were caught/released, cut off

or lost. Live bait for the anglers was becoming critical. Dead bait was used, sometimes with success. Almost every angler caught/released at least one marlin. Only 6 of the anglers did not land a marlin on Day 3.

By the end of the day, 49 marlin were caught/released. Day 3 determined the winners. Steve Lynch's catch of 5 marlin, along with 2 others from Days 1 & 2, resulted in 1,700 points and 1st Place. John Jackson's catch of 4 marlin, along with 2 others from Days 1 & 2, and 1,475 points, netted him 2nd Place. Jim Ramsey's catch of 6 fish for the day and 1,460 points, put him in 3rd Place. Smokey Molle captured 4th Place with 1,250 points and 4 fish, one from Day 2.

Bill Evans also ended with 1,250 points, with 5 fish for the day and 5th Place. Smokey Molle's fifth marlin was tipped 1 ½ hours before Bill's fifth, therefore winning the "time of release" tiebreaker. Andy Jacobi Placed 6th with 1 fish on Days 1 and 2, and 2 on Day 3 for 950 points.

The first 4 place finishers qualify for the Rolex/IGFA Offshore

Championship on May 15-20, 2005, at Cabo San Lucas.

Team Winners were:

1st Place – Steve Lynch, Jim Ramsey, Terry Smith, with 3,410 points, 14 releases.

2nd Place – John Zehnder, Bill Evans, Smokey Molle, with 3,010 points, 12 releases.

3rd Place – Andy Jacobi, Bill Coppock, Ray Jones, with 2,375 points, 10 releases.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jim Gill

Back to Basics, Keep It Simple!

It has been an outstanding year for the anglers participating in Ixtapa Sailfish and Eastcape Billfish Tournaments!

TAA's annual Ixtapa Tournament has always been an exceptional experience. Yet this year's event coordinated by Dale Miles and supporting cast, has established a new standard for tournament protocol. Hats off to the maestro!

The Eastcape Tournament experienced an eleventh hour substitute chairman, due to a family health issue sidelining Mike McElroy. Bill Evans, co-chairman, took charge, with the assistance of daughter, Dr. Kelley Evans. With good pre-event planning, the tournament was a major success. A big thanks to Bill and Dr. Kelley!

It is very difficult to imagine reviewing two excellent tournaments and discovering room for improvement. In the spirit of constructive evaluation and an attempt to advance TAA principles, I have only one suggestion. It is angler specific, and not tournament oriented.

My suggestion is "to encourage member anglers to participate in the spirit of sportsmanship, to review and understand IGFA and local tournament rules in advance, and work to develop their individual skills as tournament anglers". It's back to the basics of sportsmanship, rules, and skills.

Recently, there has been a perpetual need to interpret basic rules. This, along with confusion resulting from sideline chatter during angler meetings, has created a disruptive atmosphere contrary to the purpose for which TAA was founded. Frequent, and occasionally confrontational, requests to modify the rules during a tournament are distracting and impose additional burdens on the tournament management.

In view of this, I have requested that a select committee of TAA members, who are also IGFA representatives, review local tournament rules and develop guidelines for angler conduct. The intent is to keep it simple and eliminate deviations and distractions during tournaments.

Sportsmanship is the cornerstone of TAA. Membership is based upon this principle and it is in-

cumbent upon each of us to maintain the standard.

Individual angler skills are a significant element for a successful tournament. Each angler should have the appropriate tackle, along with the knowledge of knots, leader configurations, lures, baits, rules, and solid angler technique.

It is not acceptable for a tournament angler to arrive on the boat without proper tackle and set up. One should be prepared to change rigs as necessary, tie knots, time releases, clear rods and participate in a sportsman like manner. All experienced members should assume the education of the novice angler.

An individual's effort to promote the basics of sportsmanship, rules and skills will add to the enjoyment for all anglers participating in TAA tournaments.

TAA Competitive at 2004 Rolex/IGFA

Neil McNamara

Sixteen (16) anglers represented TAA at the 5th Annual Rolex/IGFA Offshore Championship, held at Cabo San Lucas, on May 17-21, 2004.

A total of 66 teams, representing qualifying tournaments from 28 countries, took the line for a shotgun start on Day 1. Smokey Molle and Andy Jacobi each released a striped marlin and led the Ixtapa team to a top ten placing. Veteran angler, Sanbo Sakaguchi, released a marlin for

the Eastcape team, which was led by Capt. Jim Ramsey.

On Day 2, Andy and Jim Severson brought in a very difficult double hookup that moved Ixtapa up to 7th place.

On the third day, Neal McNamara released two marlin and the Ixtapa team, ended up in 5th place, ready to make their move. They are now called the “Septuagenarians”, as the ages of the team members range from 70 - 79. Darrell Ticehurst released three marlin and Dean Hafeman released one to shoot the Eastcape team all the way up to 8th place, one fish behind Ixtapa.

The fourth and final day was by far the most productive for everyone, except the TAA teams, with nearly 150 marlin released. While the Ixtapa team found themselves in the wrong part of the Sea of Cortez, the Eastcape team saw many fish, but no action. In the final standings, Ixtapa was in 14th place, and Eastcape was tied for 23rd.

The HIBT team, Rocky Franich, Arlen Steiner, Mike McElroy and Joe Yee, released 4 marlin and placed in a tie for 37th. Arlen scored twice and both Rocky and Mike released a single marlin.

Joan Vernon, Bob Fox and Bill Easum fished for the Tropic Star Challenge Team and Bob had one marlin release. Joan caught a 40 lb. Dorado.

In summary, while our teams did not trophy this year, we were very respectable with both Ix-

tapa and Eastcape ending up well into the top half of all teams.

The Fifth Annual Rolex was a smashing success in that a record 299 billfish were released using circle hooks and lures.

Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament

The 2005 Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament will be held on January 8-15, 2005. Once again, Chairman Dale Miles is planning a *SPECTACULAR* event. According to Dale, his goal for the Tournament is to have 50 anglers participating. Currently there are 44 paid anglers.

Dale also wants to remind all participating anglers to bring a “goodie bag” item. Dale asked, “Please bring an inexpensive item (at least 44) that all anglers could use and enjoy, such as jerky, packaged snacks, fishing towel, chopstick, sun block, first-aid kit, etc.” He also asked that something for a “Captain’s Bag” be donated by each angler (at least 22 items).

TAG FLAG E-mailed

Starting with this issue, TAG FLAG will be distributed via e-mail. This is being done not only as a cost cutting measure, but also for expediency. E-mail also allows certain advantages, such as color photos of TAA’s tournaments, members, and other significant items.

If you do not have e-mail address or prefer the “old way”,

just let me know and TAG FLAG will be “snail mailed” to you. Contact me, Jerry Yahiro, at 233 Royal Saint Court, Danville, CA 94526, Telephone (925) 743-8850, or e-mail jyahiro@aol.com.

Significant Catch



Pictured above are Neal McNamara (right) and guide Zack Campbell. Fishing on the Alagnak River, Alaska, Neal caught and released this estimated 55-pound Chinook (king) salmon. The catch was made on July 18, 2004, after a 2-hour fight. Neal used an 11-weight fly rod. GREAT CATCH, NEAL!

Future Tournaments

Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament, Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo,

Jan. 8-15, 2005

Contact: Chairman, Dale Miles
Tel.: 916-686-4417

E-mail: dmiles001@attbi.com

Eastcape Billfish Tournament,

Eastcape, June 10-12, 2005

Contact: Chairman, Bill Evans
Tel.: 415-445-2334

E-mail: wevans@sylic.com