

Heat Wave Fails To Wilt Local Club's Fishing Spirit

BY BILL MCGOWAN

The water was hot and the fish weren't particularly active. But to hear members of the South Brunswick Islands Fishing Club tell it, their first-ever king mackerel tournament couldn't have gone better.

According to tournament Chairman Tom Tucker of Sunset Beach, some \$5,400 in cash and prizes was awarded to various fishermen aboard the 27 boats which entered the event held out of Inlet View Marina.

Tucker said the tournament's success is largely due to overwhelming support from local banks and merchants which matched the \$2,700 purse collected in entry fees.

Additional credit, he said, should go to tournament committee members Craig Snow, Don Lewis and Bill Price.

But perhaps most credit should go to the fishermen who entered the event, many of whom carried home cash and prizes.

The prize for most poundage taken during the tournament was awarded to Wade Byrd of Lumberton. He landed five kings for a total of 49½ pounds.

James Russ of Shallotte took first place honors for the largest fish, a 12½-pound king which measured 38¼ inches.

Chip Maree of Ash took second place, although he probably felt he deserved a share of first place. Maree also caught a 12½-pound king. His fish, however, measured exactly one inch less than Russ' catch at 37¼ inches.

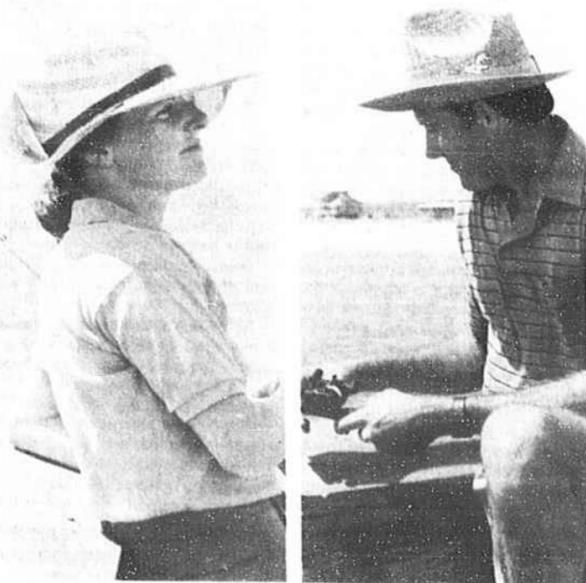
Third place was landed by Mike and Richard Spivey, a father and son team from Whiteville. They landed a king which weighed in at 12 pounds even.

Fourth place ended in a dead tie between Sammy Sessions and Craig Snow, both of Ocean Isle Beach. Each man caught an 11½-pound king, with each fish measuring 36¼ inches.

A special prize was awarded to Scott Lewis of Shallotte for the largest Spanish caught during the tournament. Lewis is the six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lewis.

A free fish fry for participants was held at Inlet View Marina Saturday night following the weigh-in and awards ceremony.

"We just had a terrific group of sponsors that got behind this tournament and made it happen," Chairman Tucker said Monday morning.



A FEW OCEAN CATFISH were biting last week for Kathleen O'Connell and Clarkton native Allen Cox, both of Arlington, Texas, during an afternoon at the Ocean Isle Beach Pier. During a visit to Cox's family, they managed to squeeze in time for salt and fresh water fishing and dove hunting.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN LESHER

several five-to six-pound kings, some six-pound Spanish, and catches of spots and flounders inside in the waterway and Shallotte River.

"It's been so hot," she said, "most people just stopped fishing."

Tripps Fishing Center
Nearby at Tripps Fishing Center, Joyce Land reported that J.B. Harrison of Shallotte Point and Bob Johnson of "Little Washington" caught 30 Spanish and one jack last week.

This week, she said, Phil Cheers and family of Shallotte caught "quite a few Spanish and one jack."

Land said that fishermen willing to get outside "real early, before the sun comes up good, and again before it goes down in the evening" are coming in with respectable catches of Spanish.

The fishing inside, she said, has been very poor, with the possible exception of spots.

Holden Beach Pier

Gil Bass at Holden Beach Pier reported the catch of a couple of 14- to 15-pound kings.

"It seems to be picking up a little bit more," Bass said. "Today (Monday), they're catching spots, whiting, blues and a few flounder. It needs to be a little cooler before they'll really start coming in, but they've started coming in a little bit."

Capt. Pete's Marina

Pete Singletary at Capt. Pete's Marina also noted "the kings have started showing up. That's one big thing," he said.

Singletary said eight or nine kings were caught out of the marina Sunday, with the largest weighing in at 32 pounds.

"Inside fishing is still a little slow," he noted, "but they're catching a few flounders."

"It was one of the finest tournaments I have ever participated in."

Tucker said the objective of the South Brunswick Islands Fishing Club is "to promote and work towards refurbishing and creating new fishing reefs off the coast here."

Inlet View Marina
Despite good comments about the fishing tournament held at his establishment over the weekend, Joe Furr of Inlet View Marina at Ocean Isle Beach, had to come back to reality when discussing general fishing trends for the past week.

"Poor, poor and poor" was the way Furr described recent saltwater action. "It's been just so dad-blamed hot nobody's hardly caught anything," he said.

Ocean Isle Beach Pier
Curtis Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach Pier had very similar comments to those offered by Furr.

"We hadn't done nothing all weekend. All last week was slow," Williamson said. "There hasn't been nothing biting. That water's been too hot. It's got to be a little cooler."

Ocean Isle Marina
The fishing news from George Crisp at Ocean Isle Marina was slightly more positive, but the usual poundage was noticeably lacking.

"Yes, it was kind of busy, but the fish didn't cooperate a bit," Crisp said. "We had a lot of people and a lot of boats out there buzzing them, but it was just too hot."

The bright spot in Crisp's report dealt with Amon Baucom of Charlotte, who caught several "real pretty" kings Friday and Saturday.



FISHING WAS SLOW but that didn't keep anglers away from the sun and breeze at the Ocean Isle Beach Pier last week. In the foreground are Daniel McMillian of Lumberton, down for a day of fishing, and Jerry Triplett of Ash, a gardener and golfer as well as fisherman.

Flotilla Says Watch Your Wake

Watch your wake! Boaters hear these words often. Even more to the point is the statement "you are responsible for your wake," says J.R. Athey, commander of Flotilla 10-08 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary in Shallotte.

Sometimes the situation is obvious, he noted: pulling a water skier while weaving between anchored boats or between small fishing boats; approaching an anchorage area at a cruising speed, rather than a no-wake speed.

There are also those boaters who feel it is necessary to move from one location in a fishing area to another at top speed, or young children chasing each other in dinghys with out-

board engines, far from adult supervision.

"While a boat is underway, the people on board are constantly on the alert for the unexpected," said Athey. "A boat at anchor lends itself to a degree of relaxation."

"This makes the passengers all the more vulnerable when the wake comes rolling in. Often the boat responsible has little idea that the people on the anchored boat have been tossed around and perhaps injured."

"Remember, you are responsible for your wake."

Courtesy toward others is a must, he said, adding that safe boating is no accident.

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