

SMALL SHARKS like this one were all fishermen caught in the 1992 Poor Boy Shark Tournament. This year's tournament will be Aug. 5-7.

POOR BOY PREVIEW

Shark Expert Expects 'Interesting' Tourney

BY DOUG RUTTER

North Carolina's best-known shark expert says he doesn't know what to expect when fishermen take to local waters next week for the 12th Annual Poor Boy Shark Tournament.

"It's going to be real interesting to see what the story is down there," Dr. Frank Schwartz of the N.C. Institute of Marine Sciences in Morehead City said last week.

Schwartz said "crazy weather" this summer and a new federal shark management plan could have an impact on the fishing tournament that begins next Thursday and ends Saturday.

"I think it's going to be very

interesting," said Schwartz, who will be on hand to collect data on the sharks after they are weighed in at Hughes' Marina at Shallotte Point.

Federal fishery officials recently re-opened all ocean waters to shark fishing after a six-week closure of some offshore areas.

Schwartz added that the weather system that created the recent heat wave on the East Coast and flooding in the Midwest also may have an effect on the fishing. "It has been a weird, peculiar year."

An ocean water temperature in the mid-80s could drive sharks far offshore or into deep water to stay cool.

"A lot of sharks that are normally

here aren't here," Schwartz said. "My catches are down in general."

The 1993 Poor Boy couldn't be much worse than last year's event. Fishermen battled rain for three days, and only brought 27 sharks to the docks. Preston Kendall of Asheville was the tournament winner with a 96-pound brown shark.

Tournament Chairman John Watkins hopes weather and fishing conditions are better this year. "We're looking to have a better catch than last year. Last year was real bad because of the weather."

Most tournament winners have been in the 500-pound range. The Poor Boy record is a 648-pound tiger shark landed in 1991 by C.W. "Junior" Hughes of Shallotte Point.

Watkins said he's received a "fair amount" of inquiries concerning this year's event. He hopes for about 30 boats. "A lot of people will wait and see how the weather is going to be."

The 1993 tournament kicks off Thursday, Aug. 5, with a captain's meeting at 8 a.m. at Hughes' Marina. Fishing begins at 9 a.m. Thursday and continues through 4 p.m. Saturday.

Sharks will be weighed in at the marina from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. Cash awards will be presented to the winners Saturday at 5 p.m.

The tournament entry fee this year is \$200 per boat, and 90 percent of the fees collected will be paid back in the form of prizes.

Fishermen weighing in the five heaviest sharks will receive cuts of 30, 20, 15, 10 and 5 percent. The angler who weighs in the five sharks with the greatest aggregate weight will receive 10 percent of the fees.

Spectators are welcome to visit the weigh-in station at the marina throughout the tournament.

Captain Turning Trophy Fish Into A 'Good Habit'

BY JAMIE MILLIKEN

It was bound to happen. Everyone knew it was just too good to last. Of course, I'm talking about the weather. Our spring and early summer conditions have been unbelievably good, so when the wind blew for five days straight last week, it served as a reminder of how good we have had it.



CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT

The weather did break the weekend of the 17th, and a few boats made it out to the blue water. Capt. Bill Watson of Calabash, along with angler Michael Schoppner, had a productive trip. Capt. Watson, aboard his boat the *Bad Habit*, had already landed one blue marlin this season, and he repeated the task when a big blue picked up the red and black

Islander rigged with a large ballyhoos.

Schoppner has fished many times in the Gulf Stream, but had never had his chance with a big blue. The battle lasted more than two hours and ended with a successful measuring and releasing of the marlin. The big blue measured 114 inches and, according to *Marine Biologist*, a fish of that length would weigh in the 400-pound class. Capt. Bill is making a "good habit" of landing trophy fish!

Capt. Adam Sanders and mate Brant McMullan had a great grip to the blue water. Their trip ended with 200 pounds of bottom fish, six wahoo, two African pompano and four yellowfin tuna. I guarantee there were some sore muscles on those boys when they returned to the dock.

This past weekend saw the 14th annual Got-'em-on King Mackerel Tournament at Carolina Beach. As many of you remember, it was the 13th annual that Chip Maree, Kyle White and myself laid a 52-pounder on the scales. The key word for last month for us was "repeat."

The first day, a light one-foot chop made for excellent fishing conditions. We found our bait early and, with one throw of the net, we had a tankful of "no excuse" baits.

Our plan called for us to fish to the west. Our first stop was 20 miles offshore, and there we landed a 15-pound king and a 35-pound amberjack. Action died and boredom set in, so after a team meeting, we decided to move inshore roughly 10 miles.

After reaching our destination and getting the lines in the water, we immediately got a fish on. It was only a matter of minutes before Chip had an 18-pounder in position for Kyle to make the gaff. All right! Now things were looking up!

The next king that struck was the one that we came for. This king mackerel blistered the Diawa 50H reel like a Singer sewing machine plugged into 240 volts. I mean this baby was letting her rip! Kyle ran the fish down and Chip moved to the bow. I had the gaff in my hand and was already calculating in my mind just how long it would take us to run to Carolina Beach to weigh in.

I guess that comes under the heading of counting chickens before they hatch. In the blink of an eye, the big king smoked off on another run, and the leader wire exploded. That was it. We knew we had had our opportunity, but now it was gone. The tournament was over for us; we didn't have any more hook-ups for the rest of the event.

It was a bitter pill to swallow, but I remembered some of a famous quote by the great Teddy Roosevelt—something to the effect that it is better to have had the opportunity and lost than to have never been given the opportunity at all. I remembered that, but it still hurts.

I did have a highlight in fishing two weekends ago. I finally talked my nine-year-old daughter Megan into fishing with her old dad. It was a late Sunday afternoon venture, and I really wanted to put her on a fish. You've got to keep these young anglers entertained, and their attention span is not one of their strongest assets.

Megan was sitting down burning up her "Game Boy" computer. I guess that was more fun than watching five pogies swim nervously on the end of each line. After about 30 minutes, my rod and reel named "Bill Price" erupted. I think the Game Boy went flying as the dolphin leaped in a beautiful aerial display.

Pump up and reel down; pump up and reel down" were my instructions as she battled the fish that was the answer to my hopes that afternoon. The dolphin did everything they are known for—strong runs capped by greyhounding leaps.

It was great. I don't know who was the most excited, the father or the daughter. It was her ninth birthday and, to me, that was the greatest gift I could give her—a great memory.

Good luck, "Jolly Mon."

SCHAEFFER'S USED CARS PRESENTS:



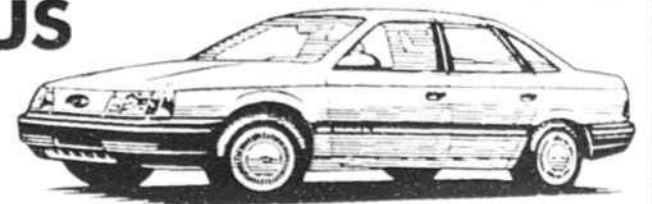
**Another Record-Breaker!
The Best Month Ever!
Thank You!**

We know what you, the customer, deserves before and after the purchase!

TRADE-INS YOU CAN COUNT ON!

'91 FORD TAURUS

GL model, 4-dr., tilt, cruise, power windows and locks, V-6.



Just Traded!

'91 SUBARU LOYALE STATION WAGON, 4-dr., auto, A/C, warranty, very roomy and economical. Was \$9,995 ----- **Now \$8,970**

'88 LINCOLN TOWN CAR, V-8, rear drive, power seat, power windows and locks, tilt, cruise, good condition ----- **Now \$7,995**

'89 OLDS CUTLASS SUPREME SL, V-6, tilt, cruise, power windows and locks, 36,000 miles, beautiful car! ----- **LIKE NEW!**

'91 BUICK SKYLARK, 4-dr., auto, air-conditioning, 26,000 miles, warranty, 1 owner ----- **MUST SEE!**

'93 FORD T-BIRD, V-8, 1 owner, 6,000 miles, all power, warranty, just like new ----- **GREAT CAR!**

'90 CADILLAC DEVILLE, 4-dr., leather, power seat, tilt, cruise, V-8, like new, AM-FM cassette, P610-A. Was \$13,995 ----- **Now \$11,960**

'91 MERCURY MARQUIS, 4-dr., V-8, tilt, cruise, power seat, 37,000 miles ----- **REAR DRIVE!**

'89 CADILLAC BROUGHAM, 4-dr., V-8, rear drive, power seat, full size car, all power, 54,000 miles. Was \$13,995 ----- **Now \$12,964**

'91 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE, 5.0 V-8, auto, power windows, locks, and top, warranty ----- **REDUCED!**

'89 CHRYSLER LeBARON CONVERTIBLE

52,000 miles, power roof, tilt, cruise, A/C, nice on hot days! **Was \$9,995**



Now \$8,972

SCHAEFFER QUALITY—BUICK QUALITY YOUR QUALITY (IMAGINE)

'92 BUICK CENTURY, 4-dr., V-6, tilt, cruise, power windows and locks, warranty, GP564 ----- **\$10,995**

'92 BUICK REGALS, 4-drs., V-6, tilt, cruise, many to choose from, like new. Factory warranty ----- **REDUCED!**

'92 BUICK LeSABRES, 4-dr., 3.8 V-6, power windows, air bag, Dynaride suspension, warranty ----- **Starting at \$14,995**

'90 BUICK LeSABRE, 4-dr., 3.8 V-6, tilt, cruise, 36,000 miles, very good condition, Dynaride suspension ----- **JUST ARRIVED!**

SPECIAL BUY

'89 BUICK REATA

2-dr. coupe, V-6, leather, 39,000 miles, power seat, tilt, cruise, loaded, like new.

Must See!



'92 & '93 CHEVY BLAZERS
Low miles, 4x4, fully loaded, tow package. Just like new! **SAVE \$**

'93 MODEL SALE AUTOS

'93 BUICK SKYLARK LIMITED

4-dr., V-6, tilt, cruise, power seat, ABS brakes, warranty. GP580.

Was \$14,995

Now \$12,999



'93 BUICK ROADMASTER STATION WAGON, V-8, air bag, rear drive, 7,000 miles, ABS brakes, loaded. P628. Was \$25,995 ----- **Now \$23,972**

'93 BUICK REGAL, 4-dr., V-6, tilt, cruise, all power, warranty, sporty and roomy ----- **REDUCED!**

SCHAEFFER BUICK-BMW

4920 NEW CENTRE DR. • WILMINGTON
1-800-473-2995 or 392-2700



OUR JULY SUPER BUY ONLY... **\$9.99** While Supplies Last

Hi-Tech® 8-Pc. Bucket of All Purpose Painting Tools
Bucket contains 8 of the most popular used painting tools. (PT-03968)



SOMERSETT'S HARDWARE

Open: Mon.-Sat. 7 AM-6 PM, Sun. 10-5 PM.
Hwy. 904 East, Grissetown, 579-6006