

Shalotte Point VFD Gearing Up For 8th Flounder Tourney

BY DOUG RUTTER

Area fishermen are gearing up for the eighth annual Shalotte Point Volunteer Fire Department Flounder Tournament.

The fishing competition will be held Friday and Saturday, June 7 and 8, out of Tripp's Fishing Center at Shalotte Point, said tournament spokesperson Joyce Land.

A captains' meeting is scheduled Thursday, June 6, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the fire department, which receives all proceeds from the tournament and from a flounder dinner sale at the conclusion of the event.

"We've got a lot of small ones in but I believe we're going to have some pretty good flounders turn up in the tournament this year," Ms. Land said last week.

This year's event will have to go a long way to top the 1990 tournament. Anglers on 111 boats caught 224 flounder last year. The fish weighed a total of 491.78 pounds.

Jimmy Jackson of Fayetteville, who had been unsuccessful in all six of the previous flounder tournaments, won the 1990 event with an 8-pounder. He hooked the 26-inch fish in the waterway under the Odell Williamson Bridge at Ocean Isle Beach.

While the tournament format is basically the same as last year, Ms. Land said there are some new twists to this year's event.

The entry fee has been raised from \$45 to \$50 per boat, and two more official boat check-out points have been established.

Boats can still check out each day at the mouth of the Shalotte River between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. New check-out points will be set up under the Holden Beach Bridge and on the south side of the Sunset Beach Bridge.

After 8 a.m., boats will have to check out at Tripp's Fishing Center. All boats must check in at Tripp's by 5 p.m. each day to be eligible for that day's fishing.

Also this year, Ms. Land said the cash awards will be presented at the fire station following the weigh-in Saturday.

Prizes this year include \$1,500 for the largest flounder, \$1,000 for the second largest and \$600 for the angler who weighs in the five fish with the greatest combined weight during the two-day event.

Other top prizes include \$500 for the third largest fish, \$400 for the fourth largest and \$200 for the fifth largest.

Cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50 will be given to the fishermen who weighs in the most fish each day.

The tournament also will award \$50 to the child 12 years and under who catches the heaviest fish each day.

Ms. Land said the awards ceremony was moved from Tripp's to the fire house with the hope that the fire department will sell more flounder dinners.

Each fisherman who pays the \$50 entry fee will receive tickets for two free dinners. Other plates will cost \$4 each.

The Shalotte Point VFD Auxiliary will serve breakfast and lunch at Tripp's Fishing Center both days of the tournament.

As always, flounders must be caught on the hook and line and no ocean fishing will be allowed. The boundaries are Lockwood Folly River and Little River Inlet.

All flounder entered must meet state requirements and be at least 13 inches long. There are no restrictions on the size of the boat or the number of fishermen in each boat.

Ms. Land said she expects just as many entries as last year, with most registering during the last week. "There's a lot of people talking about it but we don't have but about eight entered so far."



JIMMY JACKSON of Fayetteville won last year's tournament with an 8-pound flounder that measured 26 inches long.

GEORGETOWN EXPLODES IN A MARLIN FRENZY!

Wayne 'Kingfish' Hill Wins Another One

BY JAMIE MILLIKEN

Wayne Hill, Larry Fowler and Harold Nealy picked up where they left off last year by winning the North Myrtle Beach Rotary King Mackerel Tournament. Their "smoker" weighed 39.2 pounds. I spoke with Wayne on Saturday after he weighed in and, needless to say, he was confident that the fish would hold up to win.

Sunday's fishing was extremely difficult with northeast winds averaging 25 knots most of the day. With most boats not being able to fish offshore, no one was able to mount a serious challenge, thus giving Wayne, Larry and Harold the title. The same crew won this tournament last year.

Second place went to Mike Abendshein with a 25.5-pound king. Third place went to one of our local fishermen, Sammy Sessions of Ocean Isle Beach. Sammy was fishing his boat, the *Shooting Star II*, crewed by Bent Gore and Robin "Snapper" King. Their king weighed in at 21.10 pounds. Sammy was fishing an area 12 miles off Little River when their king was boated and they also landed three blackfin tuna in that area. Great catch, Sammy!

Georgetown, S. C. was the next stop for the South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfish Tournament, held May 17-19. I am sure no one anticipated the marlin action that this tournament produced. There were over 50 blue marlin strikes recorded! Fourteen blue marlin, two white marlin and one sailfish were boated. That's 17 sailfish, friends! The tag and release program was going at full throttle as well; over 20 billfish were tagged and released to do battle another day.

The largest blue taken weighed in at 435 pounds by the boat, *Outrageous*. However, the tournament rules are set up to award points to the boat landing the most or tagging the most fish in the tournament. This rule allowed the boat, *Manipulator* to win. They boated two marlin Friday (a 230-pound and a 311-pound) and tagged two more. Would it be safe to say they were hot? I think so!

Local participant DeCarol Williamson, fishing the *Miss Jan*, won the wahoo class. DeCarol's son Dell won the Junior Angler award with a wahoo that weighed 72 pounds. Now that's a "Hoo!"

The dolphin class was won by the *Southern Crest* at 61 pounds. The tuna class was won by the *Reel Crazy IV* with a tuna weighing in at 53 pounds.

Although the tournament was held at Georgetown, most captains chose to fish off the South Brunswick Islands. The Gulf Stream was pushed close in shore all last week. Boats were getting into the stream as close as 40 miles offshore. Artificial lures were the hot ticket items for the tournament. Boats using natural baits did not experience the frenzy as did the boats pulling "plastics."

Pulling artificial plastic lures is easy. There is little skill involved with these lures. You just pick out the area you want to fish and throw out the plastic and cruise about 10 knots. These lures are available at any serious offshore tackle store.

With action like this off our coast (in our own back yard), we might take claim to the title, "Billfish capital of the state."

Next week I will carry you to Flamingo Bay, Costa Rica, for the International Sailfish Tournament. It promises to be a great one.

Until then, tight lines, bent rods and good fishin'.

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CAPTAIN JAMIE'S OFFSHORE FISHING REPORT



BILL GRICE of Supply hooked this 46-pound cobia last Friday near the Lockwood Folly sea buoy. He was fishing aboard the *Sandman*.

Anglers Fill Cooler With Spanish Mackerel

BY DOUG RUTTER

Boat and pier fishermen alike loaded up on Spanish mackerel last week and anglers continued to catch kings, blues and a few flounder.

"The Spanish are plentiful for the taking because they're right out in the suds," Allison Hughes of Hughes' Marina at Shalotte Point said Monday.

Travis Elliott of Captain Pete's Seafood at Holden Beach said local fishermen caught a lot of Spanish just offshore, blues in the surf and king mackerel farther offshore.

He said catches of spots aren't as good as they were earlier this spring. "They're not doing quite as well as they were, but I reckon it's time for them to move on."

Elliott said Mike Postell of Holden Beach landed a 43-pound dolphin last week aboard the *Mega Flite*.

Mrs. Hughes said flounder catches have picked up in recent weeks. Betty and Roy Baker of Greensboro caught a dozen flounder over the weekend.

She said fishermen also caught gray trout outside and spots, croaker and drum in Shalotte River. "They're beginning to catch something and that makes them happy."

Mary Roscoe of Sea Mist Camping Resort at Brick Landing said campers caught lots of Spanish in the ocean last week, as well as flounder and spots in the waterway.

FISHING REPORT

Wayland Granger of Sanford filled a 10-gallon cooler with large spots. Mrs. Roscoe said fishermen caught the spots using blood worms for bait and flounder using red worms.

"The flounder are around and the Spanish mackerel. Everybody's getting their fill on them," she said.

Pier Fishing

While boaters were loading up on Spanish just off the beach last week, pier fishermen were reeling them in left and right.

Managers of the three South Brunswick Islands fishing piers agreed that the Spanish was the fish of the week. Anglers also pulled in blues, whiting, spots and flounder.

"I think it's been picking up from what it has been," Curtis William-

son of Ocean Isle Beach Fishing Pier said Monday. "We're looking forward to having a good week."

Williamson said anglers caught Spanish last week that weighed five and six pounds each.

One man at Sunset Beach Fishing Pier hooked a 12-pound bluefish Saturday, said pier manager Ed Kayler.

King fishermen didn't have any luck last week at the piers. Williamson is still waiting for the first of the season at Ocean Isle Beach.

Anglers lost a few kings at Sunset Beach. "We haven't had any in the boat," Kayler said. "We had several runs during the week and they got away."

Williamson expects a good Memorial Day weekend. "There will be a lot of vacationers and a lot of pier fishermen," he said.



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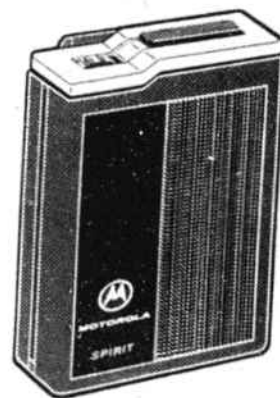
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