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**Real Men Fish For Sharks**

Ten years ago members of the Bill Tripp and C.S. Hughes families got together and decided to start a shark fishing competition. "They were all just, well... poor boys," Alison Hughes said, "and the tournament was going to be for just ordinary people, so they decided to call it the Poor Boy Shark Tournament."

Rich or poor, fishermen with courage and imagination are still participating and watching this unique event every summer. The tenth tournament will take place August 22-24 at Hughes Marina in Shallotte Point.

While this competition doesn't attract the large numbers who go out for king mackerel or flounder, it has a devoted following, according to Mrs. Hughes.

"People from Ohio and other midwestern states plan their vacation every year around our shark tournament, because they want their children to see it," she said.

An important sidelight of the event is the demonstration by Dr. Frank Schwartz, marine biologist of North Carolina State University, who always dissects a shark and talks about its history.

Profits from the \$250 entry fees are directed to state-sponsored artificial fishing reefs and other projects, so the cause is a worthy one even beyond the fun of competition.

Prizes to be awarded are percentages of the total entry fees. Ten percent is awarded for the largest total weight and the following for the five largest sharks: 30 percent first prize, 20 percent second, 15 percent third, ten percent fourth and five percent fifth. Five percent is also awarded for the smallest shark caught.

Call John Watkins, tournament director, at 754-6233 for more in-



BEACON FILE PHOTO  
**DR. FRANK SCHWARTZ, left, dissects one of the sharks caught in the 1990 Poor Boy Shark Tournament. Joanne Taylor records data.**

formation or register at Hughes Marina.

The Poor Boy is distinctive as the only shark tournament in North

Carolina and Dr. Schwartz described it this way, "Fishing for sharks separates the men from the boys."

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