

AT POOR BOY TOURNAMENT

Hughes Crew Hooks Record Shark

BY DOUG RUTTER

C.W. "Junior" Hughes of Shallotte Point and the crew of the *Captain H&M* had a good fish story to tell about how they won this year's Poor Boy Shark Tournament.

It was the story of how they caught the tournament record 648-pound tiger shark not once—but twice in the same night.

Fishing about 22 miles off Shallotte Inlet last Thursday, they first hooked the female tiger around 6:30 p.m., said crew member Pete Vinson.

They had the shark right up next to the boat when something unfortunate happened. "The leader broke and she was gone," Vinson said.

The crew put out some more "bunker chum" to attract sharks and hit pay dirt about four hours later when the same tiger shark struck.

This time, the big one didn't get away. The crew didn't realize it was the same shark or just how big she was until they docked at Hughes' Marina the next morning and saw the broken leader hanging from the shark's mouth.

The 648-pounder was close to 12 feet long and broke the old tournament record of 608 pounds set in 1983.

Besides Hughes and Vinson, the crew included Tony Lewis, Samantha Lewis and Mel Amos. The team won \$1,080 for first in the 10th annual tournament.

Second place in the two-day tournament out of Shallotte Point went to Robert McKenzie of Fayetteville. He won \$720 for a 592-pound tiger shark.

Former tournament champion Billy Greer of Long Island, N.Y., won \$540 and took third place this year with a 210-pound silky.

Fourth place and \$260 went to Fred Walker of Yaupon Beach for a 132-pound tiger shark.

Asheville resident Rutus Kendall

won \$180 and took fifth place with a 109-pound hammerhead.

Chuck Maxwell of Hope Mills won \$360 for first place in the aggregate weight category. He posted a total weight of 265 pounds for six sharks.

Tournament Chairman John Watkins said 19 boats competed this year, and fishermen weighed in 36 sharks Friday and Saturday.

"It went good," Watkins said. "The weather was a little rough at times, but we didn't have any major problems."

Watkins said there has been concern about overfishing in the shark fishery, so he didn't know what to expect this year.

Fishermen weighed in only 27 sharks last year, when a 234-pounder won the top prize.

Watkins said he plans to hold the tournament again next summer in July or August.

This Week's Tide Table

		AUGUST		LOW	
		HIGH		HIGH	
Day	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Thursday	29	11:07	11:18	4:59	5:26
Friday	30	11:55	—	5:41	6:16
Saturday	31	12:05	12:51	6:29	7:14
		SEPTEMBER		LOW	
Day	Date	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Sunday	1	1:03	1:54	7:27	8:20
Monday	2	2:12	3:03	8:32	9:32
Tuesday	3	3:28	4:15	9:44	10:42
Wednesday	4	4:40	5:19	10:52	11:44

ADJUSTMENTS

SHALLOTTE INLET—add 17 min. high tide, add 32 min. low tide.
 LOCKWOOD FOLLY—subtract 22 min high tide, subtract 8 min. low tide.
 BALD HEAD ISLAND—subtract 10 min high tide, subtract 7 min. low tide.
 SOUTHPORT—add 7 min. high tide, add 15 min. low tide.
 LITTLE RIVER—add 7 min. high tide, add 7 min. low tide.



POSING WITH THE WINNING SHARK are (from left) Pete Vinson, Mel Amos, C.W. "Junior" Hughes, Samantha Lewis and Tony Lewis. The 648-pound tiger set a new tournament record.

Brunswick Ranked Third In 1990 Boat Accidents

Brunswick County ranked third in the state in the number of boating accident last year, but was second to none in terms of related property damage.

There were 10 accidents, including one fatal wreck, in the county in 1990, according to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission.

Brunswick tied New Hanover and Dare counties for third in the state in the number of mishaps. Bladen and Carteret counties each had 15 accidents.

Property damage relating to the local boating accidents totaled \$194,117, which was almost \$100,000 more than the next highest county.

Brunswick County ranked 13th in the state last year in the number of boat registrations, with 5,399.

Wildlife enforcement officers reported 198 boating accidents in the state last year involving 282 vessels. Thirty-four of the accidents, or 17 percent, resulted in fatalities.

The number of accidents was the highest since 1977, when there were 218 mishaps and 60 deaths reported. The 37 fatalities last year was the most in six years.

Boating accidents in the state increased by less than 10 percent from 1989 to 1990, but the number of deaths jumped 70 percent.

Wildlife officials say 23 people have already died in boating accidents this year. With Labor Day approaching, enforcement officers are bracing for a barrage of boats on the state's waterways.

"North Carolina's waterways are almost as busy as its highways during summer months," according to a Wildlife Resources Commission news release.

The state registered 274,666 boats last year, which was 7,220 more than the previous year. Since 1980, the number of registered boats in the state has increased by 70 percent.

Leading causes of boating accidents last year were operator inattention and lack of experience.

Other causes included alcohol use, hazardous waters and excessive speed.

Wildlife officers say careless boating resulted in 47 of the non-fatal accidents last year, and eight of the fatal accidents.

Fatigue also contributes heavily to boating accidents. "After several hours of sun, boat motion, and often, alcohol, boat operators grow tired and lose alertness," the new release states.

More than half of the accidents in 1990 involved only one vessel, and 80 percent of the people injured in boating accidents required medical treatment.

Most of the fatalities were drownings that occurred after the victim fell overboard. Other fatalities occurred when two vessels collided or when boats capsized or hit a fixed object.

Nearly half of the accidents occurred in June and July, and more than half of the operators involved had no formal boating safety instruction.

Wildlife officials reported that alcohol use was a factor in six of the fatal accidents and that 35 percent of the victims had used alcohol.

More than a third of the victims or boat operators in fatal accidents had one or more prior convictions of driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol.

Wildlife enforcement officers reported 26 accidents involving personal watercraft, commonly known as Jet Skis, in 1990.

Two of the accidents were fatal, and personal watercraft were involved in 13 percent of the boating accidents last year.

Approximately 85 percent of the Jet Ski operators involved in accidents were under the age of 30, and half were under the age of 20.

Due to increased use of personal watercraft in recent years, officials at Holden Beach, Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach have adopted rules controlling where and when they can be used.

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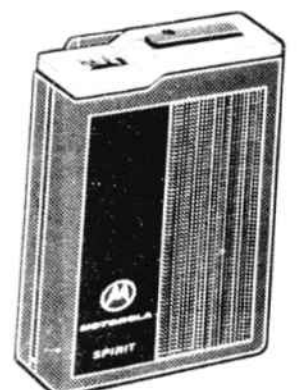
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