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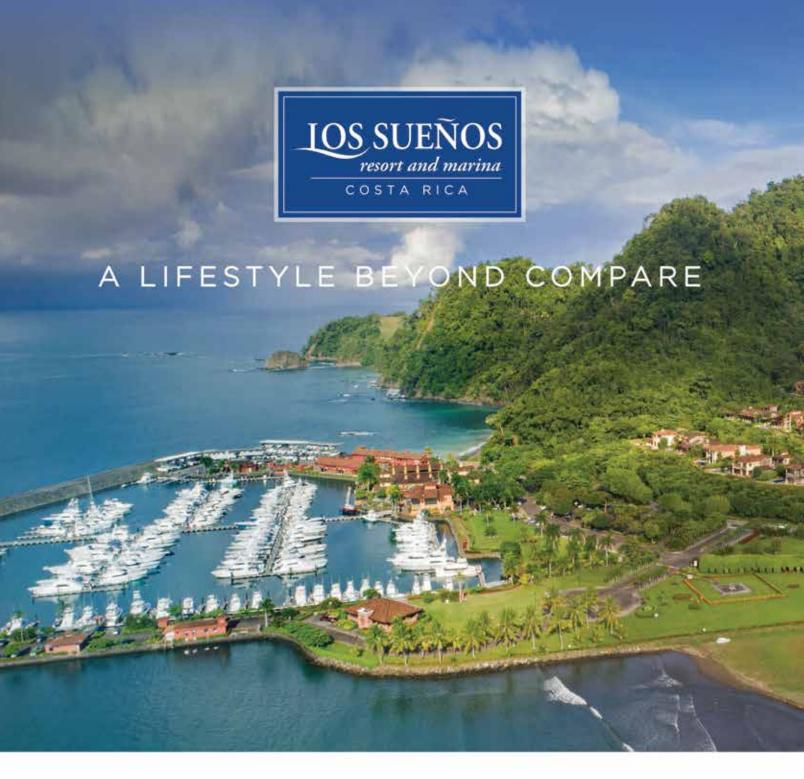
INFLUENTIAL BUILDS

CONTENDER



39 FISHAROUND





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JULY/AUGUST 2019 {Volume 18, Edition 5}









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Neilson Paty

Amy Foderaro Ph: 561-529-3940 amy@inthebite.com



InTheBite Magazine is published eight times a year (Jan/Feb, March, April/May, June, July/Aug, Sept, Oct/Nov, Dec) with an annual subscription rate of \$24.00 by InTheBite, 342 Toney Penna Drive, Suite #5, Jupiter, Florida 33458.

54 THE YOUNG GUNS OF SPORTFISHING

provide access to the highest level of sportfishing across a variety of media channels

Our Mission

InTheBite, founded in 2002, is the source for substance and authentic content for the serous offshore sportfishing community. We are the curator of industry trends, boatbuilding, ownership, lifestyle, crew, employment, tournaments and more. We - print magazine, website, video and social media platforms. If you like sportfishing, you'll love InTheBite - we guarantee it.

PUBLISHER Dale E. Wills

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Elliott Stark

CONTRIBUTORS Ric Burnley Kevin Deerman Dave Ferrell Jan Fogt Mark Johnston Steven Katz Charlie Levine Scott Murie Alexandra Stark Capt. Jeff Waxman

DIGITAL EDITOR Rachel Chesnes

COPY EDITORS Amy Foderaro Linda Wills

MARKETING DIRECTOR Don Urschalitz

> ART DIRECTOR Ron Romano

PHOTOGRAPHY Pepper Ailor Leonard Bryant Richard Gibson Scott Kerrigan Jessica Haydahl Richardson

VIDEO

ADVERTISING Ron Winblad rwinblad@inthebite.com Ph: 561-529-3940

SUBSCRIPTIONS

For a one year subscription (8 issues), send a check or money order for \$24.00 to inthebite.com 342 Toney Penna Drive, Suite #5 Jupiter, Florida 33458 Ph: 561-529-3940

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away. From the ocean to the internet, the Influencers of Sportfishing break down how to ramp up your following.

ON THE COVER: These days, anytime

there's a fish on the leader there are

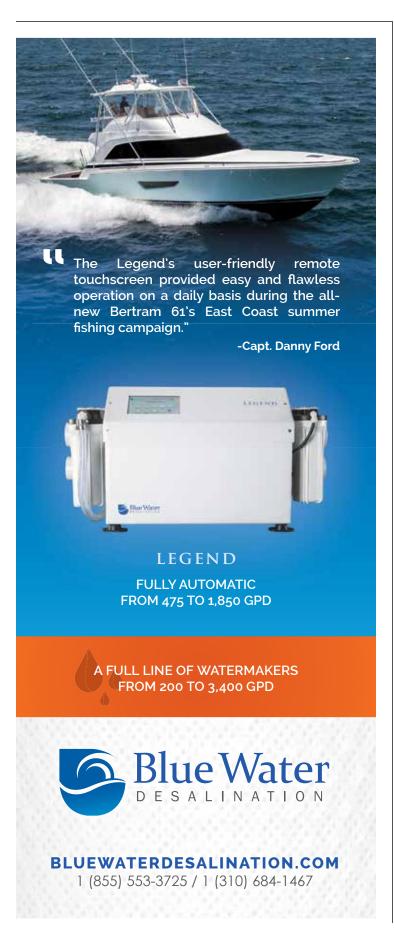
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Balance



t's said, some place or other, that balance is the key to life. From diet to how much you exercise, keeping things in the right proportion makes things better. After all, if you exercise too much you might look a little crazy and if you don't exercise at all, people might not like to sit next to you on airplanes. In this issue, we've tried this whole balance thing in

terms of editorial focus. On the one hand, we got the calculators out and went *Rain Man* on tournament analysis. How do they compare in terms of costs to enter the calcuttas and their ultimate payouts? Which events provide the best bang for the buck? Next, we asked three of the top tournament captains around how they choose the events they fish and in which categories do they stack their chips. With all of the money on the line and all of the fanfare involved in tournament fishing, we were surprised when to find a relative lack of comparative analysis in the world of fishing literature.

We divided the total purse and largest payout from the most recent edition of 20 tournaments from around the world by the cost of going across the board. Next, we calculated the statistical likelihood of winning the event. We then averaged these three outputs – to create the first of its kind "combined performance tournament analysis tool." Ok...so we may not have cured cancer but the results are pretty interesting.

Because nobody wants to only read about "comparative analysis," we also include a spotlight on the social media influencers of fishing. For the article we interviewed such people as Darcizzle (who can perhaps most aptly be described as YouTube's first lady of fishing) and a dude who has been referred to by *Good Morning America* as the "Sexy Shark Wrangler" (their words, not mine). The six influencers we spoke with provided a great deal of insight into what goes into creating and cultivating a massive following on social media. It's an interesting read and one that pertains to the day and age we live in.

We also thought it fit to include a bit of historical perspective in this issue, lest we be accused of pandering to the Instagram generation. We interviewed four major boat builders to discuss their first build or a model that was particularly influential in their development. The stories that come with speaking with those involved in launching fiberglass boats — and the fear that fiber "glass" would not be strong enough to keep boats afloat offshore are really great. When it comes to how builders developed, the stories are endless but our first installment includes the *Moppie* from Bertram, the *Knit Wits* from Hatteras, the Viking 40 and the first Bayliss.

If all of that balance doesn't grab your interest, this issue has one last hope. We've always wanted to be able to write a truthful story about a pig being turned loose on a boat in retaliation for a horse being left in someone's room. The next step in the story involves a goat, and the disco ball from a cat house. We'd like to personally thank Captain Chris Sheeder for sharing a few of his wonderful adventures in this installment of Charter Docks. If you don't enjoy it, I really don't know what to tell you.

That's all we got.

the Shel

Elliott Stark Editor-in-Chief



Paul Mann Custom Boats continually sets the highest standard in luxury sportfishing yacht performance. Always at the front of the fleet and most often seen on tournament leaderboards, a Paul Mann custom build sets the course that others follow.









No Whiners

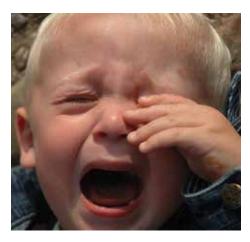


By Captain Scott "Fraz" Murie

ave you ever been around someone whose attitude is always negative or whiny? This is especially frustrating when they are part of your crew. You know the type of person and how

they act... When you see them in the morning and say, "Good morning, how are you?" their response is usually something negative like, "I don't feel good" or "I can't believe we have to do that today!" If it's not talking about the way they feel or what they have to do, they really like to talk about wanting to make more money.

This type of crew can bring down the morale of the whole boat by whining because the boss wants to go grouper fishing and they wanted to go marlin fishing. By pouting all day, day in and all day out, this type of crew are called crybabies. I'm sure most of you have had at least one of these type people on your deck at one time or another.



In our business attitude is everything. If you wake up in the morning and don't feel well, or your stomach hurts, or your head aches – just fake it. No one cares what's ailing you or how much money you make. If you work on a charter boat people spend money to have a good time. Fishing may be slow, but a crew with a good attitude can compensate for the slow fishing. Tell a good fish story or a joke or two. Have pleasant conversation with the

guests, and in return their trip will be more enjoyable and so will yours.

When the boss comes on board, the crew should go out of their way to make things as pleasant as possible with an upbeat attitude. Sure, the boss can make a few suggestions that you may not agree with, but it's his boat. So just clap and smile.

For you whiners out there, go ahead and wear your cry baby hat at home, but take it off before you get out of your truck (or Prius – crybabies might as well all drive Priuses) at the dock. Your charter doesn't want to hear or see it, your Boss certainly doesn't, and if you're going to the marina all day, the crews on the other boats don't want to tip toe around any crybabies either! So, for all you whiners – get over it or you won't last long in this business.

It's been proven that happy is healthy. The scriptures tell us in Proverbs that a merry heart is good like a medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength. It's a choice, so choose health and be happy!

– That's my two-minute warning. Fraz

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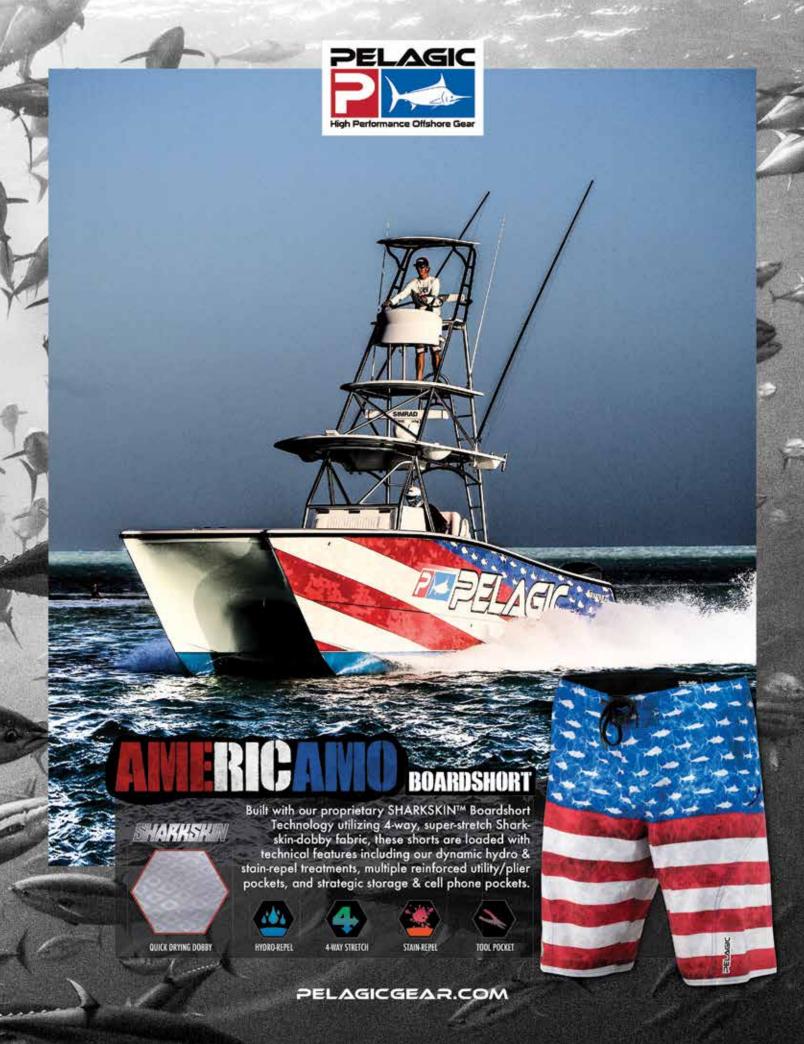
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The Billfish Foundation's Three Areas of Interest: Summer 2019

New Strategies to Allow Commercial Vessels Inside Closed Zones to Research

To evaluate success or inefficiencies of current Pelagic Longline Closed Zones and Gear Restricted Areas to achieve full swordfish quota utilization and reduction of seafood trade imbalance, the NMFS proposes research and data collection options focusing on:

- a. negative impacts to U.S. commercial fleets' ability to harvest swordfish;
- b. seafood trade imbalance due to inefficient closed areas:
- c. original closure goal no longer needed following stock recovery; and
- d. original management goals met through more current measures.

The Billfish Foundation believes that the commercial focus of these proposals may harm sportfishing interest, as they do not aim to achieve full utilization of the sportfishing industry or consider the conservation of Atlantic billfish stocks, which are overfished.

NMFS Advances Changes to Maximize Bluefin Tuna Harvest

Because the U.S. commercial fleet is not

landing its international allocated Atlantic bluefin quota, which leaves unused portions subject to reallocation to other nations, the agency is considering management options to maximize utilization of the U.S. quota. If the Purse Seine Category were deleted because it has not landed any bluefin since 2015, the allocation to the Angling Category could be increased. This is an area of interest to sportfishing interests up and down the Gulf and East coasts.

Recreational Fisheries ENGAGEMENT Plans

Written by regional fishery management councils that have no authority over Atlantic highly migratory species, and issued by the NMFS include three top priorities, including: a. Establish a visible presence among the recreational fishing community.

- b. Develop a mutual understanding of priorities, concerns, and challenges.
- c. Enhance collaboration with the recreational fishing community.

Note that none of these priority areas refer to improved management and conservation of species important to the recreational fishing industry.

For more on any of these focus areas or to support TBF's conservation and policy work, please visit: www.billfish.org

Jarrett Bay Adds 300-ton Marine Travel Lift

Jarrett Bay's latest installation, a 300-ton lift, provides a boost to the regional economy of coastal North Carolina. Prior to the lift, mega yachts, military vessels and other larger vessels, had to bring their refit business to Virginia or Florida. Partially funded by a U.S. Department of Transportation's Maritime Admin-



istration Small Shipyard Grant, the installation not only provides Jarrett Bay with increased service capacity, but supports a number of regional support and services businesses in surrounding towns. Jarrett Bay celebrated the travel lift's installation with ribbon cutting ceremony in June.

Texas Marine Industry Jobs Bill Becomes Law

In a major victory for Texas' struggling marine industry, a long-sought measure limiting the sales-use tax on boat purchases and providing for out of state vessels to utilize Texas waters, marinas and service companies will take effect on September 1, 2019. The Texas Marine Industry Jobs Bill, HB 4032, effectively brings the Texas marine industry competitive balance with other coastal states. The Bill sets a limit on the 6.25% sales and use tax for all taxable recreational vessels at \$18,750, effectively matching the \$18,000 tax cap that Florida enacted in 2010. It also contains provisions to allow boats purchased for use outside of Texas to temporarily remain in the state to utilize Texas marine service companies and to establish a fee permit system for out of state registered vessels to return to or visit Texas waters for temporary periods. For more, visit: www. tmicoalition.org.

Bouncer Smith Chronicles

The Bouncer Smith Chronicles captures the famous Miami Beach-based charter captain's 50 years as a fishing guide. Widely considered one of the best in the business, his years of experience on the water have resulted in some of the most remarkable adventures imaginable, and scores of world record catches. The *Bouncer Smith Chronicles* is the definitive collection of



his favorite stories – great fish he has caught, world class tournaments he has won, and the fulfillment he has seen from a lifelong commitment to charitable causes and conservation. He has fished with kings, sports

personalities, rock stars, and other celebrities, while at the same time entertaining individuals, groups, and families that could never dream of affording the luxury of a guided fishing trip in the beautiful South Florida waters. He has traveled to such fishing destinations as Mexico, the Bahamas Islands, Alaska, Italy, the Cayman Islands, and the Virgin Islands in search of blue marlin, swordfish, and giant blue fin tuna. An all-around guide to fishing fun and adventure, the book even includes tackle rigging and Bouncer's tips on turning your catch into your dinner. The book is available on Amazon.com, in paperback and e-book, as well as in a number of South Florida tackle stores, notably Captain Harry's and RJ Boyle.

In Memorial: Jan Boone

The sportfishing industry mourns the profound loss of North Carolina-based Jan Boone. Known far and wide for her business acumen and friend-



ship, Boone served as President of Blue Water Yacht Sales after a notable career at Hatteras Yachts. Jan, who passed on May 29 after a battle with cancer, is survived by her husband Jerome and daughter Lauren. *InTheBite* offers its most profound condolences. Jan is greatly missed, far and wide.

TOURNAMENTIME

CATCH US ON THE DOCKS THIS SUMMER

MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST BILLFISH CLASSIC - BILOXI, MS BIG ROCK BLUE MARLIN TOURNAMENT - BEAUFORT, NC BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB BILLFISH CLASSIC - BEAUFORT, NC BLUE MARLIN GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP - ORANGE BEACH, AL DARE COUNTY BOAT BUILDERS - PIRATES COVE, NC WHITE MARLIN OPEN - OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND JOHN A. PETERS JR. TARPON TOURNAMENT - SAVANNAH, GA PIRATES COVE BILLFISH TOURNAMENT - PIRATES COVE, NC THE MID ATLANTIC - CAPE MAY, NJ

VIRGINIA BEACH BILLFISH TOURNAMENT - VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE RELEASE TEAM ON THE DOCKS THIS SUMMER AND LET US KNOW IF WE CAN HELP KEEP YOUR BOAT TOURNAMENT READY



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www.mtu-online.com/yachts

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Expert Tool Storage Solution Capt. Dean Adler, *Don Teo* Skill Level: Pinterest-Worthy

Veteran Captain Dean Adler has learned a thing or two over the course of decades at the helm. Any captain worth his salt has a good collection of all the tools routinely used for maintenance projects on the boat. Like many things in life, a tool is only useful when properly applied. The first step in proper tool application? Being able to find it.









Adler uses Kaizen foam (www.fastcap.com/product/kaizen-foam) to keep tools in exactly the right place, without rattling, or getting lost. Just purchase foam, cut it to shape of the drawer and mock up how you'd like the tools to fit. Then, trace the placement and cut around them. Not only will you be ready for any maintenance project you can imagine, your drawers will look clean, neat and professional. It is also not very expensive.



Bridge Teaser Alarm Capt. Alan Neiford, *Mister Pete* Skill Level: Why didn't I think of that?

The only thing worse than trolling around all day with your hand hanging onto the bridge teaser lines is not noticing a bite on the teaser. Capt. Alan Neiford has a simple, sure fire solution. He's installed a rigger clip that will pop when the bite comes. This gives peace of mind (and a break for your rotator cuff).



Fighting Chair Ding Removal Matt Hecht, VP, Release Marine Skill Level: Simple idea, easy execution – but you wouldn't have tried it unless it was recommended by an expert.

"In the heat of battle, it's inevitable that your rocket launcher or your chair seat are going to take some damage. A hit from a rod butt just right can damage the fin-





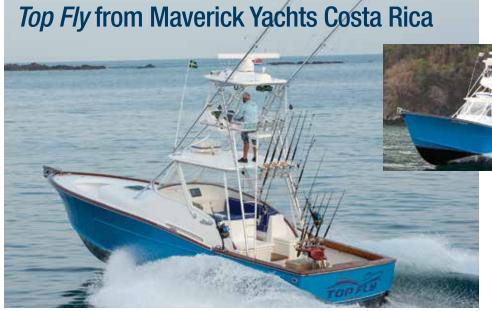
ish on your chair, over the long run it's just going to happen. You don't always want to send your chair in for a full refinish, but there are things you can do in the meantime to keep the damage from spreading," Matt explains.

Using a razor blade and a clear sealant pen available at auto parts stores, you can not only keep dings from spreading, but extend the time between full refinishes on your equipment. "If you get a blister from a rod butt or a pair of pliers, just get a razor knife and get in there and dig out all of that old finish. Scrape down until you are in good, clean wood, with a good clean edge along the finish."

Next, cover the area with a clear polyurethane pen, or even clear nail polish. This will protect the area of exposed wood, keep the blister from spreading, and keep the damage from being so noticeable until it is refinished.







The newest 36-foot walkaround from Maverick Yachts Costa Rica (MYCR) launched in January, and has been raising billfish ever since. As part of the famous Fly Boats charter fleet based in the Los Sueños Resort and Marina in Herradura, Costa Rica, the new boat was dubbed *Top Fly*.

Owners Kurt and Anki Forsberg, of Stockholm, Sweden, got their first chance to seriously fish the boat in April, and had a spectacular week. "During our visit, we fished seven days on *Top Fly*," said Kurt. "Fishing was incredible, one day we released 30 sailfish, and in total we released 108 over the seven days. It is

quite common to get double-headers in these waters, and a walkaround boat gives a great advantage since we can fight the fish from both the cockpit and the bow of the boat."

Built specifically with light-tackle fishing in mind, the 36 features wide, single-level walkaround alleys from the cockpit to the bow. The coamings come positioned strategically at the right height for sure support while fighting a fish, no matter where you are on the boat.

The spacious, teak-decked cockpit features the unique MYCR "Hot Seat" fighting chair/ rocket launcher unit designed and built using cutting edge CAD/CAM router technology. Cold-molded construction keeps the boat super strong, yet lightweight, making it quite

nimble when maneuvering on a fish, and fast when cruising to take advantage of a hot bite down the road. Twin 420hp Cummins QSB diesels provide a cruise speed of 27 knots while only burning 24 gallons an hour, so she's economical to boot.

Top Fly is equally at home chasing Pacific sailfish and marlin as she is seeking out tuna and dorado. Versatility and hard-core fishability are the key attributes of this boat, but it also offers a surprising level of comfort, provided by an optional Seakeeper and an air-conditioned cabin that's bigger than you might expect. Good things really do come in small packages. Maverick Yachts Costa Rica; 866-888-6426; maverickcostarica.com

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS:Maverick Yachts Costa Rica 36 Walkaround

LENGTH: 36' **BEAM:** 12' 9" **DRAFT:** 2' 8"

ESTIMATED WEIGHT: 19,000 lbs. **POWER:** Twin 420hp QSB 6.7L

Cummins diesels FUEL: 300 gal. WATER: 50 gal.

Sea Angel: The Last of the 72 Merritts



Captain BC Angel and the Angel family are well traveled veterans of the sportfishing landscape. From Venezuela to Mag Bay to the Bahamas and Bermuda and Costa Rica, the *Sea Angel* team has done it. They now have a new platform from which to execute their operation – the newest, and last 72 Merritt ever made. "I

like everything about it. It's big and comfortable. The fit and finish is unbelievable – everything is top of the line stuff," BC says, talking about the new ride. "The build was amazing. Merritt is a first class operation. We had been looking for a new boat and they had this one going and we took it over."

"Merritt was first class all the way. They treated us like family and went out of their way to make any and all of our customizations happen." The boat is specially crafted for extended travel and self-sufficiency in remote areas. "We have tons of storage and lots of redundancy. The boat has three fresh water pumps, four A/C pumps – all valved so that the system keeps working if you lose one. We have the new 32 KW generator from Kohler – we really like it. We also have tons of freezer space and two 500-pound, per day ice makers. We kept all of the audio/visual stuff simple and straightforward. All of the electron-

ics on the bridge are user friendly and customized for what we want. We knew what we wanted and kept it super simple."

What would the *Sea Angel* team do with a boat that is made spe-



cifically for a wide-ranging international fishing campaign? Travel and fish of course. The team closed on the boat on a Friday and left for the Bahamas the following Tuesday. From there it will be off to Bermuda for the summer tournaments before shipping the boat to Cabo in September. From Cabo and Mag Bay, the *Sea Angel* plans to return to Costa Rica for the tournaments in 2020. "We chose Merritt because it's custom and they've been doing it longer than most people," BC concludes.

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Captain Adam Peeples runs the *One Shot* Charters out of the Destin, Florida area. In addition to running a first-class operation, Peeples is a combat veteran with two deployments in Iraq and a stint as an instructor at the US Army Sniper School to his credit.



by Capt. Adam Peeples

then I head offshore for a day of fishing my wife, Cadence, almost always says, "I hope you catch a big one today!" Catching a big fish is probably every captain and angler's goal on any given fishing trip. We obsess over gear, baits, weather, moon phase, lucky shirts and hats – the list goes on. One thing that often gets overlooked, however, is the actual battle of man versus fish.

When it comes to your average charter customers or other inexperienced anglers that I take offshore, one common theme emerges: most have never realized how much work is involved in catching a large game fish. Fighting a fish in a stand-up harness from a center console has its own unique challenges — complete with advantages and disadvantages. Obviously, it would be preferred that everyone who straps into a stand-up harness has prior experience, but we all must start somewhere.

Over the years, I have had the pleasure of putting many rookies into the harness for their first battle with a swordfish, marlin or tuna. I always start the same way: by explaining the entire process, from hookup to endgame, to the angler. Ideally this conversation takes place prior to fishing, as I believe this allows their brain to process the

information and better prepare them for the ensuing battle. One point of emphasis is the physicality of fighting big game fish in a stand-up harness.

As my operation is based in Fort Walton/Destin, Florida many of my clients are on vacation. I make a point to stress the importance of staying well hydrated the day before the trip. I also ask them to please refrain from hitting the local watering holes too hard the night before. Preparing for what could be an hour plus battle in a standup harness is like getting ready for a 5k run. Showing up dehydrated and hungover is a sure-fire cause for the angler to end up "tapping out," failing to finish the fight.

After we have thoroughly discussed the details of the fight, I like to get the angler fitted into the harness on the boat. Prior to fishing, I will strap the angler into a rod and put some pressure on the rig so they can feel what it will be like to have 20 or more pounds of drag pulling on them during the fight. This process will also help to identify any uncomfortable points on the harness that may need to be adjusted.

This is also a great time to teach the technique involved with a stand-up harness. Five minutes of practice in the harness pays

dividends for the angler when they have an angry fish on the other end of the line. Proper technique in the harness will keep the angler in better shape for longer fight times and could be the difference between the angler catching the fish or calling it quits beforehand.

Safety is critical when someone is strapped into a harness with a fish. Keeping a hook knife attached to the harness is a must. Also, someone on the boat is always tasked with spotter duty. The spotter will shadow the angler, provide water if needed, and in the event the angler loses their balance, they are there to make sure the person strapped in doesn't fall overboard. Ensuring the angler understands how to easily unclip from the harness is another critical safety precaution. There are many stand-up harness options available. My personal preference is a harness without closed d-ring style lug clips which could become a safety issue with getting someone out of the harness. The angler should be able to unclip from the harness lugs quickly and easily.

Once we achieve a hookup, the strategy of fighting the fish from a center console will vary depending on the species. In most situations, I like to position my angler near the stern on either the port or starboard side. My goal as the captain is to keep the line near a 45-degree angle away from the motors. From this position, I can easily motor forward in a slight turn to help the angler gain line or make a slight turn away from the fish to help the angler stay tight if needed. I typically fight fish on the port side of my boat, as it is the side nearest the helm and allows me a good line of sight on both the angler and fish. Fighting a marlin from a center console requires a lot of boat driving, and I will move the angler around often during the fight. A swordfish or tuna requires a little less boat driving, and I can generally keep the angler in the same position throughout the fight.

Fighting fish from a stand-up harness on a center console is an effective way to land virtually all big game species. When used with proper technique, a stand-up harness allows the angler the ability to stay in the fight for the long haul. As with all big game fishing tactics, practice and preparation are key to success.



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All tournaments, however, are not created equal. Understanding betting strategies – and matching tournament participation and Calcutta entries to your team's strong suits can pay dividends. Going across the board blindly, entering every event you can think of, on the other hand, can amount to donating to the hand full of fishing teams in each event who

will be happy to see you and your kind coming. The following is a breakdown of tournament categories and the entry fee/payout ratios. Armed with this information, and a bit of insight into the potential performance of your team, you can design a tournament schedule and betting strategy that matches your outlook and skillset.

Understanding the Basics

For the sake of simplicity, lets assume that there are two categories of tournaments: release tournaments and kill tournaments. While most every tournament that hangs its hat on the size of marlin brought to the scales also has a release division, for our purposes they are in different categories. As a general



rule, the fewer fish realistically needed to win a tournament, the broader the opportunity for any one team to win. High volume sailfish tournaments in Florida and Central America lie at one extreme. Tournaments targeting one large fish – such as blue and white marlin tournaments in Hawaii, the Gulf Coast, East Coast and Mexico sit at the other.

Landing a large blue marlin requires an incredible amount of skill, to be sure, but there can be a fair bit of luck involved in happening to run across a larger marlin than any other boat in a tournament. It is for this reason that the White Marlin Open is referred to as the DelMarVa Lottery. This line of reasoning also helps explain how a group of 18 year old, soon-to-be college students won the 2018 Emerald Coast Blue Marlin Tournament, This is also the reason that there is less chance for a team to repeat as champion of the Bisbee's Black and Blue, for example, than to repeat as champion of the Los Sueños Signature Series or the Quest for the Crest. That said, there is certainly more to it than luck and it is skill and dedication rather than a fortuitous series of luckiness that account for the success of captains like Jason Buck, Steve Lassley, Shane O'Brien, and other year in, year out big fish tournament winning captains.

When it comes to numbers tournaments, the more consistent (and high volume) the fishing, the less opportunity there is for a group of weekend warriors to consistently place. For tournaments that allow professional anglers (bringing in mates to fish as anglers) the odds decrease a bit further. If a three-day tournament usually takes 20 or more sailfish to win – and professional crews are brought in to man the cockpit - consistently winning might require a hook up ratio of 80%. While any crew can experience a good run, for a day or two, consistently converting on 80% of your opportunities requires at the very least a crew of solid anglers who have fished together quite a bit.

Betting Strategies

Your average Gulf and East Coast kill tournament includes largest marlin, tuna, wahoo, dolphin and billfish release pots at multiple levels. For tournaments other than those in the Gulf, there are also daily jackpots paid out to the top performing team each day in each category. Release tournaments are generally a simple structure including dailies and an overall pot paid to the top three boats. Tournaments in Mexico and other places often focus mainly on billfish pots – kill and release overall and daily jackpots.

In tournaments with a broad variety of Calcutta options (marlin, wahoo, dolphin, tuna, etc.), unless you just like to go across the board, smart betting to some involves picking a target and sticking with it. In the early days of center consoles fishing bluewater tournaments, converted kingfish crews made a pile of money in the wahoo divisions on the Gulf. Capt. JJ Tabor on his *Double J* were such

specialists, strictly wahoo fishing and betting heavily in the wahoo pots. These days Capt. JJ Tabor, like a number of the top tournament crews in the Gulf of Mexico employ the same betting specialization in the kill blue marlin pots – putting as much money and effort as they can on their ability to hang a big one.

In the context of tournament strategy, specialization can pay off. Not only can crews devote their efforts strictly into the type of fishing that they prefer, they are not throwing money away blindly into areas where they'll devote little effort. That said, not betting the tuna pot while blue marlin fishing can be a great way to entice the bite of an 800-pound bluefin.

Understanding a bit about yourself, and what you want out of the deal, can also help in placing your bets and ultimately your satisfaction with tournament fishing. Consider this scenario: You fish a high profile blue marlin tournament and enter the \$500, \$1,000, and \$2,500 optional entry Calcuttas. You do not enter the \$5,000 or \$10,000 levels. During the tournament you catch the one you are after, a 750-pound beast and win the tournament going away.

In terms of emotional impact, are you more happy about the money you won – say, \$175,000? Or are you more angry about the money you left on the table for the guy who, after entering the 5k and 10k pots and catching a 350-pounder, won \$600,000. Everybody is different. Understanding your risk tolerance and how much you can afford to lose is part of it.

In tournaments that only focus on billfish, the choice of whether or not to go all in can be more delicate. If your plan is to live bait the same area for three days, looking for one bite, you will likely not be able to compete with those who run and gun, covering the area often needed to release the number of fish it will take to win the dailies or overall release categories. That said, not betting the release categories could lead to you running across a body of fish that you weren't planning to encounter and catching a pile of them.

Tournament Break Down

The following graphics provide a breakdown of 20 bluewater fishing tournaments in relation to participation, costs to enter the Calcuttas, and payout information. These comparisons are an inexact science, but provide a basis for directly comparing tournaments from across the fishing landscape. We have basically divided the tournament payoffs by the amount of money required to bet across the board as provided by tournament websites. The payout categories are listed in relation to the total pot

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divided by the across the board amount and the largest team payouts from the most recent tournament editions. While certainly not every team that enters or wins tournaments bets across the board, this input is the most straight forward way of comparing a variety of events.

White Marlin Open –	Ocean City, Maryland
Base Entry	\$1,400
Across the Board	About 40k
Calcutta Divisions	25
2018 Boats	382
Total Purse 2018	\$5.45 million
Notable Pay Outs	
Top White	\$2,584,260
Top Blue	\$924,936
	\$904,851



MidAtlantic – Cape May, New Jersey	
Base Entry	\$3,000
Across the Board	About 35k
Calcutta Divisions	10
2018 Boats	157 Boats
Total Purse 2018	\$3,368,490
Notable Pay Outs	
Heaviest White	\$905,408
Heaviest Tuna	\$571,289

	-
Blue Marlin Grand Championsh	ip
Orange Beach, Alabama	
Base Entry	\$7,500
Across the Board	\$80 s
Calcutta Divisions	25
2018 Boats	76 boats
Total Purse 2018	\$1,854,450
Notable Pay Outs	
2nd place, Various categories	\$612 k
1st place, Various categories	\$371 k

Bisbee's Black and Blue	
Cabo San Lucas, Mexico	
Base Entry	
Across the Board	\$71.5k
Across the board with	
Chupacabra Challenge	\$131.5k
Calcutta Divisions	8
2018 Boats	114
Total Purse 2018	\$3,693,325
Notable Pay Outs	
1st place and dailies	\$3,004,900
2nd place	\$544,250



For many, if you could win just one tournament it would be the Bisbee's Black & Blue.

Los Cabos Offshore	
Base Entry	\$1,500
Across the Board	\$22,500
Calcutta Divisions	6
2018 Boats	123
Total Purse 2018	\$1,165,000
Notable Pay Outs	
2nd place, calcuttas	\$520,485
1 st place, calcuttas	\$333,418

Fire Cracker Open – Kona, Hawaii	
Base Entry	\$1,000
Across the Board	\$21,000
Calcutta Divisions (including dailies).	36
2018 Boats	44
Total Purse 2018	\$307,900
Notable Pay Outs	
2nd place, calcuttas	\$119,010
1st place, calcuttas	\$93,020

Kona Throwdown – Kona, Hawaii	
Base Entry	\$5,000
Across the Board	\$41,200
Calcutta Divisions (including dailies)	24
2018 Boats	23
Total Purse 2018	.\$499,910
Notable Pay Outs	
1st place	.\$124,740
·	

Blue Marlin World Cup	
Base Entry	\$5,000
Across the Board	
Calcutta Divisions	1
2018 Boats	148
Total Purse 2018	\$1,000,000
Notable Pay Outs	
	\$1,000,000

Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic Orange Beach, Alabama

Base Entry	\$6,000
Across the Board	\$65,500
Calcutta Divisions	23
2018 Boats	117
Total Purse 2018	\$2,196,500
Notable Pay Outs	
1st place blue	\$450,705
Various calcuttas	\$313,115
1st place release	\$265,050
1st place tuna	\$139,725

Connor, Texas
\$2,500
About \$28,000
16
45
\$845,000
\$145,397
\$123,167
\$74,100

The Big Rock Morehead City, North Carolina Base Entry.....\$2,500

Dago Lina y minimini	φב,σσσ
Across the Board	\$25,000
Calcutta Divisions	8
2018 Boats	183
Total Purse 2018	\$2,560,925
Notable Pay Outs	
1st place blue marlin	\$755,875
3rd place blue marlin, calcutta	\$629,000
2nd place blue marlin	\$262,450
1st place release	\$151,937
Top gamefish	

Pirate's Cove – Manteo, North Carolina			
Base Entry	\$2,500		
Across the Board	\$15,000		
Calcutta Divisions	6		
2018 Boats	81		
Total Purse 2018	.\$807,000		
Notable Pay Outs			
1st place	.\$349,302		
3rd place	.\$128,594		
5th place			

Jimmy Johnson's Quest for the Ring			
South Florida			
Base Entry	\$5,000		
Across the Board	\$40,000		
Calcutta Divisions	12		
2018 Boats	107		
Total Purse 2019	\$1,750,000		
Notable Pay Outs			
1st place	\$405,000		
2nd place	\$165,000		
3rd place	\$100,000		
Gamefish			



Final Sail – Miami Beach, Florida			
Base Entry	\$4,770		
Across the Board	\$24,770		
Calcutta Divisions	8		
2018 Boats	37		
Total Purse 2018	\$854,550		
Notable Pay Outs			
1st place	\$214,720		
4th place, calcuttas			
• '	. ,		

4th place, calcuttas	\$77,070
•	. ,
Emerald Coast Blue Marlin Class	ic
Sandestin, Florida	
Base Entry	\$6,000
Across the Board	\$77,050
Calcutta Divisions	27
2018 Boats	91
Total Purse 2018	.\$2,040,200
Notable Pay Outs	
1st place release	\$328,885
2nd place blue marlin	\$308,124
3rd place blue marlin, 2nd release	\$264,407
Blue marlin jackpots	\$201,375
2nd place tuna, 2nd crew	\$154,047
1st place tuna, 3rd place release	\$131,703
1st place blue marlin	

Texas Billfish Classic - Freepo	ort, Texas		
Base Entry	\$2,500		
Across the Board	\$60,000		
Calcutta Divisions	21		
2018 Boats	20		
Total Purse 2018	\$268,000		
Notable Pay Outs			
1st place	\$92,250		

Cajun Canyons – Venice, Louisiana			
Base Entry	\$1,850		
Across the Board	\$77,500		
Calcutta Divisions	27		
2018 Boats	46		
Total Purse 2018	\$662,400		
Notable Pay Outs			
Top release, 2nd tuna	\$164,070		
1st place blue, 2nd release			

Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament			
Base Entry	\$10,500		
Across the Board	\$21,000		
Calcutta Divisions	7		
2018 Boats	80		
Total Purse 2018	\$620,000		
Notable Pay Outs			
Top boat, 1st blue marlin	\$282,000		
2nd place, dailies and jackpots	\$114,000		
3rd place	\$64,000		

Big Fish Classic – Ocean Ci	ty, Maryland
Base Entry	\$600
Across the Board	\$16,000
Calcutta Divisions	20
2018 Boats	67
Total Purse 2018	\$462,350
Notable Pay Outs	
	\$244,095
	\$48,725

Buccaneer Cup - Palm Beach	, Florida
Base Entry	\$3,000
Across the Board	\$26,250
Calcutta Divisions	11
2019 Boats	39
Total Purse 2019	\$352,000
Notable Pay Outs	
	\$110,800
	\$66,610



Tournament Analysis:

The first level of analysis we used for comparison was dividing the total purse from the latest running of the tournament by the amount of money needed to bet across the board. This figure provides a pretty good indication of how much money is available to be won. This figure is largely driven by the number of boats that fished the event. The more bets that are in the pot, the greater the amount that can be won. The payout values ranged from about 4.5 to more than 136 times the max bet. The average payout of the 20 tournaments analyzed was a 43.6 times the across the board bet.

Here's how the tournaments stacked up

To	urnament Name Purse/ Across th	e Board
1	White Marlin Open	. 136.25
2	The Big Rock	. 102.44
3	MidAtlantic	96.24
4	Blue Marlin World Cup	76.92
5	Pirate's Cove	53.8
6	Los Cabos Offshore	51.78
7	Bisbee's Black and Blue	51.65
8	Jimmy Johnson Fishing Nat'l Champ	43.75
9	The Final Sail	34.5
10	Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic	33.53

The next analytical tool was to compare the amount the largest tournament payouts relative to the cost of going across the board. This figure roughly equates to return on investment for winning the tournament (or winning more Calcutta categories than anyone else). This figure also provides a realistic idea about how much you can actually win, were the tournament to go according to plan. The figures ranged from one and a half times your across the board bet to nearly 77 times. The average largest payout was just over 18 times the across the board bet.

Here's how the tournaments stacked up:

To	ournament Name	Purse/ Largest Payout
1	Blue Marlin World (Cup76.92
2	White Marlin Open.	64.6
3	Bisbee's Black and	Blue42.03
4	The Big Rock	30.24
5	MidAtlanic	25.87
6	Pirate's Cove	23.29
7	Los Cabos Offshore	23.13
8	Big Fish Classic	15.26
9	Virginia Beach Billfi	sh Classic13.43
1	O Jimmy Johnson Fis	hing Nat'l Champ 10.13

The final level of analysis was the most straightforward. Keeping everything else the same, the fewer the boats competing the greater the chance of winning. To find this figure, you simply divide one by the number of teams fishing the tournament. You then multiply that figure by 100 to determine the

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percentage chance of winning (if all teams were equal). As a snapshot, in 2018 your average chance of winning one of these tournaments would have been 1.66%. The range was from .26% on the low end to 5% on the high end.

Tol	ırnament Name	Chance of	Winning (%)
1	Texas Billfish Classic		5
2	Kona Throw Down		4.35
3	The Final Sail		2.7
4	Buccaneer Cup		2.56
5	Fire Cracker Open		2.27
6	Lone Star Shootout.		2.22
7	Cajun Canyons		2.17
8	Big Fish Classic		1.49
9	Blue Marlin Grand C	hampionshi	p 1.32
10	Virginia Beach Billfis	h Classic	1.25

We then took the analysis a step further. Ranking tournaments from highest to lowest in terms of each of these three areas gives you a numerical ranking from 1 to 20. Low numbers in each table were the best – the highest payout, the largest chance of winning, etc. Higher numbers reflected lower payouts and chances of winning. We then plugged in the rankings for each tournament in each category into a chart. Each tournament was then reduced to three numbers (1 to 20) that reflected how it ranked in comparison to other tournaments in each category.

Taking the average of these three figures provides an applied ranking system that roughly combines chances of winning, overall purse amount, and largest payouts in 2018. Again, this is very rough and overly simplistic, but it provides a way of comparing the relative "performance" of tournaments against each other. The lower this number, the better the tournament performs in relation to chances of winning, money available and return on investment if you win.

inchen you win.			
	To	urnament Name	Combined Performance
	1		Cup7.333333333
	2	Pirate's Cove	7.333333333
	3	White Marlin Oper	17.66666667
	4	The Final Sail	7.66666667
	5	Bisbee's Black an	d Blue8
	6	The Big Rock	8.333333333
	7	MidAtlantic	8.66666667
	8	Los Cabos Offshor	re9.66666667
	9	Big Fish Classic	9.66666667
10 Jimmy Johnson Nat'l Champ 10.3333333			

"Other" Considerations

In fishing lingo, the shark is sometimes referred to as the Tax Man – especially when it eats your tuna. While a sharked fish is usually disqualified from tournaments as mutilated, how much the actual tax man knows (and how many tax men line up for their share) can have a real im-

pact on your bottom line. As strictly an economic exercise, this is an important consideration.

In case the Internal Revenue Service is reading this, all we can say is that there still, some place



in the world, might be a tournament where payouts come in the form of a brown paper bag full of cash. Everyone understands, of course, that the winner will report all of this to his or her accountant. The brown bag special is one extreme. The other exists where tournament winners pay their percentages to federal and state agencies. In some states, fishing tournaments are levied with luxury taxes that make the hit that much more pronounced. In terms of your take home, this can make winning a 40-boat tournament in Mexico more attractive than beating 150 of the world's best fishing crews in some part of the world governed by an overly greedy municipality.

You might also want to look at the payout ratios of the entry fees and Calcuttas. It is general practice that the tournament organizers keep a percentage of the entry fees. Understanding the payout structure and what pots are paid out at what rates can also help you optimize your winnings once you find the fish you're after.

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- 2. Observers cost too much FALSE: IGFTO observers pay their own travel and housing
- 3. Observers don't get it right FALSE: IGFTO observers are trained, experienced, and rated 99.9% perfect by captains
- 4. Observers complicate managing the tournament FALSE: IGFTO observers are managed by our coordinator who takes care of everything





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Ashley Bretecher, Tournament Director, Los Suenos, Costa Rica

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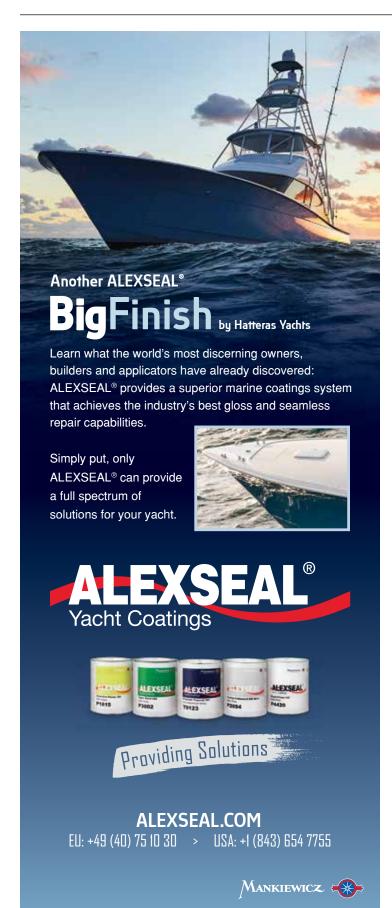




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Betting Strategies from the Pros

Captain Greg DiStefano runs the El Suertudo, an 80-foot Weaver that weaves a successful path across the tournament landscape around Cabo. DiStefano's 2018 tournament campaign was successful enough to land him a 2018 Captain of the Year in the International Division and a bunch of tournament checks along the way. In short, Capt. Greg has a fair bit of experience in determining successful betting strategies.

"Our theory is that we try to go all in in. You never know what's going to happen when you're out fishing. You can't know what you're going to catch. We've won wahoo dailies while marlin fishing a couple times." DiStefano explains. "In Mexico, I feel like you kind of have to go across the board to play. You kind of come up with a game plan and stick with it. Even if you're main target is the release division, on the last day you might find you might find yourself fishing offshore around a tuna school and get a bite from a big one."

As for tournament preference and what he looks for in an optimal scenario, DiStefano favors three-day tournaments to two. "More days fishing means more winners and more checks. I'd rather have lighter action on more days. This gives you more time to find them... It's hard to catch them."

Captain Shane O'Brien runs a multi-boat operation that cashes tournament checks on a number of fronts. With some \$2.7 million in tournament earnings by age 30 (read more about O'Brien in the June 2019 installment of "Young Guns"), when this Hawaii native shares his betting strategies it might be wise to listen.

"We like the World Cup, Bisbee's and a lot of the Gulf and Hawaii tournaments that are geared toward big fish rather than releases. Everybody should know what they are good at. We always bet pretty heavy and pretty strong on kill," O'Brien begins. "The release bets depend on how the tournament scores blues versus whites, sails and stripes. If blues are on par with whites we can't compete, but if they are weighted enough, we can do it. The Gulf has come a long way in making blues heavy enough in points."

"For Gulf tournaments, we bet only billfish. We're not going to be the guys who stay up all night tuna fishing and the odds of catching a dolphin or wahoo when you're pulling big live baits are not that good," he adds, thoughtfully. Specialization in this way not only avoids throwing money away in categories that won't receive effort, but reinforces effort applied to the target species.

'Some teams will decide not to enter some tournaments because the return is not there. To us, we enjoy tournament fishing either way. We fish tournaments for fun and for money. We're not looking at it over the short term. We hope that the odds work out over the long run. You may be down a year or two or three, but if we're up over twenty years or so, that's our goal."

Captain Brian Phillips is a veteran Gulf Coast tournament captain from Texas. Phillips views tournament winnings within the context of the cost of running his operation over the course of the year. "I look at it as a net – if you win 500k but you spend 550k on the whole season, that's not very good," he says. Phillips' view of costs are not just entry fees for tournaments and the like, but include diesel, dockage and all that goes into it.

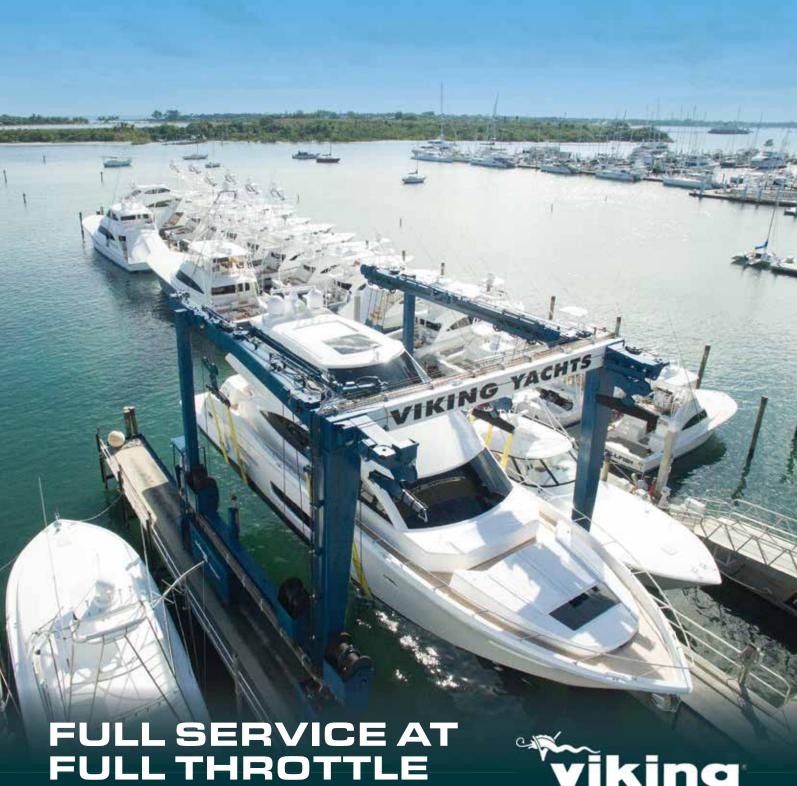
When entering tournaments, Phillips prefers to go all in. "Every year, we win 75-100k on something we wouldn't have planned," he says. "Last year we won 22 grand with a six-pound tuna!"

Which tournaments Phillips enters depend on the amount of money required to go across the board and the amount of the payout. "I prefer to fish tournaments that are 10-15k to go all in, where you can win 250k. I don't like the ones that cost 75k to go all in to win 500k, with 100 boats fishing." Other factors that influence Phillips' choice of tournament fishing include: how well he knows the water (if they are in his backyard), how far you can run, and how many boats are fishing.

In 2018, Phillips and the *Smooth Move* fished Poco Bueno, the Lone Star Shootout, the Texas International Fishing Tournament (TIFT), and the Texas Women Anglers' Tournament. "Last year we won north of \$600,000" and didn't spend more than 40k on entries," Phillips recalls. "I like to at least win my salary and the mate's salary each year. Over the last 20 years, I've been in the black seven or eight years (including fuel and everything). the rest I've been about even or a little into the red."

"I look out for the owner. We try to win lots of money on reasonable bets."





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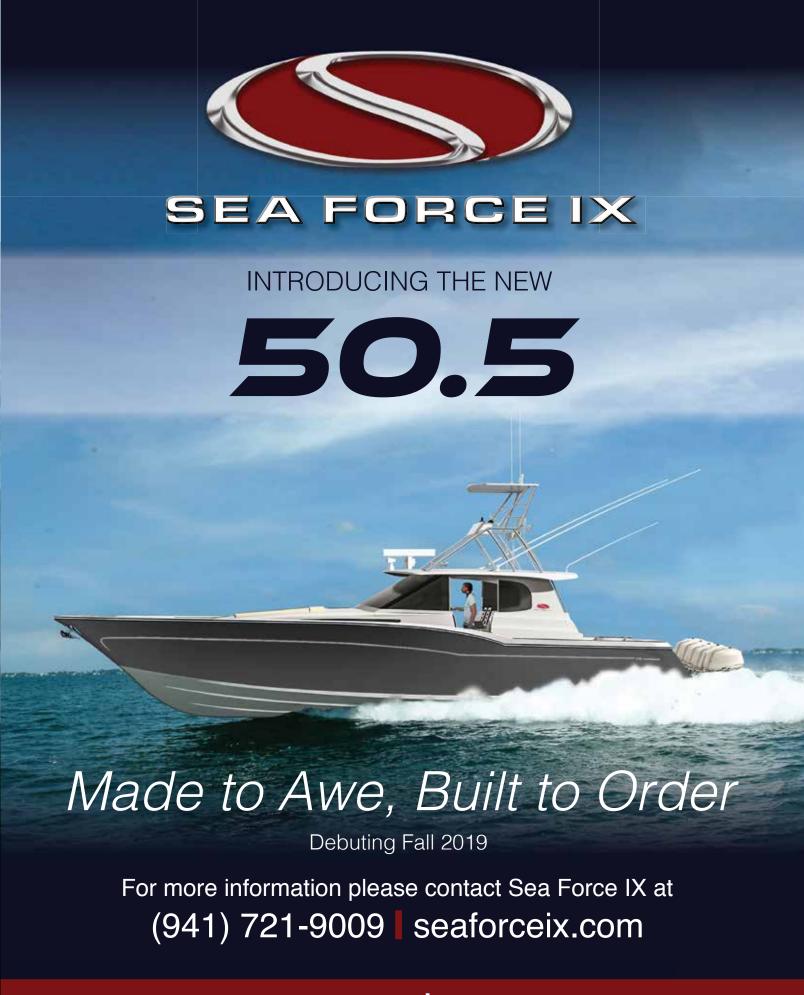


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o build any boat from scratch is a magical thing. Having the gumption to take a big pile of your own money and turn it into a pile of materials that you intend to turn into a boat goes way beyond my perception or capabilities. Taking another fella's money and trying to do it for the first time must spin the term "nerve wracking" to incredible new heights. Nevertheless, there's always a few pioneers who step up and make something new that the boat-building industry just can't ignore. Here are just a few examples of boats that have made a difference...there are plenty many more in North Carolina, Florida and elsewhere, but here is the story of four.

Richard Bertram Yard on the Miami River. That boat, *Moppie*, won the 1960 Miami to Nassau Race by a wide margin. A *Sports Illustrated* article written about the race by the boat's navigator, Charlton Mitchel, brought national attention to the design and its performance. The demand for a 31 was so great that they decided to make a plug off the wood *Moppie* to initiate fiberglass 31 was built in Hialeah and would become *Glass Moppie* which won the 1961 Miami Nassau Race and a bunch of other races that year. My father purchased the property across

Richard Bertram Yachts, Moppie

No matter what far flung port you pull into, if there's the tiniest chance that someone could catch a billfish, you'll probably find a 31-Bertram, or two, still running folks out to the blue water. Pretty much indestructible, the huge cockpit and great ride of the Deep-V hull design, cemented the venerable 31-Bertram into boat building and sport fishing history.

To get some background into how the company started, we turned to Morgan Bertram, son of Richard Bertram, the company's founder. "The first 31 was built of wood at the



The *Moppie*, the first 31 Bertram, would win the 1960 and 1961 Miami to Nassau Race.





The Bertram 31, available in three models, debuted at the New York Boat Show in 1961.

the street from the Richard Bertram Yacht Yard and built a state of the art fiberglass boat manufacturing facility and started building the 31, 25, and 38s there. So technically, the *Glass Moppie* represents the very first Bertram Yacht," Bertram describes.

Tommy Thompson, Product Development Manager at Richard Bertram Yachts, likes to point out that the original 31s weren't just great boats in their time, but that they've



A vintage fiberglass Bertram 31 splashing.

gained a mythology all their own. "Hunker down if someone starts a story with, 'I'll tell you a story about the time I ran a 31 Bertram from..."

Sure enough, if you name any top-notch bill fishing spot in the Caribbean, Gulf or Central or South America, the first sport-fisher to chug into the inlet or harbor was probably some crazy guy making an incredible crossing on a 31-Bertram. They aren't very big, but they are seaworthy and will definitely get you where you are going!

"The 'Deep V' really over simplifies the bottom of the 31," says Thompson, "More important, is that the dead rise carries all the way back to the transom. No matter how you explain the geometry, that bottom revolutionized the offshore boating industry. We looked hard at what it is about the 31 that has survived for three generations. Our new 35 captures the four main attributes that we think made the 31 so successful and popular with sport fishermen. First, it's the timeless shape of the boat...it's cool looking and inviting. Second, the low profile... low center of gravity that makes it so functional. Third, the 'more-cockpit-than-house' proportions that make it so practical, and of course, fourth, the ride. All of those same attributes carry over to our new 50 and 61 as well. We have captured more subtly the shapes of the famous Bertram 54, and kept the ride at Bertram's core philosophy. It has to be a Bertram!"

Hatteras Yachts, Knit Wits

Nearly 60 years ago, Hatteras Yachts leapt to the forefront of the big-game sportfishing industry with the introduction of the very first

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Crew at work on the Knit Wits, the original fiberglass "convertible" from Hatteras Yachts.

fiberglass boat over 40-feet in length. Named *Knit Wits*, the 41-foot "convertible" was the brain child of textile magnet Willis Slane of Highpoint, North Carolina. She rolled out of the shed in 1960.

"Slane was a member of the Marlin Club over in Cape Hatteras," says Joe Cacopardo, Director of Marketing for Hatteras/Cabo Yachts. "He was pretty well off and he and his buddies all had wooden fishing boats. But the seas off Hatteras can be pretty rough much of the year and Slane found himself sitting at the dock waiting out the weather quite a bit. He decided he wanted to build a boat that could take on the heavy seas without breaking and decided to try the new 'miracle fiber' called fiberglass. It was real space-age stuff at that time."

Amazingly enough, Slane encountered a bit of hesitation when he told people he wanted to build a boat out of fiber-glass. People thought the material was actual glass and didn't think that would make a very strong bottom! Slane eventually talked some investors into taking the gamble and was soon set on building a solid fiberglass boat that could take a beating and keep on fishing.

"That first boat was a convertible," says Cacopardo, "Which meant that you could have the luxury yacht experience and still get out and fish when you wanted to. That whole seakeeping ability and robustness still represents our core philosophy to this day, in both our sportfishers and motor yachts. We've never built wooden boats. Hatteras became very dominant in the 60s and 70s by taking that



The launch of the *Knit Wits*, nearly 60 years ago, was a newsworthy event the influence of which can still be felt today.



The Knit Wits, splashed.

leap in fiberglass. It was one of the things that reshaped and moved the industry forward to where it is today."

Cacopardo acknowledges that a Hatteras might be a bit heavier but that the tunnel design, gear ratios and propulsion systems offset any disadvantages of weight, while keeping all the advantages that weight can bring. "Our captains tell us that in 6-footers they can put the hammer down and power through while other boats have to back off or get beat up. Our boats can handle it. Some others might be lighter and have a higher top end in the flat, but when there's a sea change we can handle it...and handle it well."

Hatteras continues to build exceptional, yacht-quality sportfishers to this day and is now working with Chris and Laura Jessen on a new 65 Convertible. "The Jessen's will also be fishing and campaigning the *Hatterascal* in several Gulf Coast tournaments this summer. The new 65 will represent a new generation for us, at least from a styling and design standpoint. However, it will still contain our core DNA; ruggedly-built boats with meticulous attention to detail," says Cacopardo. "All those things will stay the same, but the designs will continue to evolve to meet people's tastes as they change in the future."

As a testament to how solid a Hatteras is built, you can still go take a ride on the original *Knit Wits* at the factory in New Bern, North Carolina...and she looks amazing.

Bayliss Boat Works, Endeavor 60

Although he's spent his entire life on the water as either a mate, charter boat captain, private boat captain or even commercial fisherman, John Bayliss has only been a boat builder since 2002. On April 15th of that year, Bayliss and a small crew of boat builders started work on what would become the first Bayliss, a 60-footer to be aptly-named *Endeavor*.

Bayliss jumped into the boat-building business in a time of upheaval just after September 11th, 2001. "Nobody knew what was going to happen. I'd been working on a private boat for a longtime friend and after the attacks with all the uncertainty, I came to the conclusion









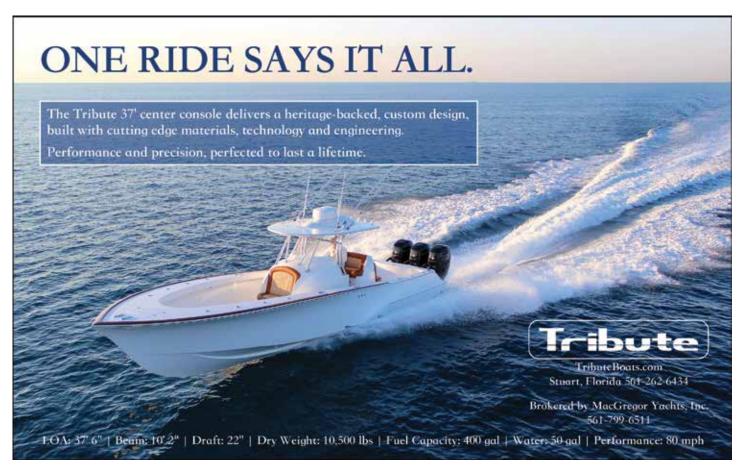
The Bayliss crew from the original build in 2003 (left) and the Bayliss team from 2017 (right).

that I needed to get out and do my own thing. I'd already done the charter fishing, working for a boat factory, working for another factory...so I decided to put a couple of feelers out to see if anybody wanted to build a boat," says Bayliss.

Mike Atkinson met up with Bayliss at Pirate's Cove Marina and after a beer or two and some specifications scribbled out on a napkin, they came to an agreement and Bayliss Boatworks was born. "When we first started talking about the boat it was going to be a 60-footer with a pair of six cylinder engines. It was a simple, straightforward fishing boat...really

"Then along comes Charlie Barker (he owns a 92-foot Viking now) and he becomes a partner in the boat with Mike. Barker asks me if I think we can put V-12s in the boat, so I ask Robert Ullberg if it would take them and he says sure. Soon the boat became a three-stateroom, three-head boat with a washer and dryer and a mezzanine, which were just coming out at the time. It went from a boat that was being built to fish on the East Coast, to one that was meant to travel and fish in places like Costa Rica. In fact, that boat is now named the *Uno* Mas and is still doing an incredible job catching fish down in Los Sueños for Brooks Smith. We are still very proud that she's the first one.

"That boat became a classic example of how the owner and crew can kind of drive, or push the boat builder in a different direction. I was just going to build a really durable fish catching boat, but it became a yacht on the very first one. And that really helped us a lot, since before we started on that first one we had three other guys under contract as well, and they wanted a nicer boat, too. Those first two guys somehow saw something and they wanted to push us a little further. Luckily, for us, our next guy was better, and the next guy after that was better still. They all pushed us to bigger and better things. We've built 25 boats now and we've never built the same one twice."



Although Endeavor grew beyond all of Bayliss' expectations, its unique look was intentional from the beginning. "When I started the company, I wanted this boat to pull into a marina and have people say, is that boat a Carolina build or a Florida build? We wanted to combine the best aspects of those looks," says Bayliss. "That was a very different boat for around here at the time. That boat has very little flare and we designed it that way on purpose. That look caused me a lot of sleepless nights. When we had the boat on the jig upside in the shop I had prominent boat builders telling me that I couldn't build the boat the way it was...that is was a mistake and I was messing up. I went back to Ullberg again and told him what the guys were saying and he pointed out that the boat was exactly what we had on the computer in 3-D and that I should just shut the door and build it. And that's what we did. I'm glad I had friends like him to keep me pressing on. Too much self-doubt can lead to a not-so-good boat...and then you become a one and done. Our first one turned out to be a really good one."

Viking Yachts, 40 Convertible

Viking Yachts started when brothers Bob and Bill Healey bought Peterson-Viking Builders, a small, struggling New Jersey builder of 37-foot, wooden sportfishing boats in 1964. Today, Viking represents perhaps the premiere builder of semi-custom fiberglass yachts in the industry, with over 4,000 Vikings delivered to date. When you've been building boats for over 55 years, you're bound to experience more than one game-changing milestone...and Viking Yachts has managed to revolutionize the world of sportfishing boats several times over during the five decades it's been in business.

"The boat that propelled us the most towards where we are today is probably the 55. It catapulted us to the 61, 65 and 74...and those four boats became icons. But the 40/41 took us from being a wooden boat builder into fiberglass," says Patrick Healey, President and CEO of Viking Yachts. The company's very first foray into fiberglass, in 1968, didn't start out all that promising, however.

"They started out ass backwards," says Healey with a laugh. "They were building 38-footers with a fiberglass top and a fiberglass flybridge, but with a wooden bottom. They didn't trust the strength of fiberglass for the hull, so they kept making the oak-planked hull. You



The Viking 40 was the company's first venture into the world of fiberglass boats.





Combined, the Viking 40 and 41 models would sell more than 600 boats.

couldn't beat that oak-planking for strength at that time, but it was just so heavy. They built 33 of those boats and they all sported our version of the deep-v. But at 33 feet, you needed a whole lot of horsepower to get it up and going. Once it got up it could run through anything, but with 454s Cruisader and Mercruiser gas engines, you didn't have the low-end torque to get all that weight going...so they started on the 40-footer. And that's when Bruce Wilson came along. He worked with Bill Hall and they both came up with the modified-v. And that was hull number one for the 40."

"They built the plug out of wood and then put two engines in the plug and ran it. They used a bunch of aluminum fuel tanks filled with water to simulate the approximate finished weight and then ran the boat in the Great Bay. It popped right up on plane and the bottom performed as it should. They then waited for a rough and ran the plug in the inlet. It was just center console with a wooden



Healey has overseen and directed Viking's emergence into a global force in the sportfishing market.

platform built with a steering wheel, throttles and gauges, and they ran it and it was an incredible sea boat. This was a much better bottom than the 33 and it eventually became the 41 with just a few modifications," says Healey.

Those lighter, stronger all-fiberglass 40-footers made their debut at the 1973 New York Boat Show and became an instant hit. "We just got the mold done for the flybridge at Christmas, and I was just 12 or 13 at the time watching it come out," says Healy. "It was a big deal for everyone, all of our cards pushed into the table. That boat stayed in production from 1973 until 1982, and the 41 was produced from 1983 to 1989. Between the two models we sold over 600 boats. At the peak of its popularity we were building one boat every five days!"

Viking continues to thrive by constantly changing with the times. "You have to reinvent what you're doing to stay successful in this business," says Healy. "You have to design and engineer your success, and that's where our success came from. That 40 was the first boat that did for us. I've been here full time since the late 70s and it's been neat to see all of the evolutions. And we are still excited about building a better boat every day and designing something no one has ever seen before."



















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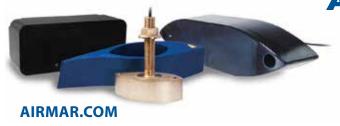
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by Rachel Chesnes

some of the best fisheries in the world, sharing epic angling stories, working alongside some of the top names and brands in the sportfishing industry, and of course, posting impressive fish content across a number of social media platforms. Sounds like the stuff only fantasies are made of? Think again. This is the reality for some of the top sportfishing influencers on the web. These elite individuals have made a name for themselves, devoted to engaging, educating, and entertaining their followers across the sportfishing landscape. While social media has become an effective tool for branding yourself, reaching this influential status doesn't come as naturally (or easily) as it may sound.

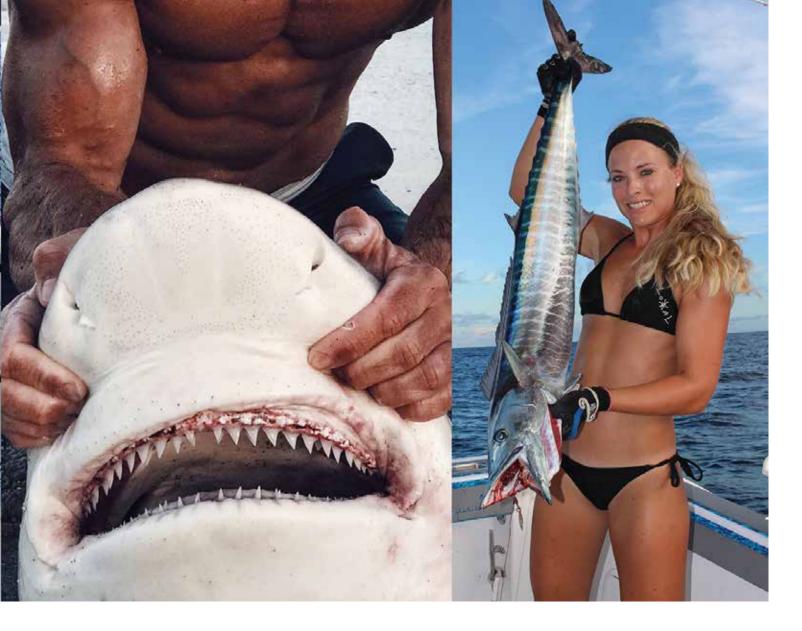
What does it take to earn the title of *Influencer*? How do you put your follower count on steroids? What are the best practices when it comes to fishing social media? We asked some of the who's who of sportfishing social media to find out.

Elliot Sudal @acksharks

Iconic for his niche in shark fishing off the beach, Elliot Sudal has made his passion a career – working with a variety of shark research programs on tagging and releasing sharks.



When it comes to Instagram, monster sharks and abs are a good combination.



Now as a verified member on his Instagram account of over 113,000 followers, Elliot's posting philosophy is to set a good example on how to properly catch, tag, and release these sharks. He also uses his platform for educating people about the different species he's catching, and the best tackle and approach for landing a shark from shore. We talked with Elliot about his journey and how he's become known as the "Shark Wrestler" today.

Q: When did your Instagram account really take off?

A: It's a funny story actually. I was living in Nantucket during the summer five years ago, and I was surf casting blue fish from the beach when a shark chomped my fish right in half in front of me. At this point, I knew nothing about shark fishing, so I basically threw out a little wire leader and hooked this giant shark. I fought it for an hour and people were showing up to video it, then I landed the shark and grabbed it by the tail, pulled the hook out

and let it go. I had no idea what I was doing, knew nothing about shark fishing, but these were the heydays of viral videos and someone posted it on Facebook. The local newspaper reposted it, and three hours later *Good Morning America* flew a crew out. It was a really cool video and was right before Shark Week, it got like over ten million views in a week.

Q: What factors do you attribute to your main account's growth and popularity?

A: Viral videos have always been a huge spike in likes and followers. I took the Vice President out, and we caught a 15-foot sawfish that fought for 11 hours, that got all sorts of attention. Then the following year, I caught a 13-foot hammerhead. *People Magazine* posted this whole "sexy shark wrangler" thing, which got me like 20,000 followers almost overnight. And then just recently, I caught an 1100-pound tiger shark, the biggest shark I've ever caught, and that got picked up by *News Week*. I got Instagram verified and that blue

checkmark – that's helped a lot. The biggest thing is doing crazy videos that get reposted a lot. Also, what I do is super unique and you don't necessarily have to be into fishing to be fascinated by sharks.

Q: What central message do you hope your audience takes away through following you?

A: I always say the ocean is in a state of change and just being aware of what's going on in the world of shark research and shark conservation. In the beginning, it was more about the crazy catch and making it look cool. Now, I've shifted everything towards shark education, awareness, research and information – it's the message I want to be promoting.

Leo Chapman billfish.inc

Though only in his early 20's, Leo Chapman is the founder of Billfish Inc. A highly recognized offshore fishing page established



Chapman and the crew of Hey Chama and their third-place finish at Los Sueños, Leg III.

on Instagram and Facebook, Billfish started out as a small hobby that has grown into a well-respected social media brand. Founded in 2014, Billfish specializes in sharing emerging trends in the fishing and boating industry. Billfish and its activities are guided by a singular mission – providing value in the form of entertainment and sharing information to the offshore fisherman. The company's latest venture, Billfish Gear, started by selling out on their first run of stickers – and reinvesting every penny earned – in the course of launching a line of performance fishing apparel. Established as one of the premier Instagram accounts on the billfishing landscape, this is just the beginning for Billfish.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about your background and how you got started fishing?

A: My grandpa always believed that the best way to keep a family together is to invest in a boat. So that's where it all started. Growing up, my family owned a 46-foot Bertram known as the *Hey Chama*. I took my first steps on that boat. I started fishing when I was about ten years old with my dad in his 21-foot Contender and later on a 54-foot Bertram. We ultimately upgraded to the latest *Hey Chama*, a 64-foot Bayliss. On the Bayliss, we travel around the world and fish from the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica all the way to North Carolina.

Q: What type of posts are your followers most interested in?

A: Our slogan is by fishermen for fishermen. That's because the people in our community really are out there doing this on a weekly basis. For us, the best piece of content is one that provides information – whether it be in the form of education, inspiration or just debating on a subject. And it's always fun to talk to our followers in the comments and hear everyone's opinions and see each other's points.

Q: What's the #1 key to a successful post for someone looking to build their influence?

A: A successful post in our eyes is not based

on how many likes or comments you get. For us, the most successful posts are the ones that provide the most value to our audience. This value can take the form of entertainment or sharing useful information, but it should not come at the expense of moral boundaries. Lust for growth won't make us stray away from our content strategy, we'd rather grow more slowly and be respected than share attention grabbing posts that don't actually have a goal except maybe going viral. What separates us from the rest is that we're one of the only brands or pages that are run by fishermen who are out there competing and placing in top tournaments like the Triple Crown in Costa Rica.

Captain Nick Stanczyk @captnickstanczyk

Captain Nick Stanczyk is one of the most recognizable and fastest-growing names in the sportfishing industry. From being central to pioneering daytime swordfishing in the Florida Keys, to having a show on the Weather Channel, and not being afraid to bring bananas on the boat - there's a lot to like about Capt. Nick. Beyond the consistent swordish action in his own backyard, Nick also frequently travels the world in search of monster broadbill - fishing in such far-flung destinations as Tasmania. Sharing his impressive catches on social media, with a following of over 99,000 people, Stanczyk has effectively optimized his charter business. Nick also manages the social media accounts for Bud N' Mary's Marina (the Islamorada institution that is owned by his family) that have over 80,000 followers on Instagram.

Q: What factors do you attribute to your main account's growth and popularity?

A: I do fish a lot, so I have a lot of content, pictures and videos. Taking the time to put together a decent shot and composing something that looks really good is important. And then, working with other companies in the same industry, they kind of help promote you as well as you promoting them. So cross

promotion helps everyone to grow their sales and accounts.

Q: What has been your biggest or trendiest post?

A. We caught a giant 757-pounder swordfish on March 31st. This got the most traction of any social media posts I've done. Probably because it was a huge fish, one of the biggest ever caught by a recreational fisherman in the United States, that post got a lot of attention and engagement. We made a couple YouTube videos from it and quite a few news stations picked it up. It got a lot of views for us, one video had over 500,000 and another 350,000 views.

Q: In some form, every account has critics. What's your advice for handling criticism?

A: Sometimes you receive some negative comments. For instance, I put up a video once of cleaning a fish and nine out of ten people would say, "WOW, that was really good," and I thought I did a decent job filleting it. But of course, some people would critique it and comment things like, "Oh, what a waste. You left so much meat on there." So, people are going to try to pick you a part, but I guess you kind of just have to let it go in one ear and out the other. Even if you have a post with a little bit of backfire, it usually doesn't last very long. Stay positive, keep doing what you're doing, and the audience that likes watching your stuff will continue to support you.





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Darcie @_darcizzle_

Darcie Arahill, better known as *Darcizzle* on her social media accounts, didn't originally set out to be a woman figure in sportfishing. She initially started out on Instagram, where her account really took off by posting catches from offshore fishing trips with her boyfriend Brian. As her likes and followers began to grow, Darcizzle Offshore was born on Facebook with a page-like count of over 120,000. Darcizzle is recognized most on her YouTube channel, where she posts videos two times a week and has a subscriber count of over 265,000.

Q: What factors do you attribute to your main account's growth and popularity?

A: Well, number one, being a girl in a predominately man's sport. Two, I mean it's hot in Florida so I'm also wearing a bikini which can be a draw of course. But also, I think my passion for fishing really comes through in my videos. My fans tell me this all the time, that I get so enthusiastic and upbeat whether it's a big fish or a little fish, I'm super excited. People really like the passion I express for fishing. Also, that I'm out there following my dreams, and if I can do it, they can do the same for theirs.

Q: In what single way has social media most changed the sportifshing industry?

A: It's definitely brought more eyes to the sport. I feel like a lot more people are fishing these days which is amazing. Social media has provided so much more content, whether it be how-to information, tips and techniques. For instance, I have a cast net video that's gotten a great response. Not only has social media put eyes on the sport, but really giving others advice and the skills for different types of fishing so they can do it, too. It's bringing positivity to the sport and not just the catches.

Q: What's the #1 key to a successful post for someone looking to build their influence?

A: Number one, always have original content and post your own photos. Also, you want to post newer photos, you don't really want to go back in the day with really old photos because social media algorithms pick up on that and they don't perform as well.

It's also important to try and have people react and comment on your photos. Engagement on your page is highly important, more so than the likes and follows. You want to be interactive with your

followers by responding to their comments. It shows you care and not just full of yourself.

Capt. Rick Murphy @captrickmurphy

A fishing guide for 37 years in the Florida Keys, Everglades and Biscayne Bay, Murphy is the CEO of RM Media, executive producer and host of *Sportsman's Adventures*, *Florida Insider Fishing Report* and *Texas Insider Fishing Report*. Captain Rick Murphy sets the standard for doing it all in the marine industry. Established across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, each show has its own social media page with a power team of brand ambassadors putting out fresh content daily. Whether it's through TV or his social media content, Murphy offers fishing tips, techniques, how-to's for managing your gear, rods, reels and boating maintenance – along with conservation efforts.



Q: In what single way has social media most changed the sportfishing industry?

A: I think the one thing I see about social media, that we didn't have earlier when I started my career and certainly my fishing career, is the accessibility to touch people. Whether you have only 100 fans or 100,000 fans, you have the ability to put out an idea, message, a new technique or a spot. The key is that you have those people in one click and your message is immediately felt.

Q: Any exciting projects in store for 2019 that your followers should get excited about?

A: We want the younger generation to have somebody affiliated with our company to follow and someone who they can look up to as a role model. So, this year in 2019, we created a YouTube channel called Sportman's Adventures Reel Life. The YouTube team is made up of young adults in their 20s who are all very good at fishing all different ways. We're going out and shooting eight- to ten-minute YouTube films of their particular adventures and the way these younger kids talk to each other. They're covering what's cool and maybe something to us we forgot about fishing. They're reinventing it in their own way, which is really cool they're able to do that.



Q: What makes your pages unique compared to similar accounts?

A: The timeliness of our pages are what makes them so unique. Because we have so many things to do and contractual obligations, with 58 sponsors, we're busy. Everything we're putting up on Facebook and Instagram is what's happening right then and is so relevant because were constantly working at it.



Carey Chen @careychenart

Marine artist, Carey Chen, has established an impressive portfolio that merges his love for sportfishing and life at sea. His career as an influencer draws from the perspective he offers through paintings and photographs in some of the world's most impressive fisheries. With a following of over 68,000 on Instagram, Carey keeps the community on their toes for the next wild photo or video going on across the sportfishing realm.

Q: How did you get started on social media and what do you use your account for?

A: A friend of mine just said to me one day, "Let's try to get on Instagram." Before that I'd been on Facebook for a while. I've built up a lot of content because I'm always traveling, so I have a lot of photos and stories to tell and Instagram's really worked out good for me. I do about 40 tournaments a year, and I'm a feature artist for about 60, so I get to travel the islands and see what most people don't get to see. I enjoy visiting the beautiful Caribbean, beautiful water and getting to fish a lot, so that's my office.



Q: Can you tell us a little bit about your background as an artist?

A: Well I was a fisherman before I was an artist, so that's how I've gotten to see marlins close up and all the colors of these fish. That's how it sticks in my head. I get my inspiration from fishing, and the unique thing about sportfishing art, marlins and billfish and stuff like that, is that you only have a few seconds to see the fish. You know, there's a lot of photos and artwork of lions and tigers out there that you can paint from, but you don't really get to be in the water and see a marlin coming at you.



Q: What have you found to be most rewarding about working in social media?

A: Let me tell you, it is so rewarding when somebody from Africa messages you or someone from New Zealand, or anywhere, and says, "Hey, I want a painting," or "Can I buy artwork for my t-shirts?" The new thing that I am doing is digital art which is on the computer or an iPad. I paint all these incredible scenes, and I'm able to email them directly to a client all over the world.

Conclusion

So, what does it take to stand out and earn your star as a sportfishing influencer? Like a lot of success stories, it's a mixture of luck, hard work, actively networking and being in the right place at the right time (or even better, where the fish are biting)!

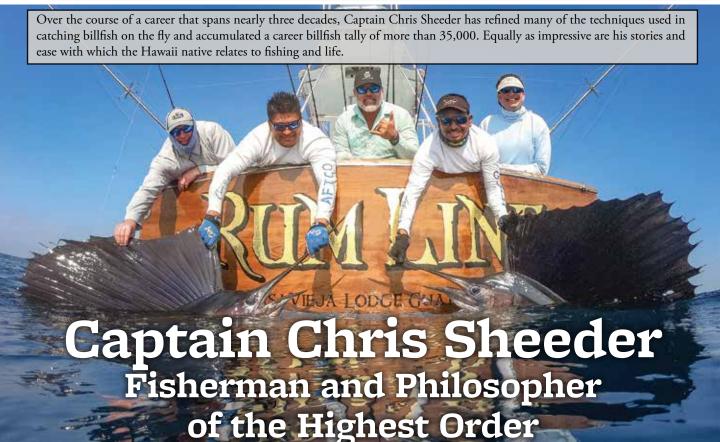








CHARTER DOCKS: Influential Charter Captains Share Their Experience



by Elliott Stark

While there are days when you'll catch a bunch of fish and there are days when you get skunked, as a general rule you should probably not trust anyone who says that he or she does not enjoy fishing with Captain Chris Sheeder. Sheeder is laid back, quick with a joke and more than generous when it comes to sharing his experience and perspective. As for dock credibility, how does a career billfish tally of over 35,000 sound? Never one for bragging or self-promotion, you'd never know that his catch count is top two in history or that many of the modern approaches for bluewater fly fishing were refined in his cockpit.

Growing up in Honolulu, Sheeder's affinity for the ocean started early. "My dad had a couple of friends who had charter boats. When I was 11, my Dad took me on my first trip offshore out of Kona. I had gotten good grades and it was a job well done kind of thing. It was on Ed Isaac's boat. Ed, Norm, and Neil introduced me to marlin," Sheeder recalls. "In the early afternoon a big fish showed up on the short corner – on a lure I had put together. The week before my Dad took me to the tackle shop, and I picked out a head and skirt and put

it together. It got some funny looks, but that's what the fish ate."

"Three hours into the fight, it broke off. I was devastated," Chris explains. "The old man came down to console a devastated child. He said, 'That fish may be gone, but you'll remember this day forever.' He was right. In a lot of ways, it seems like I'm still chasing that fish. If I'd have caught it, we might not be talking."

"Ever since the Kona trip, fishing has been a drug, an addiction. It was hard to go to school when your high school overlooked the fishing grounds and you could see the boats hooking up. I started out like everybody – cleaning boats and fish, taking pictures. Then I was a mate and a captain," Sheeder says. "I worked up through the best outfit in the harbor through my early years, they had three boats and I eventually ran one. It was in Kewalo Basin, home of Choy's Monster."

"One day, a fella named John Bone with Midway Sportfishing tracked me down. He was trying to bring in some guys from Hawaii to fish with him. I was there five years," Sheeder recalls. "The fishing was great. It was a little bit more seasonal than Hawaii and it had a good mix of inshore and offshore fishing. There were big fish in the summer – most over 500. I won the first Aftco Tag Flag, the Billfish Foundation's contest, in 1999 for tagging blues. The best day I ever had offshore was releasing two fish that were probably granders. The biggest fish I ever weighed was 927 – these two were at least as big. There were also lots of giant GT (giant trevally). The place was polluted with them."

"Fly fishing started for me there. I had a client who was fly fishing for GT and asked if they could catch a blue marlin on fly. I said, 'Sure, why not?' I went to Costa Rica a few

months before and saw the offshore fly deal, but I'd never thought about blues. That day we raised double blues – 400-500 each. We had a massive bite. It sent shivers down everyone's back and might have been on for only 22 seconds! It broke off but it didn't matter – if you've ever seen a blue marlin eat a fly you know that nothing else after that really matters. I've been hooked ever since."

"Midway closed to tourists the next summer, and I moved to Costa Rica because of that fish," Sheeder recalls. "I felt bad for all of the fly fishermen. They'd spend \$10,000 and prepare for months – tying knots and making flies. Then, when guys would see them walking down the dock with their fly rods, the crews would say, 'Shit! We have to fly fish today.' They'd been looking forward to this for months."

"I fished at Crocodile Bay when it first opened in 2000 and was there for the next few years. Fly fishermen kind of flocked to me. I always asked about their skill, their background, whether they'd done this before and where. I'd ask them, 'How many did you catch there?' Clients kept saying Guatemala and the numbers they caught were massive."

"I got a hold of Tim Choate," Chris says. Choate was opening Fins and Feathers in Guatemala. "I signed on for six months – which turned into 18 plus years in Guatemala. Fins and Feathers shut down in 2006. A client of mine that I'd fished with a bunch and I took care of – I'd arrange a private house for him and his group, etc., asked me what I was going to do next. Then he said, 'Who's going to take care of me?' I said, 'Buy a boat and I'll take care of you.' He picked up a *Marlin Magazine*, turned to the back and asked me, 'What do you think of a 37 Merritt?' I told him, let's just enjoy your trip and we can talk about it."

That client's name was Jim Turner. The 37 Merritt would soon be the *Release*. "Jim got home on a Monday. He called Tuesday and said, 'Here's your ticket, let's look at the Merritt." That was the beginning of Casa Vieja Lodge.

"Turner and I set record for release on fly in day. We set out to do 30 – the record was 27. We caught 57 – he caught 54 of them. At the time that was the record for any gear – fly or conventional," Sheeder recalls. "I kind of specialized in fly fishing in Guatemala. With Jake Jordan, my first mate Nico Melendrez, we kind of changed many of the fly techniques used. It used to be a lot of long casts and a lot of stripping – you'd lose a lot of fish that way."

Sheeder's adaptations to the bluewater approach to fly fishing for billfish include cutting down the fly line to the bare essential and cutting down on the running line (for marlin outfits, they got rid of it all together). Each of these



An old fisherman lives here with the catch of his life – Captain Chris and wife Elisa.

modifications are designed to reduce line drag in the water. Sheeder also adopted a single hook rig, "It's safer for the mates and for the fish and the hook up ratio is just as good, if not a little better," he says. "We would also tease the fish in closer to the boat. This not only raises the percentage, but makes the process even more cool because you're hooking fish at your feet. We also changed the tease process. "Instead of the 'stop and start, wait for the fish to show on the surface before you wind' approach, we go with the assumption that each fish has a limited number of bites he'll give up in an attack. Why waste them on teasers? Once the fish shows on a specific teaser, get it to the boat as quick as possible, whether he sinks, fades or stays strong - you'll end up with a fresher, more aggressive fish to deal with behind the boat in the strike zone instead of farting around with him outside of casting range. This especially holds true with blue marlin. I've seen blues that we could tease forever, but once they get a hold of that teaser a few times, it's over!"

While Sheeder's career catch numbers



Sheeder up close and personal with a Midway Island monster.

(35,000-plus billfish, with more than 1,500 blue marlin), list of tournament wins, and records (he personally holds the 16-pound and 20-pound tippet records for giant trevally on the fly – both fish were just shy of 80-pounds) are impressive, they may in fact be over shadowed by how nice of a guy he is. Known for his sense of humor and keeping it light on the boat, Sheeder's list of pranks and jokes is great.

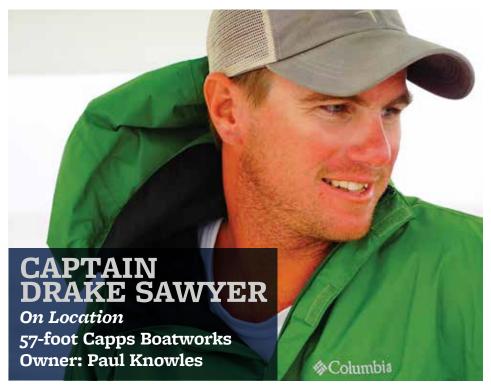
"One time in a tournament Jim Turner brought a pig down in a bag. He released it aboard the Intensity. By the time they caught it, it had taken a couple of shits down stairs," he says with a laugh. "It all started with a guy going back to the lodge and finding a horse in his room." In retaliation for the pig being loosed on the boat, Sheeder arrived to his boat one morning to find a goat on board. "It was in a tournament. It was me, Jim Turner and Erik Lorentzen on board. We are all big guys, together we are over 1,000 pounds. Instead of returning the goat, we turned the joke around and said 'Thanks! We'll eat it for lunch,' and left. The fellow who owned the goat was a bit upset, but we won that tournament...and yes he got his goat back."

"We also had a disco ball that we would raise like a flag every time we won a tournament and it got a good work out for many years," Sheeder says. While many have seen photos of the ball, there is more to the story. "It was an actual working disco ball that came from a local Cat House. I don't ask too many questions, but you need to be some kind of ninja to complete that mission! I'm not sure how it wound up on the boat but there it was one morning at 5:00am spinning on the center rigger with the Bee Gees playing full throttle! We won that tournament too and from then on it was a *Rum Line* tradition."

Chris Sheeder recently left Casa Vieja Lodge. The next step in the captain's lifetime fishing adventure is yet to play out. Like his approach to fishing and life, Sheeder is philosophical in thinking about his place in the world. "Everything good that's ever happened in my life happened on my boat - including meeting my wife." Elisa was working for a sponsor of a tournament and met Chris while fishing on his boat. "I don't feel like I'm in the sportfishing business, I'm in the dream fulfillment business. It might sound cheesy, but fishing is a great way of enriching other people's lives. It's been my avenue to making life time memories. How can you touch other people's lives? Take them fishing. Lots of people think about a day spent together for a long, long time."

This statement rings honestly for Captain Chris Sheeder. For a reminder, he just needs to think about a day of fishing when he was 11.

From Texas Party Boat to 1,000 Blue Marlin by 30



by Charlie Levine

Many captains are born into the fishing industry and taken under the wing of their fathers or an uncle. But you don't have to be born into this industry to succeed. The majority of captains who make it to the top of the ladder work harder than the rest and never stop learning. Drake Sawyer falls in line with that ethos. And when you have some of the biggest names in offshore fishing singing your praises, you know you're doing something right.

The 29-year-old captain is originally from Port Aransas, Texas. Drake began working on boats at 14 and never stopped. He started as a mate on charter boats and head boats (party boats, if you're from Port Aransas), fishing for king mackerel and red snapper in the Gulf. When he was 16, he fished his first billfish tournament on a 31 Bertram.

"That was my first exposure to tournaments," Sawyer says. "The runs were long and very wet on that 31. We didn't billfish much on that boat, but we fished a handful of tournaments. The majority of the time we were meat fishing."

Throughout high school the burgeoning young skipper bounced around and kept

working on head boats. Soon he landed a job on a 61-footer but when the skipper took the boat to Mexico, he left Drake without a ride.

"That winter I had just left college and I was working on any boat I could," he says. "The captain of a 42 Tiara named *On Location* saw me buffing a boat in the middle of a cold front and asked me if I could help him. After he had seen my hard work, he asked me to fish with him in Mexico, so I ended up fishing down there that season regardless."

On Location was owned by Paul Knowles from Corpus Christi, Texas. Ten years later, Drake is still working for Paul. From 2009 to 2011 Drake mated on the boat as they fished Isla Mujeres and Puerto Aventuras, Mexico, and then headed back to the Gulf for the summer.

In 2010, Paul purchased a 57-foot custom boat built by Nelva Capps of Virginia Beach, Virginia. The boat was only four years old at the time and had 800 hours on it. With a larger boat, the *On Location* team began traveling more. They ventured over the Bahamas then up to Massachusetts in search of giant bluefin tuna before heading back down the coast to fish the Gulf circuit. Then in 2013 they set sail for the Pacific, running through the Panama Canal. They fished Piñas Bay, and upon the urging of Drake, decided to hit the FADs in Costa Rica. That was their home base until this past fall.

As the mate, Drake kept learning everything he could from tackle to engine maintenance. In 2014, Drake got his shot to run the program. He was 24.

"A lot of the things the previous captains taught me turned out to be incorrect," Drake says. "We started fishing the tournaments in Costa Rica and I realized I had no idea how to sailfish, at least down there where you're fishing next to some of the best in the world in one of the best fisheries. We needed to learn how to do this or we were just wasting money. I asked questions to everyone on the dock I possibly could."

The young skipper befriended some of the most respected captains in the industry. Gentlemen like Bubba Carter, John Bayliss and Chip Shafer. Those were the men he fished next to, and those were the men he emulated. Drake's hard work in the cockpit and bilge paid off. He caught an average of 900 bill-fish per season in Costa Rica and released his 1,000th blue marlin at the age of 28.

"I took the boat over with 3,000 hours on





THE YOUNG GUNS OF SPORTFISHING CONTINUED



The *On Location* and Captain Drake are switching from a numbers approach in Costa Rica to fishing for large blue marlin in Madeira in 2019 and 2020.

it," he says. "We're at 10,700 now, in the last

In Costa Rica, the crew exclusively teaser

fished, and they've got it dialed. "Paul would

come by himself to fish the FADs for five

days, and he pitches every single fish," Drake

says. "On his best day he caught 20 blue

marlin. The boat caught 22. The only reason

five years. We've been fishing it hard."

Paul didn't catch the other two was because they were doubles."

For any boat to put up big numbers and hit goals, the crew must work together. "Paul is a really good boss to work for," Drake says. "We always come up with a game plan, but when it comes time to fish, he trusts me to make the calls."



After more than 1,000 blue marlin, Drake may be as comfortable with the boat in reverse as going forward.

After finishing their Costa Rica deployment in 2018, the *On Location* headed to Mexico's Baja Peninsula to fish Cabo and Mag Bay. "I'd been egging Paul on to do that trip for the last couple of years. When we decided to move the boat out of the Pacific, it made sense to take advantage of that destination before we go. We got lucky and hit it on a good year."



The team fished three multi-day trips out of Mag Bay for a total of 12 days of fishing. They released 652 striped marlin – more than 200 billfish per trip! "It's an absolute incredible fishery," Drake says.

After Mag Bay, the *On Location* headed back to the U.S. to get some work done for its next big adventure... Madeira, the Canaries and Portugal. "We let our 1,000th blue marlin go this last FAD season in Costa Rica and now we want to go and try to catch a 1,000-pounder," Drake says. That's quite a changeup from teaser fishing on light tackle.

The plan is to ship the boat to Madeira in June and keep it there for two seasons. In 2020, they'll embark on some serious travel, fishing for tuna in the Canary Islands in March and April, grander blue marlin in Madeira from May through August, white marlin off Portugal in September and October, then back to the Canaries. There is much work to be done. It's a 13-year-old custom boat, so there's plenty of glass and finish work to keep them busy. They're also installing a transformer to be able to keep regular voltage with Euro power. And then there's the tackle.



"We've got a lot to learn about heavy tackle," Drake says. "I'm looking forward to switching gears. It's a whole new fishery to put my mind to. My boss and I have been working really hard. He's working on his technique as an angler, and I'm working on mine as a captain."

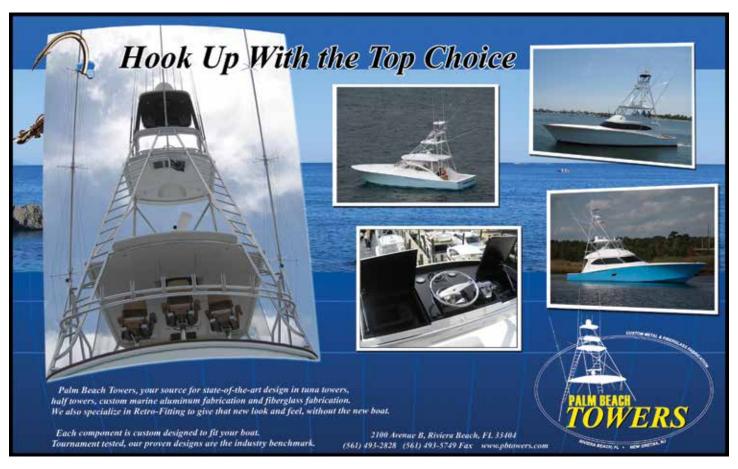
They'll be fishing 130-pound tackle almost exclusively, at least in the beginning. "I don't want the right one to show up and be under gunned," Drake says. "I'm starting to gear my head toward the tackle and getting as many recommendations as I can as to what we need before I get over there. It's going to be fun."

The crew has caught two blues around 700 pounds in the Gulf of Mexico and a hand-

ful of blue marlin in the 350- to 400-pound range in Costa Rica. It's definitely a big learning curve but the young captain is ready to put his skills to the test.

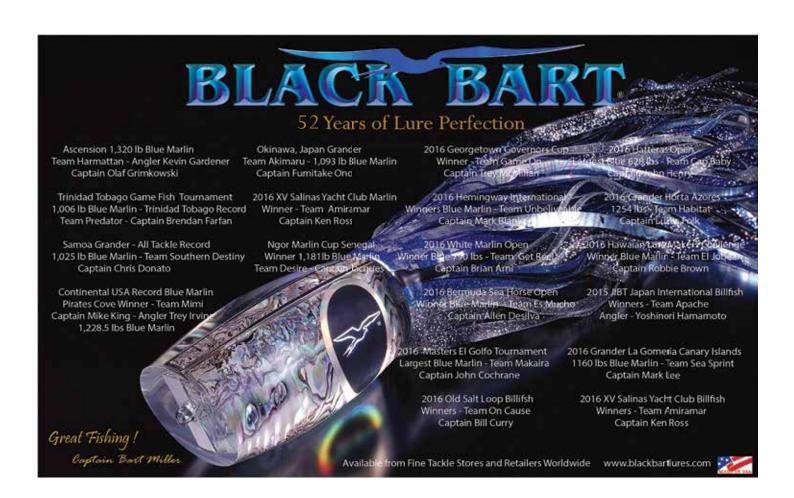
"We will start lure fishing then move over to teaser fishing," he says. "If we get to switch on one over 800 pounds, we'll have accomplished our goal."

The opportunity to travel and experience new fisheries is the ultimate dream job for Capt. Drake Sawyer, but it took a lot of hard work to make it happen. "Fishing is all I've ever done," he says. "Luckily I've had owner like Paul who has given me lots of opportunity to spend time on the water."













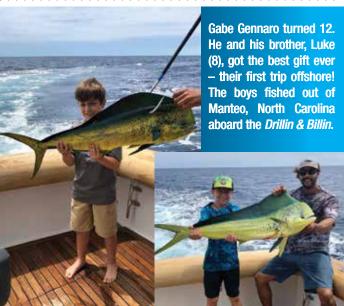
Send us your Little Bites! Email your kids fishing photos to info@inthebite.com and you may see them in an upcoming issue.



If kissing a frog can turn it into a prince, what happens if you kiss your bait? Sailfish! Just ask Colton Shields who fishes on the 62-foot Viking SeaFlame.



Captain Gary Spivack makes a habit of turning kids onto fishing. Here are a couple happy groups of happy clients. Atticus and Isaiah Adams (both 9) with their father and some Spanish mackerel. Brady Sannito caught a mess of mackerel with his brothers and grandpa.





Miss Wynne Taylor pictured showing her old man, Winslow, the ropes offshore. Nice bluefish little lady, keep the pictures coming!





Tommy and Easton Bradley smiling it up with a cow dolphin they caught out of Charleston. These brothers light it up offshore!



Father and son Jimmy and James Leto with a nice Palm Beach wahoo. There's about a 1,000% chance that this photo is framed and displayed some place in the house or office!



At Bertram, we've got plenty of history. We took sportfishing to uncharted waters, introduced the first production deep-vee hull, and created the large offshore "battlewagon" category. But the story of Bertram is one about never looking back. Which is why we're introducing the Bertram 61, a new leader in its class. Though to be fair to the rest of the class, it's really in a category of its own.

The new 61 is unmistakably Bertram, and undeniably original. And those sharp, clean lines are just the beginning. Get ready to experience performance, durability and comfort like nothing else on the water.

In true Bertram fashion, we took every detail, and cranked it up to 11. That means rugged infused vinylester construction, a modern deep-vee hull, 1925MHP CAT diesel engines, a panoramic salon windshield, Octoplex digital switching, a Seakeeper gyro stabilizer, the finest appliances and components, and all of it comes standard.

The Bertram 61 is like nothing that's come before it. It's hard to admit, but not even another Bertram comes close. We're proud of our past, but when you're a true original, you can't be afraid to write a completely new chapter.

DISCOVER MORE AT BERTRAM.COM



New Line of Headwear from Billfish Gear

Three years ago, a group of fishermen known as Billfish.inc released their first batch of stickers. Since then, they've been commit-



Gear combines clean abstract designs with high quality fabrics to create products that stand out. What started out as a dream, now manifests itself as full line of high-performance fishing gear. The Red, White and Blue Snap Back Hat (pictured) costs \$27.99. Check out the collection at www.billfish.site.

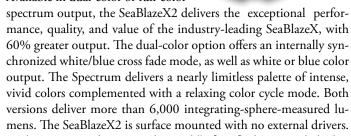


Cockpit Line Up from Bubba -**More than Just Quality Knives**

With their distinctive red, nonslip handles and prowess in processing fish, everybody knows about Bubba's fillet knives. The brand now offers a full line of fishing products and accessories – with more to come. The following is a "boat pack" from Bubba. While all of the products are for sale individually, you can now purchase quite a few your cockpit essentials in the same place. 7.5" Fishing Pliers (\$52.99) are spring loaded and equipped with carbide line cutters and crimp tool cutouts. They also feature nonslip handles. The 9" Tapered Flex (\$57.99) is Bubba's take on the classic fillet knife. Sharp edged and nonslip, this knife is useful on a variety of species. The Sculpin Pocket Knife (\$52.99) is a very sharp, heavy duty doit-all pocket knife. It's great to throw in a boat pack or to carry as a utility knife for fishing applications. The line also includes a series of carbon fiber gaffs (\$259.99), complete with corrosion resistant stainless-steel hooks and non-slip Bubba handles. Bubba's Ultimate Fillet Gloves and Ultimate Fishing Gloves (\$37.99) are engineered for comfort and protection, incorporating Kevlar into the palm and finger areas, for use when fishing or processing your catch. For more, or to order yours, visit www.bubbablade.com.



The SeaBlazeX2 is the next generation of Lumitec's highly successful SeaBlazeX. Available in dual-color or full-color



The Razor Light Bar is the world's first flush-mount light bar designed for easy integration into most existing hardtop, arch, and pilothouse designs - typically with only minor modification to production tooling. When mounted facing forward, Razor's long-throw and high position are great for spotting markers and obstructions. When positioned downward and aft, Razor floods cockpits, gunwales and surrounding areas with more than 10,000 night-piercing lumens. Better still, Lumitec's thermally-vetted reference designs allow OEMs to avoid the overheating and subsequent damage to hardtops that can be caused by enclosing other manufacturer's light bars in a 'pod.' The Razor is also available in a surface-mount configuration, which mounts directly to un-modified hardtop surfaces. For more, visit www.lumiteclighting.com.

CleanWell Botanical Hand Sanitizer – Kid and Boat Friendly

Fishing is a good way to get slimy and covered in blood and scales. Botanical Hand Sanitizers from CleanWell are a great addition to tackle box or boat bag especially if you're fishing with kids. The alcohol-free formula uses a plant and mineral based formula to disinfect - without the harsh fumes or stinging their cuts. Available on Amazon and in a variety of retailers. For more, visit www.cleanwelltoday.com.









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SINCE 2003 -

2019 CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR CUP STANDINGS



FLORIDA DIVISION

Capt. Ryan Alexander, HellReyzer, 800 Points Capt. Art Sapp, Native Son, 800 Points Capt. Nick Carullo, Showtime, 750 Points

Capt. Wink Doerzbacher, Showtime!, 500 Points

Capt. David Grubbs, Grand Slam, 500 Points

Capt. Joe Garberoglio, Fragrant Harbor, 500 Points

Capt. Luis Coll, Utopia, 500 Points

Capt. KJ Zeher, De-Bait-able, 500 Points

Capt. Marty Lewis, Main Attraction, 500 Points

Capt. Jerry Pohl, Seraphim, 500 Points

Capt. Craig Clark, Mr. Grinch, 500 Points

Capt. John Dudas, Sandman, 400 Points



INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

Capt. Russell Sinclair, Wave Paver, 1250 Points

Capt. Ben Horning, Fish Tank, 1050 Points

Capt. Ed Dwyer, Bear Trap, 800 Points

Capt. Tony Carrizosa, *Team Galati*, 500 Points

Capt. John Brennan, Game Plan, 500 Points Capt. Brent Gaskill, Builder's Choice, 500 Points Capt. Brooks Smith, Uno Mas, 500 Points

Capt. Robert Helms, Que Mas, 500 Points

Capt. Simon Gonzales, Spanish Fly, 500 Points

Capt. Jerry Owens, Electric Bill, 500 Points

Capt. Jim Werling, *Plane Simple*, 400 Points Capt. Victor "Pia" Ceballos, *The King and I*, 300 Points Capt. Carl Schloderler, *Pelagic Magic*, 300 Points

Capt. Eddie Wheeler, *Cabana*, 300 Points

Capt. Ronnie Fields, *Big Oh*, 300 Points

Capt. Lance Hightower, Vaquero, 300 Points

Capt. Chris Kaulin Marlin Darlin, 300 Points

Capt. Scott Adams, Viking 80, 300 Points



Capt. Dan Woody, Syked Out, 500 Points Capt. Ryan Knapp, Top Dog, 500 Points Capt. Chris Russell, Piracy, 500 Points

Capt. Bobby Garmany, *Bench Mark*, 500 Points Capt. Mike Glaesner, *Sportin' Life*, 300 Points

Capt. Kenny Midgett, Marlin Gull, 300 Points

Capt. Bubba Simmons, Rare Breed, 300 Points

Capt. Grant Bentley, Home Run, 100 Points

Capt. Bull Tolson, Sea Toy, 100 Points

Capt. Kevin Overstreet, Tighten Up, 100 Points

FURUNO

GULF COAST DIVISION

Capt. Jeff Shoults, Mollie, 1000 Points

Capt. Robbie Doggett, Relentless Pursuit, 1000 Points

Capt. Mike Rowell, Annie Girl, 500 Points Capt. Joey Birbeck, You Never Know!, 500 Points Capt. Scooter Porter, Fleur de Lis, 500 Points Capt. Chris Blanchet, Reel Fire, 300 Points

Capt. Chris Hood, It Just Takes Time, 300 Points

Capt. Jason Buck, *Done Deal*, 300 Points

Capt. Leslie Van Norman, Easy Rider II, 300 Points Capt. Myles Colley, Born 2 Run, 100 Points

Capt. Mitch Latoff III, Salty Dog, 100 Points

Capt. JJ Tabor, Double J, 100 Points

Capt. Brennan Moore, Pullin Wire, 100 Points



HAWAII DIVISION

Capt. Chuck Wigzell, *EZ Pickens*, 500 Points Capt. Shawn Palmer, Miss Mojo, 300 Points Capt. Greg "Stretch" Fogarty, Hula Girl, 100 Points OFFICIAL APPAREL













2018 Winners







East Coast Capt. Alan Neiford

Gulf Coast Capt. Jason Buck

Florida Capt. John Dudas



Hawaii Capt. Rob Ellvn



International Capt. Greg DiStefano

East Coast

2017 Capt. Chucky Moore 2016 Capt. Harvey Shiflet 2015 Capt. Gary Richardson 2014 Capt. Mike King

Lopez Pizarro

2014 Capt, Rob Moore

Florida

2017 Capt. Glenn Cameron 2016 Capt. Scott Fawcett 2015 Capt. Jim Mulcahy 2014 Capt. Wink Doerzbacher

Gulf Coast

2017 Capt, Jason Buck 2016 Capt. Devin Potts 2015 Capt. Robbie Doggett 2014 Capt. Jason Buck

Hawaii

2017 Capt, "Stymie" Epstein 2016 Capt. Kerwin Masunaga 2015 Capt. Kerwin Masunaga 2014 Capt. Rob Ellyn

International

2017 Capt. Russell Sinclair 2016 Capt. Victor Julio 2015 Capt. Russell Sinclair

2013 Capt. Wink Doerzbacher 2012 Capt. Rob Moore

2011 Capt. Glenn Cameron 2010 Capt. Ronnie Fields 2009 Capt. John Dudas 2008 Capt. Travis Butters 2007 Capt. John Dudas

2006 Capt. Ronnie Woodruff 2005 Capt. Mike Brady 2004 Capt. Eddie Wheeler

2003 Capt. VJ Bell

SCORING

1ST PLACE: 500 POINTS

 2ND PLACE: 300 POINTS
 3RD PLACE: 100 POINTS HEAVIEST MARLIN: 500 POINTS

OVERALL CHAMPIONSHIP: 250 POINTS

For updates, inquiries and a complete list of the current standings, head to www.inthebite.com





Capt. Ryan Knapp Top Dog

Homeport: Sunset Marina, Ocean

City, Maryland

Boat: 60-foot Buddy Cannady Power: Twin C18s, 2,000 hp Wins to Date: Hatteras Village Offshore Open, 1st Place

with Captain Ryan Knapp at the helm, the Top Dog embarks upon a wideranging east coast tournament schedule. Empowered by owners that love to tournament fish, Knapp and mate Philip "Moonpie" Williams won the Hatteras Village Offshore Open and plan to fish the Big Rock and all of the Ocean City tournaments and MidAtlantic this year. "Our owners are always here - they love to tournament fish. We'll run only about 25 charters a year - the rest of the time it's owner trips and tournaments," Knapp says. He describes the heavy tournament line up as one of the benefits to working on this boat.

According to Knapp, the team's approach to the Hatteras Village Tournament as pretty straight forward. "I'm a true believer that you



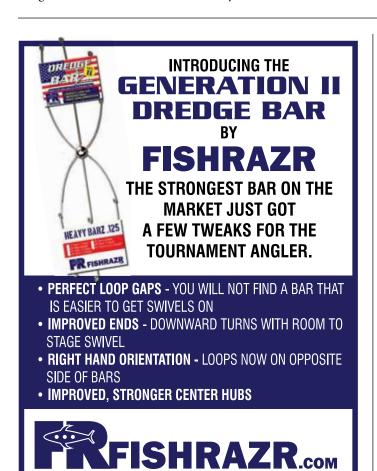
have to put your time in when you're blue marlin fishing," he says. The Top Dog's spread consisted of five lures, plus two teasers and dredges - all rubber. "We had two lures that produced all of our bites in the tournament. We were trolling between 7.5 to 9 knots, depending on the direction (in relation to the current)."

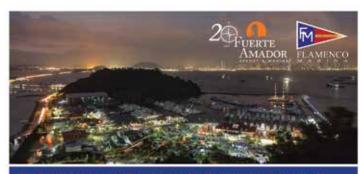
"We caught four blues out of four bites and saw two others. We missed two sails. Right after we killed the 455.5, we put our lines back out and had bigger fish come up and window shop. She came up and checked out our spread before just sinking like a submarine," Knapp says. The Top Dog's tournament crew consisted of just four people on the boat - Knapp, Williams and Todd and Kyle Dickerson - brothers that own the boat.

While it may be easy to enjoy a tournament that you win, Knapp goes out of his way to



compliment Hatteras Village and the event they put on each year. "Hatteras Village is just such a cool spot. There are very few American, fishing, beach towns left. From Florida to Maine, there just aren't many places like it anymore. My bosses really enjoyed the atmosphere and the camaraderie," the Captain explains. The blue marlin fishing was good, too. Tournament boats weighed a 655.9, a 507.7, a 563.9 and Knapp's 455.5.





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INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

Baker's Bay Invitational May 8-12, 2019 Abaco, The Bahamas



The Shootout **Production vs. Custom** May 15-18, 2019 Abaco, The Bahamas



Abaco Diamond Series Champion



AIRMAR'

EAST COAST DIVISION

Hatteras Village Offshore Open May 14-18, 2019 Hatteras, North Carolina



Georgetown Blue Marlin **Tournament** May 22-25, 2019 Georgetown, South Carolina



FURUNO GULF COAST DIVISION

Orange Beach Billfish Classic May 15-19, 2019 Orange Beach, Alabama



MBGFC Memorial Day Tournament May 24-28, 2019 Mobile, Alabama

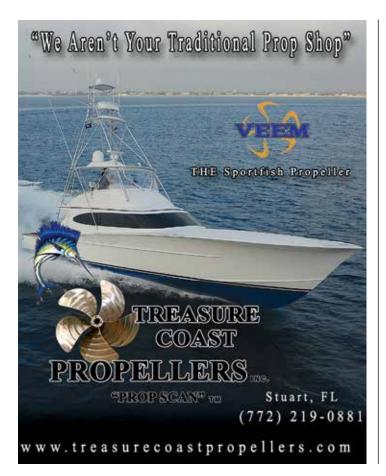


Cajun Canyons Billfish Classic May 28-June 1, 2019 Venice, Louisiana

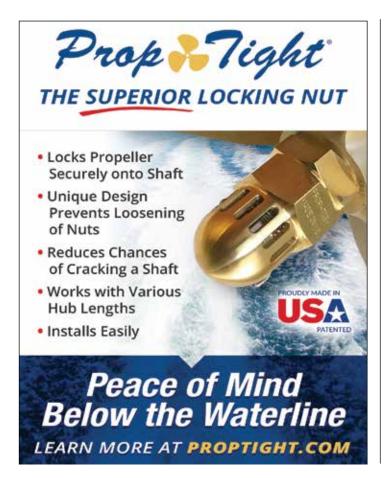


Cayman Billfish Rundown May 14-17, 2019 George Town, Cayman Islands















STERNADVICE

It Only Takes Seconds: Drowning Prevention



By Alexandra Stark Licensed Psychotherapist t only takes seconds and it is the number one cause of death in children under the age of five in the United States. It is silent. Despite the danger, drowning prevention, and water safety in general, can be easy to overlook – especially when you're concentrating on trying to catch fish. With confident, experienced adult boaters, who needs to wear a life jacket? With years of experience, it can be easy to forget how fast things can go wrong. Every summer, the onslaught of

tragic stories begin anew – little babies, brothers, a child of a celebrity, a 7-year-old who was a strong swimmer, and even able bodied adults perish from drowning every year.

The World Health Organization defines drowning as "...the process of experiencing respiratory impairment from submersion or immersion in liquid." Drowning does not discriminate and can occur with any age, race, gender or ethnicity. Each year, the US Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security publish a boating statistics report (for full report: https://www.uscgboating.org/library/accident-statistics/Recreational-Boating-Statistics-2017.pdf). In 2017, there were 4,291 documented accidents during recreational boating. These incidents resulted in 658 deaths. Where the cause of death was known, 78% of those deaths were due to drowning. Some 84.5% of those victims were not wearing a life jacket.

The location of the drowning most often depends on the age of the victim – infants typically drown in the bathtub, children 2-5 typically in a community or backyard pool and older children and adults in naturally occurring bodies of water such as oceans, lakes and rivers. With that said – it is of the utmost importance to review this very preventable tragic ending to life.

Here are a few of the basics in drowning prevention:

- Learn how to swim Take lessons at your local YMCA, ask a friend, teach your kids early. Do what you need to do to learn the basic survival skills in the water. Water is fun, but also dangerous if not taken seriously.
- **2. Always swim in pairs** It sounds like common sense, but don't go swimming alone. Always have someone with you, even if they don't plan to go in the water.
- 3. Wear a life jacket This is a no brainer.
- 4. Pools should always have locked gates
- 5. Never leave children or babies unattended in the bath tub or pool
- **6. Drink alcohol in moderation** if you are fishing or boating

If you are a captain or crew on the boat, there are times that the job will involve taking people to the sand bar or snorkeling on patch reefs and the like. In this context, passenger safety is more important than anything else. People often times assume that you will be able to hear someone in distress – splashing or crying out, the way people at risk of drowning on *Bay Watch* do. Drowning, however, is more often a silent event. If you have a group in the water, put someone in charge of monitoring swimmers. This person should be familiar with the telltale signs of drowning and what a troubled swimmer looks like. Google "Drowning Doesn't Look Like Drowning – by Mario Vittone." If you work on a boat, it would be a good thing to read – though it might scare you.









Adios Poco Bueno – Thanks for the Memories



By Captain Kevin Deerman

Recently, the Texas sportfishing community received news of the cancellation of the Poco Bueno tournament. The cancellation provides a sense of finality to what had been a decline in participation in recent years. It's

been very sad to see this Texas tradition slowly dissipate over the past few years to the point where the Fondren family felt it necessary to finally cancel it completely.

Way back in 1969, Walter Fondren III and a few of his friends started the Poco Bueno. Their mutual interest in Port O'Connor and sportfishing on the Texas coast led them to introduce what would become perhaps the signature offshore event in Texas. Over the years this small 13 boat group transformed into a 100-plus boat tournament – with a waiting list – fishing for purses of over two million dollars.

For many years, Poco was one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world. It brought in many top boats and top crews from all over the globe, all fishing with hope of winning large prize monies and getting their boats name on the perpetual trophy. Up and down the coast, the majority of the Texas sportfishing fleet would enter Poco even if it was the only tournament they fished all year.

There were a few factors that may have contributed to the decrease in participation over the last five years. Such factors as the economy, changes in the venue, the weather cancellation of 2014 or possibly just fishermen wanting a different, more released-cen-

tered tournament could have each played a role in decreased participation. Whatever the reasons, I believe the Fondren family tried their best to make changes over the past few years to increase participation. We are all thankful for their efforts, even if the tournament could not be saved.

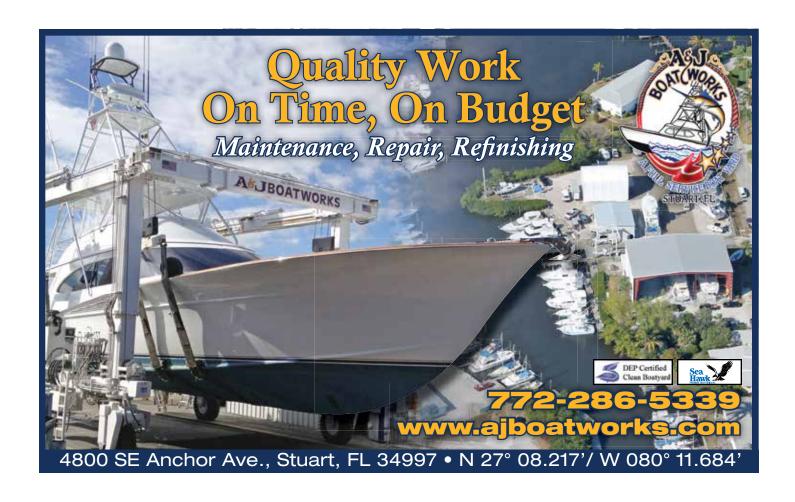
This summer would have been the Poco's 50th anniversary. There are some individuals that hadn't missed a single year since its inception in 1969. Since the cancellation, there has been an outpouring of great pictures shared on social media. These photos reminded us of the many great friends and mentors, past and present, that were part of this huge, annual Texas institution. We will always have many memories of the great times, amazing catches and countless hours of stories of the ones that got away. Many thanks to the whole Fondren family for continuing this tradition for so many years and thanks for the memories.

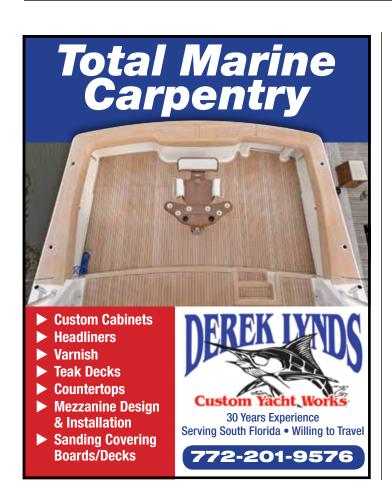
- That's the report from Texas!

For many years, Poco was one of the most prestigious tournaments in the world. It brought in many top boats and top crews from all over the globe.













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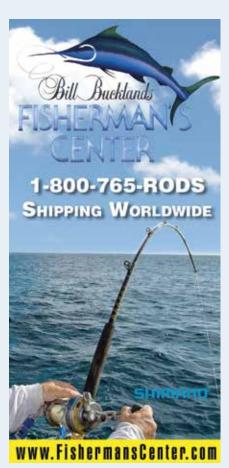


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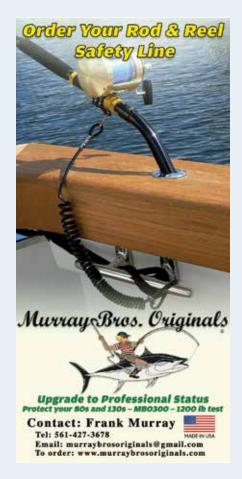


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39' SeaVee 390 B Quad 2013 — 2016 Quad Mercury 350hp. White Engines. 300 Hrs. Warranty through 3/29/2021. Immaculate. Stored under cover since built. Turn-key. Fully loaded! Contact Trey Odom, Downey Yachts: 904-704-8944 or Trey@DowneyYachts.com.



1997 47 Scarborough Express – Low hour CAT power provides nice cruise with efficiency. Boat has received a compete retrofit with all updated. Tower, paint, electronics, interior, motors are all new or rebuilt. Scarborough ride and beauty in a beautiful Express. At \$749K call Thomas R Wynne



20' 1985 DNC - Cold molded center console built in San Jose Costa Rica originally for Tim Choate & then used at Casa Vieja lodge. Boat returned to US & recently fully restored w/ new, systems, bracket & Suzuki 150 HP Power. Scott Dunnuck, 239-821-4722 or scott@gamefisherman.com.



2002 61' Viking, Lady Lane – 4 stateroom 3 head, all satin interior, 12/2000s, water maker, ice maker, nezzanine, bow thruster. Contact John Blumenthal: 772-215-2571, john@unitedyacht.com.



1982 Bertram 38 Mk III – T/3208-300 Cats, 2300 hrs. Lee chair & outrigers, swim/dive platform, new hardwood floors, FB hardtop, new Garmin echoMap DV, Raymarine C120, 2 icom VHFs. Ready to fish/cruise. \$59,500. gspivack@richardbertramyachts.com, 703-628-4424.



40' Ocean Express Sportfish 2005 – CAT 3126s, 1350 hrs. 2 Staterooms, 1 Head, full galley, Garmin Electronics, 360 degrees of sight. Contact Chris Downey, Downey Yachts: 843-847-1760 or Chris@DowneyYachts.com.



36' Invincible 2015 — Triple Yamaha 300s. Less than 600 hours. Garmin Electronics. Hardtop. Rupp Outriggers. Ready to Fish. Contact Chris Downey, Downey Yachts: 843-847-1760 or Chris@DowneyYachts.com.



23' Sea King 2008 – 2012 Yamaha 300. Minn Kota Model PD65 12VDC trolling motor. Raymarine Electronics. 17 Rod Holders. 3 Fishboxes. 2 Livewells. Contact Chris Downey, Downey Yachts: 843-847-1760 or Chris@DowneyYachts.



50' Mikelson 2008 – Cummins QSC 8.3. 2 Staterooms, 2 Heads. 11' Tender with 40hp Yamaha 4stroke. 1000 lb Davit. Onan 13.5 Kw Generator. Watermaker. Built for Rough Seas. Contact Chris Downey, Downey Yachts: 843-847-1760 or Chris@DowneyYachts.com.



2002 52' Viking Sportfish – 1050 Mans 1200 hrs SMOH, continually updated and maintained by Captain, new carpet, ceiling LED Lighting throughout vessel. Vessel is turn key and owner is serious to sell, to move up to larger S/F. \$649,900 Call to schedule an appointment, contact John Blumenthal, 772-215-2571, john@unitedyacht.com.



43' Release Boatworks Walkaround Outboard 2019 — Quad 350 Suzukis, 6-year engine warranty, Seakeeper 6, Sleeps 6 adults, huge cockpit, one-of-a-kind custom sportfish. Contact Tom Downey, Downey Yachts: 561-346-7962 or Tom@DowneyYachts.com.



2003 57 Ocean – Preferred Cat C18's provide 26/28kt speed, serviced & ready to go with low hrs. Huge teak interior with 3/3 (master is full beam) super layout with huge flybridge & cockpit. The nicest 57 available with lots of upgrades. \$489,000. call Thomas R Wynne @ 843-729-5808.



2005 51' Riviera — C-18 Cats, Fastidiously kept and maintained, 3 stateroom, galley down. A.C. in flybridge, Garmin/Nav Net, Water Maker, Eskimo Ice Machine, Turn key right now. Contact John Blumenthal, 772-215-2571, john@unitedyacht.com.



1999 61 Garlington – MAN power provides 30kts at 78gph with low hrs and complete service, 3 staterooms 3 heads in a beautiful teak interior, teak cockpit, nice flybridge and a super clean engine room. All you'd expect and more. VERY well maintained with super upgrades and nothing needed. \$1,775,000. Call Thomas R Wynne 843-729-5808.



39' SeaVee 390z 2016 – 2018 Quad Mercury 350s, 250 hrs. ALL NEW Mercury rigging (wiring harness, gauges, throttles, tie bars, etc.) full warranty, new batteries, new pumps, new bolsters and cushions. Proven Tournament Winner! Contact Chris Downey Yachts: 843-847-1760 or Chris@Downey Yachts.com.



29' Pro-Line Super Sport 2007 — 2015 Twin Suzuki 250hp. White Engines. 165 Hrs. 2015 Raymarine. 2017 VHF and stereo, carbon fiber outriggers, meticulously maintained! Contact Chris Downey, Downey Yachts: 843-847-1760 or Chris@DowneyYachts.com.



31' Jupiter Cuddy Cabin 2006 – Twin Mercury 275hp. Ready to fish! Cabin sleeps 2 adults, upgrades and service records available, updated electronics, FL/Bahamas nav chips included. Contact Chris Downey, Downey Yachts: 843-847-1760 or Chris@DowneyYachts.com.



Harkers Island 20-foot center console – The boat was built by Alan Rose, the hull is juniper planked, 115 Yamaha 4 stroke, jack plate, 50 gallon aluminum fuel tank and a trailer. Asking \$12,500. Please contact petezab1@hotmail.com, 321-427-5836.



32' Chris-Craft 2014 — Twin Volvo 380hp FWCs. 143 Hours. Midnight blue painted hull with riviera red boot stripe. Cockpit Fridge, Garmin 5208 GPS, A/C, waste macerator. Contact Chris Downey, Downey Yachts: 843-847-1760 or Chris@DowneyYachts.com.



2004 32' Heritage Boatworks Walk Around Express – High quality custom build that's really tricked out and loaded. Re-powered in 2013 with Yamaha F350s with less than 350 hrs and warranty until 11/2019! New paint, Garmin electronics, generator, AC and more. Lift kept. \$149,000. Contact Teak Bell, (910) 262-8622, teak@teak@teakbellyachtsales.com.



38' Stolper Project Needs New Buyer - 2006 Billy Knowles 38' Stolper. Boat purchased as a project needs to sell. Reduced to \$23,000 or make offer Contact 8knotslic@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



1978 48' Whiticar – Only three owners since new and continuously maintained. Major refit in 2005 including New Cummins 05M11s, generator, AC system and just about everything else. Great sea boat and 26 kts at 41 gph! \$349,000. Contact Teak Bell, (910) 262-8622, teak@teak-bellyachtsales.com.



2013 42' Yellowfin — One owner captain-maintained boat in excellent condition. Low hr quad 300 hp Verados, loaded with options and great electronics. Lift-kept. A MUST SEE! \$489,000. Contact Teak Bell, (910) 262-8622, teak@teakbellyachtsales.com.



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SeaKeeper 9 with 541 Run Hours - From the Bayliss, Wave Paver. Barely used, been in a clean climatecontrolled environment since installation and wellmaintained unit (boat was launched the end of 2017), only removed to allow for a sonar addition. No longer in warranty. Asking \$55,000 OBO. Won't last. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



600' Never Used New England 1" 8 Plait Nylon Rope - Must pick up Hobe Sound. Save some money \$1200 cash n carry! Why pay \$1700 plus tax new in a store? Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



FLIR Dual Thermal Camera - This is a complete system. FLIR Dual Camera with the controller new in the box. \$5500.00 OBO. Contact 8knotsllc@ gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



(5) Dometic Cruisair Condensing Units – (2) FX10C-P units: 10,000Btu/230V/60Hz, (2) FX16C-P units: 16,000Btu/230V/60Hz, (1) FX12C-P unit: 12,000Btu/230V/60Hz, R-22 refrigerant. For use with SMX II control system. Originally installed to the boat 2005, still working but swapped out for new units. \$500 each OBO. Contact 8knotslic@ gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



70' - 80' Boat Cradle For Boat Yards Builders and Marinas - This cradle was purchased from Whiticar Boat Works. It held the last 76' Whiticar built to date. The cradle comes with everything you see pictured including tracks. Can ship if needed, \$24,999. Contact 8knotslic@ gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



Pair of Rupp Tournament Outriggers Excellent condition. Lift out bases (2in 0.D.; 8 ft in length with collapsible back bars) with 21 ft single spreader riggers. Brand new these riggers are \$8k. Asking \$5500 OBO. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



(2) Great Condition Live Bait Deck Tanks - These tanks are in great shape. Lids are in tanks with hoses. Made by Offshore Bait Solutions. Save some money. Asking \$3500 OBO, sold as a set. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



200-Gallon Fuel Bladder-Plus 12v Transfer Pump and Hoses – Barely used 200-gallon bladder plus 12v fuel transfer motor, hose and connector. Used for diesel only a few times. Pick up in Hobe Sound, Florida. Only \$1100. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



Brand New LEWMAR Stainless Steel 88lbs Fast Set Anchor - Also comes with stainless steel Anchorlift Swivel. Paid over \$3500.00 for the set-up. Asking \$2500. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail. com or 561-301-3841.



(2) 220w Electric Shore Cords - One is 40' \$300. The other is 100' \$700 or OBO. Both in working order. Call Capt. Wink Doerzbacher Ph 561-313-3730.



Teak Table - Fixed height teak table with inlay, satin finish, with drawer and underside storage. Leaf on one side only 42" L x 30" W (with leaf up) x 29" high. 10" leaf. \$900. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail. com or 561-301-3841.



Teak Table – Solid teak table high gloss finish, 84" x 44", Perfect for home or office. Asking \$4200. Contact &knotslic@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



59' Spencer Boat Interior for Sale -Sold only as a complete set. 2 custom couches, custom built in drawer table and 2 custom matching tables. Cash n Carry only, located in Jupiter, FL. Asking only \$7,000. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail. com or 561-301-3841.



8 Rod Rocket Launcher - Like new Pompanette Manta Rocket Launcher. Comes with 4" SS pedestal, pull out drawer and rigging tray. Sweet buy here! Asking \$4500. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



Large Marlin International fighting chair - In great condition, garage kept with cushions and cover. Asking only \$3900. Contact 561-301-3841 or e-mail 8knotsllc@gmail.com.



Rockaway Fighting Chair - 50s original Rockaway Sailfish chair, all new chrome finish on hardware. Asking \$2800. Contact 8knotsllc@ gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



Midsize Scopinich Fishing Chair Well-built, perfect for boats 40' and \$3,400. Contact 8knotsllc@ gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



Original Large Rybovich Fighting Chair - Needs a seat repair but complete with stainless pedestal. Asking \$3200.00 OBO. Contact 8knotsllc@ gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



Murray Bros. Fighting Chair - This chair is in good condition. Does not come with a pedestal but is priced accordingly. \$2600. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841



Murray Bros Fighting Chair with Rocket Launcher – In great condition. Includes 4 Rod Rocket Launcher with tray. Does not include pedestal. Asking \$3700.00 obo. Contact 8knotsllc@ gmail.com or 561-301-3841.

Rybovich Chairs and Parts (sold as a lot) Two tuna chairs and one marlin, all have 4-inch pedestals and need to be completed. Sold as is \$5800 OBO for all. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.

Hy Jacobson Solid Teak Sailfish Sculpture -Owner sold boat and kept sculpture. Measures 31-inches high, 19-inches long & 11 inches wide. It's fastened to a marble base & carved out of a solid piece of four-inch Burmese teak. Original price was \$8000 will sell for \$2200. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.

New Flexi Teak Rolls - (15) rolls 2 inches wide by 100 feet long and (15) rolls 6 inches wide by 100 feet long. \$2900. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



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(3) Alutecnos Platinum Left Handed Reels, 30, 50 and 80 Class − These reels have blueprinted drags. Perfect for the southpaw angler. \$2,000. Contact 8knotslic@gmail. com or 561-301-3841.



Record Fishing Gaff Set – This is an excellent set of gaffs for record fishing or big tournaments. (L to R) 12-inch flyer, custom straight gaff with swivel handle and 16-inch flyer. All gaffs are in excellent condition. Asking \$3000 for the set. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



6 Vintage Fin Nor 12/0 Reels – Attention collectors! We have 6 vintage Fin Nor 12/0 reels with rods. The tackle is in excellent condition. \$7000. Contact 8knotsllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.



Complete Flying Gaff Set – This complete set for only \$1500. Contact 8knot-sllc@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.

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PointMaker Hook Sharpener – Point-Maker hook sharpener, hook honer for the ultimate sharp hooks. \$149.00 shipped US. For info, call 972-690-6605

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Detroit Diesel MTU's 16V2000 Series 1800 HP — Engine model #R1627K03, 7,682 hrs. Top halves rebuilt at 2,000 hrs. 170,000 gallons total fuel burn per side. \$60,000. Asking \$2500. Contact 8knot-slic@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.





2003 MAN D2876LE405 730hp 6 cyl Twin Disc — Motors are MAN Marine Diesels, Model D2876LE405. Inline 6 cyl, 730hp, they run strong. 7800 hours. \$20,000 for the pair. Transmissions are Twin Disc model MG511A. Gear Ratio is 1.75:1 with 2.5" shaft. \$10,000 for the pair. Sell all together for \$25K. Contact 954-685-6432.



32 x 48 Veem Wheels – They are from a 60 Spencer. Would prefer to sell as a pair. Located in Charleston, SC. \$12,000. Contact 843-200-5363.



Pair of Veem Sportfish-HC 5 blade propellers — 34" Diameter, 53" Pitch, 3" bore, prop report available. \$11,500.00/pair. Contact 8knotsllo@omail.com or 561-301-3841.



Volvo Duoprop T6 Wheels — One set is brand new and one set is lightly used. Used with Volvo IPS 600's. These are the Duoprops - front is 3 blade and back is 4 blade. Would like to get \$2000 per set. Contact 8knotslic@gmail.com or 561-301-3841.

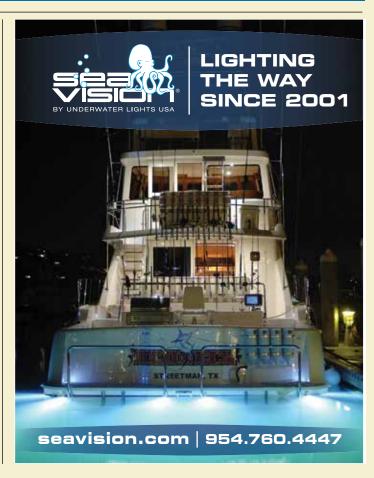
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NEW 72' Viking Call Rob Spano: 561.262.3683



66' 2015 VikingCall Doug Donohue: 954.914.4303



"Lor A Di" 64' 2018 Bayliss Call Dave Meyer: 561.722.1047



"Finally" 62' 2014 VikingCall Derek Ludovic: 305.487.1775



"Piracy" 61' 2008 Shearline Call Dave Meyer: 561.722.1047



"Desperado" 60' 2005 B&D Boatworks Call Pat Kelly: 561.723.9300



"Low Hours" 60' 2009 Viking Call Jack Robertson: 772.260.1364



NEW 58' Viking Call Doug Donohue: 954.914.4303



"Two Krickets" 48' 2017 Jim Smith Call Dave Meyer: 561.722.1047



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64' Jarrett Bay 2010 - Call Clark: 919.669.1304



63' Hatteras 2016 - Call Clark: 919.669.1304



62' Viking 2019 - Call Today: 877.269.3021



58' Viking 1997 - Call Chuck: 703.999.7696



58' Blackwell 2002 - Call Daryl: 252.259.0235



58' Viking 1998 - Call Jeremy: 410.507.4150



56' Viking 2006 - Call Jeremy: 410.507.4150



56' Perdue 2006 - Call Harvey: 757.636.6810



53' Chesapeake Bay 2017 - Call David: 443.944.6122



53' Jarrett Bay 2005 - Call Daryl: 252.259.0235



52' Viking 2007 - Call Jud: 757.846.7909



52' Viking 2018 - Call Today: 877.269.3021



52' Buddy Davis 2000 - Call Harvey: 757.636.6810



52' Viking 2004 - Call Jud: 757.846.7909



50' Viking 1999 - Call Daryl: 252.259.0235



48' Viking 2018 - Call Jud: 757.846.7909



45' Ricky Gillikin 2009 - Call Chris Jr: 757.509.0742



43' Ricky Gillikin 2008 - Call Jeremy: 410.507.4150



42' Viking 2015 - Call Scott: 757.570.3944



40' Cabo 2006 - Call Scott: 703.307.5900



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Runners Up:

I know, but the head door was locked. Soo, could ya hand me a paper towel? – Monty Montgomery

I got a bilge critter...he likes to fix things. – Marty VanDruten

My last case of beer. They will never find it. - Matt Jones

I should be right here till they finish gilling, gutting and stitching all the baits. – Joe Zammitt

That's what happens when you forget your passport.

- Charlie Brown

"...and there's cotton candy, and rides, and all sorts of surprises down here...and balloons, too...all colors.

- Gabriel Barrios

The illusive noise leprechaun shows his face for a brief moment before disappearing into the bilge once again.

- Robert Hall

And they said boat gremlins weren't a real thing.

- Greg Ezykowich

Leave me alone, I'm waxing my gyro. – John Lamprey

And this is the crew quarters on the new 90. - @apb1build

The epoxy smells so good I can hear colors.

- @primarysearch_gang

R2D2 behind the scenes. - @strangest3

The boss gone yet? - @duffiield

The Seakeeper troll has three riddles to ask before you can use the Seakeeper. – @foreversalty





Last issue's monkey winner!

Congratulations to Dari Bowman who identified the monkey at Hawk's Nest Resort and Marina, Cat Island, Bahamas.





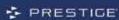
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