

First-Time Team Wins Hawaiian International

The Marshall's Billfish Club of the Pacific Marshall Islands took top honors in the 24th Annual Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament held August 13-22, 1982, at Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. This rookie team from a new nation was assured a place in the running when team member Ramsey Reimers reeled in a 711-pound Pacific blue marlin on 50-lb test line during the third day of fishing. Mike Traxler's catch of a 534-pound marlin the next day clinched the win.

More than seventy teams from 23 countries and territories participated in the world-famous HIBT this year. Although the total fish count of 50 marlin and four ahi (yellowfin tuna) in 5 days of fishing was considerably less than in most other years, there were exciting tales of fish fought and lost as well as some outstanding catches.

Reimer's 711-lb fish was the largest of the 1982 tournament and the second heaviest landed on 50-lb test line throughout the 24-year history of the HIBT. (Only Neil Nishikawa in 1974 caught a bigger one—a 762-pounder which was a world record at the time.)

Another big catch was a 608-pound blue marlin taken after a 1¼-hour battle by Fred Duerr of the Kona Game Fishing Club (Hawaii), placing his team fourth in the event. Mike Forman of the third-place team, Rainbow Anglers of Oahu, boated a 562-pounder, and in second place was the Huntington Harbour Anglers team (California) with a total of 1,432 points scored for accumulated catches.

If there was a trophy for longest fighting time, it would have gone to the Pajaro Valley Gamefish Club of California, which lost an estimated 900-pound marlin after 10½ hours, and the Blue Water Anglers Club of Bermuda would have placed second for their 8-hour battle with a 600-700 pound marlin lost at gaff at midnight.

It was a scarce year for tuna with only 6 boated versus 36 in 1981. The largest catch, a 173-pounder, was made by M.L. Chang of the IGFA R.O.C. team from Taiwan.

The festive atmosphere, camaraderie, and organization which characterize the HIBT each year have made this large international event a model for many tournaments held throughout the world. Tournament Chairman Peter Fithian has announced that the 1983 invitational HIBT will be held August 5-13 at Kailua-Kona. The smaller Hawaiian Billfish



Jerry Seely Photo, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

1982 HIBT WINNING TEAM: Tournament queen Lehuaokalani Kane poses with members of the Marshall's Billfish Club team. Ramsey Reimers' 711-lb blue marlin catch was the largest of the tournament.

Tournament (HBT), won by the South Carolina Saltwater Sportfishing Association team this year, will be held July 25-August 5, 1983.

90 White Marlin Tagged At Gulf of Mexico Tournament

Conservation and research were the dominant themes of the two-day Gulf Coast Masters Invitational Tournament held at Pensacola, Florida, August 20 & 21, 1982. According to a release from the Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, a record total of 90 white marlin were tagged and released, with one blue marlin tagged and two weighed in. National Marine Fisheries Service biologist Paul Pristas, on hand to record data relating to billfish, said he was unaware of any event along the Gulf coast boasting such dramatic tag and release results.

Participation was limited to 50 boats with anglers from throughout the United States and as far away as Japan and

South America participating. Champion of the tournament was Phil Vaccaro of Dallas, Texas, with three white marlin caught, tagged and released on 20-lb line. Albert Stinson of Mobile, Alabama, won the blue marlin division with a 407 lb 4 oz fish. Profits from the event are earmarked primarily for student scholarships in marine biology and oceanography as well as programs for the betterment of sport fishing.

No Giant Bluefin at Cape Cod Tournery

The 35th year of the classic Cape Cod Tuna Tournament proved a disappointing one for 15 teams of anglers participating in the event. In three days of fishing (August 16-18, 1982) at Provincetown, Massachusetts, only one tuna was caught, a medium-sized fish weighing 394 pounds. The lone fish was taken in 45 minutes by veteran tuna angler John H. Harris of Barnstable, also winner of the event two

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