
THE TAG FLAG

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE TOURNAMENT ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

APRIL 2004

ANDY JACOBI DOES IT AGAIN!

Veteran angler **Andy Jacobi** defended his 2003 Ixtapa championship, becoming the first angler to win back to back tournaments since **Alene Molle** did it in 1995 and 1996. The 2004 Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament, sponsored by the Tournament Anglers Association, was held on January 17-24, in beautiful Zihautenajo/Ixtapa, Mexico.

This year's tournament was dedicated to the memory of TAA member and Tournament co-chairman, **Jack Betts**. Jack was tragically killed in 2003. His wife, Doreen, and son, Jeff, attended the Tournament. Jeff caught and released four (4) sailfish.

Chaired by **Dale Miles** and **Neal McNamara**, this year's tournament was a masterpiece of organization. The Hotel Dorado Pacifico did another outstanding job of hosting the event.

The 2004 tournament had 40 anglers who caught and re-

leased a total of 93 sailfish. The number of fish was significantly below the tournament average of 166 sailfish releases.

The first day of fishing was excellent for **Jeff Betts** and **Jim Gill**, each with three (3) sailfish.

The second day saw more action with **Rick Bothmer**, **Jim Gill**, and **Pete Davis** each with two (2) sailfish. Nine other anglers also released one (1) sailfish.

On the third day of fishing, **Andy Jacobi** showed his angling expertise with the catch and release of four (4) sailfish. **Tricia Bothmer** and **Jim Gill** released two (2) sailfish each.

The last day of the tournament was the most productive for all, with 35 sailfish caught and released. **Andy Jacobi** had an impressive six (6) sailfish, with **Rocky Franich** releasing four (4) sailfish. **Rick and Tricia Bothmer**, along with **Jim Gill**, each had two (2) releases.

Andy Jacobi was top angler with 1,630 points, followed by **Jim Gill** with 1,350. **Rick Bothmer** took third place with 760 points, and **Rocky Franich** finished fourth with 760. Rick took the third place honors over Rocky, because his catches and releases occurred earlier in the tournament than Rocky's.

These top four anglers will represent the Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament in the 2005 ROLEX/ IGFA Offshore Championship.

The top teams were **Andy Jacobi** and **Bill Gillissie** with 1,780 points; **Jim Gill** and **Bill Easum** with 1,500 points; **Jeff Betts** and **Dan Radman** with 1,200 points; and **Steve Lynch** and **Joan Vernon** with 1,200 points.

During the Friday Awards Meeting, anglers and guests were treated to a slide program that was a photo essay of the tournament history of TAA. Over 150 photos were shown, bringing back fond memories for many of the members present.

In addition, each boat in the tournament had a disposable camera on board for the anglers to photograph the fishing action. The photos were processed, and then scanned into a slide program, which was shown during the awards banquet.

Many thanks to **Dave Holland** for creating these wonderful audio/video presentations, and also for his work on the TAA website. You can view many of the photos on our website at: www.fishtaa.com

During the awards banquet, several TAA members were recognized for their angling achievements. The most notable award went to none other than **Andy Jacobi**, who became only the second TAA member awarded the "200 releases patch" (**Smokey Molle** is the other).

Jim Gill was recognized for his 100th tournament billfish release.

These accomplishments are significant, since TAA releases only include those billfish released during a TAA sanctioned tournament.

Next year's Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament is scheduled for January 8-15, 2005. **Dale Miles** and **Dave Holland** will Co-Chair.

ROLEX/IGFA OFFSHORE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

The 2004 ROLEX/IGFA Offshore Championship Tournament will be held May 16 to 22, in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico.

As of March 2004, 63 national and international teams will be participating in this premier tournament.

TAA will field two teams, the Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament Team and the Eastcape Billfish Tournament Team. Both teams qualified in 2003 and are comprised of the top four anglers of each tournament.

Teams include:

Ixtapa Team: Team Captain, Neal McNamara, Andy Jacobi, Jim Severson, and Smokey Molle.

Eastcape Team: Team Captain, Jim Ramsey, Darrell Ticehurst, Sanbo Sakaguchi, and Dean Hafeman

Additionally, two other TAA members, **Arlen Steiner** and **Mike McElroy**, will fish in this year's Offshore Championship. Fishing for the Pajaro Valley Gamefish Club, Watsonville, CA, they won the 2003 Hawaiian Invitational Billfish Tournament (HIBT), which qualified them for this Tournament.

Daily updates during the Tournament will be available on www.igfatournaments.com

Good Luck to both teams and all TAA members!

2004 EASTCAPE BILLFISH TOURNAMENT UPDATE

According to **Mike McElroy**, Tournament Chairman, the 2004 Eastcape Billfish Tournament, June 10 to 14, has its limited 30 anglers. "All spots have been filled," said Mike. This year, in addition to the regular IGFA rules and 30-pound test line requirement, ***CIRCLE HOOKS*** will be mandatory when bait fishing.

For more information contact Mike McElroy by telephone, at 831-722-2591, or via email at: amestimike@msn.com

ADDITIONAL TOURNAMENT FOR TAA

At the annual TAA Board of Directors meeting, at the Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament, the subject of a third annual tour-

nament venue was proposed and discussed.

In the past, three annual tournaments were held by TAA. They were the Ixtapa Sailfish Tournament, the Eastcape Billfish Tournament and the Tournament of Champions.

The Tournament of Champions was held in Cabo San Lucas, in November. Due to the absence of billfish during that time of year, and a number of other reasons, the Tournament of Champions was dropped in 1996.

A committee was established to explore the possibility of a third tournament, the location and time of year.

If you have any suggestions, location, or wish to discuss this possibility, please contact any of the committee members:

Rocky Franich, at tel. 408-722-4181, email, rocky@mfranichford.com,

Dale Miles, at 916-425-3150, email,

5miles@prodigy.net or **John Jackson**, telephone, 916-686-6353.

**TAA, MEMBERS
CONTRIBUTE TO**

**“ADOPT-A-BILLFISH
PROGRAM”**

A presentation by the Adopt-A-Billfish Program, resulted in a \$1,000 donation from TAA and anglers attending the Ixtapa Billfish Tournament.

The goal of the Adopt-A-Billfish Program is to tag and release as many billfish as possible along the Central American and Mexican Pacific Coast. The results of the information gained through this program will assist these countries to wisely manage their bountiful billfish resource, for both commercial and sport fishing.

This data is stored in small satellite, pop-up tags. Thirty days after the billfish has been tagged, these tags break free and float to the surface. The collected data is then up-linked to a satellite and then down-linked to computers at the University of Miami, Center for Sustainable Fisheries. Each of these tags costs \$4,000.

TAA members at the Tournament donated \$820, and the TAA Board of Directors approved an additional \$180, for a total contribution of \$1,000, to this program.

For information on the “Adopt-A-Billfish Program”, go to:

www.billfishnetwork.com

TAA MEMBERSHIP LIST

A list of all TAA members is now available. It has been several years since this list has been distributed to all members.

This membership list / directory will be distributed with the next TAG FLAG. ***It will include your home and email addresses, and telephone number(s), unless you specify otherwise.***

If you do not want your information to be part of this roster, please let me know. Only your name and membership status will be included.

Please contact me,

Jerry Yahiro

Phone: (925) 743-8850

Email: jyahiro@aol.com

Or snail mail at:

233 Royal Saint Court

Danville, CA 94526

Also, please send any corrections or misspellings, ***no later than September 1st.***

2004 / 2005

TOURNAMENTS

Eastcape

Billfish Tournament:

June 10 to 14, 2004

Chairman: **Mike McElroy**

Telephone: (831) 722-2591

Email:

amestimike@msn.com

Ixtapa

Sailfish Tournament:

January 8 to 15, 2005

Chairman: **Dale Miles**

Telephone: (916) 425-3150

Email:

5miles@prodigy.net