



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

by I.B. Hooked
Member Outdoor Writers Association of America and
The Texas Outdoor Writers Association

PLEASE NOTE: WE AT THE COASTAL CURRENT ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOWING NOR CAN WE IMAGINE WHY WE AGREED TO PRINT IT.

Somehow I knew this is where this mess was gonna end up. A dude launches his boat at the Sea Ranch Marina a ways back and ends up launchin' his truck with it. The last time I saw anybody play U-Boat commander there it was the Coasties and their monster truck ended up getting' winched out the drink by Fearless Leader's brother. To say the least those boys were embarrassed but they didn't hire a shark for spin control.

Apparently this dude and some others folks that've taken a tumble on the ramp have, so the County shuts down the launch ramp to the public cuz of the liability problem. Cept for the folks at the Marine Center since they occasionally need to use the ramp and have probably signed a waiver. Since this ramp is the only ramp on the Sandspit that can handle a large boat other than Parrot Eyes five miles north, this decision ain't sittin' well with the great unwashed. To the TIFT Boards credit they've made an arrangement with the Marine Center to open the ramp for tournament participants, after the Center was granted a waiver to do so by their own insurance company.

Sooo, some of the better connected folks in the park have gnawed on the County Judge and he's gone and put this mess on the County Commissioners agenda for this Tuesday, July 15th at 9:30 in the morning. It may make for a fun hearing but I doubt



Kyle Pattinson fishin' aboard *Real Salty* is the first junior to get on the board in the South Texas Big Game Fishing Club's 2003 season. The blackfin tuna weighed 12 pounds.

much will be solved cuz the real issue is who's gonna assume the liability for the ramp. The Sea Ranch Marine Center ain't cuz their insurance costs have already tripled in the last three years. The County ain't for obvious reasons unless they can come up with waiver for only those folks that rent trailer spots in the park. And besides, there is a parking problem and if the county is able to cut a deal for the field across from the ramp the parking problem would get ridiculous.

Next Tuesday is gonna be a busy day cuz the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council is havin' a pow-wow with Dr. Bill Hogarth the assistant administrator National Marine Fisheries Service in Naples, Florida. This one would be worth attending cept the Naples Beach Hotel is about as easy to get to from the real world as the Sandspit is and with such short notice the airfare is obscene.

The main topic on the agenda is a round table discussion on how Uncle Sugar can better make policy on issues concerning the Gulf. There hasn't been a get-together like this one since pre 911 and there are no plans for another one in a more convenient location. I just wonder if Claudette will crash the party. More on this next week.

Was that fun last weekend or what. The STBGFC had a two day tournament over the 4th in seas that could be best described as sporty, three boats got on the board King's Bounty released a blue marlin, Wahoo and Real Salty released sails, next tournament is Mansfield.

We welcome your fishin' photos. Drop them by 2600 Padre Boulevard on the Island, or mail them to I.B. Hooked, c/o Coastal Current Weekly, P.O.Box 2429, South Padre Island, Texas 78597. Be sure to include the name of the angler, weight and type of fish, where caught, and name of boat if applicable. Photos with SASE will be returned.