



# THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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## TEAM T.W.A.T AWESOME IN 2004 ROLEX

Lost Cabos, Mexico: Sixty-six teams from twenty-eight countries semi-invaded Cabo San Lucas last week for the 5th Annual ROLEX/IGFA Offshore Championship. It weren't pretty, then again at times it was. It's been over thirty years since I visited the area. It was interesting then, now it's the timeshare capitol of the world and the damndest tourist trap I've ever seen, which says somethin' since I live on the Sandspit.

This global menagerie had a few things in common: 1- They'd all won a qualifying event in the past year to qualify for the invite. 2- They'd pony'd up the five grand entry fee and 3- They loved a good party. The teams were recognized by the name of the qualifying event they'd won. My team was Team Fintastic cuz we won the last ever Fintastic Total Tag & Release Tournament in Zee-What last November. I say last cuz Paul Philips has decided to throw in the towel. The charter captains in Zee-What are now hard-core into the release ethic.

Sooo, that be the reason for the header. The winning team gained entry by winning the Texas Women Anglers Tournament fished out of Port Aransas last summer. The team consisted of Robin, Amalee, Edgar and Ryan Artecona from Alvarado and their deckhand, Monty Love from Port A. Some of ya'll have probably seen 'um around during TIFT. They fish a 46' Bertram called Awesome and have cashed a few checks in that tournament. This tournament they all won a ROLEX engraved by the IGFA.

I'd hate to call their tactics dirty pool because it more closely resembles superior skill and



The Artecona clan and Monty Love in the wee hours of day three. The ice chest ain't got libations in it, it's full of ballyhoo.

cunning but I'm pissed at Dirty Al cuz he balked at sponsoring our sorry asses. All we asked for was a few dozen frozen ballyhoo and the critter slurred nada. Team T.W.A.T however, came to Cabo armed with half a gross of the critters that Monty brought up from Port A. This was important since there was no dead bait to troll with in Cabo when the teams arrived. The first day they released three stripe marlin and a sail, the second day they released two stripy's, the third day they released one stripy. On the final day they had a chat with the Captain they'd drawn and basically commandeered the boat. Papa Edgar drove and Monty worked the pit while the captain and his deckhand relaxed in the shade with never ending libations. They fished close to East Cape in an area called H-4 on the grid map. They released four stripy's that ate ballyhoo and one stripy that ate a live bait. The Captain and his sidekick collected five hundred bucks in the daily boat pool plus a rather generous tip from Papa Ed.

### DOCK TALES

This ain't been what you'd call good toupee weather, so no offshore news. The bay has been hoppin' with lots of trout and reds. This weekend you'll probably find the trout and reds burrowed down in the grass since the Recreational Navy will be holding maneuvers on the flats. The STBGFC will try to get in the Blake Bunk Memorial Tournament Saturday and Sunday if the seas are reasonable. The weigh-in will be at Dirty Al's at the Sea Roach Marina beginning at six both days.

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***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.***