



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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Soooo, how many law enforcement agents do it take to bust a dude poachin' a few clients from other guides? Word is that it took around four TP&W wardens, at least a couple Coasties and a semi-local media type with a high dollar motion picture camera to record the historic bust. Turns out the gent wasn't Osama Bin Morales but just another local pirate tryin' to make ends meet by chargin' folks a discount for a half day fishin' trip. Joe don't have a six-pack permit or a TP&W guide license, he was just fillin' a hole in the local economic strata. Sure hope this don't mean a buddin' dock war between Port Misrebelle and the Sandspit cuz we got enough problems what with beautification, bridges and floaters in the surf that require inter-local agreements for body bags.

Can only wonder if these law enforcement marauders will finally try to bust up the Baghdad Beach Panga Fleet cartel that pick up snapper caught by the shrimpers for export to the good 'ol U S of A through Matamoros. I doubt it cuz that requires time on the seas and with gas prices being what they are and the price of SCOPE patches being what they are and since most of the kids start spewin' in a bathtub they ain't got the manpower nor the budget.

Ya gotta say congrats to the il' guys at this year's Poco Bueno in Port O'Connor. The big dinero was won by Tag Team, a 31 fishin' with the big boyz. Lots of BS about



their qualifications as tournament hardened fisherman-folks-people. Don't matter, they weighed in a 352 pound blue marlin, measuring 101-1/2 inches that took the pot worth 585K. That I can see, only one boat from our area made the board and that was High Cotton, they won a nice rod and reel for a 73 pound wahoo. Soooo, I guess ya can say that 2004 Poco was no Bueno for the local fleet.

Neither was last weekend's South Texas Big Game Tournament. Only a couple of sails released, a boat broke down with mechanics, pointing fingers at each other among other things and damn few fish caught unless you're in to blackfin tuna, you'd of sunk your boat cuz them l'il footballs were thick.

DOCK TALES

The grind begins serious next week. The Port Mansfield Tournament, the Texas International Fishing Tournament, The Ladies Kingfish Tournament and, supposedly the South Texas Under Dogs tournament, which by the way I gotta a packet from the International Game Fishing Association that says that the STUD tournament is and can be a ROLEX/IGFA Qualifier if anybody is interested. Offshore qualifier, like if ya win ya pony up five grand for four days of fishin' in Cabo on four boats, the canapés are gratis.

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.