



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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For the first time since the TIFT board instituted on sight polygraph tests, we have a back-to-back winner in the bay division. Captain Jack Barton is the 2004 Champ and yeah, he took and passed the test with flyin' colors. A pretty mean feat winnin' considerin' there were 188 anglers out of 551 total bay anglers with sportin' blood that got in the jackpots. That folks was another record. I can't say I'm surprised to see Jack win back-to-back. He's been guidin' round these parts since '92 or '93 close to full time with the occasional stint bartendin' at Louie's to fill in the dinero gap. He and his brother Charlie have also gone pro on the Oh Boy! Oberto Redfish Cup circuit with some sponsor help from the Sandspit and are doin' well though they haven't made a top 5 final day, yet. They rank 13th out of well over 100 teams and have cashed in the last two events. It won't be long before they make the boob-tube



Captain Jack Barton at the Friday weigh-in with a bay slam. Congrats pal, three in a row ain't out of reach.

on the final day as a top 5 team. Their next stop is Coonass Land at Chalmette this weekend before the grand finale in Titusville, Florida September 3rd – 5th. Since they're only fifty points out of first place they've got a shot at the whole enchilada. And oh, by the way, the Sandspit is in the runnin' for the 2005 championship for the Oh Boy! Oberto, keep your fingers crossed cuz this is turnin' into a major fishin' production.

The offshore side of the TIFT coin had a hell of a lot of coins in those jackpots, like a total of close to 350,000 word is. The only local boat that I know of that won a pot were the folks aboard Queen B. They took the wahoo pot. The rest were won by the out-of-towners, like 150,000 or so for the 413 pound blue that was hung up on Saturday and over 60K the Bite Me won for a 60 some odd pound sail. Judgin' from this I'd say the economy is pretty good these days.

This weekend the chicks get center stage all to themselves with the Ladies Only Kingfish Tournament and yeah, the polygraph examiner will be on hand. Shame ya have to have that kinda subjective verification of stories but you can thank the big bass tournaments among others for the need. Whenever big bucks and big braggin' rights are involved human nature at its worst can rear its ugly backside that can lead to some unfortunate crap at the weigh-dock. Please follow the rules and by the way, Murray the mullet and his gang say they're lookin' forward to moons over the Laguna Madre once again.

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.