

THE FISHIN' INSIDER

by I.B. Hooked
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The Texas Outdoor Writers Association

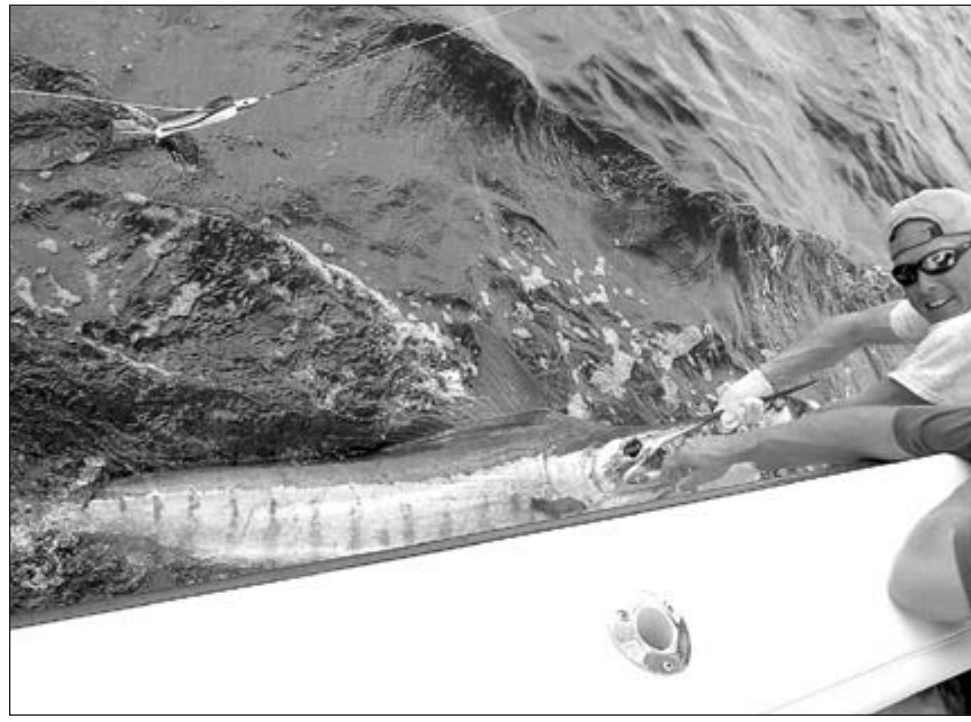
PLEASE NOTE: WE AT THE COASTAL CURRENT ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FOLLOWING NOR CAN WE IMAGINE WHY WE AGREED TO PRINT IT.

Salinas, Ecuador: Ohla Sandspitters, glad ya'll ain't here. The rent is cheap, cheap cheap and the beer even cheaper though good scotch is a l'il hard to come by and the chicks, my ohhhh my. The Humboldt squid showed up sooooo the stick fishin' is outrageous, we're talkin' monster blacks and blues. So how's the election coming? Since I voted Libertarian my guys probably kicked back on a beach not worryin' about a recount or how many ghosts walked with the livin' to the polls last Tuesday.

With the recent takeover of Clark Marine and the departure of the old proprietor, the Sea Ranch Marine Center has undergone a bit of a metamorphosis, not quite the cocoon to butterfly thing but for those that've been around the Sandspit for a while, wellll I think you get the picture. Leo Carrasco is the new sales and service manager of what is now called South Padre Boat Sales & Service and most shockingly, they now have a tackle shop that may well be the best stocked in the entire Rio Grande Valley. Daryl Golden has even gone so far as contacting Paul Brown at B & L Manufacturing and will be stockin' the infamous Corky's monster trout bait, the one made in Houston not the one the big dogs are havin' knocked off in Red China. This is the lure that James Wallace caught the current rod and reel state record on back in 1996 on Baffin Bay, a 13.69 pound behemoth. An aside here, Bud Rowland holds the all tackle state record for a 15.6 pound lass that he released a couple of years ago. Matter of fact you can see where he caught the beast from the causeway. He released her cuz she was full of eggs and had a couple of suitors by her side and he caught her on a modern day buggy whip, not conventional tackle, and with a golden retriever by his side just in case. The fly she fell for was the Numero Uno and don't ask me how you can get a hold of one cuz I ain't got a clue.

Anyhow, for ya'll with an itch to go offshore and around forty grand to burn, they'll be sellin' a 27 footer that'll run out to the canyon at forty knots real soon. The boat looks like a knockoff of a Reggie Fountain and probably is but ya ain't payin' for the name. Go by and take a gander at the place, it's around the corner from Oscar's Salty Dog and the Lion King's Island's beach attire.

Thanks to Graphicjoy Greenwood my cheap ass publisher is gonna have to pony up



Captain Kirk Bailey releases a blue caught last week, it may be fall but the sticks are still here.

a c-note for the champions flag that'll be presented to the Producer at the South Texas Big Game Fishing Club's awards soiree at Blackbeard's this Saturday evening. They won the club championship over Bessie Belle by releasing a blue marlin on the last day of the club's season. Next week I'll tell ya who won the Rusty Skillet for the least number of points for the season.

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.