



THE FISHIN' INSIDER

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

Well folks, what can I say? I've been at this project for the better part of a month and still have zip to show for it. Not sure what the problem is with the local PBS affiliate but they sure are unresponsive to programming suggestions from the cheap seats. The rag has offered to help drive a publicity blitz gratis, I've offered to twist some commercial arms to buy time on KMBH so they can run a one-hour special that's being offered for free to them. No response. If any of ya'll have any pull we sure would appreciate some help.

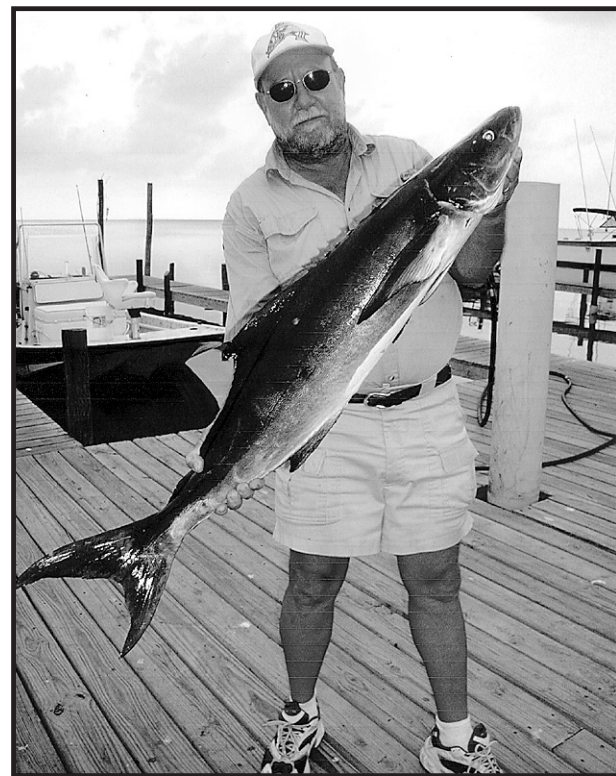
The program in question is *Billfish: The Challenge For Survival*. I'm told the documentary is a spectacular piece of work by Dr. Guy Harvey among others and is probably the best piece of work electronic lungerland has ever produced. It contains no cackling blond hyenas or gorillas that start and end a sentence with "son". It is arguably the best piece of work to come along since Jacques Cousteau was cruisin' the world aboard *Calypso* and it ought to be shown in the valley. Consider it an educational piece with high entertainment value, not quite on par with Willy's 70th Birthday but damn close to it.

The news from the 6th Annual ROLEX/IGFA Offshore Championship down in Cabo is wild. 70 teams from 31 countries, 503 stripe marlin and 14 sails released with the winning margin the weight of a 42.1 pound tuna at a point a pound. Looks like only two

teams, the Labuan International Tournament and the Presidential Caribbean Cup succumbed to the lure of a cantina crawl cuz they got skunked all four days and may have been joined by the 2004 Team TWAT after the Texas Women Angler Tournament cuz they caught a fish on day 1 and then nothing for the next three days.

The winning team representing the 2004 Miami Mayors Cup released 7 stripes, a sail and hung up the tuna for 2242.1 points on the final day. They finished with a total of 5242.1 points. The runner ups were the 2003 champs from Bermuda that had released 10 stripys on day two. They released two more on day 4 for a tournament total of 5200 points.

This weekend we have our first ever qualifier for the ROLEX/International Game Fish Association championship series in the form of the Blake Bunk Memorial hosted by the Bunk Family and the Alphabet Soup Gang or the STBGFC for short. The fun begins with a registration soiree this evening if it's Friday the 27th when you read this, at Dirty Dave's Deck at the Sea Ranch Restaurant. The fee for the ROLEX portion is fifteen bucks a head if you're not an IGFA member plus at least one member of the team has to be a member of the South Texas Big Game Fishing Club which'll cost less than a c-note. The winning team will receive an invite to the 2006 mess in Cabo.



Brian Johnson from parts all over caught this twenty or so pound ling fishin' aboard a bay rig in the gulf. Heard tell another group of bay fisherfolks were catchin' chicken dolphin on a weed line a couple of miles offshore when a blue marlin came-a-callin' ziiiiinnnnngggg pow all the line and the lure lost in the blink of an eye. Should be good this weekend.

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.