

MID-ATLANTIC \$500,000

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WELCOME TO THE MID-ATLANTIC \$500,000



Despite recent threatening weather, the 13th annual Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 is now underway at the Canyon Club Resort Marina in Cape May, NJ. This year 143 world-class sportfishing teams will compete for approximately \$1,500,000 in total prize money -- a record-setting calcutta for the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000! Also, for a second consecutive year, participants can operate out of both Cape May, NJ and Ocean City, MD.

For participants, there's plenty to do at the dockside as well. The "Top" circus-style tent is the gathering point for participants in Cape May where they'll be served cool libations and hot buffet dinners each night while enjoying live music by local bands. Participants in Ocean City will receive enhanced hospitality. "Sponsor's Midway" offers an opportunity to check out the latest fishing and boating gear. You'll also find marine artist Guy Harvey with a large display of his artwork.

For our spectators, we hope to see plenty of action during weigh-in from 5:00PM to 9:00PM each day. You can follow everything online with our live video links and chat room for both locations. Please see the links below which will connect you to our live tournament webcast.

Also, please visit our online store where you can purchase all sorts of Official Tournament Gear online.

TOURNAMENT WEBCAST, 5PM-9PM — LIVE!



This year participants and spectators alike can follow all the action online and live! Please click on either of the two video icons above during weigh station hours to check out participating teams as they return with their catches for the day. Also, you can click on the chat room icon to exchange questions and thoughts with our tournament webmaster during the webcast!

BUY OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT GEAR ONLINE



Please click on the T-Shirt icon at left to visit our Official Online Store where you will find plenty of cool merchandise commemorating the 13th Annual Mid-Atlantic \$500,000.

Our products are made of the highest quality materials, are great to have and to wear -- and have even become something of a must-have collector's item each year for both participants and spectators.

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News

August 20, 2004

For Immediate Release

It's no secret that when the bite is "on" and conditions are right, the canyons off the south Jersey coast some of the best fishing opportunities in the world. On Day Five of the 2004 Mid-Atlantic \$500,000, 117 boats fishing the final day of sportfishing's "Main Event," the bite was indeed "on." Mind boggling best describe the action on Friday, a day traditionally called "moving day" at the tournament where boats move up and down the leaderboard often occur as boats return from offshore. A moderate southwest wind created seas of three to five-foot offshore but that didn't seem to bother the billfish as many boats in the fleet saw well over two dozen white marlin during the day. Reports of double and triple headers were common and release flags were flying high on the riggers of the fleet as the boats returned to Cape May and Ocean City, Maryland. Over 200 billfish were caught on the final day of the tournament and in the end Friday did indeed prove to be "moving day" as some significant changes did indeed occur in the star

Andy Schlotter had to sweat out the radio chatter of all the white marlin being hooked and released on Day Five but the 75-pound white marlin caught aboard his My Time on Tuesday held up to win the category with a \$258,889. Roy Schwabach's Sherrie Lynn had those on the leaderboard concerned when he returned to the Canyon Club just after 4 p.m., nearly an hour before the scales would open, with a white marlin. The Sherrie Lynn boated their fish caught by Ed Smith, Jr. just before noon and knew it was a contender. The 74 pounds the white marlin earned the Sherrie Lynn a second place finish in the category and won \$479,305. In a unique twist, Trey Rhyne's Over Under and Val Lynch's Cyntinory each weighed a white marlin of 71-pounds on Day Five to finish in a three-way tie with Joe Recuperero's Bone Shaker. Each received \$18,926. Rob Wagner was the angler who caught the Cyntinory's billfish and Nick Christos caught the white marlin on Over Under which just happened to be the first white marlin he ever caught!

While well over two dozen blue marlin were caught during the week, cracking the stringent 400-pound minimum weight proved to be difficult. On Monday, Steve Hotz's True Grit weighed the only qualifying blue marlin in the tournament and his 518-pound billfish held up all week and swept all three places in the category and won \$365,668.

In the tuna division, numerous reports of boated tuna had the crew of Elio Mazzella's El Gina on edge they hoped their 182-pound big eye caught on Monday was heavy enough to hold on to the top spot. Despite a late day charge by other boats weighing tuna, El Gina's big eye caught on Monday won the category and \$170,334. Bill Post's Lady Louise finished in second place with a 150-pound big eye caught on Tuesday and won \$98,555. Howard Teitelbaum's At Last weighed a big eye of 132 pounds caught on Friday and finished in third place and won \$51,779.

Tony Faraco's Christie won the dolphin division with a 44-pound mahi-mahi and Howard Teitelbaum won the wahoo division with a 58.5-pound wahoo. Both of those fish were caught on Wednesday and received \$10,000.

As we said earlier, the white marlin bite was wild on Day Five and numerous boats released multiple billfish including Dave Wood's Sea Toy with Bull Tolson at the wheel who lead the day with 11 white marlin released. Other boats with multiple billfish releases include Richard Benn's Spencer 54 with nine white marlin released followed by Tony Faraco's Chrisiti, Pat Healy's Viking 61 and Art Kontos' Let it Ride, whom released seven white marlin each. Sydney Sussman's Certifiable released six white marlin and a blue marlin while Phil Nolan's Lazy Bones released five white marlin and a blue marlin. Joe Natoli's , Joe Recuperero's Bone Shaker and Joe Aiello's Reel'n & Deal'n each released six white marlin while Miller's Ale House and Paul Stephen's Scarlet Fever each released five white marlin.

Boats releasing four white marlin on Day Five include Bob Penza's Oil Slick; John Raimondo's Sea Mistress; Andy Schlotter's My Time; Chris Orsaris' Something Fishy; Dave Anderson's Crazy Salts; Conan's Ditch Digger; Tom Gessler's Boy's Toy; Ralph Aversa's Dough Boy; Phil Infantolino's Heart Heart and Nick Rodriguez Par Five.

Boats with three white marlin releases on Day Five include William Cavanagh's Trip Wire; Dominic E Lady Nancy; Lou Petrini's Cavileer 53; Jim Roszkowski's Islander; Ron Innamorato's Tag-n-Brag; Bc Hazard's Davis 48 and Ted Will's Pipe Dream.

Boats releasing two white marlin on Day Five include John Wendkos' Good Grief; Sal Rumbolo's Wi Bernard and Drew Dinardi's Absolut-ly; Frank Criscola's Crisdel; Mike Chrysanthopoulos' Tar Heel; Gallo's Joanna; Ludwig Bohler's Moondancer; Chris Ruisi's Kid's Stuff; Bob Coppock's Blue Sky; Jo Long's G.F.Y. and Russell Baicco's American Lady.

Demetris Michalaki's Margherita Bella released a blue marlin and a white marlin while Mike Ackley's released a blue marlin.

Richard Benn's Spencer 54 won the Most Points White Marlin award with 1125 points for 15 white r released. Dave Wood's Sea Toy won Second Most Points White Marlin with 1125 points for 15 white released. The tie was broken based on time of catch. Joe Aiello's Reel'n & Deel'n won Third Most P White Marlin with 975 for 13 white marlin released.

Demetris Michalaki's Margherita Bella won Most Points Blue Marlin with 300 points for two blue marl released. Steve Hotz's True Grit won Second Most Points Blue Marlin with 259 points after earning 1 per pound for his 518-pound blue marlin. Roy Schwalbach's Sherrie Lynn won Third Most Points Blu Marlin with 150 points for one blue marlin released based on time of catch.

Al Conan's Ditch Digger won Most Points Tuna with 204.5 points. Elio Mazella's El Gina won Second Points Tuna with 185 points and Eric Haug's Miss Max won Third Most Points Tuna with 182 points.

Richard Benn's Spencer 54 won the prestigious Most Points Overall award with 1125 points.

At the awards presentation last night tournament participants enjoyed cocktails and a lobster buffet c while Tournament President Dick Weber, Tournament Coordinator Mindy Weber, Weighmaster Chri and Canyon Club Resort Marina Manager Mike Weber handed out the tournament record cash purs over \$1.5 million in prize money. During Tournament Week, the Mega Marlin Raffle was held and thr the generosity of tournament participants well over \$100,000 was raised and will be equally distribut between the International Game Fish Association, National Coalition for Marine Conservation and Recreational Fishing Alliance for use in programs benefiting all recreational anglers.

Catch Report

White marlin boated – 14

White marlin released – 326

Blue marlin boated – 3

Blue marlin released – 27

Tuna weighed – 54

Wahoo weighed – 6

Dolphin weighed – 37

August 19, 2004

For Immediate Release

With three days in the books at the 2004 Mid-Atlantic \$500,000, most of the fleet took a "lay day" or fishing day today, Day Four, of Sportfishing's "Main Event." A total of 33 boats fished today and altho some billfish were released and other species caught, the leaderboard remains unchanged going int final day of fishing. With \$1.5 million of for grabs, in true Olympic fashion it will be a sprint to the finis tomorrow.

Just to bring everyone up to date here's a rundown of where we stand. Andy Schlotter's 75-pound white marlin caught aboard his My Time continues to lead the category followed by Joe Recupero's Bone Shaker in second place with a 71-pound billfish. Dugan McLaughlin's Juel Marie remains in third place with a 69-pound white marlin.

Qualifying blue marlin of over 400 pounds are hard to come by and while many under that weight have been caught and released, Steve Hotz's True Grit has weighed the only qualifying blue marlin and led the category with his 518-pound billfish. Second and third place remain vacant.

Elio Mazzella's El Gina remains atop the leaderboard in the tuna category with a 182-pound big eye. Post's Lady Louise is in second place with a 150-pound big eye and Tom Tucci's Alyson Rose is still in third place with a big eye of 131 pounds.

Tony Faraco's Christie continues to lead the dolphin division with a 44-pound mahi-mahi. Howard Teitelbaum's At Last leads the wahoo division with a 58.5-pound 'hoo.

Boats with multiple billfish releases today include Frank Bongiorno's Dealers Choice with four white marlin releases and Pat Healy's Viking 74 with three white marlin while Rich Ryon's Anthracite and Hattera Yacht's Hatterascal each released two white marlin. Frank Sheman's Cabana and Mike Graziuso's Relentless each released one white marlin. Gary Clemente's Water Main released a blue marlin today.

August 18, 2004

For Immediate Release

Day Three of the 2004 Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 dawned with a moderate southwest breeze creating two- to four-foot seas at the canyons for the 124 boats fishing today. By late afternoon southwest winds had increased significantly making for a quite bumpy ride home from offshore.

There were no changes in the white marlin category and Andy Schlotter's My Time continues to lead with a white marlin of 75 pounds. Joe Recupero's Bone Shaker with Captain V.J. Bell at the wheel remains in second place with a 71-pound billfish. Dugan McLaughlin's remains in third place with his Juel Marie white marlin of 69 pounds.

Steve Hotz True Grit continues to lead the blue marlin category with his 518-pound billfish. Second and third place remain vacant.

Elio Mazzella's El Gina still leads the tuna division with a 182-pound big eye followed by Bill Post's Lady Louise with a big eye 150 pounds. Tom Tucci's Alyson Rose moved into third place today after weighing a big eye of 131 pounds.

Tony Faraco's Christie leads the dolphin category after weighing a 44-pound mahi-mahi and Howard Teitelbaum's At Last took over the lead in the wahoo division after weighing a 58.5-pound 'hoo.

Richard Benn's Spencer 54 released six white marlin and Ron Levy's Santana III and Hank Zucatti's Linez each released four white marlin today. Boats with three white marlin releases include: John W. Good Grief; Jack Miller's Ale House; Ralph Aversa's Dough Boy; Dave Wood's Sea Toy and Roy Schwalbach's Sherrie Lynn. Boats releasing two white marlin today include: John Raimondo's Sea Mistress; Andy Schlotter's My Time; Dave Bassinder's Arcade; Jack Leek's Ocean 62; Joe Parisi's Anthony Ciccone's Therapy; Greg Murphy's Sun Runner; Dick Murphy's Sea Warrior; Al Conan's Dit Digger; Val Lynch's Cyntinory; Micheal Peet's Rhonda's Osprey; Art Konto's Let it Ride and

Nick Rodriguez Par Five. Ron Berg's Highway 61 and Dan West's Nu-Twist each released a blue marlin and a white marlin today while Joe Recupero's Bone Shaker released two white marlin and a blue marlin. Sid Gold's Can Do Too and Bob Coppock's Blue Sky each released a blue marlin today.

August 17, 2004

For Immediate Release

It was a Chamber of Commerce-type day offshore on Day Two of the 2004 Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 for the elected to fish today. Light and variable winds created beautiful conditions and with a tournament record \$1.5 million up for grabs, crews were anxious to get to the canyon region off the south Jersey coast and coasts.

The big news of the day was in the white marlin division where Andy Schlotter's My Time weighed a 170 pounds to take the lead in that division. Joe Recupero's Bone Shaker with Captain V.J. Bell on the bridge placed after weighing a 71-pound white marlin. Dugan McLaughlin's ran his Juel Marie up to Cape May Maryland and weighed a white marlin of 69 pounds and sits in third place.

Another shake-up occurred in the tuna division when Bill Post's Lady Louise weighed a brace of big eyes the scales at 150 and 108 pounds respectively to take over second and third place in that category. Eli Gina still leads the category with his 182-pound big eye caught on Day One.

Steve Hotz True Grit still leads the blue marlin category with his 518-pound billfish caught on Day One place remain vacant.

In the dolphin division Al Conan's Ditch Digger leads the category with his 35-pound mahi-mahi and Ju leads the wahoo division with a 29.5-pound 'hoo.

Joe Aeillo's Reelin' and Deel'n released seven white marlin. The following boats released two white marlin: Wendkos' Good Grief; Dave Primiano's Lady Primo; Pat Healy's Viking 74; William Diller's Dream Cat; Schlotter's My Time. Boats releasing blue marlin today include Bernard and Drew Dinardi's Absolut-ly; Cynitory; Art Kontos' Let it Ride; Lori Muscara's Problem Child; Demetris Michalaki's Margherita Belle Pasquarella's Reel Gusto; Pete Cacoperdo's Centurion and Dave Anderson's Crazy Salts.

August 16, 2004

For Immediate Release

With tropical storm Charley now a fading memory, a second dose of unsettled weather moved across the coast and a rainy morning greeted the 35 boats electing to fish on Day One of the 2004 Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 cash purse was spread out along the entire canyon region from the Hudson Canyon to Washington Canyon search water that could yield a potential tournament-winning fish. After the Captain's Meeting yesterday all entries were tabulated and the field is set at 143 boats and when all the dust had settled and cash money tallied **tournament record** cash purse was established at \$1.5 million!

On the fishing front on Day One, Elio Mazzella's El Gina with Captain Bill Kaiser of Beach Haven at the helm quite a stir when he backed to the scales just after 4 p.m., nearly an hour before it officially opened. While on tuna aboard and quite a crowd gathered around the scales as the fish was lifted from the cockpit of the El Gina. Moments later weighmaster Chris Booth announced the weight of the big eye at 182 pounds. Ken Kuik Light was the angler who grabbed the 80-pound outfit when the bite occurred just after 10 a.m. and about 45 minutes before the gaff was sunk. In other news, Hank Zucatti's Tight Linez is in second place after weighing a yellowfin of 66 pounds and Shane Schneidinger's Kokomo sits in third place with a 60-pound yellowfin.

Steve Hotz on his True Grit sits atop the leaderboard in the blue marlin division after weighing his 518-pound which Stedman Birch fought for two hours after the hook-up at 3:15 p.m.

While the white marlin and wahoo weight categories remain vacant, in the dolphin division Roy Schwalb leads the category with his 14.5-pound mahi-mahi weighed at Sunset Marina in Ocean City, Maryland.

Billfish releases on Day One included a white marlin aboard Mike Chrysanthopoulos's Tar Heel, Jack L. Tom Gessler's Boy's Toy and Hank Zucatti's Tight Linez while Greg Murphy's Sun Runner and Roy Schwalb

Sherri released a blue marlin today. Though not an eligible species in the tournament, Sal Rumbolo's 1 a sailfish today.

For more information visit the tournament web site at www.MA500.com.

August 15, 2004

For Immediate Release

The Weather Channel's hottest couple, Bonnie and Charlie, couldn't dampen the spirits of the best cre fishing the Atlantic coast has to offer as they began preparation today for the 2004 Mid-Atlantic \$500,0 Jersey coast was spared the brunt of these two storms and aside from a dose of steady rain lasting ab that ended early Sunday morning, little damage was visible. Crews awoke this morning and began fina baits, tackle and last minute checks of ship's systems were also completed. A steady stream of hand c beverages, tackle and other gear made their way down the docks at Canyon Club and South Jersey M members settled in for the week ahead. Starting tomorrow through Friday these boats will head to the looking for a tournament-winning blue marlin, white marlin, tuna, wahoo and dolphin. This event featur Choice format where participants can select three of the next five days to fish in this trolling only event

The three heaviest white marlin and blue marlin each receive \$100,000, \$50,000 and \$25,000 respecti heaviest tuna win \$75,000, \$35,000 and \$20,000 respectively. The heaviest dolphin and wahoo each r field of 125 boats assures a minimum payout of \$500,000 and optional Calcutta (side bet) proceeds in payouts of the billfish and tuna categories significantly. When all the figures are totaled up the cash pu \$1.3 million! Will someone top Joe Niedoba, who aboard his Fisherman Joe-Kel in 2003, smashed the weight record with his 91-pound white marlin and walked off with \$542,000? Perhaps the blue marlin te of 748-pounds taken on Rich Addeo's Gina Lisa with Captain Danny Scotti in 1997 will fall? Or, can an tuna standard of 254 pounds set by Bernard and Drew Dinardi aboard their Absolut-ly in 1993? Time v

A white marlin must weight at least 60 pounds to qualify while a blue marlin must be at least 400 pound billfish earn points toward beautiful Guy Harvey artwork and a tuna must weigh at least 50 pounds to e artwork as well though there is no minimum weight for tuna to win cash. With these stringent minimum handful of billfish are ever brought to the scales in this event. In fact the tournament proudly boasts a r over 90% of the white marlin ever caught since the event began in 1992!

This year boats again may fish out of Cape May, New Jersey or Ocean City, Maryland. Canyon Club F serves as the host facility in Cape May while Sunset Marina will host participants in Ocean City. Vesse either inlet's sea buoy prior to 4:30 a.m. each day and so there is no geographical advantage, all partic within 125 miles of the Cape May sea buoy. Fishing begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. All whit marlin and tuna must be weighed at the Canyon Club though dolphin and wahoo may be weighed at e fish to be weighed must be at the scales by 9 p.m. on the day caught.

The Captain's Meeting under the "Big Top," featured a raw bar with plenty of clams and shrimp and otf plus cool liquid libations being consumed by well over 600 crew members in attendance. Tournament l Glover welcomed all and went over the rules for the tournament. An important rule change this year all member to hook a fish and handoff immediately to the angler who fights the fish until it is boated, relea Otherwise, IGFA all-tackle rules apply. Tournament President Dick Weber also extended a warm welc and reiterated the importance of conservation and asked everyone to check the tournament standings the fewest number of billfish are brought to the scales.

We will provide nightly updates by 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday, which will include the day's fishi complete wrap-up of the tournament will be faxed out by 11 a.m. Saturday. For further information con Marina at (609) 884-2400 or visit the tournament website at www.MA500.com.

August 1, 2004

For Immediate Release

The days of summer are passing by quicker than a blue marlin piles on the short 'rigger. Likewise, the tournament season is in high gear and with less than two weeks to go, preparation is at a torrid pace at a Resort Marina in Cape May, New Jersey where well over 100 boats with world-class anglers and crew August 15-20 for the 13th edition of the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000. Tournament Director Bob Glover has his long hours to prepare for sportfishing's "Main Event" and he's optimistic about the prospects for the upcoming tournament. "Things are really looking good offshore. Based on what I'm hearing from the guys who've been in the canyons, the water looks the best it has in quite a few years," says Glover. "They're marking a lot of blue marlin as well," he adds. "Our Viking – Ocean Showdown had 35 white marlin and a blue marlin release over 60 tuna weighed and some dolphin as well and in our recent Mid-Atlantic Tuna Tournament a lot of excellent tuna trolling bite and numerous blues and whites were let go," Glover noted.

Last minute registration, calcutta entries and a cocktail party are set for Sunday, August 15 from 1:00 p.m. followed by a mandatory Captains Meeting at 4:30 p.m. After that, five days of fishing are provided for participants to fish within 125 miles of the Cape May Sea Buoy. Vessels will once again be allowed to sail from Cape May or Ocean City, Maryland. While Canyon Club will be the host marina in Cape May, Sunset Marina will be the host facility there.

Boats may not clear their respective sea buoys prior to 4:30 a.m. each day. Fishing hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. and all billfish and tuna must be available for weigh-in at Canyon Club by 9 p.m. Dolphin and wahoo will be weighed at Canyon Club or Sunset Marina. IGFA all-tackle rules apply except a fish may be hooked by crew provided the rod is immediately transferred to the angler after the hook-up and that person fights the fish to boat, released or lost. This is a trolling only tournament with no limit to the number of lines though live baiting is not permitted and greensticks and harpoons are not allowed.

Based on a field of 125 boats, the three heaviest white marlin and blue marlin will receive \$100,000, \$75,000, \$50,000 and \$25,000. The three heaviest tuna will earn \$75,000, \$35,000 and \$20,000 and the single heaviest dolphin will be worth \$10,000. Boats may also enter additional "side bets" known as calcuttas to substantialize their payout for an additional \$1,000, \$1,500 and \$2,500. These proceeds are split among the tuna and billfish while the White Marlin Pro Jackpot with a fee of \$5,000 is a winner-take-all prize for the largest white marlin. The tournament has strict minimum weights of 60 pounds for white marlin and 400 pounds for blue marlin and awards are awarded for released fish with the top three point winners in each category receiving beautiful Guy Harvey artwork.

There's also plenty to do dockside as well. The "Big Top" circus-style tent is the gathering point for participants in Ocean City where they'll be served cool libations and hot buffet dinners each night while enjoying live music. Participants in Ocean City will receive enhanced hospitality. The "Sponsor's Midway" offers an opportunity to see the latest in fishing and boating gear and there you'll also find marine artist Guy Harvey with a large display of artwork.

The tournament also benefits the International Game Fish Association, National Coalition for Marine Conservation and the Recreational Fishing Alliance. The Mega-Marlin Raffle will again be held where artwork, jewelry, fishing supplies and clothing will be raffled off with the proceeds split among these three organizations to benefit the organizations.

The Mid-Atlantic \$500,000 is also a qualifying event for the Rolex/IGFA Offshore Championship and the Rolex Series. Winners of selected categories at the tournament will be awarded invitations to participate in the Rolex Series. Matching winners of other tournaments from around the world in a best-of-the-best competition.

Just a reminder, the Mid-Atlantic Ladies Charity Billfish Tournament is scheduled for August 12-15. This is for the woman and offers individual and team awards for billfish releases and tuna, wahoo and dolphin. A choice of fishing will be provided for crews to select one to fish, Captain's Choice. Proceeds will be donated to the designated charity by each of the top three teams. This is a great opportunity to test your crew and tackle for the upcoming season.