



Team Rod Bender boats largest marlin in Rock 'N Reel Tourney

Team Rod Bender boated the largest marlin in the Rock 'N Reel Tournament to take the top billfish prize and win the most money. Kerwin and Brent Masunaga's 391-pound blue earned them 91 points (a point per pound over the minimum qualifying weight of 300 pounds). Their blue was the only qualifying marlin of the event so they took all of the marlin points across the board. Rod Bender had two bites, caught one fish and won \$29,000 and a Penn International 130 rod and reel, according to tournament director Capt. Neal Isaacs.

Team Easy Pickens boated a 177-pound ahi to win the prize for the largest yellowfin tuna. Capt. Chuck Wigzell's gang won

a Penn reel. None of the 22 competing teams caught a mahimahi or ono so those prizes were not given.

Team Topshape amassed the most total points to finish first overall. Capt. Al Gustavson's team totaled 800 tag-and-release points for 3 marlin and 1 spearfish. For most tag and release billfish points Topshape got a Penn 130 International reel plus \$1,100. Their overall victory plus dailies totaled \$8,730.

Teams Humdinger, Lightspeed, and Bite Me 6 finished in a three-way tie for second place with 550 points tag and release points from two blues and a spearfish each. The prize money for second, third and fourth was added up and divided by 3 so each team won \$1,700. Each



Matt Bolton boated a 224-pound swordfish on Monday by handline. THE CHARTER DESK AT HONOKOHAU HARBOR/COURTESY PHOTO

also won dailies to boost their overall payout.

All 22 boats earned points that returned prize monies ranging from \$900 to \$8,100 dollars adding up to a total purse of \$77,000. Together they caught 19 blue marlin (tagging all but one), 12

spearfish, and 5 ahi.

Capt. Neal Isaacs said that his boat Anxious didn't do much in the tournament with just some mystery bites and a spearfish. On Monday, the day after the tournament, he took out a half

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John major t

BY DOUG FERRELL
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKMONT
Dustin Johnson won everything going Sunday in the U.S. Open. He was playing the best golf on the course. He had a lead on the back nine at Oakmont. He got a huge break ruling that allowed him to escape death the kind of break usually go to champions.

That's when two USGA officials approached him on the 12th tee. They thought he might get a penalty for his swing on the first hole. They wouldn't let him go after his round.

Try playing nine of a U.S. Open. That kind of coincidence.

"It's nothing point," said Johnson. He has had major

Dustin Johnson's hole. JOHN MIMM

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RIZZUTO: Matt Bolton handlines 224-pound swordfish; Keliinohopono Hill pulls

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day charter and had action from start to finish.

"We jumped off a fish about 550 pounds, then pulled in a 250 to tag and release," Neal said. "The next day we went 2 for 5 on blue marlin weighing 175 and 150 and lost three after hooking them up and jumping them off. We finished with a 110-pound ahi.

"After playing in the tournament, we went back to work," Neal said wryly. "That's why we keep doing it."

In tournaments and "real life," Capt. Al Gustavson has been on a hot winning streak that extends in many directions. In addition to winning the Rock 'N Reel main event, his Topshape team took first place in the Hawaiian Billfish Open Tournament three weeks ago. His "Goose's Edge" company acquired Kona Marine Supply in Honokohau Harbor on June 1. Most important to the comfort of his guests on Topshape, Capt. Al recently installed a \$25,000 Seakeeper gyro-stabilizer to give his luxury 43-foot sportfishing vessel the steadiest ride possible.

HAND-TO-HAND WITH A POWERFUL SWORD

Matt Bolton was enjoying a quiet night at sea when a 224-pound broadbill swordfish ripped into his sleepy thoughts. It was 2:30 a.m. when most fishermen are in bed and most swordfish are on the prowl for squid.

A swordie's giant eyes are adapted for hunting in the dark, and clever fishermen use light sticks to add to the attraction of their baits. Matt had baited his handline with a "stinky" opelu. He and his swordfishing friends have learned that broadbills are often more attracted to dead baits that have been ripening for a few

Big-Fish List

The 2016 list recognizes the biggest fish caught on rod and reel (except for opakapaka and onaga, which hand line catches are accepted) in West Hawaii waters in each of 22 categories. In each category, fish are listed by species, weight, angler, skipper, boat and date. The list is updated every Monday throughout the year (copyright 2016 by Jim Rizzuto). If a selection has been overlooked, call 885-4208 or send an e-mail to rizzutojim1@gmail.com.

- ▶ **Blue marlin:** 865, Louis Paulo and Kalamaokalani Kelekolio-Crivello, Anela Okaieka. Apr 20
- ▶ **Black marlin:** 241.5, Rod Schill, Capt. Butch Chee, Duck Soup. May 14
- ▶ **Ahi:** 233, David Diaz, Capt. Bobby Cherry, Cherry Pit II, June 5
- ▶ **Big eye tuna:** 173, Dave Remillard, Miles Nakahara, Puamana II. Jan. 11
- ▶ **Striped marlin:** 136.5, Mitchell Romero, Capt. Guy Terwilliger, High Flier. Jan 22
- ▶ **Spearfish:** 54, Nick Humpries, Capt. Shawn Rotella, Night Runner, Feb. 26
- ▶ **Sailfish:** 91, Mike Foster, Capt. Shawn Rotella, Night Runner. Mar. 24
- ▶ **Mahimahi:** 53, Nainoa Murtagh, Aulani. Feb. 10
- ▶ **Ono:** 62, Charlie Ford, Capt. Shawn Rotella, Night Runner. March 18

took the bait, it ripped hundreds of heavy Paracord out of his line basket. The tough line tests at 550 pounds, which means the fisherman must handle it with gloves if he wants to keep skin on his palms and fingers on his hands. But the heavy line is nearly impossible to break, so handliners have that much advantage over fishermen who go for swordfish with rod, reel and lines testing 80- to 130-pounds.

Handliners also have the advantages of attaching buoys to the line at intervals as the fish pulls

- ▶ **Kaku (barracuda):** 49.5, Koi Lorance and Tyson Fukuyama, Miki. May 7
- ▶ **Kahala:** 70, Jessica Yell, Capt. Shawn Rotella, Night Runner. Jan 22
- ▶ **Ulua (giant trevally):** 74, Bochan Johnson, from shore. Apr 3
- ▶ **Omiu (bluefin trevally):** 18.5, Mikey McCrum, Shoreline. May 13
- ▶ **Otaru (skipjack tuna):** 28, Rannie Beaver, Capt. McGrew Rice, Ihu Nui, May 14
- ▶ **Broadbill swordfish:** 214, Josh and Duane Bunch, Koinonia. May 28
- ▶ **Ahipalaha (albacore):** vacant
- ▶ **Kawakawa:** 18, Capt. Shawn Rotella, Night Runner. Apr. 2 Hanamana. March 3
- ▶ **Kamanu (rainbow runner):** 12.5, Tom Britton, kayak. Apr. 13
- ▶ **Opakapaka (pink snapper):** 9.5, Butch Chee, Sueto Matsumoto, Sandee. March 12
- ▶ **Onaga (ulaula ko`aie):** 19.5, Greg Hong, Kevin Shiraki, Erin Kai. Feb 25
- ▶ **Uku (gray snapper):** 17.5, Devin Hallingstad, kayak. Mar. 24.
- ▶ **O`io (bonefish):** vacant

BEASTS OF THE WEEK

Marlin weighing 500 pounds or more

- ▶ **June 13:** Blue marlin (763) Pat and Bob Wallis, Sea Baby III

NOTABLES

- ▶ **June 12:** Blue marlin

- (391) Brent Masunaga, Capt. Kerwin Masunaga, Rod Bender
- ▶ **June 14:** Swordfish (224) Matthew Bolton, Kahele
- ▶ **June 15:** Ahi (182.5) Joey Collins, Capt. Jah Nogues, High Noon
- ▶ **June 17:** Ahi (207.5) Sandy Coons, Capt. Kenny Fogarty, Hula Girl

RELEASES

- ▶ **June 12:** Spearfish (35) Windi Griffin, Capt. Scott Fuller, JR's Hooker
- ▶ **June 12:** Blue marlin (150 and 175) Bubby Reutner, Capt. Jeff Fay, Humdinger
- ▶ **June 12:** Blue marlin (150) Billy Kimi, Capt. Bomboy Llanes, Bomboy's Toy
- ▶ **June 12:** Blue marlin (150) Craig Chambers, Capt. McGrew Rice, Ihu Nui
- ▶ **June 12:** Spearfish (25) Suzanne Gustavson, blue marlin (100) Keith Chapman, Capt. Al Gustavson, Topshape
- ▶ **June 12:** Blue marlin (100 and 175) Larry Peardon, Capt. Rob Ellyn, Lightspeed
- ▶ **June 12:** Blue marlin (260) Nate Figueroa, Capt. Bradley Damasco, Bite Me 6
- ▶ **June 12:** Blue marlin (175) Bruce Barnes, Capt. Jim Wigzell, Go Get Em
- ▶ **June 13:** Blue marlin (250) Unknown, Capt. Neal Isaacs, Anxious
- ▶ **June 13:** Blue marlin (350) Carol Herren, Capt. Bruce Herren, Raptor

247-POUND AHI AMAZES HANDLINER

Keliinohopono Hill sent us a photo of one of the heaviest ahi we've seen in four years. According to the certified scales at the Kona Fish Company, Keli's yellowfin tuna weighed 247 pounds.

It doesn't displace the

- ▶ **June 14:** Blue marlin (275) Unknown, Capt. Shawn Palmer, Miss M
- ▶ **June 14:** Blue marlin (450) Wes Dolan, Capt. Marlin Parker, Marlin Magic II
- ▶ **June 14:** Blue marlin (150) Sasha Andres, C McGrew Rice, Ihu Nui
- ▶ **June 14:** Blue marlin (150 and 175) Travis Schnider, Capt. Neal Isaacs, Anxious
- ▶ **June 15:** Blue marlin (300) C.T. Carley, Capt. Chuck Wilson, Catche
- ▶ **June 15:** Blue marlin (175) Ed Jackson, Cap Steve Epstein, Hunte
- ▶ **June 16:** Blue marlin (160) Mike Fenners, (150) Scott Haitruv, C McGrew Rice, Ihu Nui
- ▶ **June 16:** Blue marlin (150, 150) Robbie Robinson, Capt. Tony Clark, Ihu Nui II
- ▶ **June 16:** Blue marlin (125) Jonathan Hall, Chuck Wigzell, Hooke
- ▶ **June 16:** Blue marlin (150) Chase Dolan, Capt. Marlin Parker, Marlin Magic II
- ▶ **June 17:** Blue marlin (165) Aaron Smith, C Boyd DeCoito, Foxy L
- ▶ **June 17:** Blue marlin (150) Robert Kaneo, David Crawford, Kona
- ▶ **June 17:** Blue marlin (175) Bernd V Wahlert, Capt. Kent Mongreig, Sea Wife II
- ▶ **June 18:** Blue marlin (200) Unknown, Capt. Neal Isaacs, Anxious
- ▶ **June 18:** Blue marlin (200) Unknown, Capt. Shimamoto, Capt. Taniyama, Five Star

you can see that ha catches involve spe advantages over ro reel catches. On th trip, the lucky han er also caught a sn tuna and several b

The biggest rod reel tuna caught h in recent years: 20 (233), 2014 (245), (243), and 2012 (

WEE GUYS ADDS WEE GUYS ENTRI

Now in its 36th The Wee Guys Fis Tournament is off special category t age family fishing