

LINES IN

TOURNAMENT REPORT



1,200-pounder in Pirate's Cove



Trey Irvine's 1,228.5-pound blue marlin set a new North Carolina state record and won nearly \$500,000 in the Pirate's Cove Billfish Tournament.

August 11-15, Manteo, North Carolina

Trey Irvine and his team on the 59-foot Spencer *Mimi* hooked the fish of a lifetime on the final day of the Pirate's Cove Billfish Tournament. Fishing some 65 miles northeast of Oregon Inlet, Capt. Mike King trolled through a stretch of flat-calm water when the big fish came up behind a bowling-pin teaser and switched over to the short rigger.

"It looked like somebody dropped a car in the water," Irvine said of the splash the fish created behind the boat.

After 2½ hours of fighting the fish, Irvine put the heat to the big marlin to get it to the boat, while Patrick Bird expertly wired the marlin and Cliff Spencer sunk the first gaff. It took the entire crew to haul the

142-inch (short length) fish into the cockpit, and they headed to the scales.

At 1,228.5 pounds, the fish eclipsed the North Carolina state record, a 1,142-pounder caught by Jack Herrington in 1974. Irvine's fish also pushed *Mimi* to the top of the leaderboard, taking home nearly \$500,000 in prizes.

Ohana came in second place with 350 points, followed by *Bi-Op-Sea*, also with 350 points. The 99-boat fleet released 22 white marlin, one spearfish and 11 blues. Irvine's state record was the only blue marlin weighed.

92-pound Whitey in Mid-Atlantic

August 17-22, Cape May, New Jersey

Susan McCart's *Reel Joy* scooped up the majority



of the \$1.8 million prize purse in the Mid-Atlantic \$500,000, weighing in a 92-pound white marlin on the final day of fishing. The 92-pounder tied the tournament record and garnered a \$699,307 check.

Flat-calm conditions greeted the fleet on Day One, and 122 boats gave it a go. Rich Ryon's *Anthracite* caught a 75-pounder to top the white marlin category. Dan Paulus on *Hullabaloo*

sat in second with a 73-pounder, and Jim McCarthy's *Covert Mission* caught a 72-pounder for third. Adam Demeusy's *Impulse V* weighed a 719-pound blue marlin to top that category.

None of the weight categories changed on Day Two, but *Billfisher* released three whites, while *Pipe Dreamer* released two.

On Day Three, *Trust Me* released three white marlin, and *Endurance*, *Mack Attack* and *Super Crew* each released two.

The bite kicked into gear on Day Four, and the leaderboard changed several times. Capt. Bob Watson put Frank Bongiorno's *Dealer's Choice* into the white marlin lead with an 88-pounder. Second place also changed as Capt. Matt Rabenstine found a 79-pounder for Barry Weshnak's *Miss Annie*. Gina Lea

moved into a tie for third place with a 75-pound white marlin for owner Adam Buchman. In the blue marlin category, Joe Berner's *Kwik Raze* caught a 625-pounder for second place.

The fleet continued to rack up the catches on Day Five, and it became another moving day on the leaderboard. McCart's *Reel Joy* thumped the competition when it showed up with its 92-pound whitey, bumping *Dealer's Choice*'s 88-pounder to second place, worth \$124,955. *Miss Annie*'s 79-pounder finished third for \$68,747. The 719-pound blue marlin caught on *Impulse V* held on to win the category and \$193,622. *Kwik Raze* finished second with a 625-pounder worth \$124,955. Joe Giaflagione's *Atomic* weighed in a 501-pound blue on Day Five to take third place and \$62,477.

Back in Five scored nine white marlin releases on Day Five, followed by