

Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament
Primary Contact: Peter Fithian
Phone: 808-383-6701
Email: hibtkona@aol.com

Media Contact: Laura Aquino
Current Events
Phone: 808-326-7820

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Old South Marlin Club #1 Holds On To HIBT Lead

Kona, Hawaii (Tuesday, July 26, 2011) – The Old South Marlin Club #1 retained its two-day lead with another two fish adding valuable points to their overall total. Angler Susan Ward, fishing aboard *Anxious*, a 33-foot Bertram, tagged an estimated 180-pound Pacific blue marlin using 50-pound test line. "That was a tough fish and a tough fight. I can't reel as fast as the guys, and the teamwork of Captain Neal Isaacs and his crew made all the difference," said Susan Ward.

Her husband caught his second Short nose spearfish in two days, giving Old South Marlin Club #1 enough points to hold first place on Day Two of this five-day sportfishing marathon.

Hilo Yacht Club, with three Pacific blue marlin tagged and released over two days, has vaulted into second place in the standings.

Beginners luck? Today China's PKU Sun Fun Club tagged two Pacific blue marlin, launching themselves into third place on the HIBT scoreboard. Fishing aboard *Playtime*, angler Duan Quancheng tagged his estimated 270-pound Pacific blue marlin in 42 minutes. Next up was first-time angler Yin Guochen who tagged his estimated 150-pound Pacific blue marlin in a very impressive seven minutes. "This is my first time ever catching a fish," Guochen said through an interpreter. "I liked it very much, and I thought seven minutes was pretty good for my first time."

In fact, there are three new international teams debuting at the 2011 Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament – China, Singapore and Vanuatu. All three teams managed to put points on the scoreboard.

Angler Ang Kha King, fishing with Singapore's Xtreme Anglers, tagged an estimated 270-pound Pacific blue marlin in just over 40 minutes. Port Vila Game Fishing Club from Vanuatu also put points on the scoreboard today when angler Murray Parsons tagged an estimated 250-pound Pacific blue marlin in just six minutes. Vanuatu and the Port Vila Game Fishing Club are known for excellent fishing action in their corner of the southern Pacific.

"Our new international teams are very competitive anglers who have immediately inserted themselves in the fishing action here at HIBT," said Tournament Founder Peter Fithian. "Kona waters have a well earned reputation among the international fishing community. This week is no exception – calm seas, beautiful skies, a highly skilled fleet and very enticing billfish. It's the reason these great sportfishing anglers from around the globe will be back again and again."

Angler Janice Allan from Whangaroa Game Fishing Club of New Zealand tagged an estimated 150-pound Pacific blue marlin, earning points for her team and sliding into second place on the women's leader board.

Veteran HIBT angler Fred Duerr of the Malibu Marlin Club boated his 162-pound ahi in 30 minutes. "This ahi wanted to continue swimming with its school. The line was getting chafed by other ahi in the school bumping it. I knew I had to reel it in quick," said Duerr.

In all, 13 billfish were tagged and released on Day Two – 9 Pacific blue marlin and four Short nose spearfish – plus one qualifying ahi.

The Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament is underwritten by the generosity of the County of Hawaii and sponsored in part by KWXX Radio and numerous other corporate and community donors.

The 2011 HIBT is comprised of five days of tournament fishing and continues through Friday, July 29.

Future HIBT dates:

2012 HIBT August 12-18, including five days of tournament fishing August 13-17

2013 HIBT August 4-10, including five days of tournament fishing August 5-9

2014 HIBT July 27-August 2, including five days of tournament fishing July 28-August 1

For more information on the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament, including team listings, IGFA world-record rules and a daily video recap of tournament standings, log onto www.hibtfishing.com

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DAILY CATCH (Tuesday)

9 Pacific blue marlin tagged & released
4 Short nose spearfish tagged & released
1 Ahi boated

HIBT CUMULATIVE WEEK TOTAL

25 Pacific blue marlin tagged & released

1	Pacific blue marlin weighed
1	Striped marlin tagged & released
8	Short nose spearfish tagged & released
3	Ahi boated
38	TOTAL

TEAM STANDINGS

Place	Team	Points
1	Old South Marlin Club #1	1,100
2	Hilo Yacht Club	900
3	PKU Sun Fun Club	850

TOP CAPTAIN STANDINGS

Skipper	Boat	Points
Rob Ellyn	Lightspeed	700
Tim Hicks	Last Chance	682
Jeff Fay	Humdinger	600
David Bertuleit	Kona Seafari	600
Jason Holtz	Marlin Magic	600

*Note: in the event of point ties, place standings are determined by the time the fish is boated.