



BY SAM WHITE

AD/HD CLAIMS THE IBT IN SAN JUAN

A rally on the final day of fishing made for an exciting finish

For more than six decades, the International Billfish Tournament of Club Nautico de San Juan has led the way as one of sport fishing's finest marlin tournaments. The level of competition is amazingly strong, with participating teams, anglers and clubs from around the world visiting the marlin-rich waters off Puerto Rico and vying not for millions of dollars, but instead for beautiful trophies and the recognition of their sport-fishing peers, something that money alone can never buy. Club Nautico de San Juan serves as the gracious tournament host.

As the event kicked off, anticipation ran high for good fishing. And the team aboard the 58-foot *Revenge AD/HD* did not disappoint. Led by Harris Lamont, *AD/HD* released three blue marlin on the first day to vault into an early lead.

The teams saw tougher conditions on the water during Day Two, but that didn't deter tournament director Sal Egea Jr. and his team, fishing aboard the 50-foot Viking *Panama Jack*. They released two blue marlin on 30-pound-test to win the daily prize and move up the scoreboard. "We had a beautiful teaser bite around

Harris Lamont and the *AD/HD* team celebrate a hard-fought victory in the International Billfish Tournament in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

TOURNAMENT QUICK BITES



The team aboard *A-Salt-Weapon* claimed its first-place finish in the Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament. They led the fleet with 23 sailfish releases.

VIRGINIA BEACH BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

August 24-27,

Virginia Beach, Virginia
Capt. Dennis Endee and the *A-Salt-Weapon* team released 23 sailfish to win the Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament. Capt. Jeff Ross and his team aboard *Obsession* released 17 sailfish to claim second place, and the team on *Rigged Up* placed third with 16 sailfish releases. This year's event hosted 75 boats and 512 anglers, with a cash prize purse of \$544,500.

MONTEGO BAY INTERNATIONAL MARLIN TOURNAMENT

September 20-24,

Montego Bay, Jamaica
The Cayman Islands-based *Trading Time* with Capt. Charles Ebanks, Caroline Pathanoff, David Alberga, Emil Terry and Chris Briggs won the Montego Bay International Marlin Tournament with two blue marlin releases. Pathanoff was the angler for both fish. Forty boats participated in the 55th annual tournament.

COURTESY MARK SMESTAD / IBT SAN JUAN (ABOVE LEFT, OPPOSITE), COURTESY DOMINIC JACKSON (ABOVE RIGHT)

11 a.m.," Egea reports. "Tim Mossberg released the fish in about 20 minutes, and then later that afternoon, I was able to release a second blue marlin. I am very happy with our performance: We saw two and caught two." The crew aboard the 31-foot *Cabo Legal Drug* also released two blue marlin on Day Two.

The third day of the IBT is reserved as a lay day, giving visitors a chance to enjoy the spectacular beauty of Puerto Rico. That evening, the tournament hosted a *fiesta tipica*, complete with a pig roast and plenty of rum drinks beachfront at the Hilton Caribe.

With two days left to fish, the fleet once again found challenging conditions on Day Three. *Caramba*, a 64-foot Briggs, led the way with the first of 12 blue marlin releases for the day, although *AD/HD* was able to add one more fish to its side of the ledger to remain in the lead, releasing four blues on 30-pound-test.

And with the tournament on the line,

Lamont and the *AD/HD* team stepped up and put a lock on the win with one final blue marlin release on the last day. *Sea Dream* made a late charge, though. The team, fishing on a 43-foot Cabo, released three blue marlin on the last day to win the daily and move into second place behind *AD/HD*; both teams scored 1,250 points, but *Sea Dream* fell to second based on time. Egea's *Panama Jack* team held on for third place with three blue marlin releases on 30-pound-test and 750 points. Egea says: "This year's event featured great participation and great camaraderie by all the anglers. It was a lot of fun to share the week with so many of our passionate anglers and friends of Puerto Rico who came from different parts of the world. We worked hard to make sure everyone had a great time, and I think we succeeded." During the four days of tournament fishing, the 194 anglers fishing aboard 47 vessels released a total of 58 blue marlin. 🐟



The team aboard *Sea Dream* came on strong during the fourth and final day, releasing three blue marlin to win the daily and also move into second place overall with a total of five blue marlin.

Big Anglers Deserve big numbers

Fishing Season: February to May. Peak of the season: March & April.

Latitude 18° 24' 0.46" N
Longitude 0.68° 54' 0.29" W
Channel 68VHF

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