



With 56 releases in three fishing days the International Billfish Tournament of Club Nautico de San Juan

September 16, 2019

The International Billfish Tournament (IBT) of Club Nautico de San Juan ended with 56 releases over three fishing days with strong competition and plenty of anglers fighting one-on-one with the great Blue marlin to release and preserve it for future generations to enjoy.

Boat Lady Abi held the lead and won the IBT with four releases from José “Joche” Valdes, Alberto Solares, Noel Pérez and Víctor Caldwell. Lady Abi’s captain Jeffrey Rosado won the “Capt. Mike Benitez Best Captain Perpetual Trophy” whereas his name is introduced in this beautiful sculpture.

Pink Lady came in second with three billfish released by Félix del Rio and Herbert Soto (2), followed by Fishing Tales, with three big ones by visiting angler Charles Berkley, who won as Best Angler Overall and Best Visiting Angler.

Salvador Egea, Jr., tournament chairman, said the bite was excellent and each day anglers released 20, 24 and 12 billfish for the 56 total releases. “It was a great edition. The last fishing day decided many positions,” said Egea.

Visitors Guillermo de León Amador and Matteo Defalco, both from Florida, got in second and third place as international anglers, while the first top three local anglers were Federico Stubbe, Carlos Ramirez, Jr., and Juan Carlos Puig, with two billfish each. Another five anglers hooked two marlin each.

Representing Puerto Rico, Ecuador, and the United States in the international team division winners were Federico Stubbe, Tito Saavedra and Carlos Luís Rodríguez (Puerto Rico), followed by Herbert Soto, Gonzalo M. Ferrer and Francisco Landivar (Ecuador), and Charles Berkley, Donald Euston and Charles Greenberg (United States).

The interclub local winners were San Juan Bay Marina 04, Arecibo and Club Nautico of San Juan 9 with Juan Carlos Puig, Humberto Martinez and Manuel Felipez (SJ Bay Marina 04); Jaime

Fronteras, Raymond Rivera and Herminio Amador (Arecibo); Ricky Jaén, Angel Muntaner and José “Joche” Valdés (CNSJ 9).

After four consecutive years as an event leader, Egea said “it has been an honor to organize the tournament, including the edition that followed Hurricane Maria and last year’s tournament with 89 releases. We proved that our efforts in billfish conservation are rendering great results and we will keep doing what we know best, a great tournament for deep-sea fishing anglers and enthusiast to enjoy it to the most,” he said.

As anticipated, experienced lady angler Carolina Mederos, from Dominican Republic and who travels the world fishing, released a blue marlin at the end of the tournament onboard Blue Bird.

The 66th edition registered 45 boats and 193 anglers representing five countries: Ecuador, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, United States and Puerto Rico. You may check the complete list of winning boats, anglers and teams at: www.sanjuaninternational.com

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