

## **HITT - 2011 RESULTS SUMMARY**

The 2011 Halifax International Tuna Tournament was a resounding success with six boats participating over the weekend of Saturday September 24th to Monday September 26th. We couldn't have asked for better weather for the event with light winds, virtually flat seas and comfortably warm early fall weather. Although it rained intermittently through the first day with glassy seas, we had sunny and warm weather for days two and three all with spectacular fishing action.

Participants included:

Team "Pier Pressure" Capt'n; Vic Heniss with a crew of three

Team "Gaffer" Capt'n; Fred Voegeli with a crew of five (plus alternate)

Team FPS (Adagio) Capt'n; John Spencer with a crew of four (plus alternate)

Team Inventive Marine Capt'n; Jamie Judge with a crew of three

Team "Reel Candy" Capt'n; Wayne Hoskin with a crew of five

Team Barkhouse (Nijinski) Capt'n; Paul Barkhouse with a crew of five (one day)

The tournament kicked off on Friday afternoon with registrations at the trailer provided by Schooner Cove Marine in the parking lot adjacent to Bishops Landing which was skillfully manned by our on-site coordinators/volunteers Ric Hattin and Bob Moore. Many thanks are extended to our volunteers for their time and efforts over the three days of the tournament.

Registration was followed by snacks and the Skippers meeting at Tug's pub on the Halifax Waterfront at 7 pm where Ric Hattin opened the meeting and outlined overall program and starting plans for Saturday morning at 7 am. Fred Voegeli covered the tournament "All Tackle" Rules that we were fishing under for this program along with a brief outline of the DFO "call out" and "call in" requirements. Chris Purcell of Oceanview Fisheries then provided a helpful and detailed lesson on the best ways to handle a tuna once landed to properly cool down (swim) the fish and how best to bleed the fish properly to maximize the market value of the catch. This information was greatly appreciated by all and proved very useful to the winning team. Hopefully we will be able to repeat this instruction lecture at all future tournaments. A few closing words of encouragement were provided by Vic Heniss our Board president.

The official tournament commenced with a shotgun (horn blast) start off Bishops Landing at 07:00 on Saturday. The herring schools had arrived in the area just prior to the tournament, and the tuna off Halifax were plentiful with every boat encountering multiple hookups through the three days of fishing, however, hookups and landings are an entirely different thing with these monster tuna.

Saturday and Sunday were eventful days with virtually every boat hooking up and fighting fish for periods of from a few minutes to up to four hours before unfortunately losing them. Only one fish of 395 lbs. was successfully landed on Monday the 26th with the winning team being "Team Gaffer" from Shad Bay NS. Other boats also hooked up on the last day but unfortunately were not successful in

boating their fish. The consolation prize went to “Team Inventive Marine” who for the second time in the tournament fought a fish for nearly four hours but losing it just before the official tournament ended at 5 pm.

Bait sales were available each morning throughout the tournament with frozen herring provided by Oceanview Fisheries Ltd. Onsite bait sales to the teams were skillfully managed by Ric and Bob. As a pleasant surprise at the closing ceremonies, Chris Purcell of Oceanview Fisheries announced that the \$1580 proceeds from the bait sales would be donated to the IWK. Oceanview also provided the on-site pre-preparations, slushing and transport of the winning fish to their plant in Sambro where it was subsequently graded and the decision made to ship the winning fish to the Japanese market for auction (see press release below). A special thanks to Chris and all the persons at Oceanview for their professional support and the generous donations to our cause.

Closing ceremonies and a great buffet were provided again at Tug’s Pub on the Monday evening. Shawn Woodford from the Chronicle Herald was on hand to present the beautiful new Chronicle Halifax Herald Tuna Tournament Trophy to “Team Gaffer” (see photos below). A great time was had by all and we look forward to 2012 with another good year and hopefully more fish to be landed next time. All the Best.

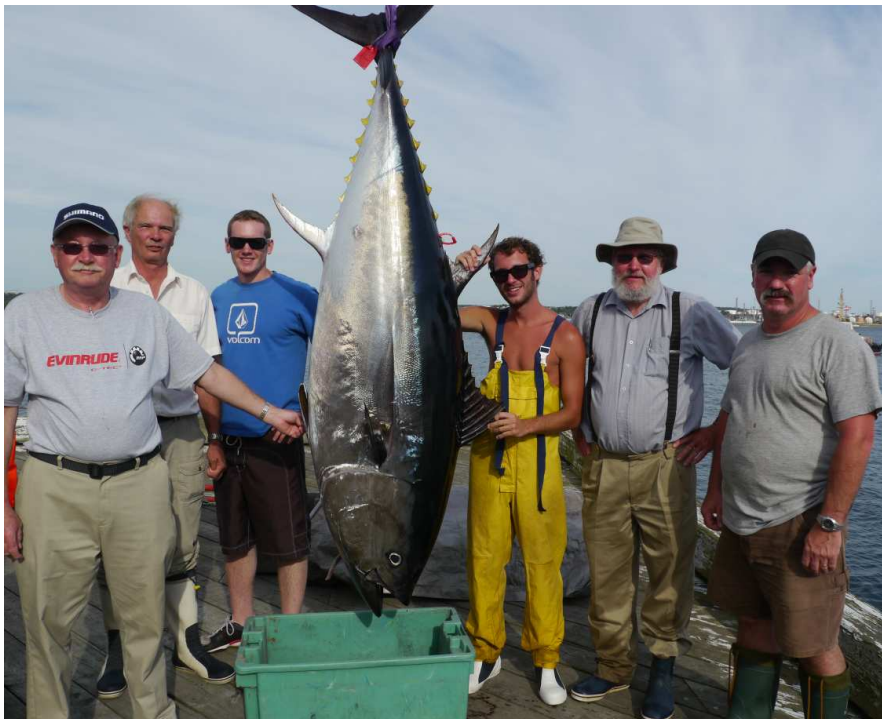
Sincere thanks are also extended to all of our corporate and individual sponsors for their time, efforts and generous contributions to the tournament (see <http://www.bluefintournament.com/contact.html> for the full listing).



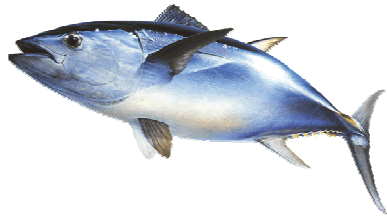
Chronicle Herald Trophy



2011 HITT Winners: left to right Shawn Woodford (from the Chronicle Herald presenting the trophy) with Team Gaffer": Jim Wilson, Fred Voegeli, John Lewis, Drew Voegeli, Nancy Wilson Voegeli, Scott Billard and Bill Currie



"Team Gaffer" on catch day: Fred Voegeli, John Lewis, Justin Elkin (photographer), Drew Voegeli, Bill Currie and Jim Wilson.



# Halifax Tuna Tournament Society

October 28, 2011

## Press Release

A cheque was presented to the IWK Foundation today from the Halifax Tuna Tournament Society in the amount of \$14,372.89. These are the proceeds raised during the Halifax International Tuna Tournament which took place in Halifax at Bishop's Landing on September 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> of this year.

The teams fished for three days using quota donated by The Nova Scotia Swordfishermen's Association, members of the St. Margarets Bay Tuna Fishermen's Association, and Ivy Fisheries Ltd.

The Chronicle Herald Tuna tournament Trophy was won by the only fish caught by "Team Gaffer" Captained by Fred Voegeli. The Bluefin tuna weighed in at 395 lbs. The fish was prepared for shipment by Oceanview Fisheries who shipped the Tuna that had a dressed weight of 309 lbs. The fish was auctioned at the Tsukiji Market in Japan and sold for the highest price on the market that day. The price was 5100 yen/kilo. This translates to \$31.00/lb. The net sale of the fish was \$7,099.54. The balance of the proceeds was raised by a portion of the tournament entry fees and bait sales. The bait was donated by Oceanview Fisheries as well as handling costs of the Tuna.

Special thanks to Fisheries and Oceans Canada and their helpful staff.



*Photo courtesy of The Chronicle Herald*

**From left**, Fred Voegeli, director of the Halifax Tuna Tournament Society (HTTS) and winner of the Halifax International Tuna Tournament, Geoffrey Milder, development office with IWK Health Centre Foundation, Vic Heniss, president of the HTTS, Wayne Hoskin, director of H77'S, and Shawn Woodford, director, marketing and product development, The Chronicle Herald, holding The Chronicle Herald Trophy. The IWK received a donation of \$14,372.89, funds raised from the tuna tournament.