



November 14, 2016 – for immediate release.

With 45 boats registered in this year's Dust'em Off Sailfish Warmup, a multi inlet tournament, we exceeded attendance and payout marks set for the tournament in previous years. With a purse of 73k on the line, the fleet fished out of various ports up and down the FL coast with some boats as far away as Jupiter inlet and Islamorada. After weeks of 25kt+ winds, a great weather window showed up mid-week that was more suitable for Bahamas wahoo fishing and not South Florida sailfishing. With that challenge, Capt. Luis Coll was able to lead his crew on the 37 Seahunter, Utopia to a runaway victory this past Saturday with 11 sails. Fishing off Boca Inlet, weekend warriors were presented with more of a challenge than the pleasant weather conditions they are accustomed to. However; expert boat handling, shots at multiples throughout the day and the superb angling of Top Angler JP Larsen propelled them to a sound victory! In second, the 60ft Viking Fragrant Harbor captained by Joe Garberoglio maintained the lead most of the morning with 5 sails before 10am but slipped behind Utopia in the afternoon. After getting a scare from other boats creeping up the standings the release of their final fish within the last hour of fishing securing them the second spot with 6 sails. With a late triple, the crew on Old No 7/ Pro Payroll captained by Jaime Ralph secured the third spot for the second year in a row and edged out Capt. Matt Alligood's Good Call with 6 sails based on time.

This year's charter boat division was the largest field we've seen to date with 7 boats. Capt. Nel Martinez on his Key Biscayne based charter boat Top Gun lead his crew to an early lead. An afternoon push from Lemieux Charters, L&H, and Bouncer's Dusky was too little too late to challenge the Top Gun as they held on for the 1st place finish in the division with 4 sails. Capt. Chris Lemieux on Lemieux Charters secured second on time with 3 sails followed by the L&H captained by Jimmy David, also with 3 sails. The L&H also had Top Lady Angler Debbi David who caught 2 of their 3 fish.

The most exciting day of the tournament belonged to the crew on the Little Bird! Shortly after 10:30 AM Capt. Paul Finazzo called the tournament committee to report that they had released a White Marlin! At the end of the day the surprises were still coming as they found out that the 27.8lb king they caught was going to hold serve as largest funfish. That kingfish ended up being worth \$7K! Top Junior was Reed Ekey, Jr on Team Eco. A heart-breaking camera malfunction resulted in the disqualification of one fish which held him away from the overall Top Angler spot.

RESULTS

Overall

- 1 Utopia 11 **\$37,550**
- 2 Fragrant Harbor 6 **\$17,950**
- 3 Old No.7/ Pro Payroll 6 **\$10,750**

Charter

- 1 Top Gun/ No Limit 4 **\$1120**
- 2 Lemieux Charters 3 **\$280**
- 3 L&H 3

Top Captain

Luis Coll

Top Angler

JP Larsen 3

Top Female

Debbi David 2

Top Junior

Reed Ekey, Jr 2

Funfish

Little Bird- Nick Perez- King fish 27.8lbs **\$7,000**

This year's tournament set an example on how there can still be affordable, yet lucrative tournaments held in South Florida. The continued growth over the last 3 years show that there is a competitive thirst that not only seasoned tournament teams have, but also guys that would be considered recreational anglers have as well. The Dust'em Off Warmup will strive to continue with a fun first direction in the years to come. The goal of the tournament is to not merely be an early season option but a tournament that all anglers consider as **THE** mandatory kickoff to their tournament season. On behalf of the tournament I would like to thank all the anglers, sponsors, and staff involved in making this tournament a success for the last 3 years!

Sincerely,

Capt. Ben Sharpe

Tournament Director

PHOTOS













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