

The Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club, Telstra Shop Kawana Waters Classic was once again held in great conditions from February 3-6 based from the Kawana Waters Hotel on the Mooloolaba Harbour. 26 boats entered and given the amount of financial hardship, cyclones and general bad weather, this was an outstanding show of support for the club. Sponsors also dug deep so anglers could fish for Tiagra and Tyrnos reels as well fantastic trophies and a raft of random draw prizes that ended with Jim McKinnon winning a boat/motor/trailer package.

Day 1 saw boats try from the 8 Mile grounds to the Noosa Canyon's, some boats headed south to Hutchinson Shoal and Cape Moreton grounds with most boats preferring to try the heavy tackle option. As dirty water clouded most areas, boats searched for current breaks and clean water in the hope of finding fish. Just after 9am on day 1 John Dwyer aboard Fish Whisperer claimed the first heavy tackle Black Marlin. By 10am, Grant Cooper was rewarded with a heavy tackle Black Marlin and by 10:30am Tony Cross on Out Quoting had found a current line due east of Chardon's reef to claim what was to be the tournaments only light tackle Black Marlin. Eventual under 6.5m boat Champions, Inside Edge, also claimed a heavy tackle fish and a 19kg Mahi Mahi to eventually give them a class win. Nigel Rae aboard Matt Wallace's Fish Whisperer also scored a late heavy tackle Blue Marlin to round out the day. Add to this numerous Wahoo, Mahi Mahi and Mackerel caught including the boat Blu Reela reporting an amazing 21 strikes at the last sked! Back at the weigh station, internationally renowned weigh masters and judges, Albert and Pauline Threadingham were kept busier than even with a lot of fishing just missing out on line class weights. Final day 1 results were 67 strikes for 51 hookups for 36 tags or captures

The second day only saw one heavy tackle Blue Marlin tagged for David Granville aboard Reel Capture. Through no lack of trying it was a bit quieter on day two as boats ventured wide of Noosa and Moreton Island again to find clean water. There were several opportunities on the second day for different teams to climb the leader board but missed opportunities proved costly and again there were a lot of Mahi Mahi and Wahoo weighed.

Champion Angler Overall was taken out by John Dwyer aboard Fish Whisperer, John also was the Champion Heavy Tackle Angler whilst Grant Cooper from the Reel Capture team was runner up. Tony Cross aboard his boat Out Quoting was the Champion Light Tackle Angler. There was only one female category awarded and that was in the light tackle section where Sarah Higgins claimed a set of diamond earrings for her efforts aboard Kamakaze. Whilst there were juniors competing for the DSL gaming console and iPod products none were fortunate enough to get on the leader board but all were rewarded with prize packs anyway. The final day 2 numbers were 47 strikes for 33 hookups for 22 tags or captures - totalling 114 strikes, 84 hookups and 58 tags or captures for the entire tournament

In the boat categories Fish Whisperer got in early and set themselves up with local talent Ross Martin behind the wheel to not only give them Champion Boat over 6.5m but also numerous other categories including the coveted invitation to the IFGA World Offshore Championships in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Runner up in over 6.5m was the Reel Capture Team followed by the consistent team aboard Roger Bayzand's Blackwatch, Blu Reela. Places 4th and 5th were awarded to Heath Irvine's team aboard his new boat Kamakaze and local boat Cat-A-Pult skippered by Paddy Diamond.

Under 6.5m trophies went to Andrew Yeh skippering Inside Edge as the champion boat, runner up for the second year in row was the team aboard Out Quoting and third went to Big Wave Dave which weighed an incredible 24kg Barracuda. There was no 4th and 5th places awarded.

As the season progresses anglers are looking forward to a better later season and the water clears up and fish move in. Make sure you set aside the Spring Shootout dates from October 6-9, 2011. This tournament last year saw 76 sailfish tagged by 24 boats in two days, so a repeat of this great event is one not to be missed.

The SCGFC committee would like to thanks all of the competitors and boats owners for their continued support, full details of all results, upcoming events and membership can be found at [www.scgfc.com.au](http://www.scgfc.com.au) <<http://www.scgfc.com.au/>>