

START FISHING, START FISHING, START FISHING! 51ST HAWAIIAN INTERNATIONAL BILLFISH TOURNAMENT GETS UNDERWAY

Kona, Hawaii (Monday, August 1, 2010) – “Start fishing, start fishing, start fishing!” In keeping with the legendary phrase which began more than fifty years ago, HIBT opened day one of the 51st Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament (HIBT) at exactly 7:30am Monday morning.

Thirty-one teams including five teams from Australia and Japan, four teams from New Zealand, and teams from Canada, Korea, Papua New Guinea, South Africa, and Tahiti along with U.S. teams from California, Hawaii, Florida and North Carolina are all hoping to capture the prestigious HIBT Governor’s Trophy. The Governor’s Trophy is a perpetual trophy awarded to the team scoring the highest number of Billfish points in the tournament. Past winners include:

2009 Kona Game Fishing Club-Bellhope, Japan

2008 Laguna Niguel Billfish Club, California

2007 Hilton Grand Vacations Fishing Club, Japan

2006 Malibu Marlin Club, California

2005 Team Bahamas

As Monday morning went on and before the noon tournament roundup, teams had reported eleven fish hooked. At 10:06am, fishing aboard *Northern Lights*, the **Korea Game Fish Association** had a double hook-up. Not quite ready for the double, the team disqualified the first marlin and concentrated on boating the second hook-up. In just 50 minutes, angler **Kim Sung Su** had boated a 390-pound Pacific blue marlin, winning his team valuable tournament points. “This is my best personal record catch,” said Sung Su. “And it’s only the first day of the HIBT!”

Just before noon, **Olympian Dream Fishing Club** from Japan, fishing aboard *JR’s Hooker* captained by Kevin Hibbard, boated a 395-pound Pacific blue marlin. Team captain and angler **Yasuhiko Kagabu** took just under an hour to boat his marlin. “The team fished on 50-pound test and caught the marlin on a lure they brought from Japan. Team captain and angler Yasuhiko took his time and brought the fish in nice and slow,” said Captain Hibbard. “He was an excellent angler.”

Laguna Niguel Billfish Club rounded out the day by boating a 175-pound ahi, (Yellow Fin Tuna). As lucky as he is, angler Bob Dudley who has caught and boated large marlin in previous HIBT tournaments, had a surprise when the ahi appeared at the back of the boat. “We did not know we had an ahi. We played it like there was a marlin on the other end of the line,” said Dudley. “This ahi was a tough fighting fish! Tomorrow, I want to go catch a marlin.”

By the end of day one, eleven teams had put valuable points on the scoreboard with fifteen catches including three boated fish and twelve fish tagged and released.

Note: To preserve the thrill of big game fishing for future generations, HIBT teams do not boat Pacific blue marlin under 300 pounds. Teams are awarded points for their catch and these billfish are tagged and released.

The Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament is underwritten by the generosity of the County of Hawaii and sponsored in part by KWXX Radio and numerous corporate and community donors.

For more information on the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament, including team listings, IGFA world-record rules and a daily video recap of tournament standings, log onto www.hibtffishing.com

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Photo caption:

**Olympian Dream Fishing Club Team Captain and Angler Yasuhiko Kagabu
Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament's 2010 Miss Billfish, Sonja Ascino
JR's Hooker Crew David Crawford**

DAILY CATCH (Monday-Day One)

10 Pacific blue marlin tagged & release
2 Pacific blue marlin weighed
2 Short nose spearfish tagged & release
1 Ahi (Yellow Fin Tuna)

TEAM STANDINGS

Place	Team	Points
1	Game Fishing Club of South Australia	900
2	Olympian Dream Fishing Club	625
3	Old South Marlin Club #1	600
4	Team KGFA-Korean Game Fish Assoc.	519

CAPTAIN STANDINGS

Place	Captain	Boat	Points
1	Lance Gelman	Long Ranger	900
2	Kevin Hibbard	JR's Hooker	625
3	Boyd DeCoito	Foxy Lady	600
4	Kevin Nakamaru	Northern Lights	519

*Note: In the event of point ties, place standings are determined by the time the fish is boated.

