

Cerveza Captures the BBC Marsh Harbour Championship

Record Participation for the BBC's 32nd Year

A record fleet of seventy of the world's top sport fishing teams started this year's Bahamas Billfish Championship in grand style by catching eighty-eight qualified billfish during the four-day Marsh Harbour Championship. The record participation reflected the enthusiasm for changes in the release categories and the increased minimum length for boated blue marlin.

Team *Cerveza*, led by owner Tom Russell, fishing on his 62 foot Spencer, released a blue marlin on the first day of fishing. In releasing a blue marlin and white marlin on the second day, followed by another white marlin on the third and fourth days, the accumulation of 1800 points garnered the team not only the 1st Place Award Hatteras Bronze, but also the Top Release Bronze from Murray Product, High Seas Technology, and PipeWelders. The 1st Place team also received an AlgaeSep Filtration System from Walker Engineering. The top crew fishing on the *Cerveza* received trophies from Lewis Marine Supply, prizes from Alutecnos Tackle, and sunglasses courtesy of Maui Jim Sunglasses.

Finishing a close Second was the *Joanna* from Warren, New Jersey fishing on their 54-foot Viking. Led by team captain Bill Gallo, the *Joanna* achieved 1600 points by releasing a blue marlin on the first fishing day, another blue on the second day, and two white marlin on the third.

Smooth Finish, led by Brad Aery from Friendswood, Texas, finished in Third Place with 1400 points. Fishing on a 54-foot Bertram, the team released two blue marlin and one white marlin for the week. Team *Smooth Finish*, a well known BBC participant, captured the "Largest Fish of the Series" award in 2004.

The excellent fishing during the Marsh Harbour Championship resulted in forty-five qualified blue marlin caught; thirty-five qualified white marlin were released, five qualified sailfish released, and two spearfish were released. All but three of the blue marlin were released. All catches are verified using time and date stamped digital images. Affidavits signed by all participants fishing on each team further confirmed that the fish was released in accordance with tournament rules.

Rolex continues their role as Title Sponsor of the 2005 Bahamas Billfish Championship. This year's Rolex Grand Prize, in conjunction with Riviera Yachts, is an expense paid, round-trip to Queensland, Australia. The team will participate for the second year as the BBC's representative in the Riviera/Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic.

Hatteras Yachts and MarineMax Yachts and Brokerage were the principal hosts for the Marsh Harbour Championship, presenting their trophies to the winners and hosting numerous social functions. Abaco Gold and the Sand Dollar Shoppe hosted their traditional "conch festival" on Lay Day. Additionally, the

Abaco Club on Winding Bay delighted BBC participants to a golf outing at their new development near Cherokee. John Bull graciously welcomed the participants to a cocktail reception and raffle prizes held in their new store directly opposite the entrance of Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour. Additional social sponsors for the week include Smith Merritt Insurance and Chubb Group of Insurance Companies, Twin Air/Calypso Airlines, Bristol Wine & Spirits, Cruzan Rum, and Bimini Island Air.

Spanning April through June, all BBC tournaments are governed by a uniform set of rules controlling minimum lengths of 105 inches for qualifying blue marlin, line class, fishing hours and entry fees. Anglers can fish any or all of the tournaments with cumulative points determining the overall Bahamas Billfish Champions.

Throughout its history, the Championship has been a consistent supporter of billfish research and, in 2000, established an endowed Scholarship Fund to enable Bahamian students the opportunity to pursue a degree in marine biology. The BBC Scholarship Fund is supported by voluntary financial contributions from anglers, BBC sponsors and the Bahamian business community.

After the Marsh Harbour Championship, the overall standings for the 2005 Bahamas Billfish Championship are: First Place – *Cerveza* – 2400 points; Second Place – *Joanna* - 2100 points; Third Place – *Smooth Finish* - 1800 points; Top Release Team – *Cerveza* . .

Next the Bahamas Billfish Championship anglers and teams will head to Harbour Island in Eleuthera for Leg Two which begins May 1st and continues through May 6th. For the first time in the history of the Bahamas Billfish Series, all tournament venues are "sold out" for the remainder of the fishing season.

For the very latest information and standings, visit our Internet website at www.bahamasbillfish.com or contact the Bahamas Billfish Championship, 2 Oakwood Blvd., Suite 195, Hollywood, FL 33020. Telephone (954) 920-5577, fax (954) 925-1033 or e-mail: bbc@albehrendt.com.

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***Lone Eagle II* Captures Harbour Island Championship**

Overall Championship Quest Tightens

Jack Delaney and team *Long Eagle II*, a vintage 50-foot Rybovich, amassed 1800 points in releasing three blue marlin for the week to capture First Place at the Harbour Island Championship – the second leg of the Bahamas Billfish Championship 2005 (BBC) series. *Lone Eagle II* released two blue marlin on the first day of fishing and maintained their lead by releasing another blue on the third day. In

addition to a beautiful Bodo Muche Bronze trophy from Gregory Pool Caterpillar, the team also took home the Top Release Award for the week sponsored by Murray Products, High Seas Technology & PipeWelders. The Top Crew awards included trophies from Lewis Marine Group and sunglasses from Maui Jim.

Team *Palawan* made a remarkable come back and finished in Second Place with 1469 points. Led by veteran BBC angler Tom Watson, fishing on his 54-foot Bertram, the team accumulated the points with a white marlin release on the third fishing day, and racked up 1269 points on the final day by releasing a blue marlin and boating a 669 pound fish.

Third place honors went to *Perfect Parts*. Seasoned BBC angler Jan Lowenhaupt, fishing on Allan Bir's 50-foot Viking, led the team to accumulate 1300 points by releasing a blue marlin on the first day of fishing, a sailfish release on the second day, and a blue marlin release on the final day.

During the Harbour Island Championship, the fifty-five participating teams caught forty-two qualified billfish. Twenty-one blue marlin, sixteen white marlin and five sailfish were caught during the four days of fishing. All catches are verified using time and date stamped digital images.

The Harbour Island Championship was hosted by Gregory Pool Caterpillar of Wanchese, North Carolina. Marine Account Manager David Starling presented the trophies to the winning teams and crews. Social functions taking place in various locations on the island included the Boathouse at Valentines, Hammerheads at Harbour Island Marina, the John Bull store on Bay Street, and Coral Sands Resort. All of the functions were extremely well attended. The fifty-five participating boats were moored at Valentine's Marina and Resort and Harbour Island Marina. Additional social sponsors for the week included Smith-Merritt Insurance, John Bull, Yellow Air Taxi, and Exxon/Mobile of the Bahamas.

The Bahamas Billfish Championship's Title Sponsor, Rolex will present this year's Rolex Grand Prize to the Overall Winner of the Series at the conclusion of the Boat Harbour Championship at the Abaco Beach Resort in Marsh Harbour, Abaco. The 2005 Bahamas Billfish Champion will receive from Rolex, in conjunction with Riviera Yachts, an expense paid trip to Queensland, Australia and participation in the Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic.

Throughout its history, the Championship has been a consistent supporter of billfish research and, in 2000, established an endowed Scholarship Fund to enable Bahamian students the opportunity to pursue a degree in marine biology. The BBC Scholarship Fund is supported by voluntary financial contributions from anglers, BBC sponsors and the Bahamian business community. For 2005, after two tournaments,

contributions have exceeded \$25,000.

As the Bahamas Billfish Championship anglers and teams head to the Spanish Cay for the third leg of the 2005 Series, the overall standings look like this:

·	First Place	<i>Lone Eagle II</i>	3200 points
·	Second Place	<i>Palawan</i>	2769 points
·	Third Place	<i>Cerveza</i>	2600 points
·	Top Release Team	<i>Lone Eagle II</i>	

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Spanish Cay is Perfect for *Perfect Parts*

Third BBC Tournament Attracts Fifty-Eight Teams

The Bahamas Billfish Championship returned to Spanish Cay Resort & Marina, May 15th through 20th for leg three of the five tournament series. The venue continued to be a huge success for the fifty-eight participating teams. A total of eighty-two billfish were caught during the week and the teams proved that the Abacos continue to be a fertile fishing area for blue marlin.

Perfect Parts team captain Allan Bir of Indianapolis, Indiana, had guest Picot Cassada on board his 50 foot Viking for the week. Guided by Captain Steve Holmes, the team accumulated 3200 points for the week by releasing five blue marlin and one white marlin to capture the 1st Place Bronze trophy awarded by Bertram Yachts and Allied Richard Bertram Marine Group. The team also took the Top Release Category with a bronze trophy sponsored by Murray Products, High Seas Technology, and PipeWelders. The crew of *Perfect Parts* received trophies from Lewis Marine Supply and gift certificates from Maui Jim Sunglasses.

The Second Place award was taken by the team *Last Stall* of Corpus Christi, Texas. Fishing on the 60 foot Hatteras, Captain John Teal led his team to a total of 2400 points by releasing four blue marlin for the week. Team *Last Stall* captured their first blue release on the first day of fishing and three on the third day to accumulate the 2400 points to take the 2nd Place spot for the Spanish Cay Championship.

Seasoned BBC angler and 2003 BBC Overall Champion Harry Sargeant, fishing on the 65 American Custom Yacht *Black Gold* from Boca Raton, Florida, took Third Place honors. The team scored 2000 points for the week by releasing three blue marlin and one white marlin.

Team *Grander*, headed by Marion Uter and veteran captain John Stark (a two time BBC Captain Champion) caused a great deal of excitement on the third day of fishing. The team racked up 1800 points by hooking up on a triple header and released all three blue marlin as qualified billfish.

Title Sponsor Rolex will award the Rolex Grand Prize to the 2005 Overall Champion. The Grand Prize winner will represent the Bahamas Billfish Championship by participating in an international invitational Big Game Fishing Classic to be announced later this year.

The eighty-two qualified billfish were verified using time and date stamped digital images. Blue marlin accounted for forty-nine of the catches, with thirty white marlin and three sailfish filling the balance.

Bertram Yachts of Miami, Florida, in conjunction with Allied Richard Bertram Marine Group of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, participated as the tournament sponsors for the Spanish Cay Championship. Mike Goebel of Allied Richard Bertram Marine Group and Hosea Millan from Bertram Yachts presented trophies to the winners.

Allied Richard Bertram Marine Group also sponsored a Lay Day picnic and scavenger hunt. Team *Deguello* from Marble Falls, Texas, showing a great deal of innovation and enthusiasm, took First Place honors and received valuable prizes from Alutecnos. Other social function hosts included Smith Merritt Insurance, Chubb Insurance Group, Bimini Island Air, and Bristol Cellars Wines & Spirits.

The Bahamas Billfish Championship established an endowed Scholarship Fund in 2000 to enable Bahamian students the opportunity to pursue a degree in marine sciences. As of the third leg of the five tournament series for 2005, more than \$40,000 has been raised for the scholarship fund this year.

Spanning April through June, all BBC tournaments are governed by a uniform set of rules controlling minimum lengths for qualifying billfish, line class, fishing hours and entry fees. Anglers can fish any or all of the tournaments with cumulative points determining the overall Bahamas Billfish Champion.

After the Spanish Cay Championship, the standings for the Bahamas Billfish Championship 2005 are as follows:

First Place & Top Release *Perfect Parts* 5800 points

Second Place *Cerveza* 4100 points

Third Place *Lone Eagle II* 3900 points

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Outlaw Wins BBC at Treasure Cay with Five Blues

Over 100 Billfish Released at BBC Fourth Leg

Randy Cook of Nokomis, Florida and team *Outlaw* captured the Treasure Cay Championship by releasing five blue marlin during the fourth leg of the 2005 Bahamas Billfish Championship (BBC) series. *Outlaw* took the lead on day one by catching and releasing two blue marlin for 1200 points. On day two of fishing, *Outlaw* released two more blues and went into the lay day with 2400 points and maintained the lead.

On day three, *Outlaw* released one blue marlin to hold the lead and go into day four with 3000 points; only 1000 points ahead of second place team, *Fa La Me*. Despite a serious push by *Fa La Me* on the final day of the tournament, *Outlaw's* lead held and, in addition to First Place honors, team *Outlaw* was the Top Release Team at the Treasure Cay Championship.

Second Place finisher, Frank Rodriguez and team *Fa La Me* of Winter Springs, Florida, also had a productive week of fishing. Rodriguez caught billfish on each day of the tournament and wound-up with four blue marlin and a white marlin for a total of 2600 points. Third Place honors went to Thomas Russell of Reston, Virginia and team *Cerveza* that finished the tournament with 2100 points. Team *Cerveza* released three blue marlin, one white marlin and a sailfish.

The Treasure Cay Championship brought together a field of seventy-two top sportfishing teams for the fourth lag of the annual five tournament series. This is the largest tournament ever host by the Treasure Cay Resort and Marina. The seventy-two boats caught a total 103 qualified billfish during the tournament. Blue marlin accounted for 64 of the total; whites 27 and sailfish 12. All qualified billfish releases are verified using time and date stamped digital images and affidavits signed by the anglers and crews of each boat.

The Treasure cay Championship was hosted by Bertram Yachts and Allied Bertram Marine Group. Joe Bubenzer, President of Bertram Yachts presented the trophies to the winning teams. The Top Release Team, *Outlaw*, also received a bronze from Murray Products, presented by Mike Murray. Top crew prizes, presented by Steve Lewis ,included trophies from Lewis Marine Supply and gift certificates from Maui Jim Sunglasses, the official sunglass sponsor of the Bahamas Billfish Championship. In

conjunction with Bertram Yachts, Allied hosted another successful 'Bertram Bash' on Tuesday evening. TABASCO's Hospitality Chefs Lionel & Peggy Robin delighted the participants with a Cajun Night special, complete with Crawfish Etouffe.

A "Treasure Hunt" on Treasure Cay was an event coordinated by Allied Richard Bertram Marine Group that involved the entire community of Treasure Cay with the anglers. The winners of the Treasure Hunt received gifts from Murray Products, Alutecnos, Treasure Cay Hotel and Continental Gulfstream Airlines.

The Bahamas Billfish Championship's Title Sponsor, Rolex will present this year's Rolex Grand Prize to the Overall Winner of the Series at the conclusion of the Boat Harbour Championship at the Abaco Beach Resort in Marsh Harbour, Abaco. The 2005 Bahamas Billfish Champion will receive an expense paid trip to participant as the BBC Champion in a fishing tournament to be announced.

The Championship has been a consistent supporter of billfish research and, in 2000, established an endowed Scholarship Fund to enable Bahamian students the opportunity to pursue a degree in marine biology. The BBC Scholarship Fund is supported by voluntary financial contributions from anglers, BBC sponsors and the Bahamian business community. For 2005, contributions have exceeded \$55,000.

As the Bahamas Billfish Championship anglers and teams head to the Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour Marina for the fifth and final leg of the 2005 Series, the overall standings look like this:

First Place & Top Release Team *Cerveza* 6700 points

Second Place *Perfect Parts* 5900 points

Third Place *Lone Eagle II* 5200 points

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Perfect Finish for *Perfect Parts* in 2005 BBC

Closest Finish in the 32 Year History of the Bahamas Billfish Championship

Over the past seven years, the title of Bahamas Billfish Champion has been closely challenged as more

and more of the participating teams elect to fish all five tournaments in the annual series. However; nowhere in the thirty-two year history of the Bahamas Billfish Championship (BBC) did the two top teams accumulate the same number of total points after five tournaments.

This year's Champion, Alan Bir's team *Perfect Parts* from Stuart, Florida, finished the season with 7400 points and, because they achieved to point total at the final tournament ahead on team *Cerveza*, took both First Place Overall and Top Release Team honors. That put *Cerveza* with team captain, Tom Russell of Reston, Virginia in Second Place Overall for 2005. Finishing in Third Place Overall with 6000 points was Frank Rodriguez's team *Fa-La-Me* from Winter Springs, Florida.

With their overall win of the Championship, *Perfect Parts* was awarded the Rolex Grand Prize of a trip to Australia to represent the BBC at the Riviera Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic in October. Cooperating with Rolex, Riviera Yachts, Australia's leading yacht manufacturer, will host the winners in Australia and are providing a Riviera Flybridge Convertible and crew for the use of the BBC's Overall Winner during the Riviera Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic.

Team *Perfect Parts* received many valuable honors during the awards dinner at the Abaco Beach Resort & Boat Harbour Marina. From Title Sponsor Rolex and John Bull, Alan Bir was presented with a custom Rolex Submariner Chronometer. Team *Perfect Parts* was awarded a two-year lease of a newly introduced 2006 Lincoln Mark LT from Osman Lincoln Mercury of Melbourne, Florida and the Ford Motor Company.

Team captain Alan Bir was awarded the coveted 'Championship Ring' created and presented by Abaco Gold & Sand Dollar Shoppe. BBC Sponsor Hatteras Yachts awarded a beautiful custom bronze trophy by Bodo Muche to team *Perfect Parts*.

Perfect Part's 7400 points for the Series, all resulting from releases, brought them the Murray Products Trophy as the Top Release Team of BBC 2005. As a major BBC sponsor, Murray Products awards custom designed Top Release trophies at each of the five tournaments, the Overall Release trophy and the Perpetual Top Release Trophy dedicated to the late Ed Murray. In addition, *Perfect Parts* was the recipient of a pair of Thru-Hull SeaLites™ from Deepsea Power & Light.

Captain Steve "Snag" Holmes and the crew of *Perfect Parts* were recipients of the Top Crew Award for the 2005 Bahamas Billfish Championship. The handcrafted acrylic trophies are exact replicas of the Perpetual Crew Trophy. The crew awards for each tournament and the overall trophies are awarded by the Lewis Marine Group.

Teams *Cerveza* and *Fa-La-Me* each received custom Bodo Muche bronze trophies presented by Florida Detroit Diesel. Dan Murphy's team *Last Stall* from Corpus Christi, Texas was recognized with a special bronze trophy awarded by the Allied Richard Bertram Marine Group. Team *Last Stall* caught the largest blue marlin of the series during the Boat Harbour Championship. *Last Stall's* blue marlin weighed 676 pounds.

After finishing among the top twenty teams during the 2004 Bahamas Billfish Championship, *Perfect Parts* team captain, Alan Bir started the 2005 BBC series determined to win the prestigious title. Along with Captain "Snag" Holmes, Alan assembled what he referred to as, "the perfect team for *Perfect Parts*."

Despite the team's determination and preparation, during the Marsh Harbour Championship, the first tournament in the series, *Perfect Parts* was unable to catch a billfish. Instead, newcomer to the BBC, *Cerveza* with team captain, Tom Russell took First Place at the Marsh Harbour Championship.

Things started to look better for *Perfect Parts* at the Harbour Island Championship where the Team finished in Third Place. At Harbour Island, it was *Cerveza's* turn to go without catching a billfish. The second leg of the BBC at Harbour Island was won by Jack Delaney's *Lone Eagle II* from Jupiter, Florida. At the end of the first two tournaments, *Perfect Parts* was not among the top three in overall standings.

Persistence had its rewards during the Spanish Cay Championship when *Perfect Parts* released five blue marlin and one white marlin to win the third leg of the 2005 Series. With cumulative points and bonus points, it was *Perfect Parts*, *Cerveza* and *Lone Eagle II* in the top three spots going into leg four at Treasure Cay.

Nursing a failing transmission, *Perfect Parts* had a dismal week of fishing at Treasure Cay. *Cerveza*, on the other hand, managed to improve their position after Treasure with a Third Place finish behind Frank Rodriguez's *Fa-La-Me* and Randy Cook's *Outlaw*. At this point in the Series, it was now *Cerveza* (6700 points), *Perfect Parts* (5900 points) and *Fa-La-Me* (5300 points) in the first three positions overall. With only 800 points separating the top two boats, all eyes were on Bir and Russell. A good week of fishing at the final tournament by anyone of eleven top teams could surpass *Perfect Parts* or *Cerveza* and dramatically change the overall standings.

The Boat Harbour Championship had plenty of excitement of its own regardless of being the season climax. The top three boats at Boat Harbour each released three blue marlin and finish the week with 1800 points. As a result, First place through Third Place was based on time of catch and the order in which each team achieved the 1800 points. Top honors for the Boat Harbour Championship went to *Reelin & Dealin* followed by *Uno Mas* and *Therapy*.

Notwithstanding the Boat Harbour Championship's tight competition, the drama for the Overall BBC Title continued unabated. *Perfect Parts* quickly added 1200 points to the Team's overall score with two blue marlin releases on day one of the tournament. On day two, team *Perfect Parts* added a white marlin and 200 points. Midway through the Boat Harbour Championship, including 'participation points,' *Perfect Parts* led *Cerveza* by 600 points. Thursday, day three, *Cerveza* made their move and even the overall score with *Perfect Parts* at 7400 points.

For both *Cerveza* and *Perfect Parts*, Friday was a very important day to catch a billfish. Although

twenty-eight billfish were caught on Friday, neither *Cerveza* nor *Perfect Parts* was able to add any more points to their totals. As a result, for the first time in the thirty-two year history of the Bahamas Billfish Championship, the Overall Winner and Second Place Overall were determined by the time of catch and the first team to achieve the 7400 points.

For the 2005 Bahamas Billfish Championship, the 125 participating teams caught a total of 248 blue marlin, 120 white marlin, 26 sailfish and 3 spearfish for a total of 397 billfish. All qualified billfish releases are verified using time and date stamped digital images and affidavits signed by the anglers and crews of each boat.

Now concluding its thirty-second year, the Bahamas Billfish Championship is made up of five individual tournaments that take place each April, May and June at various islands throughout the Bahamas. The Series' producers try to locate the tournaments at venues that offer excellent billfishing and provide adequate facilities for the average sixty-six boat fleet. Anglers can fish any or all five of the tournaments with cumulative points determining the overall Bahamas Billfish Champions.

All BBC tournaments are governed by a uniform set of rules controlling minimum lengths for qualifying billfish, line class, fishing hours and entry fees. For 2005, the minimum length for boated blue marlin was 105 inches (measured from the tip of the lower jaw to the fork of the tail). This rule change resulted in greater participation at all five tournaments and a 97.3% release ratio.

With the increased participation came greater financial contributions supporting the Bahamas Billfish Championship Scholarship Fund. Established in 2000, the endowed BBC Scholarship Fund has enabled five Bahamian students the opportunity to pursue a degree in marine biology. The BBC Scholarship Fund is another example of the Championship's commitment to conservation of the species and its ongoing support of billfish research. The BBC Scholarship Fund is supported by voluntary financial contributions from anglers and crew members, BBC sponsors and the Bahamian business community. For 2005, voluntary contributions to the BBC Scholarship Fund exceeded \$65,000.

For the very latest information about the BBC or to view *The Teaser* newsletter online, visit the BBC Internet website at www.bahamasbillfish.com or contact the Bahamas Billfish Championship, 2 Oakwood Blvd., Suite 195, Hollywood, FL 33020. Telephone (954) 920-5577, fax (954) 925-1033 or e-mail: brenda@bahamasbillfish.com.