

## **Rootin'-Tootin' Red Grouper III - Tournament.**

Another Rootin'-Tootin' Grouper Tournament is in the history books. As usual, the weather played a key role in this event. We had a fantastic evening at Bistro Soleil for our kick-off dinner with the tropical sounds of Jamaica Dave complementing the sumptuous buffet. The only downside was the forecasted weather conditions for the days selected as our fishing days. Winds were scheduled to continue to blow and get worse as the week progressed. The only glimmer of hope was a small window of clear weather before the targeted fishing days. Howard mentioned the possibility and several captains knew they would miss the event if we decided to go early.

As it turned out - that was exactly what we had to do. The fishing day was moved up to Saturday, April 5th. Some boats and crews had to make last minute changes. Keith kept an eye on the weather all night, just in case there was a last minute weather change. The boats in the 60 NM division were on the water early and found perfect conditions for their voyage to their "secret spots". Very small waves and calm conditioned prevailed. However, boats and crews weren't the only scramble necessary by the date change - we had to improvise the weigh-in as well. Instead of the planned weigh-in and awards celebration at Walker's Hideaway Marina, we held a "blind" weigh-in at Allan's garage on Saturday, followed by an awards celebration on Monday. That too was a blessing in disguise. The blind weigh-in allowed the exhausted anglers a chance to rest after their long day at sea. The awards event was well attended with relaxed anglers and their guests.

### **Winners in the 20-mile division (one legal red grouper per boat) were:**

There were no 3rd place or 2nd place fish weighed - so all the prize money went to:

**Team Contender** - Captain Ralph Crowell and his crew; Ed Brown, John Baker, Mark Tanner, and Joe Cafferelli for their single Red Grouper weighing in at **8.52 lbs**.

**Team Contender** also won the mystery fish prize with their **0.92 lbs** Lane Snapper

**Team Contender** also won the Captain's Calcutta - a very nice payday for Ralph and his crew!

### **Winners in the 60-mile division (two legal red groupers each boat) were:**

**1st Place: Team Rona** - Captain Roger Linder and his crew; John Burback, Gary Lamotte, and Harv Perusse for their 2 Red Grouper total of **30.10 lbs**

**2nd Place: Team Marco** - Captain Bert Hoell and his crew; Fred Kouhi, Paul Milici, Ron Mack, and Ed Vesley for their 2 Red Grouper total of **29.52 lbs**

**3rd Place: Horse Conchs** - Captain Ed Adams and his crew; Jim Mueller, Pete Arcidiacono, Allan Bristow, Ron Linn, and Roger Shavlik for their 2 Red Grouper total of **28.60 lbs**

**Team Rona** also won the 60-mile division Captain's Calcutta.

### **Winner of the Wild Card Fish (Lane Snapper) for 60-mile division were:**

**1st place Double A** - Captain Ben Aronson and his crew; Available Bob Trento, Leo Sutera, Jay Jones, Dick Yeaton, and Phil Madonia with their fish weighing **1.02 lbs**

**2nd place Desperado** - Captain Al Jennings and his crew; Frank Renkel, Cornel Irimies, Steve Macko, Ed Ludwig, and Mike Ludwig with their fish weighing **0.85 lbs**

Congratulations to all who competed in the event, and special thanks to our tournament sponsors, **Walker's Marine, Pursuit Boats** and **Raymarine** for helping to make this a first-class tournament!