



BIG GAME FISHING JOURNAL TAKES THE CAKE

I am a 28-year-old avid offshore fisherman and reader of the *BIG GAME FISHING JOURNAL*. My brothers and I have a 28-foot Boston Whaler and fish religiously out of Grand Isle, Louisiana. We have also worked full time and now part time on a 53-foot Hatteras for Capt. Myron Fischer. We fish for marlin, tuna, wahoo, dolphin, cobia, amberjack, etc. Your Journal has always had the best photos, tips, and stories and has become standard reading material at my home and office. Now, to my point.

I was married in November 2002 and had my groom's cake specially made. My cake was a giant version of the cover of your magazine for the November/December 2001 issue, "God Bless America." The cake came out incredibly well and everyone has asked me to submit the photo to you guys in the event you might put it in a future issue. The cover is framed in my house along with a photo of my bride and me with the cake. Just thought you should know you have fans in low places. Thanks.

Tigue Bonneval
Baton Rouge, LA

GLOBALSTAR IS CHEAPER THAN DESCRIBED

We were pleased to see Globalstar products featured in Capt. Vic Galgano's recent Captain's Plot column about wireless communications at sea (July/August 2003), but your readers might be interested to know that the cost of our service is in fact drastically lower than you described. Starting about a year ago, our per-minute call charges have ranged from \$1.17/min. down to as low as 17 cents per minute, just barely above some cellular plans. This might make quite a difference to anyone now considering buying a wireless phone for use at sea.

Mac Jeffery
Globalstar LP
www.globalstar.com

WE WANT MORE OF BIG GAME

I think that I'm one of many readers that are curious to know when *BIG GAME FISHING JOURNAL* is going to go to a monthly issue instead of bi-monthly? It seems like an eternity between issues.

Joe Marinello
Nutley, NJ

We do get asked that question quite often. Unfortunately, at the moment it takes us a full two months to get BIG GAME FISHING JOURNAL up to the level of quality our readers expect. As you know, most of our writers are not so much writers as they are professional captains. Maybe it's hard to get them off the water and on the keyboard, but when they do you can be sure the information they're giving you is rock solid and right from the pro's mouth. Until we can up it to eight, 10, or even 12 issues per year without "watering down"

the content and quality of the magazine, we're going to stick with six issues. Maybe we could send you the first half of the magazine one month, and the second half the next!

— Ed.

SAD STORY INSPIRES GENEROUS DONATION

Len, I read your article Spooled & Schooled on the Edge (September/October issue) about your first big tuna trip. Your story about losing the lures, breaking the rods, etc., was so sad I was moved to replace the Green Machines you lost. Hope you enjoy!

Bill Goodman
Sevenstrand Tackle Corp.
www.7strand.com

Bill, when I opened the box, read your note and saw the Green Machines you sent, it put a smile on my face. A sincere thank you for your concern, but they were already replaced—20 minutes after I returned from the edge that day. On another note, I just bought a green Harley, and with your permission, I intend to have a Green Machine Lure airbrushed on the tank with the words, "The Green Machine."

— Capt. Len Belcaro

WHY NOT RELEASE A FEW?

Have to say love you're magazine and the many great articles, but here comes the but as always, September/October 2003 issue "Rally the School," great story very informative, by the CANYON RUNNER, these are the same guys that will bitch, whine, and complain when they have caught and



killed every species they ever fished for then they will wonder with great amazement where have they gone and why does the fishing stink? They are so ignorant, there isn't a cod off Cape Cod worth talking about. Why is that? Yet six fishermen, providing the mate and the captain aren't in the picture, have 600 pounds of yellowfin lined up? Pigs! That seems like a little to much to take to me. Gee, I guess it would have been too difficult to let a few go. WOW what a concept! Please by all means respond.

A LIFE TIME FISHERMAN,
FRESH AND SALT,
WHO ENJOYS A TASTE EVERY
NOW AND THEN.
Neils4848pen@aol.com

First of all I would like to thank you for your nice comments about our last article "Rally the School". Hopefully you were able to get past the picture of dead tuna on the dock and extracted some information that will help you boat a few tuna of your own—then you can decide whether to release them or keep them for the dinner table. However, it is not up to you, us, or our crew to decide what our charters do with the fish we catch them. They pay \$4,000 a trip to fish with us and have every right to keep every fish that they, their family, their friends, employees, or clients will eat. We are not about to start restricting what our charter legally can harvest from the sea when they just dropped four-grand for us to put them on fish.

That being said, we do have some rules on the CANYON RUNNER that we do impose with a heavy hand. First, before we even put the first tuna in the boat our mates discuss how much fish the charter intends to eat, whether they have people already picked out who they are going to give the fish to, whether they have the proper freezer space to store it and whether they plan on canning any or cryovaccing any to make it last longer. The intent of this dialogue is to get each guy to really think about how much they actually need—once they do we take a count. Once we reach that number of tuna in the box we go into release mode on any additional tuna caught or just pack



it up and go home. Once we get back to the dock our mates quarter each tuna and provide detailed instructions on how to properly care for the meat so that it lasts months in the freezer. I know for a fact that most of our charters end up eating tuna they caught with us in the summer well into the Winter. Finally, if we ever find out that a charter ended up wasting their catch and just wanted to take pictures of dead tuna on the dock but really had no intentions of eating what we caught—guess what happens? That charter is banned from ever coming back on the CANYON RUNNER. It hasn't happened often but unfortunately it has happened. The long and short of it is that despite that fact that the CANYON RUNNER puts anywhere from 500 to 750 tuna a year on the dock not one of those hundreds of tuna ever goes to waste as it goes to feeding thousands of people. If this still disturbs you, tough, I know a few herds of cattle that appreciate us taking the heat off them.

Capt. Phil Dulanie
and Adam LaRosa
CANYON RUNNER
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IN ROYAL FASHION

I thought the "Bow to the King" tarpon article last issue was great! Thought you would enjoy a couple of shots from Key West this past May.

Bill Damora
billd@kingsbridge.com

CORRECTION

The phone number for Live Bait Simulator as featured in the September/October Cutting Edge Gear is 860-599-2113.

Comments? Ideas? Questions?

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