

2008
WORLD BLUE WATER
INVITATIONAL
JULY 14-18
La Palapas, La Ventana, Baja, Mexico

Beautiful sunrises, friendly people, perfect weather, fabulous facilities, great food, professional pangueros just added to the worlds best blue water diving.

This year's invitational was moved to summer to bring in a bigger and different selection of pelagic fish. AND IT DID!! While other tournaments canceled or were blown out Baja was better then ever. La Palapas in La Ventana has truly proven itself as a reliable location for fish, weather, and facilities.

La Ventana is a small Mexican dirt road town about 30 minutes south of La Paz. Along this beautiful section of sandy beach coast you will find some of the best kite boarding in the world, a very cool shrimp hatchery, camp grounds and small American style cottages / Palapas, like La Palapas. Tim and his crew at La Palapas are very experienced and look after your every need. This is our third year having La Palapas sponsor this World Blue Water Invitational and each year the food, service, facilities, and staff have just gotten better and better.

This Invitational is set up to dive 2 days then one day off then dive 2 more days. On the day off there are lots of activities planned for the divers and family. Some choose to chill for the day, tour the local town or go shopping in La Paz. While most take advantage of the unique environment, we choose to drag teasers around for Marlin while others dove for large bottom fish, went goat hunting, pole fishing for Dorado or just spent the day with the family snorkeling and exploring beaches. They do it all at La Palapas and you wont be bored. The “wrecking

crew” Healey Tarrhead dove on the days off for Pargo, the large dog snapper known for trashing everything you own. They landed many up to 53 lbs and lost lots of equipment doing it. Danny Raff and family went snorkeling, and caught Dorado along the way. Christian Baker went goat hunting on the Island of Cerralvo and got a nice one and lots of stories.

DAY#1

Started at sunrise with a 7 o’clock start. Conditions were glass calm for the first 3 days and the fish abundant. In all there were 22 beautiful pelagics landed on just the first day. Glen McGuire got a wahoo and a Dorado, Dennis Haussler a wahoo and AJ, John Perretti a 66 lb wahoo, GR Tar a wahoo, milk fish and a skip jack, and Mark Healey a yellow tail, AJ, rooster and a skip jack.

Mark wound up well in the front of everyone with this 4 fish showing and was the guy to chase from then on.

DAY#2

Saw the same perfect conditions and Mike McGuire shooting 4 fish a AJ, Milk fish, toro, and a Bonita. James Hardesty shot the first and only yellow fin tuna and a Bonita. Anne Doherty got a nice Aj to add to her milk fish score from the day before. Chris woods picked out the smallest AJ out of a school at 24 lbs. This put Mike in first for the day, but Mark got a nice toro and continued the over all lead.

DAY#3

It was another big fish day with 21 pelagics taken. Craig shot the smallest rooster fish from the school of 20+ that weighted in at 40 lbs. Seamus Callaghan stoned another AJ at 35 lbs. And Sean George got on the board with a 45 lb wahoo he stoned. Keith Love chased a 151 lb striped marlin “for what seemed like 20 minutes” until it turned enough for him to put a spine shot on it from behind with a RA 130cm rail gun with a single flopper. A second shot guaranteed he had the first marlin of the Invitational. Dennis Haussler miss fired straight down on a 55 lb wahoo and landed it along with a skip jack and an AJ. The Healey

Tarrhead boat kicked more ass with Mark landing a wahoo 55 lb, Aj, and Milk fish. GR Tarr got a rooster 42 lb and an AJ at 46lb to keep him in the hunt. Brian Head got an AJ at 25 lbs. And the honorable mention goes to Australia's own Chris Woods who got schooled by 400 AJs and picked the only fish that turned as he shot and missed.

DAY#4

The 4th and final day started a little slowly as we let a small squall pass through before starting. The day remained cloud covered which made it cooler and more comfortable. Leading the way into the final day was Mark closely followed by GR, Dennis and Mike. Past that there were 10 divers all with in 1 small fish of each other. It was down to the last day, the last dives and just one fish could change your ranking by 3-10 spots. As the boats pulled in and the fish were presented to the weigh table it was clear Mark was not going to be caught, he weighed in a 40lb wahoo, 24 lb milk fish and another yellow tail. This was only the 2nd yellowtail shot, he took both, diving near 100 ft in the cooler bottom water. GR got an 11 lb AJ and Dennis got a 21lb milk fish. This allowed Dennis to make up the 10 points he was behind GR, and it appeared there was a tie for 2nd place. Keith Love and Brock Kennedy also shot nice AJs and skip jacks respectively to move them up well in the standings.

For the awards banquet we had a fabulous Mexican feast, free beer and prizes from a local beer distributor and awards from all the top spearo vendors around the world. Hawaii's own Mark Healey easily took first with 288 points which won him \$3200. GR Tarr snuck by Dennis Haussler by .7 lbs on a 200 point scale, 199.9 to 199.2 and won 2nd place and \$1300. Places 7-16 could have changed with no more then a single fish making it a very close meet for most of the competitors. Every competitor came home with great awards as the sponsors were very generous in supporting the meet this year.

Placing by points

<u>Name</u>	<u># of fish</u>	<u>points</u>
Mark Healey	11	288.60
GR Tarr	7	199.90
Dennis Haussler	6	199.20
Mike McGuire	6	154.40
Keith Love	2	142.45
Craig Dockendorf	3	121.00
John Perretti	2	87.25
Seamus Callaghan	2	83.95
James Hardesty	5	83.35
Glen Mc Guire	2	73.10
Anne Doherty	2	45.95
Brian Head	2	45.25
Sean George	1	44.15
Peter Marley	2	42.85
Chris Woods	2	41.60
Brock Kennedy	2	40.00
Christian Baker	2	22.30
Bernie Finnerty	1	13.40
Danny Raff	1	5.25

Prizes were also awarded for the largest fish of the Invitational. While only one billfish was allowed per person and could only count as a max of 100 pounds-points toward your total score, Keith's 151 pound marlin was by far the largest fish taken. Followed by Johns 66 lb wahoo, Craig's 56 lb AJ, Marks 55 lb wahoo and Dennis's 55 lb wahoo. There were lots of big fish taken and many more seen. This meet was a true test of some tough equipment.

Largest fish for the meet

Keith Love Marlin 151lbs

John Perretti Yahoo 66

Craig AJ 56

Mark wahoo 55

Dennis wahoo 54

GR wahoo 50

Seamus rooster 49

GR AJ 46

Mike Wahoo 46

Sean wahoo 44

Keith AJ 43

GR Rooster 42

Dennis wahoo 42

Mark rooster 42

Craig rooster 41

Mark wahoo 40

Dennis AJ 38

Glen wahoo 38

Glen wahoo 37

In total 60 legal fish were taken over 24”

14 Wahoo

13 Amber Jacks

8 Milk fish

6 Jack Crevalle

5 Rooster fish

4 Dorado

3 Bonita

3 Skip Jack

2 Yellow tail

1 Yellow fin tuna

1 Striped Marlin

Fish caught each day could be brought home, used for meals, or were sold and the money donated to improve a local elementary school. Near \$600 was raised from fish sales, \$500 donated by Dennis of 20 Fathoms and \$250 donated by Tim at La Palapas. Last years donation built a bathroom facility (of which the school had none) and a shaded area on the play ground. It was great to see spearos and sponsors unite for such a great cause and the town of La Ventana thanks you all very much.

Our great sponsors are what make this truly a world class event and we can't thank them enough for all there help, prizes, and first class quality equipment, with out it we could never land the fish we do.

A very special thanks to: Pelaj, 20Fathoms, La Palapas, Hawaii Skindiver, IFSN, Riffe International, Daryl Wong, Sea Sniper, Imersion, Rob Allen, Florida Freedivers, Orca Spearguns, Hammer Head Spearguns, Pelagic, Mares, Kiger construction, Corona Beer. Please support these sponsors as they continue to support us and our sport.

Next years Blue Water World Cup Invitational will be held on July 6-10_____ and be limited to 30 divers. Family and friend are welcome, but early registration for the 30 diver spots is recommended. For past competitors there will be an early registration discount.

If you're interested in testing your skills against the best blue water divers in the world this is the World Blue Water Cup and Baja has the most consistent weather fish, and facilities any where.

For more details and an application go to:

www.20fathoms.com/worldcup

Sponsors may inquire on the same site.

Dennis wants to thank all the divers, sponsors, pangeros and staff at Palapas Ventana for another successful year, with great fish, great diving, excellent staff, and wonderful prizes. He also wants to thank

everyone for playing it safe, and coming back to the beach for another day of diving.

Next year, be there or be square, as it will be even better!!