

April 14, 2007

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IFA Redfish Tour Numbers Are On An Incline



SARASOTA, FL – The IFA Redfish Tour Presented by Cabela’s held it’s first 2007 Florida West Coast Division tournament April 14th in Sarasota. Ninety-eight teams registered Friday night at Mote Marine and showed up Saturday morning with one thing on their minds...taking home the 1st place prize of a Ranger Banshee rigged with a 40 HP, 4-stroke Yamaha outboard, Loadmaster trailer, Power Pole shallow water anchor, Minn Kota trolling motor and Humminbird electronics.

Captain Chuck Cress, of Sarasota, FL and partner Gary Weishaar, of Nokomis, FL were the talented anglers that walked away with the 1st place prize valued at approximately \$20,000. Chuck and Gary came to the scales at Centennial Park on Saturday with a 6.49-pound and a 6.53-pound redfish, giving them a total weight of 13.02-pounds. This 1st place team was awarded the Ranger Banshee along with 200 points towards the Cabela’s Florida West Divisional Team of the Year race.

2nd place awards and a check in the amount of \$4,800 went to Captain Mark Sanders and partner Chris Wittman. Mark and Chris brought in a two-fish team weight of 12.83-pounds and earned 199 points towards the Cabela’s Florida West Divisional Team of the Year race. This team also tied with the 12th place team of Captain Warren Girdle and partner Billy Harris for Big Fish of the tournament. Each team received \$250 for the 7.18-pound redfish they brought in.

The team of Captain Geoff Page and partner Eric Bachnik came in 3rd place and received a \$2,900 check for a two-fish total weight of 12.80-pounds. Captain Troy and Christine Perez received the \$100 Solar Bat contingency, which is awarded to the team who wears their Solar Bat sunglasses and recognizes Solar Bat on stage at the weigh-in. Captain Greg Devault and partner Jon Turner walked away with an extra \$750 for being the Ranger Cup bonus winner. To learn more about the Ranger Cup bonus program, please visit www.rangerboats.com.

“We would like to recognize and thank the Mote Marine Aquarium crew, led by Staff Scientist Carol Neidig. These talented volunteers did an outstanding job of maintaining the health of the fish at this tournament. Their Redfish DNA study, which collects data that will be published and shared with biologists throughout the fisheries management world, is carried out in the spirit of pure scientific research, which has continued for generations,” stated Mike Lott. “The IFA is very proud to be supporters and sponsors of Mote Marine Labs, and have plans to work with Mote and help the Redfish population thrive and grow.”

This year’s IFA Redfish Tour presented by Cabela’s is a series of one-day, catch and release, close-to-home events, with two-angler teams using artificial lures only. The tour consists of six divisions with three single-day local events each. The next tournament of the season will take place in Port Aransas, TX, April 21st. To get more information on the IFA Redfish Tour or to register for a tournament, taking place in your region, please go to www.redfishtour.com.

IFA sponsors include Ranger Boats, Yamaha Outboards, Cabela’s, Minn Kota, Humminbird, Loadmaster, Sebile Lures, JaxWraps, KeelShield, Power Pole, Solar Bat, Shimano, Powertex Group, *Florida Fishing Weekly*, Palmer Conrad Consulting, Audubon Nature Institute, Choice Hotels International, and Careco Multimedia.

Now the strongest grass roots inshore tournament series dedicated to catch and release in competitive fishing, the IFA’s focus is centered on competition, conservation, recognition and education. For more information, please contact Bart Schad with Palmer Conrad Consulting by calling 870-431-8495 or e-mailing info@palmerconrad.com.