



### **Louisiana locals find favor in north winds**

While the 20-knot winds probably had most of the anglers fishing the last of the recent Louisiana Redfish Tour divisionals thinking along the lines of Elvis' "All Shook Up," it turns out the winning team of Billy Nicholas and Andy Mnichowski had more of disco thing going on.

The two anglers took advantage of the adverse conditions and their local knowledge of the water to take top honors by tossing YUM Samurai Shad soft-baits in "Disco Minnow" color to weigh-in a two-reds limit of 16.97 pounds. It was just barely enough to steal the victory from the second place team of Chad Dufrene and Brian Leblanc, who had 16.94 pounds.

"Having the kind of conditions we did on this tournament day really helped us," said Mnichowski, speaking about the win. "Knowing the area and where we could go to still be in clear water and able to sight fish was definitely a plus for our team. We probably caught 20 fish by 11 a.m. before the north wind and falling tide dropped the water so much we had to leave the spot."

He went on to say that they thought they had enough weight for the win because the conditions had taken a lot of the good open water areas out of the equation and probably had left many teams with few other options. "Fortunately for us, we knew of this spot and it had been holding fish for about two weeks," he added.

Also finishing in the top five for the tournament were: third place – Scott Ritter and Bobby Abrusco with 16.47 pounds; fourth place – Mike and Deborah Tindall with 16.17 pounds; and fifth place – Jack Payne III and Scott Johnson with 15.94 pounds. In spite of the weather, 58 of the teams in the field had their limits.

But it was Nicholas and Mnichowski who ended up with the top prize of a fully-rigged Ranger Banshee, valued at \$20,000 as equipped with a 50 HP, 4-stroke Yamaha outboard, Loadmaster trailer, Power Pole shallow water anchor, Minn Kota trolling motor and Humminbird electronics.

The pair also pocketed the \$1,000 Ranger Cup check by owning and fishing from a Ranger, which was a 2200 Bay model, as part of an incentive prize (for Ranger Cup program details, visit [www.rangerboats.com](http://www.rangerboats.com)).

The big fish of the tournament was an 8.89-pounder caught by the team of Troy and Christine Perez. They were awarded a \$500 check for the accomplishment.

The Venice tournament was the last of the regular season events for the Louisiana division of the Inshore Fishing Association (IFA) Redfish Tour. The Redfish Tour is the nation's oldest redfish tournament trail.

Other divisions that are part of the same organization include Texas, Florida East Coast, Florida West Coast, Georgia, South Carolina and Louisiana. All are one-day events with three tournaments in each. Teams that fish in all three events qualify to compete in the two-day, no-entry-fee IFA Redfish Tour Championship scheduled for November 2 – 3, 2007, at Panama City, Fla.

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

For more information about the IFA Redfish Tour tournaments, visit [www.redfishtour.com](http://www.redfishtour.com) or call (478) 788-8871.

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