



2007 Vanuatu Marlin Classic Results

2007 proved to be another successful year for the VMC. 19 teams entered this year representing 5 different countries. Teams came from America, Australia, New Caledonia, New Zealand and once again a strong turn out of local anglers. Team numbers were down compared to last years 24 only do to the number of boats available for chartered. The efforts of the committee also proved to be successful in their attempts raising \$30,000 AUD in cash to the top 3 winners. Also up for grabs this year was the Asco/Toyota Grand Challenge which is a new truck for the first 1000 lb marlin as well as a 4th place prize of a 3.1 meter tinny with 8 HP Mercury outboard sponsored by Vila Marine. Once again great support from all of our sponsors. The VMC also set a new record with the Calcutta bringing in over \$15,000 AUD. After all was tallied the VMC had over \$80,000 AUD worth of cash and prizes for teams to fight for.

With all that in mind teams were eager to get started even with the seas not being kind this year. The South Easterlies seemed to come earlier than previous years and smaller boats braved high seas for most of the week. Fishing also seemed to be a challenge as well testing angler's skills. Reports coming back most days at the base were of marlin averaging 500 to 700lbs breaking anglers off trying to go for maximum points on 15kg and 24kg line. The VMC does border on the big fish season and as the water temperature drops the big ones come out to play. Another problem anglers seemed to face during the week was the MASSIVE schools of Yellow Fin that were around that seemed to have the Marlin mixed in. Most boats were bringing in Yellow Fin everyday which gave the anglers plenty of excitement during the week. The best catch of a Yellow Fin went to Attilo aboard V-Factor 72kg fin on 15kg line. Captain Charles Wheeler and team (Grant Hall, Chris Lyons, and Michelle Timminck) aboard Reel Capture proved that experience does pay off. His team was able to tag two fish one on 15kg and one on 24kg which would be enough points to give them a first place finish worth \$14,900 AUD, \$6,000 in Calcutta winnings and 4 round trip airfares courtesy of Air Vanuatu. 2nd place went to one of our international teams from Australia (Adam Epifanis, Carl Soriano) aboard Outlaw taking home \$9,800 AUD and \$3,800 AUD in Calcutta winnings. 3rd place went to another international team from New Zealand (John Robinson, Steve Bowling) aboard Nakita taking home \$5000 AUD and \$3700 AUD in Calcutta winnings as well. Since the marlin seemed to win this year it was a good thing there were plenty of other pelagic around to give anglers plenty of action.

Next year being the 5th anniversary may turn out to be the biggest tournament yet. Many teams that fished this year have already booked for next year. Due to the number of boats it is always good to get in early. To check details or contact us, please visit our website www.vanuatumarlinclassic.com to see a complete 2007 tournament summary and up coming events. The VMC is proud to announce a second tournament starting this year the Vanuatu Marlin Shootout details can be found on are website.