

## 27TH ANNUAL WHITE MARLIN OPEN

The 27th Annual White Marlin Open was held last week (Aug. 7-11) at Harbour Island Marina off 14th St. and Bay St. Three hundred and forty seven boats registered for the tournament. This year \$1,450,000 was split between the winners in the white marlin, blue marlin, tuna, dolphin, wahoo, and shark categories. The white marlin category received a higher proportion of the prize money followed by the blue marlin category. Anglers had the option of entering added skill levels, which would increase their portion of the winnings. Meaning that the first place fish in each division may not have received the most prize money. Keep in mind that angler's were only allowed to fish 3 out of the 5 tournament days.

This tournament is well known for its efforts in conservation. They have had a 96% release rate for the past 4 years. In addition, they set high minimum qualifying weights.

- White marlins - 65 pounds
- Blue marlins - 400 pounds
- Sharks - 100 pounds
- Wahoo - 40 pounds

Many anglers choose to donate their catch to the local Homeless Shelter and Food Bank. Rose Stiver's, of Rose's Fish Cleaning and Detailing Service, cleaned a combined total of 4,359 pounds of marlin, tuna, dolphin, and wahoo. From that point, the fish was distributed to Dia Konia, an Ocean City Homeless Shelter. Dia Konia was then responsible for further distribution to the Salisbury Food Bank.

