



The Gaff Line

February 2010

From the Helm

by Art Ponce, Club President

Hello Marlin Club members. It has been a pleasure to serve as the club president for the last two years.

I'm happy to report that the club is in sound financial condition. The future of our clubhouse and our docks look secure for the next couple years, as the lease with the port expires in 2011.

I'd like to announce the addition of Steve Williams, Bob Woodard Jr. and Matt Monise to the Board of Directors. The new board has chosen Bob Woodard Jr. to be our president for the year 2010. Congratulations to all.

I would like to remind everyone to return the RSVP invitation for the Awards Banquet. This banquet will be held at the Silver Gate Yacht Club, and it will be a fun event for all. Bar will open at six, and seating for dinner will be at 7pm on Saturday Feb, 20th. Cost will be a \$35 per person. Please plan on attending; especially if you are receiving an award.

We will have a series of days devoted to repairing the clubhouse. There is too much work to be done, to accomplish in one day. This work has to be done before our April open house. The first event will be Saturday, Feb, 13th, at 9am. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Arthur J. Ponce

**New Member
Michael S. Smith**

2010 Marlin Club Board of Directors and Officers

Officers	Board of Directors	
President: Bob Woodard Jr	Fred Larson	Wayne Slahor
1st Vice President: Marcus Hale	Bill Lemaster	Steve Williams
2nd Vice President: Art Ponce	Bill McLeod	John Wilson
Secretary Treasurer: Jim Konzal	Matt Monise	Don Wroncy
	Steve Pitts	

Winter Club Hours: Friday & Saturday - 1pm to 5pm
If you need something at a different time call Penny @ 619-742-8225

IF YOU HAVE A FISH TO WEIGH CALL:

BOB-(619) 227-5478, CRIS-(619) 225-0505, DON-(858) 272-5621, WAYNE-(760) 747-6239, SHERI-(619) 865-9261

Look-alike fish may throw off white marlin count

A new study may affect the government's decision to keep white marlin off the endangered species list.



Roundscale Spearfish, bottom, are commonly taken for white marlin, top, a new study finds. (December 24, 2009)

Reporting from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. - They are sleek, elusive predators, slipping through the deep violet of the ocean depths.

The challenge of catching white marlin has made them a prime target in fishing tournaments, with the winning catch at last summer's White Marlin Open in Ocean City, Md., reaping \$903,442.

But it turns out many fish identified as white marlin were actually a recently discovered look-alike called the Roundscale Spearfish.

In fact, more than a quarter of the fish caught and identified as white marlin were Roundscale Spearfish, says a new study by scientists at the federal government, Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and other institutions. Their findings could call into question the government's decision to keep the white marlin off the endangered species list.

"South Florida used to be a destination for big white marlin," said Bouncer Smith, a Miami Beach charter captain who has caught just two in the last 10 years. "They've been very rare here for years. Seeing one is a rare treat now."

The main reason for the decline: White Marlin are accidentally caught on commercial longlines set to hook tuna and swordfish.

Two years ago, the Bush administration rejected a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity to put the white marlin on the endangered species list, saying its numbers were starting to rebound after a series of measures intended to protect them from accidental catch. The administration also removed it from the list of species of concern.

But this study, reported in the journal *Endangered Species Research*, suggests the government relied on data that inadvertently inflated the abundance of the species. The scientists analyzed tissue samples from white marlin caught accidentally by fishing boats and in tournaments. They found that 27% were actually Roundscale Spearfish. In other words, there may be a lot fewer white marlin out there than originally thought.

Mahmood Shivji, professor at Nova Southeastern University and director of its Guy Harvey Research Institute, who has made a specialty of marine genetics, said the study suggested the government needed to do a major reassessment of the species' status.

"This is a high enough proportion to muck up previous population assessments of white marlin," Shivji said. "In other words, previous data on white marlin is contaminated by another species, resulting in all past stock assessments of the White Marlin - on which U.S. and international management policy has been based - uncertain."

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Bob is Back!

Behind the Wheel,

Hello all its great to back after a few years on hiatus. Hard to believe its been 40 years since I first came to the Marlin Club with my entire family to weigh in a marlin my father caught. Since the times have changed as has Marlin Fishing. Back then fish were plentiful and most came to the scales.

Since those glory days of Marlin Fishing the bite has slowed and the fisherman have diversified. Over the past twenty years the club has facilitated these changes to become a full spectrum fishing club which meets the needs of the modern angler. Our tournaments have a wide range of targeted species. The Spring Shootout targeting Yellowtail, White Sea Bass and Albacore. Our Famous Don Blackman memorial Halibut Tournament (Shirley Blackman still holds the IGFA world record for California Halibut on 6lb test with a whopping 38lb 8 oz monster), to the more historic ILTT or Invitational Light Tackle Tournament for Marlin. We look forward to seeing all of you around for these and our other events in the coming season.

It's great to see some faces from the past including past, president Steve Williams back on the board. Rich Hamilton spent a couple hours at the club recently, speaking with me about possible future ventures which could surely benefit the club. I would like to invite all past officers board members and club members to help us put the camaraderie back in The Marlin Club.

The proposed redevelopment of the property has been at the very least postponed, giving us a little more time at the current facility. Speaking of the current facility club clean up day has been expanded to club clean up days. Stay tuned for more info and dates. As we speak I have been down at the club on a daily basis working on the back store room that flooded out when the water heater gave way. I want to thank Bill Mcleod for getting down and removing the old unit. Marcus Hale and I emptied the room and tore down the old shelves. The room is ready for paint, flooring, new shelves and the replacement of the water heater. All of this will be done by volunteer work by club members.

We need latex primer brushes and thick rollers. We also need your help, so please contact me at marlinskipper@gmail.com if you have time (I'm around every day) to pitch in. This needs to be finished ASAP to get the club back to a clean and presentable manner. If someone could do 1 or 2 hauling trips to the dump to clear out the back area of much misc. debris it would be greatly appreciated and we will cover dump fees and gas.

We will be doing our best to keep fund raising in the forefront of our goals to get the club into a strong financial position. I would like to thank all who made contributions above and beyond their normal dues this last year it made a huge difference.

Date for the Spring Shootout is May 8th
The Halibut Tournament is June 19th

Hope to see all of you at the awards ceremony!

Best regards,
Bob Woodard JR

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Any move to place the white marlin on the endangered species list would face opposition from members of the recreational fishing community, who oppose blanket protections that could eliminate any fishing, even catch-and-release.

David Bernhart, southeast chief of the National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Resources Division, said it's unclear whether any dire conclusions can be drawn from this study.

The latest government review found that the stock of white marlin was growing, he said. Even if many of the fish counted were the other species, so long as the assessments were proportional, nothing would alter the fact that the stock is growing. "The simplest assumption right now is that everything is proportional," he said.

Words of Wisdom

" Nothing makes a fish bigger than almost being caught."

-- Sar Castik

DATES TO REMEMBER for 2009

Awards/ Trophy Dinner	February 20, 2010
General Membership Meeting	April , 2010
Club Clean Up Days	April , 2010
Open House/Day at the Docks	April , 2010
Sundowner	May , 2010
Spring Shootout*	May 8, 2010
Don Blackman Memorial Halibut Derby*	June 19, 2010
Presidents' Tournament	August , 2010
Juniors' Tournament	August , 2010
Small Boat Tournament*	August , 2010
Labor Day Tournament	September , 2010
BBQ	September , 2010
ILTT Tournament & Dinner Awards Banquet	September , 2010

***Open to the public**



**THE MARLIN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO
2445 SHELTER ISLAND DRIVE
SAN DIEGO, CA 92106**

