

Northside Sportfishing Club
Annual Bastille Day Kingfish Tournament
PO Box 703 * St. Thomas U.S.V.I. 00804
(340) 998-0854

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 10, 2022

BRYAN WINS 32ND BASTILLE DAY KINGFISH TOURNAMENT WITH 30.80-POUND CATCH

There's a popular superstition that having bananas on a boat brings bad luck and a fishless day. So, when St. Thomas' Edwin 'Eddie' Bryan Jr. saw a bunch aboard the 20-foot Spider he and fellow fishermen Mark Stiehler, Ricky Laplace, and Michael Berry were ready to cast off to compete in the 32nd Annual Bastille Day Kingfish Tournament, he quickly carried the bananas to shore and brought back a pineapple instead. "Let's just say after that, we had a good day of fishing. It would have been great if we were able to catch everything that bit, but we still brought six fish to the scale," says Bryan, who has fished the tournament annually since he was a child. The quartet of Green Flash anglers departed from St. Thomas' Hull Bay for the tournament's 5:30 a.m. lines in and headed west. Bryan says that they soon hit a spot where for about a half-hour they fought fish and reeled in four. One of these was the 30.80-pounder that earned Bryan the Largest Kingfish prize. "We saw one was big, but we kept saying 'it's not enough, we want one even bigger to win'," he says. "We went a little further west and got two more. In all, we had a lot of fun. That's what it's all about, having fun with family and friends. And those bragging rights are pretty good too."



Photo: L to R: Edwin 'Eddie' Bryan Jr., Largest Kingfish winner, with Ricky Laplace and Mark Stiehler. Credit Dean Barnes

Bryan was one of 166 anglers, including 26 junior anglers, on 40 boats who fished in this Northside Sportfishing Club-hosted tournament, which National Geographic magazine in 2019 named as one of the world's '9 Bastille Day bashes that celebrates French Culture!' The tournament is part of the U.S. Virgin Islands French Heritage Week, July 10 to 15. The week also includes the Bastille Day and French Heritage Week event at Emerald Beach Hotel on July 14, at 6 p.m., sponsored by the Friends of the Fresh Culture with Odile de Lyrot, the Committee for the Betterment of Carenage, The Frenchtown Community Center and the Frenchtown Civic Organization.

Bryan's Largest Kingfish earned him $3000 in cash, plus many other prizes.

The Second Largest Kingfish prize went to junior angler Shane Berry, aboard Little King, who caught a 30.25-pounder.

AJ Laplace, another junior angler and fishing on Mama Tried, reeled in a 20.75-pounder to win Third Largest Kingfish, while it was Anne Tagini who caught the Fourth Largest Kingfish, a 19.95-pounder, aboard Feel Good.

The catch of 10 kingfish (89.55-pounds) earned Kai Holmberg, aboard No Behavior, the Best Captain award.

Meanwhile, catching 14 fish (115.65-pounds) total of the tournament's eligible species, won Holmberg driving No Behavior the Best Boat award.

KJ Terry, on No Behavior, caught 10 fish weighing 73.05-pounds to earn Best Male Angler, while the Best Female prize went to Anne Tagini, who caught a total of 4 or 50.70-pounds of fish, aboard Feel Good.

The Best Junior Male Angler award went to Shane Berry, who caught 4 fish collectively weighing 72.15-pounds from the Little King.

Flame Gonzalez earned Best Junior Female with her catch of 2 fish weighing a total of 4.10-pounds aboard Sea Weasel.

Although the tournament is focused on kingfish, other species earned anglers cash and prizes. Arnold Petersen fishing aboard Feel Good caught the Largest Barracuda, at 26.20-pounds. Jordan Cisneros, fishing from Mixed Bag II, won Largest Bonito, with his 4.50-pounder. Finally, Chelsea Aubain caught the Largest Mackerel, a 6.25-pounder, aboard Mixed Bag II.

In total, thousands of dollars were awarded in cash, prizes, and trophies this year.

Judges Daryl Bryan and Bobby Laplace officially weighed in the catches.

After weigh-in, the fun continued onshore at Hull Bay Hideaway. Later, crowds gathered at the Hull Bay Hideaway for the Awards Ceremony at 6 p.m.

First organized by the Northside Sportfishing Club in 1988, the tournament has become one of the highlights of French Heritage celebrations on St. Thomas. The event benefits the Joseph Sibilly School, St. Thomas Rescue, Civil Air Patrol, and Nana Baby Children's Home, as well as provides college scholarships. Over the past nearly three decades, the nonprofit Northside Sportfishing Club by way of its annual Bastille Day Kingfish Tournament has donated over $220,000 to community organizations and scholarships.

The 32nd Bastille Day Kingfish Tournament is sponsored by Coors Light and Captain Morgan, distributed by Bellows International; Offshore Marine, the YAMAHA distributor in the Virgin Islands; NEMWIL; Red Hook Agencies, Inc.; TOPA Insurance Services Inc.; Caribbean Gifts and Things; Scoops & Brew Gelato and Coffee Bar; Frank's Electric; Amalie Car Rental; Cyclone Fencing; and the Shack at The Hideaway.

For more information, Email nssfcvi@gmail.com or call (340) 998-0854. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

2022 RESULTS
40 Boats
166 Anglers (includes 26 Jr. Anglers)
69 Fish Caught, 715.75-pounds
38 Kingfish Caught, 470.80-pounds

PLACEMENT	ANGLER	LBS	BOAT
Largest Kingfish	Edwin 'Eddie' Bryan Jr.	30.80	Green Flash
2nd Largest Kingfish	Shane Berry	30.25	Little King
3rd Largest Kingfish	AJ Laplace	20.75	Mama Tried
4th Largest Kingfish	Anne Tagini	19.95	Feel Good
Best Boat	Kai Holmberg	14 fish	No Behavior
Best Captain	Kai Holmberg	10 kingfish	No Behavior
Best Female	Anne Tagini	50.70	Feel Good
Best Male	KJ Terry	73.05	No Behavior
Best Junior Male	Shane Berry	72.15	Little King
Best Junior Female	Flame Gonzalez	4.10	Sea Weasel
Largest Barracuda	Arnold Petersen	26.20	Feel Good
Largest Bonito	Jordan Cisneros	4.50	Mixed Bag II
Largest Mackerel	Chelsea Aubain	6.25	Mixed Bag II

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Media Contact:
Carol Bareuther
Tel: (340) 998-3650
E-mail: bareuther@earthlink.net

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