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Tarpon Blog
by Les Boyle

Almost Time

"Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's 6th Annual Tarpon Tournament
Les Boyle, Team Boomer Sooners

In just 7 days, we'll all be out on the water looking for the elusive Silver King when the "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's 6th Annual Tarpon Tournament will be held. And by the way, note that this year's tournament will be on Friday, May 19th, with the Captain's meeting the night before on Thursday. Don't want anyone showing up a day late and a dollar short.

Speaking of dollars the pot this year is over \$36,000 since part of last year's winnings were rolled over into this year's winner's fund and we have 56 boats instead of 50. There's a lot on the line, no pun intended, so be sure to check out your equipment and the rules before May 19th.

The elephant in the room every year is the weather. We never know what Mom's nature has in store. A few tournament's ago my team pre-fished the day before and jumped 6 tarpon. We thought we had a great chance to place if we could get back to the same place. Next morning forget it. We couldn't even get back offshore to where we were, let alone try to fish. Each year the winning team gets to pick the date in May they would like next year's tournament to be held. Last year with great foresight, Chasin' Poon selected May 19th nearly two weeks later than last year. Given the strange weather we've had for the last several weeks this may have been a great choice.

While it doesn't seem like the big migration has arrived, there are quite a few tarpon around at this time according to my own observations and what I am hearing and reading. On any given morning there have been as many as a dozen boats anchored up soaking baits just North of the causeway and just about as many just South of the Power lines. While not crazy, the bait fish seem to have arrived in pretty good numbers meaning the Tarpon can't be far behind. Yesterday I saw several nice pods of Threadfins on a popular flat mid Sound. Some guides have been regularly jumping fish over the last several weeks so it's "game on".

Please read the rules carefully because enough can go wrong when you are onto Tarpon without being eliminated by a rule you were unaware of. Make sure your team is prepared to not only fight a Tarpon but also to be able to get a photo of the leader touch.

Most of all be safe. Good luck to all and may the best team win!

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