



TIME TO GET IT TOGETHER
**FOR THE “DING” DARLING & DOC FORD’S 7TH ANNUAL
CATCH, CARE AND RELEASE TARPON TOURNAMENT**

Only seven days until lines in the water-Friday, May 11, 2018.

Now’s the time to check your lines, leaders, hooks and other equipment, **read the rules** and.... get out there and hunt for Tarpon. They are around. There have been quite a few releases and plenty of fish sighted. My experience has been that we have found the fish but they are scattered, not many pods showing up. On one occasion we probably saw at least 200 Tarpon over a period of a few hours, but they were all traveling North, no milling around or feeding. They were on a mission it appeared. They were sure not in the mood to eat, but, this can all change overnight.

I was thinking the other day that there sure are a lot of incentives to be in this tournament. First of all the prize money is \$29,300 to be divided up among the first 5 places. Grand champion will receive \$13,185. Not sure about you but that’s a lot of moola.

The most important incentive is that the proceeds from this tournament support the “Ding” Darling Refuge which does so much for our environment and wildlife in this area. And since all the registration fees go into the pot, the proceeds come from our great sponsors and the raffles and auction at the Captain’s meeting. Thank our sponsors by patronizing those businesses.

Another great incentive is that it’s just a lot of fun, from the pre-event Captain/Anglers’ meeting, the tournament itself and the Awards banquet. You can’t hardly have more fun with your clothes on.

But the biggest incentive of all (at least for the Captains) is the “beautiful” Tarpon Jacket, designed by none other than Marty Harrity of Doc Ford’s. The jacket is salmon colored by the way, why couldn’t it have been, say, *SILVER*? But who am I to question a great designer like Marty? Rumor has it that officials from the Masters Golf Tournament have contacted Marty as they are thinking about redesigning their traditional green jacket and have Marty furnish the design. Don’t forget, next year Marty is going to throw in a Pink Cadillac for the winning team.....NOT!

Just a couple of parting reminders:

1. The tournament is on Friday this year. May 11, 2018.
2. The Captain’s meeting is on Thursday, May 10th. (Only for participating anglers)
3. Take your rain gear for the tournament.
4. Good luck!

See y’all at the Captain’s meeting!