

The Virginian-Pilot

Local Angling Team Hauls in the Winner in Fund-Raiser for New York Firefighters

By Lee Tolliver
The Virginian-Pilot

Team Sculley Yachts didn't do as well as it would have liked in the fourth leg of the Billfish Extreme Release League in St. Thomas. But the team more than made up for it in another event.

With one stop left in the league - Sept. 19-21 in Puerto Rico - Team Sculley sits in third place behind leader Team Galatti.

Team Sculley is run by Jim Sculley of Virginia Beach and the Outer Banks. Son Jim Jr. is a team angler, and Brett Jamison of Virginia Beach is a mate on the team.

Prior to the start of the St. Thomas leg, Team Sculley participated in a fund-raising event for members of the New York City Fire Department.

The Battle of the Boroughs featured two firemen on each of six boats, fishing to raise money for the families of firefighters who have died in a non-work-related way.

Team Sculley's angling crew consisted of Bob Piuggi and Brian Myers, two firemen who work in the department's logistics office.

Team Sculley landed one blue marlin and won the event on time of catch.

"The fishing was pretty lousy for both tournaments," Jim Sculley Jr. said. "St. Thomas is known for its good fishing around a full moon, but the fish were really finicky this trip.

"It was pretty poor."

In the extreme league, Team Sculley managed only one white marlin during three days of angling.

"Sure we want to win the extreme stuff, but this was for a good cause, and I think we'll get a lot of mileage out of participating in that one," Sculley said. "It's good publicity for the team."

Highlights from league events will be broadcast on ESPN2 at 10:30 a.m. beginning Oct. 2.

Paddling time: The U.S. Canoe Association will hold its National Stock Aluminum Canoe Marathon Championships next weekend at Portsmouth City Park.

The event is expected to draw hundreds of competitors.

The marathon portion of the weekend will be held Saturday and

will feature competition in four classes. Paddlers will compete on a 12.5-mile course along the Western Branch of the Elizabeth River.

On Sunday, several classes for canoes and kayaks will compete on either a 6.1-mile or 2-mile course.

Registration is \$35 and begins at 8 a.m. both days.

For more information, call Rusty McLain at 465-1317.

Menhaden talk: Del. Terrie L. Suit, R-Virginia Beach, will talk about menhaden at the Great Bridge Fisherman's Association meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Great Bridge Baptist Church, 640 S. Battlefield Blvd., Chesapeake.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is discussing the role of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay, where the small, oily fish is an important forage base and filter feeder. The commission will hold a workshop on the issue in October.

Many recreational angling groups believe that the fish is being overharvested in the Bay.

Because of the meeting's importance, association officials say it will be open to the public.

Also scheduled to speak is Kevin Crum of the Striped Bass World Championships .

For more information, call Chuck Macin at 482-3998 .

Joining the fight: The Coastal Conservation Association has decided to join the battle against a move to put white marlin on the Endangered Species Act list.

The Center for Biological Diversity and the Turtle Island Restoration Network recently sued the National Marine Fisheries Service to have the fish placed on the list.

Since then, several groups have countersued to protect the fish from such a listing.

If white marlin are listed under the act, offshore fishing could become a thing of the past. Targeting other species such as tuna and dolphin would be deemed illegal because white marlin could be caught during the process.

Tournaments up and down the Atlantic coast that bring millions of dollars into local economies would be effected by an Endangered Species Act listing.