

# Anglers lured by adventurous tuna chase

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 cation of victory hadn't set in.

With the fish secured, we headed for the dock and the official weigh-in. Now you'd think that a 399 kg (878-pound) fish should be good enough to win a tournament.

Not so. Because two days later an Austrian writer, Stephen Starling, landed one that weighed 463 kg (1,020 pounds).

Had the tournament lasted one more day my fish would have ended up a distant third in the competition because Paul Slominski from Switzerland brought one in weighing 517 kg (1,140 pounds).

It was not surprising that Slominski decided to stay on for an extra day. On the final day of the tournament there were nine hook-ups. Unfortunately the seas were rough and after tiring battles every fish was lost.

It was quite a sight. Everywhere you looked someone was in the fighting chair battling the bluefin and the seas. The 130-pound test lines take a beating in this kind of weather.

Tuna put such tremendous strain on a line that if you were to just touch it while the battle rages, chances are it would snap. With rough seas it's much more difficult. A little slack and a quick move by the fish at the same time and he's gone.

People who have fought the largest and most spectacular game fish the world over will tell you that nothing compares to the bluefin for brute strength. Not spectacular in terms of dancing on their tails or surging out of the water in great leaps, the bluefin simply punishes the angler with its power.

It's mainly a case of endurance. Obviously some skill is required as well, not only on the part of the angler, but also the captain of the boat and his crew. A lot of things can go wrong, so a good crew is a big plus.

Still, it's mainly a test of stamina, a matter of not giving up when the temptation is great to simply tell the captain to

"cut it off." It's even more important now that the fish be landed because the captain gets the fish and sells it for \$1.75 a pound. You think of that too while the battle rages.

The battle I had lasted just one hour but it seemed a lot longer. One can sympathize with the angler off P.E.I. who fought one all night long, something like 14 hours, only to lose it miles away off the shores of Cape Breton Island.

When the battle is over, emotions are confused. There is elation at having won, fatigue that tends to take away some of that elation, and perhaps a little remorse knowing that such a huge and

powerful game fish is no longer around.

The world record, taken in the same Nova Scotia waters, is 679 kg (1,498 lbs.). Chances of that record being broken are probably quite good. Years ago, when they first started fishing tuna, there was talk of that elusive 1,000 pounder. Maybe there's a 908 kg (2,000 lb.) bluefin around.

In addition to excellent fishing off Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia, there is also excellent fishing in New Brunswick waters. In fact, at one time or another, all three provinces have had a fish in the international record books.

Based on past years, late August and early September would be considered prime time in P.E.I. Late October is prime time for Nova Scotia and probably the best time to fish New Brunswick waters would be the last two weeks of August and first week of September.

Charter rates on a daily basis vary from province to province, from \$200 to \$300 Canadian. The maximum number of people per boat also varies from four to six. So you could take a one day charter and divide the cost among the group.

Further information may be obtained from North Lake Tuna Chart-

ers Inc., North Lake, Elmira Post Office, Prince Edward Island, Canada C8A 1K0. Phone: (902) 357-2655.

You may also write to Prince Edward Island Department of Tourism, Industry and Energy, Post Office Box 940, Charlottetown, P.E.I. Canada, C1A 7M5.

For New Brunswick, write to Le Port de plaisance de Bas-Caraquet inc. (Lower Caraquet Marina), c/o Mr. Donat Leger, P.O. Box 38, Bas-Caraquet, N.B., Canada E0B 1E0. (506) 727-4787.

For Nova Scotia, write or phone Al Anderson, Strait of Canso Tuna Club Auld's Cove, Antigonish County, Nova Scotia,

(902) 747-3270, 747-2746, 747-2660 or Mike Newell, Chebucto Sword Fish and Tuna Club, Canso, Guysborough County, Nova Scotia (902) 366-2659.

For more information on Canadian vacations, contact the Canadian Government, Office of Tourism, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H4.

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