

PGFC THAILAND 2016 "CLASSIC"



Now in its sixth year, Phuket Game Fishing Club's annual tournament was once again held offshore from the Similan Islands. This year, bearing the title "PGFC Thailand 2016 Classic", the event ran continuously over three days with non-stop fishing from 8am on March 1 to 4pm on March 3, with teams battling for an impressive array of prizes.

With the wind of the previous few days mercifully having abated, conditions were once again excellent for fishing, allowing anglers plenty of opportunity for a variety of techniques, including jigging and bottom fishing as well as daytime trolling. Prize categories were for the largest fish of each of nine eligible species. The Champion Team trophy was awarded to the team securing most points from the species awards, and the prize list ensured plenty of keen competition amongst the more than 30 anglers taking part.

Whilst fishing was challenging, those choosing the right techniques and locations showed the quality and quantity of fish to be caught. Although no marlin or sailfish were recorded as caught and released this year, it was not for lack of strikes, with over 10 having been reported, of which at least three marlin were lost within a few feet of the boat, the largest of which was estimated at over 350lbs.

After the three hard fought days, over 75 participants and their families, anglers, boat owners, sponsors and crew members gathered at KanEang@Pier restaurant, Chalong for a splendid dinner followed by presentation of the awards.

Congratulations to the runaway winners and Champion Team for the second year running, Phuket-Fishing.ru, with a massive 150 points total. Their winning haul included the heaviest Trevally, 21.8Kg, Tuna, 20.4Kg, Mackerel, 7.0Kg and Barracuda, 4.8KG as well as the largest "Other Species" fish, a whopping 27.4Kg grouper.

In second place, the Slough Sharks with 30 points claimed the best Dorado of 8.4Kg and the runner-up Wahoo of 7.4Kg. The tournament's only all-ladies team, the Outcasts from Australia claimed third place with the largest Wahoo of 9.0Kg.

Our sincere thanks to all our sponsors for their generous support of the event, without whom it wouldn't be possible.

Full results and event photographs can be seen on the PGFC website, www.phuketgamefishingclub.com.