

Great turnout boosts prizes for catch and release sturgeon derby

BY BUD NEVILLE

WON Staff Writer

MARTINEZ — Last Saturday, anglers gathered at the Martinez Marina for an inaugural catch-and-release sturgeon event that promoters hope will shape the future of sturgeon derbies in Northern California, a concept obviously proven popular by the huge turnout of anglers for a first-time event.

“We were expecting between 50 and 80 anglers,” said Captain Steve Talmadge of Flash Fishing, who worked with Jordana Santiago at Martinez Bait and Tackle to develop an idea into a working tournament. “We ended up with 187 fishermen!” That boosted the cash pots to \$4,675 in the 100-percent payback derby.

Despite the strong turnout, tough fishing conditions that have been entrenched for a couple weeks persisted, and only 8 keeper sturgeon were caught, recorded by weighmasters and released. Anglers did have the option of keeping their fish, but were encouraged to release by the condition that they would be entered into 2 cash pools. If any of the anglers had kept their fish, not only would they have had to stop fishing, but they would be entered in only one of the pools.

Winners were drawn from the list of successful anglers, with Pot A's first place going to Lynda Abbot on the boat *Die Hard*. That put \$1,168.75 in her pocket. Second prize of \$701.25 went to Steve Thurman, and third prize of \$467.50 went to Glen Miller.

Since all anglers released their fish, the same names went into the drawing for Pot B, with first prize cash of \$1,188.75 going to Simon Fung. It was Lynda Abbott's lucky day, and she got another \$701.25 when her name was drawn for second prize, totaling her winnings at \$1,870. Third prize of \$467.50 went to Ken Indalesio. Watch for the full “On-The-Spot” with photos in next week's issue of *WON*.

January 29, 2007

**WESTERN
OUTDOOR
NEWS**