



Field Set for 7th Annual Ding Darling/Doc Ford's Tarpon Tourney

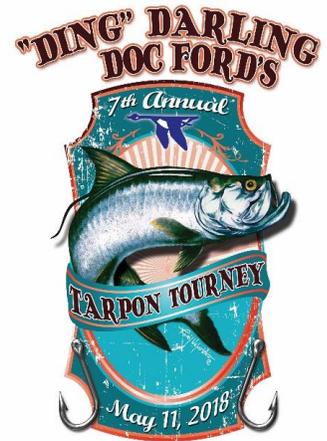
Les Boyle, Team Boomer Sooners

With the Gulf water temperature at 61 degrees and one of the coldest days of the year tomorrow, who's thinking about Tarpon? Not very many of us, although I did encounter one hardy soul on New Year's day who was going out to see if there were any around. There weren't any. This is a just an early note to let you know what's going on with this year's tournament so far.

First of all the date is **Friday, May 11, 2018**. Note the event is on a Friday this year instead of a Saturday. This may affect some of your team members ability to fish this year so check it out. Also, this is a little later in the month than previous years with an effort to align with a good tide.

The 50 team field filled up in just two hours this year depicting just how popular this tournament has become. There are four teams on the waiting list at this point so if you know you have to cancel out please let the tournament director know so she can make the change. Now is the time to get your team organized and make sure you do have a team.

There are entries from all over the country including our friends from Sweden and the UK who have fished with us before....and done quite well I might add. Of course we also have the usual assortment of local Crackers and some of the country's foremost Tarpon guides also signed up. As usual the competition will be stiff. Weather is always the great equalizer, or at least it can be. Hell, one year a bunch of old guys led by a farmer from Oklahoma won the whole thing. That year the weather was so nasty that no-one could fish the Gulf side of the island. The other thing is that the weather can turn on a dime. So you might have a great few days of scouting thinking you've located your tarpon and it can all change over night with high winds, rain or all of the above.



Of course the prize money is the big draw with all the entry fees going into the pot. With 50 boats there will over \$25,000 to be split among the top five places. This year the winning team will be presented a special tournament jacket, will it be Silver? More on that later.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the water in the near future.