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'Team No Credit' takes first leg of 2016 Sportfishing Series



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ALICE TOWN, Bimini — Anglers competing in the year-long Sportfishing Series at the historic Bimini Big Game Club Resort & Marina set their hooks this past weekend toward gathering points leading to a November payout and awards ceremony where final series champions will be honored.

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The first tournament in the series - Wahoo Weekend - saw competitive wahoo and mahi action with "Team No Credit" from Fort Lauderdale, Florida taking the winning team honors with a total of 262.8 pounds over two days of offshore action. Team members included Captain John Saul, Martin Thifauelt, Kenny Schmidt, Heath Lverniche and Douglas Hughes.

The biggest wahoo caught by "Team J.R." out of Fort Lauderdale weighed in at 72 pounds. The team members were Captain Pete Varona, Mike Jones, Mickey Garrell, Leo Levarity and Rich Stone.

Landing the tournament's largest mahi was "Team Red Pepper" based in New Providence. The 19.7-pound fish was caught by Captain Gary Sands, Ron Albury, Peter Auberg and Ari Burrows.

Sportfishing Series points for wahoo and mahi were awarded at a rate of one point per pound over a minimum scoring weight of 20 pounds. Double points were awarded to the first, second and third place finishers.

The tournament ended Saturday with a gala awards ceremony poolside.

The upcoming dates for the 2016 Big Game Club Sportfishing Series include the Bimini Big Game Club Billfish Tournament, April 13-17; the Bimini Big Game Club Tuna/Mahi Tournament, May 26-29; and the Bimini Big Game Club Wahoo Smackdown VIII, November 10-13. Overall, to qualify for point payouts, anglers must have entered and fished in at least two of the Big Game club scheduled events. Point payouts will be awarded at the Bimini Big Game Club Wahoo Smackdown VIII Awards Banquet on November 13, 2016.

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