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THE LITTLE TUNA



By Joe Cermele

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Easy Money?



What if you could compete in cash-prize fishing tournaments without the hassle of high entry fees, captain's meetings and tournament-day weather to deal with? Better yet, you pick the species you want to fish for and participate from anywhere in the country. I received a press release this week, and that is precisely what BountyFishing is trying to make happen. Here's how it works: You become a member on their website (it's free), pick the week you want to fish and the species you want to chase. Then you pay a seven dollar fee and hit the water. When you hook up, take a digital picture of your fish next to a measuring tape, a picture of yourself holding the fish and send it in. BountyFishing's "forensics protocol" will determine if the photos are legit, and if so, you get on the scoreboard. Winners get a check at the end of each week. You can fish as many or as few days in that week as you want, and fish weight has nothing to do with winning. According to their release, \$125,000 in cash will be given out this summer alone.

I must admit, it sounds interesting and kinda fun, but after checking out the website it seems this venture is still in its early stages. Right now, the only salt water fish you can compete for are striped bass and a few different salmon species, but according to BountyFishing's P.R. rep, Alana Sorrentino (who is a member of the BountyFishing team—check out her photo), redfish, bluefish and snook tournaments will be added soon. Although I'm the quintessential eternal skeptic, I think it's a pretty original idea. Maybe I'll sign up and try it out. I'll let you know how it goes. If you want to decide for yourself if it's a good way for skilled anglers to earn some pocket money, visit www.bountyfishing.com. Oh, and there's more photos of Alana on the homepage. — Joe Cermele

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