

Editorial - Catch, Upload and Collect

Wednesday, August 08, 2007

I was sitting at our booth at the ICAST show in Las Vegas this year when Lorne Bienstock came up to the table and we started to chat. He explained that his company had just launched a Web site called Bounty Fishing, and that the central theme was to offer a place where anglers from all over the country could compete in online weekly tournaments for cash.

Of course a ton of questions naturally came forth from all of us standing there, and Lorne began to explain how the Web site and the competition worked.

To get started, go to www.bountyfishing.com and register with a username and password. Then, you check the schedule for the week (the week runs Monday through Sunday) and decide which days you are going to fish, as well as what eligible species you are going to target.

Then you get what's called a BountyCode to take with you while fishing. When you make a catch, you'll need to take two images. One image with your catch measured on a flat surface with the BountyCode in the shot (fish are judged on length, not weight). The other image is of you holding your catch.

Before midnight on the same day as your outing, upload both photos to the Web site. At the end of the tournament week, whoever is at the top is the winner for that category.

OK, sounds pretty simple, but how do you figure out that nobody cheated by altering the photo? Lorne explained it's somewhat like CSI and computer forensics. They can actually put each photo submitted into a software program and be able to tell if it has been altered even the slightest. Pretty neat stuff if you ask me.

The cost is relatively cheap to compete at \$7 per day per species, or \$19 per week per species. And anglers can compete as many days and for as many eligible species as they want.

The cash prizes are pretty good also; first place wins \$1,000, second wins \$200 and third wins \$100. There are also other bonus ways to win that are explained in detail on their Web site.

The only drawback I see so far is that a number of the species are not readily available to SoCal anglers, and as of this writing, no saltwater species categories exist. But the bass, catfish, trout, etc. categories are still easily attainable. I know a SoCal angler can take down the Largemouth category with a hog from one of our renowned lakes. Might be a little hard to beat out the rest of the country in the smallmouth category though.

At any rate, it was great to learn about such a neat concept. Hopefully in the near future they will add saltwater species categories to really open up the playing field.

To get full details and a step-by-step explanation of how it all works, check out the Web site at www.bountyfishing.com.

Do you have a story, opinion or comment about fishing you'd like to share? FishRap welcomes letters to the editor. Letters are subject to editing and should not be more than 500 words. Submissions should be e-mailed to brandon@goboating.com or sent to FishRap Editor, 17782 Cowan, Suite A, Irvine, CA 92614.