

2009 RESULTS
FLORIDA BILLFISH MASTERS TOURNAMENT

OVATION WINS WIRE TO WIRE
23 boats chase \$130,000 in prize money

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Contact: Captain Dan Kipnis

Captain **Jeremy Huston**, skippered his 85 ft. Jim Smith, “**Ovation**”, to a start to finish win in the 9th edition of the Florida Billfish Masters Tournament. “**Jichi**”, with **Ricky Linder** at the helm released the first sail at 8:10 am on a windy and rainy Saturday morning as the fleet spread out as far north as Boca Raton and south to Ocean Reef. Ovation scored their first release by tournament Master Angler **Darren Newhart** at 8:15, followed by two more singles in the first hour and another one at 9:30 in what proved to be one of the slowest sailfish bites ever experienced by a Miami tournament fleet. These four fish were enough to put Ovation in the lead from the start even without the double they scored at 11:45 giving them a total of 6 releases for the day with 4 for Newhart.

The fleet was swarmed with schoolie dolphin and kingfish further complicating the quest for billfish bites. “Jichi” managed a couple more releases by **Louis Isaias** and **Anibal Miya** to hold second place with two time FBMT winner “**Boat Center**” skippered by **Gary Lawson** and last years winner “**Owl’s Nest**” with Capt. **Matty Tambor** at the helm also each reporting three releases. Fifth through tenth place read like a who’s who of south Florida tournament winners with **Sandman**”, “**Wound Up**” and **Contender One**” each having two and “**Midnight Blue**”, “**Qualifier**” and “**Hostile**” having one each. The fleet totaled 31 sailfish releases on the day.



Day two dawned as blustery as the first day with seas running between 6-8 feet. The bite started out hot as “**Advanced Roofing**” let a double go at 8:08 am, the “Jichi” opened with a fish to come within striking distance of first place and “**Rock Star**” freed a double. Radio control, Capt **Dan Kipnis** urged the fleet to “keep the bite going”, but alas the bite started to slow down. The fleet totaled 39 for the day.

“Hostile”, run by Capt. **Ray Rosher** was top daily boat (\$22,784) with 4 releases, Sandman added three more to end up with 5, perennial top seeded “**Get Lit**” got three and “Ovation” added two more. The day ended with a bit of drama as “Ovation” suffered fuel problems 25 miles south of Miami and needed assistance transferring their top angler and catch cards aboard the “**Wound Up**” with Capt. **John Louie Dudas** for a timely ride to the check-in and the mandatory polygraph test. Tournament boats only have an hour and a half to return to the marina and present their catch cards or face disqualification. “Owl’s Nest” remained with “Ovation” and in the end they all made it back to the marina with a few minutes to spare.

“Ovation” was presented a check for \$56,111 at the awards bar-b-que at Monty’s Restaurant, with second place team Jichi taking home \$17,563 and third place Boat Center \$ 3065. In all 69 sailfish were released and “Ovation” moved into first place in the Contender Libertad Challenge with 19 releases and one tournament to go, the Yamaha Miami Billfish Tournament.

Grand Champion	Ovation	8 Rel.	\$56111
2 nd Place	Jichi	6 Rel.	\$17563
3 rd	Boat Center	5 Rel.	\$3065
4 th	Hostile	5 Rel.	\$22784
5 th	Sandman	5 Rel.	\$4950
6 th	Wound Up	4 Rel.	\$1980
7 th	Owl’s Nest	3 Rel.	\$10080
8 th	Rock Star	3 Rel.	
9 th	Midnight Blue	3 Rel.	
10 th	Priceless	3 Rel.	\$ 7568
	Manhole Heaven	2 Rel.	\$6480