

Press Release:

From Dr. Julie Ball
IGFA Representative, Virginia Beach

YELLOWEDGE GROUPER, 46-pounds, 2-ounces
Pending IGFA All-Tackle World Record

12 March 2008

I got the call from Captain Skip Feller from the Virginia Beach Fishing Center on March 12th at about 8:30 pm. He had taken a group of 26 anglers aboard the Rudee Angler to the edge of the Norfolk Canyon, and was reporting a nice catch of fish with a dozen or so nice grouper. Skip now has an interest in grouper since he caught a juvenile Warsaw grouper on a prior trip. He had purchased a few fish ID books to keep them onboard. He described the grouper to me, and we agreed he had a few decent snowys. But as he described the others to me, I could tell they were neither snowys nor Warsaws. I told him they sounded like yellowedge grouper to me. I asked him, "How much did that big one weigh again?" As he told me, I checked the existing world record, and sure enough, his angler's catch beat the existing IGFA World Record by several pounds. The existing record is 41 pounds, 1-ounce. I told him we needed to verify the species and certify that fish; it's a new World Record! Skip began pouring over his species books, and agreed he thought it was a yellowedge.



The next day, we had the fish verified by an official marine biologist, and began the IGFA certification process at Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle, the local official IGFA weigh station. The proud angler is Heath Cataulin of Norfolk, Virginia. He was using a hand-tied two hook rig with Mustad circle hooks donned with squid on a Penn Baja reel and Ugly Stick rod combo. The fight took approximately 10 minutes to bring the grouper onboard. The angler is still debating whether he should have the fish mounted.

Captain Skip Feller comes from a long line of local respectable charter captains, so it is no surprise he is breaking ground on the deep-dropping front!

Congratulations to the angler, Captain and Crew of the Rudee Angler out of the Virginia Beach Fishing Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia.