

IGFA Representative Announcement

Virginia Cobia goes World Record!

Just got the Official Word on IGFA World Record Approval:

IGFA World Record Cobia

74-pounds

Women's 20lb Line Class World Record

On June 11th I joined Jason Legg and Captain Rudy Lavasseur at Bubba's Marina in Virginia Beach to fish for cobia in the Chesapeake Bay.

As I was getting a drink out of the cooler, I knew something was up when Rudy and Jason suddenly quit talking. I looked up just in time to see a huge cobia sunning on the surface about 20 yards away. I heard Rudy yell, "Julie, this one is your record!"

I had my rod spooled with IGFA rated line and ready to go. I had no trouble keeping the fish in sight as Rudy maneuvered the boat to sneak up on the fish. "Please eat, please eat"...I said to myself as I felt the cobia inspect my bait. I hoped I had waited long enough as I raised my rod.

The fight began with the fish heading straight for the bridge! Rudy quickly chased her down, and we turned her the other way. At first we thought I could make quick work of the fish since it was staying on the surface. But that all changed when the fish decided to sound. Not good. Then it was a waiting game.

During the relentless up and down tug-o-war, my crew's discussion became heated as they estimated the weight of the fish. At one point, they had the weight up to 90-pounds, and then sinking all the way down to 50-pounds. "Would you quit guessing? You're gonna jinx me!" Of course, they didn't stop, and they settled at around 75-pounds. Both of them were very patient as they cheered me on, and Rudy steadily worked the boat every minute.

After an hour and forty minutes, I finally worked the fish back to the top, and could see it had tired. Ok guys, you're on! Rudy and Jason were great. Rudy smoothly gaffed the fish right alongside the boat, and held it as Jason helped him carefully lift it into the boat. The cobia stayed calm while we took photos and packed it in the fish box.

Rudy and Jason decided we were going in then to weigh the fish. I think they were more excited than I was. At Long Bay Pointe Bait and Tackle, the fish weighed 74-pounds, which is over 3.5-pounds bigger than the existing record. This fish was just approved as the new IGFA 20-pound Woman's Line Class World Record Cobia.
Dr. Julie Ball

Thanks Rudy and Jason!!

**IGFA World Record Cobia
74-pounds**



Women's 20lb Line Class World Record