1995 Fishing Tournaments

"Gone fishin'" was the message for the day on June 30 . . .

when the first annual Women's Fishing Tournament, sponsored by the Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen's Museum got underway.

More than 50 women, some of the experienced fisherfolk, others gamely tackling the sport for the first time, boarded the Black Whale out of Beach Haven.

It was a beautiful day, sunny and calm, and all but a few quickly found their sea legs. Some brought along husbands or sweethearts to watch or give advice, but only the women were allowed to compete.

"It was a great event," said Deb Whitcraft, owner of the Black Whale. "The fishing was good. They saw some striped bass and some really big blues."

Top prize for the biggest fish was a tie between Connie Callahan of Basking Ridge and Ellen Ramsey of Long Beach Township. Both caught bluefish that came in at the exact same weight, and both won the ship's pool, splitting $90. They also worked out a split of the first and second prizes, certificates to the Boat House and Green Gables restaurants. Third prize, a $50 certificate to the Green Gables was won by Barbara Mooney of Tuckerton.

Kris Imbrie won a $100 certificate to the Boat House, Peggy Ramsey won a $50 filet mignon and Terri Reeves also won a $50 certificate to Morrison's Restaurant.

Betty Minor of Parkertown won a $40 certificate to The Mooring Restaurant; Pat Papaycick of Parkertown won a $35 certificate to The Grapevine restaurant; Barbara Beyers, a guest of Marjorie Smith of Tuckerton, won a $25 certificate to the Engleside Inn; Anne Newland of Mystic Island won a $25 certificate to Yield House at the Tuckerton Emporium; Dot Moldrup won a $20 certificate to Simply Hair, and Megan Eberz won a $20 certificate to the Italian Kitchen in Little Egg Harbor Township.

Also, Deborah Buzby of Tuckerton and Deborah DiBenedetto each won $10 certificates to Carroll's Restaurant; Elaine Rimbach of Tuckerton won a $10 certificate to the Cranberry Bog; Gloria Robinson of Basking Ridge won two food tickets for the Baymen's Seafood Festival on July 15; Joan Koons of Beach Haven Gardens won brunch for two at the Bayberry Inn; Joan Marmo of Tuckerton won a $20 certificate to the Picadilly Pub; Susan Hughes of Mystic Island won a paint roller and tray set and a gallon of white paint.

Also, Jane Gilley of Basking Ridge won a Coleman four-piece flashlight set; Arsine Driscoll of Tuckerton won some hand-held signal flares; Anita Avery of Tuckerton won a Mariner Kidde Fire Extinguisher; Veronica Muse, a guest of Helen Wyatt of Mystic Island, won a mantel clock donated by Summit Bank, while Helen won a Tuckerton Seaport shirt. Connie Callahan won an umbrella, donated by Summit Bank, Mary Lou Matta won a Tuckerton Seaport shirt, and Marjorie Smith of Tuckerton and Joan Williams of West Creek, both won Seaport Sweatshirts.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Deborah Buzby, Anne Durborow and Jody Minor.

Some people went home with a little sunburn and everybody went home with fish.

"It was the best day of fishing so far this year," said Black Whale skipper Capt. Earle Englekin. About 500-600 fish were caught. We had around 90 people on board, including some husbands and a kid or two, and everybody caught something. It was a really good day."

The same could be said for the Third Annual Summer Men's Fishing Tournament, which took place this year on July 8. Twenty-seven boats full of local anglers took off on a bright sunny day. When it was all over, there were no winners in the striped bass category, Dave Disbrow, captain of the Blackduck had won the weakfish category, Roger Zavacki had won the fluke category aboard the charter boat Melody, which was donated to the museum last year. There were no listed winners for bluefish. Previous years' winners include, in 1993: Kim Shell of the Jenny Ann, weakfish, Rich Schrantz of the Tara K, fluke, and Bruce Jones of the Bare Necessity, bluefish. In 1994, winners included Scott Cranmer of the Ding How, weakfish, Dick McGee of Digger, fluke, and Dennis Storey, bluefish. The stripers were the "ones that got away" all three years.

But there's always next year.

Donating prizes for the men's tournament this year were Tip's Hardware, Total Marine, Jeff Von Schmidt, Bruce & Pat's Tackle Shop, Viking Construction, ReBorn Engines, Dave's Septic Systems, Scott's Bait & Tackle, Tuckerton Liquors and Great Bay Products.



Connie Callahan with her winning bluefish, caught on the Black Whale in the First Annual Women's Fishing Tournament, sponsored by the Barnegat Bay Decoy and Baymen's Museum.