

Praslin-Seychelles Fishing Newsletter - Edition 06/2013

Hello all!

This month there is really little to tell. Until I flew out to Germany on the 19th there were virtually no reports by the other Skippers. Christian had gone to Mahe for family reasons. Martin had no charters, none for Corsaire, and no news from the others either except J.D.'s one trip that produced a Sailfish.

My own activities also were reduced. Partly by the Southeast and partly due to German friends visiting. Prior to their arrival - on the 2nd - I gave popping another try in quite rough conditions. Had no activity at the first spot, while on the second I got a hookup. Unfortunately that fish came off after a minute so I have no clue what it was. Did not feel too big though, probably <10kg. The next two spots each produced a GT following the lure without striking. One I estimated at about 10kg, the other a bit bigger. These would have been just right for my upgraded tackle that admittedly still is a far cry from what Pros recommend for this type of angling.

As mentioned last time I had put some 80lb braid on that Shimano reel with its 11kg drag nearly closed. A 130lb crimped leader gave me the feeling that I should be on the safe side for most situations but at the end of that day I was taught better again. Already on the way back home I stopped once more at the starting spot. It had gotten pretty rough there in the meantime. So I decided for just a few casts and then IT came: chasing the popper, missing it once, twice, and on the third attempt hitting it. The impact was quite forceful but not strong enough to explain for the new 80lb main line breaking instantly. I reckon it must have had a fault because it broke somewhere in the middle far from any knot or so. Very disappointing.

Must admit though that this fish would probably have been too much of a task for my equipment. Have caught GTs of around 30kg in Kenya and also one of exactly 50kg (on 30lb trolling tackle and a livebait, but in open water) before. This fish was not that big but I am pretty sure it must have been somewhere in the area of 40kg. On the strike it turned and gave me a perfect broadside view - it was a real monster. It seems there are plenty of those on the rocks around Praslin. To have at least some hope landing such there seems no other option but to use the best stuff available. So now more costly ordering from abroad ahead ...

The 11th provided one more comparably calm day suitable for some trolling. My German friends who never fished before decided to join in, so together with Ted we went. The first 3 hours were very calm in every way just providing Sandra with a Wahoo - her first ever fish.



Michael got a Bonito a little later and we had to venture quite far out before finding some activity. Out there with a big flock of fishing birds we first missed a Dorado and then landed a big Bonito and a Yellowfin Tuna in quick succession. Unfortunately a rain front with strong winds came on us. The sea turned white and my friend's faces

green so we set course back home. Not far from Sister Islands when things had calmed down a bit we got another strike and had a Sailfish leaping into the air. As neither of my friends felt well enough to take it on I enjoyed a nice fight on the 30lb tackle. Luckily Michael was well enough to handle the camera so there is a bit of video from the landing, quick photo session and release.



Watch it by clicking the link if you like:

<http://youtu.be/5FHcMiOdfvE>

This fish obviously saved the day as the rest of the catch was somewhat below average. Still here is a pic of that (without the Sail obviously):



Actually this is all to report from Praslin for this month. As after my departure I received no more news by email I reckon nothing else has happened since.

On Mahe the situation was comparably calm. A highlight was the annual Heineken Slam Tournament on the 15th. In very rough conditions 13 boats tried to achieve the `Slam` of Wahoo, Yellowfin Tuna and Dorado, but only one team (Special K) managed to get it together. Still a number of good fish were caught. Very pleasant also that a few Sailfish and also a Marlin were hooked and eventually released as Billfish do not count for points in this tournament.

A few more freezing days ahead now til my return to Praslin. Really can't wait to get back and go fishing again. Hopefully the wind will be somewhat cooperative so next month`s edition will have more to offer.

Tight Lines and best regards from Düsseldorf,

Daniel