

Praslin-Seychelles Fishing Newsletter - Edition 04/2013

Hello all!

April delivered pretty much what was to be expected. This goes for catches as well as the weather. Most of the time both have been good, but some days with no or nearly no wind at all and record heat were a bit slow on the troll. On the other hand a (hopefully ...) last cyclone of the season moved through south of us and brought heavy winds from the north for a week. But as said most of the time conditions and the fishing were pleasant. Just a shame that we are into the next touristic off season so there were not too many trips.

On April 1st Martin phoned me from sea. If I would like to come over to his place with the cam later? No April's fool, as there his crowd of Italian Jigging & Bottom Fishing anglers carried a load of fish from boat to shore. Among Groupers, Snappers & Amberjacks etc. were some Doggies. The biggest one hit the scales at a whopping 39.6kg. A barrel of a fish!



See more of it on this month's video clip by clicking the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2bq-3G0Ats&feature=youtu.be>

Must have been a good fishing day as Greg also had a successful trolling time. Next to a handful of Bonitos and Yellowfin Tunas a Sailfish and a Barracuda of 22kg were caught.



The next day the wind started to pick up and all fishing came to a halt as far as I know. Not too bad for me though as this was a chance to finalize a few things about my boat.

The following weekend the wind dropped a bit. Most welcome as this was a chance for a first trolling trip with the redone boat and Robin. We started at my favourite area around the Sisters. Unfortunately it was full of seaweed there but in it was visible activity. We picked up a small Wahoo and 2 Yellowfin Tunas. Then we left the area as the weed became too annoying and the activity seemed to have dropped. Finding none elsewhere we returned but by then the weed and the fish were gone. So the last 3 hours of that trip produced nothing more than a few Bonitos. No pics of all this as only one of the Tunas was presentable and just then the cam was foggy. Well, you know what these fish look like. Nearly forgot: out there we met another private boat proudly presenting a Sailfish to us. Seems we just did not have that bit of luck that day.

The whole of the following week due to that mentioned cyclone we had strong northerly winds that to my opinion made any fishing impossible. Accordingly surprised I was when meeting Mervin briefly and learning that he had been fishing some days even in those conditions. Next to the usual bag of Dorados, Wahoos and Tunas he also caught Sailfish.

At the end of that week conditions finally returned to normal and I was eager to go. Unfortunately one of my engines had a hiccup and so it was chasing for Ralf, the mechanic you want here, instead. That though, is as much of a task as hooking 2 Marlin same time and so it took until the weekend before the issue was sorted out.

At least Monday I could drift a little with natural bait on the edge of Cote d'Or bay where I had found some coral and rocks on the bottom before. All close enough to risk it on one and a half engine. Also deployed a drifting stripbait on a circle hook That produced a few short hits but nothing to convert. On the bottom things were more productive. Caught a whole set of smaller Groupers, Snappers and Job. Also was cut off twice, probably by some small Sharks.

At the end a quite large Remora (around 60cm) came up that must have lost his host. The pic is not too good but I think one can identify the suction plate on the back of the head.



In the course of that week Christian had a 'Half Day' during which he lost 2 Sails. One of those because the main line broke. Suspiciously checking for the problem he found the client had closed the drag completely. The next day - Drop Off with the same guest - he kept an eye on it and 3 Sails came to the boat without accident!

On the 17th Martin also fished the Drop, but it was not too entertaining: only a Bonito and a Barracuda each. It could have become a special day but the Marlin they played for about 10min some point waved them goodbye.

Sunday, the 21st finally we went fishing again, starting off Sisters once more. Carlos and Ted each boated a Dorado early, but as it was my turn then nothing happened for a while. Only on the first of the northern spots we went to I finally got a rather small Wahoo. Did not take 5min for Carlos to get a proper one and only moments later so did Ted. Then it was again quiet for some time until we reached the most northern spot. There the activity was on. In those last 3 hours we caught some 30 fish. Most of these were Bonitos of astounding size (nearly all at 6-10kg) and some Yellowfin Tunas. Also we got cut off twice by Wahoos and lost a number of fish in play. Not to mention many strikes without hookup. Some point we pulled in first the teaser lines and then reduced to 4 rods. Still a few times more all of these went same time. Even as there was no special fish it really was a great and entertaining day.



On the 23rd Greg had a 'Half Day' fishing from the small boat. That tallied 2 Wahoos and a Sailfish. Very good job! Am glad for the young lad as he is really dedicated and gets ever better.



Another 2 days later I repeated that little Bottom Fishing just outside the bay. This time the fish were a bit further out, but again there and active. As the depth is only 20-25m there is always the option to release which makes it nice. After a really colourful bag of different species I tried a bigger hook, but that did not pay off. Does not seem to be a spot for bigger fish. But even those small ones of up to 1-2kg really fight hard on light tackle. The fighting power compared to a European Cod of comparable size I would estimate at factor 4 to 5 so it is a lot of fun.



The next day Robin witnessed the holidaying neighbours from Mauritius bringing in a Sail. They also did a trip a few days before when there was no wind at all, ending up with a handful of Bonitos and some small Bottom Fish. This time with the wind just right it was better obviously. By the way, since the storm the wind - if there was any - started to come from the south. And it seems to establish itself at around 10kn already. This is not convenient but still manageable for trolling with my small boat. Just hope it will not yet pick up to the 15-20kn that are normal for the Southeast usually from June or so. It will inevitably happen but please not yet as there are still a few drifting things I want to try. A few more calm weeks would be very welcome.

On the 27th Greg phoned me about a fly guiding he had that day, catching a bag of smaller fish. Also I learned from him that Charly had a trip with 2 Wahoos and a Sail.

The next day I was set for some trolling once more. But my lads all had other obligations and it had been raining throughout since the night before. When it stopped in the afternoon I grabbed some spinning tackle and small poppers for a few hours. That produced 3 misses and a Yellowspotted Trevally of about 3.5kg. Not a huge fish admittedly but great fun on that light tackle. As the strike came right behind the boat and is visible on the cam I also put it in the video clip.



One of the misses was really spectacular: a Barracuda well over a meter came in two crazy 5m jumps at my popper but did not hit it properly. On another spot I saw something large in the water. A little later I saw its tail fin and am

pretty sure it was a Sailfish. Needless to say that I combed the area with popper and eventually a trolled Halco but no strike unfortunately.

Catches on Popper here can be a lot bigger of course. Want proof? Mervin & Martin's Co-Skipper Jacquelin went for pleasure. Here is the result (GT / app. 25kg):



Nothing more to report from Praslin now. But there is news from Mahe also. Main event truly was the annual Rotary Tournament, held mid of the month. Unfortunately this time I could not make it to the weigh-in. But some information can be provided.

Fishing time was from Friday 1:00pm til Saturday 4:00pm - so a real marathon. The weather was perfect so the overall catch was excellent. This tournament is mainly Bottom Fishing with most boats - 17 were competing - pretty much only trolling on the way out and in or when changing spots. Accordingly the ratio between trolling and bottom catch was about 1:5. Still a number of good pelagics were caught. Christian was invited and they got the only Marlin. Actually they had two Stripeys behind the lures same time, both lines went, but the second turned out to be a Tuna that must have stolen the lure right from the other Marlin's snout. Find out more about the size of the two largest specimen of each priceworthy species if you like by checking out the below page of 'Seychelles TODAY'.

Seychelles National Fishing Tournament 2013 - Results



Team Island Star were the overall winners



The catch was bought by Sea Harvest, with the proceeds for charity



Mr. Ah-Ya of MCB hands over the prize for biggest snailfish (tie)

PRIZE CATEGORIES	RUNNER-UP	WEIGHT	WINNING TEAM	WEIGHT
Barracuda	Lady Caroline	7.10	SeaStream	10.25
Bonito (Tie)	Island Star	6.45	Paola	6.45
Dorado	Scorpion	5.45	Lady Caroline	9.35
Kingfish/Wahoo	Lady Caroline	11.05	Mimi II	11.55
Marlin	N/A	0.00	Top Gun	51.50
Rainbow Runner-Galate	Paola	5.90	Paola	6.00
Snailfish (Tie)	Blue Wave	29.50	Island Star	29.50
Tuna Dogtooth	Bel Air	26.30	Top Gun	28.25
Tuna Skipjack	N/A	0.00	Royale Salute	3.00
Tuna Yellowfin	Blue Lady	25.75	Blue Lady	26.65
BekBek	Blue Moon	7.35	Blue Wave	7.40
Bourgeois	Scorpion	10.70	Yebo Gogo	11.55
Bordomar	Bel Air	7.20	Bel Air	7.65
Capitaine Blanc	Bel Air	4.75	Island Star	5.15
Capitaine Rouge	Blue Wave	6.10	Paola	6.80
Carangue	Island Star	6.60	Island Star	7.05
Croissant	Paola	3.15	Island Star	3.20
Etelis	Island Star	13.85	Island Star	20.35
Guelle Longue	Top Gun	2.20	Yebo Gogo	2.55
Job Gris	Blue Wave/Paola	8.50	Top Gun	9.05
Job Jaune	Island Star	7.50	Blue Wave	8.50
Monsieur Hangar	Yebo Gogo	2.20	Island Star	2.45
Saumon	Paola	22.95	Blue Wave	23.85
Swordfish	N/A	0.00	N/A	0.00
Vara Vara	Yebo Gogo	8.55	Blue Wave	11.45
Vieilles Makonde	Blue Lady	2.05	Blue Lady	3.65
Vieilles Other (Crab)	Blue Lady	14.30	Scorpion	14.75
Vieilles Platte	Yebo Gogo	13.40	Yebo Gogo	14.00
Best Total Trolling Catch	Top Gun	174.30	Blue Lady	189.25
Best Total Bottom Catch	Paola	745.15	Island Star	1,128.05
Best Total Overall Catch	Paola	800.05	Island Star	1,241.85
Best Value Catch	Paola	SR 13648.90	Island Star	SR 17101.56
Best Average Catch	Island Star	124.19	Paola	160.01
Best Team Runner-Up & Winner	Blue Wave	31 points	ISLAND STAR	44 points



Stefan Houareau with the winning Etelis fish



Blue Wave were runner-up overall



Team Top-Gun caught the only Marlin

Blue Wave

SOYBREW

ISPC

Brew

SOYBREW

VCS

AI YACHTING

ADAM & SON (PTY) LTD

MCB

CABLE & WIRELESS

Eco-Clean

La Soie

INDIAN OCEAN TUNA, LTD.

ORGANISED BY:

Seychelles Sports Fishing Club

Seychelles Rotary Club

In times of catch & release I would like to explain one thing: traditionally the proceeds from all the catch go to

charity. So no need to be shocked by some tons of fish - 5.5 to be precise - being brought to the docks. Not a tiny piece of that is being wasted here.

Faizal told me that their tournament day went very odd, losing 2 Marlin & 3 Sails in play. When Deep Dropping for Swordfish they had 3 bites and brought up a tiny Yellowfin Tuna of about 3kg. Far out in some 550m of water they caught 3 Horseeye Jacks that you would normally expect in the shallows. No boredom for them at least and a couple of things to wonder about.

Apart from all that fishing around Mahe seems to have been rather unspectacular this month. Wahoos and Sails are biting at the Drop, but the big Tuna have not yet appeared. I'll let you know when they are here.

Last but not least: *Seychelles Sports Fishing Club* was successful in launching an article on our fishing in *Bisbee's World Marlin Magazine's* next issue due in a few days. It actually made it on the cover, see here:



Even that Marlin is a Seychellois! I will try my best to provide you with the full article next month.

So long, Tight Lines and best regards from Praslin,

Daniel