

## Praslin-Seychelles Fishing Newsletter - Edition 02/2013

Hello all!

This edition comes a bit meager. Not so much because of the weather this time, though, as it was mostly pleasant throughout the month. But as it is off-season there were only very few trips. Also the fishing kept on to be rather slow for the beginning of the month as it had been at the end of January already.

Accordingly the trip with my friend Pierre and his grandson Greg on the 2nd was somewhat dull. After 5 hours of trolling we only had a handful of Bonitos and were lucky to pick up a single small Doggie eventually.



The 3 `half days` I heard of during the following week were no better - rather worse - producing nothing but a few Bonitos. One boat did not even get one of those. So it did not seem like missing too much when taking my boat out of the water for some repairs, maintenance and improvements. Now she is still at the boatyard but I hope to be back on the water in a fortnight or so.

This even more as the timing was not so perfect: around the 10th the fishing picked up again and got back to normal. Christian had a not so bad `half day` with guest from China. They were pleased with some Bonitos, a good size Rainbow Runner and two Wahoos of 22 & 23kg. The same day Greg reported many Bonitos and a nice Dorado when trolling home from a snorkeling excursion.

On the 16th Martin fished the spot once more where we had seen these massive Doggies in November. He got one eventually. Not that size but at about 25kg still a very good fish. Also they had a Wahoo and while bottom fishing the usual assortment of groupers and two sharks.

The 17th produced another really good `half day` for Christian. Fishing close to the islands produced a Wahoo, 5 Dorados, a Yellowfin Tuna and 4 Bludger Kingfish which are not a common trolling catch here.



The following day he went to the Drop with friends, mainly for jigging. This did not work too well as the current was too strong. So they had to be happy with a few Groupers and an Amberjack of about 20kg. Eventually they resorted to a bit of trolling, bagging half a dozen Dorados and Wahoos in 3 hours. Also they had two Sails window shopping the lures.

Another day later, so on the 19th, news went round that Mervin had caught a Striped Marlin just off the Sisters. This is noteworthy for two reasons: it seems this was the first confirmed Stripey for Praslin and also to my knowledge it is rather rare that these move that far inside onto the shallow, the Drop being a good 15 miles away. Very nice.



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With that foto came also one of the 55kg Yellowfin that topped Mervin's Tuna frenzy end of December. Even as that was already a while ago such a great fish is worth showing, right?



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Andre had two fly guidings on the 21st and 22nd, but strong winds did not permit fishing the most promising spots. So they had to make do with some Garfish, small Trevallies and Pompanos. The next day he had a full day charter. The guest was all and only after Martin. Odd as things can go they caught pretty much everything that swims around here (Wahoos, Dorados, Yellowspotted Trevally, Rainbow Runner, Yellowfin Tuna and more in good numbers) but did not even see a Billfish. Two days later the same guest went to the Drop with Christian to get one. As to exclude bycatch they were trolling only the biggest lures but somehow a small tuna managed to get on a hook. Unfortunately that was the only fish of the day.

The 26th offered the opportunity to join Christian and his guest for a jigging trip to the Drop. Even as the much sought after Doggie would not turn up and the Amberjacks did not surpass 10kg it was a nice day giving the angler 5 new species. Among the catch also were Bonitos, Red and Spotted Grouper, Yellowspotted Trevally, White Snapper and Green Job. Fish of the day was for sure a fierce Barracuda that nearly reached the 20kg mark.



For the video clip uploaded to YouTube just click the link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-o3s4uqzzAY>

Nearly forgot: dropped a jig also and on the first pull received a good knock. Unfortunately the fish was gone the next second. When the jig was up again we saw the hook had been pulled straight - wonder what that was. At the end we trolled for Bonitos to do some livebaiting. Straight away we had a small Sail behind one of the larger lures. The poor thing really tried hard for two minutes or so to eat it but couldn't and bugged off eventually. The hour of livebaiting did not produce any action. Just on lines out we saw that one of the Bonitos bore some toothmarks. Will definitely give that a proper try soon.

That was pretty much all from Praslin for this month already. So last but not least the 'minutes from Mahe': Sails are still around and a Marlin was raised close to shore, but the other gamefish are still rare. Learned from Faizal that the water temperature at the surface went up to 31 degrees C and at 40 meters is still at 30 degrees. Guess I would lose my appetite, too, under such conditions - or try to find myself a cooler spot.

Still, one real whopper there was: On the 25th rumors spread that the national Marlin record standing at 295kg was beaten by a Blue of around 350kg. The scales eventually showed 289kg, so the Black could just not be beaten. But it is still a new record for Blues and a fantastic fish.



So long, Tight Lines and best regards from Praslin

Daniel