

Praslin-Seychelles Fishing Newsletter - Edition 08/2012

Hello all!

My hopes that the Southeast would already start to cease in August unfortunately did not materialize at all. Also this month we had many days that did simply not allow any fishing whatsoever. And on most of the others it was a only something for the tough guys. But whoever picked himself up to take it on was mostly rewarded with a good catch. So it was on our single trip at the mid of the month, and thus this edition comes with a video again. But let's look at the events in proper order:

The first week of August was completely blown away and I did not get aware of any fishing activity. Only around the 6th the wind calmed a bit. Andre & Greg had some small charters for spinning. But eventually the guests turned out to be beginners that could not cope with the casting. So they went for light trolling at the north coast catching Bonitos, Barracudas & Jobfish among other stuff.



The following day they had a midsized GT and something big went into a reef and got lost there. The day after though on the return from snorkeling they got a Dogtooth Tuna.



Greg told me that the same day Mervin had been out for trolling, catching Dorado and Yellowfin Tuna and also loosing a Sail. Also he had heard that a La Digue boat got spooled by a Marlin on 50lbs tackle. Must have been a big one.

Christian also was out there that day for a charter. He caught a Dorado off Sisters and later found the Sails not far from Aride. Only one would bite and eventually came off. But he said he saw at least 20!

After that the wind picked up again to its usual 18-20 knots and one could only dream of fishing. On the 12th I could not hold back myself any longer. Trolled two hardbaits along the protected side of Curieuse to do some spinning in the shelter of Praslin's north coast. On my way I received a hard hit that bent my rod so brutally that I thought it would shatter into pieces. Unfortunately the fish did not get the hook. Would really like to know what that was. The spinning was not too effective as even up in Lazio Bay the wind made me drift at 3-4 knots. A Bluefin Trevally of about 3kg followed my lure twice and eventually I caught a nice size garfish. As last month's pic of such was a bit fogged here is a better one:



Three days later, on the 15th which happened to be holiday, the wind had calmed a bit. So Robin & I went for a day of light tackle trolling. On going out it still blew at an estimated 14 knots and even as it dropped further during the day the swell was quite exciting. Pleasantly so was the fishing. Neither we got Tuna nor any Billfish, but else pretty much everything that swims around in these waters: some Bonitos, Garfish, Wahoo, Dorados, Rainbow Runner, Green Jobfish and an admittedly small Giant Trevally that we by releasing it gave the chance to live and grow up to its name. This was plenty of action and by far enough to after a long time finally have this edition come with a video again. Watch it on YouTube by clicking the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-x9LETPlvq&feature=plcp>

Even as we got no real trophy fish it was a fine and entertaining day. And it shows nicely what makes fishing in Seychelles so special: Where else do you catch 7 different species of Gamefish in a single day? Was also quite pleased with the first time trolling circle hooks. The hookup ratio is excellent and it is a lot of fun as the fish is not just on. One has to do something to get it on, and also the hook is always in the corner of the mouth - thus keeping the fish in perfect fighting condition and always offering the option of an easy release. By the way: the Sailfish that would have been the cream on top of the cake we only closely missed. Saw one jumping twice just a few meters off the boat and got a strile only about 30 seconds later. But it turned out to be just a small Dorado. Cheeky little bugger.

The same day Christian also had a charter: lost a Sail, but got 4 Yellowfin Tunas. A hookedup large Wahoo jumped a few meters vertically up into the air but the hook came off when it plunged back into the water. Must have been a spectacular sight.

A day later I gave it another try with the spinning rod. But instead the forecast wind of about 7 knots it was at least 15. So I crouched into a calm corner at Sisters. Got a few knocks on my obviously too big popper, but any smaller offers were completely ignored. Strange. Eventually got a Green Jobfish on a crankbait and a strange looking blackish Snapper on a jerkbait. See here:



Martin also had two small charters of 3 hours these days. Trip one was cut off after an hour and a Yellowfin Tuna by the seasick guests. On the second the people at least withstood the conditions and another decent Tuna.

Two days later, on the 18th the Southeast Monsoon Sailfish Tournament held off Mahe was due. Even as the forecast seemed quite ok beforehand I found entering a bit too hefty for my little boat. Also no other Praslin boat entered this time. Departure was at 03:00 am from Marine Charter in Victoria and an hour earlier I woke up as the wind blew through my bedroom like mad. Was really happy to be in my cosy bed instead out there - and that is quite unusual for me. Guess a lot of the other guys would have rather swopped with me but still it was a good turnout of 14 boats. The fishing though was hampered by the more than rough conditions. Teams were losing time trying to go upwind to the Southern Drop and most gave up on that plan. Only two Sailfish were caught, but also 2 Marlin. For these no points or prizes were awarded, but a release recommendation instead. This I personally find brilliant. Here a few pics and the results (priced species, heaviest specimen, winning team):

Barracuda	2,5kg	Team Marlin
Bonito	6,5kg	Team Kuki
Dorado	9,0kg	Team Marlin
Kingfish/Wahoo	12,5kg	Team Dalon
Sailfish	34,0kg	Team Dalon
Rainbow Runner	2,0kg	Team Mimi2
Dogtooth Tuna	39,0kg	Team Kingfisher
Yellowfin Tuna	37,5kg	Team Kingfisher





By now the new and ambitious team of the SSFC (Seychelles Sports Fishing Club) is already deep into preparations for the next event in October. The La Digue Tournament is the largest one here. Some 30 boats are expected! And I hope very much to join. Will be a tough adventure though: departure at 02:00am, then speeding out the 28 miles to the drop in pitch dark, fishing for some 12 hours and race back in time to the scales. All that on the open little nutshell without toilet, a dry space to rest or any other amenities. Guess one has got to be a bit mad looking forward to such experience. But I can't wait for it.

The following week one could only dream of fishing because the wind well exceeded 20 knots most of the time. For the weekend of the 26th finally things looked better. Robin & I were all motivated, but unfortunately my boat was not. Some electrical problem kept the port engine plain dead. Trying to fix it bugged the other one also. So no fishing at all on the very first day with perfect conditions since I have the boat. What a disappointment. That mood of mine rather got worse when Christian updated me on a charter he had that weekend: plenty of Bonitos, Dorados, Wahoos, and on top of that 2 Marlin behind the boat - on just a 'Half Day'! Martin also had a Charter with a good mixed bag of smaller gamefish and two Sails window-shopping. Obviously a lot of activity out there, and we missed it all. Only Tuesday evening when the problem was finally fixed and my engines were purring again I felt better.

But the day before - so to say as a bit of therapy - I went with Pierre on his Mini-Mahe for an hour or so onto Cote d'Or bay. He first got a Bluefin Trevally, then a Doublespotted Queenfish, and after that a Barracuda. Finally I also got a fish, too, after a spectacular fight with lots of airtime. Turned out to be the largest of the day and was - a Garfish of course. These really seem to have a crush for me. Sorry for my toe in the pic.



Around Mahe the level of activity also was high throughout the month - when fishing was possible and someone went. On the SSFC facebook site there were quite a couple of reports on Sailfish and Marlin hookups. Also talked

to Faizal briefly and got some additional information on the tournament. The two Marlin caught had to be brought to the docks. One was hooked in the eye and the other had dived deep and died down there. Also there had been quite a few more hookups and lots more raises. Faizal's team Kingfisher had that for a Marlin and a Sail. One other team had a Sail that came off when the wireman had already grabbed the leader. So that would have counted as a release. But the guys did not have the camera ready and thus no proof. Also a boat must have had 6 Sails raised at the same time but eventually got none of them. Still very puzzling to see how numbers of Billfish (and other gamefish also) have been rising enormously in the last two or so years. This of course was reported from other places also affected by the piracy problem that kept the purse seiners in the ports. Wonder what development we will see now that these (of which I personally wish they were banned completely from Seychelles' waters) are going out again. But at least for the upcoming months things look very promising.

Finally I got news from Mervin via Christian once more. On the 30th in very rough conditions he was out and had a rare experience. They had hooked two Dorados same time, one was already brought in. As the other one was close to the boat, too, it was ripped of the hook by a Marlin!

Apart from that since the beginning of this week nothing noteworthy seemed to have happened. The weather as said is anything but nice: not only the wind, but also big dark clouds and rain here. Still Pierre says this is a sign that the season starts to change and the Southeast will cease. I wish very much for him to be right and that to finally happen.

So long, Tight Lines and best regards from Praslin

Daniel