

Praslin-Seychelles Fishing Newsletter - Edition 07/2012

Hello all!

Not too much to tell about the last month as the Southeast kept limiting fishing opportunities. The local skippers of course know that and kept themselves busy with other things: Martin went for holidays, Christian put his boat ashore for refurbishment etc.

A booking Christian had for the 5th he thus gave away but went out with the group. The only fish of the day, a Wahoo was eaten by a shark before coming to the boat. Only the head was left and Christian said they saw a number of large Hammerheads out there.

The same day another boat, 'Holiday' was fishing just off Praslin and hooked a formidable Marlin. Estimates were at around 400lbs. After 3 hours of fighting the angler insisted to close the drag as his pregnant wife was feeling sick.

The following days the wind blew again. People from Mauritius owning the place next door and coming for holidays at times still gave it a try. On return they looked pretty pale but had a Yellowfin Tuna of quite good size.

Personally I was not so sad about the wind as my boat and mooring still required some work. As some people have asked here is a pic of my little nutshell:



On the 12th it was calm and I would have liked to do a first trip. But unfortunately it was all about changing the impellers. Shame as fish were active: The neighbours came back with a good handful of Yellowfin Tunas, Dorados and Wahoos but did not get the Sailfish they had seen. Also Greg & Ronny from Corsaire caught a Dogtooth Tuna of nearly 20kg on their way back from Coco Island.

A few days later I had the feeling that my boat should be ready and the hope for a calm day stretched until the 20th. Unfortunately my fishing partner Robin had to work so we could only go in the afternoon. It was hard to wait as Pierre returned at noon from a half day charter with Tuna and Wahoos. Finally we went heading just for the Sisters Islands as there was not much time till dusk. Unfortunately we did not get anything but a few knocks and

a fish briefly on that felt quite good until it came off after a few seconds. But at least the boat was working fine.

So the next day we loaded fuel and went full of expectations to the my favourite area east of Praslin. After 3 or 4 hours: nothing! Not even a knock! As the water looked all murky - there had to be some reason - we decided to go north to the usual spots. The first two were also dead and on the third we had a group of dolphins playing around the boat. Just into our delight that there was some life in the ocean a line went - finally! The Yellowfin Tuna we boated a few minutes later was for sure not a trophy fish. But it was the very first caught on my own boat in Seychelles so there must be a picture:



As nothing more happened in the following two hours the day's catch is admittedly not too impressive. But at least we did not return empty handed.

The next day it was still relatively calm so I opted to inspect Cote d'Or bay trolling a small hardbait. Had done that in recent times here and there borrowing one of Pierre's Mini Mahes and caught quite a few fish in certain areas. So I checked these out with the echo sounder and found some interesting looking structures. And my former "Doggie" spot not far from Roche Therese was kind enough to provide me with a kitchen size specimen again:



Tried drifting the spot with a soft plastic lure on jighead but only got a few slight knocks. After that fished the rocks for about two hours with a large popper. Also no fish, just a few small but optimistic Barracudas and Garfish tried themselves on the big thing they could not eat. Would have liked to try again in the following days but the wind did not let me.

Last Sunday the conditions were alright once more so it was trolling with Robin again. We opted for the northerly area this time but decided to go around Booby Island and Aride leaving the classical starting spot for our way back. Bad decision: Pierre called a little later saying that he had just hit the Tuna there, boating three. Needless to say that our 'island hopping' produced nothing but two knocks. Only already after noon on the third spot further out we got a strike. Actually three at the same time. Going upwind and fishing 5 lines this caused a bit of chaos. It was Robin's turn and he had his fish firmly on. The second was off after a few seconds and the third a little later while I was still retrieving the other lines and at the same time trying to keep the boat from turning all over the place. At least we got Robin's:



After that we got nothing more but a few Bonitos and also Pierre did not get anything else. There are plenty of Tuna around, visible feeding but when getting nearer they go down. Guess that kite fishing could make sense but I haven't got the equipment for that.

Yesterday I tried spinning in the bay once more. Again nothing on Popper but some rocks inside at least

produced two good sized Garfish:



(Sorry for the hazy foto. My brandnew GoPro HD2 is nothing but trouble. Fogs like mad, switches off at times or does not work at all. A lot worse than the predecessor. Guess it is a warranty issue.)

So still waiting for the much wanted Giant Trevally. Such was caught that day by a client of Jeddy Omath's boat "One Love":



Also phoned Faizal to find out what happened on Mahe. Obviously they did not have better weather but he said

there are plenty Sailfish around. A few days ago they boated one, released two and lost a few more. Also two Marlin. Asked him to please send some over.

Really wish that the Southeast will start to settle a bit now. Could work out as over the last few weeks the average wind speed dropped by a few knots. But I think it has to settle quite a lot until the reefs and spots I think of can be fished in control and without too much risk. So I hope for the coming month and will update you on the hopefully plentiful events.

So long, Tight Lines and best regards from Praslin

Daniel