

December Newsletter No.1/2008 courtesy of Captain Andy's

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It's still sailfish everywhere – in spades!

The message is clear – if you are a keen fisherman, get down to the coast quickly! Sailfish are biting everywhere, from Kui to Shimoni – off Malindi especially, where anglers in the South African club Capt Morgan Rum competition out from Hemingways Resort are experiencing some of the best fishing ever on record!

So far, 361 sailfish have been caught in four days, for 27 boat days, an average of over thirteen sail per day per boat, with the best day on Sunday averaging over sixteen – all the fish are tagged or released. Two anglers, John Harvey and Peter de Stadler, have tallied ten fish to their own rod in one day, and as there are still two days of fishing left, more records must be broken – full report next week.

Last Sunday, the 'Eye Go Fishing' tournament was fished out from Mtwapa, helping raise funds for the Kwale Eye Centre where so much good work is done for those with visual problems.

Generously sponsored by Liaison Insurance Brokers, the record sum of almost 431,000/- was raised, and twenty one boats caught a black marlin, forty-six sail (all but two released!) and a host of smaller fish, to make it a record occasion all round.

The team on Nala, V.Shah who tagged a black marlin, the heaviest fish, fishing with Peter Mtemi and H.Rowal had eleven sailfish as well, romped home easy winners, ahead of the Delta team, Barry and Catharine Hilton and Francis, with nine sail, of which Barry caught six.

The Kipapa team of Howard Lawrence-Brown fishing with N.McKenzie and E.Mwachi tagged five sail for third place, while Dave Williamson on Kamara won the light line prize for his sail on 6kg line. Swee, on Flycatcher won the Ladies prize with her sailfish, while it was encouraging to see so many young anglers, with Kyle Spencer and Oliver Boulton on Inca winner and runner-up for the Junior Angler prize, both with sailfish. A most successful day, many thanks to all the helpers and contributors to this very worthy cause.

Further south at Shimoni, Broadbill found four sail and raised a stripey, while White Otter had five sail on Monday and six the next day. Jasiri and Shuwari did the long trip to the off shore seamount where both found a broadbill swordfish as well as a sailfish, and with the strong kaskazi north wind blowing it should not be long before the striped marlin arrive in good numbers there.

James Adcock, formerly based at Mtwapa, now specialises in hands on fishing from his Sesse canoe Samvuke at Watamu. Fishing with two anglers from the Capt Morgan group on an off day, Nick Mound caught a 30kg sail on a Rappala lure, then Nick Turpin caught

a sailfish on an 8-weight fly rod, released after a 1 ½ hour fight right in front of the Watamu hotels! A first for the angler and for the boat!

From Malindi Seahorse spent a night in the South Mlima/ Vipingo area, and had eight broadbill strikes, mostly small fish but the one they did hook up with was released estimated at 32 kg. From the same boat, Thomas Knill caught a 15kg pickhandle barracuda which is being claimed as a world record.

Christoph Hubner, fishing in Malachite, got a black marlin of 69 kgs as well as a sail, and the previous day he raised two stripies on the Casuarina ledge, indicating there could be good marlin fishing as well as all the sailfish around, as quite a few marlin have been seen in the sail shoals. Other days, Kamara II, visiting from Shimoni, had fourteen sail and Tina thirteen, while Eclare has been successful with fly enthusiasts, catching four to six sail on this difficult tackle daily. Unbelievable fishing everywhere!