

January Newsletter No.1/2009 courtesy of Capt Andy's

New Year starts well with marlin and sailfish

The fishing continues well all along the Coast, with the Rips off Watamu now producing all three species of marlin, as well as sailfish, and Malindi waters still plenty of sailfish with some black marlin as well.

The Mnarani Fishing Club Xmas competition at Kilifi on 27th Dec was preceded by their traditional Boxing Day auction and 'Bloody Mary' party, where hot dogs and beef burgers, generously donated by Farmer's Choice, were sold to raise money for Kesho, a local educational charity.

Seahorse, crewed by Chris and Steve Outram, with Gordie, Suzie and Cheza Millar, caught five sailfish, to win overall– they started from Watamu and found the first sail at 7.30 am, and caught more all the way down.

Cold Shoulder, with Benjie and Brendan Bowles, joined by Struan and Julia Kiwi, the latter catching two sail for the Ladies Prize, came first in the large boat stream, followed by White Dove, fished by J Durrand and Juma – both boats catching five sail. Sijui, with Bob and Veronica Hammond, had a sail and two yellowfin to win the small boat stream, followed by Tanga Tanga with a sail caught by Rupert Stevens.

Kipapa released a black marlin estimated at 140 kgs, caught on 15kg line by Roland Minns, for which he was awarded the Claudio Borsata trophy for the most meritorious catch – had the fish been killed and weighed in, it would have won the tournament! Good fishing and great fun for all, with all thanks to sponsors the Cavanagh and Silvester families. Next at Kilifi will be the Delamere Trophy in a fortnight's time, one of the oldest and most prestigious tournaments along the coast.

A new tournament, sponsored by the Malindi Casino, will be fished next weekend, Jan 17th -18th, with boats weighing in at Malindi or Watamu. With \$10,000 of fishing tackle prizes, this will be one worth going for!

Boats from Watamu are now fishing the Rips daily, and some impressive catches, indicated by the black, blue and green flags for the different marlin, with red for sail, have been made. Seahorse had three blacks one day, and two another, while Neptune found a blue and a stripey and four sail on Wednesday, with a black and a stripey the previous day, and two stripies and five sail then a blue and two sail the two days before – impressive fishing.

Tarka, having tagged a black marlin, had an interesting catch of three amberjack while fishing on the bottom. The two biggest weighed 39 kgs each, strong fish which have to be battled to the surface from nearly 200 metres down. Alleycat came in with a 110 kg black marlin, caught by skipper Pete Darnborough when his client failed to show, which was boated as it damaged itself against the side of the boat, while brother David Darnborough in his Chinook found a shoal of striped marlin and tagged three of them. A few days

before, Alleycat had a black and two striped marlin, plus a sail, with private boat Tamu finding a blue marlin, and Castle Lager tagging four sail.

From Hemingways, Gunther and Kay Weipert tagged a blue marlin of about 100 kgs, as well as a stripey half that size, on Ol Jogi, and on the same boat Omar and Kareem Derbas had fourteen sailfish followed by a 48.5 kg broadbill on an overnight trip, a nice fish the anglers want to mount for their wall.

At Malindi Tina had five sail plus a black marlin from among the sailfish shoals, while Eclare had a black plus three sail and Snowgoose a stripey and two sail – still sailfish around there but not as many as before.

The strong north winds are starting to push down dirty water towards the Watamu Banks, let's hope this improves.