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Striped marlin start in the Pemba Channel

The sailfish are still prolific everywhere, while down at Shimoni some striped marlin have started to show, so with the kaskazi having been blowing for a month now, we can expect a good main fishing season to continue.

Finn and Keld Martensen from Denmark tagged three stripeys with the Sea Adventures fleet of Broadbill and Kamara II, as well as catching sailfish, and Peter Kern also had a striped marlin on Broadbill, having tagged four sail with friend Yves Schumacher from Switzerland the previous day.

White Otter had their best day for some PCFC guests releasing a blue and a striped marlin, as well as a sail, while earlier Jasiri completed a third seamount overnight trip, with two sail, a stripey and a broadbill for Mario, with a small black marlin also jumping on the line but falling off!

At Lamu, they held their Master's Tag and Release Tournament, which is fished under rigid rules – ten kg line, a stationary boat after the hook-up, and points awarded for the time taken to play each fish to the boat. Cheza was the leading boat with 36 strikes, 18 hook-ups, 10 tagged and released and two broken lines, for which points are deducted! Martin was top angler, with 9 releases, and he also hooked a black marlin which became tail wrapped and drowned, losing all points. With playing times of two minutes twelve seconds upwards, this is an excitingly different competition.

Sailfish continue to predominate in the Malindi/Watamu area, with Seahorse ringing the changes with another overnight trip on which Claud Riesch and Christian Zimmer tagged four broadbill, the two biggest both estimated at 40 kgs. It is calm now at night for these trips, but with a full moon approaching one is less likely to raise fish.

Fly fishing has been popular, with two teams of anglers and cameramen from the South African 'WildFly' television series. Brad Cartwright and Gareth George recorded four sail on White Bear and three on B's Nest, while Craig Middleton, Craig Thomason and Colin Taylor were filming three sail on Ol Jogi, all these fish on fly tackle. Watch for it on M-NET in a few months' time!

Marcel and Annick Prot tried two days on B's Nest, achieving four sail on the fly tackle each day, and on Sunday three boats held an informal fly fishing competition, where Garry Cullen released three sail, Jeremy Block two and Richard Baudry one, the latter having just caught his first on fly the previous day! When there are so many sailfish around, a lot of anglers are becoming hooked on this much more difficult, but much more satisfying, style of angling.

The Parkinson family took out their newly arrived 46ft Bertram, Blue Eyes, and returned having caught nine sail on their maiden fishing trip, a good start. Tarka has been busy with recent catches of up to a dozen sail, and White Dove from the same stable had a good day with ten sail and a black marlin. Castle Lager also recorded half a dozen sail one day, and seven more over the next four days, with Alleycat also releasing the half dozen.

From Malindi, Neptune had thirteen sail in the day with Mark Muller from Botswana, and there are good Wahoo around too, with a 31.5 kg fish brought in. Snowgoose had two black marlin over two days, a good sign and more marlin would probably be caught if the boats fished specifically for them, but with all the sailfish showing they obviously target these.

The holidays are almost upon us now, and the fleet of small private boats will soon be arriving, some trailered down from Nairobi, so these should have fun if the fishing can continue like is. There are many local competitions, with the Watamu Xmas comp over 28th/29th the major fixture, to keep anglers busy.