

## Rainstorms at Coast can bring the fish up!

While fishing in the rain is not much fun, the rain itself can turn the fish on and bring them to the surface in feeding mode. Last weekend there was plenty of rain over the weekend in the Malindi/Watamu area, and this Wednesday we heard of a terrific storm at Shimoni, so this must be the short rains – but how short? Some years the short rains in November can be just a couple of storms!

Boats chasing the sailfish in the Malindi waters have had a good few days, with catches running into double figures. David Appleton, fishing in Ol Jogi and B's Nest from Hemingways has scored nineteen sail in four days out, including a fine 30kg sail on fly tackle, his first with the long wand, which has made him very keen! His last day on B's Nest with skipper Stuart Simpson netted him eight sail released, but none of these on the fly rod, which shows how difficult this method can be!

Phil Revett in Tarka came home with six sail tagged, while Instedda, which fishes at weekends with the Moosa family and friends from Mombasa, had six sail on one Sunday, and eight the next, the latter all caught by Michael Foley, and nice to see these boats sailing home with red flags all down the outrigger.

Lascar, a big catamaran with owner Chris Venn from South Africa started his holiday well with a pair of black marlin on their first trip, and has been catching sailfish regularly since – with several weeks to go he should have a busy time with his friends.

Malindi boats are also doing well, Angus Paul on Neptune reporting he had eleven sail last time out, but the tourist hotels are not yet very busy and all the boats could do with more clients.

Shimoni skipper Simon Hemphill took Kamara II on a nine day safari up to Lamu and Kiwaiyu, and started well with four broadbill from eight strikes on a night trip, followed by six sail the next day outside Lamu, but the fishing went off after that, with very dirty green water stretching all the way up to Kiwaiyu and beyond. Fishing then started to improve, with Nils Korschen on Little Toot finding thirteen sail from twenty-five strikes, good fishing and showing that the normal amazing run of sail in November up there might be starting.

Down at Shimoni itself, sailfish are showing off the Funzi area, but hard to hook, with no sign yet of the striped marlin, which should start to show when the wind swings north, perhaps end November.

Bad news is that ring netting is back, with a big net being used on the Watamu Banks, reputed to haul in more than two tons of fish at a throw. In a short time, these nets can empty whole areas of all fish. Some time ago these nets were banned by government edict, with all stakeholders, artisanal fishermen, fishing authorities, sports fishing organisations and conservation movements all agreeing their use was totally destructive and not sustainable.

Now they are back - amazing how the greed of a few rich entrepreneurs can despoil the environment and prevail over the wishes of all other stakeholders!