

News courtesy of Captain Andy's

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Kenya's Game Fishing

Sports' fishing is one of the world's major businesses, worth in the USA alone over \$117 billion a year! Kenya has top quality game fishing along our shores to rival any in the world, so this is an important aspect of the tourist industry which we should be emphasizing on the international market. Where else can one catch all five major species of billfish (and all of them in one 24 hour trip, the fabled 'fantasy slam', has been recorded here, a worldwide first!) and watch elephant, rhino, the big cats and fantastic plains game amid spectacular scenery?

Wednesday at Watamu saw the first day of the 'kaskazi', the north-east wind which heralds the change in the seasons from the south monsoon, although so early this might just be temporary due to the rain around in the area, but at Malindi the sailfish responded accordingly. B's Nest, with the Smit and de Haan party, and Ol Jogi from Hemingways came home with tag flags for six and four sail respectively, while Neptune from Malindi scored five after getting eight each day of the previous two.

The previous day Unreel found a black marlin of 65kgs with Jonathan and Jeffrey Nagel which was duly tagged, and interestingly David Appleton, out in Ol Jogi a day earlier, found an old net floating in the ocean which had accumulated it's own environment of sea life in it's shade. Twenty Dorado and a couple of small sharks made a change in the menu from sailfish!

Striped marlin have just started to appear in the Pemba Channel, and on Sunday Barrie Thomas from Nairobi tagged one from Broadbill, while next day Jasiri had a double header strike although neither stuck, then Broadbill missed two singles, but good news as it shows that they are now there and hopefully we can look forward to a good season!

Significantly, since the trawlers were banned in Malindi Bay area, the local artisanal fishermen are starting to catch some fish again, including reasonable catches of the Malindi herring, tofari, which have not been seen for many years. These were formerly much used to make sailfish baits, and produce good income for local small boat fisherman catching them on the bottom, but which had appeared extinct since the trawling started.

An interesting example of how the reaping of nature's resources must be made sustainable.

Howard & Sue

Howard Lawrence-Brown Deep Sea Fishing