

News courtesy of Captain Andy's

November 25th 2008

Sailfish biting everywhere

The north-east wind, the 'kaskazi', mentioned last week as just starting, seems to have set in solidly and is blowing firmly every day, which is unusual as it changed very early and suddenly, and normally swings around quite a bit after the initial change.

The effect on the sailfish has been dramatic, with these rapier-billed beauties coming up to baits voraciously from Kiwayu in the far north to Malindi especially, and it was at this latter venue that the German Big Game Fishing Club, BGFC-D, held a three day tournament, with seven teams fishing three days hosted by the Malindi SFC.

The seven boats caught an amazing total of 149 ½ sailfish, nearly all these fish released with the obvious exception of the 'half', which was shared with a rapacious shark as it neared the boat! One outstanding catch, for which Mr.R.Pils won top angler, was a sail of 48kgs caught on 10 kg line; this is the biggest I have heard of for a long while, and if measured as 105.8 pounds on twenty pound line, this would merit a 5:1 certificate!

The winning team was Sailfisher with R.Pils, Ingenfeld and Albrecht, while runners up were the Doc Holiday team, with The Powerschwaben team third. Teams change boats daily, Neptune being the leading boat with 36 sail, the boats averaging seven sail per day!

Organised by Martin Joswig of Fishing Adventure and Dietmar Smekar, vice-Chairman BGFC-D, this was easily the best tournament ever arranged by this association from those held all over the world! Germans are very keen fishermen, and were these figures headlined, my guess is they would fill a charter plane overnight hot-footing it to Kenya!

Simba went up to Lamu for a trip, taking out a number of different anglers for several days. Monica Nias, a regular lady angler, tallied fifteen sail, while Phil Revett had thirteen and crewman Mtawali six. Other days Gai Cullen, another ultra-keen lady angler, caught three sail on fly tackle, with husband Garry finding five on fly, but just after they left, White Mischief struck amazing fishing at Kiwaiyu.

Last Monday, with the Andy Thomas family and friends, the boat went up to Kui to sample the snorkelling off this remote coast, and caught sixteen sailfish on the way there and back on a day mainly spent swimming! Next day they concentrated on the sail, and released thirty-one – quite fantastic fishing, with young Danny Thomas reported as catching almost half of these – his elders and betters no doubt worn out!

Tarka top-scored on Wednesday with twenty three sail off Malindi, sailing into Watamu with red flags flapping off every extension – Clueless with fifteen, Ol Jogi with ten and Alleycat with nine were all in the action, while the previous day White Bear scored nine for Pim and Ron Preesman, and Chris Rogers on Unreel had thirteen.

Three boats had a round dozen just before this, and private boats doing well also, Lascar with tallies of seven and four and Chui Too with three also finding these fish. Earlier in the week, Castle Lager tagged a black marlin as well as a sail, so these scores speak for themselves, sailfishing as good as anywhere in the world.