

INTRODUCTION

Game fishing is fun and not just for seasoned anglers. With a bit of practice anyone can catch fish and enjoy this magnificent sport. Kenya offers some of the finest deep sea fishing in the world with a huge variety of different species close to shore. A day-spent fishing is an adventure in itself.

We love it and would like to show it to you.

BOATS

All HEMINGWAYS deep water fishing craft are twin engined and in touch with each other and the shore base by radio link. Each boat carries lifesaving and fire fighting equipment on board and bigger craft are equipped with a head.

We have three categories of boats: -

1. Over 33 foot diesel powered sport fishing boats designed to take up to a maximum of four passengers (though this is by no means a proviso, they are regularly chartered by individual clients). These boats usually run with a crew of three, (the skipper who drives from the flying bridge and is in control of the operation and two deck crew who run the fishing from the cockpit). Definitely the most comfortable way to fish, with plenty of room to sit or lie down and relax while waiting for action.
2. 20 to 25 foot twin outboard powered craft for up to two passengers, run with a crew of two. Being smaller boats, you are right where it's all happening - a lot of fun for those who want to get involved in everything!
3. Small craft for up to four passengers fishing inshore/birdwatching or just exploring the beautiful Mida Creek.

CREWS

All our crews are well versed at taking out total newcomers to the sport and will enjoy showing you how it all works. Please let the skipper know what you are interested in catching or fishing for. Not everyone is enamoured with the prospect of slugging it out with something huge but just might like to have a family day out fishing for smaller game fish.

It is also important that you let the crew know how much fishing experience you have and how much you want to be involved in the initial baiting/striking of fish. This is a skill that has to be learnt and it might be wise to watch the crew perform a couple of times before you have a bash yourself (if you have never done it before).

No one on board will mind at all what you decide as long as it is clear. Everything happens so fast there is no time for casual conversation when big fish are crashing around behind the boat!

The crew will happily prepare and put on ice any fish you have caught and would like to eat back at the Hotel after fishing. Tipping of the crew (if you have had a good catch or received good service) is accepted with grateful thanks but is by no means compulsory.

FISHING SEASON AND FISH TO EXPECT

We fish from the beginning of July through to sometime in May. The southeast wind (Kusi) blows from mid March to sometime in November and is cooler than the northeast (Kaskazi) which blows the rest of the time. The seas are warmer and calmer during the Kaskazi months.

Most fish are passing through and not resident in the area and although we have a rough idea of when/what fish will be around, they don't read the record charts and pop up at times of the year that they should not be here and vice versa.

The main Billfish (Sailfish and Marlin) season runs from November to early April but Sailfish and Black Marlin often come inshore in numbers in August (and this month has been fantastic for Black Marlin these last few years).

Sailfish (known locally as 'suli suli') are by far the most numerous of the Billfish we have here. Finicky and sometimes skittish or playful, they can make a fool of the best of anglers at times, and are very dramatic when not over powered by excessively heavy tackle. Experienced anglers will know this spectacular acrobat is more fun on light tackle - ask for it! Pelagic, sails will jump and slither across the surface of the water in a never to be forgotten display. Relatively easy to bring in when hooked (that's the tricky part) the Sailfish is a milestone in any anglers' early fishing experience.

There is a run of Sail just outside Watamu around August, while the main season off Malindi, a few miles north of here, runs November to March. Our Sail fishing is as good as almost anywhere in the world; four to six to the boat quite normal, with our best at twenty-three, all released!

Then there is the Royal Family: the Marlin. We have three types here - Striped, Blue and Black.

Striped Marlin tend to run offshore in cleaner water and can travel in packs. Smaller and slimmer than the other two, this fish will still give a good account of itself.

A jumping Blue Marlin is the ultimate thrill as the power and fury of these fish under full throttle is simply awesome. Complete changes of direction by these fish will convince fishermen that there are two on at once and frantic re-routing of the boat is the order of

the day as line is usually getting desperately low within seconds of the opening of hostilities.

A big Blue Marlin is a privilege to see and they are found usually in the deep water following the yellowfin or other tuna shoals. Some very big Blue Marlin can be expected mid February to mid March.

Black Marlin come closer to shore and are often encountered in very shallow water. The buffalo of the species, this guy is tough. If you haven't done your homework he'll find you out and be gone. Often fighting deep, using his pectoral fins to hold him down in the water they are worthy adversaries (especially little ones!). Medium size Blacks can be expected around August/September, but the main season is from December to mid/late March.

Broadbill Swordfish - This is an overnight specialty - you drift at night, with squid weighted to different depths, and light sticks on the leader and we have developed night trolling techniques which have become very productive. This is definitely the strongest fighter in the ocean - an experience not to be missed. So far mainly small, but several in a night not uncommon.

We support wholeheartedly the practice of 'Tag and Release' of Billfish and award certificates to anglers who have done so.

Sharks - we have three species of Caraharinus here- Hammerheads, Tigers and the high leaping Mako. These are often caught while fishing for tuna, they also take Marlin baits. We don't drift with chum or 'rubby-dubby' here - it doesn't work due to the current.

Big Yellowfin tuna (up to 200 lbs.) migrate past here between August and November (and sometimes come back again) and the 'schoolie' small Yellowfin are around virtually year round. Very strong fish and, with a big one being a good test of character, Yellowfin always give a powerful performance, invariably going deep.

Giant trevally (locally known as Karambesi) of World record size are here but have yet to be boated under the very strict IFGA regulation. Usually caught on live bait using down riggers.

Wahoo are renowned for their searing first run (being one of the fastest fish in the sea) and when there are a lot of them around, chaos reigns as lines are cut all over the place by fish striking at terminal tackle moving through the water.

Kingfish will often chop up a bait or two just behind the hook before you get one but make up for it by being excellent table fare. Dorado (known here as Falusi) come streaking across to your lures, iridescent with all the colours of the rainbow as they take to the air when feeling the hook. Fabulous light tackle fish and great eating (but rich) when prepared on the day of catch.

Skipjack, Kawakawa and others of tuna descent swim in shoals surrounding and forcing small baitfish to the surface, making it boil and giving their position away.

FISHING AREAS

'The Banks' consist of a shallow area of water just North of the hotel, which protrudes well out to sea and contains many thousands of small fish sheltering in the relative security of less water. The bigger fish swim down the outside drop-off of this expanse and with the aid of depth sounders, we troll along this edge hoping to meet up. Should the day not be very productive in the big fish stakes, catching these smaller fish can be great fun, especially with children on board.

When the Billfish are running the boats generally travel out to the 'Rips', an area of water 14 to 22 miles off the coast. The 'Rips' are caused by undersea shelving and tidal movement which forces upcurrents and turbulence and definitely produces better results when the Billfish are passing through.

NORTH KENYA BANKS

Off shore banks over fifty miles N.E. of Watamu this exciting new area is full of tuna, Marlin and Broadbill at night.

Day trips start at 3am, and overnight trips drifting for Broadbill are two days and a night trip. You can return with three species of Marlin, Broadbill and a Shark, as well as a boatload of tuna. Such trips must be arranged in advance and booked specially.

The popularity of specialty fishing, such as fishing for Sailfish on a fly grows every year. This is a fun method, but difficult, but once hooked the fly fisher isn't interested in traditional trolling!

We also have bottom fishing unequalled anywhere, in 500' feet of water Snappers and big grouper fight for your baits. This can be combined with trolling.

Full fishing days begin at 0630 hours. Full English breakfast is available in the dining room from 0530 hours and anglers gather on the terrace overlooking the beach after breakfast ready to take the one-minute dinghy ride to the boat.

TACKLE

For those interested in the technical side, all rods are roller guided throughout with AFTCO or similar quality butts. All reels are lever drag, most being SHIMANO along with some PENN INTERNATIONALS.

We carry a full range of lures from MURRY BROS.; C&H, STRIKER, and other top brands but fish a lot with natural bait for all species. Anglers are ore than welcome to bring their own gear, especially light tackle as it is great to catch fish on your own equipment.

All our Game fishing boats are fitted with revolving fighting chairs with footrests and all necessary harnesses, flying gaffs, tail ropes, tagging equipment etc. are on board.

BOOKINGS

Boats are chartered by booking in the FISHING CENTRE at the hotel and can be booked for the full 10 hours day or a 5-hour half-day (except in the hot Billfish season when all boats will be out for big stuff all day).

Boats must be booked in entirety but, should you want to share with others, we would do whatever we could to find someone to split the cost but can not guarantee it.

Small Mida creek or inshore fishing boats are chartered on request.

Fish caught belong to the boat except in the case of release and any fish required by the clients for consumption that day. Absolutely nothing is wasted of the fish that are weighed in as everything is utilized.

Please note that because all water based excursions are considered ‘adventure activities’, we have to request that our guests sign our Indemnity Form before boarding our boats. We thank you for your kind co-operation.

Any further information you may require please do not hesitate to contact us: -

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We look forward to having you fish with us.