

GUINJATA SPORTS FISHING CLUB

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REPORT ON THE 15TH ANNUAL GUINJATA SPECIES BONANZA

Once again the Guinjata Sport Fishing Club has managed to produce an outstanding competition with just enough innovation to keep the regular anglers interested as well as attract new anglers each year.

With the Big Banger prize changing from the Species Bonanza prize to the biggest fish some 2 years ago, there was a big difference between the top species prize and the biggest fish prize. A few days before this year's competition a new prize, and a Hilux Bakkie at that, was put up for any boat catching 10 species or more*, which really excited the species hunters and changed certain aspects of the competition. With this addition total prize value of the competition was also pushed way passed the Million Rand mark.

We now had as one angler put it: 3 competitions in one; The Biggest Fish, 10 or more species as well as the traditional species bonanza.

There had been a lot of talk leading up to the bonanza on which strategy would be the best employed to take the main prize home. The prize boat this year was a **Z Craft** F200, with upgraded 115HP 4 stroke **Mercury's** on the back, supported by a **LA Axle** and insured for a full year by **Vanguard Marine and Leisure**. The general consensus was that the best strategy would be to trawl the deep looking for the big yellow fin if you wanted to stand a chance, while others argued that the big gas bottles encountered on the last day of last year's Bonanza may just not make an appearance this year and perhaps a Big GT or the 2010 winning species, a Wahoo was a better bet or even a great, greater barracuda could be the winning fish.

The Hilux prize definitely had an effect on certain teams, and those that thought they had a chance abandoned the mystical gas bottles in the deep and prepared to hunt down the 10 species.



With strategy still mulling around in everyone's minds, the 71 boats and 260 anglers made their way to the beautiful Guinjata bay, several breaking the journey overnight at **Honeypot** or **Blue Anchor Inn**.

This magnificent destination had thrown the organizers a bit of a curve ball this year with almost the entire beach having been washed away in the past few months, destroying several buildings in the process.

The Competition Committee with the help of the local Guinjata folk had planned for this and new gallows made by **O & M Engineering** were erected in **Jeff's** beach bar, which was safe from the sea, a new custom sized sponsors banner was erected and the magnificent F200 took pride of place next to the gallows.

The opening function, as always, was the sponsor's dinner, held at **Jeff's Restaurant** on the Saturday night before the competition. The evening was a great success with entertainment by Celia Jane, The Bulls and The Stormers and certain anglers, who just can't leave the microphone, alone assisted by the **Captain Morgan** (see the Photographs on Facebook). The evening was huge success, and as always a great way for the organizers to thank the great sponsors behind the competition. All sponsors absent or present were thanked by the Chairman, Jan Hofman. It is always a pleasure to have our sponsors at the competition, to see what it's all really about.



Sunday dawned and by this stage all boats were in or near Guinjata Bay. Of those already there, a few took the opportunity to a mornings fishing in before registration.

Registration at Jeff's was a lot smoother this year, due to the Mozambique Maritime officials having all documentation completed prior to registration, speeding up the entire process considerably. The boat packs the committee had put together this year were magnificent, with each angler receiving close to the value of his entry fee in goodies. The packs included **Glotron** fishing shirts, **Polaroid** sunglasses, **Red bulls**, **DS Furniture** bait boards, Sun Buffs by **Joyride**, **Techniblock** sun screen, **Halco** lures, **Rapala** bait knives, **Ski-Boat Magazine**, CD's By **Bok van Blerk** and more, all packed in a **PBI Brokers** Cooler bag.

With all the registration and preparation done there was only one thing left to do-Fish. Mother Nature had other ideas however and produced conditions on Monday morning that forced the weather committee to call off the day's fishing for safety reasons. Bad weather tends to bring out the social side of most fisherman and impromptu little parties soon surfaced throughout the bay with anyone welcome at any party.

By Tuesday morning the weather had improved and it was all systems go. Launching progressed in very difficult conditions, taking a bit longer than usual but great patience and respect were shown by all boats and all were safely launched by 7:30.



Shortly after the last boat launched the boat Lady Jane called in a Marlin Hookup, followed shortly thereafter by the boat Wasabi calling in a Sailfish Hookup. Wasabi beat Lady Jane to the release with the smaller fish and claimed the first Tag and Release of the competition, a prize sponsored by **Coen Vermaak**. Lady Jane would however go on to release 2 marlin in the comp securing them the prizes for the first marlin released as well as the **Ted Adams Memorial Trophy** for the most billfish of the week (calculated on a time out basis as 2 other boats

caught 2 billfish as well- The bear (2 x Sailies) and Marauder (1 x Sailie, 1 x Marlin on the same day)). Other boats that reported successful billfish releases during the day were Mrs Shag and release (Lynette Adams- Sailie), **Icecold** (Burt Gildenhuys- Marlin), Sucadi (Collin Jeffries- Sailie), **John Deer Jr** (Junior Tonkin- Marlin), Bad Company (Steven Smit- Marlin) and Overdraft (Frikkie Fourie- Sailie).

The **Manitou** Tractors had arrived in time to assist with the beaching of all the boats in afternoon and proved an invaluable sponsor once again as they play a large part in the safety and smooth running of the competition. Anglers venturing to the gallows were treated to an Ice cold Beer or Coke courtesy of **Taurus** Supplies. Others opted for a red bull to get their wings back after a tough day at sea.

The gallows of that afternoon produced 6 Yellow Fin Tuna in the top 10 fish, but not one of them was even half the size of the winning fish last year, with Ersnt Zealie from Dagga Boy producing the largest of 21.4 kg. The same boat also produced a magnificent Dorado of 18.4 kg in the 6th position, but with a hint of déjà vu from 2010, it was the boat Mrs Shag and Release that ended the day on top of the leader board after the first days fishing with a magnificent Wahoo of 27kg caught by Nikolas Glyphis. This fish was hooked fishing off



Paindane and **Lighthouse Reef Resorts. Gone Fishing** led the charge for the Hilux Bakkie producing 5 Species on the first day (Amberjack, Greater Baracuda, Wahoo, Dorado and Cuta). This haul was also enough to place them in first position, 183 points ahead of **Team Manns**, in the Species competition on 412 points. Another fish worth mentioning was the first Queen Fish brought to the gallows in over 3 years. Caught by the team Lawwerskaai, skippered by Frans Labuschane of **Platinum Petroleum Supplies**, it was the first of 8 that the competition would produce and a significant fish for them, as time would tell.

Day 3, the second day of fishing produced more fish than the previous day, except for the Bills which were each down by 1 to 3 apiece. These were produced by Gone Wishing (Albert Myberg- Marlin), Lady Jane (Willem Burger- Marlin), Last year's winner of the Ted Adams Trophy-Breakaway (Serp Silvestri- Marlin), Bob Marlin (Domien van Buynden- Sailie), Tel Aviv (Grant Hampson- Sailie),and Mr Ski Boat (Andy de Wet- Sailie). Mrs Shag and Release could not be toppled with the biggest fish for the day, a Wahoo by Warren Sievwright on Greem Mamba getting the closest but still falling some 2.8kg short at 24.2 kg. The second biggest fish of the day is worth a mention as it is the biggest Cuta recorded in at least 3 years at the competition. This cuta of 23.9kg was landed by Gee van Cayceel on Rya Mara. This fish would earn him the **Pick 'n Pay** prize by Roland Penzhorn for the biggest cuta of the competition, as well as a full mount of the fish by Peter Rindle of **Riotz Taxidermy**.

The real talking point was to do with Lawwerskaai, who in a magnificent days fishing managed to produce 6 species for the day. The amberjack was however too small to weigh and therefore would not count towards the Hilux prize. The other 5 species were however, different to their previous day's species. Besides producing the second highest daily score in the last 3 years of 754.2 points (Gone fishing day 5, 2011- 800.4 points) they were now only left with a single species and a bill fish to bag, in 2 days of fishing, in order to take the Hilux home. This huge daily score had also catapulted Lawwerskaai from 8th Position on the first day to first position (856.2 points) on the species scoreboard, overtaking Gone Fishing who now had 534.4 points.

This is a clear indication of what effect the Hilux prize has had on the competition. Species hunters in years gone by would target the same species day after day in order to build up points for the species prizes. These teams were now catching fewer fish and therefore amassing fewer points as they targeted only the species that they had not already caught.

The news on the radio on Thursday was whether Lawwerskaai or Gone Fishing could get the bill fish as the two closest contenders for the Hilux. Both boats reported hook-ups and both lost their fish. Then at 12:55 Lawwerskaai reported the successful release of a Sailfish, on a day that would produce 5 Sailfish and 3 Marlin and incredibly a Short Bill Spearfish, never seen at competition before by junior angler Len Mathews on the boat Mafuta.



This meant that Lawwerskaai were only a single species away from fulfilling the conditions to take the Hilux home. They had a new species on board but were not sure if it would make the minimum weight. As it turns out the Bonito species narrowly missed the benchmark at 4.8kg, just 200g below what was required.

Besides Lawwerskaai's Sailfish 4 others and 3 marlin were released on the day (Queen Pine (Casper Badenhorst- Marlin), First Light (Les Hartley- Marlin), Marauder (Schalck Bieldt-Marlin, Dean Flintstone -Sailfish), Parra (Dawie Kruger- Sailfish), The Bear (Dale Haigh- Sailfish), and Jealous Down (Marc Ferreira Sailfish)

At the end of weigh-in the biggest fish for the day was Friedel Kirstein from Bob Marlin's Wahoo weighing in at a mere 22.4 kg and not really challenging the reigning fish. Green Mamba had a great day on the water and headed up the Species points for the day with 445.2 points pushing up to 3rd place overall in the species challenge, and Casper Badenhorst from Queen Pine managed to raise his bat with a ton of angler points for the day. **Fiona Hofman** from **Ocean Commotion** brought in a nice bag of species for the day including a couple of Queen Fish to top the lady anglers for the day with 57.4 points. Lawwerskaai's relentless search for a billfish, although eventually fruitful, prevented him from accumulating a good bag of species points, allowing Gone fishing to slip back into the lead, all be it by a mere 19.4 points. They now topped the species division on 968 points with Green Mamba hanging on to third position. Gone fishing were now on 8 species with a single species and billfish required in the race with Lawwerskaai for the Hilux. Things were really hotting up.

The traditional **Captain Morgan** Wednesday night function had been moved to Thursday night as the weather prediction was not looking favorable for fishing. The evening at the **Cumbini Resort** was a great success with a number of boats showing their talents. In the end it was Dawie Kruger of **EDC Installations** team who walked away with the prize. Certain teams believed the weather prediction more than others, and a fantastic time was had by all that attended. Another cameo performance from **Bok van Blerk** and several of his angler imitators, kept the party going well beyond 2AM.

Early on the beach on Friday morning it was decided that despite the weather not being great it was safe for those that wished to venture out. Those involved did not get too far from their radios, waiting to hear a call from Gone fishing reporting a Bill Fish hookup, increasing the intensity of the race for the Hilux. There were two other hook-ups in the morning that resulted in successful releases; The Bear got their second sailfish of the tournament (Gavin Edwards) and the boat with no name yet, S801B also released a sailie (Francois du Toit)The weather deteriorated during the day and many boats returned early.

There were a few nervous anglers in the queue that afternoon and much of the competition rested on Lawwerskaai's catch. They had managed to get 2 bonito species fish and were only 19.4 points back on the species challenge. Gone fishing beached without releasing a sailfish but did get a Green Jobfish that completed their 9 non bill fish species. Lawwerskaai's first bonnie hit the scale and weighed 4.8kg, 200 grams short. A very nervous crew looked on as the second was put on the scale and to their obvious relief, it weighed in at 5.2 kgs, big enough to complete the entire bag for the Hilux.

The Bartho Brothers missed the bill fish but managed to get a green jobfish to complete their 9 game fish species, as well as a big enough bag to comfortably win the species

portion of the competition by 211.3 points, and if you ever doubted these guys talents, had they got a billfish, they would have been going home with the Hilux due to their larger overall bag of some 59kgs more than Lawwerskaai's. The species prize consisted of a number of items including a **Garmin** Fishfinder, a **Snowmaster** Fridge, a **Warn** Air compressor, **Ballistic** sun glasses, **JAD Doors**, an **IGLOO** cooler box as well as a host of other items.

Ironically the biggest fish on the final day although somewhat off the marker, was brought to the scales by the proud new boat owners, Mrs Shag and Release, a yellow fin of 19.8kgs caught by Lyn Adams.

Prize giving was only thing left to handle and **K9 Diggers, Kawena, Complete Security Services, Turbofix, The Fishing Pro Shop, Michielsen & Hofman, Proline Logistics, Angling Africa, HIP, Killer Deals, Bolt Corporation, Close up Mining, Icecold Bodies** and many more loyal sponsors ensured prizes for individuals, bill fish releases and the top ten Species boats. Noteworthy achievements were:

Top Angler Casper Badenhorst of Queen Pine
Top Lady Angler Sue Tapson of Sucadi
Top Junior Len Mathews Jnr of Mafuta

So pack your **Islander Lures, Zakataks** and **Pulsators**, sharpen your **Gamakatsu's** and head for **Casa Madeira** Guinjata Bay this time next year. We hope to see you all back again.

Interesting Facts from this year's Bonanza

1. In the 4 days of fishing 414 fish made it to the scale with a combined weight of 3834.3kg. (Last year 458 fish(more), 3364.9kg (less))
2. 14 Sailfish, 10 marlin, a short bill spear fish and 6 amberjacks were released.
3. For the first time ever more Yellow Fin were caught than King Mackerel (cuta).
4. Only one Amberjack was not released of the 6 caught.
5. 14 Different species were caught by all anglers
6. Lawwerskaai caught 11 species. The most species ever caught. A photographed amberjack was their additional species and although it did not count towards the Hilux prize, it did count towards their species tally.
7. 62 of the 71 boats weighed or released at least one fish.
8. The 10th boat required 119 more points this year than last year to be placed here.
9. Almost half the amount of Cuta were caught this year as opposed to previous years. (This year 83, 2011-151, 2010-145).
10. I don't know if the big gas bottles will be back again next year.

