

The Watamu SFC Festival was fished over two days last weekend, and proved to be one of the best competitions ever, with a total catch of twenty-three marlin and four sailfish. Twenty-four boats competed, and fourteen of these caught a marlin.

Winner was Eclare, fished by Peter Hoffman and Arran Paul, the former catching three blue marlin, one of which was weighed in at 159.5kgs to give them extra points over the tagged weighting of 150 kgs. This gave the team entry to the Offshore World Championships in Costa Rica, and made Peter Top Angler.

Runner-up was Elusive, fished by Gina, Callum and Dale Scott for a total of three blue marlin, Callum catching two and Dale a single

Third came Sand Dollar, fished by Adrian Puddy, who caught two blues,

Simon Venn, who had a blue, and Gordon Bunting, their total also three blue marlin . Fourth was Alleycat, with Tom Cunningham getting two striped marlin, and fifth was Tarka, with Phil Revett finding two blue marlin. Sixth came Tamu with a blue and a striped marlin. Pintail, fished by Russel Brumby and Ritchie Moller, won the Small Boat prize, with a blue marlin and several dorado.

An amazing tournament, with the first six boats all finding two marlin or more. The marlin Championship was not awarded, no fish of four hundred pounds being weighed.

Good fishing reported from Diani. White Dove , out testing engines had two striped and a blue marlin. Joint Venture released a nice black marlin around 230kgs, and also a stripey the same day. White Otter has had one or two marlin daily, and Shuwari the same.

At Watamu, a group of Ukrainians at Hemingways in four boats released three blue marlin and six sailfish, while Kim Smith on Bamara tagged a striped marlin. Ray and Kathy Noble on Seastorm found three blues and a sailfish and on the same boat, Chris and Christian Inns had three broadbill on a night trip. On Blue Marlin, Douglas Brunton released a black marlin estimated at 120kgs, and they landed a yellowfin tuna, which was foul hooked which weighed at 83kgs.

At Kilifi David Boulton in Corsair released three blue marlin fishing with his father, and on a night trip the same boat released a broadbill, from the three strikes they had.

Tega had a report from the Billfish Foundation in Florida that one of the broadbill tagged here had been recaptured.

Fishing article written by David Slater