

Fishing Stories



Memorable trip: Mahi, Bluefin, Yellowfin

by Brian Droney

Saturday, October 4, 2008. We left Falmouth Harbor aboard the *Ripdog* at 10:00 AM and headed for the break at Veach Canyon, planing both a day and night of tuna fishing.

We had a great crew aboard consisting of **Captain Scott Clay**, **David Sloan** (On The Hook TV), The Sword King **Greg Haronitis**, Capt. **Dom Petrarca** (Costal Charters Sportfishing), and yours truly.

After a bumpy ride we arrived at the tip of Veach Canyon at around 3:00 PM to find a break that went from 68-72.5. The color of the water was pretty good, but very weedy. We saw a few porpoise and some whales so we decided to go lines in. We picked up 3 gaffer mahi very quickly on the troll. Green machines and the Ahi Pussy lure did the trick with these fish.

Then, at around 5:00 we get a triple header....2 yellowfins and another gaffer mahi. One of the yellows was about 35 lbs. and the other was roughly 70 lbs (see photo below). The yellowfin were caught on a small rainbow bar on the short rigger and a pink Ahi Pussy on the middle rigger.



We managed a few more nice mahi on the troll before the sun set. The mahi were very aggressive and all decent sized 10-20 lbs

or so.

After that it was time for the night team to take over and do their thing. It was blowing 10-15 and we were in 3-4's so it was a little tricky figuring out the drift. We deployed a big drift sock and as soon as the lights went on we had squid and mahi darting in and out of the lights.

It wasn't long before one of Dom's live squid baits got crushed and went screaming hard towards the front of the boat. This fish showed no signs of stopping and eventually broke off at the leader. Definitely not the angle you want especially on a fish that was running off with this much force.

Lines went back in and soon after we had another huge runoff and pulled the hook on this fish. In between these hits we did manage to land a few nice sized mahi that were hitting the squid baits.

During all of this, we also had an epic porpoise show going on in our lights for about 3 hours. They had the squid all corralled up and would come flying in the lights, turn and spin on a dime and grab 3 or 4 squid at a time. Definitely National Geographic type stuff.

At around 11:00 PM all hell broke loose. The dead squid bait at 50 feet got hammered and ran off like an Amtrak!! I went to grab the rod out of the holder and needed all my strength to lift it. The was probably the most violent first runoff I have ever seen.

Then Greg dropped a bait down to about 20 feet and hooked up, and his rod began screaming and bending harder than mine still was! Doubled Up Baby!!

For the next 45 minutes he and I played the underneath and over the top game running around the deck of the *Ripdog*! Finally, after 4 more big runs my fish surfaced and Dom sunk the gaff. It turned out to be a 63 inch bluefin at about 140 lbs or so!

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