

MARLIN FISHING VAVA'U TONGA

Hausia Vava'u Investments

Special points of interest:

- > Blues still happening
- > Cyclone Rene hits Tonga
- > Vava'u season wrap up
- > Pacific Marinelif Institute Pacific Communities project

Blue marlin still packing along the edges of Vava'u

Monster Sailfish from 60 to 100 kg visit each year



Blue marlin have continued into December and January with good numbers being recorded when the effort has been put into them. Most fish are between 80kg and 140kg and a few 200's thrown in for good measure. Up to 4 to 6 bites a day are still being recorded and a few days boats have released 4 fish. Lure fishing has been the most productive but the small fish have been pesky and hard to hook on the larger lures being towed. Live baiting with the skipjack and small yellowfin has been dynamite but the sharks are a little problematic on the FADS. The shortbill spearfish should be turning up as well as black marlin.

Fish Vava'u with friends

As a charter boat operator I find that most captains and crew are restricted to fishing a few different seasons and have large slots in between, and making enough to continue is starting to become a big issue with a lot of professional crew. What we are doing is putting our boats up for lease to other captains as well as some private anglers so they can organize their own charters and be able to come over for a week, month or longer and fish their own clients the way they want. This takes away the problem of

not having enough work to justify leasing a vessel and also allows anglers the opportunity to fish new grounds with the crew they know and enjoy fishing with. The season starts in May and carries on until mid January. For more information email Greg (Muddy) Edwards on captainmud@bigpond.com



Tsunami's and Cyclones

VAVA'U IS ON THE RING OF FIRE AND IS AN AREA OF FREQUENT EARTHQUAKES. THESE RANGE FROM MINOR TO SEVEN. THIS NUMBER COMPARED TO THE MONSTERS AS FELT A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO. THE LATEST TSUNAMI, TO TRAGIC AS IT WAS DID NO DAMAGE TO VAVA'U AND LUCKILY ENOUGH MOST OF VAVA'U IS HIGH AND HAS PROTECTED UNFORTUNATELY NINE PEOPLE DID DIE ON AN ISLAND FURTHER NORTH WHICH WAS FOLLOWED BY THE SINKING

OF THE INTER ISLAND FERRY THE ASHIKA ISLANDS FOOD CROPS. VAVA'U WAS ALREADY UNDER FOOD STRESS FROM THE LOSS OF THE FERRY BUT NOW THE NEXT THREE TO SIX MONTH FOOD WILL BE CRITICAL AND THE REBUILDING STRAIGNED BY LIMITED FUNDS TO BY MATERIALS FOR HOUSING.



The island of Vava'u, Tonga Known as the friendly islands they enjoy a tropical climate and crystal clear water

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Reel Addiction totals 87 billfish

When you spend more than half your time fishing for other species like wahoo, yellowfin, dogtooth and mahi mahi to still produce 87 billfish shows how good the fishing really is. Reports from other fishing boats also show it to be a good season. It is only a few more months before it all starts again and this year is already shaping up to be a good one.



Big Yellowfin Tuna no show yet

This time of year usually produces great yellowfin tuna fishing with fish over 70kg regular shows at the dock. A few 30 to 40kg fish are being caught with the biggest at 58kg on Kiwi Magic. There are plenty of schooling fish to 10kg around and the FADs and in most areas are loaded with mahi-mahi. For the year the heaviest blue (legal) was 325kg, the biggest being Jeff Le Strange from Hakula Lodge 447kg blue on 60kg. Heaviest yellowfin tuna 94.3kg, sailfish 46kg even though larger ones were released. Over the following months and until the start of the tourist season in May only the occasional day is spent out fishing for marlin with most local anglers fishing for the yellowfin and mahi mahi. While the island has been hurt from the cyclone the Tongans will always be ready to welcome any tourist to their islands.

Ika Lahi Resort

Situated on Hunga Lagoon Ika Lahi (big fish) Resort caters for families as well as serious fishers. The 5 acre site features a private sandy beach which is ideal for swimming and snorkelling. The lagoon cliffs provide a natural and beautiful sheltered playground for you to enjoy and explore. Check the resort and fishing reports on www.tongafishing.com



Pacific Marineline Institute's Ocean Communities Program

With the effects of the cyclone still with. PMI will contribute 2% of sales is asking everyone to contribute to being felt in Tonga, plans by the Pacific from many of its products and travel special Tongan Fund to provide Marineline Institute to launch a program projects to the program. Anglers and building materials, school books and to assist local South Pacific divers will be able to assist on the materials plus seedlings for community Communities have been brought ground by joining programs to build gardens. You can contribute via credit forward. Ocean Communities will schools, clean water projects and card or direct transfer to the Pacific provide assistance for health, education health centres during their Marineline Marineline Institute Bank Account. More and infrastructure projects in coastal Expeditions. To help launch Ocean information phone Greg on 0457 021 communities the Institute is working Communities Pacific Marineline Institute 365 or info@pacificmarinelife.com.

Why come to Vava'u? Because you need to see paradise



A lot has happened since the last issue and the effects have touched everyone who comes from or is associated with Tonga. As most know I am married to a Tongan girl and the cyclone has taken away not only the family house but also their grandmothers house that has stood for over a half century. Luckily no one was killed and island peoples know how to survive a cyclone but it is after the cyclone the major problem is food. Crops need time to grow and supplies replenished. There is no power yet or a solid roof over their heads and food is rationed since the income stream of a lot of islanders is gone and will take a while to come back. The island resorts are still running

and Ika Lahi Resort reported their buildings are built to code and only tree and crop loss occurred. The boats are ok and this year they are expecting another good year for fishing. The best thing to happen is for tourists to come so more employment and money for the local economy can assist in getting Vava'u back on it's feet. Even with the cyclone Vava'u is still a beautiful place to visit and to enjoy the friendliness of the people as well as magic oceans. Come June the humpbacks are back for another season inside Vava'u's crystal clear lagoons and is one of the few places you can swim with them. The sailing season starts and Vava'u has as large number of bare boat charter vessel available. Vava'u will recover from this cyclone and it will have more cyclones in the future and that is part of life. This was a big one and hopefully one that size

will not happen again for some time. Don't let it stop you coming to this is paradise and worth a visit. marlin fishing diving and cruising is not bad either. Captain Greg (Muddy) Edwards
Big blue released by Reel Addiction from Ika Lahi Resort



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Lose yourself the Vava'u way

Hausia Vava'u Investments is a company working to bring the Tongan experience to the world. From the Tourism and activities involved with vacations to investing into the South Pacific for a lifestyle. We have projects including resort development, holiday homes, rental house and land packages and business investment opportunities available to those ready to escape .