

BILLFISH TOURNAMENT OFF CABO FRIO - RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

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1. INTRODUCTION

The billfish game fishing of Cabo Frio city, Rio de Janeiro State has been executed for several decades with much success because of upwelling. It contributes to the high productivity of the area off the cities from Arraial do Cabo to Rio de Janeiro.

Annually the Costa Azul Iate Clube (CAIC) promotes billfish tournaments and began to practice tag and release. It happens under IBAMA, FIPERJ and Instituto de Pesca (Sao Paulo) coordination, utilizing tags of The Billfish Foundation, Southeast Fisheries Science Center (NMFS, Miami, FL) and International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

The main goal of this paper is to report the available data of oceanic fishing activities from Cabo Frio through the CAIC since 1993.

2. BACKGROUND

According to Faria in FERREIRA NETO (1979), the first anglers on board the Nemesis yacht tried to go beyond 50 miles and in 1948 some billfish were seen but not hooked.

On January 16, 1995. Castro Maya registered the first billfish: a white marlin weighing 53 kg and 2.35 m long. He said that a day before the same team caught two sailfish.

Also during World War II some USA soldiers based in Natal city, Rio Grande do Norte state and Fernando de Noronha Islands caught some billfish while game fishing (personal communication of Mr. Heleno Barroso).

In 1991, Mr. Ronaldo Cunha from CAIC held the first billfish championship.

3. MATERIAL AND METHODS

The data were collected from game fishing log sheets of CAIC.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The CAIC has held billfish tournaments from December to January (Table 1 and 2) since 1993. Also, the CAIC has tagged and released 36 sailfish and 3 blue marlin.

5. LITERATURE CITED

FERREIRA NETO, E. 1979. Um pouco da nossa historia. **Anzol & Linha**, FEGAPO, Rio de Janeiro, 1 (3), p.1.

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Table 1. Tournament 1994/96

	boats	(number of fish)		
		sailfish	blue marlin	total
1993/94	Kristal	3	0	3
	Julie	2	1	3
	Highlander	3	0	3
	Carola	2	0	2
	Mavie	1	0	1
1994/95	Kristal	9	0	9
	Julie	3	0	3
	Paola	0	1	1
1995/96	Kristal	9	0	9
	First	1	0	1
	Mavie	7	0	7
	Adesa	0	3	3
	Carola II	1	0	1
Feb/96		0	14	14

Table 2. Measurements of billfish caught in the tournament of 1995/96

	sailfish	blue marlin
length range (cm ¹)	160-180	190-350?
average length (cm ¹)	167	271.1
weight range (kg ²)	19-31	68-365
average weight (kg ²)	22.5	198.1

(¹) LJFL (²) total weight