

THE BIGGEST FISH I EVER SAW, P. 82

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Thirty Years and Going Strong

Tropic Star Lodge in Pinas Bay, Panama, kicked off its 30th-anniversary celebration with a bang, catching a lodge record 77 marlin in one week.

During the period of January 14 to 19, guests at Tropic Star caught 49 black marlin, 27 blues and one stripey. They also took advantage of a hot sailfish bite, catching 122. All the fish were caught using circle hooks.

Twenty anglers released their first billfish, and one angler who had never caught a marlin scored a

grand slam. Tropic Star regular Martin Hirsch led the charge for individual numbers, releasing 11 marlin, including five blacks and six blues. Hirsch has reserved the same week every year for the rest of his life.

Conway Kittredge purchased Tropic Star Lodge in 1977. Thirty years later, the fishing hasn't changed much; it's still incredible. And, the Kittredge family still manages the lodge, with Terri Kittredge Andrews and Mike Andrews working to maintain the lodge's tradition.



Stephan Kreupl caught this 1,238-pound blue marlin fishing on the *Black Marlin* with Capt. Yann Colas off of Rodrigues Island, located 370 miles east of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean. Kreupl, an active big-game angler for the past 25 years, beat the big blue on stand-up tackle. The fish now stands as a potential new line-class world record for 80-pound. For more information, visit www.rodanglingclub.com.

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Super Squid — A 990-pound colossal squid was landed on a longline in the Ross Sea near the South Pole. See all the photos and read the entire story at www.marlinmag.com.

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