

Grander marlin slam a world first



An aerial display over the Great Barrier Reef

Photos by Stephan Kreupl



The broad back suggests the size of this 1,032-pound behemoth.

In fishing, very few “firsts” are still possible, but a big one has fallen to an angler who finally realized his dream of completing a grander marlin grand slam — catching an Atlantic blue, a Pacific blue and a black, all over 1,000 pounds.

After eight years of fishing the Great Barrier Reef for a grander black, Stephan Kreupl of Germany caught a 1,032-pound black marlin this past October, fishing with Capt. Brett Goetze on the *Amokura* (www.reelchasecharters.com).

Kreupl caught the first grander, a Pacific blue weighing 1,238 pounds, off Rodrigues Island with skipper Yann Collas in January 2007. (That was and remains an IGFA 80-lb line-class record.) In May, 2011, he caught his Atlantic blue of 1,150 pounds with Capt. Zak Conde off Cape Verde.

Then the angler began his quest for number three, the grander black. That, he confesses, proved “an extremely tough job,” and it required nearly 100 fishing days to accomplish. Finally, on the day, just after the crew released an estimated 900 pounder, Kreupl hooked up solidly to what proved his grander, weighing 1,032 pounds. “It took five of us to drag the marlin on board, as quickly as possible since the sharks were closing in,” he writes in www.bluewaterfishing.eu.

Kreupl says that after eight years of trying for his big black, he was almost



The angler works to gain line as the *Amokura* backs down on the monster.

ready to give it up: “I needed a break,” he says. But now, “I can still hardly believe it and have to keep pinching myself to make sure it wasn’t all a dream.”

With pressure off, Kreupl says, he looks forward to enjoying every fish he catches, big or small, “and I’ve promised myself to keep the gaffs firmly stored away!”



Large queenfish are among the species rigged to use as bait for Aussie granders.