

Happenings....

Fishing on the 2005 Puerto Vallarta Sailboat Race

By Vic Jedlicka

Angler Chair Diaries:

Every two years in February the Del Rey Yacht Club out of Marina del Rey, CA organizes the longest sailboat race down the pacific coast from Marina del Rey to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The club invites sailors from all over to join in this race. Four powerboats escort the sail boaters on the trip. Their responsibilities are to score and report the position standings of the boats along the way. In addition they are in position to help in any situation should the need arise. An article on the race itself would fill many pages. However, some happenings of fishing experiences & PICS of the crew on escort boat "Good Vibrations" owned by Marshall Wax along the way are worthy of mention. Triple hook ups south of Turtle Bay were numerous on tuna 12-22LB. Thirty miles off of Bahia Asuncion Vic Jedlicka hooks up with a nice 50 LB WAHOO on 30 LB test Maxima line. Three months before on another trip Vic had caught a 140 LB WAHOO in the same place on Bob Godfrey's boat "Unreel".

On down the line Bob Godfrey scores with a beautiful colorful 12 LB male Sheepshead at Isla San Roque. The team Marshall Wax, Bob Godfrey, Ken Cohen and Vic Jedlicka spent two hours off and inshore kelp bed catching and releasing Calicos from 3 to 6 LBS on almost every cast. Of course one nice one filleted for a delicious lunch. Some of the bottom fishing was spectacular on the reefs and in the kelp as we motored ahead, stopped and waited for the sailboats to catch up. Outside of Puerto Vallarta we decided to fish for a couple of hours before bring up the rear in the race. Then, IT HAPPENED at Roca Corbetina near Punta Mita. Ken Cohen hooks up on the bottom with a heavy strong fish. Twenty minutes later over the side comes a 40 LB Dog Tooth Red Snapper on 30 LB test line. The unusual happening about this fish was the 10 foot of 300 LB mono line it was carrying around attached to a big stainless steel hook in its gill raker. The mono line was in the water long enough to grow moss. The tip of the hook was covered with a hard substance the fish had apparently secreted to protect itself from further injury by the hook to the gills. The mono line had cut back into the corner of the fish's mouth by several inches and the wound had closed and healed around the line. Obviously, stainless steel hooks don't rust out for sure...ever. We would have thought the mono dragging on the fish would have killed it. Amazingly, the line did not tangle. This event on our trip has reinforced and confirmed my anti-long line belief of our need to stop long liners from raping our fisheries.