

## NOMADS TIDE

JANUARY – MARCH 2026

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SGDSAA



SADSAA

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## SADSAA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR 2026

MONTH	DATE	TOURNAMENT	VENUE	HOST
<b>JANUARY</b>				
<b>FEBRUARY</b>				
	<b>9th - 13th February 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Heavy Tackle Billfish Interprovincial</b>	<b>Sodwana</b>	<b>ZDSAA</b>
<b>MARCH</b>				
	16th - 21st March 2026	Port Francis Ski Boat Club Annual Tuna Competition	Port Francis Ski Boat Club	EP
	18th - 21st March 2026	Mapelane Billfish	Mapelane	ZDSAA
	27th - 29th March 2026	Umhlanga Festival	USBC	NDSAA
	27th - 29th March 2026	Gamefish Classic 2026	SBSBC	NDSAA
	<b>30th March - 03 April 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Junior Gamefish Nationals</b>	<b>Sodwana Bay</b>	<b>MDSAA</b>
<b>APRIL</b>				
	4th - 6th April 2026	Couta Classic	Umlalazi	ZDSAA
	10th April 2026	SADSAA Council Meeting	Johannesburg	
	<b>19th - 24th April 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Tuna Nationals</b>	<b>Atlantic SBC</b>	<b>WPDSAA</b>
	24th - 27th April 2026	Durban Festival	DSBC	NDSAA
	24th - 30th April 2026	Offshore Classic 2026	Gordons Bay Boat Club	WPDSAA
	<b>21st April - 01 May 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA PWC Tournament</b>	<b>?</b>	<b>MDSAA</b>
	<b>26th April - 01 May 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Bottomfish Nationals</b>	<b>East London SBC</b>	<b>BDSAA</b>
	<b>27th April - 01 May 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA All Inland</b>	<b>Mpumalanga</b>	<b>MDSAA</b>
<b>MAY</b>				
	4th - 8th May 2026	Penta Invitational	Sodwana Ski Boat Club	ZDSAA
	14th - 17th May 2026	Mapelane Trophy (Interclub)	Mapelane	ZDSAA
	19th - 31st May 2026	Tuna Masters	Hout Bay	ABC
	<b>22nd - 24th May 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Gamefish Interprovincial</b>	<b>Zinkwazi</b>	<b>NDSAA</b>
<b>JUNE</b>				
	<b>5th - 9th June 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA All Coastal</b>	<b>Port Alfred/Kenton on Sea</b>	<b>EPDSAA</b>
	12th - 15th June 2026	Mapelane Gamefish Challenge	Mapelane	ZDSAA
	<b>June?</b>	<b>SADSAA Junior Bottomfish Nationals</b>	<b>Port Alfred</b>	<b>EPDSAA</b>
	<b>14th - 19th June 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Gamefish Nationals</b>	<b>Meerensee</b>	<b>ZDSAA</b>
	<b>26th - 29th June 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Junior Bottomfish Interprovincial</b>	<b>Umlalazi</b>	<b>ZDSAA</b>
<b>JULY</b>				
	8th - 10th July 2026	Snoek Derby	St Lucia	ZDSAA
	13th - 17th July 2026	Line-fishing or Spearfishing Competition	Sodwana Bay	NGDSAA
	<b>16th - 19th July 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Junior Gamefish Interprovincial</b>	<b>Meerensee</b>	<b>ZDSAA</b>
	16th - 19th July 2026	Mapelane Junior Interclub	Mapelane	ZDSAA
	<b>13th - 17th July 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Light Tackle Billfish Nationals</b>	<b>Sodwana Bay</b>	<b>NGDSAA</b>
<b>AUGUST</b>				
	7th - 9th August 2026	Rod & Reel Interclub	Natal Rod & Reel	NDSAA
	<b>20th - 23rd August 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Bottomfish Interprovincial</b>	<b>Umhlanga</b>	<b>NDSAA</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
<b>OCTOBER</b>	-	-	-	-
-	1st - 3rd October 2026	12 X 12 Species	St Lucia	ZDSAA
	1st - 3rd October 2026	PDSAC Indian Ocean Classic	Meerensee	NGDSAA
	<b>8th - 10th October 2026</b>	<b>SADSAA Light Tackle Billfish Interprovincial</b>	<b>Sodwana</b>	<b>NGDSAA</b>

	21st - 24th October 2026	SADSAA Tuna Interprovincial	Cape Boat Ski Boat	WPDSAA
NOVEMBER				
	2nd - 7th November 2026	EFSA Tuna International	Struisbaai	WPDSAA
	9th - 14th November 2026	EFSA Bottomfish International	Houtbaai	WPDSAA
	16th - 20th November 2026	SADSAA Heavy Tackle Billfish Nationals	Sodwana Bay	MDSAA
DECEMBER				



The Nomads closed 2026 is in full swing. The committee running the show and making sure all works:

Gus Pinker. Mark Cockroft.

Shaun Aspden. Sakkie Venter.

The committee appeals to all our members to assist with sponsorship in assisting in making the event a memorable tournament. So far sponsorship:

### Sponsors.

Dries Liebenberg – Cooler Boxes.



Chrisjan Jansen – Travel Mugs Boat Boutique.



Gus Pinker – Pulsator and Tails Up.

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15 – 19 June 2026  
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Thank You  
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**Confirmed boats.**

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Slice of Life



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Tjaila Tyd



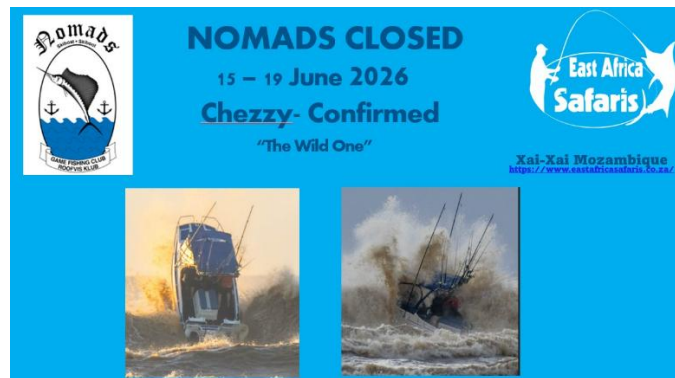
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Chezyy



Rose Ann



Jikka Lapa

Sho la Manzi

Any skippers that still want to join in the fun at EAS we welcome you with open arms.

### Rose Bowl 2026

### Guinjata Bay – Mozambique



## My experience

The buildup led by floods in Mozambique caused serious concerns by all involved. Guinjata constantly updated us as best they could and even did a dry run 10 days before the event.

The competition was declared on! Now the excitement started building up. This excitement was intensified by my skipper Lyle, who had specially made custom shirts proudly displaying Nomads on our weigh in shirts.

We collected “Rose-Ann” in Shelly Beach her hometown and proceeded to drive for 17 hours to EAS via Kosi Bay border post. FYI – Border experience was pleasant going in, EAS is ready for us. The whole team ensured our sleepover was pleasant. The new restaurant also made good food and “pampoen” I can report a good choice of drink.



Guinjata gave us 8 consecutive fishing days. We pre-fished the Sunday and saw gamefish was slow but wrote it down to us not having fished these waters before. We only caught a tuna the Sunday.

Then the competition started.

Launching was a song with the weather and beach crew, both doing their part. Monday, we blanked, we were on the beach 4:50 am and beached 14:20. We went to a spot called “manta” and tried everything from dead bait to halfbeaks to plastics. Unfortunately, it became evident the game-fishing was going to be tough.

Over the next two days we fished hard with little success. The whole field did that, targeting game fish. However, Billfish hook ups seemed to be relatively frequent. Wednesday our game plan changed. We would only fish shallow till 10:00 am and then change to deeper water and go for it all out. So that’s what we did. We went to the 95 - 100m ledge and found our first Black Marlin. This was a small fish, and we could land it relatively easily. Now we had belief.



Thursday we only worked deeper water past “Black Rock” and all the way up, no luck. Lyle then spotted a Dorrie, we turned and on we went. It didn’t weigh but was enjoyed with some good crayfish.



On Friday we were once again on the beach at 04:50 am. We went out on the 550m point, no luck. Between 200-300m Lyle noticed a current and slick line, we turned on it, and then the short went crazy.

Lyle was on this time with a Marlin, it was bigger with attitude, after 30min it hung 30m under the boat as we were in a deadlock. We decided to drive away from the fish to attempt to bring it up, it worked. We knew we had one chance now.

We took it! Lyle had caught his first Billfish on his very own "Rose-Ann" a legendary boat as Colin rightfully reminded us.





As we drank water and watched our footage we had dolphins around us. We reloaded and put our 10kg line out again. Same recipe, islanders with halfbeaks, and a “Zack attack” on Japan. It wasn’t long and our Japan went off. No jumps just run like something else. I thought it must be a Wahoo, when the fish came closer it jumped. We were on with a sailfish. This was a big fish and almost gave me a hiding twice. Thankfully we successfully released it.



In conclusion:

We had an exceptionally nice time in Guinjata. I fully understand why they cherish that place. Rightfully so, to my skipper and pal, Lyle, "los hom Pieta". Thank you for a great trip on a well-maintained boat.

To our Nomads members, we missed you and hope you join us next year at the Rosebowl.



CJ Jansen  
Chairman Nomads

**WAHOO**

## Chasing Down the Speedsters



There are a few unique things about wahoo. First, they are regarded as the fastest fish in the sea; hook one and you will very quickly see why! Another feature of this speedster is that both its top and bottom jaws are hinged which can make things difficult when you are trying to stay hooked up!

Wahoo are generally open ocean creatures that follow the warm currents, feeding on flying fish and a variety of pelagic fish, so for most anglers the only time you would encounter one of these creatures is when you are trolling in the deep for marlin or tuna. They love Kona or Rapala trolled at high speed, but even more than that, they love live bonnies. The only challenge is, once you catch a bonnie, where would you even start looking for a wahoo?

Up and down our coast you do from time to time find them on the deeper pinnacles, but never really consistently or in great numbers, so using a live bonnie in these areas comes with an element of luck if you are lucky enough to hook even one. However, there is one special place along our KwaZulu-Natal coastline where wahoo turn up in great numbers year in and year out, without fail and pretty much in the middle of winter. In places like this you can spend the time to catch a live bonnie and actually target these elusive fish with good success — although there's obviously plenty of failure too!

Aliwal Shoal is a truly amazing place; it's known as one of the best scuba diving destinations in South Africa and hosts some fantastic game fishing throughout the year. From early May until the end of August the main wahoo migration also seems

to take place there. Large shoals of big adult fish visit the area as well as massive shoals of small bonito which is exactly what we need to catch to catch them!

#### STEP 1: CATCH A BONNIE

This can be the most frustrating part of all. If a bonnie doesn't want to bite, it just won't bite! You can spend hours and hours trying to catch one and while you are reeling it in it gets smashed off by a Wahoo! This will be enough to make you want to go home, but don't — just keep your eyes on the prize!

There are a few different ways to catch bonnies. To start with you can spin for them with small spoons when you see the flicking on the surface. This can be one of the most effective methods if you have the right spoon; there are a few that work really well:

- The Seibel fast cast 0.5 oz — these spoons are nice and heavy, and you can throw them a mile. More importantly, they do get eaten! All the colours work well, but the Natural Shiner and the True Shad are my go-to colours.
- The Bite Me spoon — this one is legendary, catching almost anything that swims as well as the coveted bonito in a time of need! They come in various colours, but the redeye in 20g is undoubtedly the best.
- The famous Halco Twisty — either in 20g or 30g size, this spoon has caught most species in the sea, including the bonito. It's basically foolproof — throw, drop your tip, and wind!

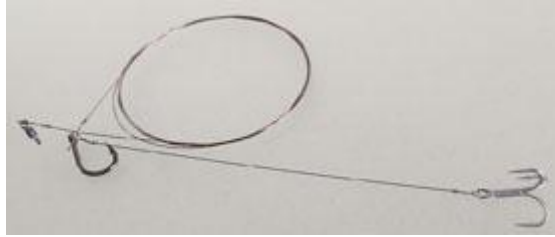
Now it's not every day that the bonnies oblige and eat the spoon, so what then?

There are many things that work, including the Pulsator daisy chain, but on the tough days even these don't always work. One thing that has worked on 95% of those tough occasions, though, is the 2.5cm Yamashita skirt. It's hard to believe that the bonnies can even find this tiny skirt in the ocean, but don't fear, they will find it time after time!

Rigging a 2.5cm skirt can be challenging, but the most successful way I have found is with 16 lb. Siglon fluorocarbon, a Mustad Hoodlum no 2 hook, and a no 8 power swivel.

Use a 1m piece of fluoro between the hook and the swivel, go light on the drag and you will be okay. The only downside of this set up is that the bigger tuna often has a go at this tiny skirt which invariably ends in tears!

Fishing the skirt is really easy; let it out about 50 metres and troll it at about 6km/h in the area where the bonnies are. Wait for the reel to go and go easy on it when you are winding it in!



## STEP 2: PREPARING THE WAHOO LIVE BAIT TRACE

There have been and will be many more debates on this subject, but ultimately over many years and countless hours this is what it boils down to. The trace I find most effective when fishing for wahoo is as follows: 1.5m no. 7 lead wire with a BKK 1/0 single lead hook, and no. 7 wire again between with no. 1 BKK Fang treble that should be placed halfway down your live bonnie.

Nice and simple, it has proved to be the most successful trace over hundreds of hours of fishing.

## STEP 3: WHERE AND HOW TO FISH THE LIVEBAIT

The most important thing is not to troll too slowly with a bonnie; if you go too slow it will die, so about 8km/h is ideal with either one or two motors. Also don't be scared to fish the bonnie close to the boat. Wahoo are really inquisitive and aren't shy to eat a bonnie close to the boat, and remember that the closer the bite is to the boat, the less complications there are on the hook up!

While trolling the bonnie we use a feather-light drag that just stops the line from peeling out while trolling.

The reason we place a single treble halfway down the bonnie is that on most occasions the wahoo will cut the bonnie in half, then swing around and swallow the rest. On the first bite we pick up the rod and, as it hits, free-spool the bonnie. Then, as the wahoo turns for the second half of the bonnie, drop the rod, let it start running and slowly tighten up — then hold on for your life! Obviously, anything can happen here, but in most cases, this is what happens and if you get it right it results in a solid hook up!

## MY GO-TO SET UP

I like a medium length rod and the Penn Ally 7ft MH is my favourite; it has plenty of back bone but a nice soft tip that is forgiving when the fish darts off at the boat. Any strong lever drag reel is essential, but without a doubt the Penn Torque 40 is my baby — smooth as can be and plenty of power, it's all that you could ask for and more.

Other than that, plenty of time on the water will get you in the groove. Once you find that groove don't forget it, and when it's quiet, stick stay and make it pay!

**By Mark de la Hey**

## **Club Braai**

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2026**





## *The Nomads Chant*

We're Nomads We're Nomads

We live in the sea

Our boats are our homes

And our spirits are free

We travel the coastline

In search of our wish

And when we get lucky

We catch that big fish

We're loyal to Nomads

'cause we are the best

And if you're not with us

You will **lose with the rest!!**

..... Nomads!!!

**“Tight Lines and may all the hook ups stick”**

**Gus Pinker – Editor.**

