



The Nomads Tide - A Monthly Brief March 2018



2018 Rosebowl results

Venue: St Lucia

Hosts: Nomads

Top Boat

1. FATHER TIME (TSC) skippered by Richard Hartley
2. NAUTI BOY (Nomads) skippered by Mitchell Moore
3. MITSUFISHI (Makaira) skippered by Hansie van Wyk

Top Angler Overall

1. Mitchell Moore - Nomads
2. Sebastian Hendriks - Makaira
3. Jason Nielson - Makaira

Dates to diarise

SGDSAA AGM

Venue: TSC Clubhouse

Date: Thu 12 April at 19h00

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Nomads Closed

Venue: Mapelane

Dates: 11-15 June

Nomads 50th Birthday Bash

Venue: TBA

Date: 8 Sep

Member catches

Easter weekend at Shelly Beach



Richards Bay'1 First Grander

Fish caught from the boat "Rough Rider" out of Richards Bay and weighed in at 484.5kg (1,068lbs). It was donated to Umhlathuzi local community and it will feed at least 500 people.





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Questions from Members

Chrisjan: *I have a question, as a young Fisherman, when are you allowed to take a big Marlin out ? Obviously, it's ideal to release all of them. But it seems to me that most of the time if a person posts a photo of Marlin, half of the club is gonna say "wow great" the other might think it's unnecessary...*

I want to know the ethical responsibility as well as when it's ok (first Marlin for example).

This is by no means aimed at anyone. Purely educational for myself.

Dave Martin: Up to the angler Chrisjan. Of course we are trying to promote conservation so release is a bonus, however if that fish has any specific significance - big marlin, first marlin, good line/weight ratio, record etc. then it is not a crime to tag it with a gaff and release it on the deck! As long as the fish is then used, eaten or donated, and not left to rot at the gallows!

Tyron Gruar: Hi Chrisjan.... article by J Harnwell F.Y.I. While you can justify the taking of any fish if you plan on eating it, it's pretty hard, at least in my opinion, for anyone to condone hanging a marlin just to get a few points in a game comp.

Given that, isn't it time now that we take the plunge and declare marlin to be a release-only species?

Apart from ethics, there are some fairly pertinent scientific reasons why we shouldn't kill marlin.

Like all top-line predators, there are relatively few marlin compared to other fish. Thus they are particularly vulnerable to overfishing. Marlin are like lions or tigers in that they are at the very top of the food chain. There are always lots more prey animals than there are predators. That's why you see vast herds of gazelle and wildebeest and only a few lions on the African veldt.

It's exactly the same with marlin. For any given quantity of baitfish, there will only be relatively small number of billfish hunting them.

Given the hiding our marlin stocks are being given by the long liners, it makes sense for us as responsible, environmentally minded anglers to "let the marlin go".

If we mandate C&R for all marlin (apart, perhaps, for a very small number of fish which are up for serious consideration as records), we will be doing our bit to maintain and develop fish stocks. Importantly, we will also be taking the moral high ground in this ongoing fisheries management debate.

But if we keep stringing them up on gantries and cutting them into slabs on cleaning tables, we will be seen as being no different to the long liners. All our talk about "saving the marlin" will be nothing more than hypocrisy.

So, what do you reckon? Should we declare marlin as a "release-only" species? Sure, the long liners will keep killing them but if we take steps to self impose mandatory release status to all recreationally caught billfish we will have sent a strong message to government, fisheries managers, environment groups and the public at large.

And what is that message?

It's pretty simple. That we are trying to do the right thing by responsibly protecting these magnificent oceanic predators to (a) ensure biodiversity and (b) so that future generations can experience the thrills and spills of offshore gamefishing.

Editor: let common sense rule

See [Nomads Billfish release procedure](#)