

# FISHING INFORMATION



*Tropic Star Lodge*



## PANAMA IS AN INDIAN WORD MEANING "AN ABUNDANCE OF FISH".

Piñas Bay, Panama truly lives up to this meaning. The abundance and variety of gamefish caught in the Pacific waters around the lodge includes Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Striped Marlin, and Sailfish. All species of billfish can be caught "right outside our front door," making this a truly unique location. You have a good chance of catching large Dorado, Yellowfin Tuna (some over 200 pounds), above average size Roosterfish (many over 50 pounds), big Cubera Snapper, Amberjack, Rainbow Runner, Wahoo, Grouper and Mackerel. In recent years a few "Pacific" Tarpon have also been caught.

Over 300 World Records have been broken at Tropic Star Lodge. We currently hold over 50 IGFA World Records, the majority of them being Black, Blue, Striped Marlin, and Pacific Sailfish. Tropic Star Lodge is recognized worldwide for the number of IGFA World Records set on light and ultra light line. Our young anglers have set over 50 IGFA World Records in the Junior Angler Division. Opportunities still exist if you wish to get your name or the name of your kids or grandkids into the record books. Many anglers fish Tropic Star Lodge to catch their first Black Marlin, Blue Marlin or Pacific Sailfish. Our crews can help you as much or as little as you require. We issue official TSL Certificates for those who catch their first billfish at the lodge!

WE CATCH MARLIN AND SAILFISH YEAR ROUND



*From Mid-March through May the inshore bite explodes. Record sized Roosterfish, Cubera Snappers and a host of other species are abundant along the coastline. The reef also holds a wide variety of fish and they are typically “grande” size. Offshore can also be good action. Giant schools of mid-sized Yellowfin Tunas also show up and can be great fun on light tackle.*



**FISHING AT TROPIC STAR LODGE:** The fishing grounds are 6 to 20 miles offshore in fairly calm waters. The roughest seas (4 to 6 feet) normally occur from January through March and our fleet of customized Bertram 31's are perfect for fishing this area. Our crews are all local and have been fishing these waters for over 20 years.

**BOATS & CREWS:** Our rainbow fleet of 15 customized, fully rigged, Bertram 31's are powered by twin diesel engines, efficient enough for the Pacific Ocean. Rest assured you won't be left at the dock as we fish a maximum of 12 boats daily. All boats are outfitted with GPS, VHF radios, custom tuna tubes and baitwell. Our captains are all local and have been fishing Piñas waters for many years. Several have learned their extraordinary fishing skills from past generations of captains and are considered legends in the gamefishing realm. Over the years our crews have guided anglers to hundreds of IGFA world records.

**FISHING TACKLE:** We furnish all of your fishing tackle, which includes Shimano reels and Cape Fear /Shimano rods from 20-50 lb. class. We also have spinning rods and reels filled with 12-30 lb. test monofilament. Downriggers, Braid and Aftco fighting harnesses, rod belts, lures, teasers, leaders with circle hooks, some plugs, and gaffs are also included. If you fancy casting large poppers at the rocks for Roosterfish and Cubera Snappers we recommend you bring a heavy 2-piece spinning outfit. The new hybrid lines such as spectra help to keep the big ones out of the rocks. Our boats are stocked with a variety of poppers, jigs and plugs however we recommend you bring along some of your own secret weapons. A variety of productive lures can also be purchased at the lodge. There is no need to bring your own rods and reels, however if you wish to do so, please advise the reservation office in Orlando as there is limited cargo space aboard the planes that travel to and from Piñas Bay.

**We do not furnish any fly fishing equipment.** The recommended fly rod to bring is a 13-14 wt. for sailfish and dorado etc. you can use a 12 wt., but a heavier rod will give you more backbone to lift a big fish to the surface. Any billfish fly should work; pink/white and blue/white are good colors.

**CIRCLE HOOKS:** Tropic Star Lodge is one of the first fishing resorts to adapt the “circle hooks only” policy for rigging baits for billfish. Our crews have received international recognition for their innovative skills applied to the rigging of Panama strip baits on circle hooks for sailfish and live bait for marlin.

TROPIC STAR LODGE FISHING GUIDELINE													
Species	Size Range	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Black Marlin	200-1000 lbs	Green	Green	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Lodge Closed		Green
Blue Marlin	200-1000 lbs	Green	Green	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Lodge Closed		Green
Striped Marlin	100-250 lbs	Yellow	Lodge Closed		Yellow								
Pacific Sailfish	80-150 lbs	Blue	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Lodge Closed		Blue
Yellowfin Tuna	10-300 lbs	Green	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Lodge Closed		Green
Dorado	10-70 lbs	Green	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Lodge Closed		Green	
Roosterfish	10-100 lbs	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Blue	Lodge Closed		Blue
Cubera Snapper	20-70 lbs	Blue	Blue	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Blue	Lodge Closed		Blue
Amberjack	20-100 lbs	Green	Green	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Lodge Closed		Green
Wahoo	20-80 lbs	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Lodge Closed		Blue
Tarpon	40-100 lbs	Yellow	Lodge Closed		Yellow								
Grouper	20-100 lbs	Blue	Lodge Closed		Blue								
Rainbow Runner	3-20 lbs	Green	Green	Green	Green	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Blue	Lodge Closed		Green

Excellent	Green
Good	Blue
Fair	Yellow

The chart and monthly breakdown is a guideline; many factors go into the migratory path. Water temperature, wind, current and bait can cause these normal patterns to fluctuate. We are only 7 degrees from the equator.

**MARLIN:** The Black Marlin and Blue Marlin season typically begins around June and runs until the following March. The PRIME Black Marlin bite occurs from December through mid March and Blue Marlin are also abundant at this time. The majority of the Marlin released during the prime months average in the 300-400 pound range. There is also a good chance of a Striped Marlin from February through May. The bite from June through September is good and the Blue Marlin bite really turns on in September. These are usually bigger fish; many in the 500-600 pound range.

**SAILFISH:** Sailfish can typically be caught year round at Piñas Bay; however the prime Sailfish bite occurs from May through August. Double hookups are common during this time and the majority of the Sailfish released average 90-120 pounds. Fly fishing is also best around this time. We recommend you bring your own fly fishing gear as we do not furnish that at the lodge.

If it's a **GRAND SLAM** you're after, December through mid March and July through September is the best time. Your grand slam could include any three of the following species, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Striped Marlin, and Sailfish! A Super Slam is any four of the billfish species.

## TROPIC STAR LODGE FISHING CALENDAR

**JANUARY:** Considered one of the most popular months for Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Yellowfin Tuna (100-250 pounds), Big Sailfish (over 100-pounds) and Big Dorado (50-60 pound range). It can get bumpy at this time as the north trade wind brings cooler water and tailing Marlin.

**FEBRUARY:** Very similar to January. Offshore the Blue Marlin and Striped Marlin like the cooler water, and the Black Marlin is on the Zane Grey Reef. It's one of the best months for Grand Slams.

**MARCH:** One of the top months for big Yellowfin Tuna. Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and an occasional Striped Marlin are on the menu too. It can be one of the best months for inshore fishing for Big Roosterfish and Cubera Snapper.

**APRIL:** This is our transition month. The inshore bite is excellent and record sized Roosterfish are biting along with Cubera Snappers and a host of other inshore game fish. Hoards of school sized Yellowfin Tuna (20-60 pounds) invade the coastal waters surrounding Piñas Bay. Billfishing can be sporadic and depends on the weather conditions. The seas are typically flat calm.

**MAY:** The wind starts coming out of the south, bringing bait-balls of Sardines down the coast, which signals the arrival of hungry Sailfish as well as other gamefish. This is a time where we focus on catching Sailfish, many within 2 miles from shore. They can be caught offshore as well. Marlin can be caught, but we tend to spend more time racking up numbers of Sailfish. Inshore fishing can also be very productive. Very calm seas.

**JUNE:** Very similar to May, the Sailfish season is in full swing. Not uncommon to get multiple bites per day including double and triple hookups. Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Striped Marlin can also be caught at this time. Inshore can be a bonanza; June and July are some of the best months for Big Roosterfish, some over 70 pounds. It's one of our cooler months, due to overcast conditions and occasional showers, mostly onshore. Very calm seas.

**JULY:** One of our best months for a variety of fish. Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, along with Sailfish and Dorado round out the species... Grand Slams are common. Inshore fishing can be very productive for Big Roosterfish and Cubera Snapper. This month is cooler than the "Panama Summer" months of January and February due to occasional on-shore showers. Very calm seas.

**AUGUST:** Good month for a variety of billfish; including Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Sailfish. Inshore fishing for Roosterfish and Cubera Snapper can be very good. Occasional showers, mostly onshore and calm seas. Overcast days and a few offshore showers help to keep the temperatures very comfortable.

**SEPTEMBER:** The Black Marlin and Blue Marlin fishing can be excellent... Wahoo fishing should be at its best, inshore fishing can be very productive. The weather is very similar to August. We close for maintenance October & November.

**NOVEMBER:** We open the last week of November with our own Tropic Star Lodge tournament. The Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Sailfish, Yellowfin Tuna, and 40-60 pound Dorado are typically there waiting for us. Inshore fishing for Roosterfish and Cubera Snapper is good as well. November marks the end of the rainy season. Debris-lines can form offshore that hold lots of bait and fish. The seas are very calm; you can experience a rain shower, mainly onshore...

**DECEMBER:** Great all around month for most species. Black Marlin, Blue Marlin, Sailfish, big Yellowfin Tuna (100-250 pounds), Dorado (50-60 pound range) are biting. Inshore fishing for Big Roosterfish and Cubera Snappers are in full swing. It's a great month for a variety of fish.