



On April 2, this 485.3kg (1066lb) blue marlin was caught off Richards Bay in South Africa aboard the trailerboat *Rough Rider* with Capt Jacques Van Wyk. It became the third grander marlin caught in Africa this year, and the third grander blue marlin ever caught in South Africa.

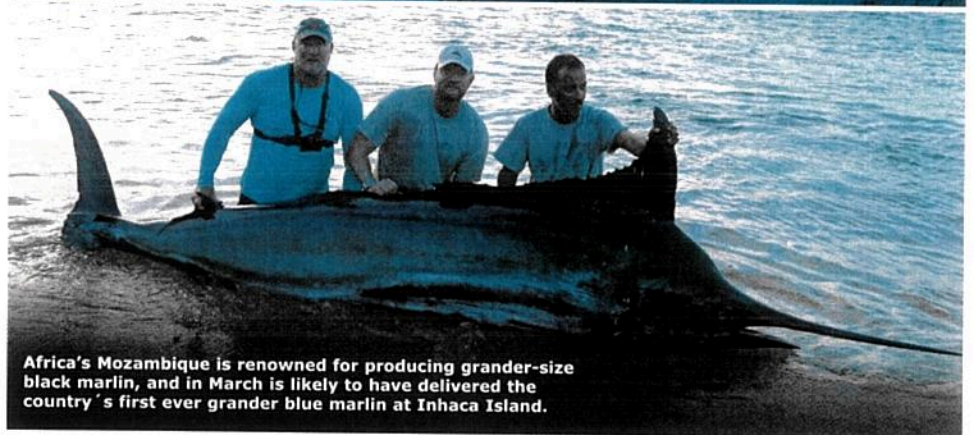
Mozambique's first grander blue marlin

At the same time each year that Cairns produces its giant black marlin spawning aggregation, a similar run of giant blacks occurs off Mozambique's remote Bazaruto Archipelago. Carl Jankowitz has been a regular on the Bazaruto giant black marlin scene for the past 15 years and has probably caught more 'grander' (1000-pound) black marlin than any other angler in Africa.

Carl fished the archipelago with Capt Duarte Rato aboard his 9.5m charterboat *Vamizi* (www.fishbazaruto.com) during the 2017 season and early on their first day, October 24, Carl's friend Andrew Carrick hooked his first ever marlin on a lure. After a two-hour battle the giant black was estimated at 499kg (1100lb) and then released.

Carl and Rian returned to fish with Capt Rato in early March this year, although this time aboard Marcelo Matos' *Fourplay* during the peak of the blue marlin season at Inhaca Island, around 500km south of the Bazaruto Archipelago. The blues at Inhaca Island are generally small, but the area has a reputation for producing exceptional numbers.

On their first day of fishing the team trolled the productive 300 to 400m contour off Hell's Gate, initially finding only dolphinfish, but Carl hooked an enormous marlin in 170m of water while they were heading home. It became tail-wrapped during the two-hour battle and could not be revived, so they towed it back to shore. With a lower-jaw to tail fork short-length of 348cm (137 inches) and a mid-girth of 188cm (74 inches), the fish seemed sure



Africa's Mozambique is renowned for producing grander-size black marlin, and in March is likely to have delivered the country's first ever grander blue marlin at Inhaca Island.

to weigh more than 1000-pounds and qualify as a 'grander', but the crew could not find a scale in remote Santa Maria where they were based, so the fish was never officially weighed. However, Carl caught a black marlin with the exact same measurements a few years earlier and that fish had weighed 498kg (1098lb). Duarte was the captain for both catches and had little doubt the blue weighed more than 450kg as she was much fatter throughout.

A few days later, *Fourplay* released four blues to 270kg from eight strikes, and

Kambaku lost a blue that looked even larger than Carl's. Capt Luis Nunes said it was the biggest he had ever seen – and he has seen quite a few big ones! To see a video of the fish, visit https://youtu.be/9Vs4QHa_BHM.

Then on April 2, a 485.3kg (1066lb) blue marlin was caught off Richards Bay, 200nm further south in South Africa. Landed aboard *Rough Rider* with Capt Jacques Van Wyk, it became the third grander marlin caught in Africa this year, and the third grander blue marlin ever caught in South Africa.