

August 13, 2008

PRESS RELEASE

Finally Marlin!

... To be Hemingway for just a day! Half the world's catch of this rare fish takes place in the Hawaiian archipelago. The first three swordfish ever caught "spoke Hawaiian"...

Boris has spent his summer vacations on Hawaii for more than ten years. This year, he hosted two friends from Croatia on the "Big island", an island whose name is associated with the word "desire". To visit Hawaii means to inhale tropical fragrances in the warm breeze as soon as you disembark at the Honolulu airport. Seeing Hawaii means taking a long walk along Waikiki Beach, watching the surfers at dusk, listening to Hawaiian music and enjoy watching the Hawaiian girls hula dance, all at the same time. To see Hawaii means to see how lava flowed out of a volcano into the ocean that is 3000 meters deep, and to see snow on the volcano whose lava cooled long ago.

However, in addition to many unique features of Hawaii, with a little dose of luck, you can experience something amazing that you likely cannot experience elsewhere, unless you have dedicated your life to it... catching a swordfish! To be Hemingway for just a day! Half the world's catch of this rare fish takes place in the Hawaiian archipelago. The first three swordfish ever caught "spoke Hawaiian".

They say that some "attract luck", others say "each creates his own luck". Regardless, when you go fishing with Boris, you're sure to get results. There is a certain secret to success. First, you have to awake the day before with only one desire: to go to the Honokohau Marina to engage in informal chats with the locals to see which boat is "lucky" this month. After 15 years of experience, Boris knows exactly who and what to ask. The decision is made: the boat called Fire Hatt, with Captain Chuck Wilson who, of course, was previously a fire chief. Then you go to lunch in a seafood restaurant with a view of the selected boat, all part of the ritual to reach your desire. The desire that

many true fisherman have never made a reality in a lifetime. To catch a swordfish, you have to set out before dawn. Of course, no one slept long enough to hear the ring of the alarm clock. Everyone woke at the moment when the fish in your dreams leapt out of the water... The sun is somewhere "over California", and the Fire Hatt sails out of port with the crew: Chuck, Linda, Mike (our very kind hosts) and the Croatian team: Boris, Ines, Vlatka and Mićo.

Boris has been claiming a sure catch, since yesterday. When we listen to him, we believe him. When we know that he has been trying for the past 15 years. Fishing is not for statisticians, but for the lucky! Captain Chuck says the best time will be about 8 or 9 am. He pulls out a new satellite photo showing the ocean temperature around the "Big island". There is one spot, way out at sea, that is red. He tells us we'll be there "at the right time". Chuck knows his business, after a few hours of trawling we soon came across several other boats in the other-



From left to right, the crew: Mike; Linda, Capt. Chuck, and Croatians Vlatka, Mico, Boris and Ines.

wise empty expanse of South Pacific. All boats have the same satellite images, the same goal. The sun has risen, it's 8 am, and everyone is ready. Our smiles are replaced by concentration. At 9 am, we're still all tense, and I believe the competition is also starring hard at their lines. At 10 am, we look at the captain, they offer us sandwiches, and again we begin to joke around. But now, not every sentence begins with "I have a feeling...". We woke early, around 4 am, and 7 hours have passed since, now we are in our "satellite" positions. Some have gone off to nap, and we have several hours of fishing left...

Just before 12, in the film "High Noon", John Wayne arrives. Just before noon on the boat Fire Hat, we heard a loud whistle and at the same moment, Vlatka yells, "marlin, it jumped!". In the next 10 seconds, it looks as though lightning hit, a meteor fell and a volcano erupted all at the same place and the same time. Our experienced crew reacted swiftly as you rarely see in any movie. The swordfish jumps several meters high into the air, fighting, about 300 m from the stern. It dives deep down before sailing up into the air like a rocket. We have no time to rub our eyes and wonder if we're dreaming. The swordfish pulls out the flax, at tens of meters per second. In those moments, everything appears impossible. The reel is tightened as much as possible, but when the swordfish dives down into the depths, it moves as though there is no resistance at all.

It's hard to say how much time has passed – maybe 45 minutes, maybe an hour or more. Mike announces that it's close, because the signal is out. We see a flash in the depths off the stern. and it took three guys to pull it up to the platform, the final attempt, the critical moment. Here a less experienced fisherman would allow the fish under the propeller and the line would break. The captain tells us he's seen such exhausted swordfish get away, only to be immediately attacked by sharks. Despite our eagerness, the captain warns us this is dangerous. Injuries can happen as the fish can swing its sharp sword.

It's difficult to describe the feeling when returning back to the marina flying the blue flag with a swordfish aboard. Other boats had red or green flags, but marlin is the king!

The fish was donated to the homeless and the memories and the sword flew back to Croatia with the "lucky four"..

Basic information:

Place: *Marina Honokohau, Kona, Hawaii*

Date of catch: *13.8.2008*

Weight of swordfish: *162 pounds*

Vessel: *Fire Hatt*

Captain: *Chuck Wilson*