

# BREAKING AWAY

## from the Fleet

by Capt. Lace Allenius

Photography By:  
Capt. Lace Allenius and Brooks Smith



PHOTO BY: Jenny Nelson

Happiness doesn't even cover it when describing the fulfillment of a great fishing trip! I wholeheartedly feel that all fishermen share the same sentiment when preparing for a spectacular day on the water. The glistening sunrise,

gently sparkling water, and scintillation of the atmosphere gets me every time. Embarking with quality company is also a plus when sharing this experience with others, and it's always nice to surround yourself with likeminded swashbucklers.

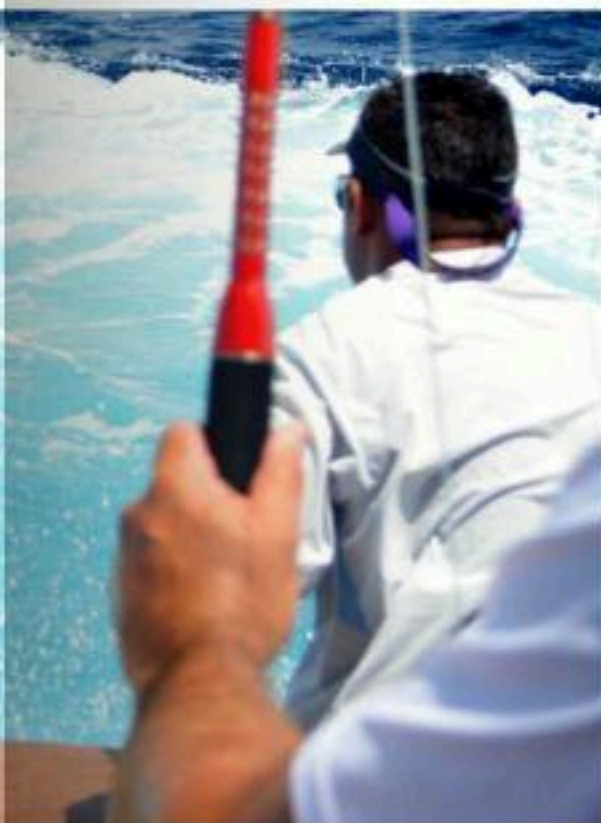
Gearing up for our trip in the morning, I was cordially helped into the sportfisher, as we prepared for takeoff in a 80R Bayfish. We were in Los Suenos, Costa Rica, and it was a fishing mission we had planned several weeks in advance. Removing my sandals, it felt good to kick back and prepare for the serious work ahead of us. Our crew was ready, and it was a wonderful start to the day.

While checking the Seastar Satellite program on the computers, we examined the conditions for the day, and decided to head in a different direction than the rest of the fleet. Plankton, current, sea surface height, and temperature were all considered in making a choice. Overall, the

conditions were looking promising, and we set off on our mission for billfish.

Taking care to consider where the fleet was headed, our Captain meticulously monitored the radio, and we decided that we had made the correct decision to break away from the pack. Being familiar with the waters in Los Suenos serves as a plus when you're looking to catch the most fish in the area. It's always a difficult decision for Captains to make about where to fish, and a lot goes into the research. Networking is imperative to gather information regarding fishing activity and conditions. Actual reports are always the most reliable.

Much to our delight, our Captain intuitively brought us on top of a pile of orange boomerang marks on the fish finder. Excitedly, we waited for the billfish to come up to our spread and intently watched the water behind us. It's always important to be prepared with the best polarized eyewear possible while peering into the churning



water behind your boat. In most cases, the Captain and the lookout in the tower can alert an angler when a billfish is coming up in the spread. However, it's also necessary to train your eyes to see the signs of a mighty billfish that may be flirting with your bait.

Before long, our teasers started getting attacked. Skillfully pitching our bait to the fish, slight taps came on the long riggers. We pulled several Pacific Sailfish to the side of the boat for a release. It was a steady flow of fish until one of our short lines thumped with a hard-hitting Blue Marlin! Stealthily grabbing the rod and setting it into free spool, my fishing partner fed the bait smoothly to the billfish. Taking the bait, the glorious fish took a powerful run from the boat, and we waited until he came tight. Cheering, we knew we had the beast at our mercy, and it was a pure celebration on the boat!

At the end of the day, we had released over 30 fish, and it was a remarkable expedition. There is something to be said for breaking

away from the fleet and following your own instincts. Having a skilled Captain and Crew is absolutely necessary, and strong teamwork always pays off in the end. Overall, it was a fisherman's dream to be on our mission, and we had achieved what we had come for.

Costa Rica is definitely a mecca of billfishing, and the world-class Los Suenos Resort and Marina has everything you need to make fishing in Costa Rica a magnificent experience.

