

BIG-GAME FISHING

JAMAICA IS THE HOT SPOT FOR REEL FUN.

By Janeen Johnson



One of the best big-game fishing events in the Caribbean is the Port Antonio International Marlin Tournament. "The fishing in Jamaica is excellent!" says an enthusiastic Dr. Ron DuQuesnay, chairman of the tournament.

Established in 1959, the annual event attracts hundreds of sportfishing enthusiasts from all over the world. Every October, the tournament offers a week of fun social events and competitive camaraderie amongst anglers eager to reel in the coveted Atlantic blue marlin.

The Cayman Trench, which is the deepest point in the Caribbean Sea, runs between the Cayman Islands and Jamaica. Game fish like marlins and the colourful and acrobatic mahi-mahi thrive wherever the water gets deep. Anglers will find exciting sportfishing

opportunities off the beautiful coasts of Jamaica, as the water gets deep very quickly.

Within 15 minutes of leaving the shores of Port Antonio, Montego Bay, Ocho Rios, Falmouth or Negril you can start experiencing prime game activity. From Kingston, the action starts just about an hour offshore.

Other annual fishing tournaments include the PWD Hunting and Sporting Fishing Tournament in January, the Royal Jamaica Yacht Club Spring Fishing Tournament in March and the Montego Bay Yacht Club's MoBay Marlin Tournament in September.

Sportfishing can be enjoyed all year round. The activity is not limited to catching blue marlins or participating in tournaments. Jamaica's marine environment offers favourable conditions for several species of

Sportfishermen from around the world flock to Jamaica's shores every year for big-game catches.

fish, including white marlin, sailfish, wahoo, tuna and dorado (mahi-mahi), commonly called dolphinfish and not to be confused with the mammal.

Whilst vacationing in Jamaica, consider booking a private fishing charter. There are many experienced captains available with well-equipped deep-sea fishing boats and a friendly and knowledgeable crew. Trips can be booked online through various charter companies or arranged through your hotel. You can make it a day of family fun or a hot rod and screaming reels adventure with friends. Your captain will guide you to the best spots to fulfil your nautical dreams.