

Bluesails Sportfishing & Off-Road Adventures
14 Jalan Harom Setangkai
Singapore 258806

Email: rompinbluesails@yahoo.com.sg or bluesails@singnet.com.sg
Telephone +65 9651 6797
Facsimile +65 6466 4129



BlueWater
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Issue 82
Aug/Sep '07

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Hot Bites

MALAYSIA

SEASON OFF TO A FLYER

Two months into the fishing season in Malaysia and we've already seen sizzling and consistent sailfish action, with a total of 82 sails boated and released. The northeast monsoon, which runs from mid-



November to mid-March, was unusually heavy this year, resulting in severe flooding in many areas of Malaysia.

At the beginning of the season Bluesails Sportfishing's Mike Tan found the local boatmen shaking their heads, worried that the rain may have pushed the sails and commercial catches further out than the usual 20 nautical miles. But from the season's first mid-March trip those fears proved unfounded, with two father and son teams landing a total of five sails, as well as one juvenile black marlin. Since then there's been non-stop action and it doesn't look likely to let up until the end of the season in mid-November. The largest sail so far weighed in at 39kg, with the average size being about 30kg.

You don't have to wait for a 'peak season' here – various species of bait proliferate throughout the fishing season. This accounts for the large numbers of pelagics, in particular sails, found in these waters. Depths range from 50-90ft, with several FAD 'bus stops' to visit.

Mike Tan – Bluesails Sportfishing
www.bluesails.com.sg