

December 19, 2008

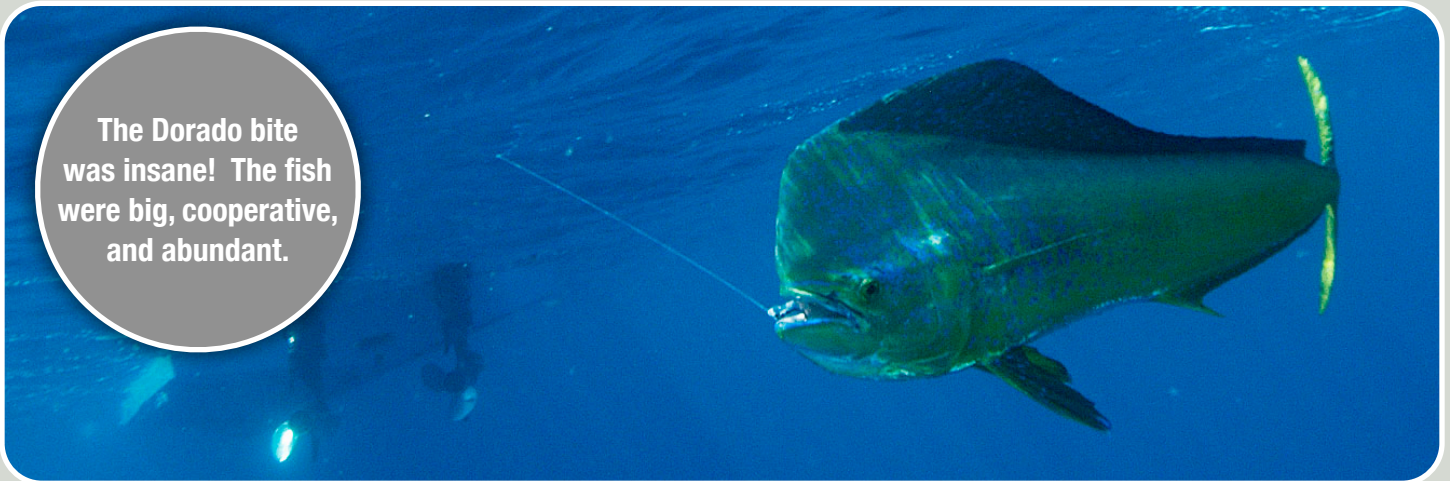
“Wide Open Fishing”

Gregg Mufson, owner of The Zancudo Lodge, told me that the bite in December would be “wide open” -- he was right!

Mike Lapterw's

ZANCUDO CHRONICLES

The Dorado bite was insane! The fish were big, cooperative, and abundant.



THE ZANCUDO LODGE IN COSTA RICA IS EVERYTHING I HEARD AND MORE ...

“I was truly impressed with every aspect of the operation: the accommodations were superb, the boats were ideally suited for the conditions, the captains were terrific, the food scrumptious, and the fishing was fantastic.”

-- Mike Lapterw

“I’ve been fortunate enough to have fished the Golfo Dulce many times over the last ten seasons and I’ve come to expect the extraordinary, but this recent trip was the best yet. It started with a Dorado blitz that produced non-stop action with big bull dolphin and a very respectable sailfish. One guest that was fishing solo cried “uncle” and couldn’t handle another mahi mahi. Gregg managed to sneak out of the lodge for a busman’s holiday (funny how he always manages to pick the right days) and he scored the monster Dorado you see pictured above.

I jumped in the water twelve miles off the coast (a short run from the lodge) next to some floating debris to get a fish-eye perspective of what was going on under the surface...it was an awesome spectacle! Over the next hour I

chronicled life and death in the open ocean photographing brown boobies bobbing for baby triple tails, thousands of spawning bonito, hundreds of dorados parading by in waves, jacks, google-eyes, rainbow runners, jacks, trigger fish and a frisky turtle that wanted me to be his buddy.

While I was filming the action below, Gregg, Ron Thibaudeau and Captain Javier were dueling with dorado, including some monsters.

It’s hard to put into word just how zany the action was...so hopefully the following photo essay and video snippet will give you a feeling for what The Zancudo Lodge regularly serves up for anglers that are looking for that fishing trip of a lifetime.”

-- Mike Lapterw



Dorado AKA Mahi Mahi or Dolphin
Whatever you call these gorgeous game fish, you have to admire their tenacity, strength and aerobatics.

December

8
0
0
2
E
M
E
R
X
E



Pacific Sailfish are the fastest fish in the sea, reaching speeds of up to 68 mph!

EXTREMELY LARGE

Atlantic Sailfish are great sport, but their Pacific counterparts are heavyweights, not featherweights; *Istiophorus platypterus*

Current I.G.F.A. all time record:
100.24 kg (221 pounds)



Gregg Mufson and Captain Javier with a Trophy Size Bull Dolphin or Dorado



There's so much more than just fish to see.



This area of Costa Rica boasts the greatest biodiversity on the planet and the underwater realm is home to an amazing array of fish, marine mammals and even reptiles.

Eye-Candy was everywhere I looked: the mangroves, river, gulf, offshore and even in front of my room.

There are so many different ecosystems nearby; you can kayak or boat up river where you can photograph crocodiles and egrets.

You can journey up the bay where you'll find a wonderful wildlife refuge and botanical garden. Venture offshore and watch acres of spinner dolphins corkscrewing out of the waves. Turtles seem to pop up everywhere and rare and beautiful, yellow sea snakes slither across the surface.

A dazzling array of birds visit the 7 acres of lush tropical flowers and fruit trees that decorate the lodge property.



DIVERSITY



Frigate Birds to Pilot Whales

Zancudo, Costa Rica is home to a wide variety of marine birds, as well as species that thrive in the mangroves and secondary forest.

The offshore waters are rich with squid and bait fish that draw in pilot whales, humpbacks, blue whales and even killer whales.

The Ultimate Fishing Adventure

WALLESIC MARLIN



Blue Marlin dive like a submarine, pull like a locomotive and jump like a flat rock skipped across the ocean.

THE ZANCUDO LODGE RAISES MORE MARLIN

"I've fished off a lot of different boats over the course of 26 trips to the Osa Peninsula and the Golfo Dulce...the boats at The Zancudo Lodge flat out raise more marlin than any other lodge, resort, or fishing operation in the area. The level of experience of these captains is second to none."

-- Mike Laptew

The Ultimate Fishing Challenge



LIFELONG DREAM COMES TRUE

Ron Thibaudeau had fished his whole life with the dream of someday catching a marlin. He had fished the waters off the Golfo Dulce on five previous trips to other resorts, but Ron wasn't able to put the marlin notch on his belt...that changed with his December visit to The Zancudo Lodge.

Ron had already experienced some fantastic fishing with a daylong duel with monster dorado, a nice sailfish brought boat side, a fair size yellowfin that came unbuttoned next to the boat and a respectable roosterfish. Cap that off with fantastic weather and it already had been a fabulous fishing trip.

Then the marlin above rocked Ron's world with a fight that started off with the fish thrashing the water into a fountain-like display that would rival the Bellagio in Vegas, then 25 jumps in quick succession melting line off the reel. It was an epic standup battle that lasted 45 grueling minutes before the fish was tagged and released. I had a few minutes to snap a few fish-eye portraits.



EXPERIENCE
THE
ULTIMATE
FISHING
CHALLENGE

The Ultimate Fishing Challenge

MORE MARLIN WAYS FROM



“MEN STAND UP, WOMEN SIT DOWN”

When it comes to technique for fighting marlin, Gregg states emphatically, “Men stand up, women sit down.”

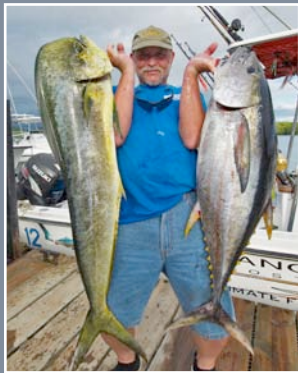
A marlin estimated at 450 pounds crashed the lures, not once but twice, and managed to avoid the hook. Javier slowly worked his way back to the same area thirty minutes later and was reworked with a solid hook up.

Gregg put the pressure on the 200 plus pound marlin and had it boat side within 20 short minutes.

As was the case with Ron’s marlin, Captain Sloan Gurney, acting as mate for the day, shouted out encouragement and helpful suggestions before he billed the fish.



FLYING FISH



Think like a fish

In order to find, fool, hook & land a billfish, you have to be able to think like a billfish. The captains at the lodge are all masters at reading the water and finding fish. Each boat is equipped with state of the art electronics and the captains and mates know how to use these tools to your advantage -- catching trophy size fish.

Almost every fish we caught went airborne.

Dorado, Mahi Mahi, or Dolphin are one of the fastest growing fish in the sea; they can grow an inch a week and reach 30 pounds in a year. They mature at about 6 months of age and females are believed to reach maturity at a smaller size than males. Dorado are highly fecund producing 58,000 - 1.5 million eggs per female, with an exponential increase. They can also spawn frequently when mature, yet most are short lived with a maximum age of four years with most dying before 2 years.

When examined, the 1976 IGFA world record mahi mahi of 87 pounds was found to be only four years old.

Our crew of two anglers landed 16 dorado, all of them over 25 pounds.

George, a frequent visitor to the lodge, took the two beautiful fish in the picture to the left.

The yellowfin tuna was served up only minutes later as sashimi and sushi rolls. Later that night we also sampled the lodge's famous dorado with mango sauce and it was delicious.



Watching a sailfish turn iridescent blue & "light up" is magical.

EXTREME FISHING...

EXTREME LUXURY

Location, Location, Location...

Only a few miles from the mouth of the Golfo Dulce and leaving the dock at 6:00 you'll be maximizing your fishing time, not running time.

Situated Between Beach and River

It's three minute stroll from your room to either the boats on the river or the miles of beach in front of the lodge.

Cool and Roomy

The rooms are large, well insulated, quiet and air conditioned. You'll find a phone by your bed and a hair dryer in the bathroom. You'll be very pleased with your accommodations.

Keep in Touch, or Drop Out

Zancudo Lodge is a place to escape the pressures of 21st Century life and the demands of day-to-day business. If you need to be connected, it's nice to be able to do so from the privacy of your own room with high speed Internet connection or for that matter take your laptop to the pool, beach or bar.

Gourmet Meals

Local caught shrimp, melt in your mouth beef, pork, free range chicken, and of course fresh fish are prepared in creative and delicious fashion. Don't expect to lose weight while visiting. Even the sandwiches served while



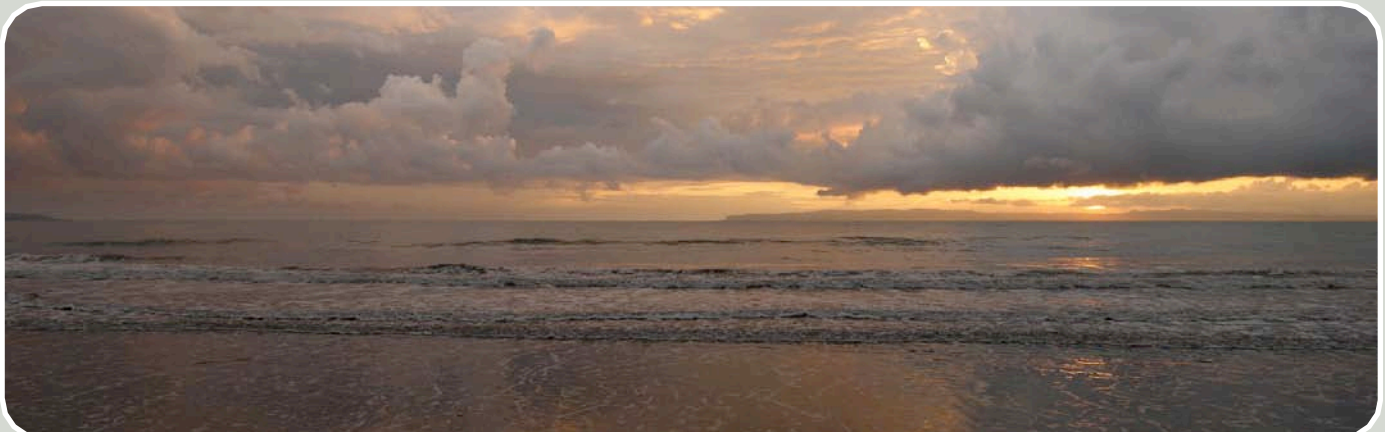
fishing are far from ordinary.

Service

The lodge is owner operated and managed by Gregg Mufson who will oversee all aspects of your stay and the friendly staff will cater to your every need.



Every room is only a short stroll to the beach or the boats. The photo below shows the view of sunset from in front of the lodge.



WANT TO JOIN TEAM ZANCUDO?

Experience the fishing adventure of a lifetime while accompanying me on a "Laptew Safari" April 13, 2009

Star in the show

Join me as I conduct another film shoot at The Zancudo Lodge. My goals are simple: capture the most awesome fishing action ever burned to memory in high definition video and photograph the action above and below water.

Special Pricing

\$ 2,600* for 3 days of fishing at the lodge, plus a night in San Jose a **\$595 savings!**

\$3,200* for 4 days of fishing at the lodge, plus a night in San Jose a **\$595 savings!**

\$3,600* for 5 days of fishing at the lodge, plus a night in San Jose a **\$795 savings!**

\$4,200* for 6 days of fishing at the lodge, plus a night in San Jose a **\$795 savings!**

* double occupancy, two to a boat -- additional savings for triples or non-fishers.

All Inclusive Packages

These packages include a nights stay in San Jose, all ground transportation, flights too and from the lodge, all food and beverage at the lodge, including beer, wine and local liquor, daily laundry service, satellite television and high speed Internet connection.

Does not include gratuity, departure tax or meals in San Jose.

Need a fishing partner?

For those single anglers looking to share the expense of a room and a boat, we'll arrange to pair you up with a like-minded angler to reduce the expense.

Solo anglers have the option of paying for their single room and having a boat to



**Extreme Fishing
& Extreme Luxury**

themselves. While this is more expensive it does afford you maximum fishing opportunity.

Free Team Zancudo Shirt

Anyone who signs up for the safari gets a unique Team Zancudo shirt. Join Team Zancudo and be there in April for the fishing trip of your life.



A package for every budget

This trip is carefully designed to maximize the opportunity for trophy fish. We will be fishing three days off the full moon and the bite should be red hot.

Fish 3, 4, 5, or 6 Days:

- Includes all bait, tackle and licenses
- Fishing two anglers in a 28' boat
- State of the art electronics and gear
- Best captains in the area
- World-class fly fishing guide available
- Fish the way you want to: inshore, offshore, plugging, live bait, jigging or fly
- Located on a beach suitable for surf fishing

Book your trip before March 15

VISIT MY WEBSITE

www.laptewproductions.com

call: **Mike Laptew**
401.884.0188