

# Sports Fishing

## Need Some “Reel” Therapy?

Fishing is one of the main activities for local people in the Maldives and during the day, sports fishing in Maldivian seas will most likely be successful. Our boat “Barracuda” has been specifically designed for sports fishing and boasts all the latest fishing equipment associated with landing the ultimate pelagic species that inhabit the Indian Ocean. Expect to latch on to species such as Yellow Fin tuna, Barracuda, Trevally, Wahoo, Sail fish and Dorado.

Depending on the target species we can use a variety of light trolling gear and small live baits, to help maximise your change at a strike. You can be sure that even the smallest of Jack fish will put up excellent sport for the angling enthusiast.

We have been utilising the new lightweight jigs that have been made popular by the Japanese, these are coupled with dedicated rods and braided line to maximise movement from the rod tip to the jig – we have found that this method has a better catch rate than live baits and can assure anglers that nearly everything with teeth can be caught using this method. Expect the most exciting sport from giant Trevally’s where we offer the angler our boat to search the reefs early morning and evening with poppers cast to the reef and retrieved at a fast rate, the takes from these fish have to be seen to be believed, the experience of hooking one will have you addicted to this kind of angling. This adventure activity will surely keep you engaged and thus prevent you from getting bored on your vacation.

We provide all the top gear including Shimano, Daiwa & Penn. We do not provide fly-fishing gear however this is becoming more popular with enthusiasts.

### SPORTS FISHING EQUIPMENT:

Shimano, Penn, and GT Terror II 8’3” casting rods, Devil Fire 525L, Pro Hunter Fallen 200g, Pro Hunter and Seaman 270g Jig rods and Shimano and Penn reels with required lures for the targeted species.

## GAME AND REEF FISHING DHONI – BARRACUDA

SIZE	15m Maldivian Dhoni, an open fishing boat
MOTOR	250hp Dongfeng Cumming inboard engine, maximum cruising speed 16knots
SAFETY EQUIPMENT	GPS, location Tracker, life jackets, life rings, CB-5 flags, fire extinguishers, First Aid kit, depth finder, HF radio set and a mobile phone for easy communication.

## GAME AND REEF FISHING DHONI – BARRACUDA

SIZE	14m Maldivian Dhoni with luxury interior finish. Boat is equipped with kitchen and other facilities to accommodate long trips
MOTOR	150hp Yanmar inboard engine, maximum cruising speed is 11.5knots
SAFETY EQUIPMENT	GPS, life jackets, life rings, CB-5 flags, fire extinguishers, First Aid kit, depth finder, HF radio set and a mobile phone for easy communication.

### LURES & BAIT

The types of lure we use are surface running skirted trolling lures. When run behind the boat, trolled, they tend to 'work' in a repetitive cycle. A lure that is working properly runs through the following cycle: it comes to the surface, grabs air 'breathing', dives down leaving a long bubble trail, 'smoking' and when it stops smoking, it comes up for another breath. It should not run under the water without a smoke trail for any length of time.

All the different shapes and sizes go through these motions with different aggressions and timing. How often a lure goes through the working cycle depends on sea conditions, boat speed, lure position, line class and rigging.

When choosing lures we tend to specify them according to the species of fish we most desire to catch, such as Blue Marlin lures, Sailfish lures, Tuna lures, Wahoo lures, etc. Our experienced fishing crew will make the best possible effort in catching the main game fish species in the Maldives such as Wahoo, Dorado, Trevally, Tuna or Sailfish. The crew will deploy various types of fishing lures for mainly trolling throughout the entire duration of your fishing trip to target these game fish depending on the time, day and sea conditions. Casting surface popper lures along the reef edges to target mainly Jackfish will be another technique to increase your chance of a catch. This will also provide our fishing guests with the opportunity to actively participate onboard.

Every type of fishing has its time and place, pros and cons. When the conditions allow, live bait fishing can also be a productive method when you are targeting Sailfish and Tuna. Live-baiting may be utilised as an option subject to availability & feasibility. Horse Mackerels are commonly used here in Maldives as live baits. The action of a struggling small mackerel on a hook with a natural scent will draw attention of nearby fish, even enticing neutral or negative mood fish to a reactionary strike.

There are a number of methods and one being traditionally Maldivian where the buoys are left to float with a live bait for some time. Whilst this may not have the sporting element, it does have a higher strike rate.

Lures for Billfish, Tuna, Dorado and Wahoo	Lures for Trevally (popper fishing) – These lures work best in shallow water over the reef and require a lot of casting.	Live Baiting – Live baiting can be completed subject to request and availability of the bait. Please request from our Guest Service while booking the trip.
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# Fishing FAQ's

Can I catch a fish every trip?

Fishing is the same in the Maldives as it is in most places in the world. Sometimes the fish are on the bite and sometimes not. The reality is, the larger the fish you are targeting, the lower chance of a catch. Adding some time for bottom fishing or casting poppers for Trevally certainly increases your chance of at least catching something. We recommend trying a few different methods throughout your excursion.

If we are trolling with lures, will we get a strike straight away?

Sports fishing does require a lot of patience. The serious game fishing sports person accepts that you can go a whole day of towing lures and still not get a strike.

I have never used a game rod, if a fish strikes, how do I use it?

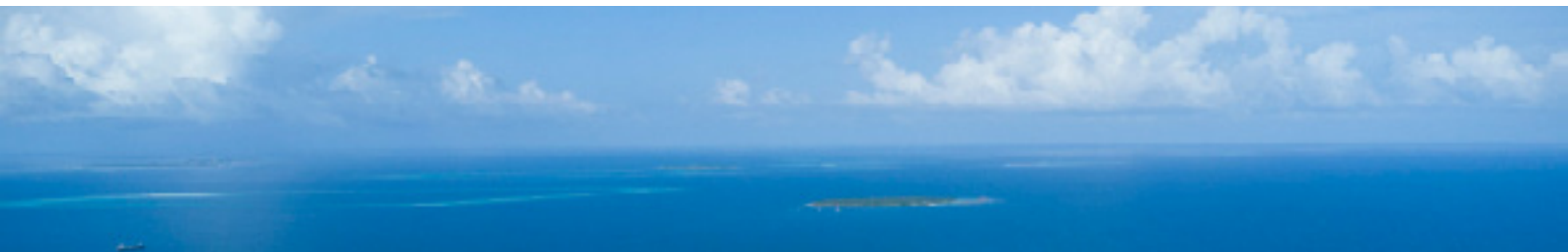
Game fishing is about patience, if you are lucky enough to get a strike, it is important to exercise this trait. If you reel too hard, you will break the line or the fish will drop the hook. Hence, it is best to let the fish run, play the game and use the drop and reel technique. Drop the rod down when you reel in, and pull up the rod slowly without reeling. This will let the rod and the drag of the reel to ensure that the line should not break. If the hook is set, you are patient and methodical, it will greatly increase the chance of landing the fish. Let the drag on the reel do its work even on a smaller fish. Please note that the line can break from being over aggressive or being cut by the fish itself. If the fish turns and comes back to you, you will need to be quicker on the reel to avoid slack line and the chance of the fish breaking the line or spitting the hook.

Why is it important to catch, take a photo and release?

Even in the Maldives, catching big game fish is becoming more difficult due to the reduced practice of catch and release. Hence it is important that we try our best to protect the sport for future catches and the environment. We greatly appreciate that you help us with this vision as we see a large fish being killed as a sad event.

What is the best season for catching sports fish?

Generally the best period for "big game" sports fishing is January to April, however there is still a chance on a big strike in other times of the year. If the season is in the southwest monsoon, we certainly advise that you mix it up a little with some big game fishing, throw some poppers for Trevally in the shallow waters and even do some reef fishing with baits to give yourself a chance with a Coral Trout, Red Sea Bass or Coral Cod.



## Maldives Fishing Season

The fish in the Maldives bite all year round, but for the Big Game, the best season is from November to March, although the sailfish also eagerly grab the bait from August to November. Tuna and Wahoo are well caught from October to March. Starting in December, the currents through the atolls go from east to west.

### JANUARY TO APRIL – NORTHEAST MONSOON

From December, currents start to flow east to west through the atolls. Water clarity improves to 30m+ on the eastern side of the atolls, with lots of action on the channel corners and submerged reefs due to the currents congregating the fish life. Currents tend to be stronger in February, but the surface water is calm, light winds and settled weather is the norm. Water temperature can rise to 30°C, so billfish often stay a little deeper. March and April continue along the same vein of calm conditions, until the storm clouds start to build from the southwest in late April. With the currents running out of the atolls on the west, the water is very plankton-rich. Underwater visibility on the west of the atoll during this time is generally 10–15m.

### MAY TO NOVEMBER – SOUTHWEST MONSOON

Fishing on the western side of the atolls during the south west monsoon season can see some good Yellowfin fishing. Currents are generally less strong and again very good visibility of 30m+. Water temperatures are slightly lower, which means billfish can be seen closer to the atoll drop off. During the southwest monsoon, on the eastern side of the atolls there can also be good Yellowfin conditions, but the boat often needs to head out 10–15kms off the atolls. Overall weather can be very unpredictable, with often strong winds and heavy rain periods generally lasting 1–3 days. This is the period with the highest rainfall per month, but can offer the biggest diversity of fish when you are able to get out. If the weather is poor, you are still best holding tight to the edges of the atoll.

## SPORTS FISHING ZONES

Depending on the time of year, we normally do fishing around the northern region of Baa Atoll and this also depends on your expected comfort level. In these periods, we travel to fishing locations 30-45 minutes away from Amilla before we wet the lines to give you the best chance.

Fishing grounds – location 1 (Aidhoo Beyru)	Aidhoo Beyru – 3 Nautical miles, 20 minutes from Amilla (Dharavandhoo Airport)
Fishing grounds – location 2 (Vinaney Faru)	Vinaney Faru – 5 Nautical Miles, 45 minutes from Amilla (near Kudarikilu Island)
Fishing grounds – location 3 (Dhigu Faru)	Dhigu Faru – 5 Nautical Miles, 45 minutes from Amilla (near Royal Beach Resort)
Fishing grounds – location 4 (Thulhadhoo Mathi)	Thulhadhoo Mathi – 21 Nautical Miles, 120 minutes from Amilla (near Thulhadhoo Island)

\*We do cruise beyond the specified locations to make the trip more successful for your satisfaction

## Releasing Hints

As mentioned previously, we greatly appreciate any fish released as this will allow a future to sports fishing in the Maldives. A big game fish should be released alive as soon as possible and at times can take up to 10 minutes to revive. There is a mandatory catch and release policy for all Billfish such as Sailfish & Marlin found in the Maldives.

There is also a catch limit for other game fish species such as Wahoo, Dorado, Jack fish or Trevally & Tuna commonly caught. All undersized or mature breeding specimens must be released at the discretion of our crew to ensure the long term sustainability of these fish. Our fishing crew has been trained to IGFA standards (International Game Fish Association) to safely catch and revive all game fish as part of the ongoing effort to minimise the fishing impact in Maldivian waters. Fishing guests are encouraged to take a quick photo to minimise stress on the fish before releasing after proper revival. Generally, larger fish specimens such as a Sailfish or large Jack fish will take a longer time to resuscitate for a healthy release. Revival time taken will vary depending on the size of fish and time taken to reel in the fish. This again, is done at our crew's discretion. Our fishing crew will assist you in taking a few quick photos of the fish before release. For exceptionally large Marlin or Sailfish, in-water photos at the stern of the boat are encouraged as it will not be possible nor practical to safely bring onboard the fish for photos. Safety is the utmost priority for both fish & guests onboard.

### CATCH AND RELEASE POLICY

Our team has been trained in catching and releasing billfish and we are keen to ensure future fishing stocks for the generation ahead. There is a policy that all billfish including Marlin and Sailfish have to be released. With regards to other pelagic species, we keep enough for lunch or dinner and release excess fish in healthy condition.

#### • TARGET SPECIES – SAILFISH

The Sailfish belongs to the family Istiophoridae and is related to the Swordfish and the Marlin. Named after its high, deep blue and black dorsal fin, it has a pike-like upper jaw and small scales embedded in its skin. Their average length is 6ft, although they can reach an impressive 10ft. The Pacific Sailfish, *I. orientalis*, specifically grows around 100lbs. Many sources believe that the Sailfish is the fastest fish, capable of swimming in bursts of 70mph.

#### • TARGET SPECIES – DORADO OR DOLPHIN FISH

Commonly called Dolphin Fish or Dorado, these beautifully marked pelagic and migratory fish inhabit all of the world's tropical seas. It is a prized light tackle sport fishing target and well respected for its acrobatic and aerial display. Vivid gold and blue when lit up during the fight it will readily take lures and flies cast around floating structures as well as baits cast in their vicinity when feeding.

#### • TARGET SPECIES – WAHOO

Wahoo belong to an exclusive grouping of fish that also include Tuna and Mackerel. It is very similar in shape to Spanish mackerel but can be distinguished by its different jaw structure, the almost uniform length of its dorsal fin and its display of over 24 cobalt-blue vertical bars over their silvery sides. A truly majestic fish when lit up in hunting or fighting mode and a prime light tackle sport fish.

Wahoo are usually caught while trolling for other species and are a fairly solitary fish. They are a true tropical speedster, swimming and slashing at its intended quarry of flying fish, squid and small Tuna. Marlin fishermen have cause to curse their encounter with this fish as they are known to slash at the feathery spray of water coming from the point where the line enters the water during a big run. Many monster Marlin have been lost to this unfortunate event. Their scissor-like jaw action with razor sharp teeth can inflict a nasty cut, so use extreme caution when handling.

· **TARGET SPECIES – GIANT TREVALLY/ JACK FISH/ BLUEFIN JACK**

More commonly called just GT's by most anglers, Giant Trevally are marauding brutes right up there with the best. Commonly caught by both lure and bait fisherman, specimens range from the smaller 2-3lbs school Trevally commonly caught in the estuary environment, right up to the 50lbs thugs. Caught around the reef structure and current lines, these magnificent fighting fish probably offer (pound for pound) one of the hardest fishing contests in the Maldives.

They will repeatedly crash surface poppers and fizzers with great gusto until hooked, ambush deep diving lures around any structure and pick off a live baitfish. Fish to 25kgs (50lbs) are prime targets but will require the best of quality tackle, many big fish being lost to the razor coral edges. Good quality 6kgs tackle is the minimum required. There is a growing sector of the sport where GT's alone are targeted in the Maldives. Most common method to catch the Jack fish is by trolling using surface popper lures.

· **TARGET SPECIES – TUNA**

Tuna is another popular pelagic fish found throughout the warm tropical seas of the Maldives although their average size is a bit down on those fish caught further south in the cooler waters. They can be caught using trolled baits or lures, or site-casting chromed slice lures to quite large schools marauding bait fish on the surface. Matching the lure size to that of these bait fish is often paramount, tuna's having exceptional eye sight, will often refuse any offering not matching their single minded attack on these schools. Fish up to 50kg are quite common and are exceptional eating, raw tuna (sushi) is considered a delicacy and command very high prices for quality fish.

Big yellowfin arrive just prior to the Marlin season while dogtooth are renowned tackle busters on the reef edges. The northern waters see huge schools of seasonal pods of northern Bluefin / longtail Tuna. These fishes are excellent targets on medium spin fishing tackle. One good method to catch Yellowfin Tuna is by trolling at a speed of 6 to 8 Knots using skirted lures or by using live bait. When yellowfins hit, they hit hard, usually hooking themselves with no help from you and yanking the line off the reel at a rapid rate.

## Reef Fishing

Bottom line fishing, sunrise or sunset traditional fishing. Reef fishing is conducted using a drifting technique as we do not anchor boats which causes reef damage. Traditional hand lining is used with boats that can give a variety of catches. The fishing locations are dependent on tides and weather and the reefs are normally accessed within 30 minutes of Amilla. For this, we do encourage a minimum size of 25cm and do have bag limits to allow for sustainable fishing. Scheduled shared fishing trips and private traditional reef fishing trips are available.

TIME	As per the weekly activities schedule (normally 2 hours at sunset)
PRICE	\$100++ per adult
INCLUDES	Shared boat, crew, fishing equipment
BEVERAGES	Water, soft drinks, juices
MAXIMUM GUESTS	8 guests
MINIMUM GUESTS	2 guests

TIME	As per the weekly activities schedule (normally 2 hours at sunrise)
PRICE	\$120++ per adult
INCLUDES	Shared boat, crew, fishing equipment and selected beverages
MENU	Sandwiches, snacks, sliced fruits, pastries and selected beverages
BEVERAGES	Water, soft drinks, juices
MAXIMUM GUESTS	8 guests
MINIMUM GUESTS	2 guests

### SPORTS FISHING MORNING CHARTERS (CURRENTLY BIG GAME FISHING)

TIME	05.30 to 10.30am
PRICE	Barracuda will be \$1200++ (Maldivian Dhoni)
INCLUDES	Private boat, crew, fishing equipment and selected beverages
MENU	Sandwiches, snacks, sliced tropical fruits, pastries and selected beverages
BEVERAGES	Juices, tea and coffee, water
MAXIMUM GUESTS	6 guests

### SPORTS FISHING AFTERNOON CHARTERS

TIME	14.00 to 18.00pm
PRICE	Depends on the boat we are using - Barracuda will be \$1200++ <i>(External Operator Sports Fishing Boat)</i>
INCLUDES	Private boat, crew, fishing equipment and selected beverages
MENU	Sandwiches, snacks, sliced tropical fruits and selected beverages
BEVERAGES	Juices, assorted soft drinks, water

### SPORTS FISHING BOOKING FORM

We hereby agree and accept that the terms and conditions stated on this Booking For.

Names of the guest

: .....

Total guests

: .....

Day and date

: .....

Room number

: .....

Dietary requirements

: .....

Price

: ..... Total USD ++ .....

Special notes

: .....





## TO CONSIDER

There is a bathroom on board the game fishing boat and reef fishing dhoni.

This activity could be cancelled due to weather or other issues.

A confirmation letter will be provided to advise what items you will need to bring. You understand that fishing has an element of chance and agree that the resort is not responsible if you do not catch a fish. You agree to the catch and release of all billfish.

## CONDITIONS & INDEMNITY

Any person wishing to participate in any above mentioned activity, tour, transfer or associated services supplied with this activity hereby accepts to the following terms and conditions. For the purpose of this indemnity, Coastline Hotels and Resorts operating as Amilla Maldives Resort and Residences and its subsidiaries shall be referred to as Amilla Maldives.

- (A) The participant acknowledges and agrees that in undertaking the activity that the participant may expose themselves to certain risks, dangers and are aware of those.
- (B) The participant agrees to conduct themselves in a safe manner.
- (C) Agrees to release, indemnify and hold harmless Amilla Maldives from all liability arising from participating in the activity. By signing this form, the participant agrees that they are over 18 years old and accepts the terms and conditions set out in this indemnity.

By signing this form, I hereby agree to the following Indemnity, terms and conditions signed overleaf and will not touch any coral or marine life.

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Guest Signature

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Date of Booking

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Team Member

