

Guadalupe Island

By

John Carroll

FCM's,

I just returned from a five day trip to Guadalupe Island aboard the Apollo. As many of you know, JJ Gerritson, owner/operator of the Apollo, has spoken a few times at our meetings. At one of our meetings a few years ago, he spoke extensively about fishing G-Loop and how it was his favorite place to fish. Here is a short account of an incredible trip that will be repeated as my own charter next season...as a six day!!!

JJ picked me up at my house on Sunday night and we headed down to the boat with his eight year old and another passenger. The boat was to leave the landing at 5:30 am and I did not want to be putting gear on in the early hours, so a good night of sleep was in order. We cleared the point by 7:30 and headed for Ensenada to check in and get our wrist bands to fish. Quick and painless process was done by 1:30 and off we went.

Tons of Whales and birds outside of Ensenada made for a fun afternoon. We watched videos of the last trip that Jessica (second ticket) had put together. She had 14 hours of video and was able to put together an amazing 40 minute video. The rest of the day was spent rigging and prepping for what was expected to come.

We made the Island by 7:30 AM and started checking out the weather side of the Island first. A few short sets and a few small Yellows resulted in near nothing for the first half of the day. The water had gone down almost two degrees from the last trip and conditions were very different. We ended up at the south end of G-Loop near outer rock for a great stop. It started with Tuna and Bonita, and ended with some big



Tuna to 70 lbs and Yellows to 48 lbs. I was on and had three on the iron to 38 lbs (at the landing), with all five of my fish that afternoon over 30. My goal on this trip was to get yellows in the 30 & 40 lb class!!! Mission accomplished in the first few hours. My bag also included three nice Tuna to 35 lbs. We made our move to the lee of the Island around 3:30 and caught a few more Tuna prior to setting up for the night.

One of JJ's close friends, Tom Phlager, followed us out on his yacht and did well on the Tuna at the North end, so we would start there on day two. The morning was slow with one fish on the chunk and two on Sardines. I was one of the lucky Sarded guys and landed a 60 lb fish that had all kinds of parasites on it...chunk bait was the call. We moved around a bit for a slow start and no current. I saw a Great White blow up on a Seal right next to the shore; it was brutal, yet really cool. I was seriously freaked at the rail all day.



We found a school that really wanted to go in the afternoon and they stayed with us for some time. I got spooled on 50, sharked on 50 and landed an 80 lb Tuna on 50! Most of the fish this day were 30-35 lbs with a few small yellows and Calico's mixed in. Our day ended with fish right up to dark. A great day and everyone is really into the scratchy fishing figuring what works best for them by this point.

The next morning came early and was again very slow. We set up at the Boxing Glove in the Lee of the Island and just watched as the fish really started to build. We started with a load of mixed Yellows and then it went straight Tuna for the rest of the day. It was never wide open but we had a few fish hanging most of the day. There were some really big units hanging around and they just did not want our offerings...with a hook in 'em. Not even the Kite was getting bit??? I did manage a nicer fish on the kite later in the day. We only made it to #7 on the kite rotation....that's how slow the fishing was for the big ones. Usually the boat goes through all

twelve in two hours! We had a few guys who had not fished Tuna before and they marveled at how strong these G-Loop fish were. I swear, the fish here are 60-70% stronger than those elsewhere. I only fished 60 a few times and did not do well on it at all. I spent the entire time fishing a 765 ML with a Shimano Talica 12 & 16 with 80 lb spectra and a 50 lb top shot and a Fluoro leader. I learned a lot on this trip, especially about stretching your leader so that there is no loop in it. Well I have to save something to talk about at the meeting, so see ya in a few days.

John Carroll