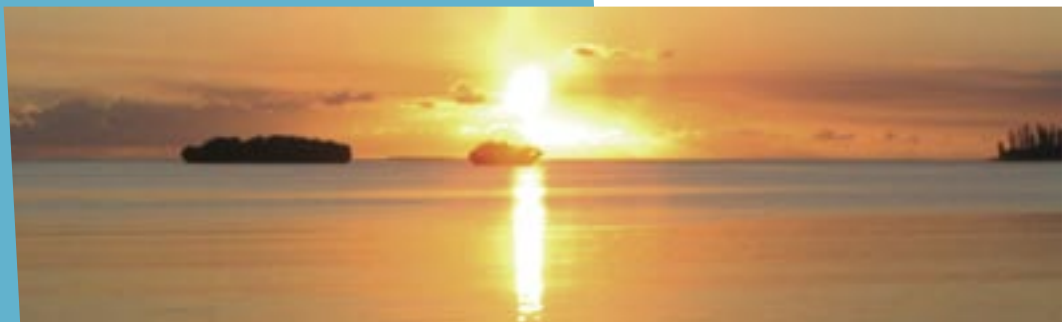


PASSION *of* *sport & fishing* *with*

NEW CALEDONIA FISHING SAFARIS





Isle of Pines sunset

*In the heart of the South Pacific,
New Caledonia, a French Archipelago,
shelters one of the world largest lagoon
surrounded by a 1600 km coral reef barrier.*

*New Caledonia Fishing Safaris, specialised
in the organisation of sport fishing charters
in the South Pacific; arranges the first **FISHING**
and **HUNTING** safaris in New Caledonia.*



Isle of Pines bonefishing



Contact with a "GT" (Poingam)



Black bass (lake of Yaté)

NEW CALEDONIA FISHING SAFARIS

The sport fishing experience

1. Fresh water fishing



One part of the Lake of Yaté

In the South of New Caledonia, the wide lake of Yaté (40 km²) offers a large population of **black-bass** (large mouth); other Caledonian spots also offer more or less important reservoirs.

A compulsory and free of charge yearly fishing licence is delivered by the South Province Office.



Fly fishing (Ouenghi river)

Black-bass fishing is regulated. Its annual closure takes effect at the end of the year for a three month period: October, November, and December.

At this stage, it seems interesting to plan a reliable research mission based on the study of the population and reproduction of these fishes as well as on the fishes of which they feed themselves.

In rivers, only a few "Jungle Perch" can present a fishing interest. These fishes are, in fact, quite mistrustful and don't rush so easily on surface lures.



Capture of a Jungle Perch

You can also spot eels, some of which can reach very big sizes and weights. In 1964, a specimen was caught in a stream flowing in the lake of Yaté. The eel weighed 104-lb and was 2.5 m long.

Fishing in fresh water in New Caledonia is therefore particularly limited.

2. Salt water fishing

New Caledonia is a dreaming location for saltwater sport fishermen.

2.1. Fly fishing

New Caledonia offers, on one part of its coast, flats, as far as the eye can see, in the middle of an incredibly beautiful, authentic and wild landscape which remains absolutely deprived of any fishing pressure.

The flats are mainly located on the extreme north of the « Grande Terre », on a certain part of the West Coast, on the Island of « Ouvéa » and on the « Isle of Pines ».

- The **Bonefish** is a Paradise for *Albula vulpes* also called "Daparra", "Yoyo", or "You" in vernacular language. The territory of New Caledonia could quite possibly become the **territory of a world record**.

Some specimens have already been caught with a net, two of them recently, and hold the record, one of them with 96 cm and the other one reaching more than 1 meter.

In 2004, a 1.11 m fish was unfortunately killed by a fishing hunting arrow on the Isle of Pines.

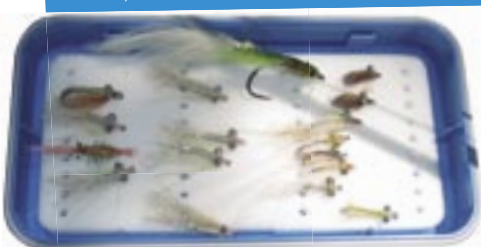
During the peak season (April to September), it is not rare to hook 5 to 6 bones a day.

- The **Permit**, *Trachinotus blochi*, was also encountered on Caledonian flats, particularly in Ouvéa. This fish is an adversary with fighting qualities, giving fishermen incredible sensations.

- The **Milkfish**, *Chanos chanos*, locally called "mekoua of the Isle of Pines", gradually becoming a sport fishing prey, is not yet very well known by sport fishermen. Living mainly in "school" and often observed at the surface, recently caught specimen weighed around 16 and 40 lbs.



"Flats", West Coast



Fly box, "flats special"



Bonefish (Isle of Pines)



Robert (NCFS guide)



Raphaël with a bone (Isle of Pines)



Poingam's bonefish



Poingam's boats



Milkfish of 10.350 kg caught on the West Coast

The populations of *Chanos chanos* are abundant in a certain number of locations in New Caledonia and the presence of "school" at the surface is a great show.

However, hunting these fishes remains particularly difficult, but wait until you discover the huge pleasure of hooking this incredibly powerful fish! Milkfish are incredible battlers.

Chanos only feeds itself with vegetal substances (vegetarian), namely seaweeds (green algae) but not of every kind.

It is therefore more convenient to present a fly to this fish (similar to seaweed) right before his mouth. The perfect cast would be to put the fly right into its mouth!

When all the conditions are together, sun, hot weather, calm sea (mirror), and big amounts of surface specimens, it becomes possible to hook a milk.

The picture below shows a 10.350 kg specimen (the world record fish, never presented for ranking to the IGFA), caught on a fly by Richard Bertin.

Such fishes were observed in a certain number of the reef channels and in the farthest ends of some bays.

- The **Ladyfish**, *Elops machnata*, is a true missile which can perform a good number of leaps out of the water, just like the big tarpons, in order to get rid of the fly. *Machnata* can reach a length from 1m to. 1.50 m.

My latest personal experience draws up an account of around thirty brutal touches: Hooked: 20; Caught: 8 (as most of preys were unhooked while leaping). This fish has a ravenous appetite and rush on small flies and spoons.

Elops are present particularly in sandy mouths.

Fishes observed in confined areas.

Mainly blind cast fishing.

- The **Pacific Tarpon**, *Megalops cyprinoids*, is a ready-to-fight fish which is never more than 90 cm long. It mainly remains in sandy estuaries. The tarpons often hang around school of milkfish and manta rays.

A lot of other fish species, from the smallest **trevally**, **emperor**, or **grouper**, to the biggest, for amateurs of Xtreme sport fishing, **maï-maï** (dolphin fish), **wahoo**, **spanish mackerel**, or **bill fish**, will be tempted by some good flies.

- The **Shield Trevally**, *Megalaspis cordyla*, locally called "Tuna of the channel" for its presence in the Woodin Channel. This fish travels very slowly in school, and is often visible at the surface in stationary school. It's a ready to fight fish when it get hooked on flies.



Milkfish of 10.350 kg caught on a fly by Richard Bertin



Elops Machnata (Ladyfish) West Coast



Yellow Trevally caught on a fly (Isle of Pines)



Pacific tarpon, West Coast



Carangue à bouclier prise à la mouche (Canal Woodin)



Ignobilis (Poingam)



GT of 27 kg (Poingam)



GT ends fighting (West Coast)



GT (Laurent, NCFS guide, Poingam)

2.2. Spinning, Casting, Popping, Jigging

- The **Giant Trevally** (GT for Giant Trevally), « *Caranx Ignobilis* ».

Giant trevally's hunting, locally called "Baoum", is practised with popper, jig or big spoons.

The « baoums » are usually numerous in some reef's inshore slopes.

One of our favourite spot was baptized by my excellent fellow, a fisherman too, "The famous fishing rock" because that day, at each cast, **GT's**, **spanish mackerel**, and **sharks**, attacked my favourite poppers, the big blue and the small golden one.

In only 1 hour and 30 minutes of fishing, several big catches, with an average of 25 kg, were hung on board, many fishes unhooked, and many breakages including 4 serious ones on monsters estimated at more than 60 lbs each.

Following such moments of excitement and after letting our adversaries return to their natural environment, we moved away, happy and tired, towards less crowded locations.

Many other carnivore species such as **barracudas**, **mangrove jack**, **spanish mackerel**, **job fish** (*Aprion virescens*), or **groupers** are present in the large and beautiful Caledonian lagoon waters.

- The **dogtooth tuna**, a fish with some specimen reaching more than 70 kg!

Jigging in channels is quite new here and not performed very often.

Warning: for anglers of terrific sensations!



Hammer shark (West Coast)



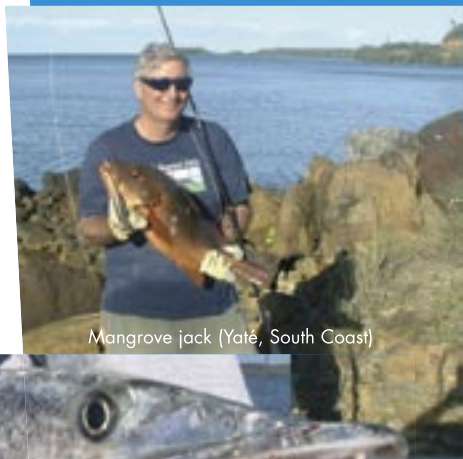
Mangrove jack (South West Coast)



Lemon shark (Poingam)



Mekoua (Aprion) after fly fishing (Isle of Pines)



Mangrove jack (Yaté, South Coast)



Big barra (West Coast)



Speckled blue grouper
after popping
(Moindou, West Coast)



Big game fishing
(North West Coast)



Big game fishing boat (West Coast)

2.3. Big game fishing

Big game fishing has now been performed for a few years in New Caledonia.

It seems that populations of pelagic fishes (bill fish, tunas, mǎi-mǎi) are present during the hot season and that populations of wahoo appear during the cold season. But, for different reasons, all these fishes have been less present along the coasts for the past few years.

For the past five years, it becomes more and more usual to perform hours of blue water fishing without anything happening. Fortunately, this is not always true!

Only a few boats go out regularly to perform deep sea fishing.

Most of the big game units (25 to 40 feet) remain in marina. Some of the coasts of New Caledonia are rarely visited by fishermen!

Only a few FAD (Fish Aggregating Device) were settled, notably in the South Province.

These devices disappear regularly for different reasons and are replaced some time after.

2.4. Fishing locations proposed by New Caledonia Fishing Safaris

New Caledonia Fishing Safaris organises fishing charters in the three Provinces and in different places of New Caledonia.

2.4.1. The « Grande Terre » in the South Province

In the village of **Thio**, located in a perfectly authentic and unspoilt environment, a few “spots” have been recorded.

Fly fishing and spinning from the shore or from small boats.

- **Project NCFS in process:** lodgings, sport and leisure activities, sport fishing camp centre.

The Woodin Channel, Prony, Mato, Five Islands, shore fishing and boat fishing.
Popping, jigging and fly fishing.

Noumea, only boat fishing, big game fishing, **jigging** and **popping**. The reef is 8 Nm far from Noumea.

2.4.2. La Grande Terre in the North Province

Poingam, located in the extreme north of the Grande Terre is approximately 6 hours away from Nouméa.

Two domestic and regular air connections (two one-way and return flights per week Noumea/Magenta- Koumac).

Fantastic fishing spot.

- **Fly fishing** (bonefish, permit, skip jack, trevallies, milkfish, bonitos.).
- **Popping** (very important populations of GT's, spanish mackerel, sharks, sailfish, tunas, mangrove jack, crocodilian loutom).
- **jigging** (GT's, dogtooth tuna, big billfish, spanish mackerel, sharks).

Voh, village located 3 hours and a half away from Nouméa by road: exclusively boat fishing, blue water trolling, jigging and popping.

2.4.3. L'Ile des Pins (Isle of Pines)

- **Fly fishing** (bonefish, milkfish, trevallies), in the fairy bays of the Isle of Pines (Gu, Upi, Corbeille) and on the magical islet of Nokanhui.
- **Jigging** (GT's, spanish mackerel, wahoo, dogtooth tuna, billfishes, etelis).
- **Popping** (GT's, spanish mackerel, tunas, trevallies, sharks).
- **Blue water and coastal fishing** around the main Island (wahoo, spanish mackerel, tuna, sailfish, marlin).



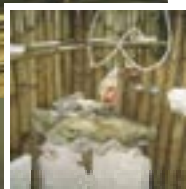
Wonderful "spots" on the West Coast



Wonderful fishing spot
(Hienghène, North East Coast)



The Safari Tent Deluxe,
New Caledonia Fishing
Safaris concept



2.4.4. The Loyalty Islands Province- (Ouvea : organisation in process)

- **Fly fishing** around the Island and in the north and South Pleiads (bonefish, permit, trevallies, milkfish).
- **Popping, jigging and spinning** (big and numerous GT's, spanish mackerel, dogtooth tuna).
- **Blue water fishing** (any pelagic).

3. One word on the NCFS concept in terms of accommodation

The accommodation in luxury safaris' shelter tents in fishing camps is part of the new and original concept of the NEW CALEDONIA FISHING SAFARIS' company.

The first shelter tent of this kind was imported and settled on the site of Poingam. This accommodation designed for sport fishermen was specially studied to fit fishermen needs.

The "Safari Tent De Luxe" relies on a 60 square meter deck and is composed of a bedroom with wardrobe, a chest of drawers, a bathroom fit out with materials issued from the surrounding environment (bamboo, shells, local timber, river rocks and stones) and a terrace.

Luxurious and matching perfectly the environment, it offers its users all the comfort needed (fridge, individual water electrical heating, hair-drier...).

Such accommodation is present in other NCFS fishing camps.

4. The activity

- **Sport fishing:** For four years now, **Richard Bertin**, managing director of **NEW CALEDONIA FISHING SAFARIS**, has been realising prospective studies thanks to which many sites with a big amount of sport fishing species have been recorded.

NEW CALEDONIA FISHING SAFARIS offers fishermen every single aspect of modern sport fishing and helps them discover local and traditional fishing styles. On request, discovery and fishing initiation training can be organised.

NEW CALEDONIA FISHING SAFARIS has opened several fishing sites in New Caledonia, on the extreme north of the territory, on the coast line, in wide nature and among wild deers and horses.

At the moment, real activity and leisure villages are being studied in order to be built. The main activity of these tourism centres will be the practice of both sport and leisure fishing.

- **Hunting & bow hunting:** Another activity will also be proposed: Big Game Animals for rusa deer, wild pigs, turkey...



5. The fishing circuits

Agreements were realised with our Kiwi anglers and hunters friends from **New Zealand Angling Ltd** and **James Gray Hunting & Fishing** our friends from Australia for the organisation of **sport fishing charters and hunting safaris**.

6. Ethic and affiliations

- **IGFA (International Game Fish Association)**,

- **BGFCF (Big Game Fishing Club France)**

and, within this context, performs the **"catch, tag and release"**, respecting caught fishes and the Environment.



7. Partnerships

NEW CALEDONIA FISHING SAFARIS is a member of the **Economic Interest Group New Caledonia Tourism**.



GP CHASSE & PÊCHE



JAMES GRAY HUNTING & FISHING



TFO FLY RODS



8. Tariffs

Quotations are realised on request and the tariffs of offered services by NCFS are made according to a large number of conditions: domestic or international air transportation whether they are included or not geographic location of the fishing spots transfers different types and quality of accommodation type of fishing performed simultaneous presence of fishermen and relatives NCFS offers therefore "à la carte" and adapted tariffs.

NEW CALEDONIA FISHING SAFARIS Ltd

Richard Bertin,

immeuble Le Cap Horn, 2 A, rue Lapérouse
98800 Noumea - New Calédonia

Tél/Fax 00+687 25 19 40 - Mobile 00+687 78 62 00

Web Site : www.fishinpeace.com

E-mail : infos@fishinpeace.com





New Caledonia located in the South Pacific.



The RAMADA PLAZA NOUMEA, is ideally located on Anse Vata Bay, only 10 minutes drive from the business and shopping centre of town and offering 188 elegant and well-designed rooms & Suites.

From spacious studio to three-room suite, every accommodation type has a kitchen (except Superior Room) and all facilities for a comfortable stay.

The hotel also features two restaurants: New Caledonia's only revolving panoramic restaurant, "Le 360°", Pool Snack, "L'Oasis" and a lounge-bar "Le Rendez-vous" & VIP Lounge on the 17th floor.

RAMADA PLAZA NOUMEA also has the Thalasso Energy Centre, New Caledonia's first Spa, the kids club and an activities desk organizing leisure and excursions to explore New Caledonia.

Noumea New Caledonia • +687 239 000
www.ramadaplaza-noumea.nc



RAMADA
PLAZA
 NOUMÉA

