

Total Confusion Under Sail

Written by Paul Belmudes
Sunday, 13 June 2010 18:51

New Surroundings Brings Kaos to Comfort When Fishing

With my hectic schedule these last few weeks, I finally had the chance to get out and really spend the necessary time to fish from my kayak while under sail. Wow, did I experience the discomfort of the mast being in the way and not allowing me to control and direct my rod over the bow. My preferred side to boat a fish was taken out of play when my trolling line went off on the left hand side. It was not easy to stick the shibi, however number seven got her. As I did not want to make myself look like a newbie, I edited my video to make me look better, purposely cutting out the six misses of trying to kage the shibi in the video footage.

The mainsheet line when furled kept hitting my head and became very annoying as I ducked under the line. When the sail is fully extended, it's not a problem! Nonetheless, the power of sailing made my experience greater. I was traveling at four to five miles an hour trolling with two lines using a Rapala Magnum CD11 Red Head on my left side and a dead opelu on my right of my kayak as my bait. I kept the Rapala about sixty feet behind me and the opelu 200 feet.

Earlier in my start, I took a strike with a mahi and was half way through the fight when it spit out my hook on the opelu line. I quickly baited and set out covering the distance to the ko'a grounds in Keauhou. Here's where I tried using a cone shaped palu ahi bag for the first time. I dropped my line 30 fathoms down using a sardine as bait and when the cone palu bag hit its target depth, it turned over and released the chum. The chum consisted of sardine and tuna that was blended the night before. The palu ahi over the ko'a actually worked. Unfortunately on the other end of my line was an aha (needle fish). Since declaring it a fishing day of competition in the Aquahunters Makahiki tournament, I quickly brought it to the surface next to my kayak and photographed it and then I released it.

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