

THE BOWFISHER

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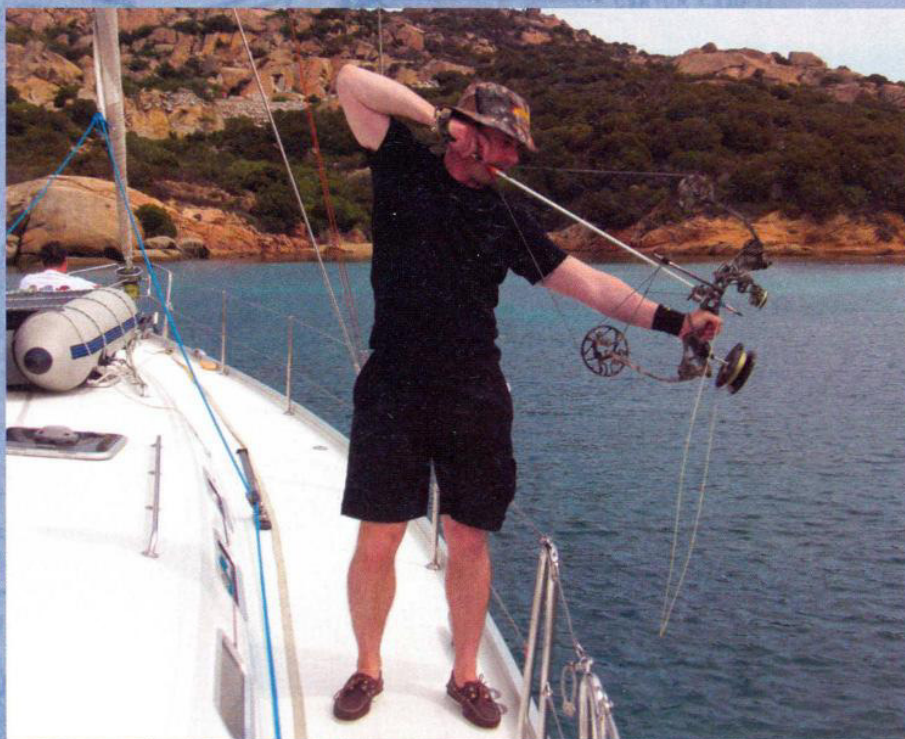
As an avid and passionate bowhunter, it is not a long tramp to start and get hooked also by bowfishing, and so did I. In Germany unfortunately every kind of bowhunting or bowfishing as well as crossbow, knife or spear hunting is strictly prohibited by law. Therefore I always have to travel to countries within Europe or overseas where it is allowed.

Spending a week on a sailing yacht cruising in the Mediterranean Sea can be very relaxing as well as sportive, especially when your task, duty and position on the boat is the grinder. What is the "grinding" for? The grinders are of course the muscles of the boat. The handles they turn create the energy that is used in the operations requiring human effort, mainly: getting a sail - or a man - up the mast, or trimming the mainsail, the genoa (the sail at the forward part of the boat), or the spinnaker (the big 'parachute' type sail flown in front of the boat) from one side to the other. Moreover the excitement increased because I had the chance to carry with me in my luggage my bow for trying out bowfishing.

So I carried with me my new, three weeks old, 22" axle-to-axle TNT-Archery Revolution bow along with my bowfishing equipment. The bow itself I equipped with a Ripcord Drop-Away Rest, a limbsaver S-Coil stabilizer and a Viper Slider Sight which I had sighted in up to 40 meters, although I did not use the site for bowfishing.

This small bow is an incredible little single cam cracker with an absolute smooth draw that shoots just as well as his bigger brothers and sister and the big advantage is that it will fit in a suitcase or travelling-bag so that a big and sometimes bulky bow-case is not nec-

essary especially when you are travelling by aircraft or as a foreign-hunter or when space is limited - like on the boat. For the future also a speed-cam and bowfishing cam will be available.



I had pre-warned the 6 other guys that I wanted to have a shot at bowfishing and after some teasing and smiling they were impressed about this alternative of fishing. Every day when we determined on the sea charts where we wanted to make a break for lunch, swimming or snorkeling in one of the many nice and sometimes uncrowded inlets and bays along the coastline of the island we circumnavigated I hoped to have a chance to try out the bowfishing - for me, by the way, for the first time.

The first day before we departed from our home port I checked out by feeding some bread from the boat what kind of fishes might show up. After about three to five minutes the first very small ones occurred than bigger ones from the size of the palm of a hand and after additional two or three minutes the big ones came nearer but stayed in about two or three meters depth and waited until the bread sunk down – very clever – they did not get the size of a human forearm by being careless. But all of a sudden they shot to the water surface like a



rocket and grabbed a piece of bread and were gone in the same speed. Interesting and amazing but highly difficult to shoot with bow and arrow I thought. Scaring me is not fair I said to myself and when we made our first stop in a cozy bayou and the others went swimming and snorkeling and told me that there are “monster-fishes” - I know there are no bigger liars than politicians, fishermen and hunters - I took out my equipment and stood on the starboard or bow side of the boat spreading tiny pieces of bread into the water at about five meters distance awaiting the big catch. Fortunately fishes came up and within seconds the water surface looked like a sizzling boiler – wow, many fishes in a circle of around five meters shooting through the water, but as small as an index finger. Within seconds the “bait” was gone. Hmm, new tactic: Throw a slice of bread into the water to attract the bigger fishes – not yet twenty seconds passed when the first

seagulls appeared and digged into the water – get lost damned birds I shouted. Let’s change position to the starboard or port side of the boat – currently the seagulls were busy quarrelling themselves with the bread so they did not follow. Ok, same procedure and actually some big fish, r o u n d a b o u t thirty centimetres, approached. Folks, that was exciting and the blood pressure arose as if a record whitetail buck would appear.



I took the bow, where the fiberglass fish arrow with the Retract-O-Blade Garpoon Fish Point was nocked in, checked that the fish line from the Bear Screw-On-Fishing-Reel is exposed and drew the 74# of the TNT Revolution. Three fishes were very close to the bread slice which was swimming around five meters from where I stood.



twisted it on the reel again but... NO fish! This procedure took place several times and I got a little bit enervated. But practice makes perfect ...or something like that and so the day came when I stood this time on the quarterdeck or rear end of the boat and a swarm of white seabreams (*dipodus sargus*) swam in five meters distance chasing for the slice of bread.

I aimed over the point and pulled the trigger of my release.... and the arrow fired into the water like a torpedo. Wow, amazing to see the arrow dive that deep into the water. About ten meters of the line were unspooled when I un-



I drew the bow and aimed via the fish point a hand in front of the swimming fish and ...was the lucky guy this time.

Ok, it is not a big catch but for me every shot or every animal I harvest counts and by the way it tasted good although it was too small to be fed up.



Bowfishing is a great experience and fun although I just shot arrows into the water several times until I had found out how to aim and handle the fact that the boat is in motion. The fish does not stop and invite me to shoot and the existing light refraction - finally I got one - and I will carry on with bowfishing whenever there will be an opportunity.

Take care and always good hunting

Frank

Equipment:

TNT Archery Revolution Bow
22" axle to axle
Revolution single cam
Adjustable stop 24"-31" draw length
same cam-no modules
35lb to 100lb draw weight
80% Let-off
8 1/4" Brace Height
Total Weight 3.25 Lbs

My bow is in

- Next Camo, 74# (adjustable 65-80#), 28"DL with a Custom Idler Wheel,
- Ripcord Drop Away Rest,
- Viper Archery Predator Quickset 2500 Sight (not used for the fishing),
- Limbsaver S-Coil Stabilizer (for fishing disassembled),
- Paradox Bowsling,
- Pro Hunter String Peep (not in use for bowfishing)
- Scott Wildcat Release

For bowfishing I used:

- Bear Screw-On-Fishing Reel & Fiberglass Arrow
- Retract-O-Blade Garpoon Fish Point



ALLIGATOR BOWHUNTS

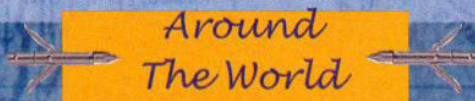
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Revolution single cam
Adjustable stop 24"-31"
draw length
same cam-no modules
35lb to 100lb draw weight
80% Let-off
8 1/4" Brace Height

Total Weight 3.25 Lbs.
IBO 270-275 fps
Limb Pod Dampening
Technology
2 3/4" Limb bolts allows for
in the field repairs
*no bow press or backup
bow necessary*

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