

Fishing South African Style A place I call paradise / Painsdane

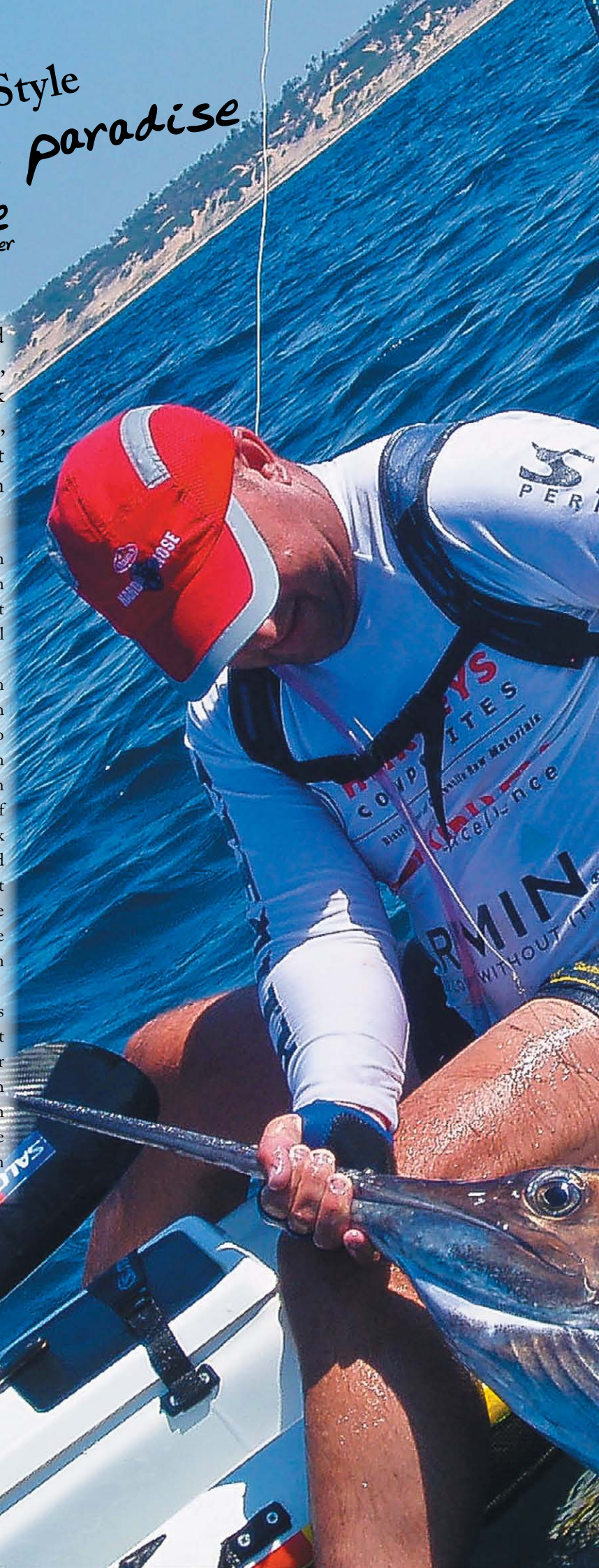
markus potgieter

I have been kayak fishing since school days and it always has been my passion and, lucky for me, my job now too! I now work at Stealth Kayak Fishing and do guided trips away with clients, along with general clinics. I have to travel a lot in southern Africa with my kayak and have seen some amazing fishing and places.

I have been to most of the fishing spots and lodges in Mozambique, but there is still this one place that I have been to a number of times that keeps drawing me back because it is so special and well suited to kayak anglers. This magical place is PAINDANE.

Here in South Africa we have a unique challenge to us in that we have a solid surf line breaking on the coast. With every kayak trip one has to negotiate the surf in order to go fishing and at times the surf does get up to 10 feet. On average it is always between 3-5 feet and so our Stealth Kayaks have been designed and engineered to handle surf launching, crunching waves, and shore break! The kayak has a hatch big enough to accommodate fishing rods and tackle, and is stored within the kayak so has to protect it against taking a knock from the surf while launching. The next challenge is the wind and current and this is where the Evolution range of kayaks, which are a little faster, are even better suited.

Travelling around southern Mozambique, Painsdane has become a favourite destination as it has a massive bay that creates a sheltered launch, however the current can be super strong here as the water from the bay moves out to sea with the tide. The water gets deep here very quickly and less than three kilometres offshore and you are in 60m of water. There is a reef system here that runs parallel to the coast for 400m





and is only 200m outside of the bay point and this reef is world class in terms of game fish! I know of 350kg marlin and 70kg GT being landed on this reef, with a personal best 44kg GT from my kayak last year. There has also been many Wahoo and sailfish landed here from kayaks and some massive Spanish mackerel (South African Couta) up too 30kgs. So the potential is there to catch that dream fish of a lifetime from your kayak!

The lure fishing is the best I have experienced and jigging can produce Jacks (South African kingfish) on every drift, of around 3-8kg in size. There is a never-ending range of fish species to target and if it's that monster fish you're looking for then live Bonito (tunas) are the way to go. If you can catch one and rig it in time, chances are it won't swim around for 10 minutes before it gets eaten!

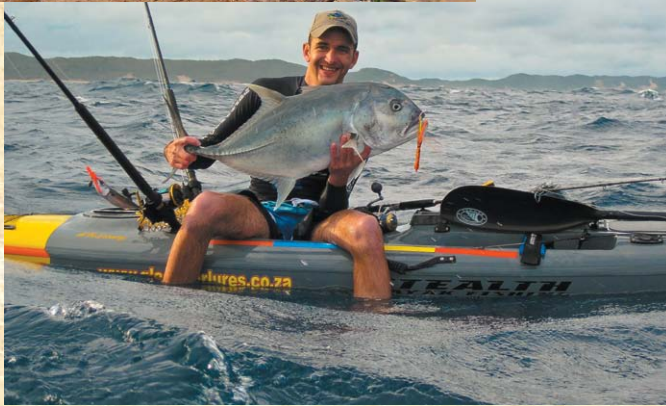
We are making our annual pilgrimage to Painsandane for the Stealth Kayak Fishing Species Challenge. I enjoy all the planning, and collecting and storing of your best baits for the competition. Trying to find that new lure that the fish can't resist, checking of marks and trying to get new marks for the area, bring it on! This all comes with sleepless nights; this comp is not for sissy's and we can fish 12 hours straight and can do over 50km in a day on the kayak. The event is over four days and at the end of the event you have fished and paddled so



Driving through the resort, what a magical place.



Stealth Paindane Species Competition 2010



much you don't want to see a fishing rod or a paddle for at least a week!

Let's have a look at what to expect from the Stealth Paindane Species Challenge. Here is a press release on the 2011 event...

Bigger and better it promises to be... A few very exciting format changes and I no doubt am excited at what this event will bring to us in 2011.

Firstly as with previous years the main event will kick off on the Tuesday at 11am leaving you with the Monday to test the waters. Remember the entry package includes accommodation from Sunday lunchtime to Saturday morning. Along with your entry package you get two meals a day, starting on Sunday night with dinner till your final meal which will be at the Friday night prize giving bash. Of course competition entry fees, goody bags, comp rash vest and shirts are all included as well. The only extras you would have to pay would be fees for your fishing licenses on arrival.

Guys, this really is an absolute bargain for one amazing week of fishing and fun.

Ok, so as I was saying, competition starts on Tuesday at 11 am... the catch is the Tuesday is a team format. Using previous results from the Paindane challenge I will nominate my seeded team captains. All the rest of the entered anglers will then go into a hat and each team captain will then draw an equal number of names to fish in this team captains team...novices, new anglers and Paindane virgins (now, now Brad) will all benefit. Using a species type event, teams will be put into positions after the days angling... anglers awarded points as per their team position.

Next stop is Wednesday.

Wednesday is a typical challenge day with launching at first light and weigh in from 4.30pm till 5.30 pm. This year Wednesday will be a biggest game fish only challenge. This means that the biggest game fish, excluding kingfish and billfish, will win the day... positions then will be recorded as per fish sizes... anglers awarded points as per their positions.

First place equals 1 point and so on... all the way down.

Next comes Thursday and Friday... Which will remain the species challenge days as per individual basis. Thursday being from first light till weigh-in from 4.30pm till 5.30pm. Friday from first light till 2pm. Positions for these two days combined will then be calculated and awarded. Leaving each angler with his species challenge position.

As with all previous years there is a big push for catch and release angling, so digital cameras are a must and all rules and regulations will be provided at the event.

Ultimately every angler now has three results. These points are added together and the angler with the least amount of points will be the 2011 Mozambique challenge champion... a large cash prize will be awarded to the winner and of course prizes to the top 20 anglers from the complete event. As with previous years there will be prizes, cash prizes and lucky draws on every night for each event and each day, totaling nearly R250,000... a massive prize pool for everyone to enjoy and you don't even have to catch a fish to win a great prize and of course the coveted dick of the day trophy will be once again hotly contested by everyone.

This is certainly going to shake up the results and make it one very interesting event... Those big fish anglers have no excuses now and the team event is going to bring some seriously interesting results as well.

The question will be asked: who has it in them to be the 2011 challenge champion?

The dates for the event as previously mentioned are the 22nd to 28th of May 2011.

6 night package Incl accom, Meals and entry:	R3995
6 night self Catering incl accom and entry:	R3095
Non Competitor – accom and meals no entry:	R2995
Non Competitor – self Catering incl accom no entry:	R2095
Camping Competitor	R3595
Camping Competitor - Self Catering	R2695
Camping Non – Competitor	R1995
Camping Non – Competitor - Self Catering	R1295

Editor's Note:

Sounds like an amazing place and a brilliant and well-organised competition. After reading about this I explored a little further on the internet and have added the Stealth Paindane Species Challenge to my bucket list of things to do in my lifetime... 50kms a day though, I better grab the paddle and get out there training... oh and maybe pick up one of those Stealth, super sleek, speed machines to keep up! ;) Justin