



*Few anglers know it, but marlin can be caught from the continent of Europe. Blues and near-record-size white marlin offer an unusual angling experience. Here's the story of one such catch.*

From July to October, the action is hot

## EUROPE'S BIG WHITE MARLIN

*Portugal yields surprising catches*

for white marlin along the southern coast of Portugal around Algarve. If you want to catch marlin in Europe, this is really the only place where you can do it.

Blue Captures Fishing Charters operates here with *Evader*, a Henriques 28 Express. On October 13, 2017, we left from Olhão with clients from Switzerland; one hour later, we reached an area known as the Little Drop. The weather was good: a sunny day with light winds at 4 to 6 knots and smooth seas. The water was deep blue with a temperature between 20 and 22 degrees Celsius (68 to 71.6 degrees F).

We were trolling two teasers and four 20-pound-test spinning rods with

dead bait for the whites. Additionally, we always have one 50-pound-test stand-up rod with a small tuna in case a blue marlin shows up in the spread.

The angler, Sascha Koller, is a freshwater fisherman, and it was his first time fishing for marlin. In fact, the trip was an anniversary present to him from his girlfriend, Nicole.

At the end of the day, Koller had released three white marlin, including this one, which we estimated at 50 kilograms, or 110 pounds. After almost 40 minutes, mate Hugo Siva grabbed the leader, and we had the release. —**By Luis Sarmiento, as told to Sam White**