



# Panafishing

*Fish the Tuna Coast  
Panama*



**Contact Pierre-André:**  
**panafishing@hotmail.com - panafishing.com**  
**facebook.com/panafishing**  
**(+507) 649 815 93**

## The Tuna Coast

The east side of Azuero's Peninsula, and especially the area around Pedasi, is the driest and sunniest part of Panama. The bend of the coastline near Pedasi allows us to fish the coast facing south or the coast facing north-east, according to wind and fishing conditions. Due to the absence of marina or anchorage and the complexity of keeping a boat here, this huge area has seen no fishing pressure and is less known than other parts of the Pacific Coast. We have it all figured it out since 2006.



The bathymetry and currents makes for a perfect habitat for all coastal species, while deep water holding pelagics is pretty close to shore on the South Coast. For some reason the average size of Roosterfish swimming this area is big, and some huge specimens over 90 lbs are caught on popper each year.

Being influenced by different oceanic currents than the Gulf of Chiriqui, the fishery here is naturally unalike. Here, dorado, big yellowfin tuna, sailfish and pelagics season typically occurs during the green season from mid-April to October.

Our lodge is located close to the small and charming town of Pedasi. The area is very safe and the people are among the kindest you will find anywhere.

## Weather

The dry season runs from early January to the end of April and rain is virtually non-existent. The sea conditions are usually pretty calm but there can be a bit of wind, especially in February. However, there is always a portion of coast where the wind is offshore so the coastal fishing does not get too affected.

The green season starts in June and ends in November. The weather during this time of the year is fair in Pedasi but you should definitely expect some showers and take a rain coat. Seas are usually very calm or dead flat during this season.

We close the lodge during the most rainy months of August and September to take holiday and refit the boats.

May and December are transition months with a bit of this and that, and are usually a good bet for diversity.





## Fishing seasons

Fishing is varied and consistent throughout the year, with some specificities :



The coastal species are present and can be targeted with poppers and jigs year-round. These include roosterfish, cubera and 3 other species of snappers, amberjack, 4 species of Jacks, and a variety of groupers and sharks.

Schoolie yellowfin tuna and dorado are also present year-round, but their number and size increase dramatically from early May to December. This is especially true for YFT.

Wahoo, sailfish and marlin are typically a green season quarry, although catches occur in the middle of the dry season. Be aware that if you wish to specifically focus on these species, there are better places than ours.

Year-round bycatches include sierra mackerel, snook, corvina, rainbow runner, bonitos and smaller species of tuna, barracuda, the odd tarpon and milkfish.

The dry season is the time when the sardines concentrate close to shore. This makes it a bit easier to locate and target the coastal species, so that period is prime time to catch these on top-water lures. The feeding frenzies that occur this time of year can be impressive. Throw a popper in the middle of a jack inferno and you might very well bring back two fishes.

The green season favors the fishing of pelagic species. It is when the place really deserves its « Tuna Coast » nickname. Yellowfin tuna are indeed plentiful and range from footballs to monsters. We organise our Tuna Special weeks at the end of September during the peak of this activity. It is also the time when cojinuas, a very effective baitfish, are plentiful. Although lures are still generally very effective, the availability of those baitfish can give the angler an edge when the fish does not respond well to artificials.

The green season is probably the best time for variety, since all coastal species are still present on top of the pelagics, although they display less impressive feeding behaviour.



## Our Captains

Our biggest asset are our captains. These guys used to be what we would call, with all the respect that implies, « local fishermen ». They have been navigating and fishing these waters since they are kids.

They are the most experienced fishing guides of the Tuna Coast and nobody else will ever come close when it comes to finding fish.

When Pascal Artieda created the lodge in 2006, he introduced them to modern fishing gear, techniques and guiding strategies. They have been guiding for Panafishing ever since, always displaying great professionalism and a good mood. We are glad and proud to have them with us and our clients love them.

Please note that our Captains only speak Spanish. They are used to guiding foreigners and a keyword glossary is available on each boat.



## Accommodation

It is sometimes hard to put words on feelings. Let me just say that you will feel good at our place. It has that special something.



The purpose-built lodge is simple yet beautiful and comfortable. You will enjoy its sportfishing atmosphere.

In the evening, chill out and discuss your day around the swimming pool or in the bar area where wireless internet is available.

All four rooms fit up to 3 persons and have A/C.

The meals we serve are simple, tasty and plentiful. Being French and catering to a lot of French customers, we do care about the food, for which we consistently have good reviews.



## The boats

We use two Caribe Pro 25' center console powered by twin 70 Suzuki 4 strokes, and two 26' Twin Vee center console catamarans with twin 140 Suzuki 4 strokes.

Three anglers can fish the monohulls, although two is ideal. The catamarans can accommodate up to four anglers, although three is more comfortable.



All our boats are well maintained and stocked with security equipment. They all have a livebait well, tuna tubes, and, of course, fishfinders, GPS and VHF.

Although we have four boats, we never book more than three at any given time so that we always have a spare boat ready to go, just in case. This allows us to guarantee as much as possible the good proceeding of your fishing trip.

We use a local style panga as a shuttle from the beach to the fishing boats.

## Equipment

Most of our clients prefer to come with their own, beloved gear. Therefore, popping and jigging outfits are not included in the price.

However, we have plenty of gear available to rent ranging from good to the most advanced gear money can buy.

We have 2 different packages that each consist of three outfits : one 50 and one 80 lbs popping outfit and one 65 lbs jigging outfit.

We can also rent just the rods or any item you might need, « a la carte ».

Our basic package consist of Shimano and Daiwa rods fitted with Shimano Saragosa and Penn Conflict reels.

Our quality package consist of top-notch Smith and Black Hole rods that were selected specifically for our fishery. They come with Shimano Stella and Saragosa reels. You get to chose which rods you want to use and believe me, this will be a tough choice.

All our reels are spooled with reliable Jerry Brown braid.

For more detailed information, please refer to our rental gear brochure, downloadable on our [website](#).





# **Our philosophy, our differences and why you should or should not consider staying with us**

## **We are specialized in popping and jigging**

Our operation was created for active anglers. If your kind of fishing is trolling and live-baiting for marlin and giant tuna, there are better places elsewhere. But if you want to throw plugs and drop iron at roosterfish, cubera snapper, amberjack, tuna and the likes, you have hit the spot.

Although trolling and live-baiting is always an option should you wish to rest your arms, most of our customers come for the fantastic topwater and jigging opportunities our playground provides. The absence of fishing pressure in our area makes for good results using these techniques. And to us, nothing beats a surface strike from a large roosterfish. Backing down on marlins using large sport-fishers and reels weighting over a hundred ounces simply is not our thing.

## **Affordable prices, value for money**

We try hard to keep the prices down. Our boats might not boast the latest electronics and shiny stuff, but they are pretty neat fishing machines and somehow fish do not seem to care.

Also, you will not be boarding from a dock with doormats and you will have to wet your feet every morning. It will be just you and your Captain aboard but who needs a mate to do the fishing for him anyway?

The bottom line is, we focus on what really counts. We don't sell luxury holidays, we sell fishing adventures. Simply put, we are cheaper than any comparable organization in Panama. Ask for our prices and make your own mind on the value we provide.

## **The only sportfishing operation in the area**

If you see another sportfishing boat during your stay, it is ours ! There is no marina or all weather anchorage anywhere close. This is why this area is less famed and why it was selected - and also why you should expect to wet your feet every morning.

Moreover, longliners are forbidden and the local fishermen have agreed to ban netting. This conduces to optimal conditions for the practice of modern fishing techniques. On our side, we promote catch and release and are not into the business of selling fish meat !

Unlike most destinations in the country, we are very close to the fishing grounds for maximum fishing time each day.

## **Laid-back fishing holidays**

We are a small-scale operation and intend to keep it that way. We aim at being a home away from home rather than a resort. Large groups will have the place for themselves.

The vibe is relaxed and the testosterone level is low. We are very serious about fishing but we care little about setting IGFA records.

The food we serve is a set dinner and is closer to grandmother's cuisine than sophisticated restaurant's one. Don't worry though, our very special place is absolutely comfortable, and you will love the food.



## Getting there

If your plane lands in Panama City before 4 PM, we can arrange for a same day transfer to the lodge. Otherwise, it is advisable to book a night in Panama City and transfer the next day.

On your last day, same day transfer is possible if your plane leaves after 1 PM.

Road transfer usually takes around four hours and a half from the airport and four hours from a hotel in Panama City.

Another option is to take a flight from Panama City to Pedasi.

Please contact us for up to date schedules and more information.

