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everything from large 28- to 31-foot cabin cruisers, down to nimble 23-foot super-pangas. Ladies appreciate the enclosed heads aboard a cruiser. There are even four of the "Mosca" super pangas and a pontoon boat that specialize in flyfishing.

Advance reservations can get anglers aboard the East Cape's only "twilight boat" that targets the heavily nocturnal pargo from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. This writer fished aboard the twilight boat last season, and we caught over 20 of the tasty pargo.

Among the many popular skippers are the East Cape's most senior captain, Jesus Araza aboard the *Eclipse*. This living legend still manages to take several groups out per week, even though he is ostensibly "retired." Another very popular captain, Vicente Cosio, is getting a brand new 30-foot Albemarle cruiser this year, christened the *Dottie B II*.

Year 'round fishing action
Literally hundreds of fish species are available here, and something is biting 12 months of the year. Offshore anglers will see the striped marlin bite heating up as early as February, and continuing to get better through the end of June. Most strippers run from 90 to 150 pounds, but a few over 200



BEVERLY "BAJA BEV" SELTZER nailed this big pargo on a swim-bait aboard the boat *Careleste* out of Hotel Buena Vista Beach Resort.



TONY SHANLEY OF SAN DIEGO caught this jack crevalle while fishing for roosterfish with Captain Vicente Cosio.

pounds are caught each year.

By early July, sailfish begin to dominate the billfish counts, and more blue marlin in the 200- to 500-pound class also show up. As August and September arrive, good numbers of sailfish are overshadowed by huge blue marlin [and a few black marlin] that can exceed 700 pounds.

November sees the sailfish and blue marlin numbers declining, and striped marlin are again the most common billfish. Yellowfin tuna and dorado are present in varying numbers year-round on the offshore grounds, with bonus catches of wahoo more likely in

the summer.

Yo-Yo fishing on the 100 to 200-foot deep reefs is growing in popularity, with amberjack to 90 pounds, pargo, cabrilla, black skipjack, and grouper present year-round.

Inshore fishing centers on roosterfish, perhaps the world's most prestigious small game fish. Roosters appear in numbers during May, peak during June and July, and sometimes hang around until November.

The most popular inshore species during the winter are the delicious [and razor toothed]

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sierra mackerel. Other inshore species include jacks, pompano, triggerfish, pargo and cabrilla.

Catching roosterfish with one's feet in the sand is a major angling accomplishment, but surfcasting more often yields smaller game. Depending on the time of year, sierras, jacks, needlefish, ladyfish, pompano, lookdowns, small pargo and even bonefish will keep anglers busy in front of the hotel with light spinning or baitcasting tackle and small spoons or plastics.

Tackle needs

First-timers and casual anglers need not worry about bringing their own tackle along, as the boats are very well equipped with good quality rental rods, reels, and trolling lures. Tackle tends to be on the heavy side, so even

anglers with plenty of their own gear may find it convenient to stick with using the boat's 80-pound tackle for monster blue and black marlin.

For simplicity, I have listed Penn Reels model numbers because they are well-known. Of course, numerous other reel factories also make excellent choices in the same size ranges.

I highly recommend packing reels into carry-on luggage for safety and security. Other than during the months immediately after 9/11, I have never encountered any problems with airport security personnel regarding reels with line on them in my carry-on bag at either Los Cabos or any California airport.

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