

Boca Chica - Panama's fishing hot spot

Written by T. Rob Brown (aka Roberto Chocolate)

Friday, 02 July 2010 20:06 - Last Updated Friday, 02 July 2010 22:21

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Sunset in Boca Chica. Photo by Roberto Chocolaté

The little fishing village of Boca Chica is the center for a number of projects, large and small, that are being initiated this year.

The background of this progress is that within the last few years a number of fishing oriented businesses have started operations because of the successful fishing that serious fishermen have had here with a huge variety of catches.

So much so that ARAP and MARVIVA held a meeting in Boca Chica last Saturday, with all the coastal fishermen from Remedios to Puerto Armuelles invited. There was a big turn/out. Bottom line is there might not be a lot more tourist fishing operations authorized in the future.

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PANAMA BIG GAME was the original operation in the area followed by GONE FISHING PANAMA, PANAMA SPORT FISHING LODGE, PANAMA SPORT FISHING CHARTERS, REEL INN PANAMA, BLACK AND BLUE MARLIN CLUB, HENRY FISHING and some other operations! PESCA PANAMA and M/V CORAL STAR actually are based in Pedregal but their boats operate in the Gulf of Chiriqui off Boca Chica. What's missing is dedicated Scuba Diving operations as the diving is truly "World Class" with big animal encounters the real feature here.

The above operations have lodging for their fishing (and non-fishing) guests but additionally area lodging includes CALA MIA RESORT, PACIFIC BAY RESORT, SEAGULLCOVE LODGE, the new, very up scale BOCA CHICA PLANTATION CLUB and the long established BOCA BRAVA HOTEL plus some other economy lodgings as well.

What's new and in the pipeline?

The new ISLA PALENQUE project promises several hotels as well as housing; Felipe Rodriguez' 400 hectarea ranch is in the concept design stage with enough room to develop a huge assortment of projects.

A David resident from Spain, who owns several pawn shops in David, has bought several lots in "new" Boca Chica for a small hotel.

The BOCA CHICA MARINA is back on the development track; a large company has bought a more than 300 hectarea property on the western end of Boca Brava and my friend Carlos continues to develop his boat works and diving center in new Boca Chica, now with boat fueling (diesel and gas) being added as well. He is also adding another boat garage due to continuing high demand. There are some other "rumored" projects that might soon be reality as well.

The SEAGULLCOVE LODGE has new ownership. The past owners continue their Panama investment program, which they started in Bocas as a small pizzeria. After selling that they opened a small Boquete lodging operation and after selling that they developed SEAGULLCOVE LODGE. Now SEAGULL has been sold for well over a million. Lot's of hard work and focus for sure but a success story, one of several, focusing on developing BOCA CHICA.

Housing developments include the beautiful ISTANA PROPERTIES DEVELOPMENT (see photo of Istana beach), also LOBSTER COVE and a number of individual view lots with additional houses going up.

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An enterprising American Father and Son team has even started a BOUTIQUE BREWERY and are producing their first 20 gallon batch of beer which they have pre-sold.

There's lot's of opportunities in Boca Chica. Visit soon, so you don't "miss the boat".