African tuna record was set when a 585-pound bluefin was caught off Cape Town. The catch was made by George Jaholkowski, one of the country's best-known sculptors, who landed his 7 foot, 9 inch fish in a half hour.

In fact all sorts of people have been landing big tuna lately. Dr. Hendrik Verwoerd, South Africa's prime minister, caught a 468-pound bluefin; and a South African fisherman, obviously a member of an opposition party, said snidely to me, "If the P. M. can catch 'em, then anybody can!"

The black marlin have been running big and voracious lately, too. The record, so far, is a 720-pounder. Much of the action has been centered around Fish Hoek, in Valsbaai. (That's one of the minor pleasures of South Africa — if you mispronounce the words a bit, you generally get their meaning: Fish Hoek is Fish Hook, and Valsbaai is False Bay.)

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