



Doug Sanderson handed over the driving to crewmate Jim Roth from Gayndah before taking his place on the back deck.

It was only minutes later when it struck. This was a "serious marlin". The \$1000 reel screamed as the giant of the ocean leapt metres into the air, crashing back down sending out a wave of water 10 metres high.

Our eyes were transfixed on the power and beauty of this creature as it stripped hundreds of metres of line off the reel in seconds.

We had him for just over a mi-

nute. Then he was gone, no doubt surging deep into the one kilometre of water underneath us.

This was what marlin fishing was all about. Boredom from hours without so much as a strike disappeared in a blink.

It's worth the wait, even if you don't bring the marlin in for the tag and release. Our third and final day finally saw Rammage break its duck with the skipper pulling in a big mahi mahi.

Finally, as the classic closed off at 1pm, we reeled in the lines and started to pack away the lures.

The excitement wasn't all over though. In an act of seeming defiance, a big marlin swam up to the back of the boat as we pulled in the "teaser lures". These are the only lures dragged out the back that don't have hooks in them. He stayed just long enough for us to admire his colours and then he too disappeared.

So in the end it was not even a sniff of a fish for this angler, but there will always be another day and hopefully another marlin to watch in full flight.

I'm just hoping this time it will be myself in the game seat locked and ready for battle when he strikes.



OUR ONE FISH: We didn't land the big marlin (pictured left) but we did bring in this brilliant dolphin fish. Tagged and released, he stopped on board for one quick picture.

Photos: PETER CHAPMAN