

# Spear Junkies

8x30' in 4K

Meet South African Cris Dillon who travels far and wide in search of fishing paradises, and also to encounter 12 most challenging fish anywhere in the world.

Teaming up with local guides, these free-divers often go as deep as 100 feet to get near their target fish. In doing so, they enter a world of unparalleled beauty and unprecedented dangers. Sharks, whales and strong currents are present almost everywhere.

A series that will bring excitement back to the fishing shows.



**Siddh Bhatnagar**

+44 1276 683 764

[siddh@optimumtelevision.com](mailto:siddh@optimumtelevision.com)



## Episodic Synopsis

### Episode 1 Mozambique Madness

Cris and guest diver Jamie Bretzke travel to scenic Southern Mozambique in search of large pelagic fish such as marlin, giant trevally Spanish mackerel and sailfish. Having travelled to many of the worlds top spearfishing destinations Cris is amazed at the abundance of sea life in Mozambique a short flight from his home in Cape Town and Jamie and Cris get to explore many of the wrecks, reefs and Bluewater pinnacles of this amazing destination. The trip leads them to encounters with 2 large Marlins and GTs testing their gear to the max as they both strive to get their first ticks of the series...

### Episode 2 Madagascar Part 1

Cris and guest divers Johan Potgieter and Niall Cameron reach the island of Nosy Be in search of dog tooth tuna, often referred to as devil fish, due to their formidable strength and difficulty to land as they are found on deep drop-offs and fight extremely dirty. There is also plenty of sailfish action and some amazing diving on the world renowned Castor Banks where guide Chris Coates gets more than he bargained for when a large silver tip shark bites the end of one of his fins off. There is also snorkelling with large green turtles off [Sakatia] island as these majestic giants graze on seaweed beds. Johan gets a tick on a sailfish over 30kg and is amazed at the speed and dexterity of these fast growing and highly sustainable fish.

### Episode 3 Madagascar Part 2

Bad weather starts this episode with the Captain Paul Jorge cutting the anchor chain as a fail-safe in case we need to be free of the reef in the high winds and cannot release the anchor. The afternoon arrives with the wind dying down and some more sailfish action. The team then decides to back to Intermedia bank to try and get some GTs and Doggies in this more remote location. Lots of action follows and Cris manages 3 ticks for the trip with an amazing sailfish, dog tooth and GT. The trip ends with a visit to Lemur Land to see a wide variety of these and other amazing endemic animal species up close and personal.

### Episode 4: Panama

The name Panama means abundance of fish and the team head to Panama City to meet Enrique Untiedt their fiery Spanish guide and good friend from a trip to Panama the year before. The first day they dive the Las Perlas Islands about a 2-hour run from the city before heading to Haiku a small village near the border of Columbia and a largely unfished area known for bluewater Marlin fishing.

Cris lead by Enrique, probably Panama's top diver, is focussed on trying to get a large Cuberra Snapper over 25kg and a Rooster Fish over 20kg, no mean feat at this time of year. The area also holds large amberjack and the odd massive tarpon that has swum through the panama canal into the wilder pacific side of Panama. The diving is great with reasonable visisbility all week and some epic fish in a coastline that resembles something out of Jurassic park.

### **Episode 5. Latham Island**

Latham Island is a 24-hour sail from Zanzibar populated with large numbers of sea birds which use the island as a breeding sanctuary. Latham is legendary for large Doggies and famous for producing massive specimens. Eric Allard is the guide of the expedition assisted by Barret Harvey on Camera. There are also some amazing spots for Yellowfin Tuna and the SpearJunkies team of 4 divers make a field day of hunting these majestic fish using all the experience on this species also found abundantly in their home waters off Cape Town. Cris makes an attempt on a marlin over 300kg which tows the team for over an hour and a half..

### **Episode 6: Tonga**

Tonga situated 3 hours north of New Zealand sees Cris and cameraman Chris Coates head to Ha Pai island 30 mins flight from the capital Island of Tongatapu. They join a team charter guides who help them to explore far and wide to hunt both Bluewater and reef species. The favourite destination is 2 volcanoes, 80km ride from Ha Pai where the team find some great Doggie Spots. Visibility is over 30m and Cris lands a very large Bohar Snapper, a fish which is close to his heart, as he holds the world record for this fish. The team also try out the local spiritual drink of Kava in a kava ceremony and some of the amazing Tongan cuisine. The team also has some very hairy encounters with sharks keen to pillage their fish and have to move dive spots often just to be on the safe side.

### **Episode 7 : New Zealand**

Cris and Chris meet up with 7 time New Zealand champion diver and guide Julian Hansford to explore New Zealand in search of a large Yellowtail Kingfish over 20kg. The team are based in North Island in the beautiful village of Kuaotunu on the coromandel peninsula at Julians Spearo Camp, They soon head to Mayor Island and meet some large kingfish but have to travel further south to White Island in the Bay known to hold really large specimens. White Island is an active Volcano situated 60 km offshore from scenic Whakatane. The diving is absolutely amazing with 20plus m visibility and some massive schools of large kingfish.

### **Episode 8: Qatar**

Qatar is famous for its Spanish mackerel (target over 20kg) and Cobia (target over 25kg). The SpearJunkies team of Cris Dillon, Chris Coates and Barret Harvey are hosted by "MJK", one of the best known spearos in the world and holder of a record 9 ticks on the SpearJunkies t-shirts. The team dives mainly from MJK's beach house near [Al Kuwar] with its slipway at the end of his garden and with another world class diver Nasser. Some amazing local foods are prepared for the team and some amazing fish are taken, the smallest and tastiest called a Halliwaloo which swims in schools on a horizontal and not vertical plane. MJK gets a very large Cobia of 39kg and Nasser gets a Spanish of over 27kg, but Cris struggles to get another 2 ticks on his shirt to tie with MJK, will he do it...