

In the beginning, sport fishing in Port Aransas was done either between the jetties or very close offshore, and the major quarry was tarpon.

Charter boat Captain Byrd Minter, from Aransas Pass, had caught a few sailfish while snapper fishing, so he knew they were in the Gulf, but not much about how to rig or fish for them.

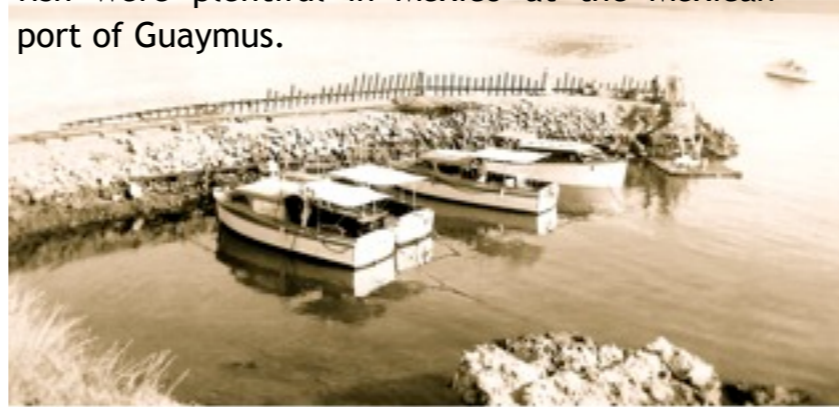
Byrd passed the word on to one of his customers, Mr. Haiff, a San Antonio sportsman. Haiff decided to go and try it out.

In 1939, he instructed Captain Minter to trailer his Chris Craft, "Olita" to Guaymus, Mexico, a trip of 1350 miles, through mountains and desert.



An adventure followed. Capt. Minter crossed into Mexico at Nogales, AZ, and spent five days driving the remaining 250 miles to Guaymus over narrow rough wagon trails.

A visiting west coast fisherman told him that bill fish were plentiful in Mexico at the Mexican port of Guaymus.



They returned with the technique and equipment and sailfish and marlin joined tarpon as quarry in Port Aransas.



The boat was launched and they spent one month learning to fish for marlin and sailfish.

The Next Tarpon Rodeo saw most boats equipped with outriggers for catching bill fish. The game had changed forever.

