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1305-:fishing: 1982

havana, sept 7, reuter -- the biggest blue marlin ever captured off the cuban coast, weighing 642 pounds and having a length of 4 metres, was subdued following a four hour battle just north of havana and towed into the yacht harbour of barlovento to the west of the city.

the fisherman, miguel coello, hooked the marlin while fishing from a 27 foot craft +in the stream+, the term ernest hemingway used to describe his favourite fishing grounds where the straits of florida and the gulf of mexico meet.

the biggest previous catch off the cuban coast was registered during the annual hemingway tournament here in 1978 when a 568 pounds blue marlin was captured.

according to the guinness book of records, in 1974 a blue marlin weighting 1,142 pounds was captured near nags head, north carolina.

samuel capiro, sports' director of the cuban tourist institute told reuter that --while there might be bigger blue marlins in the sea, we agree with hemingway that nowhere in the world will a fisherman find more blue marlins than in the stream.+

--reuter/Lem