



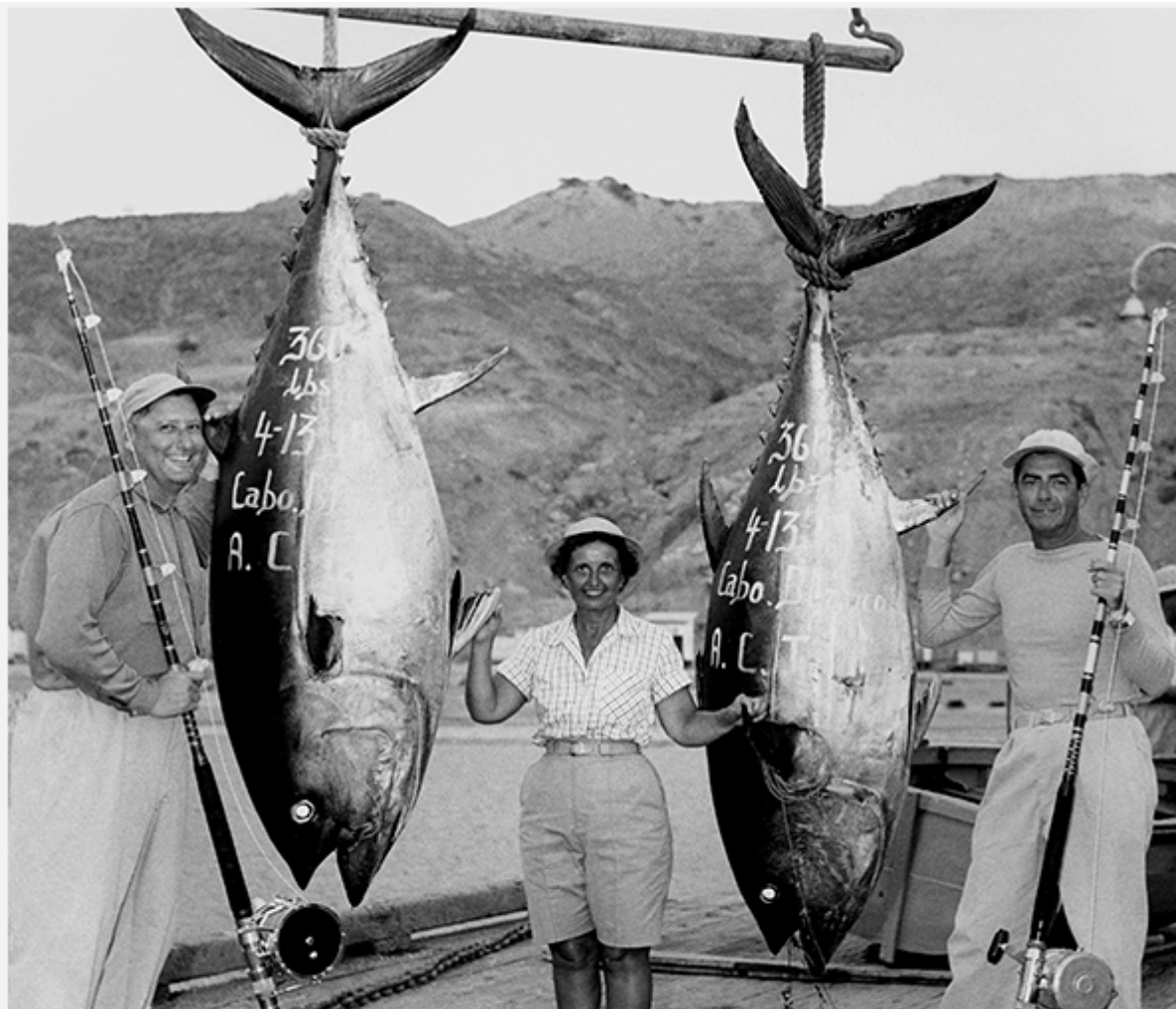
Travel With Heart

INSPIRED PEOPLE, AMAZING STORIES

A small illustration of two people walking on a path towards a sunset over a landscape with trees and water.

Fishing for Sustainability in Peru

Posted by **Costas Christ** of National Geographic Traveler in Travel with Heart on October 16, 2014



Three fishermen show off giant tuna in Cabo Blanco at the height of its golden era, in 1959. (Photograph by International Game Fish Association, Getty Images)

Some 2,500 square miles of ocean are at stake off northern [Peru](#)—they could become part of a new ecotourism project or be turned over to more oil drilling platforms.

In the 1950s, Peru's [Cabo Blanco Fishing Club](#) was a famous rod-and-reel outpost—the world record black marlin, weighing 1,560 pounds, was caught here. Ernest Hemingway visited, along with other celebs.

Today, giant marlin and big tuna have been decimated by industrial fishing, the club lies abandoned, and local villagers struggle to get by.

Enter [José Koechlin](#), a Peruvian visionary who plans to resuscitate the property as an ecolodge catering to catch-and-release fishermen, surfers (the waves are rad here), and other ocean lovers.

After years of searching, he located and restored the [Miss Texas](#)—the boat that Hemingway used. “We can create a new marine reserve to revive the sea and improve the local quality of life,” says Koechlin.

Meanwhile, oil companies continue pressuring the Peruvian government to let more drilling in.

Here's hoping Koechlin wins this one.

*This piece, written by National Geographic Traveler Editor at Large **Costas Christ**, appeared in the magazine's October 2014 issue. Follow Costas on Twitter [@CostasChrist](#).*

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