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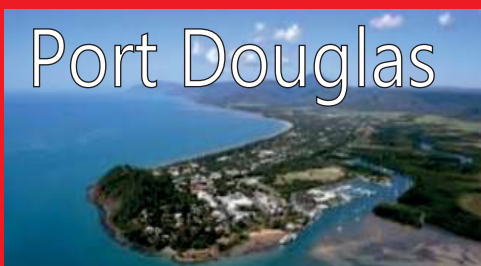

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Fishing Port Douglas News



with Heff

From all reports, the festive season trade went as well as could be expected in the marine industry. The weather was conducive for most of the time albeit a tad hot under the collar being out on the water. Not only for charters, it was the local scene which also took full advantage over the holiday season.

For example long term local family, the Scott's, hit the water at every opportunity. That's the beauty of living in Port Douglas, you don't require a mega vessel to hit the water and bare the fruit which our wonderful fishery can provide. As with this time of year it's not all about quantity but definitely quality when a fish hooks up on the end of your line. Trolling and jigging is this family's preferred method as father Matt, son Ethan and daughter Eva

demonstrate. To be frank, they don't travel the extraordinary miles to catch the likes of mackerel, nannygai, giant trevally and cobia for example. It's a simplistic family plan with the attitude if you catch a fish it's a bonus as opposed to being on the water itself and enjoying our lucky lifestyle.

As for more in our area **continue onto Page 6** for more information.....



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Fishing On the Daintree

with Jamie Beitzel



Over the Christmas period I took a bit of family time off to work on my property over the Daintree River as I had access to an excavator to clear the property and build a new shed down the back. Everything was going to plan but on New Years Eve right on dark time I misjudged where my son and I had dug quite a deep hole. Silly old me stepped into the hole and did a big number on myself. Just above the ankle I snapped my leg completely in half, involving a double sided operation. As time has evolved it has dawned on me that it is a serious break which will keep me out of action till April at the earliest.

So my sincere apologies for no reports as I've been laid up on my back since. I've attached a couple of photos to give you an idea of my ordeal and what the project was when the incident occurred.

I have been keeping an eye on the weather and feel that the recent rain will very much rejuvenate the river, it would have been a bit tough prior as the water temperature would have been through the roof. As long as the decent rain doesn't prolong for too long I believe the Daintree will fish quite well during February. This is positive for the opening of the barra season. If the rain does persist and the water remains dirty, don't be afraid to use the best quality squid you can lay your hands on and good fresh prawns are another go to plan to catch a variety of other species.

We do have a back up crew willing to assist wherever possible for charters in the meantime, so please don't think we have abandoned you and give us a call. We have access to a few reputable locals so we have a good grip on how the river is behaving. We also have a back up charter in Port Douglas so please give Heff a call on 0409610869, he's very resourceful

Again my apologies but it's all about some serious rest for myself and hopefully be back on the water sooner rather than later.



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Akula Sportfishing



with Jason Knack

Welcome to another year and hopefully more sensational fishing to come.

I'm pleased to say that our Christmas and New Year period of trade was pleasing, aided by some favourable weather along the way. The fishing was also positive for the most despite dealing with a change in season with currents, wind direction and rising water temperatures.

Every charter presents a different set of circumstances whether it be the clientele or sea conditions and you adjust accordingly. Some days actually surprised me more than others when the fish were on the absolute chew for some unknown reason and that makes my job easier.

Whether it be a half day coastal reef or full day outer reef I tend to fish as deep as possible when the conditions are so warm. As I've already eluded, the shallower waters along the coast actually were the grounds that produced some fantastic results. It's hard to put your finger on it but maybe schools of fish were passing through or some of the nursery fish had put on some serious weight in recent times.

On the outer reef it was as you'd expect with some super quality fish but the ever presence of the 'tax man wearing grey suits' (sharks) that tended to cause a few problems at times. It is becoming more of an issue as time goes by for customer experience, let alone the bill that can rack up on fishing gear.

Over the course of the month my highlights included

Great Barrier Reef Port Douglas



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some pretty handy large mouth and small mouth nannygai, coral trout / bar cheek trout, red emperor and various trevally.

I've been pressed with charters right up to the Australia Day long weekend and with a bit of untoward weather setting in currently and drop in tourists, I'll take the time to enjoy at home.

It's a time coming up to reassess the business moving into 2025 which will be a focus, including elections and general local economy.



Fishing Port Douglas News

with Heff cont

Fishing out on the continental shelf was a real probability considering the weather at hand during January. However it was at the back end of the month when it fired proper when some quite average weather with wind and rain arrived. At Fishing Port Douglas we had an American couple from Cape Cod as clients onboard our 40ft game vessel for the day. To be honest the weather was very questionable however it worked well within their favour. The change in barometer and conditions ignited the fish into action. Yellowfin tuna, Spanish mackerel and a decent black marlin were all part of the experience. The marlin was a real bonus because it was typically outside of their season, however the schools of tuna that were present on this day was the calling card for them to remain on these grounds. It goes to show that there are no hard fast rules when it comes to fishing.

Moving forward Port Douglas will recede into a traditional quiet period for a couple of months in regards to the tourist front. However you can bet your bottom dollar that the locals will be out there at every chance with the water's to themselves.

With the monsoon trough kicking in as we speak, we'll be all on Low Pressure system watch in the Coral Sea watching for any cyclone formations.



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