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VOLUME 289 PRICELESS

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*Local Fishing Reports  
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# Fishing Port Douglas

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As to be expected the month of March 2025 proved to be a typical wet season period in the tropics. For those who have lived in the area for sometime would call it an old fashioned traditional wet season. Statistics indicate that there has been a general rainfall of just over 1000mm but there have been pockets which have received double this typically around the rainforests & great dividing range. It hasn't caused too much flooding along the coast line, only minor interruptions now & then to everyday living.

As a local and tourist alike, nearly every 24hrs has been like 'Ground Hog Day', which has seen rainfall overnight with bands of rain during the day which seem to last momentarily or up to a few hours. The beauty is the wind factor for boating has been very mild, so if you can withstand the chance of rain it has been mostly favourable to venture wherever you wish.

Word on the fishing street is that April is ripe for a big month. We'll expand a bit further as you'll read. Here's the latest from the government to absorb.

## Temperatures

While sea surface temperatures are forecast to remain around 1°C above the long-term average for April, they are no longer at levels expected to cause further heat stress.

Over the past week, sea surface temperatures in the Far Northern region increased to 1.9°C above the long-term average for March. Sea surface temperatures have increased by 0.5°C to 1.2°C above the March average in the Northern region and have decreased slightly to be 0.7°C above the March average in the Central region. In the Southern region, temperatures increased by 0.4°C to 1.2°C above the March average.

## Rainfall

The Bureau forecasts above average rainfall for North Queensland in the coming week. This could lead to continued flooding and freshwater intrusion in the Marine Park for the Far Northern, Northern and Central regions. Rainfall is forecast to be higher than usual over all Marine Park catchment areas in April, potentially further reducing sea surface temperatures.

## Reef Health

A total of 440 in-water Reef Health and Impact Surveys (RHIS) were conducted across the Marine Park (entire Great Barrier Reef) in the fortnight from 6 to 20 March. Very minor Coral bleaching was reported on our area. This including mostly low (1-10% prevalence) to medium-level (11-30% prevalence) coral bleaching in the Northern region. The remainder of the reefs had very low levels of mortality.

In a nutshell, we are in pretty good shape up here despite all the left wing agenda which can cause un-necessary distraction.

**Please follow on for our local Port Douglas Fishing Reports ...**



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## Local Fishing News

There's no question the amount of rain received in the region hasn't afforded the best results for fishing in the month of March with rivers / creeks discoloured and fresh water pushing right out to the reef some 15 miles and further at certain locations. This is no surprise to those in the know.

### River & Creeks

Daintree River has been tougher because it receives a lot more water from a bigger mountainous catchment area. Live bait and lure fishing has been challenging. Best results have been using a combination of quality squid and pilchard for javelin fish, mangrove jack and golden trevally. This system is however expected to fire up in a big way during April.

The Dickson Inlet is well known for its mangrove jack fishing and they have been really responsive to half a pilchard lightly weighted around rock walls and hard against the banks with plenty of mangrove cover, typically on a decent bend in the system. There have been reports of some nice barra caught down near the mouth on a rising tide. Also they've had good moments at certain causeways on the turn of the outgoing tide. Once the rain eases it's not a bad time to start exploring with your mud crab pots which should see them seeking saltwater territory.

### Reef Fishing

To be honest a bit of a frustrating month, not necessarily from weather but because the fish have been finicky. This includes coastal right out to the reef. There's been a smatter of nannygai and irregular reef species but nothing to raise the eye brows. It's typical whilst the rain creates its own scenarios but be rest assured, as locals we are eyeing off April as a turning table. Sea temperatures continue to drop and the fish love it having been on a diet. Also a potential change in the ocean current from north to south can have the biggest effect. We start to see a decent burst of tourist trade in April and the reports will flow from our experts skippers. The tip from our end is, if the weather is on our side the Easter & School Holiday period it will rock .... The timing of these set dates are the best we can hope for!

### Bookings

There is significant momentum starting the 7th April. The Easter weekend is becoming very limited and the week following included. The quickest way to secure your spot is to call 0409610869, snooze and you may struggle. However at Fishing Port Douglas we are the masters of generally working out a program.



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