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MAY 25

*Local Fishing Reports
& Some More*



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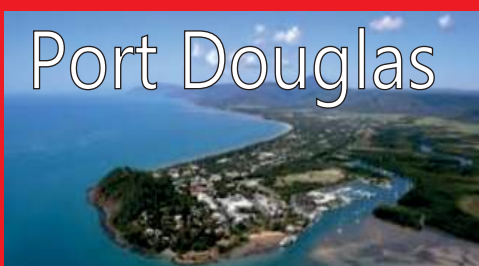
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Fishing Port Douglas

with Heff



The 2025 Port Douglas Marlin Challenge from 1st to 4th October campaign launch will occur next week but here is the exclusive inside scoop.

We are anticipating approximately 60K in Cash Prizes alone this year thus far. The breakdown of prizes allocated will look like this, with the concept that there's a significant chance that most participants will be eligible to win a category according to the rules (already announced on the website www.portdouglasmarlinchallenge.com website). This prize pool also has potential to build further.

Entry

2K per vessel to enter which allows up to 5 pax including crew to attend the presentation night on the 4th October at the Salsa Bar, Port Douglas. Attendance required to be eligible to claim prizes. Ability to add extra pax on the presentation night via the registration form on the website.

1K Calcutta entry fee (details below)

Skipper's Category

20K Winning Skipper & Awarded the Perpetual Brett Thomas Trophy (Proudly Sponsored by Australian Steel Traders)

5K Runner Up Skipper (Proudly Sponsored by Australian Steel Traders)

3K Third Place Skipper (Proudly Sponsored by Australian Steel Traders)

2K Fourth Place Skipper (Proudly Sponsored by Australian Steel Traders)

Count Back Rules Apply

Angler's Category

5K Champion Angler & Awarded the Perpetual Leon Thomas Trophy (Proudly Sponsored by Phoenix One Luxury Charters)

3K Runner Up Angler (Proudly Sponsored by Phoenix One Luxury Charters)

2K Third Place Angler (Proudly Sponsored by Phoenix One Luxury Charters)

Count Back Rules Apply

Deckies Category

3K Winning Deck Hand Team Boat (Proudly Sponsored by Australian Sportfishing Charters)

Count Back Rules Apply

Daily Prize Winners - Most tagged marlin for that day

Day 1 \$2.5K (Proudly Sponsored by Sandridge Roads Australia)

Day 2 \$2.5K (Proudly Sponsored by Sandridge Roads Australia)

Day 3 \$2.5K (Proudly Sponsored by Sandridge Roads Australia)

Day 4 \$2.5K (Proudly Sponsored by Sandridge Roads Australia)

Count Back Rules Apply

Calcutta Prize Pool

60% 1st Place Vessel

20% 2nd Place Vessel

10% 3rd Place Vessel

10% The Club

Count Back Rules Apply

Costa Rica World Champion 2026 Invitation

exclusive for our World Class Event (over \$2.5 million in prize money offered)


Awarded to winning Skipper's/ Boat / Team: 1st Place, 2nd Place & 3rd Place

Count Back Rules Apply

Villa Aman Island Point, Port Douglas 5 Star Luxury Accommodation 3 nights - Valued at over 5K - Auction on Presentation Night (proceeds go to the Club)

There's a bit to digest there, but we feel there is plenty of incentive to partake this year and hopefully we'll see plenty of local and also abroad attention getting behind this Blue Ribbon Event.

Fishing Reports Next Page



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Local Fishing News

The start of May got off on the wrong footing with a run of sleazy weather which proved challenging. However windows of opportunity presented itself as the month progressed especially for offshore endeavours with some classic calm seas on offer. Overall it has remained quite humid for this time of year with day temperatures still quite warm. It has only occurred recently but there is a touch of dew overnight which makes for good sleeping weather.

River Reports

By far the best reports for the month are coming from the Daintree River. The arrival of big 1m queenfish working the main channel south of the ferry have been the highlight. They would have to be one of the best and exciting sportfish we are lucky enough to have in FNQ. Surface poppers or lightly weighted live sardines drifted in the current have attracted most attention. Handsome sized golden trevally have been active on the sandy sections of the river with live bait or squid/ prawn bait. Following a bit of rain post April a surprise catch turned up being a big black 1m jewfish within the system. Quite rare but have been known to frequent the Daintree Coast associated with a bit of fresh water. Other than this fingermark dominate the heavily snagged timber with a few good jacks mixed in as well. Barra are a bit quieter and seem to be competing in this similar territory. There's a few mud crabs around as well to keep your interest.

Reef Reports

Outside of the questionable weather the reef fishing eventually shone through in the back end of the month. Conducive ocean conditions were a major factor, however it is the change of the season from wet to dry. Also dropping water temperatures continue to become an absolute bonus. For the first time in awhile large and small mouth nannygai began to pile on in positive fashion still around the 30-35m depth range. Coral trout also entertained this tune and have been registered even as shallow as 25m. Side acts on the reef have included cobia, spangled emperor and spanish mackerel. The spanish mackerel in those deeper spots holding bait and fish schools have fired at times. It is mandatory from this point on to have a floating pilchard or even a live fusilier sitting in a rod holder whilst bottom bashing. There's no real secret but a matter of being in the right place at the right time when they decide to gang attack in sizeable numbers. The 30m depth seems to be where they are forming and also well worth the time to drag around some deep diving mackerel lures once you realise the gathering zone. Watch your sounder to detect them.

Currently the sun is still shining brilliantly and with that in mind any calm seas can't see you not enjoying the spoils for the change of the season whether it be inshore or offshore.



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