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VOLUME 292 PRICELESS

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JUN 25

*Local Fishing Reports
& Some More*





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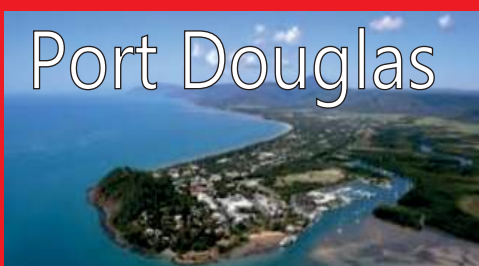
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Fishing Port Douglas

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Recreation Consultation in Queensland

The Australian Fishing Trade Association (AFTA) recently released this report for Queensland which does have input into future policy.

Recreational fishing is part of Queensland's way of life. It provides immense socio-economic benefits to the State and is worth more than \$2.5 billion annually to the economy.

Fisheries Queensland is aware that the fisheries working groups and several fishing sectors have noted the increasing fishing capacity of the recreational fishing sector.

The recent consultation sought feedback on reform options to identify suitable, sustainable management controls that can support expanding recreational fishing capacity, focusing on increased sector responsibility, and ensure the ongoing sustainability of Queensland's fisheries and non-target species, including:

1. Recreational fishing gear change

- a. banning opera house style traps
- b. banning lightweight crab pots, and new minimum gear specifications

2. size and possession limit changes, and new closed season

- a. separating possession limits for crimson and saddletail snapper and other considerations

b. new black jewfish closed season

- c. increasing possession limits for black

jewfish

3. expanding the Stocked Impoundment Permit Scheme

4. banning recreational take of coral.

Port Douglas Marlin Challenge 2025

With constant social media announcements current figures indicate that 11 vessels have committed in the last month to the tournament 1st -4th October. With restrictions on presentation numbers it is anticipated this tournament will be capped to around 15 vessels. With now over \$60K in cash prizes alone up for grabs, registrations are becoming critical to participate.

For further information go to www.portdouglasmarlinchallenge.com or visit the Port Douglas Marlin Challenge Facebook. Otherwise call me on 0409610869.

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Local Fishing News

It has been a bit like 'Ground Hog Day' up here in Tropical Far Nth Qld for the month of June. The last 3-4 weeks has only seen a small handful of best days delivering 15 knots, otherwise it has been consistently 20 knots and more. The south east trade winds certainly have whipped up the eastern coast of Australia to the north, as our southern states have concurrently suffered a freezing start to their winter. Up here the day temperatures are moderate, nice when the sun is out, but a touch cooler when it is overcast with the associated winds. This weather pattern has had affect on the fishing reports this month.

Reef Fishing

To be honest this has been slim pickings for smaller craft and even not so comfortable for bigger vessels. Offshore closer to the reefs with a touch more protection coral trout and stripeys have been the staple catch. Fishing deep for emperor and nannygai has been too difficult in the more open waters. On the upside trolling lures using the sea to assist is seeing some nice spanish mackerel kicking about on the outer reef. Along the coast at certain locations grey mackerel are also around in numbers but inside word says the sharks are forever present and hampering catches. Quick reaction getting them to the boat is paramount with the old fashioned spoon lure working best for the 'grey's'.

Late next week is likely for the next reprieve for a chance of better weather to head offshore. This would be handy with an influx of tourists coinciding with school holidays.

River / Creek Fishing

The local Dickson Inlet in Port Douglas has become super tough in the cooler conditions. There's plenty of bream to keep you occupied but only a small smattering of blue salmon, fingermark and mangrove jack to value add. Mud crabbing is still worth a shot laying some pots.

40 minutes drive north, the Daintree River has faired considerably better with some typical winter species ticking over nicely. The waters have been dirtier due to the winds bringing in disturbed water from the coast but it's been a matter of adjusting. Live bait has become very hard to find on the river but converting to combinations of either fresh prawn, squid or pilchard has served credibly. Golden trevally, river trevally and javelin fish have been partial to this form scouring the bottom for a feed. Incoming tides work best but an outgoing tide working into the wind is hard work. In some calmer sections of the river in a deeper section surface poppers have accounted for some nice queenfish which frequent at this time of year. Lure fishing for barra and jacks has been a very challenging period with water temperatures plummeted.

Bookings in July are thick so you need to call 0409610869 ASAP to secure remaining vacancies with hopefully better weather on the horizon.



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