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SEP 25

*Local Fishing Reports
& Some More*





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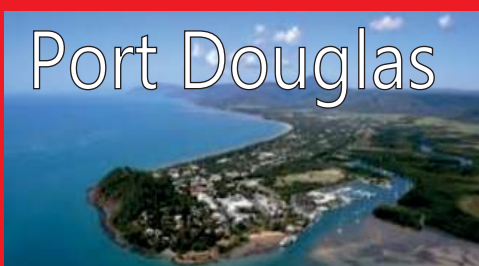
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Fishing Port Douglas

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The Crisafulli Government will deliver certainty and restore fairness for the fishing sector, with a new stock assessment revealing sustainable populations that would support increased catch limits for Spanish mackerel.

This year's Spanish mackerel stock assessment found the population was now likely to have doubled since the 2021 review.

Based on this, the Department Primary Industries has proposed raising Spanish mackerel catch limits for both commercial and recreational fishing.

If these proposals are adopted, the recreational boat limit will double from two fish per boat to a maximum of four.

For commercial fishers it will see a 51.5 per cent increase in allowable catch, with the annual commercial limit expected to increase from 165 tonnes to 250 tonnes.

The stock assessment for Spanish mackerel is the first conducted since the Crisafulli Government's overhaul of the former Labor Government's flawed processes, which attracted strong criticism from industry, qualified experts and independent reviews. The Crisafulli Government is also proposing to set the Spanish mackerel harvest strategy at a target of 48 per cent of unfished levels, ensuring enduring and sustainable access to the fishery.

The reduction from 60 per cent to 48 per cent will align the harvest strategy with Commonwealth fisheries.

Existing Spanish mackerel limits will remain in place while public consultation is conducted. The impact of current limits will be evaluated in the next stock assessment.

The 2025 stock assessment found Spanish mackerel were fast-growing and highly reproductive. Combined with the protections around spawning grounds, assessors had confidence fish populations

would be sustainable.

Public consultation will be announced in due course, with the proposed changes intended to take effect by the end of the year.

Primary Industries Minister Tony Perrett said the proposed changes struck a balance between allowing fishers and seafood consumers to enjoy this prized catch while continuing to protect this valuable fishery for future generations.

"The Crisafulli Government is delivering positive outcomes for the fishing sector based on robust and reliable scientific processes," Minister Perrett said.

"We said we would support Queensland's fishing sector by only legislating scientifically backed changes to regulation – and that's what we are doing.

one are the days of Labor's botched stock assessments that relied on flawed science and were subject to industry criticism.

"By contrast, our robust stock assessment process is recalibrating to create a sustainable fishery after a decade of Labor using self-serving science to savage the fishing industry.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The minimum legal-size limit will remain at 75 centimetres.

The charter fishing limit will remain unchanged (one fish per person, no boat limit).

A 51.5% increase to the commercial quota has been modelled to provide approximately \$3.5 million in gross value of production to the Queensland economy.

93% of Queensland stocks assessed under the national process have no sustainability concerns.

Spanish mackerel is one of only five fish stocks with sustainability concerns.

Fishing Reports Next Page



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Local Fishing News

It certainly has been a busy period on all fronts with people flocking to Port Douglas in some hefty numbers. The weather for boating has been quite handy with the coming week looking to be the pick of the bunch. Perfect timing with the town full and also the running of the 4 day Port Douglas Marlin Challenge Tournament. The Far North is certainly putting on a showcase that's for sure.

River / Estuary

This style of fishing has certainly returned some dividends as we settle into probably the most settled time of year. The tides are good, water clarity is at a premium and all sorts of species are on the chew. Our best river fishing is on the Daintree River 40 minutes north of Port Douglas. Our 30yr plus experienced guide has been reporting some very positive results.

Everyone's favourite the barramundi are hitting their straps and have been measured up to 84cm, which is a good river fish for this area. It is probably the best time of year to target barra before the closures on 1st November. Fingermark seem to play a major role on most trips and up to 55cm they are a supreme catch. Other than this there's other species kicking around such as queenfish, river trevally and javelin fish. So there's our best river system in the region is well worth a visit.

Reef Fishing

Great times to be hitting the water with idyllic conditions at hand. There is a plethora of fish to catch including coral trout, nannygai, red emperor, spangled emperor, cattle dog cod, cobia and mackerel. Day to day varies but the medium tides with 1.75m - 2.5m movement seems to be a safe bet. The only downside is as the weather warms up so does the shark activity, sometimes really spoiling a top notch day on the water. It's pretty hard to get around this except to travel off to another spot. Also they are prolific around the full moons. Gt fishing is now the time to have a crack with calm conditions on the table. Fish the reef pressure points where the tide is dominant and holding bait on the surface which should be visible from your boat.

Game Fishing

Well it's Time ! The season has started for big black marlin with reports indicating they are already here for an early start to the season. Inside word suggests the currents along the shelf are conducive to catching the pinnacle of fish. The smaller males are there and a few female breeders up to 600lb have already started turning up. These breeders will only grow in size as the days continue up to the magical 1000lb models. This is great news for the Port Douglas Marlin Challenge for the 1st - 4th October and with 10 knot forecasts it will be very interesting to see the outcome. Everything suggests it will be a bumper tournament with the best boats in Australia competing toe to toe.



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