

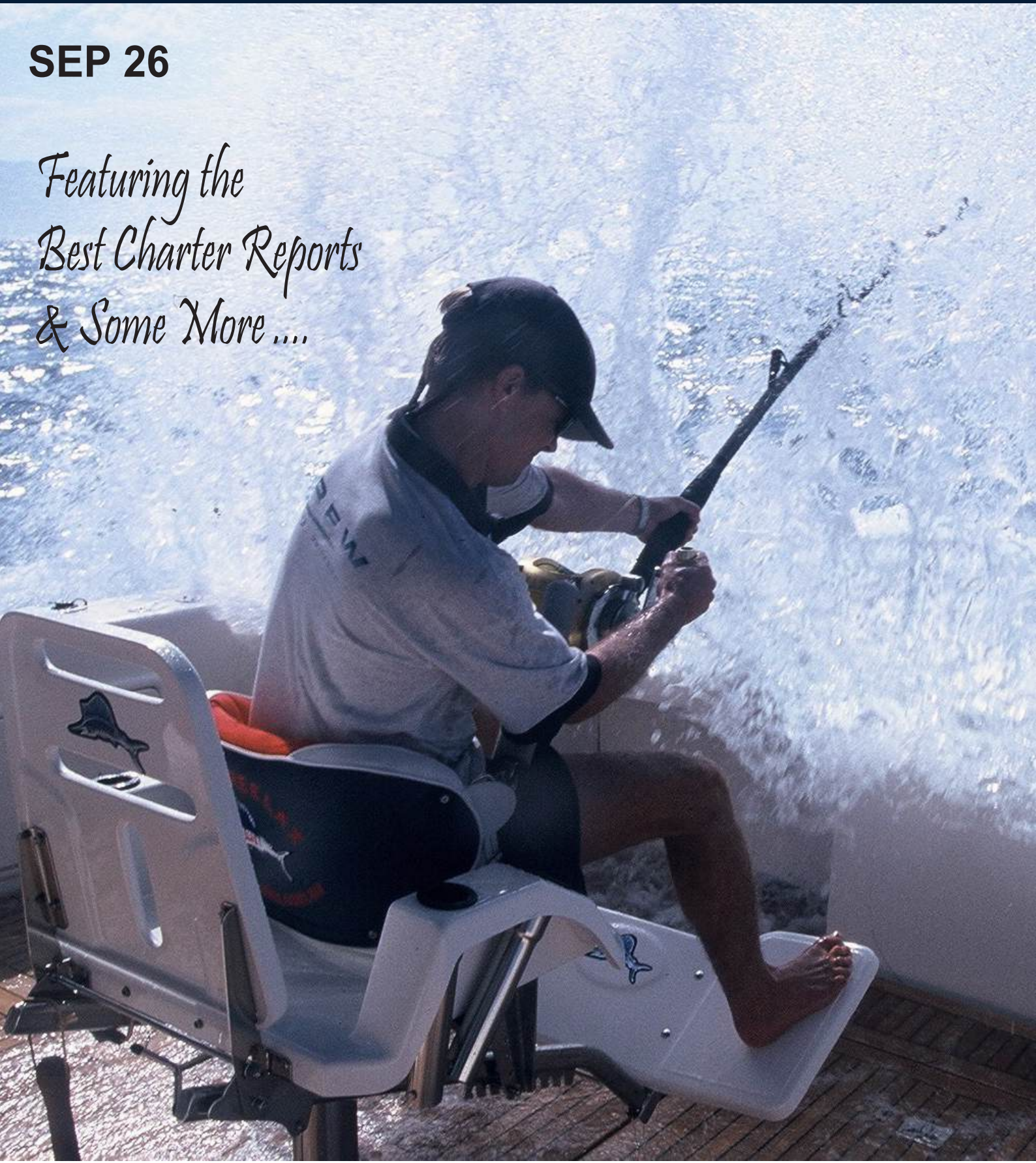
LINEBURNER

VOLUME 305 PRICELESS

FISHING TROPICAL FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

SEP 26

*Featuring the
Best Charter Reports
& Some More*



Local Fishing News

It's hard to know where to start. The region is super busy with tourists, the fishing is awesome yet we continue to get hampered with a horrible stretch of weather. Wind and rain have featured for the majority of September making it a logistical and challenging nightmare. Something has got to give in this department in the coming months.

River

Our charter boys have been extremely busy and with difficult offshore conditions this has been the only viable option for many to fish the calmer waters.

The Daintree River is the place to fish and it has been producing all manner of species. Across the flats grunter and golden trevally continue to thrive and are of decent size. Amongst the snags in deeper water fingermark and mangrove jack are competing hard against each other and some pockets are also holding barra mainly around the 65cm mark. I predict October will be the month for the barra. Also there's some big queenfish cruising the main channel and worth a shot with a floating live bait or surface poppers.

Reef & Game

We'll touch a bit on the heavy tackle game fishing scene. It's definitely bite time already with a lot of big fish up to 900lb being caught. I had the privilege of attending the 60th Cairns Game Association Anniversary presentation night. Following a 3 day tournament with 50 boats participating, 2500 attended the presentation night at the Cairns Convention Centre. It was a fantastic night full of wonderful history and some wonderful insight from the legends of the industry. Winners also were presented with cheques with one particular team departing with \$64K - not a bad effort. Well done to the organisers for a very professional event.

My next point of topic is a new show just airing on 7 Mate called Marlin Kings. It features the fortunes of three marlin boats for the heavy tackle season. The main characters are Corey Hard from the Sheriff, Jason Legg from Kiama and Chris 'Sharky' Miles from Miss Nic. All local boys and the footage is incredible. Coming up our very own Port Douglas Marlin Challenge will feature which is great promotion for our boutique event. The Marlin Kings is on at 8.30pm Tuesday nights.

As for the reef fishing status the very few times the weather allowed in recent times the catches have been quite handy. Lots of big coral trout to be caught up to 5-6kg and the nannygai schools are receptive in the deeper waters. They are

feeding up in preparation for a potential fish spawn coming up in the second week of October. Just a timely reminder that Reef Fin Closures are in effect from the 8th-12th October. The timing is unfortunate with the region flooded with enthusiastic anglers and I'll bet your bottom dollar the weather will be spectacular.



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Reef Health Update | September 2026

September is Biodiversity Month, highlighting the incredible diversity of life across the Great Barrier Reef, including more than 2,900 coral reefs, 1,625 fish species and 450+ species of hard coral. As spring arrives, humpback whales are heading south, dwarf minke whales are leaving northern Reef waters and fish spawning activity is increasing.

Sea surface temperatures remained close to long-term averages across the Marine Park during August.

El Niño is firmly established and expected to strengthen, with forecasts suggesting it could peak in late spring or early summer. While El Niño can bring warmer and drier conditions, local weather systems mean conditions will vary across the Reef.

The Reef Authority and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service are monitoring H5 bird flu following two detections in southern Queensland. There are currently no detected cases in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.

Temperature

Sea surface temperatures remained close to average through August. Temperatures in the Northern region were around 0.1–0.3°C above average, while temperatures across the rest of the Marine Park were close to or slightly above long-term averages.

The Bureau of Meteorology forecasts temperatures to remain around these levels through September and October.

Rainfall

Rainfall during August was slightly above average across the Northern and Far Northern catchments, while the Central and Southern catchments received slightly below-average rainfall.

The Northern and Far Northern catchments are likely to receive more rainfall than usual in September. Higher rainfall can increase the amount of water, sediment and nutrients flowing from catchments into the Marine Park.

Reef health

Between 1 and 31 August, 449 Reef Health Impact Surveys were completed across 42 reefs in the Marine Park.

In the Northern region, 29 reefs were surveyed. Seven recorded low levels of coral bleaching, while 28 recorded low to moderate coral damage. In the Central region, 10 reefs were surveyed. One recorded medium levels of coral bleaching and three recorded low levels of coral damage.

In the Southern region, three reefs were surveyed, with no coral bleaching or coral damage recorded.

No surveys were conducted in the Far Northern region during August.

Coral disease was recorded on 21 of the 42 reefs surveyed during the month.

Additional Eye on the Reef monitoring reported coral bleaching on 18 of 36 reefs surveyed across the Marine Park.

Fishing Reports Next Page



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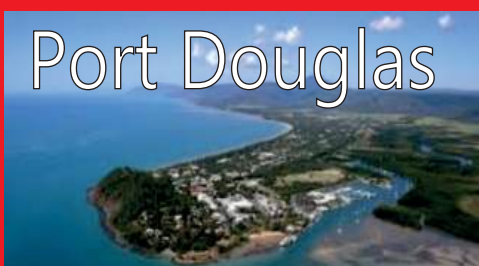


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