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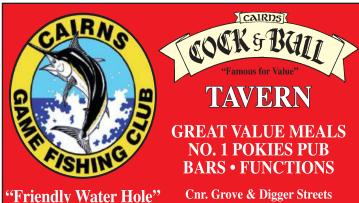
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Fishing Port Douglas





with Heff

Hi to Everyone from the Port Douglas Marlin Challenge Well the 2025 tournament is officially done and dusted, and what a 'Nail Bighter' it turned out to be with tender hooks in the final stages. All the final placings are listed below

However I've got cover a lot of thank you's before we get to this. A massive thank you to our incredible Sponsors - Joel Pallister (Australian Steel Traders), Nicole & Darren Sandy (Sandridge Roads), Ben Aitken (Phoenix One Luxury Charters), Dan Begamo (Australian Sportfishing Charters) & Coastal Coverings.

Also a special mention to these people which assisted greatly in the process of putting this together and made it a huge success - Brett Goetze, Joel Pallister, Chris Miles, Dan Begamo, Ben Aitken, Damian & Patty Collete, Dave Evans, Nick Gibson, Ross & the team from the Port Douglas Coast Guard, Andrew Renwick On the Spot Signs, the Salsa Bar Team & Dan McCarthy.

Not to forget all the incredible Skippers, Crew & Anglers who embraced the tournament with enthusiasm, amazing fishing prowess and a very professional approach. We hope we lived up to all expectations in our control.

Just for some final house keeping we will announce next year's dates hopefully shortly in a day or so. Please share this post with as many people as possible. We are on local Channel 7 News again tonight for the third time. There is some very interested parties in increasing the prize pool next year considerably and we'll keep you posted.

Anyway Congratulations to the following winners, well done All Photos attached ...

Tournament Statistics 54 Strikes 41 Hook Ups 31 Tags Biggest Fish 800lb, 700lb, 600lb, 450lb

Champion Skipper

 $1st\,Dan\,Begamo\,Wild\,Turkey\,\$20,\!000-6\,tags$

 $2nd\,Jason\,Legg\,Kiama\,\$5000-6\,tags$

 $3rd\,Brett\,Goetze\,Akira\,\$3000-4\,tags$

4th Chris Miles \$2000 - 4 tags

Champion Angler

1st Karsten Schramm Wild Turkey \$5,000 - 6 tags

2nd Blake Lamond Kiama \$,3000 - 6 tags

3rd Adam Madin Stiff Rod \$2,000 - 2 tags

Daily Winners

Day 1 Kiama \$2,500

Day 2 Kiama \$2,500

Day 3 Wild Turkey \$2,500

Day 4 Wild Turkey \$2,500

Winning Deck Team

Anthony Begamo & John Maxwell Wild Turkey \$3,000

Calcutta

Wild Turkey \$7,200

Kiama \$2,400

Akira \$1,200

Once again thanks to all involved. Brilliant effort everyone

Fishing Reports Next Page



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Local Fishing News

It's been a wonderful time to be fishing around Port Douglas. October always promised to deliver the goods and it did in spades. What a beautiful month overall for boating conditions whether it be offshore or inshore, albeit a tad hot under the collar. This weather will only get warmer in the coming month so you'll need to be prepared.

River / Estuary

It's been solid fishing up on the Daintree River with neap tides doing better for the likes of javelin fish, barramundi, awesome fingermark and river trevally. The bigger tides on the moon didn't suit this river as much.

Interestingly the headland of Port Douglas saw a plethora of handsome sized javelin fish travelling the circuit. Incoming tides suited best but they were great fish and the land based angler were equally suited to the rewards. Live bait is getting harder to source which is typical for this time of year.

Reef Fishing

This also has been productive depending on who you talk to. The most impressive result to cross my desk was between a group of fellows (not sure how many) which caught 29 coral trout from three hangs, basically a bag out. The nannygai are now deep in 40m plus but as the weather warms up so do the sharks which continue to harass efforts in this department. The spangled emperor are coming up into the sandy shallows closer to dusk and a worthy by catch. Spanish mackerel seem to be dropping off which you expect as the sea temperatures rise.

Overnight trips are worth a good shot but watch those westerly storms that are starting to rear up with some northerly wind part f the program now.

Game Fishing

This is where the main noise is at particularly for black and blue marlin along the continental shelf. The main areas of excitement are the middle of the Ribbon Reefs down to Opal Ridge and Linden Bank. The smaller 200-300lb models have been highly consistent with intermittent reports of the big females getting up to 1000lb. Of course there's been plenty in between these sizes as well. Trolling skip baits such as tuna have been popular and also swim baits such as scad and queenfish if you're able to source them prior.

There's also a bunch of yellowfin tuna along the shelf this year ranging from 10-20kg which also attract the food chain of the marlin. Other bonus species have included wahoo and also sailfish closer to the reef edges.

All the charter boats still have a busy agenda for another month or so but it is turning out to be a positive season for all involved. The Port Douglas Marlin Challenge results at the start of the season are testimony this case which doesn't look like slowing down.

There were lots of winners at the local 4 day tournament with notable beneficiaries being Wild Turkey winning \$40K plus and Kiama with a further 15K plus prize purse.



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