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Fishing Port Douglas News



with Heff

BIG NEWS FOR 2025

The 2024 Port Douglas Marlin Challenge has recently been completed over 4 days from the 20th to 23rd November. It was the 15th anniversary of the competition and only one of two tournaments in Australia dedicated to heavy tackle game fishing for big Black and Blue Marlin.

This year the fishing proved to be a bit tougher and the weather on a couple days proved challenging for smaller vessels.

In the end we had a couple of very worthy winners for the perpetual Leon Thomas Trophy for Champion Angler and also the Brett Thomas Trophy for Champion Skipper/Boat.

The main awards held at the famous Salsa Bar & Grill went to:

Champion Angler Karsten Schramm from the Wild Turkey vessel

Champion Skipper/Boat Chris Miles skipper & Joel Pallister owner from Miss Nic vessel

The presentation was conducted in typical fine spirit and the club would like to thank the following:

Joel Pallister Australian Steel Traders

Cairns Tackle World

Shimano

Big Boat Shed Cairns

Crystalbrook Marina Port Douglas

Tommy Bahama

Seachange Band

Dave Evans Master of Ceremonies

Salsa Bar & Grill

Club Secretary Ian Bladin, V/President

Damon Grusdev and yours truly myself as President.

NEXT YEAR EXCITING NEWS

Exact dates haven't been determined but we have a commitment of **33K in CASH as Prize Money plus heaps of other incredible prizes.**

There is every chance that this cash figure will increase by some margin. Follow the Port Douglas Marlin Challenge Facebook for next year's dates to be determined very soon.



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Fishing On the Daintree

with Jamie Beitzel



Well I'm glad to say as we speak that I'm having a bit of time off from work for a week or so to recharge the batteries and do some much needed work on my property which is just over the north side of the river right in the heart of the Daintree Rainforest. As you might imagine it can become like a jungle and it's the time to tidy up before the wet season arrives and everything grows like wild fire.

It wasn't an easy decision to make because I left the river which was in brilliant fishing form. Sure as the water temperatures rise it can become a bit tougher but I found it extremely productive. There's a hint of few showers about now which will help considerably just to rejuvenate the bait and this in turns keeps the bigger fish keen for action.

My best performing trip unfortunately occurred during the Barra Season Closure which runs from 1st Nov to 1st February. All fish were released in the water without being brought onto the boat to ensure they were returned in great condition. This particular trip saw me successfully pull up half a dozen barra all between the 80-85cm range. Now if you have been following my reports you'll know these are big fish for this system. You may get the odd one up at this

size but this was an incredible session, something I won't forget to soon.

Typically I've been able to produce my fair share of good sized fingermark up to the 55cm range along with a few river cod in the same areas. The neaper tides really do suit the fingermark and those big tides around the moon make any type of fishing so much harder.

Other fish that have contributed to my efforts have included a smattering of golden trevally, javelin fish, flathead and some good river trevally which are the juvenile Gt's but still good value to catch and release.

Queenfish have dried up but it's not necessarily their time of year but there are a few juvenile barracuda around smashing live bait and proving to be a bit of a nuisance.

Looking ahead I resume work in another week or so but the December bookings are a little thin but really ramp up over the Christmas and New Year period, so book ahead if you're keen to experience fishing the Daintree. I can't see too much rain affecting things but any will help to keep proceedings in a positive state. My next report will be January so take care till then.



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Akula Sportfishing



with Jason Knack

Welcome to our November report. We have been busy enough despite not knocking back any bookings as tourist numbers dropped off a tad.

As a fisherman coming from up from down south November is a good time to visit to coincide with more consistent weather. We had some absolute glorious days and the remainder were easily fishable whether it was along the coast or out wider. Put it this way I can only recall one day where we had to transfer a booking to another day.

Along the coastline on our 4hr half day trips we kept peppering away at the nannygai schools. Seriously we were catching 30-40 fish a session so there was plenty of action. The thing people have to realise these are a nursery where they begin their life and you only see some fish per trip reaching the minimum size of 40cm to keep. The rest are released to grow that bit further. I've come to an assumption that the local coastal reefs are simply that, a breeding ground where the fish grow pretty quickly before heading further offshore to get bigger and fatter. It is further from the truth that it is fished out, once a certain size they vacate area. Anyway for most visitors it's all about catching good numbers of fish at a good price and to take home a keeper or two is just fine.

Our 5hr half day trips are proving extremely popular and we can travel that bit further to deeper water and far more productive grounds for more sizeable



Great Barrier Reef Port Douglas



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fish. Here we've been getting nannygai to 50-60cm and some cracking gold spot cod. The grounds are more like rubble patches which hold bait. I'm looking forward to the wonky holes opening up (underwater river systems to sea) when we start to see a bit of decent rain. That's when we can pull out nannygai and cod up to 8kg, which is are big fish.

Our full day 8hr trips have seen us travel far and wide to places where no other trips go. I must say the results were a little bit mixed, fishing in much deeper water even though we caught some cracking fish. The best fish were big nannygai to 7kg, coral trout, gold band snapper, cobia and spangled emperor. Outside of this we caught a lot of brassy and bludger trevally, extremely hard fighting fish and a whole heap of fun, but not necessarily the table fish to take home. There's a reel mixture of fish to be caught out wide and a bit of a lottery draw which is typical for this time of year.

Looking ahead the start of December for a week or so seems quieter on the books but the back end of the month and start of January is super busy with limited sessions available, don't hesitate to call now to claim these spots.

Christmas Lunch

Seafood Deluxe with Heff

Serve 1

12 King Prawns butterflied

Olive oil

Sea Salt

Cooked on BBQ Grill

Fresh Coriander & Lime wedges

Sauce - Sriracha Mayo available at supermarket



Serve 2

1 Cooked Southern Lobster cut in half

1 Dozen Raw Oysters (Tasmanian)

1 Dozen Cooked Endeavour or Banana Prawns

1 Dozen Grilled Scallop Shells basked with garlic



and corriander

Sauce - Traditional Seafood sauce available at supermarket

Serve 3

Fruit Kebabs - cut strawberry, mango, kiwi fruit, pineapple, red grape and blueberry

Sauce - Vanilla flavoured thickened cream

Accompanying Champagne for entire Meal

A reasonably well priced quality product which works extremely well with seafood is:

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Accompanying products at the table:

Sea Salt & Cracked Pepper

Knobs of King Island Butter

Rustic Crusty Italian styled Bread

General Garden Salad Bowl

Finger Bowl of water with lemon juice

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