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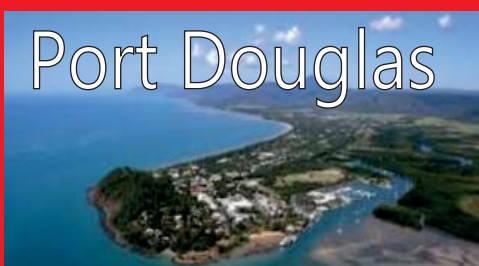


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# Fishing Port Douglas

with Heff



## Coral Reef Spawning

The Great Barrier Reef is near completing for the annual coral spawning, when billions of corals release eggs and sperm into the ocean in a spectacular mass reproduction event that regenerates the Reef.

Likened to an underwater snow blizzard, researchers predict this year's coral spawning is expected this week and early December.

## Temperature

Queensland recorded its hottest October on record for average air temperatures, and sea surface temperatures across the Marine Park remained about 1°C warmer than usual.

Forecasts show the water is likely to stay 1 to 1.5°C above average through November.

Looking ahead, temperatures in December are expected to stay 1 to 1.5°C above average in the Far Northern and Northern regions, and about 0.8 to 1°C above average in the Central and Southern regions. Across all areas, the water is likely to stay 0.8 to 1°C above average in January.

## Reef Health

In October 2025, 359 Reef Health Impact Surveys were carried out across 41 reefs in the Marine Park. Minor coral bleaching was seen only in the Northern region, with no bleaching reported elsewhere.

Crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) are still affecting many reefs, with the worst outbreaks in the Southern region (Swain Reefs) and the Northern region between Port Douglas and Lizard Island.

Since July, the COTS Control Program and Reef Joint Field Management Program teams have surveyed and removed COTS from 93 reefs.

Of these controlled reefs, COTS numbers are currently at sustainable levels, on 29 reefs (about 31%), allowing coral to grow and recover. Culling is underway at 46 reefs (around 50% of controlled reefs) to control outbreaks and protect coral. COTS have been found on 18 reefs (about 19% of controlled reefs), and culling will begin there when resources become available.

## Ongoing Work

In late October and early November the Reef Authority conducted crucial Eye on the Reef training with tourism

operators, Traditional Owners and teachers. The participants learned how to conduct Rapid Monitoring Surveys, Tourism Weekly Site Monitoring, and Reef Health and Impact Surveys (RHIS) to collect critical data that helps the Reef Authority assess coral health, track recovery, and guide management decisions.

Every data point collected through Eye on the Reef helps us to understand how the Reef is responding to changing conditions, including bleaching and recovery, so we can act where it's needed most.

The Reef Authority continues to work closely with Traditional Owners, researchers, contractors, and the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service through the Reef Joint Field Management Program. Together we deliver rapid and coordinated action across the World Heritage Area.

This work focuses on building Reef resilience through:  
Managing crown-of-thorns starfish  
Enforcing compliance with the Reef's zoning plan  
Supporting responsible tourism and recreation  
Collecting and sharing up-to-date Reef health data to guide decisions

## Charter Forecast

Our charter industry is expecting a massive injection of trade from mid December to mid January. A lot of this trade is coming over from overseas including USA, Saudia Arabia and the UK. So in saying this you really need to call now to secure a booking which you can call me on 0409610869. The private sportfishing and game boats are already heavily booked.

## Fishing Reports Next Page ....



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### Local Fishing News

We are into a stock standard period at the moment. The coastal northerlies are kicking into gear which can affect offshore conditions. Even though the wind is not strong it does push against the currents which are running from south to north. It only takes a 10 knot breeze to see the change on the water. With a 15 knot breeze it is a whole new scenario especially for the smaller boats. Generally speaking fish underneath don't like it too much either. However as you'll read it's not all that bad. The day temperatures are warm on land so all you need is shorts, t-shirt, thongs and a hat to be reasonably comfortable if you are visiting - air conditioning is a must to have a good night's snooze.

### River / Estuary

The hot & dry weather has played it's part on the inshore scene. My mate, Jamie Bietzel's On the Daintree Fishing charter has said he's noticed a contrast in the last couple of weeks. Live bait has dried up considerably and harder to source which always entices a bite. The river itself during the day is hot and so is the water temperature. He believes night time fishing is the go if you can or AM sessions. The afternoon is stifling to say the least. The river system is in need of a bit of rain just to settle the situation and put the balance back in favour of the angler.

What's been caught - good old fingermark up to 55cm and a godsend. There's been a few river trevally about plus a few mangrove jack amongst the snags as they tend to be busy bodies. Barra are definitely there but must be released during their closure period.

### Reef Fishing

Following spawning and reef closure periods there's bugger all up in the shallow water except for casting for a big giant trevally with the calm weather. At night the spangled emperor in particular will come into the shallows in numbers and size.

During the day everything is now deep 35m plus which include coral trout, nannygai and red emperor. Deeper the better is the go according to our boys however the 'men in grey suits' will follow the flock like a wolf to a sheep herd. So expect some losses to sharks with the warmer temperature. Night time is a real possibility to get some more fish into the esky but watch those evening storms coming from the west.

### Game Fishing

Wow, what can we say except thumbs up in the past few weeks. The bite for marlin has slowed down not far from the reef on the shelf except for 200lb's. However 8-9 miles further out they have been chomping. It's a significant distance from land but the best report to land on my desk was 29 giant marlin all over 700lb in just over a week. That just implores the fact we are the best marlin fishery in the world. Other reports were not far behind this either but it may appear the big females are starting to head back to the deep of the open Coral Sea having completed their annual breeding cycle.



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