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Fishing Port Douglas News



with Heff

The beauty of living up in tropical Far North Queensland is that the simplest of plans can be some of the best on the water. We are so lucky with close proximity to a myriad of options. On the afternoon in question it was on the eve of the Preliminary Finals between Cats V Lions. The weather was around a calm 5 knots, so between a few mates and a couple of 18ft tinnies we hit the water for a late afternoon fish. Basically we trolled some lures around 8 mile off the headlands of Port Douglas. The boat I was on caught a big barracuda and we lost a big mackerel which threw the hooks. That was all fine and on dusk we headed to the stunning Low Isles to camp on the boats overnight in the safe anchorage of the lagoon. This place is simply stunning and as locals we probably don't take advantage of it as much as we should. It's basically a 30 minute trip to get there at a reasonable speed. The sunset looking back west over the Daintree Ranges was absolutely stunning.

We rafted up together in only a few feet of water and cold beers



and nibblies were on offer. It doesn't get any better or does it. As dark time took hold the boat lights on the water attracted bait schools, a variety of fish and an entourage of sharks including black tip and lemon species. They weren't big sharks but you basically had an aquarium around the boat in very shallow water. To make things better with modern technology we then watched the Cats (my team) devour the Lions on our tablets and bluetooth sound systems. Wow, what an amazing evening in such an amazing place.

In the morning it was coffee on the nearby island beach and then off for some more fishing. My boat headed to Snapper Island to the west and the other to the outer reef. Our short trip had us trolling lures around this picturesque masterpiece of an island and around Cape Kimberley on the foothills of the Daintree Rainforest. Locally, it is a sanctuary of beauty without question. We didn't have any real success on the fishing front for a couple of hours but it was like going to a retreat for a little bit and awesomely relaxing. Home by midday, as they say sometimes 'Less is Best' and this was the case.



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Fishing On the Daintree

with Jamie Beitzel



Well the month of September really turned it on after a fairly miserable winter period. The days were considerably warmer and we had bright sunshine to bask in. It was also good timing as the tourists really turned up in droves and currently we are inundated with bookings due to school holidays. The month ahead if you can believe it looks busier again.

The fishing from my end hasn't been too hard even during the tougher tides. I've spent a couple of days along the coast sourcing my favourite spots and glad to say we caught some cracking large mouth nannygai. Not too many of them but when they are in excess of 8kg that's a lot of fish on its own. There's a few nice one metre queenfish about if you know what you are looking for and if you are wanting a spanish mackerel, fishing a berley trail is your bet. It was pleasant to re-visit the coastline as there was literally no opportunity prior for the past few months due to conditions. It is truly a panoramic

spectacle and you never get sick of the scenery.

The river fishing these past few weeks has really got me excited. The best sized fingermark have been ever popular tempted by a tasty live sardine. Gee's they have really turned up the gas in recent times. Across the flats there are some impressive javelin fish or grunter patrolling the shallows and they've been getting up to around 55cm which is a big fish for this species. They are also a great feed as well. I've also been able to get a lot more barra to bite with quite a few around 80cm. Since I'm often dealing with less experienced anglers on charter, quite a few escaped the jaws of death but I'm okay with that because I know where they are living.

The river has really excelled with water temperatures at an optimum and the water clarity is mostly premium. Whilst the conditions remain as they are I'm in for some quality fishing in the near future. There's no better time to be fishing on the Mighty Daintree River!



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Dragon Lady Charters

with Steve Adamson



Well September proved to be a super busy month for us all assisted by some great weather and a region packed to the rafters with tourists. The fishing didn't disappoint either with solid catches recorded on all of our charters.

In the first week we ventured down to Cairns to partake in the Kenworth Conference over 5 days. In total there were two bigger reef boats (including us) and four game boats catering for around 50 anglers per day. This gig was 3yrs in the making due to Covid and finally got off the ground. It was a good change to fish somewhere different, the angling was quite positive and we basically camped on the boat for the week at the Cairns Marlin Marina. After hours a few restaurants were our choice of relaxing, so it was all a bit of fun. Not sleeping in your own bed does take its toll so I was glad to get back home afterwards.

From this point on it was full on dealing with the Port Douglas guests. The weather was simply sensational and the fishing at times went to a new level. The underlying reason is the majority of reef fish are fully roed and ready to spawn I believe this next new moon. They tend to congregate to certain areas and in big numbers. Coral trout certainly led the way and we had some big days on these fish. As a highly



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targeted preference for clients they were in a for a treat on this particular species. Others to join the activity included quality spangled emperor, maori sea bream, cattle dog cod, gold spot trevally and at times a lot of moses perch.

The moses perch were also in congregation mode and they school up in mass. Being a close cousin to the mangrove jack they are absolutely superb on the plate. Even though they don't grow to massive proportions one good fish around 40cm is enough to feed a grown man. There were oodles caught around this size.

Looking ahead at the diary there's not a lot of wiggle room left to book in October. We also have a 5 day reef closure from the 22nd October. So get on the blower ASAP to see where we can fit you in. The weather pattern should remain the same in my opinion.

Saltaire Charters



with Craig Newbold

During September we explored the vast waters of the Great Barrier Reef with intent. Brilliant weather and a steady flow of work afforded us to really enjoy why we all live up here.

Whatever we tried our hand at, the plan each day just seemed to work. The bottom fishing was awesome for coral trout and our trolling efforts consistently produced quality spanish mackerel and yellow and northern bluefin tuna. Popper fishing didn't necessarily equate to Gt's but we did get some ripping red bass and coral trout across the reefs. These fish when of size are nothing to sneeze at when you are trying to drag them away from the shallow reefs. A lot of snorkelling was completed on the family days as well as the odd dive trip.

The story for the month was on overnight trip with a father and son combination. The boys found themselves out along the shelf with magnificent

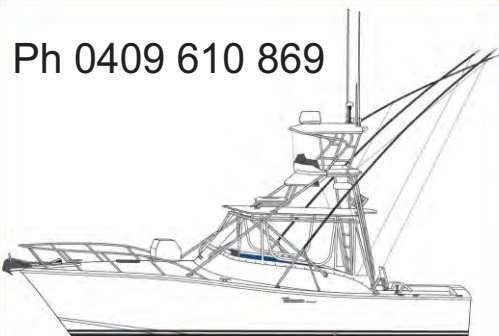
conditions on offer. At this point we were using light tackle gear trolling up some good northern and yellowfin tuna. With a yellowfin tuna right at the back of the boat, Dean our deckie was just about to set the gaff when without notice a big black marlin come from the depths and decided he'll have this for dinner. Our skipper, Troy from the fly bridge said he saw it all unfold and estimated it at 500lb. Poor Dean had the fright of his life but the beauty was the clients saw it all happen as well.

This is great news as we have quite a few heavy tackle marlin fishing days ahead in the next two months, including some serious hardcore anglers who have opted for stand up using 80lb reels. On top of this we have an extended Hope Island trip for some repeat clients who have been do this for 8 years.

The best is ahead!



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Top 6 Ranking

Dated 26th September By Google Business - Fishing Port Douglas
Our 645 photos posted got 68,249 total views in the last month



Reel Cooking with Heff Footy Finals Fish & Chips



Classic fish and chips are now an Australian institution and a dish that everyone can't help but love especially watching the Footy Finals, no matter your code. Prepare everything before the game and quickly cook whether it just be before the start or at half time.

Use a thick white fish for this recipe like nannygai or emperor. The fillets are dipped in a flour batter that includes both a dark beer and sparkling water, and the carbonation ensures a light, crispy fried fish. Whisk the combination so you can actually see the air bubbles in the batter.

The "chips" are simply freshly thin cut potatoes. Use one pot to fry the chips initially, then the fish, then quickly fry the chips again. You'll get that crisp exterior and fluffy interior to ensure both fish and chips are ready to eat at the same time.

Key for this is to use an old fashioned type lard - a block of 'Supa Fry' in the red jacket cover is highly recommended. Been on the supermarket shelves my entire life. Optimum temperature is around 170 C.

Serve with a sprinkle of crushed sea salt and coat with whatever your preference - tomato sauce, lemon juice, soy sauce or tartare sauce as a few suggestions.

Hope your Team Wins!!



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