

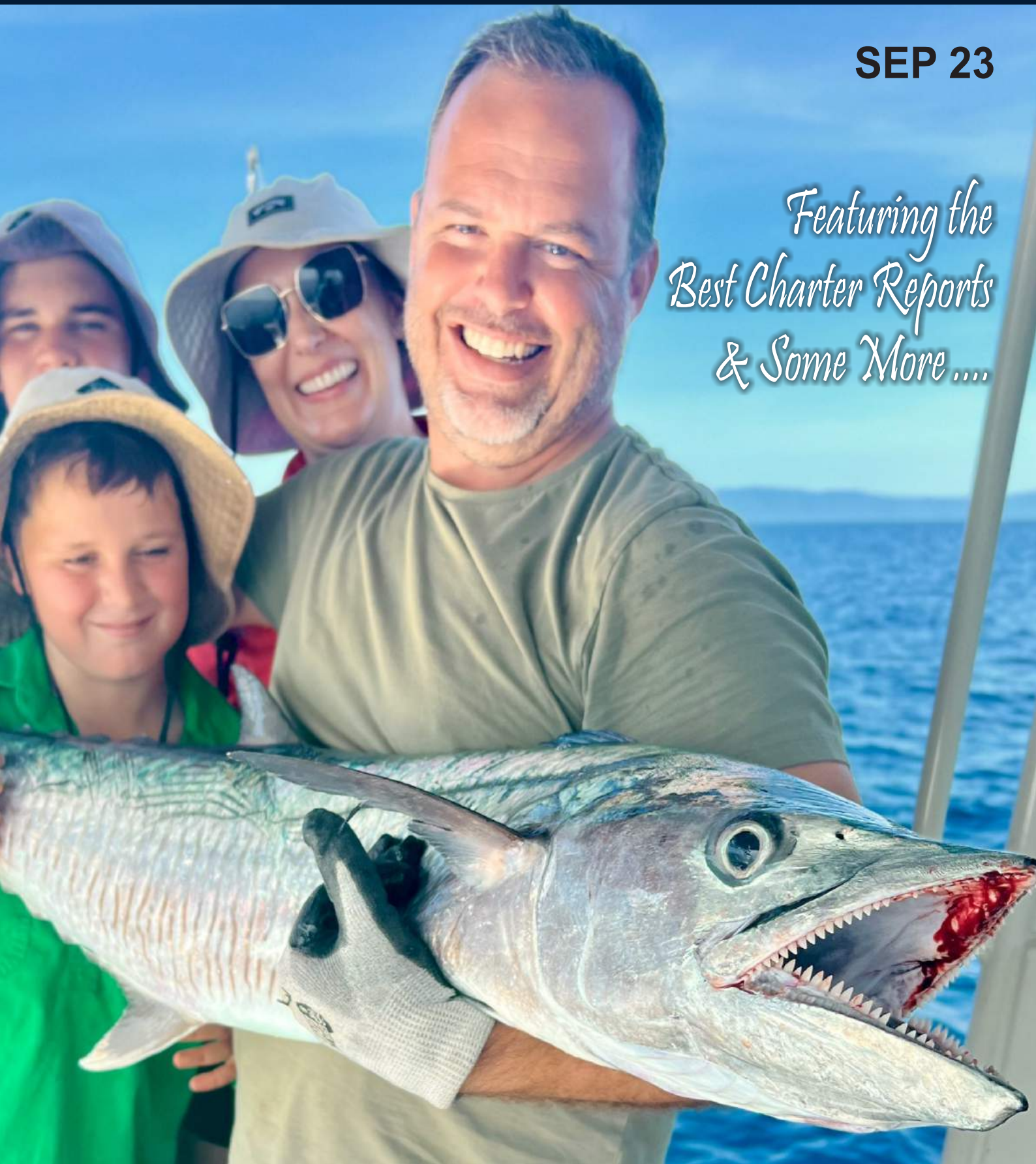
LINEBURNER

VOLUME 273 PRICELESS

FISHING TROPICAL FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

SEP 23

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Fishing Port Douglas News



with Heff

September has been a hard month to analyse and a big factor of this has been the continued wind strength from a fishing point of view. It has effected a lot of decision making by clientele and even as operators.

Also is the town as busy to past experiences, the answer is probably definitely no. As a gauge the historical Sheraton Mirage has been sitting below expected occupancy rates for this time year. Then you throw in outrageous airflight prices, the cost of living and interest rates and it becomes a bit of a 'snowball' effect across the board.

Even despite this economic dip on the graph, the fish don't know this and there's been some great experiences by many. There's always plenty of options up our sleeves which provide a top notch trip.

Moving forward there is a shift in focus for our light and heavy tackle season with highly targeted species on the cards including giant trevally, wahoo, yellowfin tuna and big black marlin to name a few. Our stock standard reef and river fishing will remain to produce all the favourites without doubt.

This month we add Jason Knack to our

reports with his sportfishing charter, Akula. Jason is 30yrs a local with also a Hunting & Fishing operation from Weipa. His commitment to providing the best fishing experience is at the forefront of his operation. I'll let you read his first report with us and will be a good informative read.

Other than this the Port Douglas Marlin Challenge from 15th-18th November is not too far away. Keep in mind the first run of Reef Closures 12th - 16th October where you'll need to consider your alternatives, which to be honest are plenty.

The next week looks brilliant for water conditions so we expect some big results forthcoming on our vessels.




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Fishing On the Daintree

with Jamie Beitzel



When I look back through the diary I must say that I've been a very busy boy for the last month. The days just seem to roll into the next one with charter work. You definitely get into a routine and to be honest it's been a pleasure because the Daintree always fishes well at this time of the year. I also seem to get lucky with the type of clientele I attract and for the most it's a joy to take them fishing.

Overall the weather was a pleasant temperature mainly because there was still quite a bit of wind around. I only found myself fishing along the coast a couple of times and had reasonable success catching large mouth nannygai and island trout as the keeper fish. There were a few trevally around to fill in the gaps.

Otherwise it was pretty much a river program which suits me to a tee. With water clarity and temperature on my side it was a matter of working in with the tides. As I've been doing this for most of my life on this river I know where to be at certain times of the tide. If you work accordingly there's generally always something to hook into.

I guess the most pleasing aspect was there were a variety of quality fish around and some rippers to boot. I had quite a few moments of great fishing on the big 1m Queenfish which were frequenting the system on the rising tide. Suspended live baits and popper fishing both worked effectively. Being a pelagic fish they need a bit of run in the tide to get them hitting your presentation with incredible gusto which never disappoints.



There's not too many species to catch that reach that magic 1m mark and these guys spend a lot of aerial time out of the water to make them a visually brilliant fish to latch onto. These fish do tend to like the deeper sections of the river in the main channel.

Also in the main channel I was able to tap into a lot of good fingermark fishing deep sections of the river which were holding structure and bait. These spots more often than not are fallen or sunken trees. Every year after the wet season these structures can turn up as new marks and once settled they attract the bait and provide an ambush point for the bigger fish. The fingermark are a very aggressive fish and do tend to dominate their area of residence.

That's where I've been able to find the barra in other sections mainly along a heavy mangrove line of river and the water doesn't have to be overly deep. The barra utilise the shade from the trees to shoot out at anything edible that swims by. They are very tricky spots to lure cast but I can always get a live bait in and under the foliage which is right on top of the water. My best barra was over 80cm which is considered a good one for this river system.

Other than this I've caught golden trevally, river trevally and some handy javelin fish across the flats or sandy sections up near the mouth.

Looking ahead October is almost booked out, so call ASAP if you're keen to fish the best river system in FNQ.



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Akula Sportfishing



with Jason Knack

Well I can honestly say we all must have done something to upset the reef gods again in September. Normally we expect the trade winds to start backing off a little as we head into our traditional glamour weather in mid October moving forwards, however mother nature has had a different idea with dogs being blown off chains on a daily basis. It has been a relentlessly windy winter. There has been extremely limited windows weather wise where we have been able to access the outer reef, let alone our favourite patches of remote gravel out wide where we love to rip the lips on big reds.

We wait in anticipation as we know when we have our window open, and the moon and tides in our favour, it's going to be epic! The coastal reefs have fished reliably on the right tide, which is on a rising tide, especially at the start of the flood and the last of the flood. Mid tide everything can sulk. Nothing new to anyone there that fishes the reef regularly. I get asked regularly by many clients, on my 30 years of local experience, what conditions fish



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best for big reds ?

Well here it is, without giving too much away. Firstly you have to have found your ground, gravel patches in 40 to 70 metres. You ideally want 4 days to the day of a dark (new) moon, with the second best period the same on a full moon. A rising tide has always produced best when I analyse my records, which everyone should keep. Big fresh fillet baits on ganged/snelled hooks (8/0-10/0), or artificials if you are prepared to work will get the results. My personal favourites for artificials are Nomad Vertrex, Squidtrex and Beserker Meat Heads 300g if the current is strong.

Biggest tip... If you strike too early on a red and drop it the school will scatter and go off the chew. Wait for that rod tip to load with weight before you set your hook and you stand a better chance of the school staying close and working. Best of luck in October and tight lines!

Saltaire Charters



with Craig Newbold

Well another month has passed us by and to everyone's dismay the winds didn't settle as anticipated. From memory we only enjoyed a glamour few days on the water.

Despite this we punched out reasonable numbers of charters and the fishing was quite good from our perspective. You typically expect this for this time of year. As we normally do our charters are varied from family days to your more serious angler, plus a couple of very jovial local groups from the Far North Region including Townsville and the Tablelands.



They were great people to have onboard.

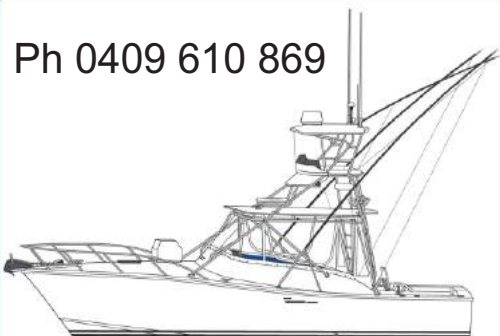
From a fishing point of view we did quite a bit of trolling for pelagics and do have a nose for finding the spanish mackerel . They were your stock standard variety between 8-10kg but a heap of fun. We ran into a few patches of longtail tuna and secured several of these around the 8kg range. Even at this size they pack some serious burn on the angler. A giant trevally at 18kg in the same process was the icing on the cake.

With school holidays a mixture of reef fishing and snorkelling was on the cards for the family group. We have sourced a sensational private part of the reef for the snorkelling and it is calm, the waters are aqua-blue no matter and the fish and coral life is a plenty. Some families opted to spend over half their charter time swimming in the water. Outside of this we then picked up a feed of coral trout and nannygai for them to take home for dinner. The feedback was brilliant which makes this gig so rewarding.

Moving forward our schedule gets a lot busier with Gt popper fishing / light tackle days plus also our heavy tackle program kicks into gear. It's the time of year the crew really start licking their lips to catch some big fish.

Towards the end of the month we are working in with our 50ft Escapade mothership for a variety of extended trips. One including a 4 day trip with 'ET' Andrew Ettingshausen with his National TV Fishing Program. This sort of program working in tandem will see us busy till the end of November.

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