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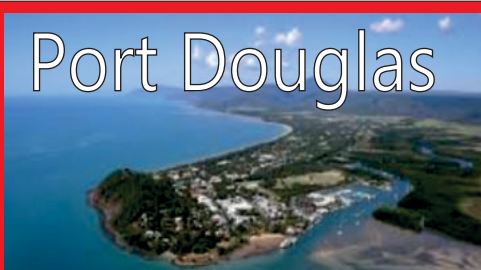
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Fishing Port Douglas News



with Heff

The biggest development to hit the recreational and charter industry recently has been the changes to regulations in regards to catching and keeping spanish mackerel in QLD. This has been hotly debated prior to the announcement but once the government gets a concept in their head there is no changing their minds. I first got wind of this late last year as part of a meeting for the reef line fishery advisory board. Recreational fisherman are impacted immediately with the charter industry making further adjustments in 2023.

Management changes for east coast Spanish mackerel

New east coast Spanish mackerel fishery management arrangements are in place from October 2022, following significant consultation with stakeholders. The changes aim to strike a balance between rebuilding the stock and providing more controlled access for recreational and commercial fishers. The management actions for the east coast Spanish mackerel include the following:

A northern closure in east coast waters north of 22°S (located slightly north of Stanage Bay, between Mackay and Yeppoon) for two three-week periods (six weeks total) around the new moons in October and November each year. The northern seasonal closures will provide vitally important protection for spawning aggregations. The first northern closure will run from 22 October 2022 to 12 November 2022 and 21 November to 12 December 2022.

A southern closure in east coast waters south of 22°S (located slightly north of Stanage Bay, between Mackay and Yeppoon) for two three-week periods (six weeks in total) in February and March each year. The first southern closure will run from 1 February 2023 to 21 February 2023 and 1 March 2023 to 21 March 2023.

Northern closure dates will be adjusted in subsequent years to

align with new moon periods.

In consideration of pre-existing charter bookings made up to a year in advance, seasonal closures will not apply to recreational fishers on licensed charter fishing trips until the following season, starting on 1 July 2023.

Other key management changes:

On 1 July 2023, the recreational possession limit will change to one fish per person, or two fish per boat with two or more recreational fishers on board (the boat limit will not apply to licensed charter fishing trips).

On 1 July 2023, the extended charter trip limit will be removed (currently allows recreational fishers to take twice the in-possession limit for charter trips longer than 48 hours).

On 1 July 2023, the total allowable commercial catch will be adjusted to 165 tonnes for the 2023 fishing season.

A new smartphone app will be developed for recreational fishers to voluntarily report Spanish mackerel catches on the east coast and shark depredation. By supplying your catch information, you also improve our data, and the accuracy of our fish stock analyses.

A new education and awareness program will be introduced to promote best practice catch, release and handling techniques for recreational fishers.

It's all a major game changer but it is now the law no matter your view.




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Fishing On the Daintree

with Jamie Beitzel



Hi to everyone from the Daintree River. Well, the first thing I would to comment on is how bloody hot it has become, probably a month in advance. It has really transformed the river very quickly and not necessarily for the better as the weeks rolled on.

Business has been extremely busy with barely a day off to recharge my personal batteries. With this in mind I've decided to take the next month off after a hectic year and get a few things in order which I simply haven't had the time to address. So my apologies upfront if you were looking to book me in November.

In the past month our expeditions got off to a good start with the fishing peaking at times. Quality fingermark, barramundi and mangrove jack kept me on my toes for quite awhile there. The barra were of decent size for our system ranging between 72cm up to 80cm. In the coming weeks they'll be gradually moving towards the mouth in anticipation of a breeding moment. Lucky thing for these guys they'll be off limits for anglers for the next 3 months with barra closures enforced.

The mangrove jacks we caught were off good size and boy

do they pack a punch when tussling with them, often hard up against the mangroves or in and around submerged timber. Basically it is a case of lock up the drag, wind if you get an opportunity and use your rod to help steer the fish away from trouble. The problem with 'jack's' is that they literally give you no warning. A lot of fish will give a bit of a tickle and an indication they are there. But not the mangrove jack which hits hard and fast putting the advantage in their favour.

Other than this I snavelled some javelin fish across the flats on a rising tide and they are a superb fish to take home and cook up. They have a distinctive sweet flavour to their flesh. They've been partial to fresh strip baits on the hook.

I did venture along the coast a few times and my inshore efforts were handsomely rewarded with some classic 7-8kg large mouth nannygai. One or two of these fish is more than enough to keep everyone happy. I'd actually say the coastal fishing by month's end was better than the river which got really warm and live bait was very scarce.

I'm going off to enjoy a well earned rest.



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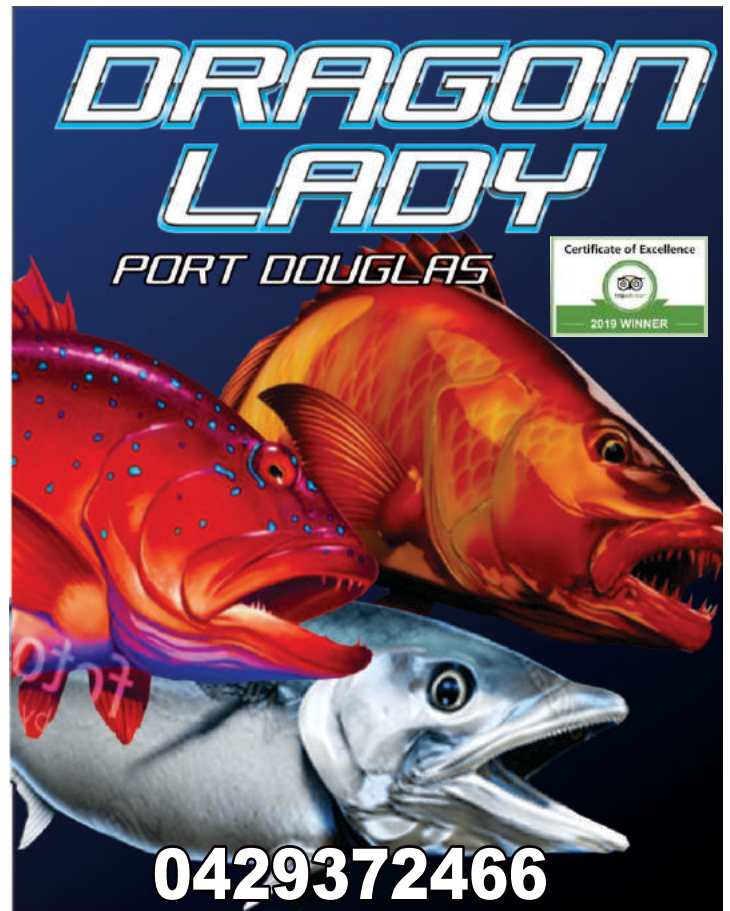
with Steve Adamson



It is with regret that we won't be posting a report this month.

We experienced a gear box problem at the start of the month which has taken over 3 weeks to resolve. The part had to come from Perth and we had terrible issues getting it to Port Douglas.

As Qantas wouldn't allow us to put it on the plane we had to rely on road express. As we all know there has been road freight problems for awhile now and this was exasperated with



the flooding experienced in the southern part of Australia.

As we speak we have just fixed the problem and look to continue running from now and will have a full report for you next month.

Saltaire Charters



with Craig Newbold

It has been a whirlwind of a month for us completing every possible style of fishing on the Great Barrier Reef. Because of the versatility of our vessel we have become an all round charter catering for whatever style of fishing you desire.

There was quite a lot of what we call stock standard daily charters catering for tourists wanting an exclusive private charter combining a day of fishing, snorkelling and also light tackle and popper fishing upon request. The majority of these were families plus there was naturally your super keen anglers looking for that bit more excitement. Probably the highlights fish wise, included a 45lb wahoo and a 15kg red bass on popper on these daily trips.

We also started our heavy tackle program for big black marlin which included daily and overnight trips. Our results were a little mixed marking and enticing a lot of bites from smaller 200-300lb

billfish. Our best tagged fish was about 450lb and we dropped a couple of others in the vicinity of 600-700lb. This style of fishing will come to more fruition as we enter the month of November, our prime time for chasing down 'Black's'.

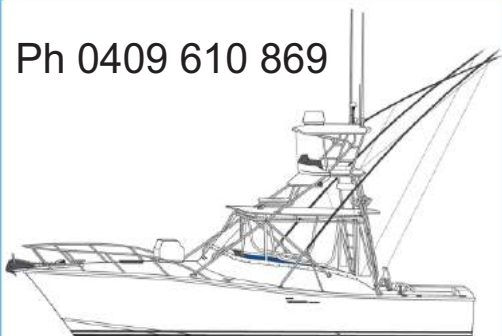
I must make special mention to the Metcalfe Boys who did a 4 day charter chasing marlin visiting from Port Stephens. Not only were these guys great value but seriously superb anglers opting to fish 80lb stand up gear. They did get the 450lb fish to boat which is a tremendous effort and have already booked for next year.

We also conducted a 4 day trip up to the hidden secret of the area, being Hope Island basically up the road from Port Douglas. These band of boys every year exclusively book this National Park Sand Cay Island and camp on the island fully self sufficient with camping gear and ovens, food, water and a few beers. It was our job to get them there, assist with getting them on the island and then take them fishing each day. The fishing was quite reasonable on the neap tides, but it's all about the journey and experience for these guys doing it Robinson Crusoe style. If you are ever thinking of doing something like this outside of the box we are your ticket to achieve this at a very affordable price.

Not too much will change in the near future with a lot of focus on our marlin fishing trips. Get in touch if you're keen as we have a few small windows open in November. The warmer weather is well and truly here and we expect some big results.



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Top 6 Ranking

Dated 20th October By Google Business - Fishing Port Douglas
Our 572 photos posted got 62,536 total views in the last month



Reel Cooking with Heff Simple, Summer Dishin'



Ingredients

4 x fillet of Coral Trout
A couples of knobs of quality Butter
Olive Oil
Sea Salt and Cracked Pepper
Greek Yoghurt
Table spoon of each - Lemon Juice & Lemon Zest
Chopped mint leaves to suit taste
Potato Wedges as side dish



Method

Heat fry pan to medium heat, add butter and once simmering add fish fillets. Cook both sides till golden brown. This won't take more than 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Utilise lemon juice to drizzle over the cooked product.

To the Greek Yoghurt, add lemon zest and a hint of chopped mint, with a dash of olive oil and stir. Serve in a dipping saucer. You can dip as you please with the fish and the wedges.

Have your potato wedges cooking in the oven during the process and serve nice and warm once the fish is plated.

After a hot day you don't want to be slaving in the kitchen for too long !!

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