



# GFAA Newsletter

November 2019

## From the President

Hi everyone, welcome to the November GFAA Newsletter.

There certainly has been plenty happening since the last newsletter came out.

The Annual General Meeting and Dinner was held in Perth last month and there is a comprehensive report in here listing all of the winners of the annual awards. It was great to see so many juniors there to receive their awards and thanks must go to their parents for the time and effort they put in to supporting their childrens' angling endeavours.

Another highlight of the evening was the awarding of Life Membership to John McIntyre. Please take the time to read his citation further down, it will no doubt give a real insight of John's achievements over almost sixty years of involvement with our sport.

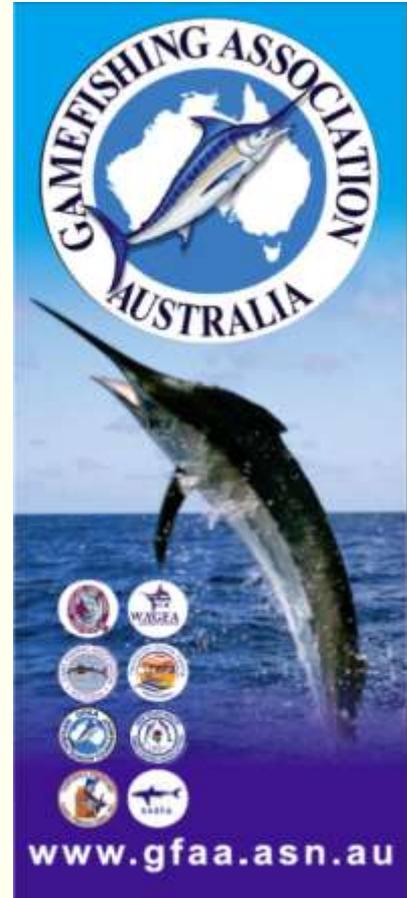
There were a few changes to the Executive at the AGM, which saw Doug Sanderson stand down as President after four years of dedicated service. Doug has been tasked with following up on a number of things and we look forward to reporting on them as they come together.

Don't forget the newsletter is freely available to all, so if you like it, we're happy for you to recommend it to your friends, be they club members or not and it's easy to subscribe so you can have each issue emailed to you direct. Please follow this link to subscribe [CLICK HERE](#)

The holidays are drawing near, hopefully you can all get out onto the water to enjoy some fishing, but in the meantime, settle in, relax and enjoy what's on offer in this extensive catch-up on things.

Best Wishes for the New Year and tight lines,

Ian Bladin  
[president@gfaa.asn.au](mailto:president@gfaa.asn.au)



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## News

### GFAA Annual General Meeting

The 2019 AGM and Presentation Dinner was held at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle concurrent with the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the founding of the Western Australian Game Fishing Association.

A number of important items that could affect anglers throughout the country were the inclusion of butterfly mackerel in the species list, a species that is caught in all states except the Northern Territory and the continuation of the free release trial for sailfish, that now includes the completion of shark interaction data collection.

The elections of a new President and Vice-President following the retirement of Doug Sanderson after four years at the helm and the succession of Anton Vogiatzis as Vice-President were uncontested.

The Office Bearers of the Association for 2020 are:

President	Ian Bladin (Qld)
Vice-President	Anton Vogiatzis (Vic)
Secretary	Peter Coote (WA)
Treasurer	Peter Cox (NT)
Recorder	Peter Babarskas (WA)
Junior Coordinator	Kevin Oates (Vic)
Conservation Officer	Dr Evan Jones (Qld)
-Public Officer	Grahame Williams OAM (NSW)

State Executive Officers of the Association for 2020 are:

New South Wales	Grahame Williams OAM
Northern Territory	Bruce Simpson
Queensland North	Mick Meiers
Queensland South	Joshua Cox
South Australia	Ralph Czabayski
Tasmania	Jason Probert
Victoria	Anton Vogiatzis
Western Australia North	Brian Snook
Western Australia South	Peter Babarskas

The presentation dinner was well attended by award winners from most states with many juniors attending with their families. A full list of awards begins on page 7.

A highlight of the evening was the award of Life Membership to John McIntyre, the Association's historian whose involvement with game fishing goes back to the 1950. John was surprised at the honour and further surprised when his daughter Joanne, who came over from NSW, emerged and joined the party. An outline of John's achievements and contributions to the Association is on page 4.

John Webber – WA South Delegate and Geoff Fisher – Web Master were both recognised for their contributions over many years having now retired from GFAA's executive.

In recognition of the work already being done by GFAA and member states, a new award, The GFAA Conservation Award is to be made annually to the club or individual who best demonstrates the conservation values from a game fishing perspective.



President Ian Bladin with Life Member Neil Patrick – Left and with John Webber - Right

## Life Membership Honour for John McIntyre

At the GFAA Annual dinner held on October 26<sup>th</sup>, John McIntyre was afforded the Honour of Life Membership of the Association. As our long-term historian, John was very aware of the significance of that date, because it was exactly 82 years previously that the first meeting of what was to become the GFAA was held in Sydney. Below is an edited version of John's citation which accompanied his nomination.

"Organisations like the Game Fishing Association of Australia, the oldest National Association in the world, survive because of people who dedicate part of their lives to making it great.

There is a whole range of people who give their time but don't seek the spotlight of President or Executive but without whom, we would not survive.

The journey of this very special fisherman begins in the year 1937 where as a young child his first fishing experience was in Elwood, Victoria. At the tender age of 10, he moved to Sydney, where his love for fishing did not fade, it was in 1957 at the age of 20 he joined the Sydney Game Fishing Club. This introduction to the club was through a family friend, Basil Davidson, who at the time was Secretary of 'The Sydney Game Fishing Club'.

During his years at the Sydney Game Fishing Club, John fished on many vessels including 'Blue Seabird', 'Wyoming', 'Tennessee 11' and 'Piranha' learning from some



President Ian Bladin (left) and Doug Sanderson (right) present new Life Member John McIntyre with his pin and plaque.

very knowledgeable fishers such as Bob Dyer, Bill Southam and Myles and Harry Sutton. He also spent an extensive period on board John Kellion's JAC 11 and JAC 111 which in 1958 was an early twin-engine timber 36' cruiser. John owned and operated his own game fishing boat, '*Stormy Petrel*'.

His fishing achievements are many and definitely something to be proud of; a World Record with The International Game Fish Association (IGFA), five records with Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) and six New South Wales Game Fishing State Records.

His love and passion for fishing continued when he wasn't on the water, for it was in 1970 through to 1972 when he became the Honorary Secretary for the New South Wales Game Fishing Association, then in 1973 through to 1974 he was the Honorary Secretary for the Game Fishing Association of Australia, President of Port Hacking Game Fishing Club in 1978 to 1980 and was made a life member of Port Hacking in 1993. He was made life member of the New South Wales Game Fishing Association in 2012.

With a keen interest in the history of the sport of game fishing, the Game Fishing Association of Australia has been fortunate to have access to a vast knowledge base of a person that has known nearly every Game Fishing Association of Australia President from the past 60 years and has met with and reminisced with the late Mr Clive Firth, the founder of the Game Fishing Association of Australia. In this meeting in 1974 Mr. Firth discussed the fishing adventures of Mr. Michael Lerner which led to the formation of the International Game Fish Association.

John's vast knowledge and experiences have led to him being a prolific writer of game fishing articles, having written feature articles in our own GFAA Journal for the past 22 years and many feature articles in Blue Water and Sportfishing magazines.

Game Fishing Association of Australia is a much stronger organisation for having a true gentleman and great friend in Mr. John McIntyre.

Congratulations John on your well-deserved honour.

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## GFAA Annual Trophies

The Annual Trophies were presented at the Annual Presentation Dinner on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**NEIL PATRICK TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who tagged and released the most other game fish in Australian waters.

Max Grasso  
King Bay Game Fishing Club  
98 Gamefish



Jan Oosthuizen with the John and Ann Brooker Trophy left.  
Max Grasso receives the Neil Patrick Trophy from Neil Patrick and President Ian Bladin.



**JOHN & ANNE BROOKER TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who tagged & released most southern blue fin tuna in Australian waters.

Jan Oosthuizen  
Warrnambool Offshore & Light Game Fishing Club  
62 Southern Bluefin Tuna



**GRAHAME A. WILLIAMS TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who tagged and released the most sharks in Australian waters.

Mia Wright  
Sydney Game Fishing Club  
51 Sharks



**TAILORED MARINE TROPHY:** Highest point-scoring boat tag & release in Australian waters.

The Wench  
King Bay Game Fishing Club  
49,246 points



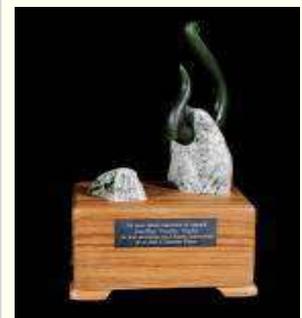
**PETER BENNETT TROPHY:** Most meritorious tag & release achievement by a GFAA junior in Australian waters.

Max Grasso  
King Bay Game Fishing Club  
118 Tags



**GEOFFREY WOOLLEY TROPHY:** Awarded for the most meritorious tag & release achievement by an adult angler in Australian waters.

Daniel Paull  
GFC Northern Tasmania



**Bob Lowe T&R Trophy:** The most meritorious tag & release achievement by a GFAA affiliated club in Australian waters.

Canberra Game Fishing Club  
1,400,587 points



**Peter Goadby Trophy:** Awarded to the angler who captures the heaviest shark in Australian waters.

Janet West  
Broken Bay Game Fishing Club  
470.5kg Tiger Shark



From left: Sancia Glaskin accepts the Bob Lowe Trophy on behalf of the Canberra GFC.  
Janet West accepts the Peter Goadby Trophy from President Ian Bladin

**TOM BELL TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who captures the heaviest game fish (excluding sharks) in Australian waters.

Marc Lagerewskij  
Tuna Club of Tasmania  
319.70 kg Broadbill Swordfish



**SIR GARRICK AGNEW TROPHY:** Awarded to the angler who tagged and released the most billfish in Australian waters

Dale Penhall  
Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club  
72 Billfish



**DAVID LITCHFIELD TROPHY:** Awarded to the Highest Point scoring boat for tag & release marlin in Australian waters

Pole Dancer  
Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club  
46,800 points



**JOHN O' BRIEN TROPHY:** Awarded to the highest tag & release point scoring GFAA club

Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club  
172,040 points



**JOHN DUNPHY AWARD:** An encouragement award for Juniors who have achieved an IGFA, GFAA, State or Club record, a notable fishing capture or T&R achievement, exceptional contributions to the sport of game fishing and/or outstanding example as a role model for other juniors.

2019  
James Dunn  
Lake Macquarie Game Fishing Club



Janeck Kaczorowski accepting the John Dunphy Award on behalf of the Winner James Dunn of Lake Macquarie Game Fishing Club



## GFAA JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2018/19 STATE JUNIOR WINNERS

State	Name	Points	Club
<b>CAPTURE AWARDS: Junior Male</b>			
QLD	Ryan Meads	2340	Mackay GFC
NSW	Oska Davis	1904	Central Coast GFC
NT	Joey Selvey	140	Darwin GFC
WA	<i>not won</i>		
VIC	<i>not won</i>		
SA	Liam Johnson	158	Port MacDonnell Offshore AC
TAS	Lachlin Hicks	1185	GFC of Northern Tasmania



<b>CAPTURE AWARDS: Junior Female</b>			
QLD	<i>not won</i>		
NSW	Makira Wright	2309	Sydney GFC
NT	<i>not won</i>		
WA	Chloe Hornhardt	4322	King Bay GFC
VIC	<i>not won</i>		
SA	Georgia Barrett	445	Port MacDonnell Offshore AC
TAS	Sarah Donovan	185	GFC of Northern Tasmania



<b>RELEASE AWARDS: Junior – Male</b>			
QLD	Bryce Bartleson	11390	Sunshine Coast GFC
NSW	Brody McKay	1420	Batemans Bay GFC
NT	Joey Selvey	2070	Darwin GFC
WA	<i>not won</i>		
VIC	<i>not won</i>		
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	Lachlin Hicks	40	GFC of Northern Tasmania



<b>RELEASE AWARDS: Junior – Female</b>			
QLD	Emmi Roberts	410	Weipa Billfish Club
NSW	Kaitlyn Schofield	3330	Bermagui BGAC
NT	Tiannah Piddick	110	Nhulunbuy Regional FC
WA	Chloe Hornhardt	16430	King Bay GFC
VIC	<i>not won</i>		
SA	<i>not won</i>		
TAS	Zara Nelson	10	St Helens GFC



Tom Roche Junior CAPTURE TROPHY: Highest Point Scoring Junior Angler in Australian Waters

<b>NATIONAL CAPTURE AWARD</b>	Chloe Hornhardt	4322	King Bay GFC
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Tom Roche Junior RELEASE AWARD TROPHY : Highest Point Scoring Junior Angler in Australian Waters

<b>NATIONAL RELEASE AWARD</b>	Chloe Hornhardt	16430	King Bay GFC
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*Chloe Hornhardt -Tom Roche Small Junior Capture Trophy and Release Trophy*



*Joey Selvey Junior Capture and Release Awards*



*Tiannah Piddick Junior Release Award*



*Emilie Donovan collecting the daughter Sarah's Junior Capture Award*

**GFAA JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2018/19 STATE SMALL FRY WINNERS**

State	Name	Points	Club
<b>CAPTURE AWARDS: Small Fry Male</b>			
QLD	Tyler Barnes	586	Newport GFC
NSW	Hunter Davies	134	Shellharbour GFC
NT	not won		
WA	Max Grasso	4926	King Bay GFC
VIC	not won		
SA	not won		
TAS	Lincoln Philpott	773	GFC of Northern Tasmania



<b>CAPTURE AWARDS: Small Fry Female</b>			
QLD	not won		
NSW	not won		
NT	not won		
WA	Jessica Hornhardt	10279	King Bay GFC
VIC	Chloe Dance	487	Warrnambool Offshore & Light GFC
SA	not won		
TAS	not won		



<b>RELEASE AWARDS: Small Fry Male</b>			
QLD	Tyler Barnes	1370	Newport GFC
NSW	Hunter Davies	40	Shellharbour GFC
NT	Cooper Rudd	120	Darwin GFC
WA	Max Grasso	7040	King Bay GFC
VIC	Martin Oosthuizen	180	Warrnambool Offshore & Light GFC
SA	not won		
TAS	not won		



<b>RELEASE AWARDS: Small Fry Female</b>			
QLD	not won		
NSW	not won		
NT	not won		
WA	Jessica Hornhardt	16260	King Bay GFC
VIC	Summer Missen	40	Victorian GFC
SA	not won		
TAS	not won		



GFAA JUNIOR NATIONAL TOURNAMENT 2018/19 NATIONAL SMALL FRY WINNERS

Tom Roche Small Fry CAPTURE TROPHY: Highest Point Scoring Small Fry Angler in Australian Waters

NATIONAL CAPTURE AWARD  
 Jessica Hornhardt  
 10279  
 King Bay GFC



Tom Roche Small Fry RELEASE AWARD TROPHY: Highest Point Scoring Small Fry Angler in Australian Waters

NATIONAL RELEASE AWARD  
 Jessica Hornhardt  
 16260  
 King Bay GFC



Jessica Hornhardt - Tom Roche Small Fry Award Capture Trophy and Release Trophy



Tyler Barnes Small Fry Release Award



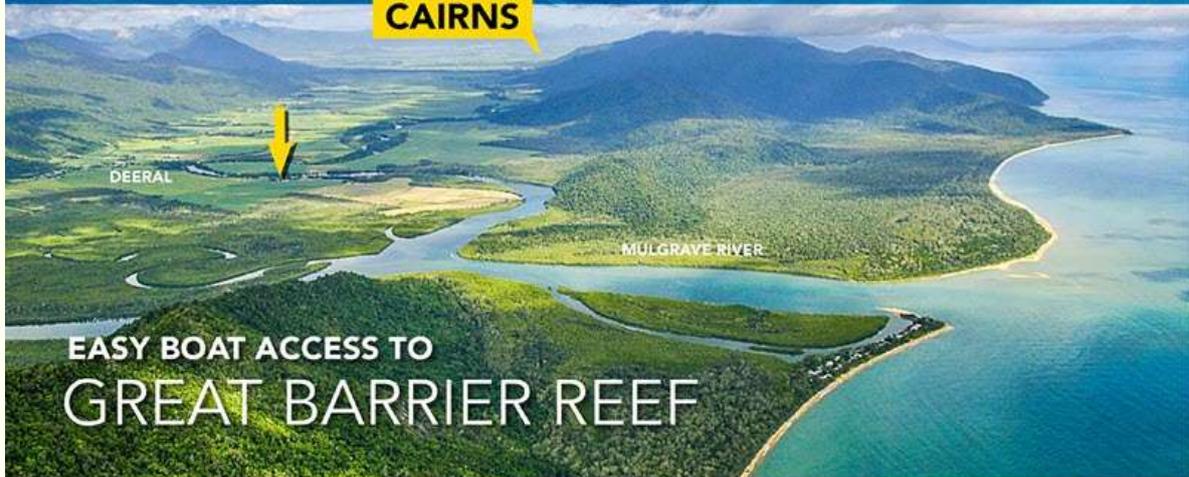
Max Grasso Small Fry Capture and Release Awards



Oaska Davids with mum, dad and sister NSW State Champion Junior Angler Award

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## State News

State News is compiled with a different state heading the section in each edition.

### Tasmania



With the quiet winter months now behind us, Tasmania is gearing up for another action-packed game fishing season. The TGFA clubs are rearing to go off the back of a solid season last year and have again announced a comprehensive competition calendar across the January to July period that will stretch along our beautiful north, east and south coasts. Whilst the tournament fishing aspect to clubs is significant, all clubs have also focused on social and family inclusiveness with several fun and family fun fish days included in the year. This is an initiative encouraged by the state body with membership growth to a broader demographic in mind.

The TGFA attended the most recent and very positive GFAA Conference. We enjoyed the Western Australian hospitality and extend our thanks to WAGFA for a great time in Fremantle.

It was a busy weekend for Tasmania with a successful application for butterfly mackerel which is now included into the GFAA species list. This cool water species has been caught consistently across the southern waters of Australia with captures being registered for record claims in our state since the 1960s. Capture registration have also been recorded across 5 other states including an IGFA record capture in Victorian waters. They are a genuine game fish species with fighting abilities like that of tuna.

The Fremantle presentation dinner was an extremely successful one for Tasmania with a proud group of Junior Tournament recipients being awarded state trophies. Small Fry Male Capture winner was Lincoln Philpott from the GFCNT, Junior Male Capture winner was Lachlin Hicks from the GFCNT, Junior Female Capture was Sarah Donovan from GFCNT and Zara Nelson from the SHGFC jumped in to stop a clean sweep by the GFCNT winning the Junior Female Release award. Fantastic achievements by these young anglers and a big shout out also to our National and State Coordinators Kevin Oats and Jason Probert and their work on again making the National Junior Tournament a great opportunity for our state's young angler participation and recognition.

Tasmania's exciting and emerging broadbill sword fishery was once again in the spotlight with Mac Lagerewskij from the Tuna Club of



*Zara Nelson from SHGFC State Junior Female Release Winner*



Tasmania winning the GFAA's prestigious Tom Bell Perpetual Trophy for the heaviest game fish captured (excluding shark) in Australian waters. The 319.70kg fish has also achieved an Australian line class record and takes Tasmania another step closer as it edges towards the possibility of the first grander Broadbill capture in Australia.

With Marc's magnificent achievement it was timely opportunity while in WA for Tasmania to float a new and innovative concept for an AIBT, and maybe as soon as 2023. Never has an Australian International Billfish Tournament been hosted as far south as Tasmania and never with the billfish target species being the broadbill swordfish, "the gladiator of the sea". The Tasmanian

delegation at the conference was able to present a concept paper of the possibility of hosting a 14-day AIBT kicked off and concluded in association with a couple of other major game fishing tournaments on Tasmania's picturesque and alluring east coast. This would give interstate and international visitors an opportunity to experience a Tasmanian game fishing vacation with more than one game fish species on offer as a side to the main tournament. While still in planning, the feedback and positive reception to the concept was encouraging. The assistive commentary provided by the breadth and depth of learned attendees was heartening.

We were privileged to have such a wealth of experience and knowledge gathered to provide us a positive response. We will now continue to work on it with a view to presenting an official application to the GFAA in the future.

Tight Lines from Tassie  
John Edwards  
TGFA President

## Victoria

Anton Vogiatzis - President GFAV



With the sou'westers kicking and the tea trees in bloom signalling the traditional snapper run we see anglers from across Victoria start to target the bays and inlets for the annual run of snapper. The popular species sees good numbers of 2 to 4kg fish with few 10kg plus models thrown in to keep things exciting. With the abundance of this species and light line possibilities in Port Phillip Bay makes me wonder why more anglers aren't trying for more records locally. While the 2kg line class record for Victoria currently sits at 5.25kg, the 4kg line class fish is only 4.9kg, seems easily achievable given low current and muddy bottom prevalent in Port Phillip Bay.



A nice Port Phillip Bay snapper

Seems to be more and more anglers taking advantage of the warmer weather interstate at this time of year and chasing more warm water species in the northern parts of Australia.

Good to see many making the pilgrimage to Cairns and enjoying its spoils not only chasing grander blacks, but other fine sports fish thrown into the mix. Mackerel, GT's and tuna as well as other tasty reef fish are a thrill on the end of your line and very rewarding on the plate! We have had great reports come in from the Sandy family fishing their boat Amokura in Cairns with many fish caught and great to see the juniors getting stuck into some great fishing.

Skipper Brett Goetze notched up an outstanding day on the reef on Amokura in October. With 21 bites in 3 days, the icing on the cake was going 4 from 6, at 400, 800, 900 and 1032lb! The big fish being the third grander for angler Stephan Kruepl making



Junior female Kirsten Sandy solid black marlin about to be tagged at Cairns

him the only person in the world to have weighed all 3 over 1000lb, which is a great achievement for an international angler

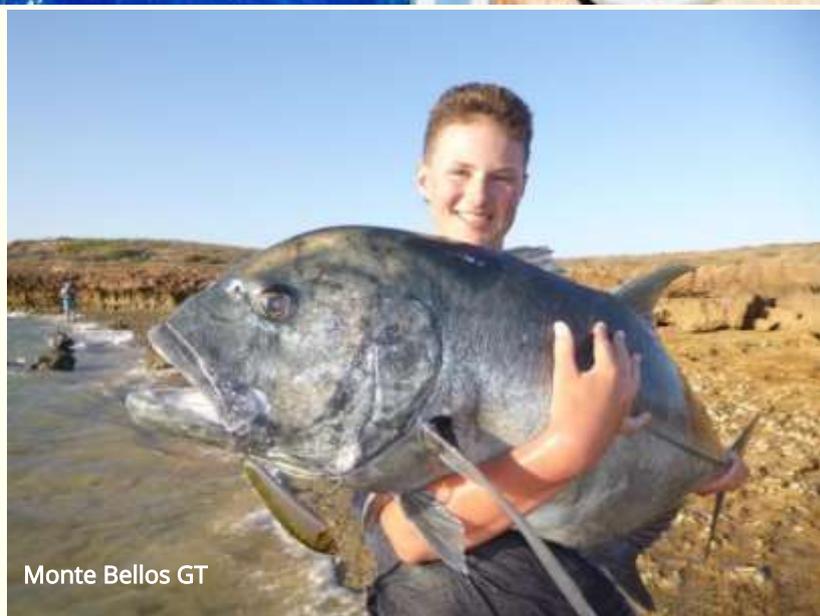
Western Australia has proven to be another popular spot for fishing tourism with spots like Broome and the Monte Bello Islands becoming the flavour of the month. Several groups of like-minded anglers jumping on live aboard charters to fish the Monte Bellos Islands, one group enjoying a spectacular 27 sailfish caught and released in one day in October! World class by any measure



Monte Bellos Sailfish

As Christmas edges closer the Bluewater scene closer to home will start to see a run of yellowtail kingfish and the school bluefin tuna turn up in shallow waters across the state. Anglers attention will soon turn to marlin on the south coast of NSW and eastern Victoria, it certainly is a good time to be a Victorian!

Tight lines and hope to see you on the water soon!



Monte Bellos GT

Anton Vogiatzis

## Western Australia

Peter Babarskas - GFAA Executive Officer WA South



The exciting news from the West has been the announcement of an additional six FADs being deployed off the coast of Perth taking the count to 12 FADs. Perth Game Fishing Club has deployed six FADs each of the past 21 years for the duration of the season. Recfishwest has funded the additional FADs of PGFC design through the Recreational Fishing Initiatives Fund. RFIF is funded from recreational fishing licence money and it's these types of projects that the fund is designed for.

Recfishwest has also been working closely with local fishing clubs to develop and deploy additional FADs in regional areas. There will be FADs deployed off Albany, Cape Naturaliste, Geraldton, Exmouth and Broome as part of a three-year trial program.

Exciting times ahead for game fishing in WA. Let's hope it also transfers into an increase in club activity and member numbers increasing.

There has been little activity in southern waters over the winter months with cold water off the coast. Bait schools have started to gather in late October and some small southern bluefin tuna in the 5-7kg range and larger skipjack tuna up to 7kg are feeding on them. The salmon run was short lived this year with fish only schooling off Fremantle and around the islands for a couple of weeks before disappearing.

It was an absolute pleasure hosting the GFAA AGM and awards night in Fremantle last month especially as it was WAGFA's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. From what many have said it was a wonderful weekend in the West.



## Western Australia

Brian Snook - GFAA Executive Officer WA North



The past winter months are a busy period for clubs in the north-west. Broome North Fishing Club ran a Gone Fishing Day clinic in October with over 100 participants turning up for the morning. This was followed by their barra "away" comp. River levels are really low, as can be seen from the image below. Competitors were down by about 25% on previous years. BNFC's VP took out the title in back to back years with a 106cm fish.



Broome Fishing Club ran a sanctioned free release billfish event which was the most successful in the history of the comp, including mackerel and tuna in the species list.

Further south, King Bay Game Fishing Club based in Karratha/Dampier held its annual Dampier Classic sanctioned competition. 22 boats and 66 anglers competed targeting three major categories; tag and release billfish, capture and tag and release gamefish. The tournament boasted ideal conditions for the first two days before being buffeted by strong winds, the tally was 111 billfish and 218 gamefish tagged and 47 fish captured.

At the awards

presentation, the big

winners taking out the tournament's top three categories were Chasing Tail (champion boat tag and release gamefish), Blue Stuff (champion boat tag and release billfish) and Big Daddy (champion boat capture).

Blue Stuff also collected the Simrad champion all-rounder award, a new prize recognising participation across all three sections.



*Small fry champion tag and release gamefish and capture winner Max Grasso, 9, with King Bay Game Fishing Club president Ian Lannary and weighmaster Mick Grasso.*

Exmouth Game Fishing Club held the Australian Junior Billfish Tournament in August which was its usual success.

This was followed by the Billfish Bonanza. Despite windy conditions that caused the first day to be cancelled and significant reductions in fishing times for the remaining two days, 10am-3pm, the 2019 Billfish Bonanza was run and won. 11 teams contested the PRO/AM event across seven sections, catching and releasing a total of 17 sailfish, one striped marlin and one blue marlin.

Congratulations to team Haulin' who took out Champion Team Marlin AM, Nail It who won Champion Team Sailfish AM and On Strike who were Champion Team Overall and Sailfish PRO.

The 'Free Release' allowed for billfish within the Exmouth Gukf waters was once again hailed as a complete success by the anglers and no billfish were lost to sharks.



**2020**



**ABROLHOS ISLANDS  
GAME FISHING  
TOURNAMENT**

**21ST - 27TH MARCH 2020**

Contacts:  
Pete Berryman 0428 467112  
gdofccommittee@gmail.com

## Northern Territory

Bruce Simpson - President NTGFA



The weather is warming as is the fishing in the Northern Territory with hot days and calm seas bringing great conditions for both clubs to be running their annual blue water focussed tournaments as we build towards the wet season and everyone is out and about trying to find that fish of a lifetime.

Nhulunbuy has several tournaments in this period with the John Jones completed while the GFAA AGM weekend was underway and Darwin also completing its Billfish Classic over the same period.

From the reports I have from NRSFC there were only two billfish tagged for this competition but the weather is likely to get much better and the water conditions too as the Gove Game Classic kicks off in November so I'm hoping to bring you plenty of results from these competitions in the next newsletter with some great pictures as well.

In the western waters the 12<sup>th</sup> Iron Jack Billfish Classic was fished on October 23-25 with 15 teams fighting it out for glory. The waters off the Dundee coast, favoured by smaller trailer boats had seen dirty water settle in during the weeks prior which saw many teams opt to load up the jerry cans and live aboard their vessels to fish the waters west of Bathurst Island, a drive of 120kms offshore from Darwin in the search of cleaner water.

As seems to be the case, there was plenty of hard luck stories with people being connected to large black marlin on gear better suited to sailfish with battles lasting up to 5 hours. It's a dilemma teams struggle with every year in these waters, wanting to have a good fight on 10-15kg line for sailfish to 30kg then to have a 150kg black marlin eat your lure or bait, though teams are now better prepared to handle these fish to increase their chances of landing them and a strong release.

A total of 12 fish were tagged, well down on last year, which has been put down to the dirty water that came into the grounds.

Results for the competition were:

Champion Team: Bill Collectors - two marlin, one sailfish (Peter Deinhoff, Rodney Falkner, David Brooks & Anthony Verkulyn)

Runner-up under 7.5m: Smokin' Billies - two sailfish (Mat Barrett, Beau Cartledge & Brenton Cartledge)

Runner-up over 7.5m: Bigfish - one marlin, one sailfish (Josh Ker, Nat Ker, Noah Ker & Tim Roberts)

Champion Angler: Rodney Faulkner - one marlin and one sailfish

Most Meritorious Capture: David Brooks - black marlin (est 120kg) on 15kg line

On the junior side, the young ones of the NT are getting into the swing of it with new angler for the GFAA Junior Tournament Nate Saunders tagging and releasing five sailfish in September during a hot period of action for Darwin. This Small Fry angler won the Champion Angler - Billfish for DGFC in 2018 so I am looking forward to more tags from

this young man and his sisters as the year goes on.

Cooper Rudd has also made us all very jealous submitting some very healthy barramundi well into the 90cm range on some recent trips away with the family. Jump on to the GFAA Junior Tournament Facebook page and check out the great fish this young man measured and released in the last few weeks.

I encourage all clubs to really get behind this junior tournament. With the incoming changes to come into effect in January there is no excuse for kids not to be entering fish through the GFAA Junior Tournament page and getting some points, there are some great monthly prizes for the kids to win as well.



# Queensland South



Joshua Cox GFAA Executive Officer – Queensland South

Not a great deal to report for the first quarter with the windy days well out numbering the fishable days. Tournament season is just about to ramp up with the first cab off the rank being Harvey Bay from November 15-17 and on the back of promising numbers of fish it should be another cracker tournament.

Boats from throughout southern Queensland have been making the trip to Fraser Island waters for what is now becoming an annual occurrence of big numbers of blue marlin and small blacks. Dave Trask on Big Business fished Fraser for the little blacks and they showed in good numbers with 35 bites over 3 ½ days of fishing.

Heavy tackle is firing at the moment as well, with Sunshine Coast boat, Blue Water recording 28-25-15 for a mix of blacks, blues and stripes on heavy tackle for a three day effort. Other boats fishing the area since have seen good numbers as well so it will be a good season for anyone who makes the trip to those grounds.

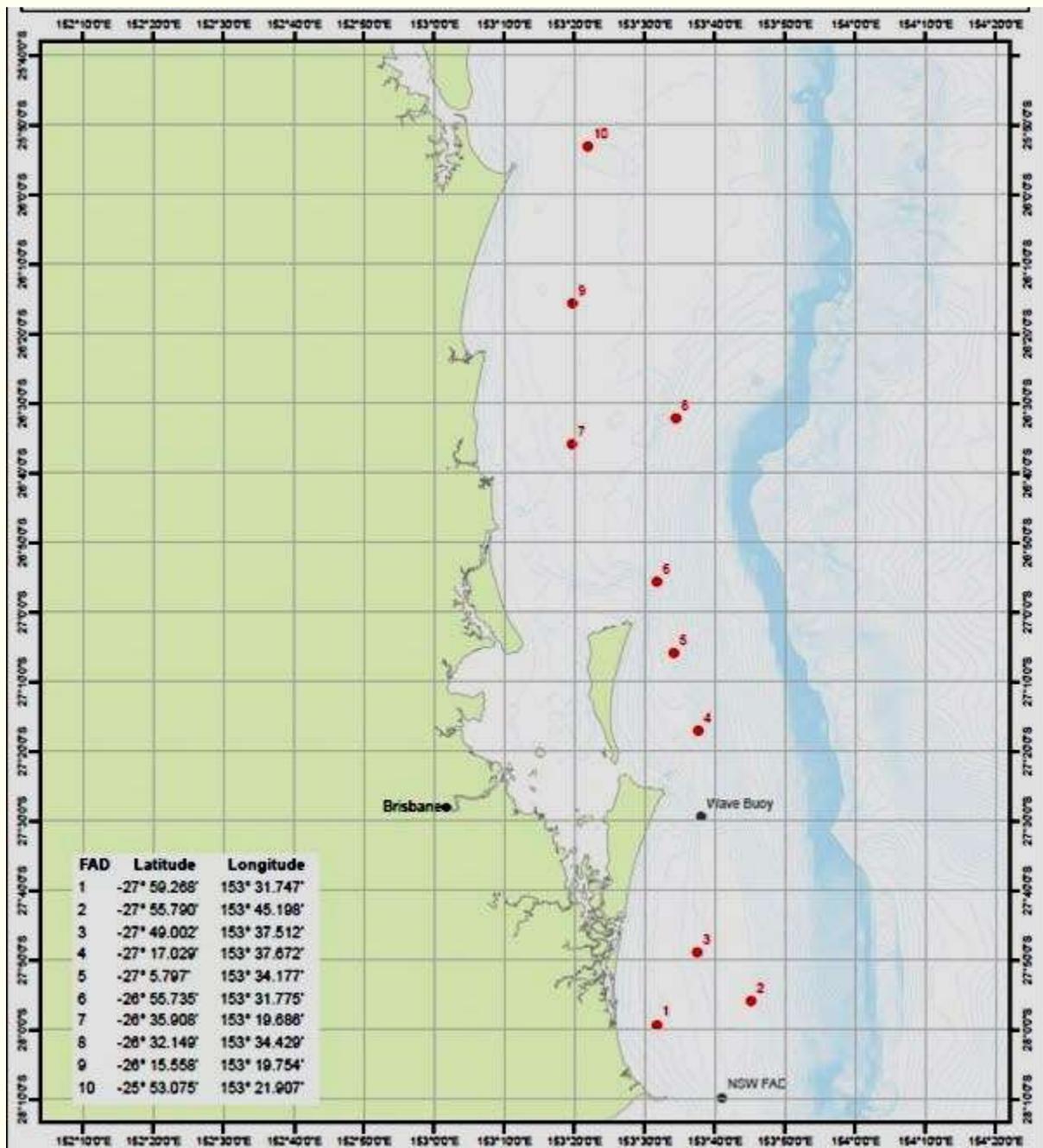
The Sunshine Coast has been a regular performer in late winter early spring for the last couple of years. Good numbers of sailfish and micro blacks are caught right through July till now. The regular show of bigger blacks is yet to come but based on what's been happening at Fraser we should expect good numbers again in this area.

The next comp off the Sunshine Coast is the Mooloolaba Garmin Billfish Bonanza which is also the first round of the Albert & Pauline Threadingham South East QLD Challenge Cup.



The Gold Coast Shimano Shootout was run and won by Gold Coast Boat Tataki, whose crew won a share of \$14,000 cash and a ticket into the Offshore World Championship. Gold Coast has also seen good numbers of yellowfin tuna and mahi mahi (pictured). Casey Harrison caught a yellowfin tuna which went just shy of 60kg and Ash Haigh's mahi mahi went 23kg, both good fish for these waters.

By the time this newsletter is published, 10 FADs (Fish Aggregation Devices) will have been deployed in our waters by Queensland Fisheries with up to five more to come in the near future. This is a great incentive which will hopefully increase the fish numbers in our waters.



## Queensland Far North



John Munro - Committee Member Yorkeys Knob SFC

### Cairns Offshore

The light tackle marlin season was slow but, on the upside, we are now settling in to the heavy tackle season. The fleet has had some great results with most also seeing some smaller marlin amongst the giants in the 200 to 500lbs size range. This means the boats are having three or more hook-ups daily.

Amongst the marlin, yellowfin tuna, mackerel and wahoo have been a welcome bycatch keeping the deckies on their toes and bait in the freezer ready to deploy as marlin bait, as well as dinner for the guests.

The entire stretch from Lizard Island to Linden Bank is producing the fish. Weather has been mixed with general improvement in the last month. On the right is a fish caught from Topwater Sportfishing and Billfish Charters that the skipper called over 800lbs.



The bottom fishing and topwater action is still going extremely well. Coral trout, spangled emperor, nannies and reds not only great table fish but also stretch the arms making the anglers work for their catch.



GT's are known as heavy hitters and hard fighting and given the chance they will break you off on a bombie or structure, straighten your hooks and punch holes in your favourite lure, Most recreational fisherman are promoting catch and release when chasing giant trevally which means there will be a very sustainable GT fishery. I am told they are below average to eat anyway in comparison to most of the red fish,

Everyone wants to get a photo to show their mates and this should be done as quickly as possible. When lifting the fish, you need to support its weight. Never lift by the gills when placing on your brag matt or weigh sling and always ensure the mat is wet as this helps protect the fish. Releasing the fish back into the water it assists if you allow the fish to go head first as the water rushes past its gills helps it recover best. Or gently place the fish back in the water and with the aid of lip grips you can have the boat skipper place the boat in gear and swim the fish until you notice tail kicks - you will know when it's ready to go. Below is a GT from our latest trip in amazing glass-out conditions off Cairns.





### Estuaries, Beaches & Dams

Barra season has closed now, and there were a few anglers lucky enough to get a couple prior to the closure. We all look forward to the opening of the season early next year.

The Tinaroo Barra Bash had a great turnout with fantastic prizes with 853 nominations of anglers seeing 563 adults, 213 junior, 77 small fry . Well done!!! 218 Barra caught of which 34 were over a metre. Liam Casella – Champion Angler... well done mate!

## Port Douglas Marlin Challenge

Damon Gruzdev – President Port Douglas Fishing Club

With a near perfect weather forecast for the four tournament days between 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November, it was great to see everyone in an excited mood for the briefing night and Calcutta at the Port Douglas and District Combined Club. Just under \$7000 was raised to fish for, along with some great trophies and prizes.

The first day sail past was a real spectacle on such a perfect morning and the boats headed off to their chosen fishing grounds from Ribbon 5 in the north down to Jenny Louise Shoals. A few hook ups were called in but lost on the first day fishing before Dan Bergamo's Wild Turkey tagged a small black marlin late in the day to take out Day 1 and put them in the lead.

Day 2 had the fleet spread right out and it was the boats up north that found the fish, Wild Turkey with two tags, Gorilla with two and Cam Bartlett's Black Magic with one giving Day 2 to Wild Turkey on count back from Gorilla.

Day three went a little quiet with tags for Black Magic and Reg Moore's Duyfken only two minutes apart. Christian Chapman's Reel Cross tagged a fish later in the day, giving Day three to Black Magic.

Sunday, the final day started with Wild Turkey in the lead on three tags, from Gorilla with two tags, on count back from Black Magic also on two. Black Magic was the first to hook up and tag, moving them into second place. Gorilla hooked up but lost the fish. Above Grade hooked and fought an estimated 900lb black for about 45



*One of Bob's fish on Wild Turkey*

minutes only to pull the hooks. Duyfken also tagged one and finally Wild Turkey tagged an estimated 500lb black marlin to take out the tournament on 4 tags for angler Bob Reynolds - the first angler to achieve a back to back win in the tournament and once again have his name engraved on the Leon Thomas Memorial Trophy. Congratulations Bob!

Tournament statistics: 28 bites for 16 hook ups and 12 tags between 9 boats.

Final winning results were:  
Champion Boat Wild Turkey  
Runner Up Boat Black Magic  
Champion Male Angler Bob Reynolds (Wild Turkey)  
Runner Up Angler Guy Frankland (Black Magic)  
Champion Captain Dan Bergamo  
Other categories contested but unfortunately no winners - Champion boat under 8m and Champion Female Angler.

The Port Douglas Marlin Challenge Committee would like to say a huge thank you to our valued and generous sponsors: Port Douglas District Combined Club, Great Northern Brewing Company, Dave Denneen and Gorilla Gamefishing, Coastal Coverings,

Bransfords Tackle, Penn Reels, Above Grade Marine Services, Perrin Clarke Photography and Imagebank, ICIT, Experience Co and Nautical Marine Sales

Dates for the 2020 tournament are 5th to 8th November 2020 with the briefing at the Port Douglas & District Combined Club on the evening of Wed 4th November. If any teams from clubs from around Australia would like to come and give heavy tackle fishing on the spectacular Great Barrier Reef a go, we have a number of high quality charter boats who could put together a tournament package for you. Please contact club president Damon Gruzdev, email [portdouglasfishingclub@gmail.com](mailto:portdouglasfishingclub@gmail.com)



*Bob Reynolds and Dan Bergamo with the Brett and Leon Thomas memorial trophies.*



# FOR SALE

## 40 Foot White Cap

White Cap 40ft Flybridge Game fishing boat

Launched 20th December 2006 and now offered for sale - one owner - meticulously looked after since new.

This boat has won back to back Sunshine Coast tournaments in 2017. Captured the biggest yellowfin in the Sunshine Coast Cub.

Cummins 425 QSB motors 2600 Hours  
Intercoolers and all turbo charger  
ceramic coated.  
Onan 9.5K Generator 1300 Hours  
3kva inverter  
Furuno sounder 2 & 3 kilowatt  
transducers  
Furuno GPS with Maxsea navigation  
Furuno Auto pilot and 24 mile radar  
Furuno 24mile radar  
2 Icom VHF and HF radios  
AIS connected  
600lt freshwater tank  
2300 lt long range fuel tanks  
Mobile phone booster  
8 Man life raft RFD  
240Kg a day ice maker  
100Lt Water maker with auto flush  
Utectic freezer 2 fridges  
Combination oven /micro wave

Air-conditioned  
Trailing underwater camera  
Electric downrigger  
Tuna and slimie tubes, Live bait tank  
Sarca anchor with 90 m chain and 100 m  
rope  
All safety gear life jackets and flares  
2 Epirbs  
4 new start and house batteries.  
2 alternators just overhauled  
Genset rebuilt with ceramic coated pan  
Lots more!

**\$399,000**

**Contact Mick**

**0427 804719**

## Garmin Hervey Bay Tournament Doug Sanderson – Past President GFAA

Following another great year of game fishing off Fraser Island a successful weekend's tournament was enjoyed by the 26 boats and 85 anglers that fished the November tournament.

Good numbers of fish for the three days were had, with 140 strikes for 108 hook ups. 70 fish were tagged and released consisting of 32 blue marlin, 13 black marlin, one striped marlin, 11 mahi mahi, one wahoo and four yellow fin tuna along with a small number of other species.

A feature of the comp was the effort of junior Ben Massurit of the Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club fishing aboard Megabite II. After tagging a blue marlin it was noticed that it already had a tag in it. The tag was removed and forwarded to NSW Department of Fisheries which who came back with the information: "tagged offshore Sydney Heads in April this year".

The fish had been tagged a second time with a tag that had been removed but not handed in to Fisheries. Three times the fish has been tagged and released – so far!

Ben also won Champion Junior Angler in the event. The top three boats were: All In, Crafty Catch and Phoenix.



*Hervey Bay Junior Heydon Wilson's nice mahi mahi*



*Ben Massurit - blue marlin*

## South Australia

Ralph Czabayski – GFAA Executive Officer



The new season for 2019/2020 has started off slowly, for our three south Australian game fishing clubs. The winter season was wild, wet and windy making fishing conditions tricky. Even though the weather was harsh we still received some good recordings from our three clubs.

The main species captured were kingfish, tuna, sharks and eagle rays. The next few months will really heat up as the tuna will start to turn up in numbers. As the tuna turn up a lot of our members head out to tag and release or capture our southern bluefin tuna.

Unfortunately, in our waters we don't have billfish to catch. We do know that the long liners on the shelf do catch broadbill and small marlin out from Port Lincoln. The only problem is the shelf is 80 to 90 miles away making conditions very difficult for boats and anglers to access this area. If any of our anglers want to catch billfish, they must travel overseas or interstate to achieve this.

In August 2019 The Game Fishing Club of SA had a team participate in the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament in Kona Hawaii. It was their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary tournament. Australia had 13 teams from all over Australia participate. Our team was made up of three anglers, captain Rolf Czabayski, Graham Bald and myself. This is a great tournament but sometimes the fishing can be slow. Mainly targetting blue marlin they also have a



*Rolf Czabayski (left) & Zane Niploch In Malaysia*

section for yellowfin tuna. Our team went reasonably well with three blue marlin tagged and released and one spearfish. Our team was called The Jonno Johnston Game Fishing Club of SA which we was sponsored by the late John Johnston.

Also, this season we had Zane Niploch and Rolf Czabayski go to Kuala Rompin in Malaysia to tag and release sailfish. The boys were successful and had a great time.

We also had two teams from the Game Fishing Club Of SA enter the Jonno Johnston AIBT which was held out of Yorkys Knob. Once again both teams did very well. Rolf Czabayski won champion angler and daily prizes. The second team made up of three anglers,

Ralph Czabayski, Dale Smith and Ashley North came third overall and won daily prizes also. We all had a great time and will be back next year.

Rolf Czabayski and myself have just returned from fishing in Cairns out off the Great Barrier Reef. We were both successful in tagging a few black marlin each.

It just goes to show if you want to catch billfish you need to travel a bit if they're not in your waters.

That's all from me, have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tight Lines,  
Ralph Czabayski





Kevin Oates

National Junior Tournament Coordinator

Hi there,

The new season started off with a real bang with fish caught Australia wide.

The Oosthuizen brothers from Warrnambool in Victoria (Martin and JP) started the month of July by tagging five southern bluefin tuna each in a day's fishing on Victoria's South-west coast.

Later in July and August, it was sailfish everywhere, Ben Massurit on the Queensland Sunshine coast tagged one then landed a pending record sailfish of 49.6kg on 8kg tackle.

Emmi Roberts at Weipa also got amongst the sails tagging three while fellow teammate Brodie Hyytinen tagged two. Further around the coast off Darwin, Toby Knyvett also tagged three.

In Western Australia Jessica Hornhardt landed a record sailfish weighing in at 28.7kKg on 4kg tackle.

Alos in WA, Max Grasso tagged numerous fish including spotted mackerel, whaler sharks, queenfish and an assorted variety of trevally. He also weighed in a longtail tuna and a few other species.

In NSW Kaitlyn Schofield landed two nice yellowfin tuna weighing in 49.6kg and 26.5kg on 15kg tackle. Oska Davis also

landed a blue shark weighing 96kg on 15kg line.

During the months of September and October the small black marlin came on the bite and Ben Massurit really got amongst them tagging 19 in two weeks, fellow Sunshine Coast GFC team mate Bryce Bartleson has also got into them tagging 11 as well as two Pacific blue marlin and two sailfish.

The most meritorious effort happened on 7th October in NSW with Junior angler Amanda Lamond from the Shellharbour GFC landing a monster mako shark weighing in at 300kg caught on 15kg line class, an awesome effort.

#### Presentation & Awards Dinner

The annual junior presentations were also held in late October at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle. Whilst we did not have the attendance as has been in past years, those who were there on the night had a great time.

Congratulations to all the State winners and to Chloe and Jessica Hornhardt who won both their respective State Female & Small Fry awards they also both won the Junior and Small Fry National Champion Captures as well as Release trophies.

We conducted a silent auction raffle again at the presentation dinner to raise funds for the Junior competition with over \$2000 raised on the evening.



*From left Chloe and Jessica Hornhardt, Tiannah Piddick, Oska Davis, Martin Oosthuizen and Chloe Dance.*

#### Rule & Point Score amendments

There have been some further amendments to the rules this year effective 1st July 2019, in particular to a minimum length requirement for Measure and Release and some changes to T&R/M&R point scores.

The rules have been updated and a copy is available on the Junior Tournament website.

#### Special Thanks

I am sure all anglers and parents would like to thank Mr Peter Cox for his contribution to the tournament securing long term contracts with our major sponsors.

Of course, the tournament would not be a success without its sponsors, and special thanks must go to our major sponsors, Shimano, TackleWorld, Halco, Bluewater Boats & Sportfishing and Australian Solid Fuel Testing.

#### Registration/Entry for 2019-2020

Registration in the tournament continues to be ongoing free of charge so there is no need for you to reregister.

As we approach the holiday period, I take this opportunity to wish all a very Merry Xmas and a happy, joyous 2020.

Take care on the water, tight lines, good fishing. I wish you a very successful 2019-20 competition

Kevin Oates

GFAA National Junior Tournament Coordinator

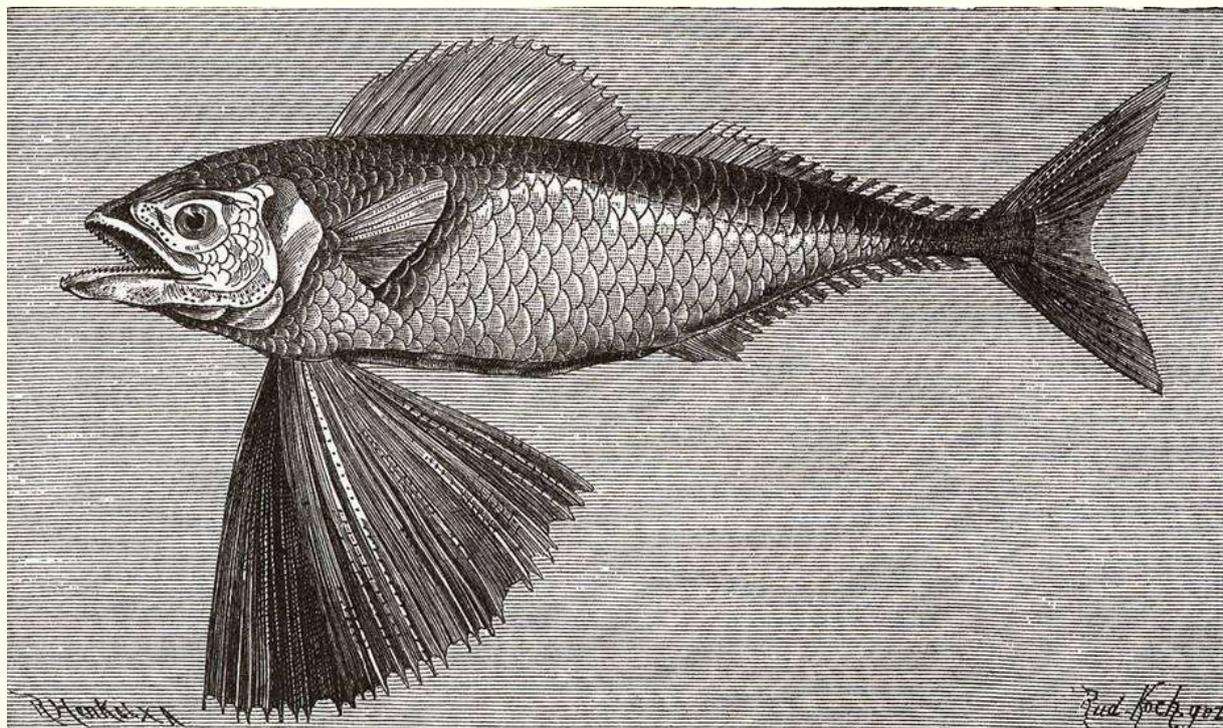


## Species Rules Update

Compiled by Peter Babarskas GFAA recorder

### New species

At the 2019 GFAA AGM it was decided to include the species butterfly mackerel (*Gasterochisma melampus*).



### Extension of free release for sailfish

At the request of WAGFA the trial of free release relating to the sailfish fishery at Exmouth (gulf waters) Broome, an extension for one year to 25<sup>th</sup> October 2020 was agreed upon subject to the completion of collation of shark interaction cards. This will allow release of sailfish close to the boat without tagging to avoid sharks attacking the fish whilst on the leader. Free release forms and shark predation cards are to be completed for each fish to provide data for ongoing research.

## New Australian and World Records

Compiled by Peter Babarskas GFAA recorder

From 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019 to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – All are salt water records except where shown.

Category	Species	Line Class	Angler	Weight	State	Status
Junior Female Saltwater	Mahi Mahi	1	Jesse Sutton	4.70	WA	Australian World
Junior Female Saltwater	Spangled Emperor	1	Jesse Sutton	2.05	WA	Australian World
Junior Female Saltwater	Barracuda	1	Jesse Sutton	4.20	WA	Australian World
Male Saltwater HILC*	Broadbill	60	James Evans	252.20	VIC	Australian
Small Fry Male Saltwater	Mahi Mahi	15	Hunter Davies	20.10	NSW	Australian
Male Freshwater HILC*	Carp	1	Ashley Brom	7.60	SA	Australian
Junior Female Saltwater	Mako	15	Faith Husb	141.50	NSW	Australian
Female Saltwater	Broadbill	24	Hayley Murphy	194.00	VIC	Australian
Small Fry Male Saltwater	Longtail tuna	8	Max Grasso	12.20	WA	Australian
Junior Female Saltwater	Tiger Shark	15	Tara Rowe	81.00	NSW	Australian
Junior Male Saltwater	Sailfish	8	Ben Massurit	49.60	QLD	Australian
Small Fry Male Saltwater	Snapper	2	Lochlan Turrell	3.30	WA	Australian
Male Saltwater	Broad Barred Mackerel	1	Ryley Hinchcliffe	6.98	WA	Australian
Female Saltwater	Broad Barred Mackerel	2	Joanne Tatham	7.36	WA	Australian World Pending
Female Saltwater	Longtail Tuna	3	Joanne Tatham	14.66	WA	Australian
Small Fry Female Saltwater	Broad Barred Mackerel	4	Max Grasso	7.84	WA	Australian
Small Fry Female Saltwater	Shark Mackerel	4	Max Grasso	5.06	WA	Australian

- HILC – Heaviest in Line Class

Links - Right click on logo to visit the state website



GFAA



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South Australia



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Victoria



Western Australia



Juniors Facebook

## Contributors

Thanks to those who contributed to this issue: Peter Babarskas, Ian Bladin, Peter Coote, Joshua Cox, Ralph Czabayski, John Edwards, Damon Gruzdev, Mick Meiers, John Munro, Kevin Oates, Doug Sanderson, Bruce Simpson, Anton Vogiatzis.

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