



GFAA Newsletter

November 2021

From the President

From the contents of this Newsletter readers will quickly realise that most of the game fishing activity occurs in the north of the country during the southern winter. There are some good yarns from the northern neighbours and we expect it will swing the other way with a warm and wet summer forecast for most of the nation. Included in this issue are some excellent scientific updates from Dr Julian Pepperell and Laura Smith.

Your Association held its 84th Annual General Meeting on 30th October, usually held face to face with a well-attended Presentation Dinner following, this year again it was held by video. Nonetheless the National Trophy winners were recognised and their accomplishments are included in pages 3 to 6. A highlight of the awards was the outstanding Work put in by the Townsville GFC Juniors group who won the prestigious John Dunphy Award.

On a sad note we learned of the recent passing of the much esteemed and respected stalwart of the GFC of SA Rolf Czabayski, a friend to all who met him and a great supporter of game fishing and its exponents. Our thoughts and sympathies are extended to Rolf's family.

Tight Lines

President

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TROPHY AWARDS

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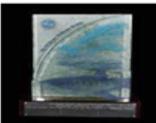
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GFAA Annual Awards

These awards usually presented at the Presentation Night following the Annual general meeting, because of travel restrictions are to be presented by the recipients' clubs at their next opportunity. Congratulations to all winners and candidates.

Announced by the President Ian Bladin at the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

	David Litchfield Trophy	Highest Point Scoring Boat For Marlin	Chaos	42,800	Sunshine Coast GFC
	Sir Garrick Agnew Trophy	Angler Who Tagged The Most Billfish	Sandy Gorecki	56	Jervis Bay GFC
	Grahame A Williams Trophy	Angler Who Tagged The Most Sharks	Mia Wright	100	Sydney GFC
	John & Anne Brooker Trophy	Angler Who Tagged The Most Southern Bluefin Tuna	Jessica De Cani	30	GFC of Northern Tasmania
	Neil Patrick Trophy	Angler Who Tagged The Most Other Gamefish	Max Grasso	72	King Bay GFC
	Tailored Marine Trophy	Highest Point Scoring Boat	Chaos	43,200	Sunshine Coast GFC
	John O'Brien Trophy	Highest Point Scoring GFAA Club	Gold Coast GFC	211,072	

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Peter Bennett Trophy

Most meritorious tag & release achievement by a GFAA Junior Angler

Lily Sims

Cairns Bluewater GFC



Geoffrey Woolley Trophy

Most meritorious tag & release achievement by a GFAA adult angler

Sandy Gorecki

Jervis Bay GFC



Bob Lowe T&R Trophy

The most meritorious tag & release achievement by a GFAA Affiliated Club

Newcastle & Port Stephens



Peter Goadby Trophy

Awarded to the angler who captures the heaviest shark in Australian waters

James Devereaux

626 kg Tiger Shark

Lake Macquarie GFC



Tom Bell Trophy

Awarded to the angler who captures the heaviest game fish (excluding sharks)

Riagan Dowling

225.5 kg Blue Marlin

N&PSGFC



John Dunphy Award

Junior encouragement award for outstanding achievement or contribution

Townsville Sharkies Junior Club

Townsville GFC - For their contribution to raising the awareness of junior angling within the Townsville Region



*Two National Tom Roche award winners from the Darwin GFC.
Cooper Rudd, Junior Male Angler Release and
Ruby Simpson, Small Fry Female Angler Release.*



GFAA Junior National Tournament 2020-21
 Announced by GFAA National Junior Tournament Coordinator Kevin Oates
 at the 2021 Annual General Meeting

National Championship Awards

Tom Roach Trophy	Junior Angler Capture	4990	Jessica Hornhardt	King Bay GFC
	Junior Angler Release	9100	Ben Massurit	Sunshine Coast GFC
	Small Fry Angler Capture	3983	Max Grasso	King Bay GFC
	Small Fry Angler Release	2080	Max Grasso	King Bay GFC

State Championship Awards

Tom Roach Trophy	Junior Male Angler Capture	Qld	2462	Ryan Meads	Mackay GFC
		NSW	528	Oska Davis	Central Coast GFC
		Vic	217	Judd Carter	Warrnambool O & LGFC
		SA	991	Sam Whan	Port MacDonnell Offshore AC
		TAS	259	Brocklyn Joyce	GFC of Northern Tasmania

Tom Roach Trophy	Junior Female Angler Capture	Qld	4618	Lily Sims	Cairns Bluewater GFC
		NSW	818	Kaitlyn Schofield	Bermagui BBAC
		WA	4990	Jessica Hornhardt	King Bay GFC
		SA	550	Georgia Barrett	Port MacDonnell Offshore AC
		TAS	457	Sarah Donovan	GFC of Northern Tasmania

Tom Roach Trophy	Small Fry Male Angler Capture	WA	3983	Max Grasso	King Bay GFC
		Vic	314	Jacob Dance	Warrnambool O & LGFC
		TAS	366	Lochie Miller	Tuna Club of Tasmania

Tom Roach Trophy	Small Fry Female Angler Capture	WA	1408	Mia Grasso	King Bay GFC
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Tom Roach Trophy	Junior Male Angler Release	Qld	9100	Ben Massurit	Sunshine Coast GFC
		NSW	80	Oska Davis	Central Coast GFC
		NT	580	Cooper Rudd	Darwin GFC
		SA	620	Sam Whan	Port MacDonnell Offshore AC
		TAS	390	Brocklyn Joyce	GFC of Northern Tasmania

Tom Roach Trophy	Junior Female Angler Release	Qld	4650	Lily Sims	Cairns Bluewater GFC
		NSW	2660	Kaitlyn Schofield	Bermagui BBAC
		WA	190	Chloe Hornhardt	King Bay GFC
		Vic	40	Chloe Dance	Warrnambool O & LGFC
		TAS	40	Sarah Donovan	GFC of Northern Tasmania

Tom Roach Trophy	Small Fry Male Angler Release	Qld	1290	Tyler Barnes	Newport GFC
		NSW	980	Hunter Davies	Shellharbour GFC
		WA	2080	Max Grasso	King Bay GFC
		Vic	85	Bear Marland	South Gippsland GFC
		SA	15	Fred Marsh	Adelaide GFC

Tom Roach Trophy	Small Fry Female Angler Release	Qld	600	Jordyn Beetham	Townsville GFC
		NT	40	Ruby Simpson	Darwin GFC
		WA	395	Mia Grasso	King Bay GFC
		Vic	70	Ruby Marland	South Gippsland GFC
		TAS	15	Leah Tadman	Tuna Club of Tasmania

Townsville Juniors Recognised by GFAA



The Townsville Juniors group "Sharkies" is a fantastic group of parents and kids who enjoy their time on, in or near the water.

This year they have been recognised in the GFAA Annual Awards with the most prestigious award for Juniors, the John Dunphy Memorial Trophy.

Their story:

"Another month down and another busy meeting for the TGFC and we love it!"

We were also very lucky and grateful to be able to present and celebrate some very special GFAA (Game Fishing Association of Australia) awards -

Congratulations Jordyn Beetham on taking out the Junior Small Fry Female Champion Tag and Release category. This is an award that has been won for the third year straight in the TGFC (previous winner was Maggie Mitchell 2 years running)

The TGFC was also recognised for the outstanding



achievement for going above and beyond to encourage juniors into the sport of game fishing being awarded the John Dunphy Memorial Trophy for the work done behind the Sharkies program and how all the members encompass and encourage the future generation! An absolute honour, every single junior member of the TGFC was presented with their own certificate!"

Scientific Report – Dr Julian Pepperell

GFAA Scientific Officer

The following are excerpts from the report included in the GFAA Annual general meeting on 30th October and is a synopsis of research activities being conducted. Further reports will be included in the next edition of the Newsletter

Yellowfin tuna project

Title: “Where have all the yellowfin tuna gone? Investigating an apparent disjunct between commercial and recreational catches off southeastern Australia”

Pepperell Research, CSIRO and Ghosn Consulting Services

This study, funded by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts is now complete. The project focused on an apparent lack of correlation between inshore catches of yellowfin tuna by recreational fishers and offshore catches by commercial longliners. We also examined long term catches of striped marlin in both the recreational and commercial fisheries. Despite exhaustive analyses of many environmental variables, no apparent explanation could be found for the continuing lack of school yellowfin inside the continental shelf along the NSW coast.

Gamefish Tagging 2019/2020

NSW DPI & Pepperell Research

The report for the tagging year 2019/20 has been delayed this year due to a revamping of the database and the need for extensive error checking. However, data for the season has now been finalized and the report is being prepared.

During 2019/20 a total of 9,996 fish were tagged under the program – an increase on the previous year’s total of 8,972. The number of recaptures reported in 2019/20 was 401 – the second highest on record, just under the highest total set way back in 1990/91. As of 30 June 2019, the total numbers of fish tagged since the origin of the Program stood at just under 490,000. Of that total, 156,000 have been tuna, 155,500 billfish and 38,000 sharks.

Data from the tagging program were obtained under Data Licence Agreements for analysis by three Ph.D projects, viz: ‘Migration patterns of dolphinfish (Coryphaena hippurus) on the east coast of Australia’, (Felicity Hardcastle, University of the Sunshine Coast); ‘Sailfish (Istiophorus platypterus) movement, ecology and connectivity in the central Indo-Pacific – use of recreational tag data and environmental factors to infer habitat suitability and species distribution’ (Laura Smith, University of Queensland) and ‘Unravelling the effects of climatic and oceanographic conditions on movements of blue marlin across the Pacific Ocean using recreational tagging data’ (Tristan Guillemin, Macquarie University).

New research publications that have utilized data from the Gamefish Tagging Program are added to a master list each year. The list contains references to nearly 60 scientific papers or reports, a number of major monographs, several books or book chapters and 14 University theses including six submitted for Ph.Ds. This is an impressive result and a clear demonstration of the true scientific benefits that derive from this long running program.

Funding has been secured from the Recreational Fishing Trusts to produce the annual report for the program for 2019/20.

Enhancing the Game Fish Tagging Program's recapture database through an online GIS platform

NSW DPI & Pepperell Research

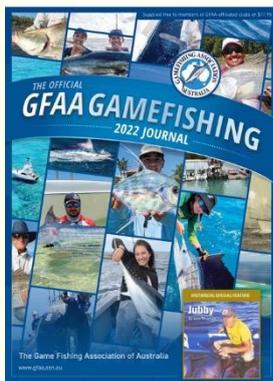
This project, funded by the NSW Recreational Fishing Trusts, aims to upload all recapture information for six key species (black, blue and striped marlin, and yellowfin and southern bluefin tuna) from the Game Fish Tagging database to an online Global Information System (GIS) platform). An aim of the project is to provide free access to this information by stakeholders, including anglers, club officials, managers and researchers. Information will be displayed on maps (similar to Google Earth) that will allow all recaptures for each species to be examined in detail in a visually appealing way. Zooming will enable even short distance recaptures to be examined, de-emphasizing the long-distance recaptures that tend to dominate static maps. Embedded information for each recapture 'arrow' will greatly improve information currently available from the use of static maps. Another great feature is 'layering' which will allow users to sort recapture arrows on many levels, including variables such as recaptures over various time periods, size groups of fish, recapturing fishing vessel type and so on.

Recapture data have now been received from NSW DPI and these are being carefully reviewed and edited prior to the initial upload to the GIS platform.

Sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*) movement, ecology and connectivity in the central Indo-Pacific.

Laura Smith, Ph.D student UQ, Sam Williams, Julian Pepperell,

This research project will investigate and model the effects of environmental factors on the distribution and movement of sailfish in and around Australian waters. Factors such as sea surface temperature, chlorophyll-a concentration, salinity, and speed and direction of current and wind will be investigated to determine influence on sailfish occurrence and distribution. This will allow inferences for patterns of preferred environmental conditions for sailfish (both juvenile and adult).



Coming soon – 2022 GFAA Journal

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Vale Rolf Czabayski

The many who knew Rolf were saddened to learn of his passing on 18th November. A moving post on the GFAA Facebook page from Tracey Tito of the GFC of South Australia gives an insight into Rolf's lifetime of achievements.

 Game Fishing Club of South Australia
2d · 🌐

Rolf Czabayski 21-7-1941 - 18-11-2021

When we think of greatness, it's usually someone who has done something all their life. Rolf picked up his first fishing rod at the tender age of 34. One year later he was the skipper of 10-meter Calypso 11 which became one of SA best known and most successful game boats. It was the first of many boats owned by Rolf.

Rolf never took anything on without giving it 500%, family, business, friends, fishing and of course his beloved Game Fishing Club of SA.

Rolf first tried to join the club in 1976, he was knocked back as he had not been known to a member for 2 years. In true Rolfie fashion he took it upon himself to make himself known to existing members who were impressed with his attitude and the 2-year rule was waived.

In 1978 Rolf was invited to stand for a committee position, he even took a course on committee procedures so he know how to do the job and the rest is History.

Rolf has been in every committee position at one time or another. Rolf has also played a very active role with SAGFA, AGFA and IGFA.

Rolf was the holder of numerous records with his highlight being in 1997 when he achieved a world record. A 699.5kg White Pointer on 15kg line.

Rolf was such a dedicated man, the club, fishing Australia, international fishing and the world has lost an amazing human. His memory will remain with all of us forever.

Our condolences to the other loves in his life, Margaret, Kids Ralph and Dianne and the grandchildren.

RIP Rolf . Thank you for your service to the recreational fishing community, we will all miss you xx



Northern Territory

Jason Rogers – GFAA Executive Officer - Retiring



This is an excerpt from Jason's annual report to the GFAA AGM.

Well, what a year we have seen in the Northern Territory. We have been extremely lucky to have avoided mostly the ravages of Covid that unfortunately the rest of Australia has suffered. This has given us the opportunity to fish a lot more and we have been able to run most of our annual fishing competitions and club calendar events.

The biggest news for the NT is the welcome on board of Palmerston Game Fishing Club with the NTGFA and GFAA with the promise of their strong junior angler base joining our other junior star anglers in the national competition. Hopefully we'll see a few records topple in the coming year.

Darwin GFC hosted their annual XXXX Billfish Classic on 2nd to 4th October. Though the season has been relatively quiet with only small numbers of fish showing over the previous months, we still saw 18 teams register to fish this tag and release tournament. Most team concentrated their efforts on the local waters of Dundee/Fog Bay with four or five teams taking the opportunity to fish the western waters of Bathurst Island, about a 3-4 hours drive one way from Darwin harbour. The pattern continued with the fish being relatively quiet for the competition even with building tides and a new moon phase, usually a prime cycle to fish the region. Only 18 fish were tagged and released for the 3 days with 10 sailfish and 8 juvenile black marlin being the result, though there were reports of good sized blacks being hooked from those fishing the Tiwi Islands, unfortunately none were successfully tagged.

Congratulations to the winners for this year.

Champion Angler: Bridget Rootsey 3000 Points

Champion Team: Billisimo 3000 Points (Kurt Williamson & Bridget Rootsey)

Most Meritorious Fish: Brian Bates - 50kg Black marlin on 15kg Line

Runner Up Team Under 6.5m: Follow The Teaser 2175 Points (Brian Bates, Alex Bates and Aaron Rouse)

Runner Up Team Over 6.5m: MEG II 2550 Points (Douglas Saunders, Michael Carey, Kenneth Roderick and Thomas Bix)



On the junior front we have had Kaitlyn Collins sight casting tuna and mackerel on three kilo spin gear in Darwin Harbour with her parents and weighing in this 3.5kg broadbar mackerel earning her 116 points to start her tally in the GFAA National Junior Tournament. Well done Kaitlyn. We're looking forward to seeing many more of Kaitlyn's captures in the coming year.



NTGFA has offered a letter of support to AFANT in application for funding from NT Government for satellite tags to apply to marlin in the NT. NTGFA members will offer assistance with the placement of these tags. More on that when we know the outcome of the grant applications.

NTGFA President Bruce Simpson was front row with the "Steps Towards Capabilities Day" put on by local disability support organisation HPA, "Helping People Achieve". Many Darwin and Palmerston Game Fishing Club members turned up to take participants and their carers out for the morning fishing/boating. Giving people who would otherwise never get the chance to catch a fish or ride in a boat, to enjoy a fantastic day. This event was supported by many local organisations and businesses. It was great for NTGFA to see many of its members amongst those offering support.



Looking forward to the increased membership and participation bringing in a much better result for our juniors in the GFAA National Junior Tournament.

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Sailfish Science! - Laura Smith – Update October 2021

PhD researcher, The University of Queensland



Biology, ecology, and population structure of the sailfish (*Istiophorus platypterus*)

PhD project undertaken by Laura Smith at the University of Queensland, supported by the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA).

Project update October 2021

A large focus for the project over the past 18 months has been the collection of tissue samples and fin clips to understand the global genetic population structure of sailfish. A huge thank you to those who have helped with sample collection so far!

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, tissue samples have been successfully collated from many different locations (see Tables 1 & 2)! Many game fishers had previously contributed fin clips to the collection of Dr Sam Williams from locations such as Weipa, Groote Eylandt, Broome, Dampier, and Townsville. In April 2021, the Darwin Game Fishing Club and Anglers Choice charters helped Laura to collect five fin clips off Dundee. Special thanks to Bruce Simpson for his assistance. Phil Ravello from Tuna Australia collected muscle tissue from eight sailfish from longline vessels off the coast of Qld/NSW. Sadly, several trips off the Sunshine Coast were not successful in securing a sailfish fin clip, however hopefully some will turn up soon as the waters warm up. WAGFA has successfully coordinated sample collection from clubs and charter operators from Exmouth, King Bay, Rowley Shoals and Broome. Five samples were collected during the Whitsunday Light Tackle Tournament earlier this month. These are excellent sample numbers and should allow for a fine-scale comparison across northern Australia as well as within the broader context of global population differences.

Laura, with the assistance of Dr Sam Williams and Dr Julian Pepperell, has established collaborations with multiple international researchers who have contributed samples from their collections. Dr Bruno Ferrette has contributed a significant 210 samples from six different countries. Dr Sofia Ortega Garcia provided 30 samples from Baja California in Mexico. Dr Ching-Ping Lu provided 50 samples from eastern Taiwanese waters. Collaboration with the Western Indian Ocean Billfish Project provides a valuable point of comparison with Western Australia.

Over the past 12 months, Laura has promoted her research and the support of the GFAA to the following clubs: Mooloolaba, Sunshine Coast, Darwin, Newport, Gold Coast and Whitsunday.

Another component of the project is investigating the relationships between environmental factors and the distribution and catch of sailfish in the central Indo-Pacific. Laura is undertaking some modelling of the tagging data from the NSW DPI Game Fish Tagging Program and the Billfish Foundation.

A third component of the project includes social research into using citizen science for billfish research. Interview and survey questions are being developed to determine the drivers and barriers for citizen science programs that support efficient and effective fisheries research on billfishes.

Table 1: Australian sampling effort of sailfish tissues

Location	N Samples
East Coast / QLD	23
Weipa, QLD	53
Groote Eylandt, NT	20
Dundee, NT	5
Broome, WA	25
Dampier, WA	6
Exmouth, WA	14

Table 2: Global sampling effort of sailfish tissues

Ocean	Location	Sample per location
Pacific	Australia - QLD	76
Pacific	Australia - NT	25
Pacific	Mexico	30
Pacific	Taiwan	50
Pacific	Vietnam	13
Indian	Australia - WA	~ 50
Indian	Kenya	~50
Indian	Tanzania	~50
Indian	Mozambique	~50
Atlantic	Brazil - Rio de Janeiro	39
Atlantic	Brazil - Espirito Santo	17
Atlantic	Venezuela	30
Atlantic	Florida, USA	34
Atlantic	Liberia	30
Atlantic	Senegal	30
Atlantic	Ivory Coast	30

Overall project aims

The project addresses knowledge gaps in sailfish stock structure, movement, connectivity, ecology, and habitat. The project's aims are to:

- determine structure and connectivity among sailfish populations in the Indo-Pacific using high-throughput genomic techniques;
- investigate sailfish ecology including distribution, habitat and movement using recreational tagging data; and,
- increase public awareness of sailfish biology, ecology, and management in Australia by engaging with the game fishing community.

Photos



Taking a fin clip off Dundee, NT



Tag card from Laura's first billfish (black marlin)



Presenting at the Newport Game Fishing Club



Taking a fin clip on board 'Reel Busy' in the Whitsundays

For further information, contact Laura Smith at laura.smith@uq.edu.au.

Tagged Tuna Recapture – Dr Julian Pepperell GFAA Scientific Officer

How's this for a remarkable tagged fish story? On 5 September, a longliner owned by Walker Seafoods Australia caught a hefty northern Pacific bluefin tuna 200 nautical miles east of Mooloolaba. Skipper Bo Lloyd noticed an old tag at the base of the dorsal fin – a tag with a Japanese address. The fish weighed 158 kg gilled and gutted and measured 223 cm from snout to tail fork. Walker Seafoods owner Pavo Walker gave me the details and I was able to contact the Japanese researcher involved in the tagging program, Dr Ko Fujioka. He was excited to let us know that the fish had been tagged just over 9 years earlier off Kochi Province, on the southern coast of Honshu, Japan – and when tagged, it measured just 23.5 cm long, weighed around 200 grams and estimated to be just 3 months old!!



Over 12,000 of these baby Pacific bluefins have been tagged since 2011 and results have shown that they mainly travel across the Pacific to the US coast and back as they grow in their first few years of life. However, this is the first ever recaptured in the southern hemisphere and by far the longest time between tagging and recapture. The otoliths (ear bones) of this fish were extracted and knowing that it is almost exactly 9 years old, they will act as 'Rosetta stones' for verifying the ages of many other Pacific bluefin tuna from with otoliths have been collected for many years. What a great story, and to round it off nicely, the tag had been manufactured in Australia by South Australian fish tag company, Hallprint. Director, David Hall is justifiably chuffed too.

Weipa Billfish Club – Darryl French 2021 Hastings Deering Weipa Billfish Tournament



The Annual Hastings Deering Annual Billfish Tournament got off to a great start on October 2nd with fish tagged within half an hour of fishing beginning. Plenty of fish and tight competition made for an exciting last day with a total of 49 billfish tagged for the long weekend.



The weather Gods blessed us this year with an unprecedented three days of great weather. Following Saturday morning's shotgun start 15 boats headed out to various spots in Albatross Bay. with action starting early; the first marlin and sailfish tagged half an hour into fishing. The hot action continued for most of the day with most boats hooking fish. The stats for day one ended up at 29 tagged billfish. "Who's your Daddy" leading with five tags, "Stoned Cold" not far behind on four and several boats on three. As with past tournaments most boats chose to stay in Boyd's Bay for the duration of the tournament as it is close to the grounds and all raft up to discuss the day's events.

Day two started a little slower. Most boats started out in Saturday's hot area five miles off the coast in 24 metres of water. The fleet spread out over the course of the morning and fish were found on the southern grounds that had produced good numbers earlier in the year. At the end of day two the lead hadn't changed, with "Who's your Daddy" streaking ahead with a further four tags. Second and third became hotly contested with "Get n Any" finding fish down south and finishing the day on four tags. "Stoned Cold" added one more to their tally and a number of boats were still in the mix on three. It was party night



in Boyd's Bay Sunday night on the houseboat and barge supplied by Weipa Houseboats where a BBQ and beers were put on by the Club.

Day three was very slow with a few sore heads and low numbers of fish raised. Once again, the southern grounds seemed to be consistent with most boats fishing that area seeing fish. The afternoon saw a few boats troll towards home where a couple of fish were found around the 20 metre FAD area. At cease fishing "Who's your Daddy" had cemented their lead by adding another sail, "Get n Any" pipped "Stoned Cold" for second by tagging another two fish. Special mention goes to lady angler Kara Braes who fought an estimated 350lb black marlin for 4 hours on 10kg line before unfortunately losing it.

The end results were 49 fish tagged for the tournament (41 sailfish and eight black marlin) among 15 teams and 42 anglers.

Champion Boat: Who's Your Daddy

Runner up Boat: Get n Any

Third boat: Stoned Cold

Champion Male: Mark McDowall

Runner up Male: Nathan Billing

Third Male: Mark Bowlen

Champion Female: Linda Jay

Runner up Female: Andrea Kennedy

Third Female: Kara Braes

Champion Junior: Kaden Brett

Runner up Junior: Tom Hockey

Third Junior: Emmi Roberts



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Cairns Bluewater GFC Heavy Tackle Shootout

Michelle Sims - CBGFC



On Saturday 23rd October Cairns Bluewater GFC held its first ever Heavy Tackle Shootout. 14 boats and 33 anglers competed in two prize categories, Gold Level, offering a \$9,000 prize and Silver Level carrying \$900 cash to the boat that tagged the most marlin on the Outer Reef.

The event was blessed with the best of calm seas, very uncommon for this time of the year. Club Treasurer Michelle Sims braved it and headed out as the Tournament Base keeping things in running order and as a contact point at sea.

The day started slowly with nothing reported on the first sched but by the second sched the marlin were waking up and starting to appear. Five marlin were tagged. By the third sched the competition was on with a further six fish tagged with a few boats hooked up and battling it out. In total there were 11 marlin tagged. From charter boats to trailer boats, there were mixed teams from different boats joining together and others fishing on completely different boats from their own. It was a fun day with the action around most of the boats who fished. If they didn't tag, they saw marlins being tagged.

The lead changed place many times and when it came to the crunch the winner of the Gold Level was Viking II, tagging three marlin with the last one being 45 minutes from cease fishing. During this time, they also hooked a fourth but lost it. The winner of the Silver Level was Ofishal. They tried to feed their marlin three times and got the tag in with 5 minutes of fishing time left.



Thank you to all captains, crew and more so anglers and charters who supported this event. Hopefully it will make the Tournament schedule for 2022.



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Reelax Base Maxi 2000 Outrigger Bases Stainless Steel (Pair) –



Reelax Base Multi Mount Rod Rigger Stainless Steel (Pair) – 6.8



Reelax Base Reef Rigger 450 Outrigger Bases Stainless Steel (Pair) – 6.2



Reelax Base T-Topper Outrigger Base Stainless Steel Reversible (Pair) – 6.0



Reelax Fibreglass Black Outrigger Kit with S/S Rigging and Spears



Reelax Fibreglass White Outrigger Kit with S/S Rigging and Spears



Reelax Grander 3K Carbon Fibre Outrigger

Western Australia North

John Clark – GFAA Executive Officer WA North



The Broome Fishing Club has a membership base of more than 650. Of that number there is a high proportion of social members enjoying our club discounts, restaurant and the best view in town. Recfishwest have recognized the club as one of the most progressive fishing clubs in the State.

Tourist numbers have set new records with a reported 70 000 tourists in Broome for the dry season, this has put outrageous pressure on every facility in town to the point where the club had to limit numbers of meals and patrons to reduce the workload on staff and volunteers.

Each year the committee strives to deliver meaningful and engaging events and as in previous years we are keen to hear of any new or innovative events that our member would like to see added to the year's calendar. From this this "The Broome Marlin Cup" was developed. Running over two weekends and marlin only, the comp's first weekend tallied 25 marlin tagged, mainly blacks with several large blues showing up, certainly testing the angler's skills and abilities.



Marine issues

Shark predation issues continue to increase. Recfishwest is testing shark repellents and taking things to a scientific level with fisheries research now having input and providing government recommendations.

Proposed Buccaneer Archipelago/King Sound Marine Parks.

This has been an ongoing concern as the marine claim could potentially close some of the most incredible iconic Kimberley water ways to tourism and locals. The Kimberley trips may become a thing of the past. The potential for access as locals is what we are fighting for.

Broome Billfish Classic 2021

Broome Fishing Club's Billfish Classic game fishing tournament is Australia's premier sail fish event.

This year, 2021, was no different to any other with large numbers of sailfish, marlin and pelagic species to be tagged, touch tagged and captured. This event runs for 3 days in July and it was the 32nd time fisho's have taken to the pristine waters off Broome to fish this impressive sailfish event.

This year's Classic saw huge numbers with 712 sails being raised and 299 being free released, marlin stats also showed an increase with 34 raised and 10 tagged. Most marlin are between 6 and 10kg with the occasional fish up to 80 - 150kg.

Overall, we had 35 boats and 120 anglers, which is an increase over the last two years.



This year's champion Juniors with their fantastic new perpetual sailfish trophy organised by the Scholte family. Something these two will remember for ever.

The Club is moving forward in 2022 redesigning the club house to create a larger kitchen area and revamping the children's playground and general lighting.

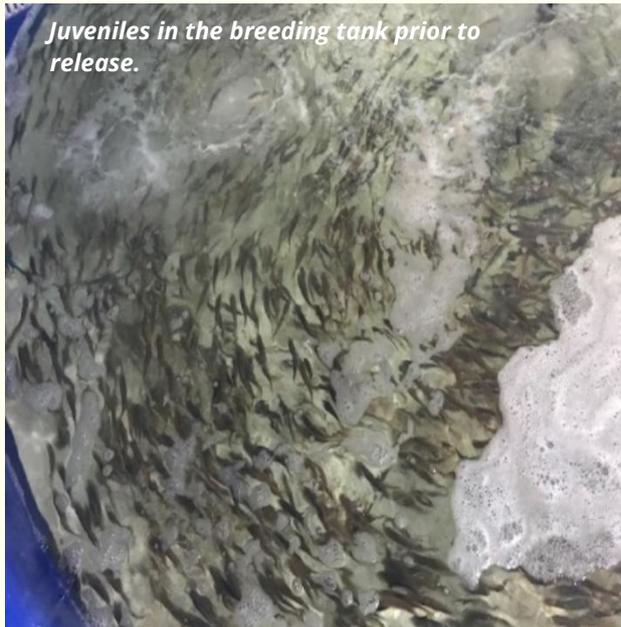
All competitions were successful in 2021. The New Year will see an increase in prize money allocations and generally lifting the profile.

Our plan is to develop links with a corporate sponsor and investigate government funding to facilitate our building program.



A small but important contribution - Yellowtail Kingfish Release

An out of the blue phone call from Ms Steph Watts, Research Officer at Recfishwest, asking whether the Fremantle Sailing Club's Game Fishing Section would be interested in helping to facilitate the release of 5,000 *Seriola lalandi*, or more commonly called, yellowtail kingfish is the reason behind this article.



An initiative of a joint effort by Recfishwest and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development – Marine Finfish Hatchery Fremantle, the principal aims of the project are to enhance recreational fishing experiences and understand the application and benefits of a marine stocking program.

Over the past twelve months more than 30,000 juvenile yellowfin kingfish have been released into Perth's coastal waters as part of a marine stocking program looking to stock 150,000 kingfish over three years. This program is funded by the WA Government through its' recreational fishing COVID recovery plan and will run until June 2023. In COVID times recreational fishing is more important than ever.

Other principal players in the initiative include Mr Leyland Campbell – Recfishwest Operations Manager and Department of Primary Industry and Research and Development Aquaculture Production Co-ordinator Mr Michael Harrison.

The breeding fish were caught off Perth and are induced to spawn at the Fremantle Hatchery which is located at the mouth of Fremantle Harbour. Adult fish weighing somewhere between 15 and 20kg are subjected to light and water temperature changes which stimulates the onset of spawning which can be manipulated to occur year-round if

required. Once spawning takes place, a gradual feeding process is set in motion and in 70 days the result is 100mm juveniles weighing 10g, ready for release. In winter months larger fish are released as part of this program (200mm, 150g, 135days) as these fish will have a better survival rate over winter.

Release sites are chosen based on factors which will assist in the juvenile's survival rate. Both the Fremantle Sailing Club and Cockburn Power Boat Club are situated just south of the Fremantle Harbour and are protected by a groyne that opens directly into Cockburn sound and the Indian Ocean. These harbours afford the juveniles the opportunity to seek shelter under boats and into the rocks of the groynes whilst they adjust from round holding tanks, to their new open water environment.

The release begins with a mild sedative being added to the water which slows the fish down and helps prevent self-harm. The water in the round breeding tanks is then gradually lowered to a depth of about 300mm to allow easier capture with scoop nets. The fish transfer is undertaken into a specially designed and oxygenated trailer tank which is relocated as quickly as possible to the release site.



The purpose designed, government funded, fish stocking transport trailer.

On arrival at the chosen site, the trailer is reversed down a boat ramp, or, located near a suitable entry point which will provide the fish some protection. A 130mm diameter, semi clear, long hose is then attached to the

base of the trailer, a water lock is opened and by the simple means of gravity assistance, the fish exit the tank out into their new environment.

A number of other important release factors are also associated with the fish release. These include the fact that the fish have their otoliths (ear bones) stained with special dyes to allow captured fish to be traced years later. A range of scientific research data can be collected that helps substantiate the species growth rates, habitat and the affiliation within natural fish stocks.

Another important aspect of the program is in the interaction with and education of, approximately 750,000 recreational fishing enthusiasts in WA. Facilitating this through Game Fishing Clubs has been most welcomed.



Club members engaged in the release of the juvenile kingfish into the Fremantle Sailing Club marina.

Some other interesting facts:

There is a video of YTK stocking on the Recfishwest YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YfjZqzj1wdc> as it has good footage of kingies swimming out of the hose during a release.

The yellowtail kingfish can grow up to 2.5m in length, can weigh up to 70kg and are a popular game fish due to their powerful and dogged fighting characteristics. Females are believed to mature at around 75cm total length. In a controlled breeding environment, they can grow approximately 2.5kg per year and can be legally caught once they reach a length of 60cm (in WA), 65cm in NSW

The fish are found primarily in the southern hemisphere oceans, they are bred as a table fish and are an extremely popular sashimi fish exported in large quantities to Japan.

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Junior Tournament - Kevin Oates - National Junior Tournament Coordinator



Hi everyone

Just a quick update from Junior Tournament central.

The junior's fishing reports seem to be focused on Western Australia the Northern region of Queensland with a bit thrown in from southern New South Wales.

From the King Bay GFC in WA, the Grasso family, Max Mia have been at it again tagging, measuring releasing vast numbers of fish of a variety of species with a few captures thrown in just to keep the club recorders busy. Max has tagged 78 fish, measured two and captured seven, while sister Mia has tagged five captured four.

Also at the King Bay Club, the Hornhardt sisters have been landing record fish with Chloe landing two monster tiger sharks, the first weighing in at 221.55kg on 4kg tackle the second 162.5kg on 8kg tackle, awesome achievements. Sister Jessica has also landed 19 species on ultralight tackle gaining some valuable points on the scoreboard.

In the Northern Territory the Saunders sisters have been targeting sailfish with Ella tagging two and Lara one. Also new members to the junior tournament from the Darwin GFC Kaitlyn and Lochlan Collins have achieved early runs on the board with Kaitlyn capturing a broad barred mackerel measuring a barramundi whilst brother Lochlan measured and released two barramundi.

From Northern Queensland, members of the Townsville Sharkies have been joining the National Junior competition also getting early scores on the board. Alex Robinson, Calen Simmons, Cameron Taylor, Jackson Travers, William Travers and Jordyn Beetham have all tagged black marlin with Jordyn tagging two as well as a golden trevally. Harry Ashfield also tagged a sailfish. What an inspirational group of Smallfry & Junior anglers – congratulations team Townsville.

A little further south in Mackay, Ryan Meads has had little time for schoolwork as he has captured nine Spanish mackerel, tagged a further 10 as well as a sailfish, four whaler sharks, three kawa kawa tuna and a wahoo. That's a real smorgasbord Ryan.

New South Wales action has been a Logan Walker affair from way down south at Merimbula. Logan has been targeting the Bread and Butter Measure and Release species ling 11 flathead,

17 salmon, seven tailor and a silver trevally. he also weighed in a salmon and two2 southern bluefin tuna.

From the rest of the states down south, Fred Marsh from Adelaide has measured and released three carp, Lucy Russel in Tasmania two flathead and Ruby Marland in Victoria a bream.

Junior Tournament Winners 2020-21 season

The most important event to occur recently is of course the announcement of the Junior Tournament winners for the 2020-21 season.

Congratulations to all winners with special mention to our National Award winners Ben Massurit from the Sunshine Coast GFC for the National Junior Release award, Max Grasso from the King Bay GFC winning both the National Smallfry Release award the National Smallfry Capture award also from the King Bay GFC Jessica Hornhardt winning the National Junior Capture award.

Notifications of all winners have been posted both on the National Junior Tournament Facebook page as well as the GFAA Website. All awards have been distributed to respective clubs with details also advised to respective State Junior Coordinators. We had a record number of 34 State awards won as well as the four national awards which is a great effort.

Winding up the 2020-21 season, I personally wish to pass on a special thanks to our Tournament Sponsorship Coordinator Mr Peter Cox who has stepped down from National Executive duties, his support and organising skills will be sadly missed by our Junior Tournament team.

I also acknowledge the hard work of our State Junior Coordinators, without their support at the ground face, the success of the Junior Tournament would be in jeopardy. I would also like to thank the GFAA Secretary Mr Peter Coote who behind the scenes provides technical and communication support to me greatly assisting the smooth running of the competition.

I wish everyone all the success for the remaining part of the 2021-2022 tournament.

Good fishing & tight lines

Kevin Oates
GFAA National Junior Tournament Coordinator



Ben Massurit - Recognised by his school

Ally Walburn – Matthew Flinders Anglican College – Buderim

Year 9 student, Ben Massurit, and Sunshine Coast GFC member has just been awarded Junior National Champion and State Champion for GFAA (Game Fishing Association Australia, founded in 1937, the oldest fishing association in the world). He also was awarded Champion Junior for the QGFA (Queensland Game Fishing Association).

To achieve these honours Ben tagged and released a total of 25 black marlin ranging in weight from 15kg to 100kg per fish.

All fish are tagged and released in a healthy condition for scientific research by the NSW Government Tagging program. If and when Ben's fish are recaptured by another angler the research team gains valuable information on the growth, health and migration of the fish worldwide. This contributes to invaluable species knowledge and preservation.

So far Ben has had three of his fish recaptured which has contributed to this wealth of research.



Next week Ben has been invited to fish on a professional charter in Cairns for potential world record.

Congratulations from all at QGFA and GFAA Ben, well done.



JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT FUND

GFAA has approved a fund designed to encourage clubs and juniors to get into fishing with grants of cash and sponsorship. Announcements of the details will be made in the next couple of weeks. Simple online applications will make it easy to get backing for club initiatives and individual support. More to come.....

Records – Peter Babarskas

Life Member, Records Officer Rules Committee Chair

New records from 24th June 2021 to 30th October 2021

Category	Species	Line Class	Angler	Weight	State	Status
Junior Female	Southern bluefin tuna	6	Sarah Donovan	14.2	TAS	Aust
Male 10/1 HLC	Tope	2	Kevin McLoughlin	28.12	SA	Aust, World
Male s/w	Tope	4	Luke Little	23.82	SA	Aust
Junior Female	Southern bluefin tuna	3	Georgia Barrett	9.5	SA	Aust
Junior Male	Blue marlin	60	Lachlan Kendall	186.4	QLD	Aust
1000 lb	Tiger shark	37	Grant Hallett	457.4	NSW	Aust
1000 lb	Tiger shark	24	Jason Hewitt	506	NSW	Aust
Male	Mako shark	60	Mitchell Hyde	388.2	NSW	Aust
Junior Female	Tiger shark	60	Aliyana Pratt	403.4	NSW	Aust
Junior Male	Tiger shark	60	Zac Owens	292.4	WA	Aust
1000 lb 20/1	Tiger shark	15	Jayden Hudson	578.5	NSW	Aust
Junior Female	Samson fish	3	Ellouise Pugh	4.32	WA	Aust
Junior Female 20/1	Tiger shark	8	Chloe Hornhardt	162.5	WA	Aust
Female	Mulloway	8	Jennifer Behrens	11.05	QLD	Aust
Male I based	Tope	3	Paul Williams	25.50	SA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Sailfish	4	Lochlan Turrell	16.00	WA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Sailfish	3	Lochlan Turrell	15.50	WA	Aust
Female	Snapper	3	rea Pugh	8.76	WA	Aust
1000 lb	Tiger shark	37	Chad Kavanagh	494.50	NSW	Aust
1000 lb	Tiger shark	60	Jason Hewitt	520	NSW	Aust

All anglers making claims for Australian records are requested to please make the claim fees payable to GFAA by EFT to: GFAA - Westpac - BSB - 035304 Account - 294263.

Please include the angler's name as a reference send the receipt of payment with the claim email the details to treasurer@gfaa.asn.au

Links - Click on logo to visit the state website.

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Contributions

Would you like to share your club's or members' achievements? Any club or member of a GFAA affiliated club is encouraged to contribute to the next issue of the GFAA newsletter. Articles of a general or specific nature in Word format with medium resolution images are welcome. GFAA reserves the right to edit content.

Email to secretary@gfaa.asn.au

Contributors to this issue: Peter Babarskas, Ian Bladin, John Clark, Peter Coote, Peter Cox, John Cramer, Jan Flynn, Darryl French, Kevin Oates, Dr Julian Pepperell, Jason Rogers, Doug Sanderson, Bruce Simpson, Michelle Sims, Laura Smith, Bernie Travers and Ally Walburn.

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