



GFAA Newsletter

February 2022

From the President

I hope you enjoy our first newsletter for 2022, there's plenty in here to inform and entertain that's for sure. We have fishing reports from all around the country, other topics of interest and for me, one of the highlights is the Heat Map article produced by QGFA Records Officer Ian Meads. It certainly goes to show what can be done when members accept and adhere to a system of data recording which can build such a great understanding of a fishery.

Congratulations to all involved.

Also, make sure you check the Junior's section – we've been working on broadening the appeal of the junior tournament and getting more youngsters involved and exciting times are ahead.

As always, thanks to all who contributed to this edition and in particular Peter Coote for editing it all and Life Member John McIntyre for putting together the article on the late Bob Lowe. Bob was a Past President and Life Member of GFAA, a friend to many and one of the icons of our sport, recognised by his elevation to the Cairns Professional's Hall of Fame.

Please feel free to pass the newsletter on to any friends or associates who you feel may be interested - it is designed to appeal to all and not just club members. Also, if you have an item that you feel may be worthy of inclusion, please feel free to get in touch with Peter.

Tight Lines

President

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Vale Bob Lowe

It is with regret that we record the passing of Past President, Honorary Life Member and long-time Delegate to the Association, Robert H. (Bob) Lowe on January 4, 2022, at St. George Hospital, Sydney, aged 89 years.

Bob was a member of numerous game fishing clubs around the country, including his "home" Port Hacking Game Fishing Club (PHGFC), Sydney, extending to Queensland's Lizard Island GFC, of which he was also President and Tournament Director of the prestigious International Tag and Release annual tournament, for over 20 years.

Bob joined PHGFC in 1979 and became a Delegate to New South Wales Game Fishing Association (NSWGFA) in the early 1980's. He quickly became a vigorous participant in the administrative activities of the sport. In 1988 he was elected President of NSWGFA, serving two terms. His services to NSWGFA saw him elected to Honorary Life Membership in 1993. He continued as a Delegate to the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA), and in 1994 he was elected to the Presidency, serving two terms. Honorary Life Membership was bestowed on him in 1997, in recognition of his work on behalf of all Australian anglers.



Bob was a long serving Field Representative of the sport's world body, the International Game Fish Association (IGFA) and was a recipient of the IGFA Conservation Award for his work for the protection of the fish species on the Great Barrier Reef (GBR) and Australia. In 2016, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the capture of the first 1000 pound Australian black marlin, Bob was inducted into the Cairns Game Fishing Hall of Fame. This honour recognised his work in several long running campaigns for the protection of black and blue marlin on the GBR and the wider Australian waters and the later establishment of detailed zones in the GBR region, for recreational only fishing. Negotiations on these matters, with Bob at the forefront, extended to Australian Federal Government Ministers and senior bureaucrats, over several years.

Bob was a long-time resident of southern Sydney and prior to his retirement in 2005, had been a display sign manufacturer, electrical contractor, builder and developer, providing services to all major national oil companies.

The Game Fishing Association of Australia, its Executive Members and State Associations extend their sympathies to Mrs Elizabeth Lowe and family, and honours Bob Lowe for his long service to the Australian game fishing community.

John McIntyre – GFAA Life Member
January 10, 2022.

Tasmania

Mason and Daniel Paull – members GFC of Northern Tasmania



The Game Fishing Club of Northern Tasmania's Team Shimano Tasmania, Mason & Daniel Paull, talk about one of Tassie's new and emerging fisheries the yellow tail kingfish.

They say fishing is a game of luck and on Saturday 5th of February during a quick and spontaneous outing to the treacherous waters that flow past Woolnorth in the far NW of Tasmania and into the Indian Ocean, we had perhaps one of our luckiest and most memorable captures to date. Woolnorth itself is a place here in Tasmania that has become a paradise for anglers chasing snapper, kingfish and arguably the largest King George whiting in the world. The beautiful turquoise coloured water, green pastures and wind turbines on the rolling hills of Bluff Point and Studland Bay make Woolnorth one of the most picturesque places in the state.

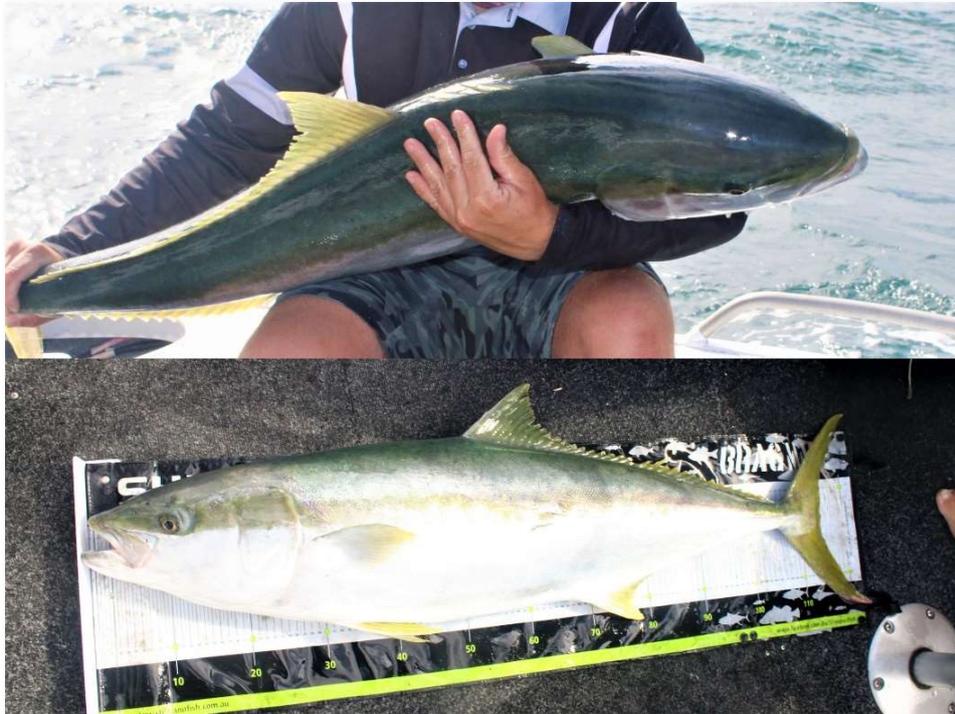
We'd already had a pretty successful day on Friday with some good sized kingfish and a few smaller snapper coming aboard but after hearing on the grapevine that a pair of talented young local anglers, Sam



Spinks and Nathan Huizing had encountered some absolute monster 'hoodlums' earlier in the week, we decided we'd head back up for another look.

After arriving at Woolnorth later in the afternoon on Saturday just as the tide began to turn and rush back out to sea, we quickly found ourselves connected to our first kingfish for the day. This was a quality fish of approximately 80-85cm and in the same sort of league as fish we'd encountered the day prior. A quick couple of pictures ensued and the solid specimen was speared back into the drink to fight another day. It was a bright start to the day!

It didn't take long for us to find our next target. We'd both been smoked on bigger fish the day before, so Daniel had opted for a slightly heavier outfit for this session. Using a Shimano Twinpower 10000/Grappler Type-C combination loaded with 50lb Powerpro braid and 50lb Ocea flurocarbon leader, the decision would ultimately provide the additional grunt to defeat the next opponent.



A pod of about three enormous kingfish materialized behind a rapidly worked soft plastic and with some quick thinking and an open bail arm, Daniel was able to hook the fish leading the chase. The torpedo like 'hoodlum' veered off to

the left and peeled a heap of string off the reel in a blistering run reminiscent of a big tuna strike! As the fish ducked and weaved in and around just about every length of kelp in the area, we slowly managed to settle into a bit of a rhythm and began to inch the beast closer to the boat.

After drifting out into some more hospitable bottom and away from the pressure waves whipped up by the outgoing tide, we finally got our first view of the animal. It was a right proper donkey and far too big for the net we had. We made several unsuccessful attempts at trying to haul the fish aboard in rough conditions by trying to lead it headfirst into the net and grabbing at the tail but it just wasn't going to work. We finally managed to get the fish up over the gunwale by using a small lip gaff and basically holding onto the animal's lower jaw. We quickly rolled out the brag mat and lowered the fish down gently to get a quick measurement. Gazing in absolute awe at the 115cm fork length Tasmanian kingfish, we knew we were extremely lucky and fortunate to be in the presence of such an awesome example of nature.

Too magnificent a fish to catch the once, the fish was promptly returned to the water after some back slapping, handshakes and some photographs that'll no doubt be cherished for years to come. With the sun setting and the tide slipping away for the journey back to Montagu, it was time to head home for a couple of well-earned frothies.

How good is the fishing in Tassie? You just never know when you'll run into that fish of a lifetime.

Australian International Billfish Tournament
Click on flyer below for more information.

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John Ogilvy - Fremantle Sailing Club – Game Fishing Section



There are few things in life more satisfying than catching and cooking your own seafood, and there are numerous health benefits from eating wild fish and game meat. That said, steps should be taken to ensure that the quality of your seafood is maximized and that your risk of illness is minimized.

Once you have landed your fish, the first thing to do is kill it as quickly and as humanely as possible. In addition to animal welfare concerns, killing the fish quickly will maximize the quality of the flesh. The best way to do this is through “Iki Jime”, a Japanese technique that destroys the brain of the fish using a knife or sharp spike. On larger, more dangerous fish, a firm knock on the head with a metal or wooden bat will also work. Once the brain has been destroyed, the next thing to do is bleed the fish. On most fish, this can be done by severing the artery that runs between the gills. With sharks, this can be done by cutting off the tail. The final step is to place the fish into your cooler with an ice slurry mixture, which consists of two parts ice, one part salt water. It is important to use salt water (either from the ocean or made by mixing salt in fresh water), because fresh water will promote bacterial growth.

When storing your fish, a vacuum sealer is a worthwhile investment. Vacuum sealing can preserve your seafood in the freezer for up



to two years, while other methods will only preserve your catch for a few months. If you follow this advice, your seafood will taste excellent, and you will minimize your chances of getting sick.

The two most common seafood ailments to be aware of are ciguatera and scombroid fish poisoning. Ciguatera is a form of food poisoning caused by the consumption of fish contaminated with ciguatoxin, which is produced by a group of marine algae called

	Wrapping	Vacuum Sealing
Meat (Beef, Pork, Game, Poultry, Game Birds, etc.)	6 months	2-3 years
Ground Meat	4 months	1 year
Seafood	3-6 months	2 years
Vegetables	8 months	2-3 years

dinoflagellates. Concentrations of toxin in fish increase through bioaccumulation, and the disease is most common in the tropics. Australian species often implicated in ciguatera are barracuda, red bass, chinaman fish, coral trout, mackerels, moray eels, wrasse, parrot fish, amberjack, grouper, trevally, and other predatory reef fish.

Symptoms include, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, metallic taste in the mouth, hot and cold reversal, muscle and joint fatigue, and insomnia. Treatment for this illness is supportive only, and the neurological symptoms of ciguatera can persist for months or even years. The best way to prevent ciguatera is to avoid consuming known high-risk species, and to avoid eating fish from waters during an algal bloom. It is also wise to seek local knowledge before fishing. If you suspect that you are suffering from ciguatera, it is best to seek hospitalization. Scientific evidence also suggests that a brew made from octopus bush leaves can alleviate ciguatera symptoms.

Scombroid poisoning, also known as the “mahi mahi flush”, is a form of histamine poisoning caused by improper storage of fish. Certain species have high levels of histidine, and this is converted to histamine when the fish is left out in the sun or at room temperature for prolonged periods.



Species include mahi mahi, tunas, mackerels, herring, tailor, amberjack, and billfish. Scombroid poisoning symptoms include a sharp, peppery taste followed by nausea, vomiting, elevated heart rate, sweating, fever and a facial rash. Scombroid was implicated in the tragic deaths of an Australian mother and daughter after they were served improperly stored fish while visiting Bali in 2014. Scombroid is treated with antihistamines and intravenous fluids, with severe cases requiring steroids and adrenaline. This ailment can be easily prevented by getting your fish cool as quickly as possible, preferably using an ice slurry as described earlier in this article.

John is currently completing a Master's degree at Notre Dame University in Fremantle

New South Wales – Grahame Williams OAM - GFAA Life member, GFAA Executive Officer NSW



The 2022 NSW Game Fishing season started in September 2021. The first tournament was the Wollongong GFC Tournament that unfortunately was cancelled due to Covid-19. This was followed by the Jervis Bay GFC White Sands Tournament held on 4th December with 17 boats entered. No game fish were caught or tagged which was very unusual for that area, however the sharks were around so seven were tagged and released and five captured.

The new year heralded the 38th Golden Lure Tournament held from Port Macquarie between 7th-15th January. 259 anglers on 62 boats competed and although fishing was tough with tags and captures down on average, competition was tight. Weather played its hand with the first two days postponed due to the big tides and large cyclone generated easterly swell causing issues with the bar. The week-long north easterly winds made the inshore water cold and green and the current was pushing quite hard out on the shelf. It was hard fishing with five days in a row (including Ladies Day on Tuesday) but a great time was had by all.

The 2022 Garmin 38th Golden Lure Tournament

Champion Boat T&R: Reel Deal -

NPSGFC - 65,562 pts

Runner Up: Backed Up 2 - PMGFC

- 53,874 pts

Champion Boat T&R Blue Marlin

Only: Hermans Heroes - PMGFC -

20,000 pts C/B

Runner Up: Warlord - PMGFC -

20,000 pts

Tag & Release Angler

Champion Male Angler T&R:

Michael Giles - NGFC - 53,750 pts

Champion Female Angler T&R:

Harriet Crowley - PMGFC - 53,874

pts

Champion Junior Angler T&R: Rhys Jolly - NGFC - 40,000 pts

Champion Small Fry Angler T&R: Blake Herbert - PMGFC - 32,300 pts

Female Small Fry award winner - Indi Garvey - PMGFC - 155 pts



Capture Angler Highest Point Scoring Fish

Champion Male Angler: Not awarded

Champion Female Angler: Amanda Lamond - PHGFC - 1021.82 pts

Champion Junior Angler: Riley Baker - PMGFC - 1044.52 pts

Most Meritorious Capture - Riley Baker - PMGFC - 1044.52 pts 17.4kg Spanish Mackerel on 10kg

Heaviest Other Game Fish Capture: Amanda Lamond – PHGFC – 26.1kg Wahoo
First Billfish T&R: Darren Lewis - Long Time Dead PMGFC
Last Billfish T&R: Steve Wilkinson - Wild Thing NPSGFC
Most Marlin T&R: Michael Giles - Blackout NGFC - 3 Marlin on count back
Most Shark T&R: Rhys Jolly - Sea Devil NGFC – 4 sharks
Most Other Game Fish T&R: Jack Cunneen – Backlash 2 PMGFC – 8 fish
Special Junior/Small Fry Award: Nate Dial – No Excuse NPSGFC

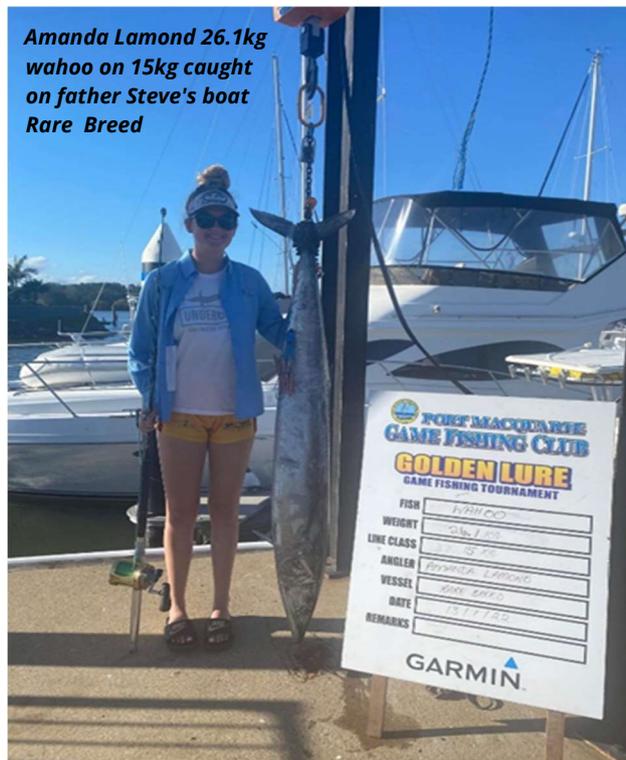
Total fish T&R 131, captures 2.

In the same week in January, the Batemans Bay Tollgate Islands Classic was held from 14th to 16th. 42 boats fished. 12 striped marlin, four black marlin, four makos and a dolphin fish tagged and released. There were no captures.

Two tournaments were held over the weekend of 22nd to 23rd January, one on the south coast and the other in the Sydney area.

The Bermagui 86th Bluewater Classic was held over three days to 24th January. 66 boats and 250 anglers entered. Tag and releases were 81 striped marlin, 3 black marlin, 2 blue marlin, 9 dolphin fish, 11 striped tuna, 2 hammerhead sharks and a yellowfin tuna.

There were also three captures of striped marlin. On Saturday, Cain Gawne on board La Dolce Vita captured a 72kg striped marlin on 10kg line. The following day, Josh Mears on board Send It captured a 101kg striped marlin on 15kg line and on Monday, small fry angler Miller Finch on board Elmer captured a 73.2kg striped marlin on 15kg. As the minimum weight in NSWGFA is 80kg on 15kg line for marlin. Miller was still presented with a \$100 gift voucher to Bermagui Bait and Tackle for the fantastic achievement. They tried swimming the marlin to revive it but were unsuccessful so it was brought in to weigh.



The Botany Bay Bill Heyward Tournament fished the two days, 22nd and 23rd January. This tournament had cash prizes. \$25,000 for a blue marlin over 200kg on any line class and \$25,000 for a tiger or mako over 350kg caught on 15kg or less line class. 35 boats fished with 173 anglers entered.

Tagged and released statistics were 8 mahi mahi, 14 striped marlin, two blue marlin, two tiger sharks and four blue sharks.

Captures statistics were three tiger sharks weighed, all on 15kg line. 190kg, 285.5kg and a \$25,000 winning 356.5kg. The \$25,000 fish was caught on the afternoon of day two by the Hudson brothers fishing on their boat Reaper.

Other captures were three mako sharks, to 233.5kg, a mahi mahi and a whaler shark, of 134.5kg on 8kg line.



The \$25,000 tiger shark at the Botany Bay GFC Bill Heyward Memorial Tournament. The Hudson brothers' vessel Reaper from SGFC.

Coming up in February are the N&PSGFC Garmin Classic to be held 19-20 February following by the NSWGFA State Championship Interclub and All Ports Tournament to be held 24-27 February.

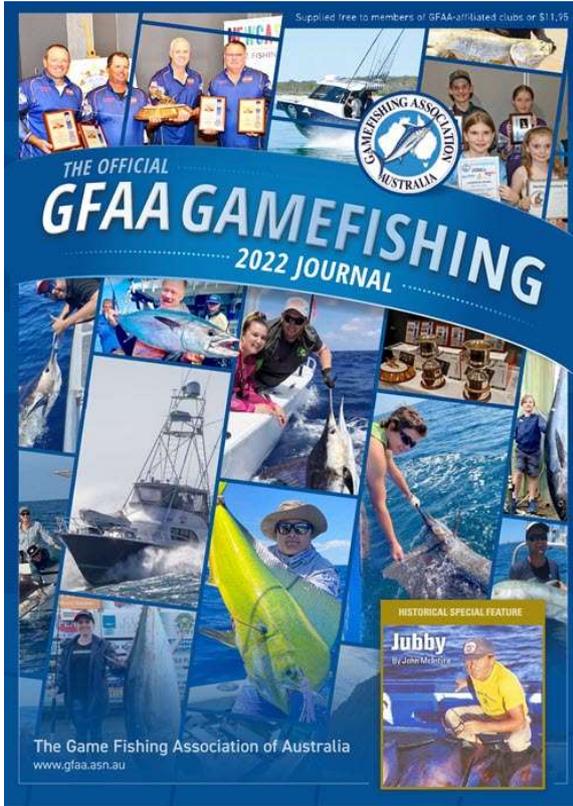
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12 & 13 March 2022

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The Garmin Classic will be held out of Port Stephens and the Interclub/All Ports will be fished out of Port Stephens plus any other chosen port on the NSW Coast. This year is another first for NSWGFA in combining both Tournaments together. This is being done to continue the long standing tradition of the Interclub out of Port Stephens, adding the All Ports to ensure our club boats all along our coast have the opportunity to fish this new prestigious tournament at the on the same week-end of the Interclub. To make it interesting the Port Stephens Interclub boats points for 2 of the 3 days also compete in the All Ports therefore every one fishing against one another on the same week-end.

On the 12-13 March Newcastle GFC will host the GFAA endorsed AIBT out of Newcastle.



GFAA GAMEFISHING 2022 JOURNAL

*Includes updated charts,
images and tables for billfish
and sharks*

*Members should have received
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Tassie Tiger

The TGFA would like to acknowledge and congratulate the team aboard the vessel "Lunch Money" for a significant tag and release achievement made during the Game Fishing Club of Northern Tasmania's TGFA sanctioned tournament conducted at St Helens on the 12th February.



Skipper Jared Lewis and angler Will Murfett tagged and released a tiger shark.

You may think, what is significant in this? Well, NSW DPI manage the most comprehensive fish tagging program in Australia. They have nearly 1600 tiger shark tag deployment details in their database. Up until now the southernmost tag deployment into a tiger was off Mallacoota near the Vic/NSW border. This capture will be recorded as the southernmost T&R of this species.

We applaud this effort and contribution to science.

Estimated weigh at release 80kg.

Late Record Claims

All clubs and anglers making claims for Australian records need to be aware of a change to the rules concerning late claims.

"A late fee of \$110 will apply for record claims received after 60 days from capture date and will only be accepted up to 30 days after deadline if extenuating circumstances can be shown."



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QGFA Fishing Activity Heat Maps

Ian Meads - QGFA Records Officer



The executive committee of the QGFA are continuing to look for ways to give back to all the members of the 20 Game Fishing Clubs that make up the QGFA, and in doing so we are always trying to get more members engaged with their fishing clubs and getting them out there enjoying time on the water fishing with family and friends.

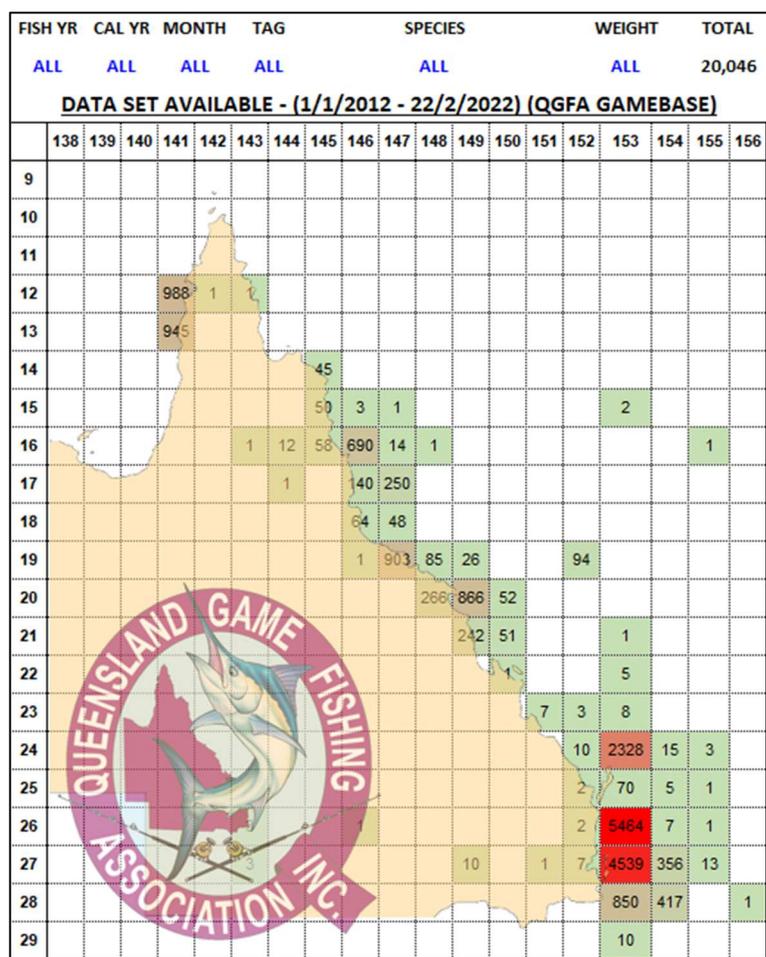
One of the innovations being developed by the QGFA team is an interactive “ACTIVITY HEAT MAP” report that easily filters activity sheet and tag card data out of the QGFA gamebase database and provides an easy-to-read map of past fishing activities.

Thanks to the fishing and recording efforts of all our club’s members over the past 10 years completing tag cards and activity sheets, and then the extra work from all the club captains and weighmasters entering the data into our QGFA gamebase system, we now have a database of over 20,000 entries to paint a very good picture in a “heat map” style report for all members to use. This interactive report is only possible from the data collected and submitted by our clubs and their members into the QGFA gamebase system.

The interactive report allows filtering of:-

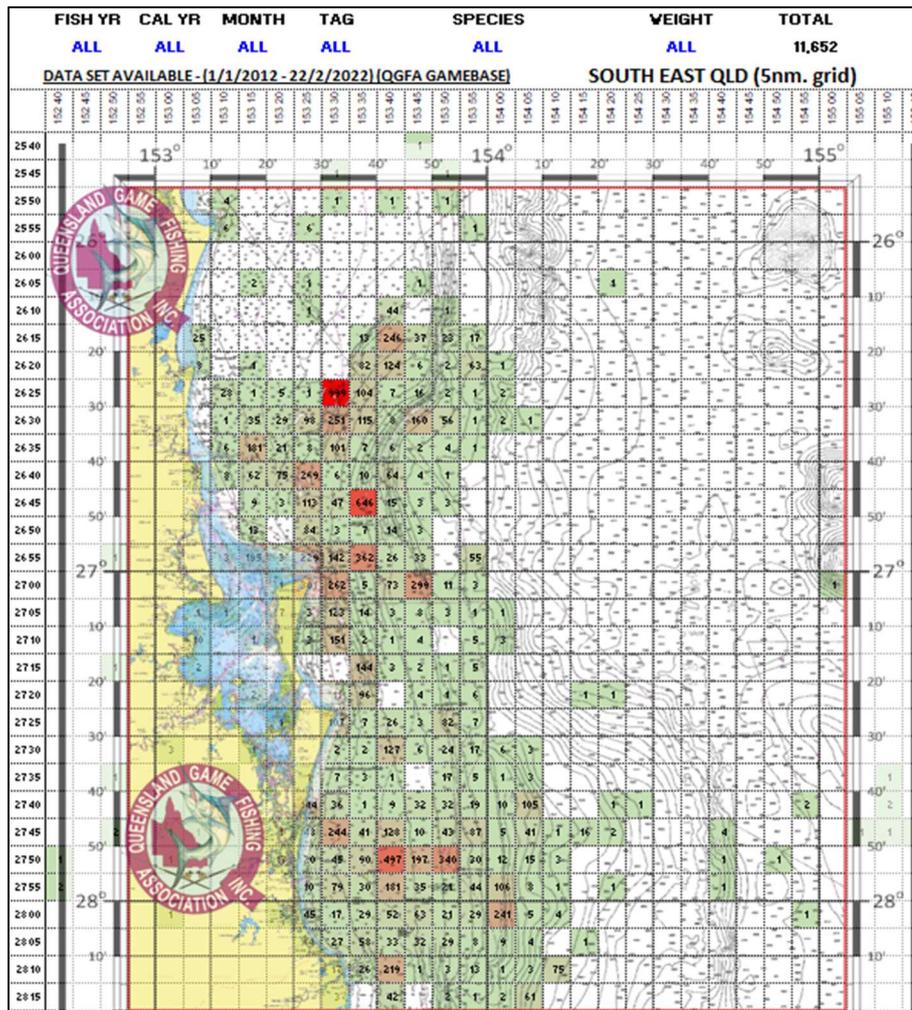
- Fishing Year (1 July – 30 June),
- Calendar Year (1 Jan - 31 Dec),
- Month,
- Tag Type (B-Billfish, A-Pelagic, S-Shark),
- Fish Species, and
- Fish Weight.

Once the filters are applied by selecting the values in drop down boxes at the top of the map, the

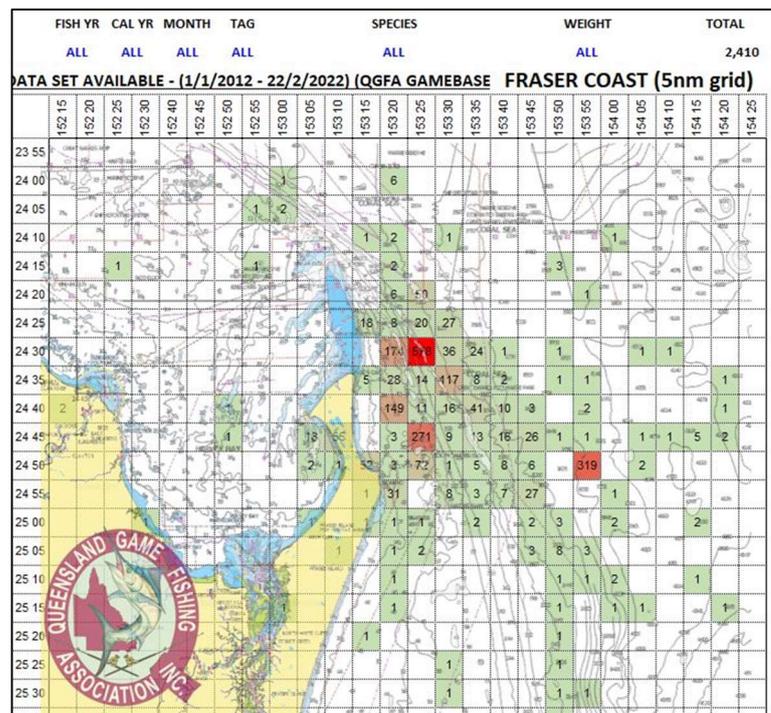


number of records that exist in each grid square for that filter is returned in each grid square, an auto-colour function then highlights the grids that contain the larger numbers on the map and creates the “heat map” effect on the map. The “heat maps” are produced on a state level grid map in 1 degree (60nm) grid pattern for the whole of Queensland, and then supported with a series of 6 local region maps in 5-minute (5 nm) grid pattern increments.

The six (6) local region maps are South East QLD Region, Fraser Island Region, Mackay & Whitsunday Region, Townsville Region, Far North QLD East Region and Weipa Region.

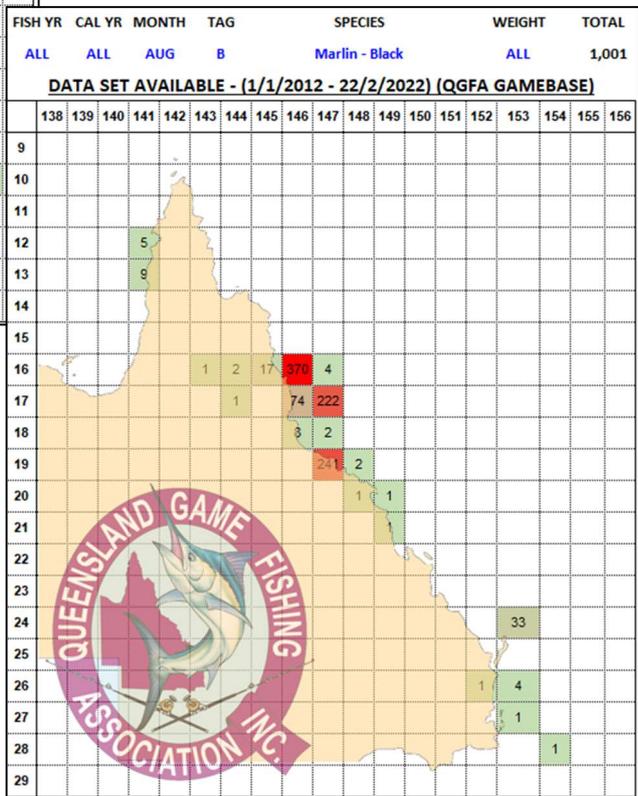
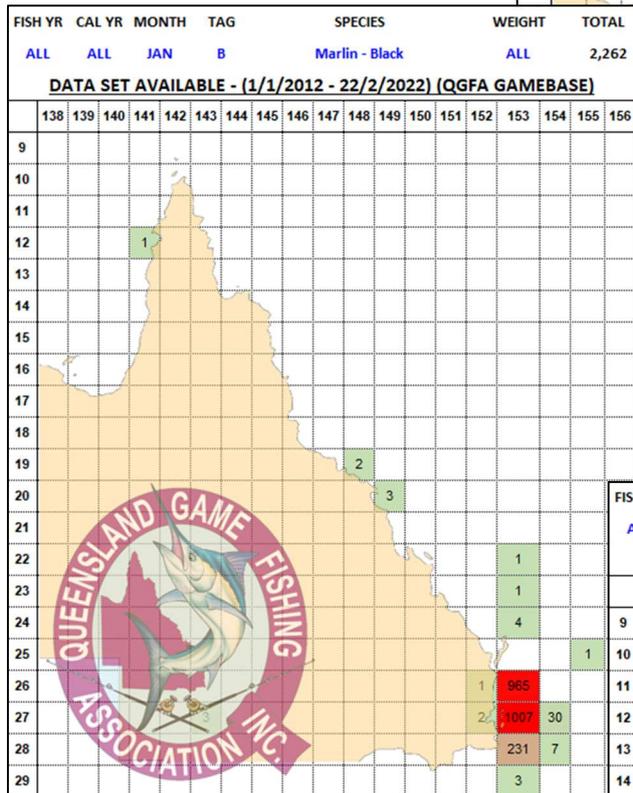
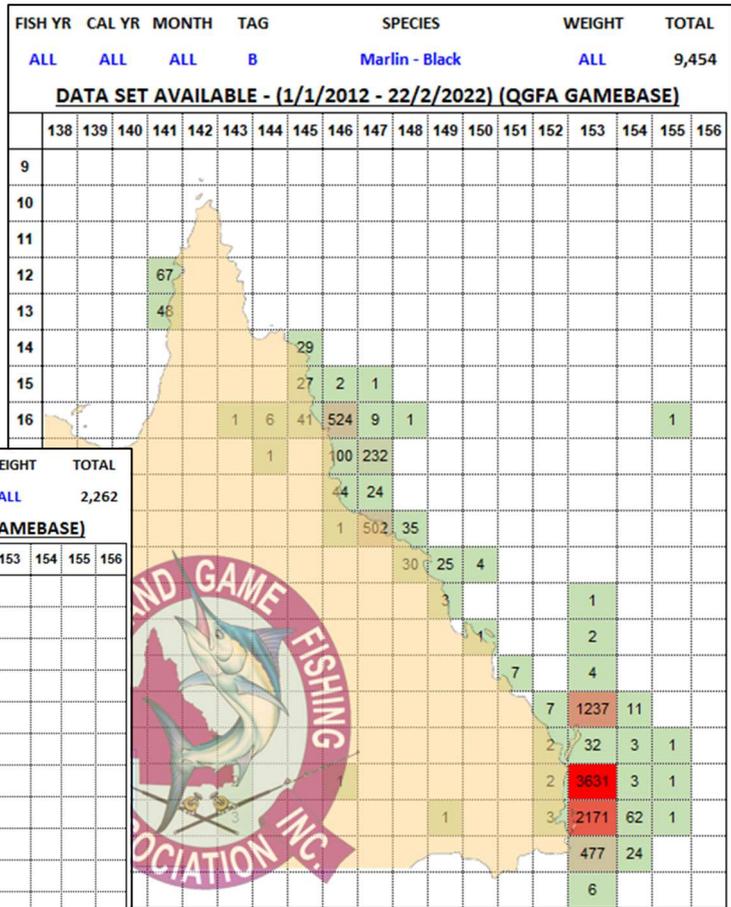


The interactive report is being released to clubs so they can conduct research and information sessions with their members, and may eventually lead to an interactive report available on the QGFA website. This tool will allow all clubs to view the full QGFA database (back to 2012) for past fishing years (excluding the current fishing year), and each club will also have the ability to generate maps with their club's current fishing year and past fishing year results.



There are untold possibilities of what people can then quickly & easily find using various combinations of the filters available with this report.

For example; If you wanted to chase a particular fish species – like a Black Marlin, you can simply apply the “Marlin – Black” “SPECIES” filter and “B” series “TAG” filter and see where Black Marlin have been tagged.....,

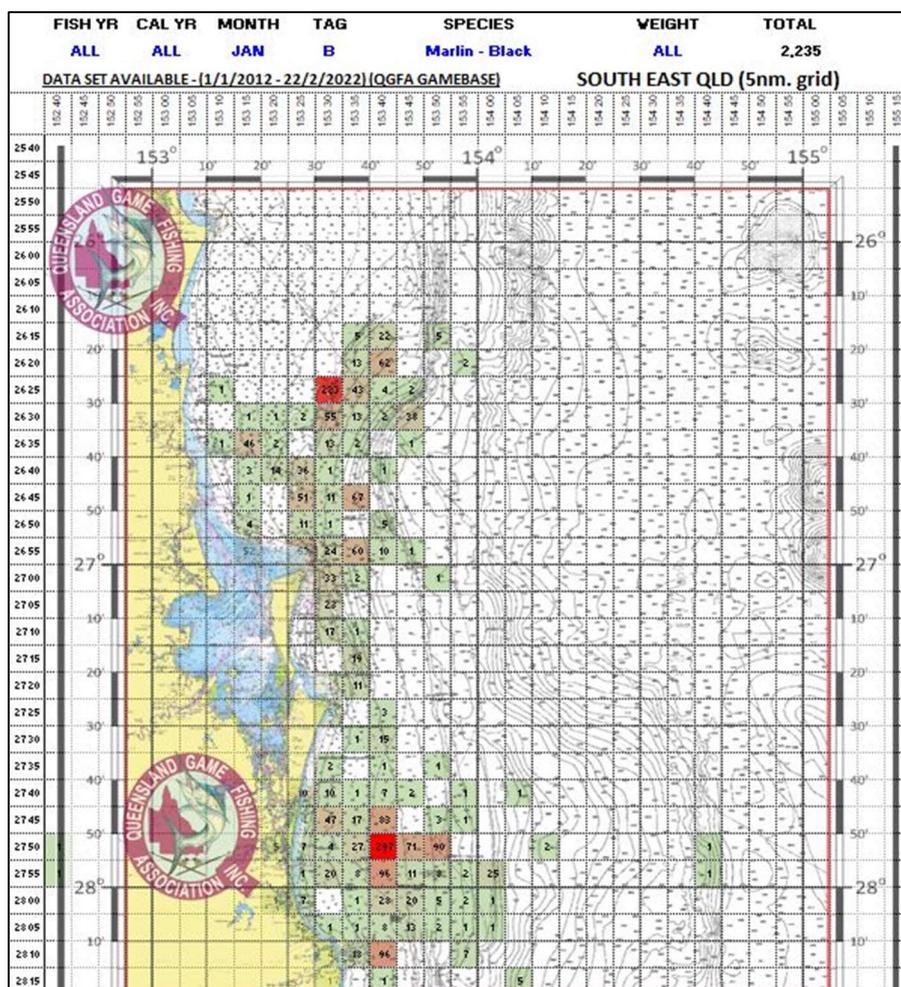


....and then in a few more clicks you can search by each “MONTH” to then work out when the black marlin season is in a particular region (for instance these images show the difference between January and August Black Marlin tagging results).

NB. Keep in mind to read the TOTAL number in the top right corner above the map for the total sum of the values in the grid, and read the value on the grid square as well as look at the grid colour as all graphs will have the same colour red for the highest value on the chart (no matter how big that number is).....

Then once you have settled on where in the state you want to fish for your black marlin and what time of year, you can then apply these filters (“JAN”, “B” & “Marlin – Black”) to the local region map to show a breakdown of past results in that area.

QGFA still recommend anglers talk with clubs and members that are in the area to see how the current fishing is going and what techniques works best in that area, however, it is a tool to help get anglers started in the right direction and a tool for clubs to be able to easily research and interpret historical data for information sessions they may be trying to run with members. .



This interactive “heat map” report is a way of providing the many active members within the clubs of the QGFA with a first-hand appreciation of some of the benefits that comes from their efforts in participating in the tagging program (and correctly completing QGFA Activity Records and NSW Fisheries tag cards). The reports will give the game fishing clubs that make up the QGFA more information to share back with their members. It will be a great tool to help introduce new members into game fishing with what fish to target in your local waters, while also giving information to experienced members that want to look to other areas than just their local waters to fish, in our great state.

Please remember the more accurate the club members complete the tag cards and activity sheets, the more accurate our club captains/ weighmasters can record this information in gamebase, and then in turn the more accurate of a picture we will be able to supply back to the members in this interactive report.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact our QGFA records officer (Ian Meads) by email at records@qgfa.com.au.

Protecting Snapper Stocks

For Video, Click Image



This video link is reproduced with the express permission of Recfishwest

FRDC News

Click Image



2021 Ribbons Ladies Game Fishing Tournament



The 38th Annual Ribbons Ladies Game Fishing Tournament began on 3rd December, with the briefing night held at the Rattle n Hum Cairns. With a total of 25 Boats and 84 anglers including one 3rd generation junior registered for the event.

The traditional sail past started the days fishing at 7am, where teams dressed their boats in the hope of being judged "Best Dressed Boat". This honour going to "Aphrodite" on Megisti Spirit. Weather conditions for the day were pretty average with moderate winds, resulting in a few contenders for the Greenie award. The fishing was good with 28 eligible gamefish weighed in and three billfish tagged. Jessica Orford's catch of the day, was a yellowfin tuna of 13.2kg.

Overall, it was another amazing tournament. Everyone enjoyed a weekend of fun, fishing and friendship. Already the committee is already planning it's 39th Ribbons Tournament. So, ladies get your calendar sorted for 2022 for a weekend of fun, fishing and friendship.

More information contact
info@ribbons.org.au
or visit our webpage
<http://www.ribbons.org.au>

2021 Results:
Champion Team: Tranquility
Champion Senior Angler: Tina Cross
Runner Up Senior Angler: Helena Willmot
Champion Team over 8m: Tranquility
Champion Team 8m and under: Forty Gorillas!
Runner up Team overall: Lellyb
Senior Encouragement award: Ash Lily on Billfish
Champion Out of Town Angler: Sharyn on Kiama
Highest Total Gamefish Weighed: Lily Sims
Highest Individual Point Scoring Gamefish: Jessica Orford
Champion Junior Angler: Charlie Francis
Best dressed Boat: Aphrodite on Megisti Spirit



Coral Sea Marine Park



Coral Sea Marine Park Advisory Committee Meeting #6 Communique 16 November 2021 – Videoconference

The Coral Sea Marine Park (CSMP) Advisory Committee held a virtual meeting on Tuesday 16 November 2021.

Parks Australia provided the Committee with an update on key management program activities undertaken since the last meeting.

A summary of these program actions is provided:

Assessments and Authorisations

Thirteen authorisations have been issued since Meeting 5: commercial media (1), commercial tourism (4), research and monitoring (4), use of a drone or other non-commercial remote piloted aircraft (3), and other (1).

Since July 2018, 68 authorisations have been issued.

Compliance

Six compliance incidents were recorded in the CSMP since June 2021. The incidents related to commercial media and charter operations occurring without authorisation.

Quarterly compliance reports are available on the [Compliance webpage](#).

Marine Science

Coral Sea Reef Health: 2020-2021 Project

In February 2021 James Cook University undertook a comprehensive assessment of the condition of coral and fish communities.

Attendees

Russell Gueho (Chair)
Andrew Hoey
Christabel Warren
Clive Wilkinson
Doug Sanderson
Michelle Grady

Apologies

Col McKenzie
Craig Stephen
Russ Babcock
Ryan Donnelly (resigned)

Observers

Darci Wallis (Australian Fisheries Management Authority)
Moni Carlisle (Torres Strait Regional Authority)
Anthony Contarino (Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service)

The report is publicly available on the Australian Marine Parks website: [Survey of Coral Reef Health in the Coral Sea Marine Park 2021](#).

Coral Sea Island Health Project

In July 2021 a survey of 25 islands and cays in the central region of the CSMP occurred. The report on the assessment is underway, and will be made available on the Parks Australia website upon completion.

Parks Australia is working closely with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, researchers, and volunteer botanists to assess the health of islands in the Coral Sea.

parksaustralia.gov.au/marine

Indigenous Engagement

Indigenous Engagement Framework

A draft Sea Country Management Framework for Australian Marine Parks is being developed by Parks Australia to recognise and respect the ongoing cultural responsibilities Traditional Owners have to care for sea country. It aims to improve understanding of cultural heritage values, link marine park management with sea country plans and maximise employment and enterprise opportunities for Traditional Owners.

Parks Protection and Management

Parks Australia published the [Environmental Incident and Emergency Response Strategy](#) which supports the Director of National Parks' response to serious or critical environmental incidents and emergencies in and adjacent to Australian Marine Parks (AMPs).

Communication, Education and Awareness

Various social media posts have been released about the Coral Sea reef and Island Health projects.

Tourism and Visitor Experience

The *Australian Marine Parks Tourism Strategy 2021-2026* guides the approach to understanding the use of AMPs by a range of tourism sectors.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting will be held in May or June 2022. For more information about the Coral Sea Marine Park or the Committee:

Visit parksaustralia.gov.au/coralsea

Email marineparks@environment.gov.au

GFAA is represented on the Coral Sea Marine Park Advisory Committee by Past President Doug Sanderson.

Garmin Gold Coast Light Tackle Tournament

Collated by Doug Sanderson – Past President GFAA



The Gold Coast Garmin Light Tackle Masters was a great tournament.

Unfortunately, the second day was cancelled due to the Tsunami Warning put out all along the eastern seaboard. It was based at the new Gold Coast GFC clubhouse which is a fantastic venue at the Runaway Bay Marina Shoreline. Doug Sanderson fished with his old mate and ex Gold Coast President Mallee in his new Cabo Express which is a great ride> They were lucky enough to hook up to a little black marlin; that was all for the day but a great couple of days and the presentation went off well on the Sunday afternoon .



Tournament Statistics:

Day 1:		
Hook-ups	53	
Strikes	42	
Tags	19 Black marlin	
	3 Mahi mahi	
Captures	1 Cobia	

Day2:
Abandoned due to Tsunami warning



Awards:

Champion Boat Aura - 3 black marlin
Runner-up Lucky Strike - 2 black marlin 3 mahi mahi

Champion Boat over 8m Aura
Champion Boat under 8m Redonkulous

Champion Male Angler Trent Bergers – Aura- 2 black marlin
Champion Female Angler Alisa Schofield – Wired – 1 black marlin
Champion Male Junior Rafael Younan – Lucky Strike – 2 black marlin 3 mahi mahi

Champion Angler Other Species Heaviest Fish - Andrew Barr - Taco Tuesday - cobia 10kg
Champion Angler Other Species T&R – Rafael Younan – Lucky Strike – 3 mahi mahi

Pre Tournament

Young Ben Massurit was out from the Gold Coast having a pre fish the day before the Gold Coast Light Tackle Tournament and caught this little black marlin. It turned out to be a recapture that had already been tagged. Another great result for young Ben who excels in all aspects of game fishing just one of our up and coming talented juniors. GFAA is very lucky to have a large group of juniors coming through the ranks of our club system.



Victoria – Anton Vogiatzis President GFAV



The game fishing season is well underway for us in the southern end of the mainland. Historically a great time for blue water anglers to start to target mako sharks, kingfish, and the last few season bluefin tuna

The run of bluefin tuna in central Bass Strait has been a welcome sight with schools of thousands of fish visible along the coastline. Although finding them can be easier than catching them! While these SBT seem to be sunning themselves or feeding on very small whitebait or anchovies they seem to be fussy or not at all interested in many lures presented

This year saw the return of the Victorian Game Fishing Club's game fishing tournament held out of the port of Hastings. The event was re-launched after a couple of year hiatus, and with new trophy categories to emphasise the shift in focus to include kingfish and bluefin tuna.

The weather leading up to the comp saw some strong southerlies back off just in time to allow 20 boats out to fish the waters of Bass Strait. It didn't take long for some reports to be called early Saturday morning of several bluefin tagged. The tally for the weekend was 4 SBT captured (3 of the fish on 12lb line!) and 15 bluefin tagged for the weekend. One 66.4kg mako on 15kg line was weighed in for a small fry angle and a pending state record. Good to see the light line fishing and tagging .

Well done to all involved and looking forward to seeing the competition grow in coming years.

Ethan McMasters with proud Dad, Daniel, and his pending Victorian Small Fry record mako shark of 66.4kg. on 15kg.



Keen angler Katrina Moutafis all smiles after tagging her first bluefin over the weekend.

The GFCSA (Game Fishing Club of South Australia)



The first all-female fishing show in Australia started in 2020 on channel 44 in Adelaide and channel 31 in Melbourne. Get Hooked with Team Justagirl is an adventure-based programme with the girls fishing offshore around South Australia. There are no guys involved here at all, the girls do it all from making rigs to filming and editing.

The show was nominated for an Antenna award as the best outdoor and recreational show and though they didn't win it was an honour to be acknowledged in their very first season of filming. Series 3 is about to hit the airways in early March so keep an eye out for it on Tuesday nights. If you can't get those two channels you can watch their antics on their YouTube channel – Get hooked fishing with Team Justagirl
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzR1Yafj0KENDKVuaaX9kKw>

Team Justagirl are members of the GFCSA and are also the Trailer Boat champions for 2020-2021 season – These girls are serious and enjoy competing with the guys. The gentleman in the picture is one of their sponsors, Dean Forster from Stress Free Marine

The Skipper of this crew, Tracey Tito, is also on the club committee as the event coordinator. If you are in Adelaide, they meet on the 1st Tuesday of every month at 6.30. Everyone is welcome.



News around the club – This weekend 25th to the 27th of February is the Clubs annual tournament, The John Johnson Memorial



Wirrina Tuna Slam. This Tournament offers up \$5,000 in cash and \$5,000 plus in other prizes so is well worth fishing. We'll bring you the results and story on this in the next edition.

The John Johnston Memorial
Cash + Prizes Wirrina
\$10,000
TUNA SLAM

Hosted by THE GAME FISHING CLUB OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC
Starts Sat 26th Feb 2022
Ends Sun 27th Feb

RUNNING SCHEDULE

- * Fishing Sat 26th Feb & Sun 27th Feb 2022 starts with lines in at 7am. each day.
- * Finish Saturday with weighing time from 6pm to 7pm, * Finish Sunday with weighing time from 5pm to 6pm
- * Presentation BBQ Sun at 7pm at the Wirrina Cove Marina

BBQ Briefing & Registration *Friday 25th Feb starts at 7pm*

At WIRRINA COVE MARINA

- *\$3,000 Cash Prize for the person with the heaviest combined weight of two Tuna over the two days
- *\$1,000 Cash as a Daily Prize for the Heaviest Tuna WEIGHED on EACH DAY!
- *\$2,500 of Products Each Day for 1st, 2nd, 3rd Prizes for both Adults & Juniors that are entered, a Total Value of \$5,000.
- Prize for the Best fishing photo of the weekend

CONTACTS:- Steve Morris — 0407 280 323 or Ralph Czabayski — 0419 834 540 —

Visit :- www.gamefishsa.org.au

Or on  at.. GFCSA

NOTICE:- If Weather is Unfavourable Will be Re Scheduled to the Following Weekend 5th & 6th March

ENTRY \$75.00 PER Adult, Juniors under 16yr FREE (Junior must be accompanied by an Adult)
Enter Now! or at the Briefing



Junior Tournament - Kevin Oates - National Junior Tournament Coordinator

This is Tournament Base station - Hi everyone

I thought there would have been loads to report for the past couple of months but you all must have just been enjoying holidays with the family.

I can report the small black marlin are on the bite in Queensland and the striped marlin are on the boil in NSW.

Queensland has seen most of the action with Ryan Meads from Mackay tagging whaler sharks, narrow barred mackerel and a cobia, he also weighed in three narrow barred mackerel.

On the Sunshine coast Ben Massurit has tagged five black marlin and Tyler Barnes from the Newport GFC has tagged a black marlin.

In WA the action has centred around the Exmouth Gulf and also off Karratha. Lochlan Turrell tagged a tiger shark and captured two samsonfish while the Grasso family have been tagging numerous species with Max also weighing in a brassy trevally and Mia two queenfish.

In NSW, Indi Garvey from the Port Macquarie GFC has tagged eight mahi mahi and a yellowfin tuna. Hunter Davies from Shellharbour GFC has tagged three hammerhead sharks and a striped marlin.

SA action has seen Fred Marsh measure three carp and nothing has been reported from Tasmania



Ryan Meads from Mackay GFC with one of his many tagged narrow barred mackerel



Kaitlyn Collins with her measured blue salmon

The Northern Territory has seen the Collins family doing well with both Lochlan and Kaitlyn measure and release a threadfin salmon and a blue salmon respectively.

The action in Victoria has been in far East Gippsland with new entrant Joshua Newstead from the Orbost S&GFC tagging 13 gummy sharks and a tope and measure and releasing numerous Australian salmon, tailor, flathead and snapper.

Please remember to update your details on the Junior Tournament records if you change your postal or email address. Just go to the Junior Tournament Log in section or Edit User Profile tab, log in and amend details as required.

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

Good fishing and tight lines

Kevin Oates
GFAA National Junior Tournament
Coordinator



Joshua Nestead - one of many gummies

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GFAA Junior Development Program

A group of forward thinking members of the association has been formed as a committee to structure ideas and incentives for Junior anglers wishing to participate in all forms of angling.

The committee is a mixture of Executive members, State Junior Coordinators, Junior female anglers with support from their mothers who are also heavily involved with State and Club fishing administration. The gender balance of the committee is also an extremely important facet of the group and is already providing new insights and an abundance of ideas for the development of junior angling.

Two meetings have been undertaken with some tasks already delegated and suggestions being considered.

To date, the undermentioned has been undertaken :

- A Grant application form has been drafted for further discussion and approval to provide an avenue to clubs, anglers, schools, etc. to obtain funding from the Association for Junior fishing development.
- A week-long fishing competition is being planned later in the year, open to all anglers under the age of 16. Details still being discussed with further details to be advised in due course.
- The Committee wants a Logo and Slogan to best suit the Junior Development Program. Some ideas have already been put forward by committee members and it was decided that we hold a competition open to all the Junior anglers to submit their suggestions. Advertising has been completed via Facebook and Instagram. (some logos and slogans are below)
- Please enter the competition by submitting suggestions gfaakids22@gfaa.asn.au to



"Fish'N'Kids", "GFAA Fish'N'Kids", "Kids Fish Too!", "Kids Fishing for Fun"

Juniors Notes

Hi GFAA Junior Coordinators,

I just wanted to share a story with you as I feel it encompasses what we are trying to achieve with the Junior development initiative.

Last year Max had a new kid in his footy team, they got along really well but when the season finished they hardly saw each other, as he was in high school and Max in his last year of primary school.

Eventually they made contact and Max organised for them to go fishing together. We didn't even know if the other kid was into fishing, but I dropped them off at the local marina for a few hours to harass everything that swims. I picked them up in the afternoon and they seemed to have had a good time but hadn't caught anything noteworthy.

Not long after that the Christmas break rolled around, and we were out of town for six weeks.

Fast forward to yesterday and I bumped into the other boy's dad who came straight over to thank me. Unbeknown to me this father is a mad keen fisherman too and had been trying (unsuccessfully) for years to get his son into fishing.

However, since his little fishing trip with Max he can't get enough. The dad went on to tell me they have been out chasing billfish, bottom fishing and even back down to the marina to chase bream together.

The young bloke wanted fishing gear for Christmas and is currently researching the spread of lures he would like for our winter billfish season.

Then today he contacted me to enquire about joining a club and fishing tournaments. It has really opened my eyes to what we can achieve with super keen young anglers sharing their passion with other kids.

Mick Grasso
Junior Coordinator WA
Member KBGFC

From: Josh Newstead

Sent: Thursday, 3 February 2022 7:01 AM

To: kjo@dcsi.net.au <Kevin Oates>

Subject: Thanks GFAA for the prizes!!

Hi Kevin, thanks so much for the Shimano TLD20 reel. Dad and I have been using TLD15 and 20's forever. They sure are a good reel. We use them chasing the gummies offshore here off Lakes Entrance and also down at Port Albert.

I can't wait to try the Halco lures - Dad and I are hoping to get to Portland to chase the tuna - so these lures will come in handy!!

I'm going to save the TackleWorld vouchers for when they have a sale on and get a few lures - we go through a few as the tailor every now and then take the lot!!

I enjoy fishing in the GFAA junior comp - it's interesting to see what fish are being caught around the country.

Dad and I are out again this weekend chasing the salmon and tailor - hoping that it does not blow too much so that we can chase the gummies - it's been so windy we can't get out offshore.

Thanks to the sponsors, you and the coordinators for putting the GFAA Junior Tournament together.

Josh Newstead.



Records – Peter Babarskas

Life Member, Records Officer Rules Committee Chair

New records from 31st October 2021 to 15th February 2022

Category	Species	Line Class	Angler	Weight	State	Status
Male fly	Black Marlin	10 fly	Jake Fitzgerald	39.40	WA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Spangled Emperor	2	Kalvin Gates	2.66	WA	Aust
Small Fry Female	Aust Salmon	1	Logan Walker	1.79	NSW	Aust
Junior Male	Brassy Trevally	8	Max Grasso	13.76	WA	Aust. World
Small Fry Female	Queenfish	3	Mia Grasso	5.72	WA	Aust
Junior Male	Broad Barred Mackerel	6	Max Grasso	6.56	WA	Aust
Junior Male	Thresher Shark	24	Keagan Horak	60.30	WA	Aust
Junior Male	Narrow Bar Mackerel	10	Reece Matthews	27.40	QLD	Aust
Small Fry Male	Narrow Bar Mackerel	10	Shannon Matthews	18.25	QLD	Aust
Male fly	Rainbow Trout	1 fly	Matthys Solomon	1.54	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Spotted Mackerel	3	Jessica Hornhardt	3.67	WA	Aust
Junior Female	Broad Barred Mackerel	4	Jessica Hornhardt	6.97	WA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Samson fish	3	Lochlan Turrell	4.18	WA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Samson fish	4	Lochlan Turrell	8.54	WA	Aust
Junior Male	Wahoo	8	Ben Massurit	35.40	QLD	Aust
Small Fry Male	Hammerhead Shark	37	Lochlan Turrell	91.90	WA	Aust
Male	Gummy Shark	3	Cody Snadden	22.20	SA	Aust
Small Fry Male	Blue Marlin	37	Jake Owens	115.52	WA	Aust
1000lb and 20:1	Tiger Shark	15	Billy-Jai Lawrence	456.5	NSW	Aust
Junior Male Fly	Queenfish	3 Fly	Max Grasso	3.32	WA	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.

GFAA



Northern Territory



New South Wales



Queensland



South Australia



Tasmania



Victoria



Western Australia



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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, Peter Coote, John Cramer, John Edwards, Mick Grasso, John McIntyre, Ian Meads, Josh Newstead, Kevin Oates, John Ogilvie, Daniel and Mason Paull, Recfishwest, Doug Sanderson, Bruce Simpson, Michelle Sims, Tracey Tito, Anton Vogiatzis and Grahame Williams.

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