REEL TALK

SCGFC CLUB MAGAZINE

JUNE 2018

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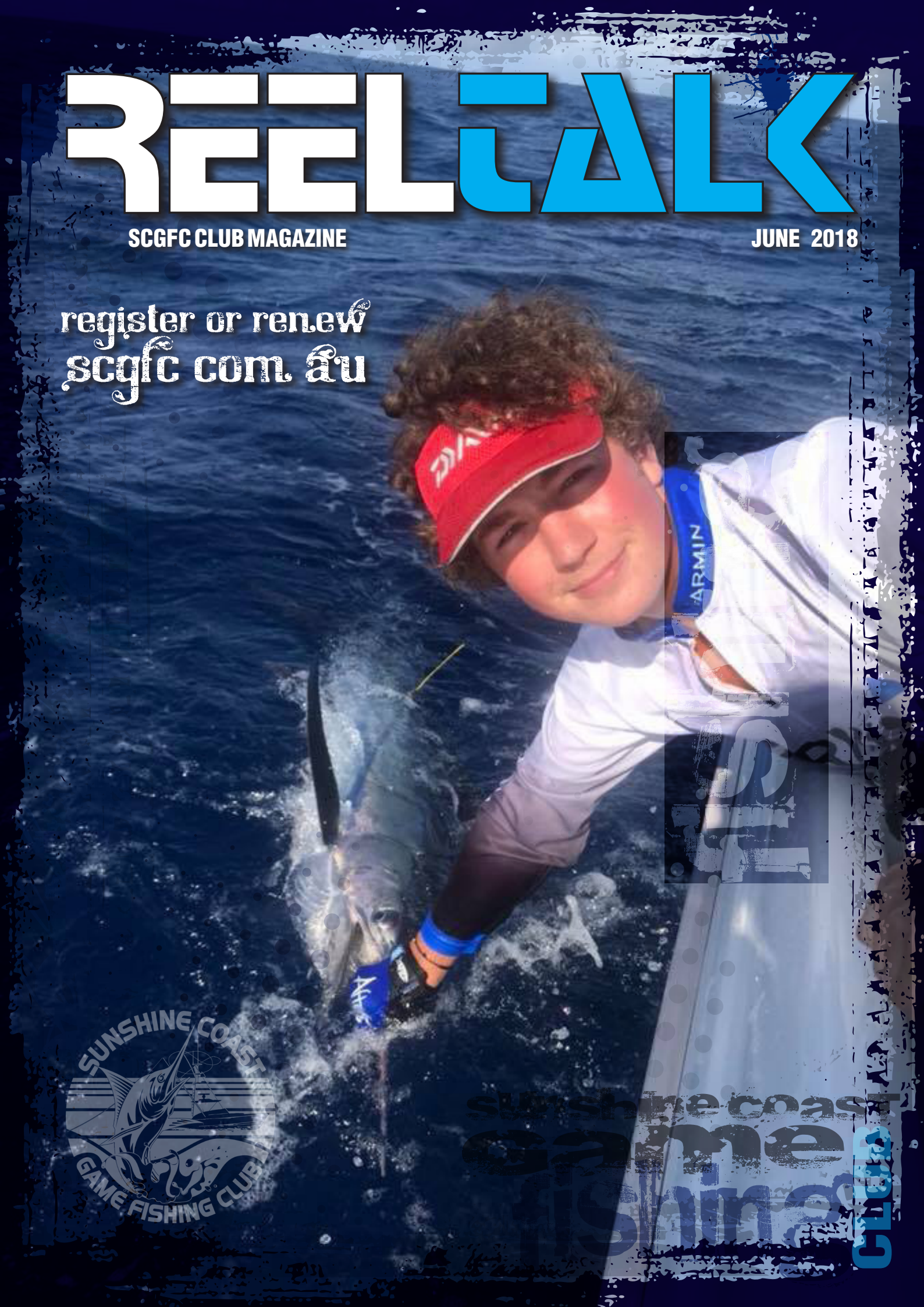

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Brent Higgins
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Welcome

Welcome to our latest SCGFC Reel Talk magazine and thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition.

Everything is looking good for the club, another successful year! Memberships are tracking well, fish numbers are tracking well, All Ports was successful and the season is almost at a close. Men, Women and Juniors have all contributed with fish and we just love seeing that!

Please be sure to keep on top of your activity books and tag cards, when things are going crazy on the water we all get a bit slack, but the time you take on the water to be acurate, saves lots of time for others later.

We wish you all the best for 2019 and the remainder of this season.

SCGFC Committee

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events

JULY GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 3rd July
@ Kawana Waters Hotel

TACKLE RATS DAY
23rd June 2018
@ Kawana Boat Ramp
& Kawana Waters Hotel

SCGFC SPRING SHOOTOUT
28 Sept – 1 August 2018

ANNUAL SCGFC PRESENTATION NIGHT
4th August Mooloolaba Surfclub

president's report

As the season draws to a close, we have had one of our best seasons of fish numbers and some trophies will go down to the wire. In some cases competitiveness has been at an all-time high and in over a decade I've been in this club, to be honest, I've not really seen anything like it. Congratulations to all involved.

I'd like to think the SCGFC promoted a fun 'come along and have a beer' type mentality that encompassed both the serious fisho right down to those who needed an escape from the day-to-day and needed a weekend hobby with, as I coin it, other "like minded fisherman". To add, I feel the club should be a holistic band of mates with one common goal; Fish-Learn-Have Fun. Sometimes this strays off the path and the thought of that "plastic trophy" or "status" gets in the way of actual human values and in turn being nice to your mates. Unfortunately fishing clubs sometimes end up like most other clubs and the "win" becomes more important than what the place actually stands for and minorities take the loudest voice. For those loud voice minorities out there, consider the 231 members of this club and the great people who have fished before you, are you doing them proud?

I'd also like to thank our wonderful sponsors as well for their support for another season. Without their support the club would not function at the level it does and be able to provide the events it does. If you are thinking of being a sponsor, please get onto Barto. You don't have to spend thousands of $$$ (this is preferred choice!), it can be a little amount just to get your name out to over 200 potential customers who all have friends!!

As we wind the season up there will be a Junior fishing day in June, our awards night in August and then the QGFA plus GFAA awards nights. Date claimers will be out soon, keep an eye out.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our great club this season. From fishing to helping out, your support has been amazing and I cannot thank you enough. Let's hope we bring home some state and national awards again this year and keep the proud tradition of being the best tag and release club in Queensland plus Australia alive.

Play nice, fish happy.

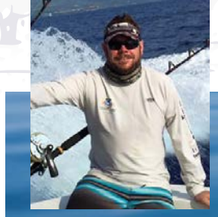
Crossy.

SCGFC TACKLE RATS FISHING DAY

23rd June Start fishing 2pm – 5pm

- Leave and return from Kawana Boat Ramp
- Sponsored by Tackleworld Kawana Waters
- Presentation Kawana Waters Hotel at 7pm
- Prizes awarded to top points scoring juniors
- Club to put on some platters etc. at the Hotel afterwards.

TACKLE WORLD
HOOK UP WITH A LOCAL



club captain.

Well the season has been intriguing with the Black Marlin bite delivering exactly what we had wished for.

While predominantly over the Barwon Banks no one has been too concerned travelling the extra miles with plenty of 6 - 12 fish days.

Reel Capture set the bar at 20 in one day and Pole Dancer 15 in one day, sensational fishing, reminding us there are few places in the world you can achieve those numbers on Black Marlin.

While only a small contribution to the season the good news is more Sailfish are around and bait is recently holding on the 18 mile. We can only hope this is a sign of things to come.

Year to date entered in our system (1st May)

Black Marlin 475

Blue Marlin 66

Striped Marlin 16

Sailfish 27

To put it into perspective our biggest season ever 1998/99 we tagged 408 Black Marlin and 305 Sailfish so we are enjoying the best Marlin fishing the Coast offers.

On the angler front our top 4 are a great mix:

1/ Channon Arbuthnot SM

2/ Christie Lee Turner SF

3/ Ben Massurit JM

4/ Bryce Bartleson JM

Boats Sunshine Coast Waters YTD

Light Tackle - Reel Capture

Heavy Tackle - Sicario

O/7m Overall - Reel Capture

U/7m Overall - Raising Havoc

Boats Qld Waters YTD

Light Tackle - Pole Dancer

Heavy Tackle - Pole Dancer

O/7m Overall - Pole Dancer

U/7m Overall - Raising Havoc

Many of these categories are super tight so fishing is expected to go down to the wire. Now eyes mag turn to Fraser for a late season shootout.

I was saddened to hear of Fred Temminick's passing. He was a great mentor and in true club spirit was always happy to teach how to rig a trolling bait, talk live baiting techniques and take many members out to catch their first Marlin. I caught my first Marlin with Fred on Magnum in summer 1990, ironically east of the Banks. I'll never forget the experience, thank you Fred.

On a final note I'm writing this report from my honeymoon in NZ.

This will most likely be my last Reeltalk contribution as Club Captain, my journey on committee as general committee, secretary, president and club captain twice including the big 98/99 and 17/18 Marlin bites will be fond memories. Equally all the relationships I've developed in the club, other clubs and sponsors have been fantastic.

Game Fishing is my passion and has been kind to me, in return I've always love supporting the club as a sponsor over the last decade. However it has come time I move on and let the next generation take the club forward. I hope Rob Smith may take the reigns as CC, he is a fabulous contributor both on and off the water.

Thank you to everyone I call my friends at the club.

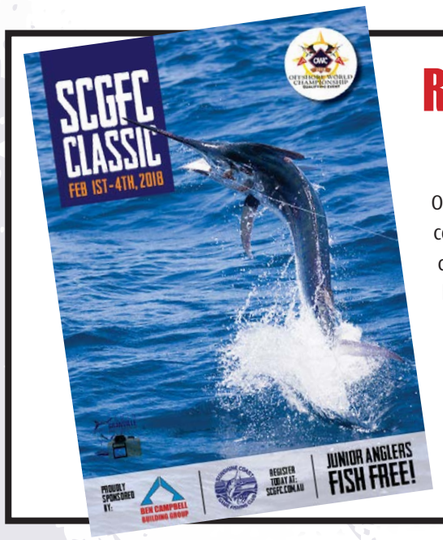
Brent Higgins

treasurer's report

The club finances continue to remain very solid and with both tournaments run we don't expect much in the way of significant income or expenditure for the remainder of the financial year.

Summary of Transactions for 1st July 2017 through to 31st March 2018:	
All Income	$88,578.43
All Expenditure	$68,615.68
Net Operating Profit	**$19,962.75**
Financial Members:	
Financial Members: 227	
Bank Balances:	
• Cheque Account:	$46,186.90
• Investment Account One:	$11,216.15
• Investment Account One:	$20,000.00
Total cash:	**$77,403.05**
Trade Debtors: Nil **Trade Creditors:** Nil	

Regards – **Craig McCulloch**



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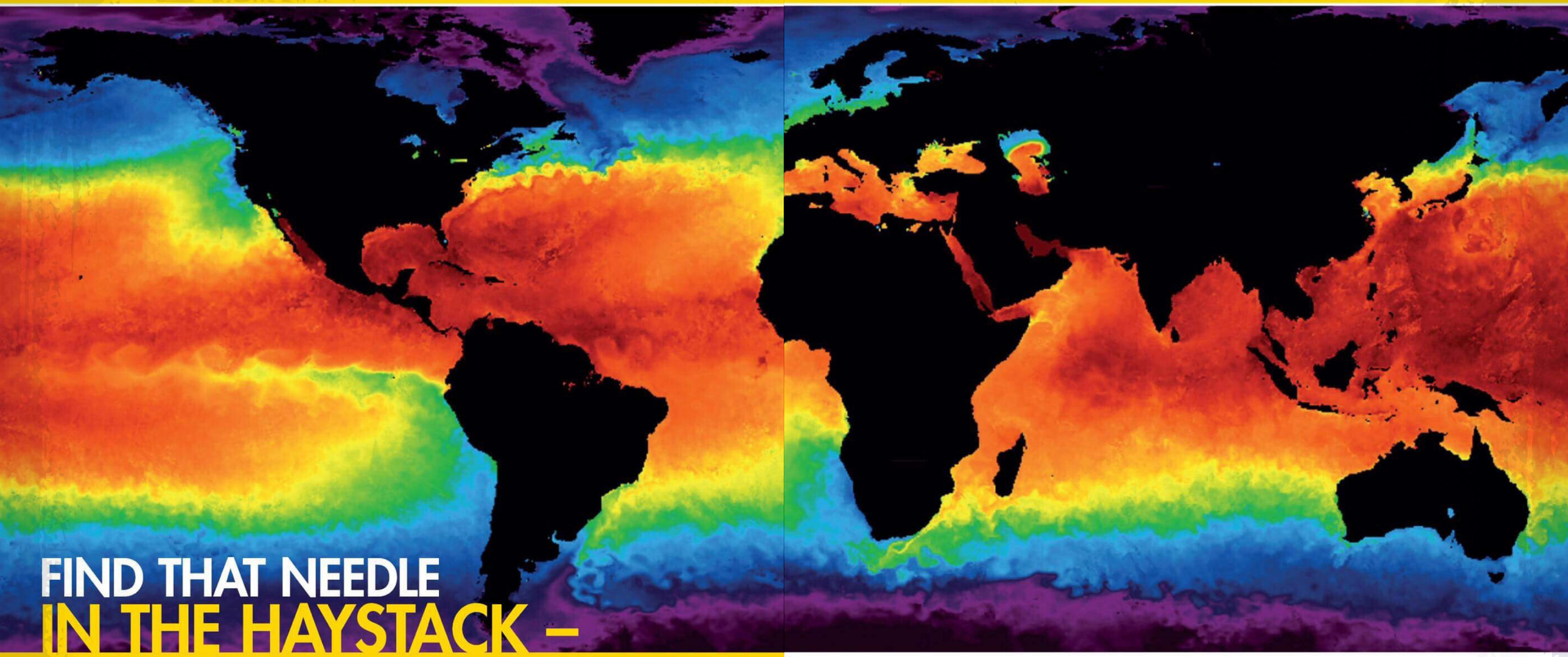


FIND THAT NEEDLE IN THE HAYSTACK – FASTER

The art of finding the needle in the haystack has been revolutionised by science. With modern software linked to orbiting satellites, now you can easily and very effectively scan the ocean to find where baitfish and large gamefish accumulate and feed. Chris Fullilove explains how services like RipCharts can help you achieve a whole new level of success.

AUTHOR: **CHRIS FULLILOVE** SATELLITE IMAGES: **COURTESY OF RIPCHARTS.COM; NASA WORLD VIEW, EOSDIS**

The oceans occupy over 70 per cent of the world's surface, making the marine environment the largest habitat on the planet. For an offshore angler, the task of locating the elite gamefish in that vast body of water can seem a daunting task. Fortunately, there are now high-tech tools and analysis techniques that make this challenge a whole lot easier for you.

Satellite imaging services like *RipCharts.com* are extremely helpful in identifying favourable water conditions where baitfish and predators are likely to be found and what areas of water to avoid. Such information not only helps you catch more fish each day, but also enables you to greatly expand the beginning and end of your fishing year by identifying patches of fish-rich water in the months traditionally considered out of season.

Through multiple satellite data sets RipCharts provides a full complement of analysis tools and search options, including daily updates of current movements, sea-surface temperature, water colour and ocean altimetry (the height of the surface – which does change).

Using a combination of these data sets will reveal the location of the ocean conditions that significantly increase the probability of finding baitfish and the pelagic predators that feed on them, saving you considerable time and fuel in your search to find gamefish. By knowing this, you'll be hooked-up faster and more often.

SUCCESSFUL USERS

Brent Higgins, the Club Captain of the Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club, says the use of RipCharts has given him and other members the confidence to head straight to the best available fishing grounds each day, removing any nagging doubts about whether there might be better water elsewhere.

Jeff Rosenkilde, who is based on the US east coast, is another successful RipCharts subscriber. He says there has been a substantial change in the way the best anglers go fishing now compared with their strategies of even five to 10 years ago. In the past, anglers would usually head to where fish had previously been caught, whereas now they can use satellite imagery to determine the water mass that is holding the fish, then go straight to it and fish the edges of that water where the majority of fish are concentrated.

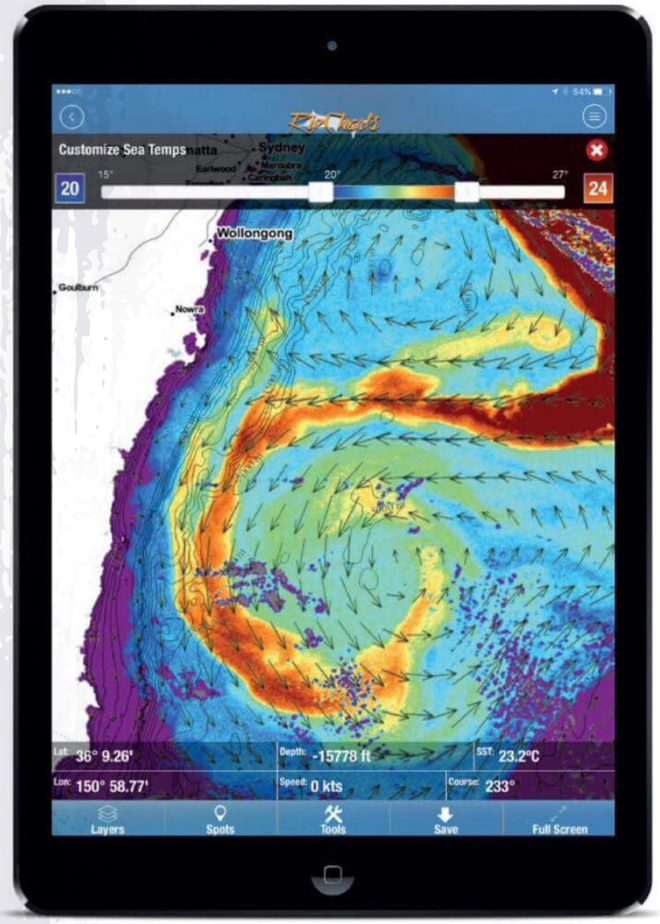
To make best use of RipCharts' multiple data sets, it's important to first understand the relevance and importance of each. In this way you'll be able to evaluate a target area and compare the different factors affecting it, either confirming or rejecting it based on its probability of success.

FIND TEMPERATURE BREAKS

Although there are no reefs to aggregate baitfish and the larger pelagics that chase them in the surface waters of the open ocean, aggressive changes in water temperature – also known as temperature breaks – have a similar effect. It is also around these mid-ocean 'structures' that the fishing action is concentrated.

When studying satellite imagery of sea-surface temperatures (SST), a good scenario to look for is a temperature break pushing across a fixed structure. These can include the continental shelf drop-off, seamounts, canyons or man-made structures such as FADs, oil rigs and buoys.

In this situation you've got two different scenarios that could produce the goods for you. As the temperature break moves across the structure, fish that were previously associated with it may hang back and stay with the fixed structure, increasing the concentration



The slider at the top of this RipCharts screen enables you to customise the colours representing different temperatures. In this case, dark blue is set to 20°C and red/orange at 24°C – the primary temperatures at play in this satellite image.

The arrow lengths represent speed, and as you can see from their varying directions, a late-season eddy brought a ribbon of warm water in along the edge of the continental shelf drop-off just south of Australia's Jervis Bay, in southern NSW. The anglers monitoring satellite imagery at the time were able to take advantage of an exceptional late-season striped marlin bite along the edges of this significant and compacted temperature break.

The values in the bottom panel are updated each time you tap the map. A touch indicator then marks that position on the map and the relevant latitude, longitude, depth and water temperature is shown for that location.

chlorophyll turns the water green and significantly reduces visibility, therefore sight-hunters such as blue marlin prefer to stay out of it in clear blue water. Note, the edge between the green and the blue is often the most productive zone.

Both True Colour and Chlorophyll satellite imagery can also help locate the productive edges of waters dirtied by storm run-off, sediment from rivers or algal blooms.

Brent Higgins described a situation last season when a club member fishing off Fraser Island found the action shut down by dirty water pushing out over the offshore grounds. After receiving a call from the fisherman, Brent checked the situation on RipCharts and was quickly able to let the member know exactly where the edge of that water lay. By taking the boat east, out to 3000m, the crew soon found the clear-water edge and were immediately into a hot bite.

"By using these data sets you'll save considerable time and fuel in your search to find gamefish."

"A good scenario to look for is a temperature break pushing across a fixed structure."

Using the water colour maps can also help clarify where dirty water came from, as well as provide clues as to where it is moving. By referencing these maps you'll not only save time and fuel, but you'll also be able to focus your fishing efforts in the areas most likely to improve your chances of success.

FOLLOW THE CHAIN OF LIFE

Swell and wind-waves aside, the surface of the ocean is not at a constant height. Instead, it varies up or down by up to a metre. These variations – technically known as 'ocean surface topography' or 'sea surface topography' – measure the sea-surface height relative to a baseline known as Earth's geoid.

The factors that influence the height of the ocean at any one point include water temperature, salinity, the presence of seamounts or other significant bottom structure, tides and ocean circulation.

Due to the Coriolis effect, ocean currents generally move around high and low spots in a predictable way. In the northern hemisphere the current moves clockwise around high spots and counter-clockwise around the lows.

Conversely, in the southern hemisphere the current flows counter-clockwise around the high points and clockwise around areas of low sea-surface level.

Altimetry charts – which show the sea-surface height – are helpful in the search for gamefish because they show the location of upwellings and downwellings. Upwellings carry nutrient-rich sediment from the depths up to the surface where phytoplankton can use it to proliferate, generating the base of the food chain that larger and still larger predators will follow. On the other hand, downwellings are generally much less productive.

FINDING THE UPWELLINGS

On the altimetry charts provided on the RipCharts website you can identify the favourable edges of the upwellings with the 'zero-line' – which marks the optimal zone with the zero-centimetre measurement of altimetry.

Brent Higgins and his fellow club anglers have found good numbers of blue marlin when fishing around upwellings of warm and clear water that push current and a zero-altimetry line onto the continental shelf edge off the Sunshine Coast.

He says they've also enjoyed great success when an eddy forms and compresses the southern flow of warm water against the continental shelf drop-off. When this occurs they've noticed significantly better numbers of marlin in comparison to their counterparts on the Gold Coast – around 200km south – where the south-bound current flow was not compressed.

FISH-FINDING RETROSPECTIVELY

Reviewing past satellite imagery in conjunction with catch reports is a very effective way of gaining a better understanding of the factors that will lead you to fish in the future.

When you hear that the fishing has been going off, look at the charts for that area at the time and you'll get a good idea of the temperatures, water colour, ocean altimetry and current speed and direction that all helped to create the hot bite. By closely studying historic maps and comparing them against actual fishing reports you'll quickly learn how satellite imagery can be utilised to find the best fishing grounds for your future trips.

Brent Higgins often collaborates with club members to analyse their recent catch reports, projecting past RipCharts maps onto a big screen at their club meetings. He says the process has been a valuable learning experience and that many of the club's top crews won't go to sea now without first analysing their satellite charts. These efforts also helped the club to win the Game Fishing Association of Australia's Champion Club award for the 2016/17 season.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

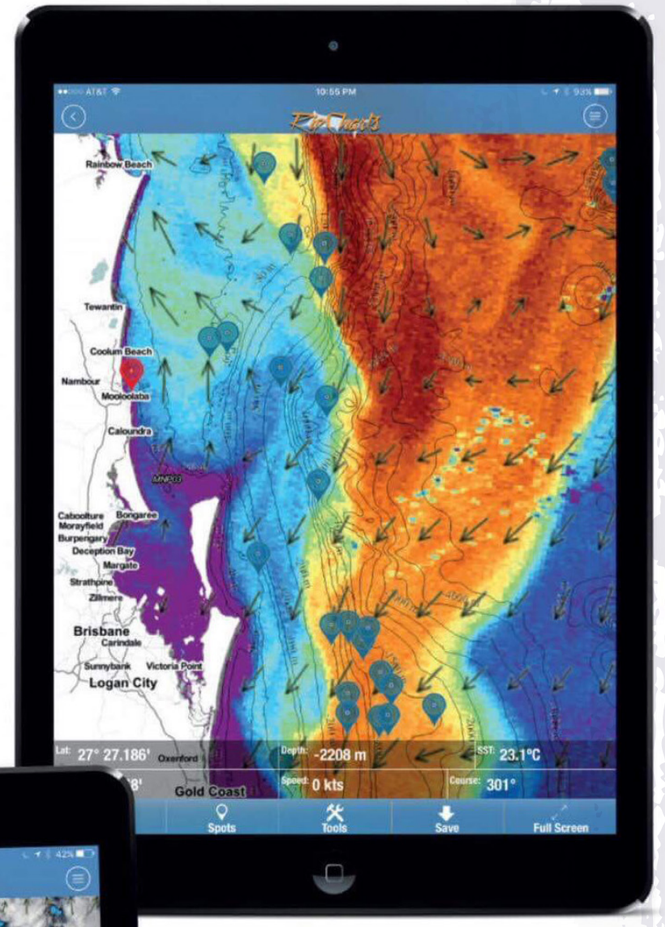
In recent years, RipCharts has taken advantage of new polar-orbiting satellites launched into space by NASA and the European Space Agency (ESA). With each new satellite integrated into the RipCharts system, more and more opportunities are now available to observe ocean conditions.

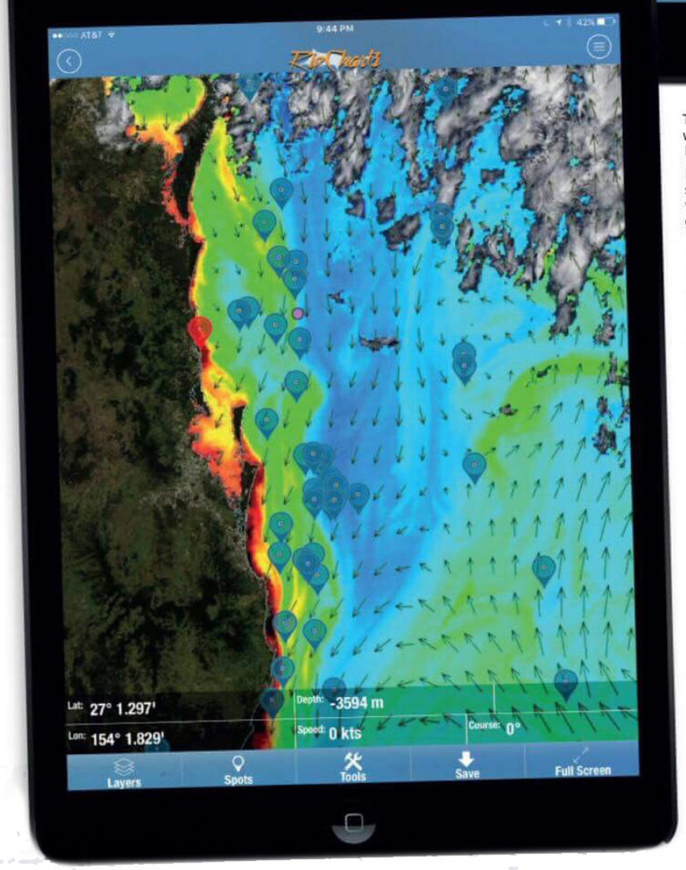
RipCharts has also introduced an application that enables satellite data to be conveniently analysed on your smartphone. The mobile app doubles as an offline navigation tool, enabling you to download the latest satellite images while you have an internet connection. The GPS chip on your phone can then be used to navigate on the maps while fishing offshore and out of mobile range.

Thanks to the latest technologies, there is now a wealth of information available that can boost your fishing success. Many anglers also enjoy the planning, analysis and challenge of figuring out why and where the fish are located. For more information about RipCharts, including their helpful tutorials and videos, visit *www.ripcharts.com*

This chart (right) of one particular day shows the sea-surface temperatures between Australia's Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast. The arrows' length indicates speed, with the upper portion of this chart showing just how much the current direction can vary.

With depth contour lines showing and the colours representing different water temperatures – red being warmer – you can see that a significant river of warm tropical water is flowing down along the continental shelf edge. With a sharp change in temperature forming a natural barrier that bunched-up temperature-sensitive fish, the current edge running right along the shelf drop-off was likely to produce excellent gamefishing on this day.





This chlorophyll map (left) shows where, on this particular day, green water blankets the inshore grounds off southern Queensland, but a clear blue current is pushing down outside of the continental shelf drop-off.

Red, orange and yellow chlorophyll values are typically found close to shore, representing heavier particulate in the water, such as is common where rivers empty into the ocean. Green chlorophyll values represent green water.

The edges of the blue and green water provide an opportunity for clear-water hunters to find good quantities of baitfish, so by looking for a colour edge coinciding with significant bottom structure you're likely to find an area concentrating gamefish.

The waypoint pins on this RipCharts screen, indicated by blue and red markers, highlight the location of popular canyons and fishing spots. You can also designate custom waypoints and different waypoint pin colours if desired – such as this user did with the red custom marker pin.

Reel Capture

I think we need more flags....

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CLUB MARINE

CHARTER REPORT

– By Robert Smith

Like last year the spotty mackerel only showed up after Christmas. I had three or so good sessions on them on the surface throwing slugs. The Spanish mackerel season this year doesn't look like reaching any great heights and will just be an average to poor season. Once again we have had a good bite on the black marlin post Christmas. As per last season they were out wide and not the usual 8-10-12-18 mile grounds. At times the bait has been there along with dolphin and bird activity, just not many fish.

The next few months should be good in between low pressure systems if we don't get a major flood. The peak Spanish mackerel time is April and May. Hopefully we get a run of big spotties that are fat coming home from NSW waters. As soon as this black marlin bite ceases east of the Banks the blues should be on the shelf until August. They are currently off Sydney going off reports on the interweb. Inshore reef fishing, the Grass emperor should be the dominate species on the bottom around the mackerel reefs. Autumn also seems to be the peak time for the inshore coral trout on livies. They seem to have a big feed up before winter comes. In May I'll start targeting my snapper, pearlies, ajs and kingies as the current slows down as well.

Yet again we had a good run of weather through January. February and March were typical with not many fishable days. When you could get out the fish were there. The weather from now until June can be unsettled when low pressure systems sit off NSW. These can generate big swells like cyclones. The bait on the inshore reefs don't like this surge so you often need to jig your bait in places like Spot X, Gumby & the 42m spot.

Smithy – Out!

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4KG time...

The word was that our Club legend Craig McCullough from Reel Capture had been getting fish all season on the eastern side of the Barwon Banks. My dad and I had fished there a few times this season and found it to be pretty consistent with small baby blacks. On March 2nd, Dad and I decided it was time to go 4kg line at Barwon Banks. We had tried before but were busted off and spooled a few times. We headed out to the Banks with our 4kg line at the ready and notice half a dozen other game boats all live baiting. We knew we were in with a pretty good shot. Dad set all the gear up at 6.55am and at 7.30am shotgun went insane. The Shimano Tiagra 12 was going off! By the time Dad had cleared the riggers and the teasers we were almost spooled. I could see the knot tying the line down to the spool. I was yelling to Dad to drive faster and chase it. The boat was on the plane chasing this angry black. I backed the drag off even further to reduce the line pressure. After the fight settled down and we got most of the line back the fish sat in the thermal current about 40 metres down. I just couldn't get the fish up with only 1.3kg of drag. I had to learn how to thumb it up with the swell very carefully. The line was pinging like a guitar and we could see it appearing on the sounder every now and again. After an exhausting 1 hour and 38 minutes I could see the double slowly coming up. I slowly walked backwards, Dad grabbed the leader, led the fish in and one handedly he clean jerked it straight into the boat.

Ben Massurit

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TACKLE WORLD

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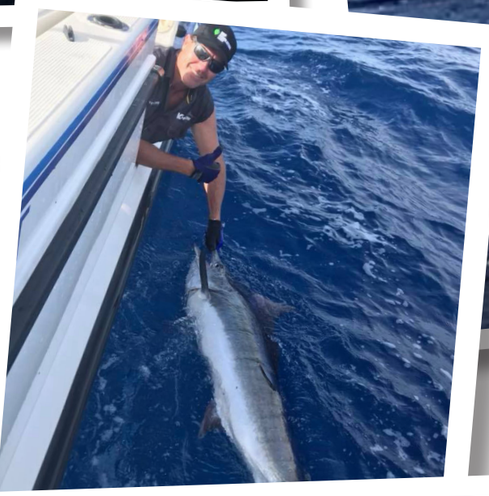

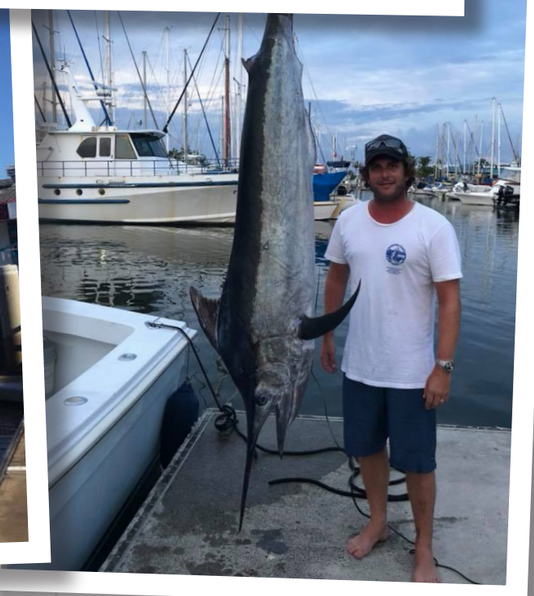

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