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On the Daintree
 By **Jamie Beitzel**

Since my last report, I've done a large variety of trips and charters, offshore and in the Daintree. From fresh water spinning and fly, to a night time reef trip, species caught have been varied and surprising at times.

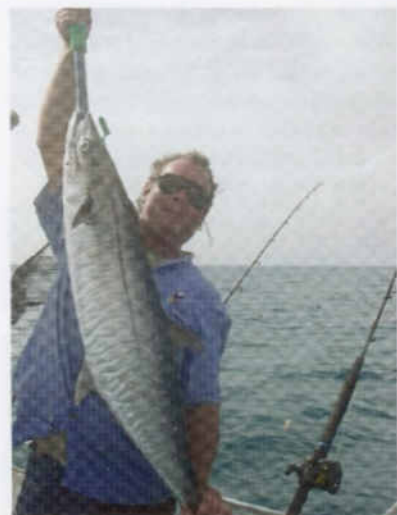
The Daintree yielded a good variety even with the small fresh from some good storms. Grunter 60cm+ were great around the full moon period with fingermark to 50cm being pretty constant in the river if you could catch live bait. When the bait gets hard to catch after a fresh, squid, prawn and pilchards can



produce grunter, golden trevally, shovel nosed sharks etc.. Though the fingermark will take a fresh dead bait, a live sardine or mud herring can make all the difference with hooking one. Using live bait at the closer inshore reefs also

produces better results with the larger bottom fish like this beautiful island trout. Gold spot cod also very partial to a 'livey' put in front of their nose.

At the time of writing the persistent NW'erlies have put fishing offshore in a small boat difficult and still uncomfortable in a larger vessel. Cape Kimberley has been my only option during these conditions with some good fish caught. A few spanish mack's and the occasional queenfish were caught on the surface on a floating pillie under a balloon. Lots of bait schools are visible in this area at the moment though there



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Are no birds or fish chasing them. Most of the rain is falling south of us at the moment, but the monsoon trough has to move north again, so storms and heavy rain are a certainty in February. In knowing this, boat safely and good fishing luck around the weather. I'll see you on the Daintree or nearby soon.

