

Heavy &
Light Tackle

The Joker

36ft Blackwatch

Reef
Fishing

Snorkelling

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Diving &
Filming

On the Daintree By Jamie Beitzel

In contrast to the past months the rain in April has been near non existent, but moderate south easterlies have dominated. A couple of queenfish have ventured into the broader estuary system during the larger spring tides of the new and full moon cycles, and I hope they continue to be a constant in the Daintree over the winter months. It is amazing how far these fish travel up the river later in the year. The spring tides have also allowed the salt water to reach further up the Daintree delta. This past year I have found a lot of shark species upstream from the ferry, and this time of year they are quite common. The mud crabs have been hungry but most have been new shelled, though the occasional full bodied buck has been potted or caught on a juicy bait. Live bait has been easier to get,

particularly at the mouth of the river. Fingermark and giant trevally have been the dominant species that have satisfied my keen sports fishing clients, while the barramundi has stopped being as finicky as they were in previous months. Live sardine bait has been my choice bait for hooking fingermark averaging 50-60cm, while the barra went for a variety of bait of fresh bait to soft plastics.

Upstream of the Daintree township fished well immediately after the worst of the fresh conditions. The trick seemed to be finding a spot out of the main current with some cover like weed or freshly fallen trees. Small tarpon respond to small poppers in these conditions. Jungle perch and archer fish and small freshwater mangrove jack are also active in the clear fresh water of the Daintree since the heavy rain. All of these are hungry for bright hard lures or a sinking or neutral resin head soft plastic.

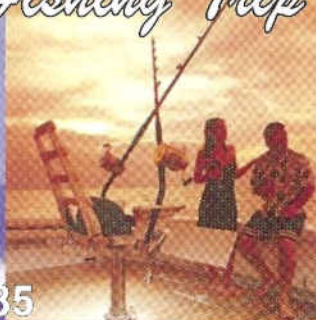
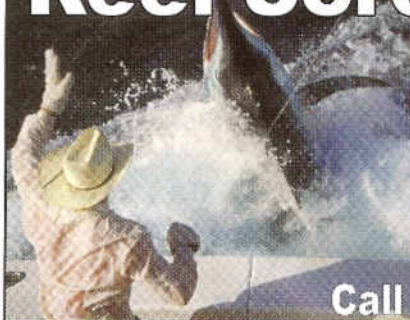
In May offshore, if the south easterlies ease up for smaller craft, trevally species, queenfish and mackerel species will be firing up offshore, and in the Daintree fingermark, pikey bream and the occasional barra will be the dominant species along with queenfish, trevally and other bream species on the bite. As the water cools the crocs start sunning, and I find it a good time of year to use yabby bait.



As well as the Fishing Bonanza competition that will be running over the Carnivale, there is a proposal for a "No Nets Day of Protest in FNQ" on the 25th May. David Cook, Conservation and Liaison Officer for Mossman Boat and Fishing Club (davecook@bigpond.com or ph 40987933) has the details of the protest if anyone is interested in participating, this being a follow up to the lack of reaction from DPI&F to the netting in our local waters. Best of fishing luck in May, I'll see you on the Daintree or nearby then.



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