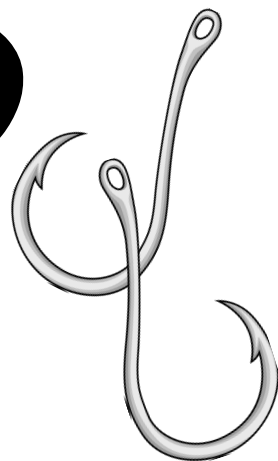


HOOK UP

NEWSLETTER

JUL | 2026



*A Beautiful Winter Blue
onboard Red or Black*





from the President

Over the past year, I've developed a real interest in our club's history, spending time going through old documents, reading stories, looking at photos, and learning about the people and spirit that have made MGFC what it is today.

I'm now working on bringing all of this history together into a single document for our website so everyone can enjoy a trip down memory lane. It's a mammoth task, so stay tuned!

One of the biggest things I noticed when comparing today's club with its past was the absence of Hook Up. It began as a humble newsletter when the club was founded 34 years ago and eventually evolved into a full-colour magazine.

Throughout the years, it was always filled with stories, photos, notices, ideas, and contributions from members and the committee alike. It was more than just a newsletter—it was a way of keeping members connected and involved in the life of the club.

While social media has become our main way of sharing news (and perhaps the reason Hook Up disappeared for a few years), there's something special about a thoughtfully curated newsletter that helps preserve the spirit of our club.

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As it's July, fishing activity has been fairly quiet, but the committee has been busy planning our upcoming social events and preparing for the first competition of the 2026–27 season—the Billfish Bonanza. As the season gets underway, Hook Up will once again be filled with stories and highlights from around the club.

For now, please enjoy the latest news and announcements.

On the Cover

Josh Walton on board Red or Black managed to tag this beautiful blue marlin in the closing days of the season. Walt was cruising out for a troll after a spot of reef fishing when he hooked up. 12 Blue Marlin were caught by our members in the 25-26 Season.



Thank You to our Sponsors



Corporate Sponsors



Junior Comp Sponsors



Events Calendar

AUG	
1-2	Rally Day Weekend
7	Tag Cards Due
23	AGM & Presentation of Awards
SEPT	
5-6	Rally Day Weekend
7	Tag Cards Due
OCT	
3-4	Rally Day Weekend
7	Tag Cards Due
TBC	Kids Fishing Comp
14	Members' Night at BCF Kawana

You can add the event calendar straight to your phone! Just head to the website, find the calendar on the home page and click the link that says 'Add to Google Calendar'.

Juniors Dominating!

On 7-9 August, Committee Member Mick Rohl and I will represent Mooloolaba Game Fishing Club at the QGFA Annual General Meeting in Brisbane. The AGM provides an opportunity to discuss how the Queensland Game Fishing Association can continue to support clubs at a local level, while also giving us valuable insight into how our fishing activities compare with clubs across the state.



One of the highlights of the AGM is the presentation of the QGFA Junior Encouragement Awards, which

recognise young anglers who demonstrate exceptional enthusiasm, dedication and sportsmanship—not just fishing success.

Our juniors have had an outstanding season, accounting for an incredible 18 of the club's 64 gamefish captures. While every one of our junior members has made us proud, we are delighted to nominate Eli Rohl and Lydia-Rose Sense for this year's award.

Eli is a remarkable young angler whose passion, perseverance and infectious enthusiasm have made a lasting impact on the Mooloolaba Game Fishing Club. While he enjoyed memorable achievements this season, including tagging his first billfish and helping inspire a friendly rivalry among the club's junior anglers, it is his unwavering love of fishing that truly sets him apart. Eli is a wonderful ambassador for the future of our sport.



At just 10 years old, Lydia-Rose has already become an inspiring young member of the Mooloolaba Game Fishing Club, demonstrating the passion, resilience and enthusiasm that define the spirit of game fishing. Whether facing early starts, rough seas or long days without success, she approaches every outing with a positive attitude and an eagerness to learn. Although her first billfish has remained elusive this season, Lydia-Rose has embodied the values of patience, perseverance and determination. We wish both Eli and Lydia-Rose the very best of luck and look forward to celebrating the outstanding achievements of junior anglers from clubs across Queensland.

The Year That Was

With the 2025-26 Season wrapped up, we have had a chance to look back on the achievements of our club.

As a committee, we have been trying to introduce new ways to engage with our members and keep them informed and involved in activities to encourage a love of fishing and fostering a positive environment to get out and do what we love - catch big fish!

In case you missed it, here are some main highlights of all that we achieved as a club last year.

THE STATS

Our members spent a collective 1345 hours on the water

- 65 tagged fish submitted to QGFA, including:
35 Black Marlin, 12 Blue Marlin, 1 Striped Marlin, 6 Sailfish and 11 Other Species.
- 6 members tagged their very first fish
- 18 fish were tagged by our junior members
- Membership grew by 7%, including 27 members who are brand new to game fishing!

OUR TOURNAMENTS

The Billfish Bonanza was a resounding success with 21 Boats and 77 anglers attending from 6 different clubs including 10 women and 5 juniors. 60 strikes and 50 hookups resulted in 28 fish over 2 days including 10 Blue Marlin, 2 Stipes, a Sail and a Black Marlin.



The Tournament was called by the amazing Albert & Pauline Thredingham and the Awards were presented at a fun gala dinner at Pier 33 in Mooloolaba. Thank you to all our members who came along. We hope to see you again from Nov 20-22!



Unfortunately the weather took a turn for the worst, leaving us with the devastating decision to cancel Billfish Babes after postponing 4 times. But that has only spurred us on to come back bigger and better next year! Put Feb 12-13 in your calendars, because the girls will be taking to the water for a comp they will never forget!

Target Species

COBIA



August is one of the best months to target Cobia off the Sunshine Coast. As water temperatures cool, Cobia are regularly found around offshore reefs, wrecks and navigation beacons, often following bait schools or cruising just off the bottom. They are powerful fighters, excellent table fish, and one of the most exciting species to hook because you never know when one will appear.

BEST BAITS

A struggling live bait is irresistible. The best live baits include:

- Yakkas
- Slimys

Fresh dead baits also work well, Try:

- Whole squid
- Large pilchards

WHERE TO FIND THEM

Look for cobia around:

- Caloundra Wide
- Barwon Banks
- Gneerings Reef
- The Hards
- Offshore wrecks and beacons
- Anywhere baitfish are holding over reef or structure

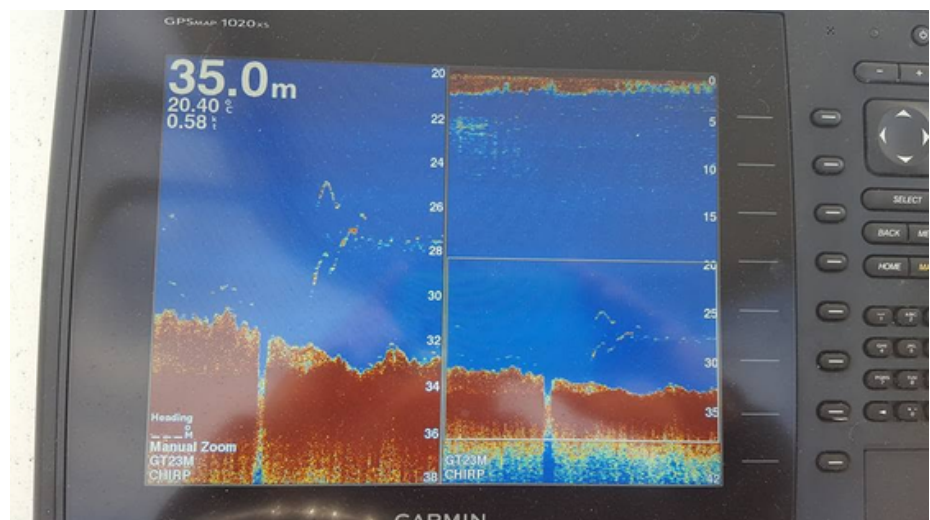
Use your sounder to locate:

- Dense bait schools
- Individual large arches close to the bottom
- Fish suspended mid-water around structure

Cobia often move through the water column, so don't be afraid to fish well above the bottom.

Individual large arches close to the bottom or suspended mid-water on the Sounder can indicate Cobia are present.

This sounder image is courtesy of Life Member, Jamie Behrens who hooked a 12kg Cobia not long after this pic was taken.



Target Species

COBIA



TACKLE

Because Cobia fight hard and often head for structure, use reasonably heavy gear.

- 15–24kg overhead or spin rod
- 6000–10000 size spin reel or equivalent overhead
- 30–50lb braid
- 60–100lb fluorocarbon or mono
- 7/0–10/0 circle hooks for live bait

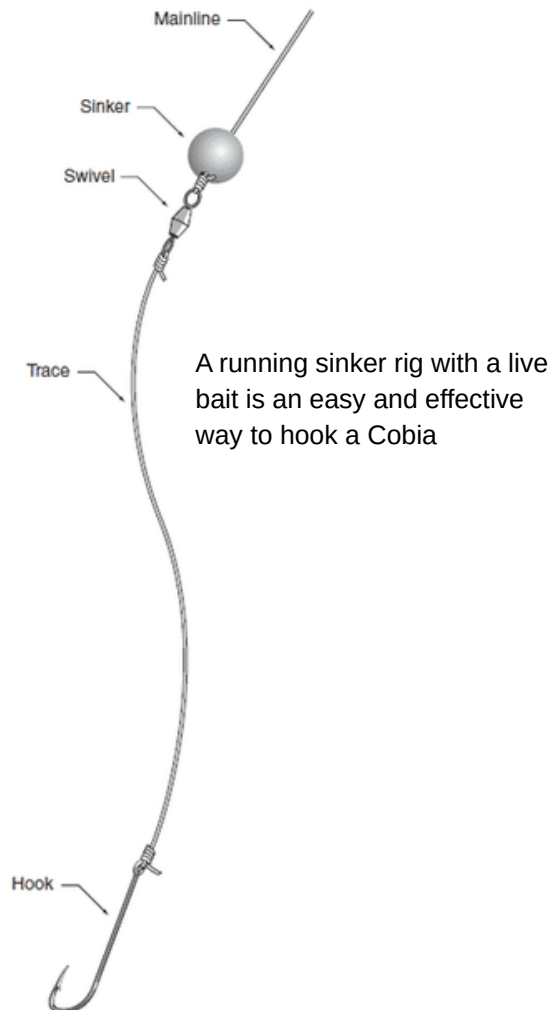
RIGGING

A simple running sinker rig is hard to beat.

Rig it as follows:

1. Running ball sinker above a swivel.
2. 1–2 metres of 80lb leader.
3. 8/0 circle hook.
4. Pin the live bait lightly through the nose or shoulder.

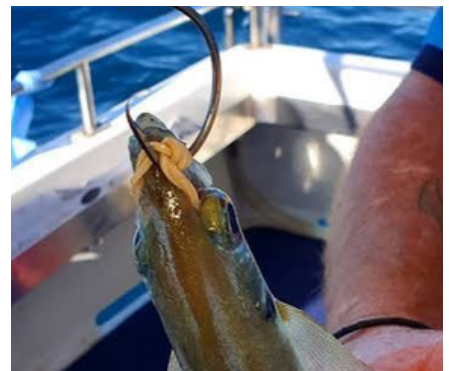
Adjust sinker size so the bait reaches the desired depth while still swimming naturally.



1. Push a rigging needle through the nostrils or eye cavities of the Yakka, threading a rubber band.



2. Place both end loops of the rubber band over the hook and twist several times.



3. Loop the hook back between the Yakka's nose and the rubber band to lock it in place.

Target Species

COBIA



FISHING TECHNIQUE

Position your boat so your bait drifts naturally around the structure.

Lower the bait:

- Just above the reef
- Mid-water if fish are suspended
- Under bait schools

If using circle hooks:

- Let the fish load the rod.
- Simply lift firmly and wind.
- Don't strike aggressively.

Cobia often bite softly before powering away.

FIGHTING THE FISH

Cobia are famous for:

- Long, stubborn runs
- Powerful circles under the boat
- Going wild once they reach the surface

Keep steady pressure on the fish and avoid giving slack line.

When boatside, be prepared—they often make one final surge.

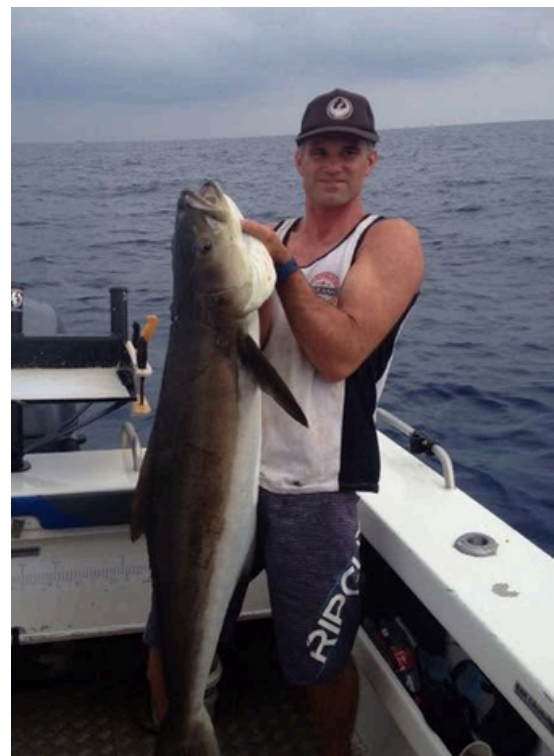
LANDING YOUR CATCH

A large landing net is ideal. Take care when bringing Cobia aboard. They are notorious for thrashing violently on the deck and can damage equipment—or injure anglers.

If keeping the fish, dispatch it quickly and safely before removing the hook.

LOCAL TIPS

- Fish the tide changes whenever possible.
- Live bait consistently outfishes frozen bait.
- Watch for birds and bait schools as they often indicate Cobia are nearby.
- Keep a casting rod ready. Cobia can appear unexpectedly beside the boat.
- If you're catching Snapper (After closed season, Aug 15) or Pearl Perch, leave a live bait out—Cobia are often the surprise bonus fish.



A young Ronnie with a nice Cobia in 2016

General Notices

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The new season has begun so memberships are now due. to rejoin, you can transfer money directly to our account:

BSB: 124001

Acc: 10560883

Reference: Your Name

Fees:

Senior: \$100

Junior (Up to 15): \$35

Family (2 Seniors and up to 6 kids): \$200

We look forward to seeing you again!

JOIN THE COMMITTEE

The club is run entirely on the will and enthusiasm of a handful of volunteers who dedicate their time and attention year after year. If you think you could dedicate half an hour each month to the Club, please consider joining the Committee!

This year we will need to fill 2 positions on the Executive Committee:

- Club Captain
- Secretary

And there is always plenty of room for General Members to fill. Without a Committee, there is no club!

The committee application form can be found under "Join Our Club" tab on the website. You can nominate for the AGM on August 23.

BECOME A SPONSOR

Just like committee Members, our Club relies on the support of sponsors to survive.

If you would like to become a member and own your own business, you could consider corporate membership.

We have a number of packages incorporating the benefits of membership, tournament entry and sponsorship perks.

Interested? Just ask Brigitte.

AGM & PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Join us as we look ahead to an exciting new season filled with events, tournaments, and community fun!

Highlights for the upcoming year include:

- Billfish Bonanza Tournament
- Billfish Babes Ladies-Only Shootout
- Social Camping Weekend
- Kids River Fishing Competition
- Rally Days
- Bunnings Sausage Sizzle Fundraiser
- Members Nights and Events
- ...and much more!

After the meeting, we'll celebrate our Annual Award Winners with drinks and nibbles.



Free event (cash bar available)



All ages welcome



Open to everyone (please note: only members can vote)