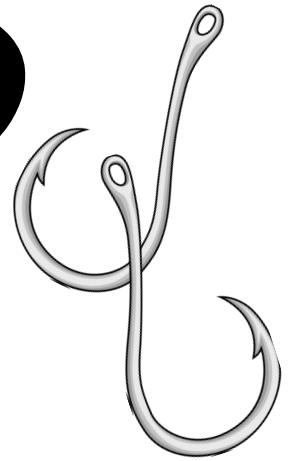


HOOK UP

NEWSLETTER

AUG | 2026



*Celebrating our
Achievements*





from the President

There is so much happening around the club that I can barely keep up.

Firstly, I'd like to sincerely thank our retiring committee members for their time, energy and commitment to MGFC. Your contribution has helped shape our club, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you have done. I'd also like to welcome our new 2026–27 committee. We have a big season ahead, and it's fantastic to see everyone already rolling up their sleeves and getting stuck in.

The past few months have been filled with some wonderful celebrations of the achievements and milestones from last season. While it's been great to reflect on what we accomplished, our focus has quickly turned to the season ahead. We are committed to creating even more opportunities for our members to learn, fish, compete and, most importantly, enjoy being part of MGFC.

There is also plenty happening beyond the club. GFAA and QGFA are continuing to advocate strongly for recreational fishers as the Marine Park Review progresses. Make sure you add your voice to the campaign—our collective voice really does matter.

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Closer to home, excitement is building for our Kids River Fishing Comp in October, with registrations already rolling in. Behind the scenes, the committee is also working hard to raise funds and develop new sponsorship partnerships so we can continue delivering bigger and better opportunities and events for our members. And, of course, the Billfish Bonanza will be here before we know it! Keep an eye out for the tournament brochure coming your way in the next few weeks.

One of the things I'd really love to see this season is our little club's community spirit grow even stronger. Rally Days are a great way to get involved—whether you're an experienced game fisher or just starting out. Get out on the water, find some fish, call up your fellow club boats and, afterwards, share the stories over a drink. That's what makes a club like ours special.

There is plenty more happening, so settle in and enjoy this month's edition of Hook Up. I'm incredibly excited about what lies ahead for MGFC and can't wait to see what we achieve together this season. See you on the water!

Thank You to our Sponsors



New!



Stickface Dredges

Corporate Sponsors



Junior Comp Sponsors



Events Calendar

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
NOV	
7-8	Rally Day Weekend
7	Tag Cards Due
21-23	Billfish Bonanza and All Ports

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'.

Stacking Up Against the State

Mick and I were so proud to represent Mooloolaba at the QGFA Annual Presentation and Awards Night. As usual, we got to see where our members stand against the rest of the State and it was great to see so many of us represented at the awards.

Mooloolaba was the Zone 3 All Ports Champions for the second year running! We were 5th overall in the State, and that was with only 1 All Ports Round entered. Hopefully the weather holds for us this year.

Eli Rohl and Lydia-Rose Sense were both nominated for the Queensland Junior Encouragement Award and received these amazing certificates for their efforts.

Soul Starling was crowned the QGFA Champion Small Fry Angler Tag & Release. It's amazing watching Soul grow into such an accomplished angler and we can't wait to see what's next for him.

The Top 10 Lists of the QGFA Awards that featured our members and boats is below. Congratulations to all our members for a stellar effort throughout the season.



Queensland Award Results

QGFA CHAMPION SENIOR FEMALE ANGLER T&R

	ANGLER	CLUB	POINTS	QTY
1	Theona Down	Weipa BC	8,250	10
2	Jacqui Brauman	Gold Coast GFC	7,800	6
3	Linda Jay	Weipa BC	6,950	11
4	Leanne Kalpus	Mooloolaba GFC	6,000	8
5	Sharnell Enoch	Weipa BC	5,650	11
6	Marlene Hicks	Whitsunday GFC	5,650	8
7	Andrea Kennedy	Weipa BC	4,550	7
8	Molly Toomey	Weipa BC	4,050	9
9	Kristen Trask	Newport GFC	3,700	5
10	Stephanie Kurz	Weipa BC	3,700	6

QGFA CHAMPION JUNIOR ANGLER OVERALL T&R

	ANGLER	CLUB	POINTS	QTY
1	Riley Mcleod	Hervey Bay GFC	18,500	53
2	Eli Rohl	Mooloolaba GFC	3,875	6
3	Shannon Matthews	Whitsunday GFC	3,700	14
4	Owen Brooks	Weipa BC	3,300	6
5	Ray Cook	Whitsunday GFC	2,550	9
6	Lenix Walton	Mooloolaba GFC	2,375	4
7	Nate Proctor	SCGFC/ M Bay GFC	2,375	4
8	Nolan Reindl	Sunshine Coast GFC	2,375	15
9	Soul Starling	Mooloolaba GFC	2,375	4
10	Jazmin Smith	Whitsunday GFC	1,900	7

QGFA CHAMPION JUNIOR MALE ANGLER T&R

	ANGLER	CLUB	POINTS	QTY
1	Riley Mcleod	Hervey Bay GFC	18,500	53
2	Eli Rohl	Mooloolaba GFC	3,875	6
3	Shannon Matthews	Whitsunday GFC	3,700	14
4	Owen Brooks	Weipa BC	3,300	6
5	Ray Cook	Whitsunday GFC	2,550	9
6	Lenix Walton	Mooloolaba GFC	2,375	4
7	Nate Proctor	SCGFC/ M Bay GFC	2,375	4
8	Nolan Reindl	Sunshine Coast GFC	2,375	15
9	Zach Thomson	Townsville GFC	1,750	2
10	Zachery Trefz	Whitsunday GFC	1,500	4
11	Lleyton Kruger	Redcliffe Pen. G&SC	1,500	2

QGFA CHAMPION SMALLFRY MALE ANGLER T&R

	ANGLER	CLUB	POINTS	QTY
1	Soul Starling	Mooloolaba GFC	2,375	4
2	Koby Campbell	Newport GFC	1,500	2
3	Sonny Brooks	Weipa BC	1,350	3
4	Beau Henderson	Sunshine Coast GFC	1,000	1
5	Finn Starling	Mooloolaba GFC	750	1
6	Benson Smith	Whitsunday GFC	600	6
7	Kyle Matthews	Whitsunday GFC	400	4
8	Nicholas Bogiatzis	Townsville GFC	375	3
9	Jack Mazlin	Weipa BC	350	1
10	Koa Brown	Hervey Bay GFC	250	1

QGFA CHAMPION CLUB T&R

	CLUB	POINTS	QTY
1	Weipa BC	111,300	227
2	Whitsunday GFC	68,925	262
3	Sunshine Coast GFC	64,700	108
4	Gold Coast GFC	62,225	105
5	Moreton Bay GFC	56,200	187
6	Mooloolaba GFC	38,275	58
7	Newport GFC	34,875	51
8	Hervey Bay GFC	25,675	99
9	Townsville GFC	18,375	45
10	Mackay GFC	14,375	75
11	Redcliffe Pen. G&SC	13,300	27
12	Lizard Is. GFC	10,400	22
13	Cairns Bluewater GFC	8,450	13
14	Bribie Is. GFC	6,475	25
15	Ribbons Ladies GFC	6,300	24

QGFA Junior Encouragement Award

ANGLER	CLUB
Charlie Strong	Gold Coast GFC

FINALISTS - (listed in alphabetical order)

Aidan Parisi	Townsville GFC
Eli Rohl	Mooloolaba GFC
Heath Leadbeater	Whitsunday GFC
Isiah Shakoor	Sunshine Coast GFC
Joel Smith	Sunshine Coast GFC
Jordyn Beetham	Townsville GFC
Jovie Argus	Sunshine Coast GFC
Kirra Martin	Whitsunday GFC
Kurt Martin	Whitsunday GFC
Kyle Mathews	Whitsunday GFC
Lydia Rose	Mooloolaba GFC
Tom Ryan	Mooloolaba GFC
Zack Finlayson	Sunshine Coast GFC
Zoe Anderson	Ribbons Ladies GFC

QGFA CHAMPION BOAT OVERALL T&R

	BOAT	CLUB	POINTS	QTY
1	ABF	Moreton Bay GFC	35,675	83
2	Big Business	Newport GFC	16,850	23
3	On Strike	Hervey Bay GFC	14,650	28
4	Tag Time	Weipa BC	15,350	29
5	Chaos	Sunshine Coast GFC	12,950	13
6	No - Bull	Weipa BC	12,350	19
7	Impilo II	Whitsunday GFC	11,600	28
8	Lay Low	Whitsunday GFC	11,425	45
9	Kingfisher	Weipa BC	10,550	21
10	Tag & Brag	Mooloolaba GFC	10,500	13

QGFA ALL PORTS - CHAMPION CLUB OVERALL

	CLUB	ZONE	POINTS	QTY
1	Weipa BC	Zone 1	42,050	70
2	Moreton Bay GFC	Zone 4	18,258	53
3	Whitsunday GFC	Zone 2	17,200	69
4	Gold Coast GFC	Zone 4	14,350	20
5	Mooloolaba GFC	Zone 3	9,350	11
6	Ribbons Ladies GFC	Zone 1	6,300	24
7	Mackay GFC	Zone 2	5,175	12
8	Hervey Bay GFC	Zone 3	1,638	5
9	Townsville GFC	Zone 2	1,422	4
10				

QGFA ALL PORTS - CHAMPION CLUB (ZONE 3-4)

	ZONE	CLUB	POINTS	QTY
	Zone 3	Mooloolaba GFC	9,350	11
		Hervey Bay GFC	1,638	5
	Zone 4	Moreton Bay GFC	18,258	53
		Gold Coast GFC	14,350	20

QGFA ALLPORTS - CHAMPION SENIOR MALE ANGLER

	ANGLER	CLUB	POINTS	QTY
1	Jonathan Booyesen	Moreton Bay GFC	8,450	18
2	Carl Oellermann	Moreton Bay GFC	8,033	22
3	Chris Bolton	Weipa BC	3,900	6
	Tom Hockey	Weipa BC	3,900	6
5	Ben Bright	Weipa BC	2,700	3
6	Trevor Watters	Weipa BC	2,600	4
7	Jamie Behrens	Mooloolaba GFC	2,175	3
8	Joshua Cox	Mooloolaba GFC	2,000	2
9	Theo Serradilla	Whitsunday GFC	1,600	5
10	HARRISON BILLING	Gold Coast GFC	1,500	2
	Jason Young	Gold Coast GFC	1,500	2
	Joshua Keeling	Gold Coast GFC	1,500	2

QGFA ALLPORTS - CHAMPION JUNIOR ANGLER - ROUND 1

	ANGLER	CLUB	POINTS	QTY
1	Ray Cook	Whitsunday GFC	1,150	6
2	Eli Rohl	Mooloolaba GFC	875	2
3	Jazmin Smith	Whitsunday GFC	850	3
4	Charlotte Dobinson	Gold Coast GFC	750	1
5	Benson Smith	Whitsunday GFC	400	4
6	Koa Brown	Hervey Bay GFC	250	1
7	Ryan Baker	Hervey Bay GFC	125	1
8	Nate Shields	Whitsunday GFC	100	1
9	Kai Draper	Whitsunday GFC	100	1

Queensland News

There were a few exciting announcements to come out of the QGFA AGM this year. Check our own AGM Minutes for all the details. But I wanted to highlight these stories:

Commonwealth Marine Park Review

The Australian Government is reviewing management plans for Australia's marine park networks and has also committed to expanding the area of Australian waters classified as "Highly Protected" to at least 30% by 2030. Meeting that target will require at least a further 523,980 km² of Australian waters to be declared no-fishing areas.

The Australian Recreational Fishing Foundation (ARFF) and the Game Fishing Association of Australia (GFAA) are leading a national campaign to protect recreational fishing access to important areas.

As passionate recreational and game fishers, it is imperative that we make our voices heard and ensure the Government has all relevant information when reviewing these management plans. Public consultation on these matters closes on 30 September 2026 so we must act now.

Add your details to the GFAA Marine Parks Submission. you can find more details on social media or the website www.gfaa.asn.au/marine-parks

Junior Tagging Program & Tournament Shirts Sponsorship

While searching for a sponsor to cover the cost of developing our amazing data collection software - Gamebase, QGFA President David Trask was able to secure sponsorship of a different kind.

Anaconda has kindly offered to print custom sublimated fishing shirts for each individual club for tournament shirts at a heavily reduced cost. This means clubs are able to provide fantastic quality and customised shirts, without breaking the



bank. Thank you so much to QGFA, David Trask and Anaconda for this amazing support. To show off how amazing these shirts are, Anaconda has printed shirts as part of the QGFA Junior Tagging program and will provide every junior who tags a fish in the season with an amazing shirt.

5 of our Juniors were lucky enough to tag a fish last season and were awarded these amazing shirts, along with a certificate and a \$25 Anaconda voucher. It doesn't have to be a marlin either. If you have juniors fishing with you, a tuna, or mahi mahi will get the job done too!

Mooloolaba Annual Awards

We had an amazing opportunity to celebrate our Annual Award Winners with a Picnic in the Park by the Club House. A complete list of winners can be found on the following page.



Mooloolaba Annual Awards

Denise & Brian Black Perpetual First Black Marlin Of The Season

Champion Sam Webb

Saltwater Charters Perpetual First Sailfish Of The Season

Champion Eli Rohl (first tagged fish)

Out Of Area Angler

Champion Leanne Kalpus

Janelle Cruise & Alan Harvey Grand Slam

Champion Not Awarded

Champion Heavy Tackle Angler

Champion Chris Venn

Runner-Up Joshua Cox

Champion Tournament Angler

Champion Lenix Walton

Runner-Up Joshua Walton

Geoff & Pauline Harris Perpetual Rally Day Champions

Champion Joshua Walton

Wayne & Sue Douglass Perpetual Highest Point Scoring Angler

Champion Leanne Kalpus

MYC Perpetual Club Champion Overall (All Categories)

Champion Not Awarded

Dahl Family Perpetual Game Fishing Champion Junior

Champion Eli Rohl

Meritorious Tagging Soul Starling

Meritorious Tagging Lenix Walton

MGFC Perpetual Game Fishing Champion Female

Champion Leanne Kalpus

MGFC Perpetual Game Fishing Champion Male

Champion Joshua Walton

The President's Trophy

Champion Jasmine Wegert

Boat Awards

Smith Family Perpetual Highest Daily Average Points

Champion Never Home

Champion Boat Under 7 Meters

Champion Red or Black

Runner-Up Reel Dream

Champion Boat Over 7 Meters

Champion Tag & Brag

Runner-Up Marlin Mania

Champion Tournament Boat

Champion Red or Black

Runner-Up Takka Chee

Champion Heavy Tackle Boat

Champion Tag & Brag

Runner-Up Marlin Mania

Mooloolaba Game Fishing Club Perpetual Champion Boat Overall

Champion Red or Black

Other Species Awards

Beach Rock & Estuary Champions

Male Champion Jamie Behrens

AGM Update

The Annual General Meeting provides an important opportunity for members to come together, reflect on the past year and contribute to the future direction of the Club. This year's meeting covered a range of important and exciting agenda items, with valuable discussion and input from members helping to shape the year ahead.

Reverting the Rules

We have reverted the point scoring system back to a previous version without the middle ground rules. Please make sure you are familiar with the new points system as it has been implemented for this season.

Light Tackle - Depth Zones (Less than 150m)				
Line Class	4kg	6kg	8kg	10kg
Billfish	1050	900	750	600
Yellowfin, Longtail & Dogtooth Tuna	50	50	50	50
Other Species (Excl. Sharks)	50	50	50	50
<i>Other refers to GFAA eligible Game fish species tag & release.</i>				

14. Heavy Tackle Points Scoring

Heavy Tackle - Depth Zones (Greater Than 150m)				
Line Class	15kg	24kg	37kg	60kg
Billfish	3000	2250	1500	750
Yellowfin, Longtail & Dogtooth Tuna	100	100	100	100
Other Species (Excl. Sharks)	100	100	100	100
<i>Other refers to GFAA eligible Game fish species tag & release.</i>				

Reverting the Boundaries

The club boundaries were also accidentally changed last season to match Tournament Boundaries. these have been reverted back to our regular boundaries.

- Club fishing boundaries are between Double Island Point (North) to Pt Lookout (South). All points scored outside of these boundaries go to members out of area trophy only. No boat points will accrue for out of area points.

Club House Hunting

The Committee has secured a meeting with MP Fiona Simpson to see if there is an opportunity for the Club to secure space for a Club House outside of a commercial relationship. At this stage, it is just an exploratory conversation, but we will keep you posted on any updates after the meeting on October 7.

Kid's Comp is Underway!

The Annual Kids River Fishing Comp is open for registrations! After just 6 days of registrations, we already have 30 kids enrolled! For just \$25 entry fee, every angler will receive a goody bag from the GFAA Kids Fish2 Program and a Shimano Rod & Reel. Not to mention a sausage sizzle and a soft drink at the presentation, yum! Bring your kids, friends and grand kids, let's get as many kids outside and on the water as we can!

The Kids River Fishing Comp simple would not be possible without the support of our sponsors. I have the very great pleasure of introducing 2 Major Sponsors who have jumped on board to support our kids. Please show your appreciation by using their services, recommending them to your friends, or even jumping on social media and giving them a follow!

Kawana Flooring

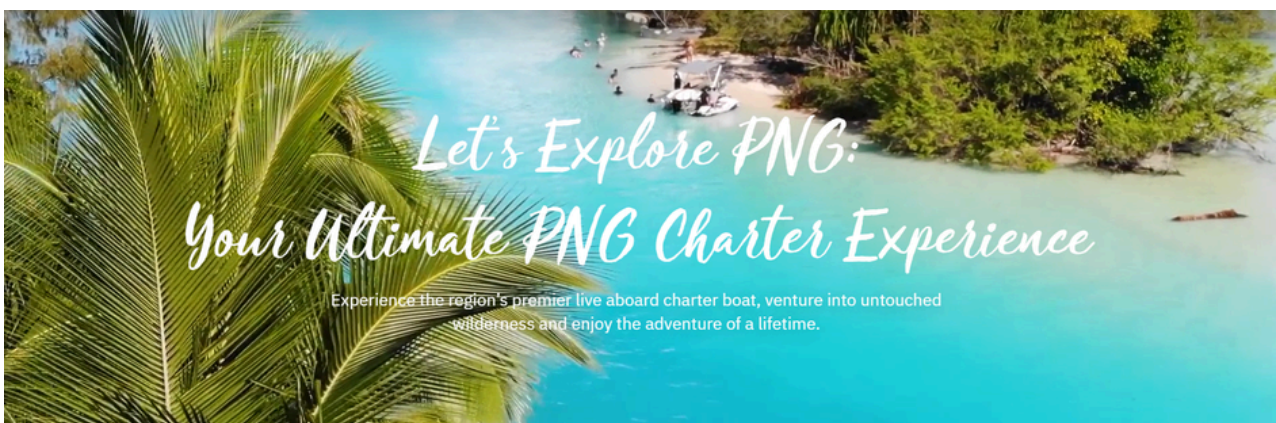
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With 30 years of experience, Kawana Flooring is here to help with all of your home or business flooring, interior, and exterior needs on the Sunshine Coast.

PNG Surfaris

pngsurfaris.com



PNG Surfaris offers the chance to escape into the wild, untouched waters of Papua New Guinea for a live-aboard adventure, where remote islands, crystal-clear seas and world-class fishing come together in an unforgettable experience.

Kids River Fishing Comp

By Mooloolaba Game Fishing Club



Saturday, October 10
at La Balsa Boat Ramp



9am - Briefing | 9:30-12 - Fishing | 12pm BBQ | 1pm Presentation

\$25 ENTRY - REGISTER NOW!



Every Angler gets a Shimano Rod and Reel to keep



ENTRIES CLOSE SEPTEMBER 18

Bunnings BBQ Wrap Up

On Saturday, August 29, 6 brave members took up their aprons and spatulas for a marathon BBQ of epic proportions. Raising money for the club, Jasmine, Scotty, Kieren, Walt, Johan and Brigitte worked from 7:15-4:30 and sold an estimated 1500 sausages, both with and without onion, to the masses descending on Bunnings Maroochydore on a fine and sunny day.

It is a great way to make some extra cash for the club and we are really keen to do it again, but we need more volunteers! Next time you hear the Bunnings call, please consider helping out. Many hands make light work, especially at this particular fundraiser.

A huge shoutout goes to Jasmine Wegert, our BBQ Champion, who not only organised this whole thing and bought all the supplies but worked the whole day to make sure it was a success. Where would we be without you!

And of course a massive thank you to our volunteers, Kieren Edmonds, Josh Walton, Johan Venter and Scotty Ferguson who all put in massive shifts. We really do have amazing members

We are yet to confirm how much money was raised, so stay tuned for next months Hook Up to find out!



Rally Days

Rally Days are all about getting out on the water together!

With quite a few new members joining the Club this year, some of whom are new to game fishing, Rally Days are the perfect opportunity to get involved, meet other members and learn from experienced anglers. Whether you're a seasoned game fisher or just starting out, these days are about sharing knowledge, building friendships and creating a strong sense of community on and off the water.

So, what is a Rally Day?

Rally Days are predetermined by the Committee - on the first weekend of each month. We encourage all members to get out on the water, fish together and make the most of these days as a Club.

And there's a little friendly competition too! All points earned on Rally Days count towards the annual Rally Day Champion, with the overall winner crowned at the end of the season.

So Much More Than Fishing

If you're planning on heading out on a Rally Day, let everyone know! Post your plans in the Club's Facebook Group so other members know you'll be on the water. Once you're out there, don't be afraid to jump on the radio and call out to other Club boats — you never know who might be just around the corner.

Rally Days are about banding together, sharing knowledge and working as a team to find the fish. Whether you're chasing your first game fish or have been doing it for years, there's always something to learn from another boat. Most importantly, it's a chance to enjoy a great day on the water with your fellow Club members.

The day doesn't have to end when the boats come back in!

Where possible, let's all meet up afterwards to swap stories, share the highlights (and the ones that got away!), get to know new members and celebrate the day together. It's also a great opportunity to hand in any tag cards and share information about what you found on the water. So check the calendar, round up the crew and get out there — the more boats on the water, the better!

NEXT RALLY DAY - SEPT 5-6



Target Species **STRIPED MARLIN**



As spring arrives and water temperatures begin to rise, bait and pelagic activity increases offshore, bringing striped marlin into the area. Unlike the explosive blue marlin fishery, targeting stripes is often about finding the right water, finding the bait and putting a lure or bait in front of a hungry fish. They can be incredibly visual, often appearing in the spread, behind teasers or even right beside the boat before deciding to eat.

LIVE BAITING

Striped marlin are aggressive visual predators and there are many tactics you can use to catch one.

Slow-trolled or bridled live baits can be particularly effective when you have located fish but they're refusing lures.

If you've raised a fish without a bite, consider changing tactics rather than simply trolling over the same ground.

Live bait options include:

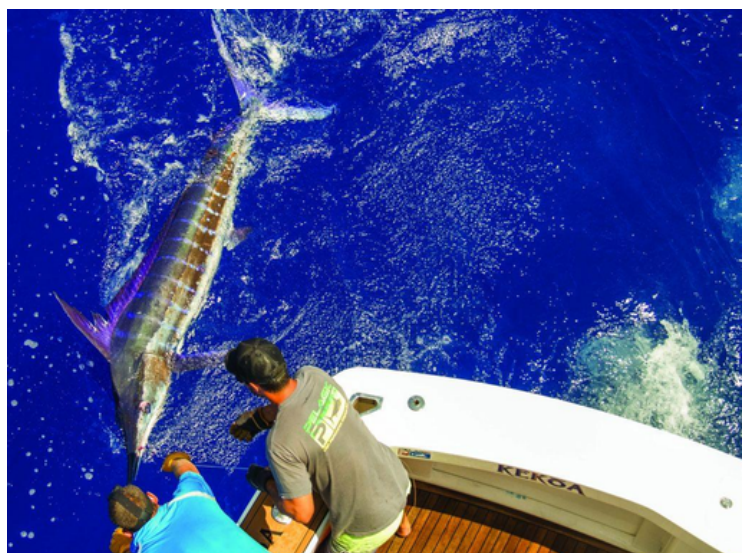
- Slimy mackerel
- Yakkas
- Small tuna

WHERE TO FIND THEM

Striped marlin are generally associated with temperature breaks, current edges, bait schools and productive offshore water.

- Caloundra Wide
- The Barwon Banks
- The Hards
- Gneerings Reef and surrounding grounds
- Offshore current lines and temperature breaks
- Areas holding schools of slimy mackerel, flying fish and other bait

A temperature break of even a fraction of a degree can be worth investigating, particularly when you see bait or birds concentrated along the edge.



Target Species **STRIPED MARLIN**



TACKLE

Striped Marlin are a common Heavy Tackle Species in deeper waters off the Sunshine Coast at this time of year. Consider going 24kg or 37kg Line Class.

THE LURE SPREAD

A well-presented spread is a sure fire way to attract the attention of a Striped Marlin.

Try running four to six lures at different distances behind the boat.

A basic spread could include:

- Short Corner - A medium-sized skirted lure close behind the boat.
- Long Corner - A larger lure positioned further back.
- Short Rigger - A smaller, more mobile lure running in clean water.
- Long Rigger- A lure further back, often presented on a longer line.
- Shotgun - A lure well behind the main spread.

Don't be afraid to experiment with lure sizes and positions. If fish are showing interest but not eating, changing the presentation can make all the difference.

NEED A TEASER?

Stickface game fishing dredges are specialized, high-visibility teaser systems designed to imitate dense bait balls of slimy mackerel and attract pelagic predators like striped marlin

LURE SELECTION

Natural colours can be excellent when fish are feeding on small bait, while contrasting or brighter patterns can help when the water is deeper or visibility is reduced.

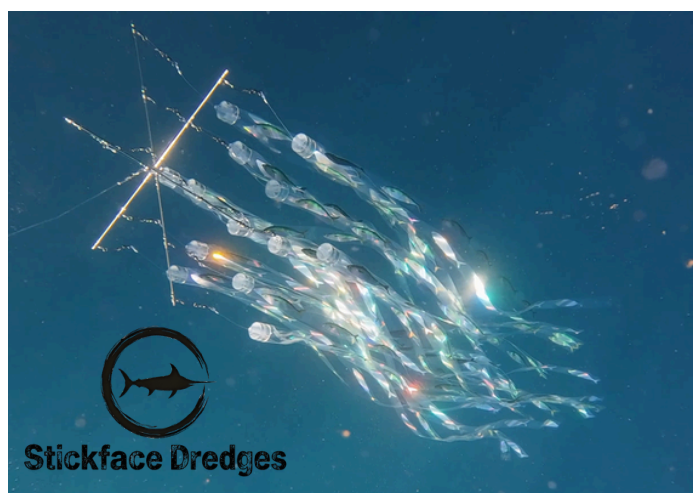
Match the hatch where possible. If you're seeing small flying fish or slimies, a smaller-profile lure can be particularly effective.

TEASERS

Striped marlin are often highly curious and will come a long way to investigate a teaser.

A teaser can:

- Attract fish toward the boat
- Keep the fish interested
- Allow you to see the fish's behaviour
- Give you an opportunity to switch the fish onto a hooked lure



Target Species

STRIPED MARLIN



SETTING THE HOOK

Once a fish is hooked, the key is to maintain consistent pressure.

Allow the fish to load the rod and come tight before winding into it.

Once hooked:

- Keep the line tight
- Clear other lines quickly
- Keep the boat moving as required
- Communicate clearly with the skipper
- Watch for sudden changes of direction

Striped marlin are spectacular jumpers, and the first few minutes can be chaotic.

THE FIGHT

Striped Marlin may be smaller than a big blue, but they can be incredibly fast and acrobatic.

Expect:

- Long runs
- Repeated jumps
- Sudden direction changes
- High-speed runs toward the boat

The angler needs to stay focused and maintain pressure without trying to overpower the fish.

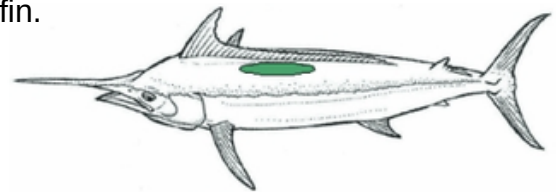
The skipper's job is equally important. Good boat handling can make the difference between a successful release and a lost fish.

TAG & RELEASE

Once the fish is at the boat, you will have an opportunity to tag and release the fish.

Make sure you have a tag loaded in your tag pole before you leave so you are ready to go.

When tagging a marlin, aim for the middle of its body, close to the dorsal fin.



Once the tag has been placed, remove the hook if possible (a de-hooker can facilitate this) or cut the trace close to the fish's mouth.

Revive any fish that appear to be exhausted or are struggling to remain upright in the water.

A commonly used approach for billfish is to hold the fish firmly by its submerged bill whilst the boat moves forwards at 2 to 3 knots. This ensures a good flow of water over the fish's gills. The fish should only be released when it shows strong signs of life and displays improved skin colour, which may take several minutes or more.

Exercise caution, especially in rough weather.