

## **Rob Kearvell – Northern Territory, Dundee Beach Fishing Charters – 08-14 JUN 25 Fishing Report**

Dundee Beach Fishing Charters is in Dundee Beach about 130km south west of Darwin. Accommodation, food, facilities, service and fishing gear/boats were excellent and to top it off my mate Stew and I caught plenty of fish. The accommodation included swimming pool, kitchen/dining area and cabin type sleeping arrangements. This trip we had a Thai young lady who made amazing meals including Chilli Mud Crab which was to die for. For the first three fishing days it was ourselves on the boat (plus the guide, Cooper's wife, Caitlin was on the first day) and the whole charter of five days one extra person in the boat on one day and at the accommodation, plenty of room. Our boat was an open heavy duty aluminium hulled "tinny" 7.2m with 2x150HP motors on the back. Needless to say, we hiked along very well which was handy as some days we went about 50km south along the coast to Channel Point and Peron Is. Only downer were the consistent south easterly winds weak to moderate except for the last day, drove the guides sparse as the 50km off shore reefs they wanted us to get to were not possible. Main bait was squid and some mackerel then assorted hard body (trolling) and plastic lures and Vibes.

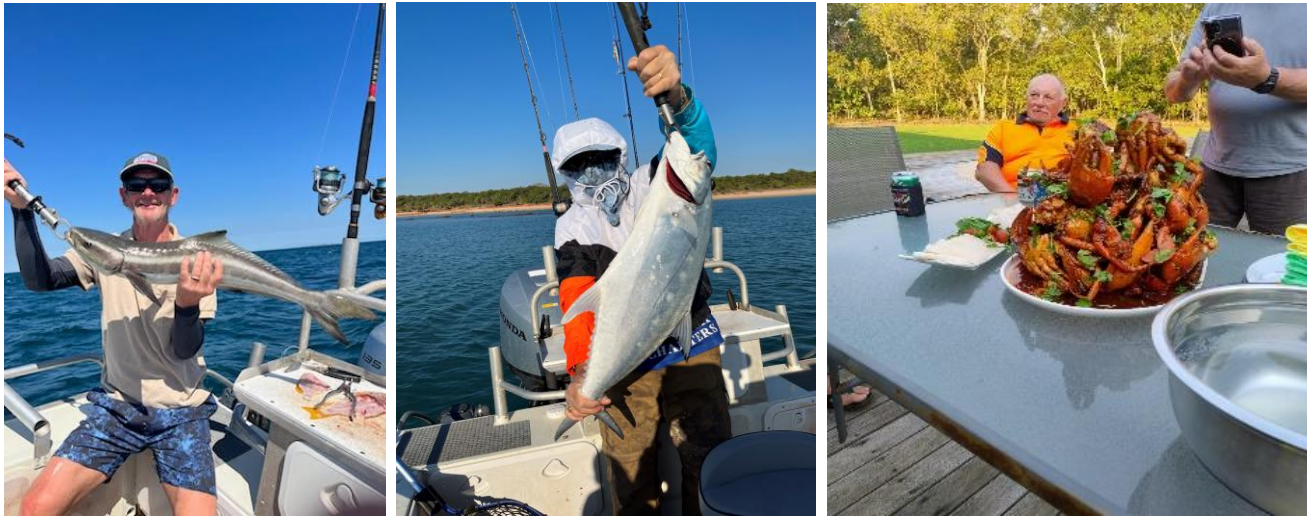


## **04-08 JUN 25 – Adelaide to Darwin/Dundee Beach**

Flight up on 04JUN25 was a bit disturbing, arrived Adelaide airport to find that my flight had been changed from 1045 to 0730 which I had obviously missed, no notification but they got me onto the 1400 flight. My mate Stew, from Bendigo drove up, 3,700km odyssey. Dundee Beach coach picked me up from my Darwin's mate's residence on 08JUN25, and it was an uneventful road trip to Dundee Beach accommodation which was great. Dip in the pool, few coldies and our own Thai Chef cooked up a great evening meal. Owner Matt Brittain came over and explained the routines, we were heading out early next morning following the coast south.

## **09 JUN 25 – Dundee Beach, 40kms South Reefs and Bay**

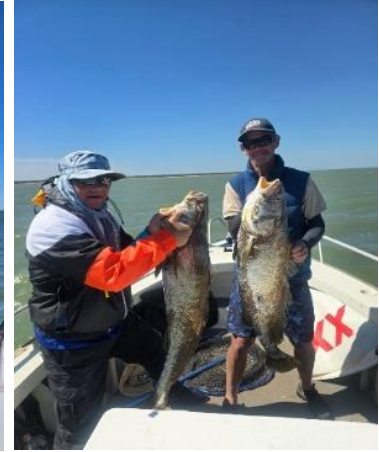
Up at 0600 cooked breakfast (every morning). Bussed down to the Boat Ramp at Dundee Beach, excellent new old style pub there as well which came in handy after a hard day on the water. Guide today was Cooper and his wife Caitlin was on for the day as well. Excellent fishing couple. Wind was up from the South East so hugged the coast for 40kms then turned a few kms west. Hit the reefs Golden Snapper (Trickies), Stripies, Batfish, Cobia (for Stew), Potato Cod and the always present Sharks, Reef, Sleepy and Biege Grey Nurse. Just south of 5 Mile Beach went into a small bay and latched onto a school of Queenfish and had a ball, very exciting fish to catch with blistering runs and laps of the boat to get them in. Very happy and my first capture of this species. Heading back to Dundee, wind had dropped which was excellent as on the way down I was drenched on a number of occasions but at least it was warm. Also saw a couple of Turtles. Back on land and Stew and I checked out the new Dundee Tavern and it was excellent. They had retained the great country feel of the previous version. Excellent meal with entrée of Chilli Mud Crab Thai style and a number of drinks for a great evening.



## 10 JUN 25 – Dundee Beach, Channel Point, Peron Island

Up at 0600, cooked brekkie, launched around 7.15. Same trip down the coast wind still moderate, hugged the coast, new guide today, Sean, who was a serious fish hunter and impressed us with continually studying conditions and electronic aids to find the fish, as Cooper had done. We had him on our trip in 2023 and he remembered us. Again the wind was up so hugged the coast still a bit bouncy and wet. Pulled up at Channel Point opposite Peron Island to chase the Black Jew (Mulloway). Three boats from Dundee doing the same. Last trip Stew got three and me none. The drop was discovered by Sean and called the Stables as there were only “horse size” fish here. These fish were caught on Squid and Mackerel, also pull like a horse and erratic in the way they run then turn back and always seem to target everyone else’s lines. When one hooked up everyone else has to pull in. I got one of 1.1m and a small 80cm throw back, Stew got a 1.2m so both very happy and my first capture of this species. Again Sharks became a nuisance so headed out passed Peron Is to the Reefs about 15km. The chart literally showed hundreds of drops and we tried plenty of them. Varying success but the sharks were a continual nuisance. Picked up Golden Trevally, Coral Trout, 3m Biege Grey Nurse (got this to the boat my arms are a little longer now), Reef Sharks, Golden Snapper and numerous odd species. Wind had dropped so no hugging the bay coast back, straight line to Dundee Beach. Nice beer in the tavern and that evening Matt (owner) fed the Barra (4 of

them about 4kg) in his big tank with Coral Trout fillets (what a waste) displayed the “Boof” sound when Barra are taking food from the surface. When off the Channel Point, 50km south of Dundee, had a surprise mobile phone call, had two bars of reception quite amazing.



### **11 JUN 25 – Dundee Beach, Channel Point, Peron Island**

Up at 0600 cooked Brekkie. Still moderate South East winds so again hugged the coast, carefully as extensive flats and large tides a serious problem, guides needed to know their business. Back with Cooper today and off to Channel Point/Peron Island about 50km south and sea conditions choppy. Day charter guy, Wayne (caravanning from Yorke Peninsula) caught a Black Jew about 1.2m but again the Sharks drove us crackers. Many shark bust ups, one just about dragged me in. Out to the reefs and we had good luck on the Golden Snapper with a bag limit of 5 each and they are excellent eating. Stews Coral Trout was around 50cm. I got two Tusk Fish these are highly prized for taste. Interesting Potato Cod I caught had a pink tinge as if it was crossed with a Coral Trout. On the way back the wind had dropped again making it quite pleasant and we had a Marlin come out of the water a few metres from the boat which got Cooper all excited, he had caught one just a couple of weeks back.





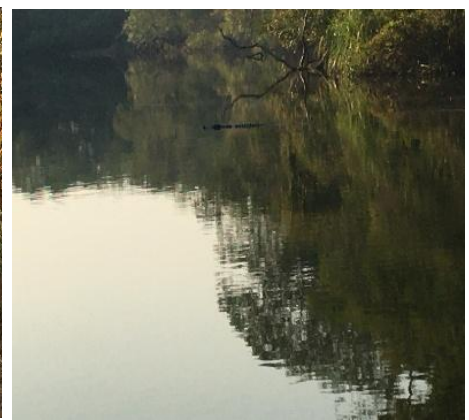
## 12 JUN 25 – Dundee Beach, Bynoe Harbour

Wind still up so we headed for Bynoe Harbour over the back from Dundee Beach and is an extensive estuarine system. Cooper again our guide. Hadn't been here before so was quite excited. Launched at Six Pack Creek and tried up a number of estuaries. Plenty of Barra on the sounder but they were still doggo. I got a good sized Trevally which was a lot of fun, no other fish caught, just one of those days. The scenery and experience in this area was well worth the effort. A bloke in the other boat had become quite sick so we did an emergency pack up and raced back up the river. All turned out ok but he should never have come out as he was not well the previous day.



## 13 JUN 25 – Dundee Beach, Finnis River Top Reaches

Our Guide, Cooper, had a special trip set up for Stew and I. Had to trailer the boat up to a boat ramp at the upper section of the Finnis River, just us. This part of the river was spectacular, calm water reflections of the bank vegetation and in the middle of nowhere made for an excellent experience. The target was Barra but again plenty on the Live Sounder, even watched our lures go right passed schools of big Barra but no takers. Crocs supplied a little excitement. Barra were asleep. The estuary was a truly beautiful area and if we had caught a Barra it would have been only a bonus point.



Tomorrow Stew drives back to Bendigo, me Qantas back to Adelaide after a fantastic 3 days in Darwin and 5 days of up north fishing. Dundee Beach Fishing Charters come with my highest recommendation, all facets of the charter were excellent.

Tight Lines

*Rob Kearvell*