

## 24MAY24 Broome Fishing Report

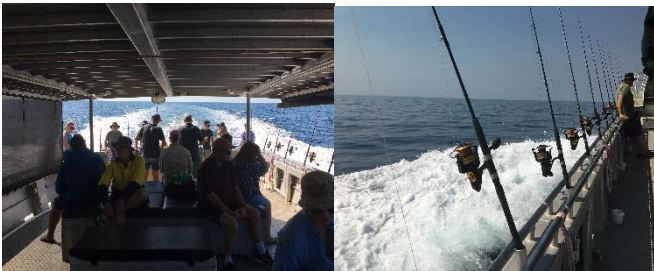
Sue and I travelled to Broome from 20-30MAY24 and I did a fishing charter with Absolute Ocean Charters. Not what I normally like as it was the Contessa C, a 20m mono hull and there were 14 on the charter which even on that boat made for pretty tight fishing when we all fished off the one side. Mix of patrons, male and female, old and not so old. A great bunch easy to get along with and have a chat.

Early start to the day, 0700, picked up from my accommodation and went to the southern end of Cable Beach near Gantheaume Point which is where the majority of mooring points are for numerous types of vessels and charters. No jetty and only beach launch. The tender to take us to the Contessa C was a Zodiac with collapsable balloon wheels, quite an amazing sight and didn't even get our feet wet. An experience in itself



**Tender and the Contessa C in the background**

Headed about 15km straight out from the moorings and saw a number of Tuna schools along the way busting up on the surface. Put two troll lines out the back with hard body large minnow divers on. Their favourite colour seemed to be blue and all the teeth marks on those lures tended to prove their popularity. 7 people lined up behind each of the two rods and immediately we were into Spanish Mackerel and as people took their turns some Tuna came in as well. Before my turn arrived a hooked up Spanish Mackerel flew out of the water with about a 3m shark hanging off its tail. Needless to say, the Shark won so we upped lines and headed out for the Reef area another 15km out.



**Things were a little crowded**

The reef drops were in about 40m of water and with 250gm sinkers that alone was a workout before you hooked a fish. This was all attached to about 30kg braid. As you all know I prefer light lines and as little lead as possible so this was a little out of my comfort zone. First drop numerous species of fish were caught, I had a couple of Crimson Perch (not big) and a Franklin Cod which was quite a ghostly grey colour, never caught one before, was about 3kg good fight and was great eating. Everyone seemed to get something but nothing spectacular. The sharks then moved in and we moved out to another spot. This was all drift fishing.



**Franklin Cod**



**Golden Trevally**

Next drift we struck the GT's and quite a bit of arm stretching occurred, not the monster size you can get, but were big enough for me. As most fishermen know GT's love fighting in a large circle motion so you can imagine the mayhem they caused with 14 lines in close proximity. A few Red Emperor were also boated and I also picked up a Golden Snapper of reasonable size. Again, the sharks arrived and we left. There is something awesome about fighting a reasonable fish then all hell brakes loose when a shark hits and you are bent over the side hoping that the drag is going to give you some relief but what they had the reels set to didn't give much at all. A number of drops were tried on the way back in but everything had gone quiet with only limited and small results. Some huge schools of Tuna busted up near the boat as we headed back in just to keep us excited. Just about to tie up at the mooring off the beach when a number of Spanish Mackerel (large) burst out of the water chasing bait fish and only 300m from the beach, quite exciting. It was a great day on the water and I took enough fish to keep us eating over the rest of the holidays. While Adelaide froze we had to put up with 33 degrees, light winds, clear skies and balmy evenings.

**Cheers and Tight Lines**

**Rob Kearvell**