

Reel Bits



Another Marlin Cast

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A fantastic Marlin Trip to Fraser Island By Peter Collings K44 24 marlin hook ups in 5 fabulous days

Club members Greg Butt K200, Bill King K174, Ed Mamrot K47 and Scotty Hornsby K47 and I have just returned from a fabulous fishing trip to Fraser Island. Fraser island is off the coast of Hervey Bay on the Queensland Coast. It's the largest sand island in the world, 120kms long and 1800sq kms. It really is a massive island. Because the fishing grounds are 60 miles from the mainland, the plan was to anchor and seek the shelter of Fraser Island each evening which reduces the travel to the fishing grounds next morning to a manageable 20 miles.

Surprisingly we almost didn't go!! The weather forecast was lousy and it looked as though we may lose 4 out of 6 days to the seas and strong wind. The crew were given the option to alter or cancel the trip but all declined and we took our chances.

However, the weather conditions did improve and everyone on board voted the trip as one of the best ever. We spent 2 boring days in the marina but over the remaining five days we raised 28 Marlin, hooked up 24, and released 13 Billfish. A mixture of Black, Blue and Stripes.....and there were some very big fish amongst them. Quite a few around 150kg, a couple around 175 kg and a beast of 200kg. Of course there is always a story of the 200kg bigger ones that got away. Our best day was raising 12 marlin and releasing five between 130kg and 200 kg (including a double hook up on blues).

All fish were caught on lures using 37kg stand up tackle with 400lb leaders that is necessary to control the huge fish that can be caught in this fabulous fishery.

Peter Collings K44



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