

2020 Tin Can Bay Fishing Club News

JANUARY - FEBRUARY NEWS

With the drought certainly broken locally there is a lot of fresh and dirty water running into the creeks and estuary. Reportedly this has got the mud crabs on the move and some good quality specimens have been caught but remember the crab pots have got to be in the water and not hanging in the back shed.

The fresh water tends to float on top of the salt water so don't be discouraged from fishing in some slightly dirty water as it is probably salty and cooler underneath. Some quality mangrove jack and grunter are currently being caught in these situations. When the cleaner salty water is pushing in on the rising tide this can be a good fishing situation in the creeks. There have been a few quality flathead, whiting and bream caught recently but are not in big numbers so they have to be targeted at the right time of tide and situation.

The fish must be opening their own second hand tackle store shortly as some large, powerful and as yet unidentified fish have been regularly gathering up various lures and terminal tackle from anglers fishing in areas with structure in the creek systems and reef areas within the Straights.

The inside reefs and ledges have gone a bit quiet with only a few fish being caught. The barometric pressure associated with current weather patterns may be having some influence on the fish wanting to feed or it could be the weather influence keeping all but the keenest (or just plain mad) anglers at home. With the opportunity taken to get on the water between the bouts of bad weather the rewards should come even if they are only the enjoyment of nature's surroundings.

The Tin Can Bay Fishing Club is both proud and excited to announce that we have secured a Grant to conduct several Community Events again in 2020. There are three types of events in total to be sponsored through Queensland Government Department of Agriculture and Fisheries Recreational Fishing Grant 2020.

Event 1: Sunday 5th April. Kids Fishing Day – Previously held as the Sunfish Kids Fishing Day but Sunfish Funding is no longer available.

One of the TCB Fishing Club's objectives include teaching our juniors how to fish, to have fun and to enjoy recreational fishing. We will accommodate up to 25 juniors between 7-15 years of age at this 2020 event. This event will be run by qualified Instructors from within the club and with assistance provided by TCB Fishing Club Blue Card Holder members.

This day is provided at no cost to the participants and they are taught how to tie knots, rig a rod, baiting and casting and then fishing the tidal area at low tide on Norman Point. In addition to this, they are presented with a new rod and reel, line, tackle, tackle box and a Certificate of Attendance plus water, morning tea and a hearty BBQ lunch. Registration is essential as places are limited and at least one responsible adult is required to accompany their child throughout the entire activity.

Full details and Nomination Forms can be obtained by contacting the Secretary via email at tcbfishingclub@bigpond.com Nominations are restricted to children who have not completed this event in the past and are only accepted after the Secretary has received a correctly completed Nomination Form.

Event 2: Sunday 3rd May 2020. Free Fishing Training Day for Senior Members of the Community.

Event 3: Late May / early June 2020. Free Basic Boating and Safety Course for members of the Community.

More information for Events 2 and 3 will be posted shortly on our Web Page and Facebook as details are finalised and full details will be published in the April edition of the Bay Bulletin. Next General Meeting will be held at 4 pm on Wednesday 15th April at our Club House, 33 Dolphin Ave, Tin Can Bay.

JUNE 2020

The year is flowing by as we are now into June and the water temperature is generally lower however Mud Crabs obviously can't read as there was no "r" in May. For those who don't know, the myth is that Mud Crabs are not active in months without the letter "r" in them as these are the cooler months. The Mud Crabs are also not observing the Corona Virus social distancing rules either as multiple Crabs are congregating in the one pot. There are also good numbers of Sand Crabs around at the moment but the bigger percentage seem to be undersized so be aware of the size limit and the method of measuring as it not the same as measuring a Mud Crab. Sand Crabs can be active in daylight hours so it can be worthwhile to set your pots at the start of the run in tide and checking at high tide.

Squid are being caught in good numbers with a bit of hunting around to find where they are on the day and what stage of the tide they are most active. There are quite a few large Tiger Squid also around at the moment with only the occasional one being caught while targeting the normal species of squid as they seem to hunt in a different situation. Tiger Squid can be best found at low tide in the shallows adjacent the deeper channels by motoring along in the deeper water and looking carefully to the shallows. They can be very difficult to catch as they spook easily, so an electric motor or drifting is best, but interesting to see how many you can spot.

Flathead numbers seem to have increased recently with a few being caught by those who put in the effort to find where they are on the day. There are a few good sized Summer Whiting being caught when the numerous small Bream leave the bait alone long enough for the whiting to find it. Good numbers of Diver Whiting are also being caught in the deeper waters.

If you want a bit of fun the tuna species are still actively feeding on bait fish in the main channels and can be caught on small metal lures cast into the feeding fish. The reef areas and ledges in the straights have been producing lately with some good quality Cod, Slatey Bream, Sweetlip and Blue Tusk Fish being caught by those targeting them methodically providing you can get them past the groups of small sharks that are ever present in these areas especially around Inskip. Fishing light gear with a decent leader and a slab of flesh or squid will result in good fun when you connect with one of these very agile little toothy critters.

There has been some periods of terrific weather lately with more to come and since the restrictions have eased it is a great time to be out on the water not only fishing but observing and appreciating the many wonders of Mother Nature's creations and moods, so make the best of today as no one knows what tomorrow may bring.

The latest Marine Survey has been completed and the new Reference Points for safely crossing the Wide Bay Bar are now available to anyone by contacting Coast Guard Tin Can Bay and they will text the information to you.

The Club Executive is happy to announce that the Monthly and Annual Competitions were reinstated on May 17th and the Club Committee is planning to have a meeting within the next few weeks. The Bi-Monthly Club General Meetings and social gatherings will recommence as soon as

JULY 2020

Inshore fishing has seen some nice Summer Whiting being caught, but generally only a handful at a time, with some nice Dusky Flathead being taken on soft plastics and live yabbies. Good numbers of Diver Whiting are still being caught in the deeper waters.

There are still good catches of Squid to be had within the Straits for those who are willing to put in the work and prepared to check out the regular hot spots like the southern side of the entrance to Snapper Creek down to the Lady Woodward and Searys Ledge.

For those chasing crabs, the full moon tides have been very productive. It appears that the wet conditions are pushing the muddies out into the deeper water and away from their traditional haunts in the shallow creeks.

For those of you who are venturing offshore there are still nice catches of quality reef species such as Snapper, Pearl Perch, Parrot, Coral Trout, Red Emperor and Mackerel.

It is time to remind everyone that there is a general possession limit of 20 per person for all species taken in tidal waters without a prescribed possession limit (excluding some bait species). Sand (summer), Goldenline and Northern Whiting have a 23cm min plus a combined take limit of 30 in total of these whiting species. The annual catch limit for the East Coast Black Jewfish has been reached. Black Jewfish is a no-take species on the east coast for all fishers for the rest of the 2020 calendar year. Please be aware of individual species limits & check the Department of Agriculture & Fisheries web site or with the helpful staff at Tin Can Bay Chandlery Bait & Tackle if you do not know the prescribed possession limits.

Unfortunately our General Meetings and social gatherings continue to be on hold due to the current restrictions on numbers per area and we only have one area where we gather at the Club House. We are counting on the relaxation of numbers prior to our scheduled Bi-Monthly General Meeting in early August, so keep checking out our Facebook Page for the date - all Visitors are welcome. Club members will be advised by Email as normal. We have resumed scheduled Committee and Executive Meetings in order to maintain the day-to-day business of the Club. The Club Committee is happy to remind Members that the Monthly and Annual Competitions were reinstated on May 17th.

September 2020

With the challenging and uncertain times we are living in I think it is important to make the best of the many opportunities that are available for every aspect of our life.

On the fishing front there has been plenty of opportunity to get out on the water and catch a goodly feed of sea food or face the challenge of capturing that prize fish. During the last few months there have been some quality fish of varied species caught by our Club Members. These include bream, whiting, flathead, trevally, cod, tuskfish, slatey bream and tuna.

Unfortunately some of these quality fish were caught during the club comp closures due to the virus shutdown and therefore no points were awarded for the annual and monthly comps for these captures. Not all fish taken are kept for consumption as a majority of the larger specimens are photographed on a Brag Mat and released back into their environment. Currently there still quality mud crabs on the march and sand crabs in the deeper water.

Squid are still in fairly good numbers when their whereabouts are discovered on the day. The club squid comp is still open with a \$50 prize up for grabs. Club Members just need to submit a photo on a brag mat or similar clearly showing the tube length. Flathead are in reasonably good numbers at the moment but long casts to the shallows are required as they are easily spooked if the boat gets too close to them. Keep an eye out for the large tiger squid in the shallows while fishing for flathead.

There are quite a few palegic species around the inside reefs at the moment including tailor, school mackerel, trevally and tuna. These can be caught by trolling or casting a variety of small lures to the schools feeding on the baitfish. Summer whiting and flathead are always worth targeting in the shallows with live yabbies and the diver whiting are always an option in the deeper water if nothing else is on the chew on the day. Reef fish on the inside reefs are a bit hit and miss lately but the reefs are always worth a try particularly on the neap tides.

With no club meetings for the last few months no monthly comp winners have been announced so here they are:

February; Tony Punch with a Whiting 37 cm for 173.9 points

March; Trevor Ryan with a Bream 38 cm for 178.6 points

April and part May - Comp closed.

May/June; Malcolm Kay with a Slatey Bream 80 cm for 208 points.

July; Ron Cox with a Flathead 57 cm for 150.4 points.

The Club is slowly adjusting to the new normal and we wish to welcome several more new members to our growing ranks.

We are having our next Club General Meeting at the Club House at 4 pm on Wednesday 21st October followed by the Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately these meetings will be for Club Members only, given the current Social Distancing Restrictions. If these restrictions are amended any changes will be notified in the October publication of the Bay Bulletin, Facebook and on our Web Page.

October 2020

With winter being over and the water warming up this may trigger the spawning process of some species and also active feeding for them.

Summer whiting have been caught in good numbers with most of them heavy in roe so it would be good to see all fisher folk catch only a feed and not exploit their spawning activity at this time which will result in better fish stocks for the future. There are still a few sand crabs on the move so those whiting frames can be put to good use in your pots.

Flathead are in good numbers at the moment being caught on both bait and lures and the females are fat and heavy in roe so take a couple of smaller ones for a feed of fresh fish and release the bigger females, after taking a photo or two. There are still a few squid around but it takes a bit of shifting around to find more than the odd one. There are also a few tailor in the bay so keep an eye out for them feeding on the surface early morning and late afternoon and cast small metal lures to the school followed by a fast retrieve.

Reef fishing in the bay has been a bit slow over the cooler months but there have been a few various species caught recently so there are signs that the reef fishing should improve as the water warms

There is a large amount of weed moving with the tide throughout the bay at the moment causing some problems with all types of fishing, but this should hopefully clear up in a few weeks.

Take the opportunity when the weather is good and get out on the water in the fresh air and enjoy the serenity and hopefully catch a feed of fresh fish.

The Club Executive is happy to announce that the October 21st General Meeting will commence at the Club House as planned at 4 pm followed immediately by the Annual General Meeting. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 Restrictions, only financial members will be able to attend.

Tin Can Bay Fishing Club AGM held on 21st October 2020

The Tin Can Bay Fishing Club held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 21st October 2020.

The Club President, Jon Constable welcomed and thanked all members for their attendance. Mr Tony Perrett MP, Member for Gympie was given a big welcome by the President and Club Members.

Mr Perrett was thanked for his ongoing support that he has provided to our club for many years.



The New Executive and Committee were duly elected into their respective Roles.

Executive

President. Philip Barry Feldman.

Vice President. John Mason.

Treasurer. Jane Potter

Secretary. Deborah George

Committee.

Doug Brown, James George, Gavin Hay, Molly Leggett, Ernie Moore, Ron Cox, Derek Andrews, Rod Andrew and Selwyn Potter.

President Phil Feldman thanked all the elected Executive and Committee members for their support and was looking forward to working with the new committee and club members during the months ahead.

December 2020

Owing to the very unsettled weather we have been experiencing lately the opportunities to get out on the water have been limited to a few short periods.

The periods of hot weather should be firing up the mangrove jack into a feeding frenzy but to date there has been a lot of time and effort between fish both for the lure and bait fisherman. Hopefully the next full moon period may see them more active. There have been a few mud crabs on the move but very patchy and your pots have to be at the right place at the right time.

The summer whiting that congregated in good numbers seem to be now spread out and it is difficult to catch more than a few. The flathead have also gone a bit quiet in the last couple of weeks with only the odd one being caught.

Maybe the fish have gone into hiding in preparation for the holiday boating traffic. The local reefs have been producing a few quality fish but not in good numbers. Various shark species seem to be ever present on the Reef areas and can be a bit of a problem. One species that is occasionally caught is the leopard shark which is well worthy of a photo for its colourful spotted skin before it is released to harass the next fisherman.

There should soon be some Spanish Mackerel coming into the bay and it may be worth trolling various larger lures around the Inskip and Bluff areas to entice a strike.

A large school of Golden Trevally was seen in the bay recently but weren't interested in taking alure at the time but fishing for them at dawn and dusk could prove productive for a bit of fun.

Borumba Dam could be an option for fishing as good numbers and quality Bass have been caught recently on bait and lures and there is a good chance of a Saratoga.

The Water Police have been out lately drug and alcohol testing and checking safety gear in an effort to keep us all incident free and safe on the water.

As a result of the increase in holiday boating traffic during Christmas and January, we all need to take more care and notice of what others are doing on the water and at the boat launching sites as some may have little experience in boating activities.