

READERS: Scroll Down To See ABM's Sportfishing PREVIEWS



CONTENTS 2014 - 2015 First Issue #1 \$19.95**

Foreword

How the publication came about4



Anatomy Of A Sport Fisherman

Instead of picking a 'Top Ten' or some such, Editor PW identifies what you should be looking for in a top sport fishing rig - and nominates a bunch of boats he'd like to own8

Deepwater Electric Muscle

Gotta lurve Andrew Hestelow's work here, especially as he has the courage to recognise that as we fish deeper, and the anglers get older, we need electric muscles24

PERIPHERALS . . . Maketh The Boat!

This is a 'skinny' updating a whole bunch of subjects needed in a good sport fishing rig32

Rod Holders	32
Rod Racks	34
Berley Bucket	36
Tuna Tube(s)	37
Deck Wash	37
Road Covers	38
Cockpit Sole	39
Live Bait Tank	40
Bait Prep Table	41
Windscreens	42
Coamings	43
Shade	44
Wet Or Ice Box?	45
Toilets	46
Other Good Stuff	47/48

DIY (1) BMD's Pro Tournament 21 / 24

One of the most popular DIY models from BMD Mark Bowdidge's drawing board, specifically for serious bluewater sport fishing50

DIY (2) Plate Alloy's 6.2 Sports fisherman

This is one of the most popular DIY models from Plate Alloy Australia's extensive range of ally kits for the DIY builder - and this is a cracker sports fisherman already trained for SBTs!50

Jigging Up Storm

Another ripper update from Mr Hestelow in Sydney who has re-invented jigging - especially for bloody big kings, even in Sydney Harbour.....64

A Vision Splendid: Athel D'Ombra, OA

One of PW's fave reports - a compilation of interviews he conducted with one of the genuine pioneers of Australian sport fishing.....72

2014 Stelco Catalogue

If you are going to buy tackle online, it makes sense to buy it from someone you can trust, who is an Aussie, knows your world and fishing, and can deliver the tackle you need at the right price85



Tribute To A Legend: Peter Goadby

Another special report by PW about one of the genuine legends of game fishing - throughout the international world of the IGFA.....97

The Boatbuilder: David Pleysier

He was Dutch before we converted him, he's still cranky, doesn't suffer fools - and is arguably, the best game boat builder we've ever had106

Deep Water Fishing: Brown's Mountain

Don't think anybody knows much more about the Browns

than Andrew Hestelow, and as you'll read, his passion is totally understandable to all fishing tragics.....124

OUTRIGGERS: How To Rig 'em Right!

They still mystify way too many fishos who figure they're all too hard - and cut themselves off from a fabulous, easy-peezy fishing technique. In this in-depth report, PW de-mystifies this exciting fishing tool132

Born Again Downriggers

If you are not into downrigging already, you've cut off at least 30-40% fish-catching opportunity, as that's how effective these things are.....148



Sunshine Sails / Part One: Understanding Sails

A classic series written ages ago by a very young (now) Captain Damon Olsen before he became super famous as the leader of Nomad Sportfishing156

Sunshine Sails / Part Two: Live Bait Vs Artificial

What is special about this series is not that it is the "latest" or "bestest" but it IS a priceless grounding new fishos are going to read on this subject163

Sunshine Sails / Part Three: Tagging & Releasing

Damon concludes the Series with a careful study of the finer techniques and tackle preparation for anglers working sailfish (and small billies) off Mooloolaba, Coffs, Townsville, Broome and Exmouth170

Appendix.....179

Cover: Another of Aaron Concord's stunning fish photography to remind us how good he is - and why we are all so anxious he gets back on his feet after a very long illness, and takes his rightful (and needed) place back in the sport fishing world.

(Mate, we still lurve yer work - and are waiting for you to get back, ASAP)



MESSAGE STICKS . . .
As we are such a small team, we are often tied up on the 'phone, or on the water - but please don't waste the opportunity to communicate. Send us an email, and we'll get back to you ASAP - usually within 24hrs.

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Anatomy Of A Sport Fishing Boat

This is where it begins. Deciding what sort of boat you want. Hardening up on what is the best sportsfishing 'platform' for your fishing world. Today, we appear to be spoiled with an endless array of boats available new and secondhand, locally built or imported, monos or cats, etc. But as Editor Peter Webster points out, when you dig a bit deeper, the choice narrows. Especially if you are seeking a true deep sea, all-weather boat for long term, regular bluewater sportfishing. The choice then, isn't nearly as big as it first appears. In this special report, PW doesn't hold anything back.

From the outset, it is important to denote a couple of issues that will come up repeatedly through this report, dealing mainly with the description of what we're writing about.

The writer would like to define "game fishing" and "sport fishing" as two quite different activities.

Big game fishing has always been about very big fish. Throughout the world, the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA) has for decades brought down rules, regulations, ethics and data concerning the international world of big game fishing. By and large, it's fair to say that most of that activity relates, in Australia particularly, to the world of "grander" marlin found mainly north of Cairns in Far North Queensland (FNO).

Whilst it's true that 'grander' marlin, meaning marlin bigger than a thousand pounds in the imperial scale, can be found and caught off sections of the West Australian coast, or as far south as Brisbane (blue marlin) and no doubt if one was totally determined and had lots of time and money, it's generally agreed that you'd find seriously big marlin roaming other parts of the Queensland coast north of (say) the Great Barrier Reef off Townsville.

In similar fashion, one can go big game fishing off

Bermagui, Portland, Rottnest Island (WA) Exmouth – anywhere very big marlin, or to a lesser extent, big sharks are still roaming free.

Whilst shark fishing has dropped off the social register these days, it is still an active element of the sport for many clubs around Australia, and for them, this is the definitive and available big game fishing in Australia for which the IGFA has for many years maintained comprehensive records to support this activity.

Big game fishing equipment is considerably larger, heavier and bulkier than sport fishing gear. It is virtually impossible to handle without the rod and reel securely located in a big, gimballed fighting chair which actually requires a crew person to 'drive it' as the angler in the chair has no way of swinging the chair around to keep his rod and fishing line 'pointing' at his quarry. Similarly, as he can't get out of the chair until the fight is over and the fish tagged and released – the big game angler needs a highly skilled crew on the 'wire' plus a tag person – oh, and don't forget, through all this, we have the skipper aloft, controlling the play from his eyrie on the fly bridge.

Big game fishing, be it private or professional, is



This is the 2014 Quintrex 690 Hardtop, arguably the best thing Quintrex has done in years. This whole package - and that's how it needs to be viewed - is exceptional value for money. It has application to fishing grounds right across Australia, and is able to deal with the vagaries of 'em all. The trailer - such an important part of any trailerboat package - is a beauty, too, mixing the weight and maintenance-saving ally chassis with a gal-steel (bolted, not welded) drawbar - so she's ready for the highway to anywhere. Writer's choice would be for twin 100-115hp four stroke outboards from your favourite local dealer.



Deep Water, Electric Muscle

Report and pictures by Andrew Hestelow and his mates, mostly off the Continental Shelf.

There's not much doubt about it, is there? Today's fisherman has to travel much farther afield than ever before, and for many, fishing the 'Shelf and beyond for VERY deepwater ooglies, is the only reasonable solution to the ever growing list of Marine Parks, restricted fishing areas and - frankly - too many fellow fishermen. But fishing down a couple of hundred metres has its own problems (apart from the fundamental, invasive weather issues) not least of which is knowing the best methods of getting terminal tackle and baits up and down such vast distances without losing the lot to seals or sharks. In this special report, deepwater specialist Andrew Hestelow highlights the techniques involved using powerful 12v winches to handle the heavy lifting.



Peripherals Maketh The Boat

It's true that you could use a 3.4m tinny to catch a marlin, and therefore, it's true to say an angler can use almost anything that floats to go sport fishing.

However, if it IS going to be a sport, and a regular occurrence, the angler quickly learns that to stay safe is paramount; to have a seaworthy craft to go 'outside' time and time again is mandatory - and to enjoy sport fishing to the max, a certain level of equipment is required over and above the boat itself. These essential features come under the heading of "peripherals".

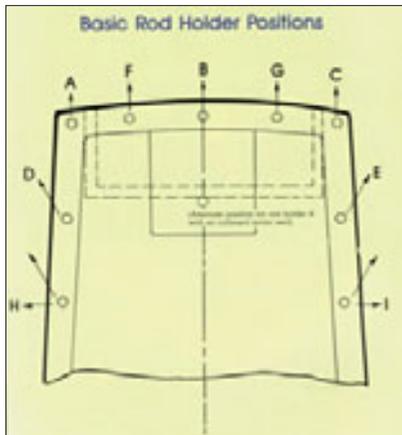
ROD HOLDERS

Rod holders are obviously a key element in any sport fishing boat, but many anglers are unaware of the need for the synchronicity of their placement and function in the cockpit with a great deal of other equipment.

For instance, to develop a really good outrigger system requires very careful placement of the rod holders which, although they've got nothing to do with the outriggers (as such), are absolutely critical in the success ratio the outriggers bring to the boat.

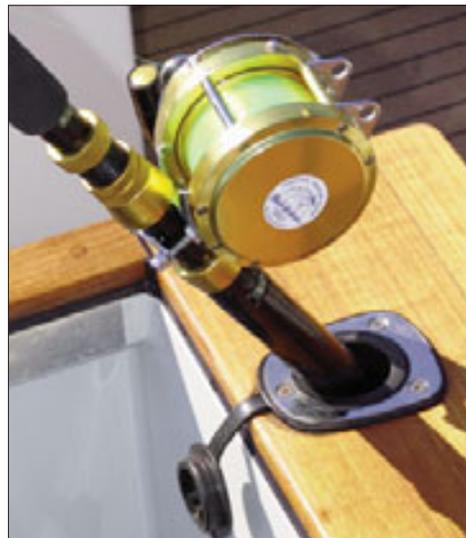
If tag lines are being used (and they should be) it's vital that the tag lines are attached to the appropriate rod holder - which is one of the ones set at 30 degrees off the centreline of the boat.

Without getting too tricky, suffice to say here that the same sort of situation applies to a downrigger too, although the downrigger needs to



be positioned where it can easily be operated (and the winch handle turned) from safely within the cockpit.

It follows that the rod in either the downrigger's inbuilt holder or, more commonly, the boat's own rod holder, needs to be placed in such a position that when the downrigger line is struck by its quarry, maybe 40 or 50 m below, and the line



of the distance between the aft most rod holder and the first one nearest the windscreen, and the easiest way to do it is to divide the coaming up into appropriate lengths so that you can position the rod holders at appropriate distances apart.

Running from the transom then, we have the stern facing rod holder which is angled fore and aft, then a third of the way back up the coaming we have the 30 degree rod holder which works with the outriggers, (mostly) and a third again back to the space between the 30 degree rod holder and the cabin structure, we usually have the 90 degree rod holders facing straight outboard - but this is by no means 'set in stone'.

As you can see in the drawing it's not as complicated as it sounds, but there are many interesting variations to contemplate.

For instance, the placement of the downrigger is absolutely critical in the cockpit because it must be operated safely from within the cockpit, it must be accessible quickly, it must be out of the way of a serious or bruising encounter with a big fish. You don't need the line wrapping or snagging on the downrigger which is hanging out there like king dick to get in the way if things go pear shaped. So the rod holder there will probably have to be positioned much further aft than the rod holder on the port side - assuming that you

Left: Excellent, capped and rubber lined, gimbal-fitted rod holders.

Below: The placement of handrails in production craft can be a real pain - as they commonly interfere with the placement of the rod holders.

breaks the rubber band or clip, it's critical that the rod tip is instantly loaded without either wrapping the tip, or jerking back like a stockwhip with the release of the downrigger weight. All this requires very careful placement of the rod holder securing the downrigger rod.

How Many Is Enough?

There is a general consensus that you need a minimum of five rod holders. Being three across the transom facing aft, one on the starboard side, one to port and another right in the centre. Now, if we take the distance between those two outside transom mounted rod holders, and go back towards the cabin or windscreen of the boat, the length of the coamings should be divided into segments so that you can identify where a one third back from the transom is, and where two thirds puts you, because the next round of rod holders should be placed on those marks. That is, the two 30 degree out-facing should be a third



put the downrigger pad on the starboard corner near the transom - and about 99% of the fishes do that.

Best Material

The bigger the rod the stronger the rod holder must be, and these range from pissy little plasti

Jigging Up A Storm . . .

There's no doubt jigging - especially for the mighty kingfish - is undergoing an astonishing renaissance, as more anglers discover the effectiveness of this age-old technique. But armed with today's high tech line, reels and parabolic rods, there's no doubt there's a jigging system coming into your boat very soon. However, as one of Australia's leading jigging experts, exceptional fisho and tackle importer **Andrew Hestelow** explains, jigging is not for the faint of heart . . . the basics haven't really changed - the technique only really works if you know how to give 'em plenty!

Kerri Wilson with a solid king from 12 Mile Reef

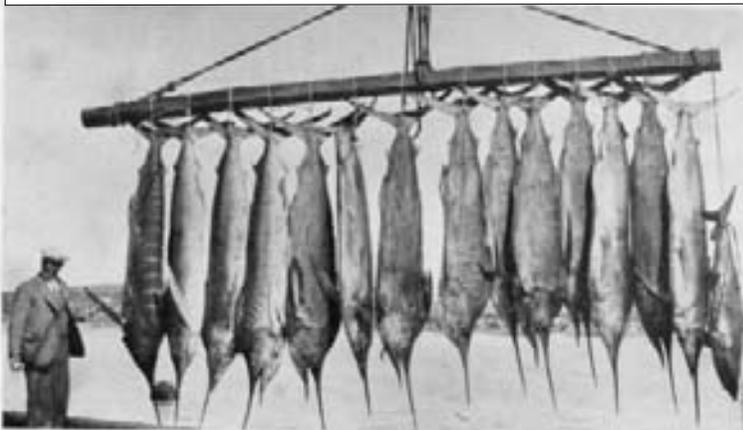
A Vision Splendid



Australian record 690-lb. black marlin caught by C. A. B. Starling at Bernagui in 1940.

The 672-lb. black marlin landed at Bernagui by Mr R. Foster in 1937.

Reproduced from the plates on Page 99 of D'Ombain's classic 1957 book, "Gamefishing Off The Australian Coast" reflecting an era without GPS plotters, fishfinders and the quality of equipment fishermen have today. Even then, fifty years ago, thinking fishermen like D'Ombain were becoming worried about conserving the fish stocks - but no doubt, his was a lonely voice.



World record catch of fourteen marlin and one mako shark landed at Bernagui by W. J. Wallis and R. Macleods in 'two days' fishing during the 1933-4 season.

Re-introducing a feature we first published in 1984 about one of Australia's pioneer sportsfisherman, photographer and renowned author, Athel D'Ombain. It came about when I discovered quite by accident, that this legendary writer, a man who had literally inspired me and thousands of other fishermen in the 1960s to begin a lifelong passion for sportfishing, was very much alive and living in retirement just north of Newcastle, NSW at that time. Athel has since moved on to that big fishing ground where the seas are always calm, and the sea breeze warm, but not before we were able to record a series of very special, historically significant interviews that are as applicable and interesting now, as they were 30 years ago, when this compilation was written.

First Written and Produced by Peter Webster in 1984, updated and re-edited in 2014.

“We came in from starboard, slightly in the early morning sun, but even from a distance, we could make out a great commotion on the surface of the sea over an area of at least a quarter of a mile.

Between us and this zone of intense activity was deep blue water, while a myriad glittering spangles of refracted sun spots danced on the long easterly swell. The accelerated growl from the exhaust added to the mounting excitement, and I jumped up on the cabin top to get a better view. Even from this distance the bodies of large fish could be seen breaking the surface, but it was still difficult to determine accurately whether they were dolphins or sharks.”

“As we moved quickly towards the scene the commotion on the surface grew in intensity. The surface of the sea was a boiling mass of foam, and it was now quite apparent that something was feeding on a large school of fish. We turned due east and approached the edge of the turmoil. Now dolphins could be seen rising out of the sea and cutting through in all directions; then, from out of this heaving mass, two great long tails cleft the air, swishing violently from side to side. There was no mistaking them: they were the tails of two large Thresher sharks. The men in the launch were now all standing up and shouting out to one another to look

at some particular place or object. First Ron yelled to us to look at the huge Tiger shark gliding along past the stern, then Noel called out that a big shape was behind the baits. I grabbed my camera, but was too dazed to level it at any particular area. All around us was a moving mass of bodies. Sharks were there in incredible numbers — Tigers, Hammerheads, Whalers and Threshers were all clearly identified but strangest of all, in the midst of this battalion of terrible wolves of the sea swam seals, dolphins and marlin. I pointed the camera at a group of about a dozen sharks, each about 10 feet in length rolling over each other in their eagerness to feed but the picture was never taken. A warning yell from Ron 'Marlin behind your bait!' made me drop the camera and leap to the chair. There, sure enough, was a fair sized black marlin behind the baits, but even as I reached for the rod it submerged and made over to Ron's bait. Still hoping for a picture I jumped up again on the cabin and grabbed the camera, but the marlin had made off.”

These words were written in the late 1940s in one of the very first gamefishing books written in Australia (published in 1957) titled “*Gamefishing Off The Australian Coast*” by Athel D'Ombain.

Like thousands of other fishermen before me, I

The Big Man of Fishing: Peter Goadby

To the world of big gamefishing, the name Peter Goadby is synonymous with his classic book, **'Big Fish and Blue Water'** first published back in 1970 and revised in '71, '72 and '75. As well, he is renowned for his many, many years of dedicated work for the organisation and management of recreational fishing in Australia, not only through the State and National levels of the GFAA, but also as an Australian committee member of the IGFA. Add in his original involvement in the early days of ANSA, not to mention his years with Penn Fenwick, and it is possible to gain some idea of this man's contribution — and commitment — to our world of sportfishing. Editor Peter Webster sat down for a yarn with one of his fishing mentors, for this special interview . . .

When did you first pick up a line — as a real little kid?

I started fishing when I was between four and five with my father in Townsville. We used to catch bream and stuff like that. I was a damned nuisance, tangling the old gut lines and getting in the way of things. That would have been about 1937. Then, when we moved down to Brisbane, we started going down to Caloundra for our holidays. Dad was a nut fisherman for any kind of fish, We'd fish the estuaries for bream, whiting and flathead.

By the time I was 12, we moved onto the beaches and the rocks. By the time I was about 15, I was catching most things I'd set out to catch — and I'd always wanted to go game fishing.

How did you make the cross-over, from the beach to a boat?

By 1946 I was 17 and fishing with all the old retired gentlemen at Caloundra. I was the only kid, a little fat kid with a yappy black and white fox terrier, who was allowed to fish with these crusty old gentlemen. They were fishing with fly rods and reels for niggers and this guy came up and said "Look, you're the only one here I can relate to — will you help me and my son fish for niggers?"

I fished with him for a week, and finally came to realise who he was.

One day, he said "Oh, I'll never get the hang of this.

The reel I like best is the Tasman."

And I replied "Aren't you the Mr Fanning who caught the 580 lb Whaler in December that won the Christian Cup in QGFA?"

He said "It wasn't a whaler, it was a tiger!"

"No, it was a whaler," I responded.

"Well," he crustily replied "how the hell do you know?" I had a scrap book and I showed him why it was a whaler.

"You are really keen on this gamefishing, aren't you?" he said. "Sure," I replied. "I'm going to go gamefishing one day."

When did you start the scrapbook?

I started the scrapbook when I was eight. I'd started reading Zane Grey and read every newspaper, book and magazine I could get about it. I know this sounds corny, but I always knew I'd end up a gamefisherman, and that I was going to write about fishing.

When did you make your first trip?

Two weeks after meeting Mr Fanning, I fished in a Queensland Gamefishing Association tournament. We didn't catch anything, but there was an Australian record thresher shark caught that day (at 487 lb) but it couldn't become a record because the angler wasn't a financial member of the club at the time. So very early in the piece, I became aware of the importance of working with the rules; here was a great capture

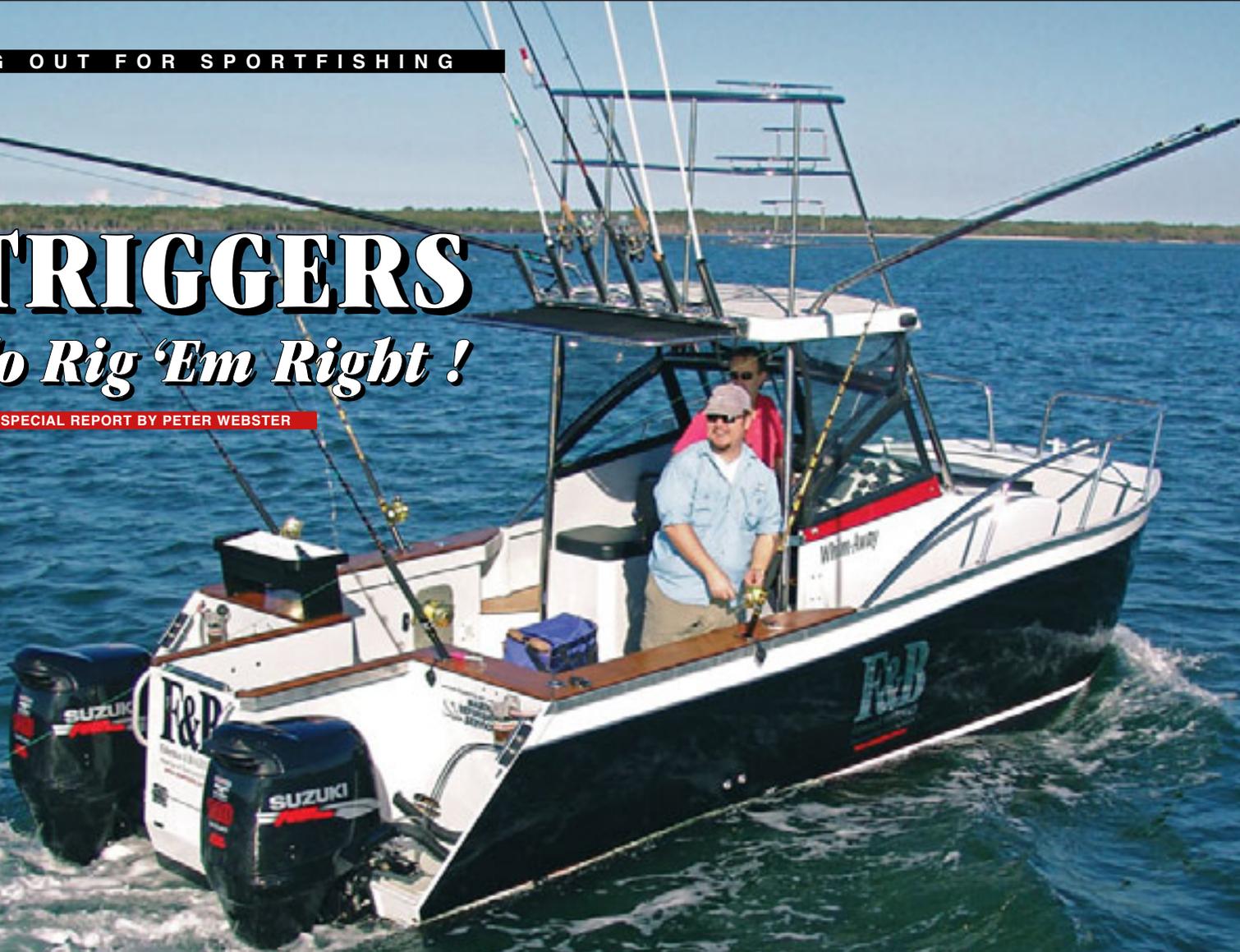


FITTING OUT FOR SPORTFISHING

OUTRIGGERS

How To Rig 'Em Right!

SPECIAL REPORT BY PETER WEBSTER



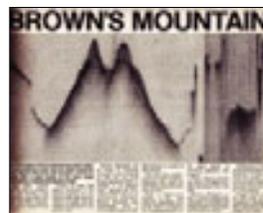


Left: The grin says it all - beautiful deepwater blue eye hauled up off Sydney's Browns Mountain by Stephen Weaver. To fish where this beast came from requires a massive commitment in fishing skill, boat preparation, and a large degree of luck to cope with vagaries of the weather right out wide.

Right: For many years recreational anglers didn't know much about gemfish, especially as the specie was badly knocked about (unwittingly, largely) by the pros before better management practices came onto the scene. These days, as fishos travel further afield into deeper water, gemfish have resumed their rightful place as one of the best (table) ocean fish we have.



Deepwater Fishing Browns' Mountain



We don't think there is a fisherman with a pulse who hasn't dreamed of catching a big oogle from the deep . . . but as the Green Movement continues its push to lock-out fishermen from waters they have fished for generations, more anglers are heading out further than ever before. In this excellent - and timely - report, Sydney based tackle guru Andrew Hestelow provides a heads-up on what to expect and how to do it . . . in seriously deep, canyon country.

Back in the 1970s Sydney had a weekly fishing newspaper called, appropriately enough, *Fishing News*. It was renowned for cheesy pun headlines such as, 'Trag by the Swag', and 'Thisaway to Chittaway.'

Fishing News surpassed itself when, in a freak event, a sea eagle picked up a fish from the surface of Queenscliff lagoon, then lost its grip while flying over the adjoining golf course. The resulting front page headline, 'Mullet Stuns Golfer', was an unforgettable moment of magic.

In amongst all the nutty stories, there was some very good information on fishing spots. It was in the pages of *Fishing News* that I first learned of the almost mythical Browns Mountain.

In the 1970s, we had no GPS. VHF radio was rare, weather forecasting was hit and miss and we had no Internet. Navigation was by dead reckoning or the 'third pine tree over the surf club' technique - that sort of thing. *Fishing News* published the *Giant Fishing Map Book*, which included this image of Browns Mountain.

Of course that image looks nothing whatsoever like the bottom out there, and Browns does not 'rise dramatically' from the surrounding sea floor. But this map was enough to inspire a teenage fishing tragic like myself with countless dreams. I made a solemn vow to get a Browns-capable boat and get out there myself, one day. That took twenty years, but now we fish the place on average once a week through winter, when

Sunshine Sails!

In this article, the first of a three part series on billfish, Damon Olsen discusses the extraordinary billfish action his home port, Mooloolaba, on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, has experienced over the past few years. In three special reports, ABM will take an in depth look at this emerging world class fishery from a port challenging Broome WA, as the sailfish capital of Australia. We'll talk with some of Australia's foremost billfish experts to try and fathom why there are (now) so many sails out from Mooloolaba. We'll ask, Where did they come from? How can they be there, on a year-round basis? How long will it last? Is

this perhaps a re-run of the Cape Bowling Green disappointment? How can we ensure this tag and release fishery is sustained ? In the three special reports, Damon & the ABM team will also reveal how anglers new to the often frenetic world of sailfishing can go about catching their first billfish. We'll be looking at basic techniques for live baiting, trolling and rigging terminal tackle, best methods of tagging, how to care for the billfish when they are alongside and released, and examine what individual anglers can do to ensure the long term future of this exciting fishing resource.

Footnote, August 2014;

This series of reports was first published way back in 1998 when (now) Captain Damon Olsen of Nomad Sportsfishing fame, was a university engineering student, and an extremely talented (not to say passionate) young fisherman who not long after, said to his parents, "Dad, I don't want to spend my life building bridges . . ." and the rest, as they say, is history! Engineering's loss is the fishing world's gain, and as this series reveals, quite a few years later, the basic integrity and knowledge contained in this series reflects just how talented this young bloke was, on the subject that DID become his whole life and career . . . world class sport fishing!