

Trip report for trip 1013 June 28 July 5 2010

Boy have I been coping some grief over not keeping up to these trip reports, sorry guys and gals. Suitably chastised I am committed to getting the reports done and off to Gerry my webmaster in Thailand by the end of each and every trip. There lies part of the problem (and the excuse if you like which is what it is). No more excuses! Here I sit alongside the wharf at Seisia we docked about 20 minutes ago and we are taking on some extra water after a cracker of a trip.

Here-with fishing trip report for the west coast of Cape York for the trip with ol' mates, very good friends and clients Mike (Felty) Felton and Giam Swiegers (dressed by Deloitte) for the umpteenth time. 12th trip for Felty, also joining us was Giam's 3 sons, Neil, Morne and Jacques, and a wonderful family from Venezuela, Ernesto and Francine (the Barra Queen) and son Alberto living and studying film making in Australia.

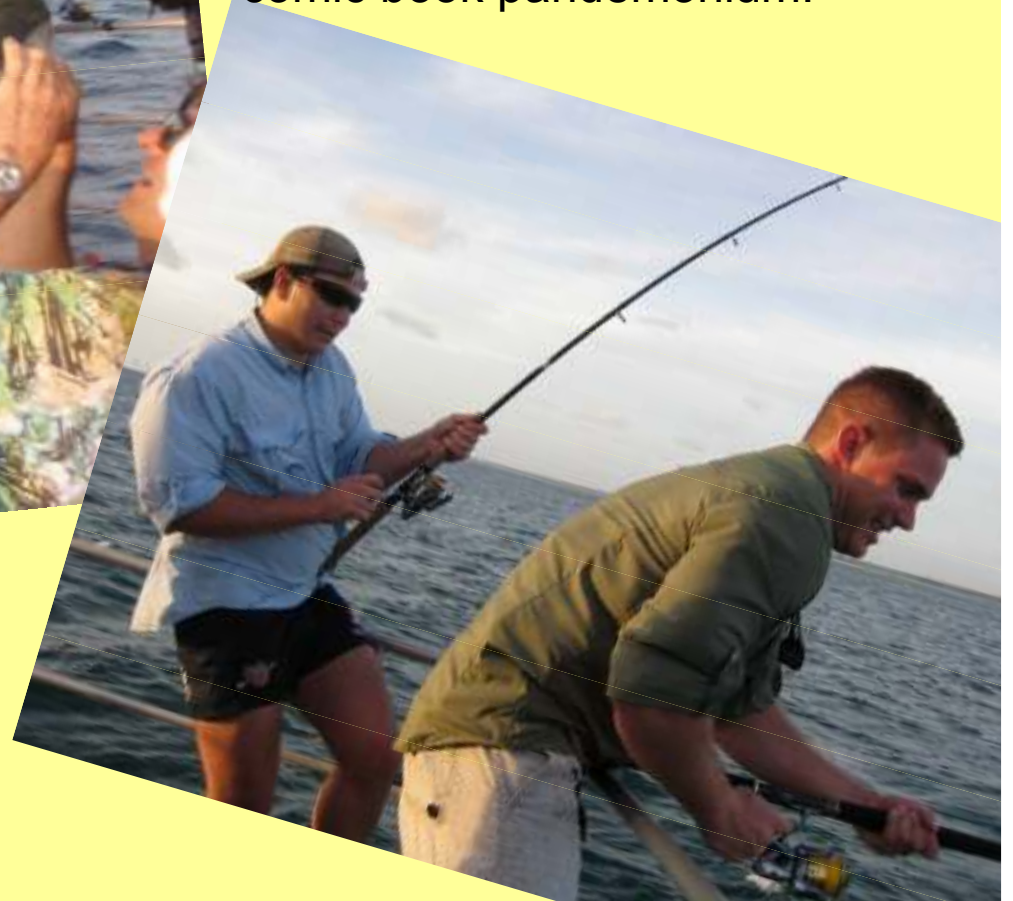
Wind was blowing but the sun shone for most of the week and the fish were more than on the chew.

If I don't do these reports as we steam back after the trip, the things that occupy my time between trips make it almost impossible to complete the report.

Something that we can almost every time rely on is some Tuna action on the way down the coast into the Gulf and this trip was no exception Schools were thick and wide and we all got some action in to get the trip off on the right foot.



One being photographed one in the net and another on in the background. Often this action on the bow is comic book pandemonium.



Hi folks Felty here!

Before I get cracking I would just like to make special mention of Giam's youngest Son Jacques. Giam has for a number of years been planning to get his 3 boys to join him on a trip and it was decided that 2010 was the year. Sadly however, Jacques was diagnosed with cancer in late December 09 and has been through a torrid time since with massive doses of chemo and multiple large operations with the last being only 4 weeks before the trip. Jacques you are an incredibly brave young bloke and I take my hat off to you mate. It was fantastic to have you with us and to see you catching so many fish and well on the road to recovery.

Well what a great trip we have had. Lots of fish, lots of laughs and the privilege of spending another week in this incredible part of the world. The Queenies were thick all week and on day three after spending a long day on the water catching heaps of fish I decided to pack it in a 5pm for a nice shower. No sooner was I toweling down in the room when I heard the dreaded call over the radio "Tropic Paradise, this is Al, we have some XOS Queenies busting in the mouth with multiple hook ups – where the hell is Felty and Neil?". I looked out the cabin window and could see the big distinctive arching sprays of multiple big Queenies going off. It took Neil and I about 5 minutes to get out there and thank heavens we did as we had a seriously hot bite for another hour or so catching 6 Queenies between us ranging between 14lbs and 18lbs – sensational fun!. As Greg and Al both say – what else does one want in a target species – ferocious feeders that willingly attack a surface popper or any offering and then delight with a series of spectacular leaps, no teeth to really speak of, and a fight that lasts long enough to challenge one but not enough to attract the attention of unwanted toothy critters that so often plunder our captures.

Yes, I would have to agree, big Queenies are right up there in terms of target species on my annual trip.

Unfortunately there is a groper in another river that is also quite partial to Queenies. We were catching a fish a cast off a snag and noticed the groper that had taken up a speculative position under the boat. I felt comfortable of being able to get the fish past the big fella as the fish were fairly small but I what I didn't count on was a larger specimen of Queenie latching on which is exactly what happened. I was so preoccupied trying to land the fish that I momentarily forgot about our hungry friend below. To my horror the beast literally inhaled my Queenie, instantly taking my rod load from 8lbs to 400lbs with the ferocity of the take turning my beloved 2 piece SAGE RPLXI #9 into a 5 piece – bummer! Neil was evidently quite amused at my misfortune and how abruptly things had ended – but I have to admit it was actually pretty funny. Back to you Greg – Felty out.



Thanks Feltmeisyter, I'm sure our good friend Pat at J.M. Gillies will see you straight with new sections for your Sage. The life time guarantee of the Sage product is hard to fault.



In the river mouth and up the river at a well known (to us) sacred site the Queens were on the chew and plentiful. Flies, poppers stick baits what ever you cast to them they love.



Francine Ernesto and Alberto caught 29 of the species available for a total of 249 fish for the week, as well as some nice Barramundi. Francine tangled with a couple of large specimens that unfortunately didn't make it to hand but provided some heart in mouth entertainment.

Very early in the trip she became labeled as the Barra Queen.



How big? You know the saying that the only time a fisherman is telling the truth is when he is calling another fisherman a liar.



One of the many tunas caught was this very sizeable specimen that was enjoyed on the beach in front of a fire we built, just for the hell of it.



“you’ll never get it going in this wind”... “don’t challenge me I’ll get it just watch” and sure enough he did, great fire, bush TV, everyone stares mesmerized at camp firers like people do at TVs in bars. A very enjoyable change to our usual upper deck sashimi hors de verves





Jacques worn out after a big days fishing afternoon napping in the saloon, wonder what he is dreaming about?

Big Dawg as his sons call him, Giam, last I saw of him was recently his photo in the Qantas in flight magazine, something about the top 10 CEOs of this country commenting on the recent economic climate. I quote him from day one this week steaming south into the Gulf and his brain still in gear as CEO of Deloitte Australia before finally relaxing to the pace of the fishing week.

“... to have survived the global financial crisis, the greatest economic turmoil our lifetime will see is a commendable effort” He also went on to say that he is seeing and hearing of lots of confidence for significant growth by the end of this year. Nice to hear same from a qualified opinion. Next trip another report I promise.