

REEL TALK

SCGFC CLUB MAGAZINE

JANUARY 2018

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Brent Higgins
0414 775 133
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welcome

Welcome to our latest SCGFC Reel Talk magazine and thank you to everyone who has contributed to this fantastic edition.

Everything is looking good for the club, another successful year ahead!

Memberships are tracking well, fish numbers are tracking well, All Ports was successful and our Classic is looming. Men, Women and Juniors are all contributing with fish and we just love seeing that!

Please be sure to keep on top of your activity books and tag cards, when things are going crazy on the water we all get a bit slack, but the time you take on the water to be accurate, saves lots of time for others later.

We wish you all the best for 2018 and the remainder of the season.

SCGFC Committee

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Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club Inc.
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events

JANUARY GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday 9th January
@ Kawana Waters Hotel

GARMIN LIGHT TACKLE MASTERS
Gold Coast Game Fish Club Inc.
18-21 January 2018

REDCLIFFE AUSTRALIA DAY BILLFISH TOURNAMENT
Redcliffe Gamefish Club
25-28 January 2018

SCGFC CLASSIC
February 1st-4th, 2018

RALLY DAY
April 25, 2018

president's report



A we enter into summer season the fishing is starting to hot up. Brent will cover this in his report but with fish from the Trench all the way to the Noosa Canyons, summer looks to be a cracker.

I know we have covered this off during monthly meeting but I wanted to congratulate all of our members on being Australia's leading tag and release club for the 16/17 season. We still have some commemorative shirts left so get onto Mark Crane for yours. Whilst on the 16/17 season, DPI Fisheries contacted Jay during the week to advise him Chaos had tagged the most Billfish in Australian Waters. Stella Effort with 20 Blue Marlin, 75 Black Marlin and 1 lonely Sailfish. I am not really into the hashtag scene but a good one would be **#leadfromthefront**

Unfortunately we did not get a good showing of boats to Round 1 of the SEQ Championships held at Mooloolaba. Redcliffe and Mooloolaba boats scooped the pool which leaves lots of work to do for the SCGFC if we are going to take this trophy home on Albert and Pauline's behalf at the QGFA Awards Night. There are three rounds left are the Redcliffe GFC Australia Day tournament, Back to Tanga's in March and the Gold Coast heavy Tackle in April. All of these dates are available on the different clubs websites/Facebook pages so pencil them in.

Whilst writing this email, the fishing is fantastic leading up to All Ports on the weekend before Christmas. It is also fantastic to see a number of people catching their first marlin as well, keep up the good work. If you are new to the club or unsure of setting up your boat, rigs or where to go please contact any of our members for assistance or Brent our Club Captain. The SCGFC has

always prided itself on helping everyone and sharing information, hence why we are Australia's No1. Let's keep this happening.

Committee wise everything is running smoothly with the focus on the February Classic. It doesn't take long after the Spring Shootout for us to all be working on the Feb Comp, the Christmas break dictates that everything has to be pretty much sorted in advance as Feb comes up really quickly. Barto has also been doing a stella job organising sponsors and the tournaments, I joke about he'll be doing it for ever but someone really needs to be the understudy. Why? Because this is the only chance you'll get to work alongside Batman, that's why.

Now is also the time to think about getting involved in your club. Every AGM anyone can nominate for the committee and if you have served for one year as committee you can take an executive role. In saying that, if you feel you do not want to jump straight to committee level then there are other options. Starting next year I want to run a Tournament Committee and Fishing Committee. These will be groups made up of willing members and current committee members to assist with the running of the tournaments and assist the Club Captain in regards to all things fishing, information at meetings, guest speakers etc. The purpose of this is to give interested people and understanding of what is involved and it starts a succession plan or sorts so the club evolves from year to year. Please give it some thought.

From Sarah, Tom, Wil, Abi and myself we hope you had a fantastic Christmas and New Year and thanks for being a part of the best club in Australia.

Crossy



club captain.

Well if you ain't fishing, you'd be wishing.

For those somehow off the grid we have just experienced one of the most productive Spring seasons you could wish for in SE Qld. As summer kicks in it's looking like the season could be one to remember.

Short of chasing giant Blue Marlin, Fraser produced A grade, world class fishing. I doubt few regions in the world could better the consistency that Aug-Nov produced, fish ranging from 150lb - 700lb with days on days of consistent bites 5, 10 even 15 a day. For so many of our members that made the journey, well done, it has set the season off to a cracker. Combine that with respectable number of little blacks and the occasional monster black (Kekoa missed a real one) Fraser Island really is something special.

But the news just keeps getting better, the Blues moved south and Noosa Canyons - Cape Moreton has produced excellent numbers in recent times, with some fun second year Blacks mixed in. At the same time the airways have been alive inshore with juvenile Blacks turning up widespread across the Sunshine Coast through to the Gold Coast. We look set for an exciting Jan - April if all prevails. And for some extra fun it's already been an excellent season for pelagic's, Mahi, Wahoo, Yellowfin and Cobia have been pretty thick.

Congrats to the club on a solid start to defending our 2016/17 title. To date the tag cards have been coming in thick, estimating we have tagged over a hundred already and cracked 50 Blues & Blacks already.

Bring on February I say - mark out these dates 1st - 4th for the Sunny Coast Classic. This lead in makes me confident the Classic could be a bumper, it's a long time since we've had this kind of lead in so we should aim for 35+ teams. Start planning now and lets make it a ripper.

Great to see some exposure for the members in the latest Bluewater magazine, our curiosity to learn and understand saw many of our experiences mentioned in Chris Fullilove's RipCharts story in the December edition. I'm sure with the season ahead it will continue to benefit our fishing and where we start the day. Thanks Chris for your support of SCGFC.

As I write we embark on the second last fishing weekend of 2017, and no better weekend to run All Ports. It's shaping up to be a festive weekend on the water with lost of enthusiastic teams, stay tuned for the results in the next edition.

For our newer members make sure you monitor our members Facebook page and Club Captain page. The sharing of information, tips, where there biting and celebration of successes is invaluable and quite often in real time. Truly one of the benefits of being part of Australia's #1 Tag and Release game fishing club.

Really looking forward to spending time on the water with you all over Summer and fishing the SEQ tournament scene about to kick off in the New Year.

Brent Higgins

Chaos

Most Billfish in Australian Waters.
20 Blues, 75 Blacks, 1 Sail



treasurer's report



Now that we are at the half way point of the season and with one very successful Tournament under our belt, the club finances are very solid with no notable exceptions during the year so far. **A reminder, all membership subscriptions for 2017/18 are due so please remember to pay these asap.**

Summary of Transactions for 1st July 2017 through to 15th December 2017:

All Income	\$67,644.85
All Expenditure	\$47,720.27
Net Operating Profit	\$19,924.58

Financial Members:

Financial Members: 185

Bank Balances:

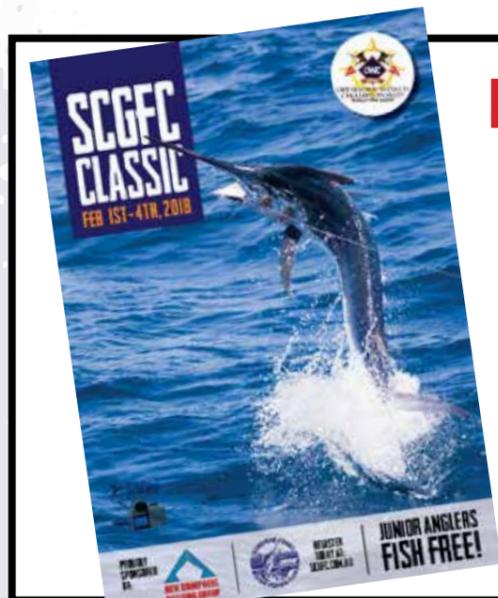
- Cheque Account: \$46,496.49
- Investment Account One: \$11,092.39
- Investment Account One: \$20,000.00

Total cash: \$77,588.88

Trade Debtors: Nil

Trade Creditors: Nil

Regards – **Craig McCulloch**



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OFFSHORE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

2017 was the year I was lucky enough to represent the Sunshine Coast Game Fishing Club at the Offshore World Championships (OWC) in Quepos, Costa Rica. The team consisted of Evan Jones, Neville Martens, Jim Greer and myself.

We met up in Los Angeles for the flights to San Jose, Costa Rica, Evan, Neville and myself, from a stopover in Las Vegas, and Jim after his leg from Australia. From San Jose, we had a mini bus transporter drive us across Costa Rica to Quepos on the 20th April.

First day in Costa Rica we had a rooster fish charter in panga boats. They are essentially 21 ft centre console with a single diesel engine. Neville and Evan fish together in one boat and Jim and I fished in another. The day started out chasing bait after which we slow trolled live baits behind the surf break. Mid-morning, we moved to some rock outcrops. The rock outcrops proving the goods with Neville and myself scoring a Roosterfish and Jim catching Jack Crevalle along with this we caught a heap of Needle fish which is essentially a Longtom.

Second day we headed north to the town of Los Suenos for our pre-fish on the boat, Who's Your Daddy, a 36 ft Topaz, the same as Chaos. Neville and I quiz them for information from the minute we got on the boat, till we hopped off trying to get as much information on the local fishing as we could. The day was tough and we only had 4 bites, Neville jumped off a little Marlin and we miss 2 Sailfish bites, before Jim stay connected to and landed our first Sailfish of the trip. Anyone who goes to Los Suenos marina will tell you that it is just Gameboat Porn. I would hate to guess the value of boats in that marina.

The following day was registration day for the OWC, boat draw, team photos and was followed by a welcoming dinner at night, and as usual in the tropics, plenty of drinks!

Day one started with the sail pass. Our boat for the day was Sunny 1, a 31 ft Maverick. We dropped selfish in the morning when it didn't get a solid hook up. After lunch we were lucky enough to get a good hook up on a Blue Marlin. I was on the rod and everything held together and we released our first fish of the tournament. Fighting a fish without a proper stand up harness is certainly challenging. With Marlin being 500 points as opposed to 200 for Sailfish, and with the lack of fish, our score for day one was up at the top end of the leader board.



Day 2 had an early start as we headed to the northern boundary on the 36 ft Cabo, Dream Maker. The day turned out to be a complete disaster with no fish and a breakdown in the middle of the day for half an hour. We did get a fishing extension but it didn't help. I don't believe it was anything the crew or boat did wrong, it was just one of those days. The free rum still tasted good at the mariner when we got in!

On day 3 we had our D grade boat, a 31 ft old Bertram, Cowboy. In the morning, we had a Marlin come up and have a look at a bait but failed to knock it out of the clip. After lunch, I hooked up to a Sailfish. Things held together and it was successfully released after the usual spectacular jumps. As seems to be the case over there, not long after Neville hooked up to a Sailfish as well. We also had another fish on the teaser while Neville was fighting his fish, but could not convince it to take a bait. Everything stayed tight for Neville and we successfully released our second Sail for the day. Not a bad day and had us moving up the ladder again.

Day 4 was our A grade boat, a 42 ft Maverick called Gun Smoke. It was a fantastic boat and one of the hardest working deckhands I've ever seen. I scored a Dolphin fish in the morning but it was 5lb short of the minimum 25lb weight for weighed fish, so it was turned into sashimi. Around mid-afternoon something popped the shotgun out of the clip before coming in and taking the long rigger. Evan was on strike and it all held together for him to get his first Sailfish of the tournament. We hardly had a gear reset when he was on again. Fish number 2 was quickly followed by a Sailfish number 3, for Evan.



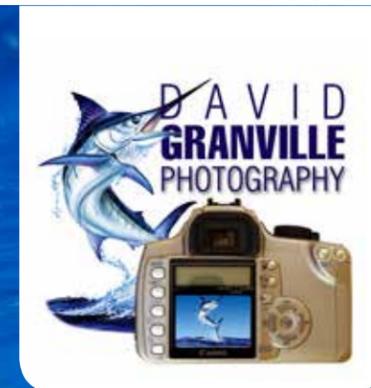
As had been the trend is you found one Sail there was a good chance of another. Unfortunately, that was the end of our days play and no more fish or strikes for the rest of the tournament.

At the end of the day we ended up 21st of 51 teams and as our best placed angler was 29th out of 256 angles. This was one of the best run tournaments I've ever fished in. Very professional as you would expect and certainly very social. Every afternoon we enjoyed the free rum and beer back on the dock and as you would expect from Aussies were usually last to leave. The presentation night was the following night on the Friday and was a sit-down dinner with entertainment of plenty of free drinks.

We enjoyed a lot of what Quepos had to offer including the bars and restaurants. People seem to be very friendly, and even though all the houses have bars on the windows and barbed wire on the on the fences we never felt threatened or unsafe in any way. The climate is extremely hot and as I had been warned very humid. Just another reason to drink more.

The fishing was quiet compared to previous years, the tournament only averaged a bit over 5 fish per team compared to over 40 fish per team 2 years ago. This leave some unfinished business for myself and rest of the team and just means we will have to go back there someday. I would highly recommend if anyone gets the opportunity to go and represent the club that they jump on it. Even though the fishing could have been better, the friendly people, and the atmosphere of the tournament out shone that. **PS we may have also had a bit of fun along the way!**

Lundy.



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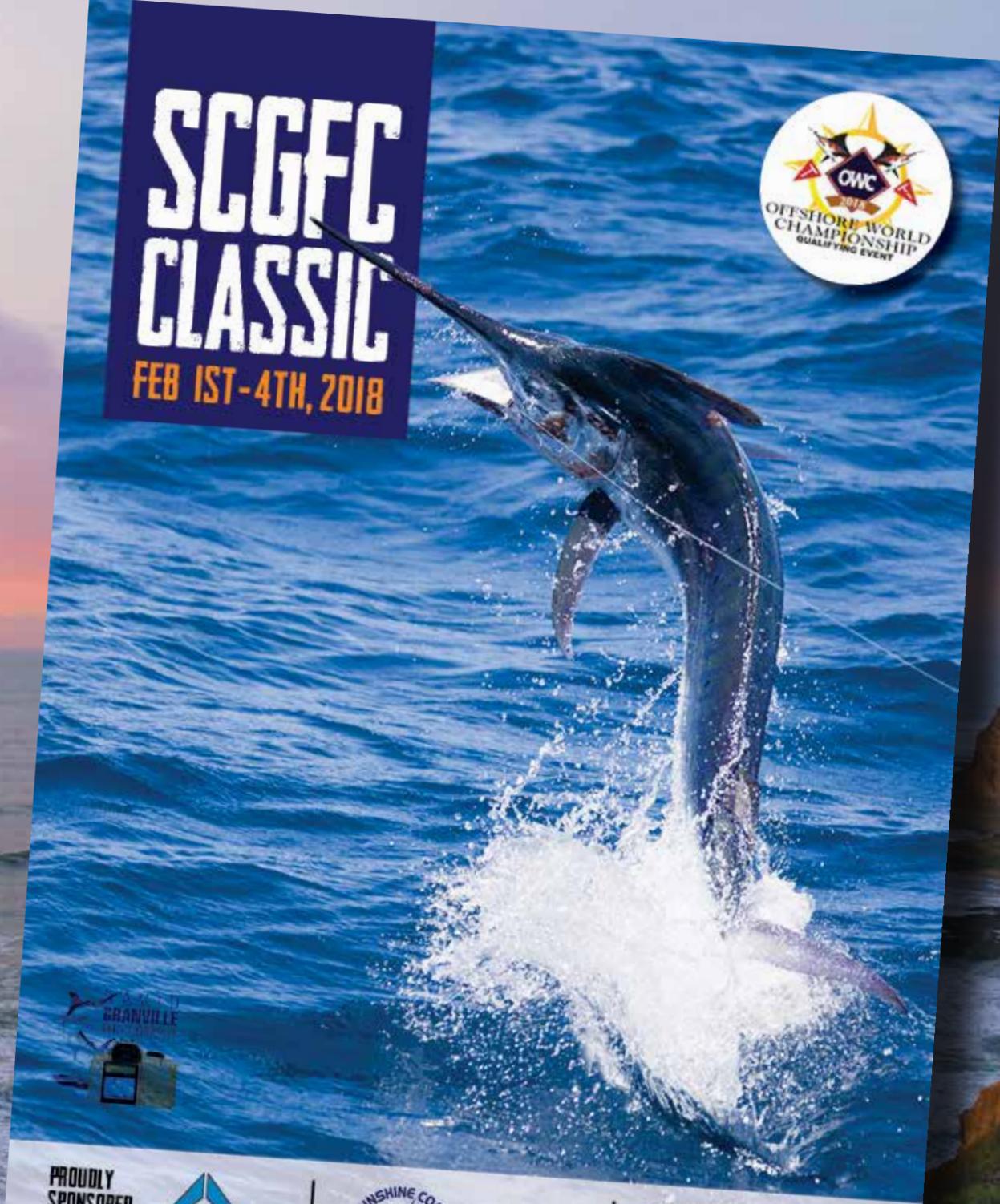
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CHARTER REPORT

- By Robert Smith

Snapper season came and went. I rate it as an ok season for the fish out wide with plenty of bag-outs but inshore was a real struggle. Caloundra connection associated with the Fenwicks seemed to do well early in the season in close but they died in the bum real quick. I had a tiny spurt into July but then it was totally dead on the close reefs. For some reason this past year I probably added over 20 new good marks to my GPS, probably more than the prior three or so years. I was fishing and hunting out very subtle stuff, 1-2m ledges and fish shows on flat ground instead of the big structure.

My October wasn't too bad which can be my worst month. The fish on jigs wanted to play on the Banks. That took me through to pulling the boat out for annual maintenance in November and doing Hervey Bay and Mooloolaba tournaments. I've found it a bit tough since going back in the water but the weather has not been the best either.

Looking ahead everyone was excited by the light tackle Cairns season and if it would translate here. So far it seems like the first wave of blacks have gone through but we have had no real bait to hold them or to work. The bait may well be out on the grounds from last year. I know of one boat to find it in 125m again but a bit further south of last season's bait.

The spotties and Spaniards have arrived in December which is great for me and anyone chasing a feed. There has been the odd mahi mahi but no FAD to hold them in close. With the stormy weather pre Christmas we have been having and a La Nina setup, it feels like a return to normal seasons which is a good thing. A drought on the land can be a drought at sea afterall!

The big news has been the blue marlin bite. They have been thick off Fraser Island but at the time of writing they may well have found their way down to Noosa Canyons. The Gold Coast has just gone dead so maybe the altimetry setup is going in our favour. One boat recently went 5 from 13. We had 6 bites on the Sunday of the Mooloolaba tournament tagging a stripe and jumping a second off and a trailer boat saw 7 in a day as well.

Let's hope some bait turns up and hangs local for us. The 8mile would be handy!

Smithy - Out!



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Karumba

WHERE THE OUTBACK MEETS THE SEA.



In April this year the Tompkins family moved away from the sunshine coast to the opposite end of the state, to the small coastal town of Karumba.

There is a population of around 600 permanent residence (at least half in the commercial fishing industry). And swells to around 2000 in the tourist season. It was an interesting move but one we have enjoyed so far.

Enough of the boring stuff. I know you want to hear about the fishing. They say a picture is worth a thousand words so I'll say it with pictures.



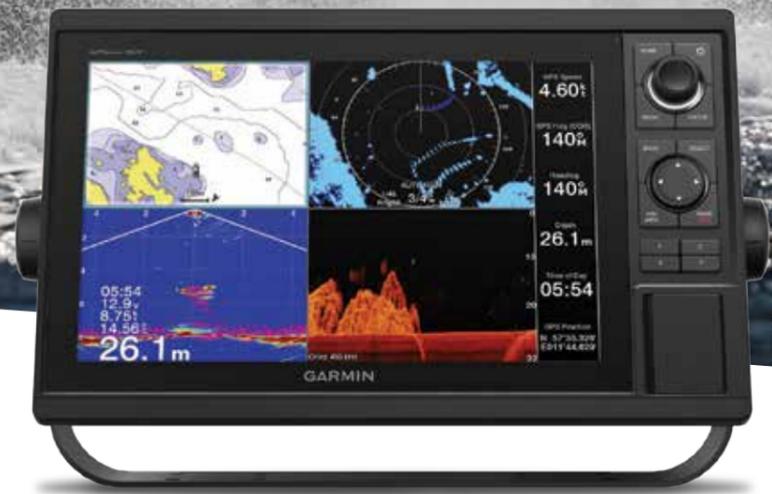
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SUNSHINE COAST GAME FISHING CLUB CLUB BOATS

For the next few issues we will run a few pages on the boats that make up this great club. So you know who is who when you see them on the road, ramp and water. These are the boats behind the names talking on the radio all day...

If you would like your boat featured here please send details to - red@redmandesigns.com.au



Sownami

Owner: Team Southwell
– Brett, Liz, Zac and Bridie
Build: Cruise Craft Outsider 625
Power: 200hp Evinrude e-tec



Endorfin

Owner: Hardus Laubscher
Build: Cobia 25ft
Power: Twin 150hp Yamaha 4 stroke

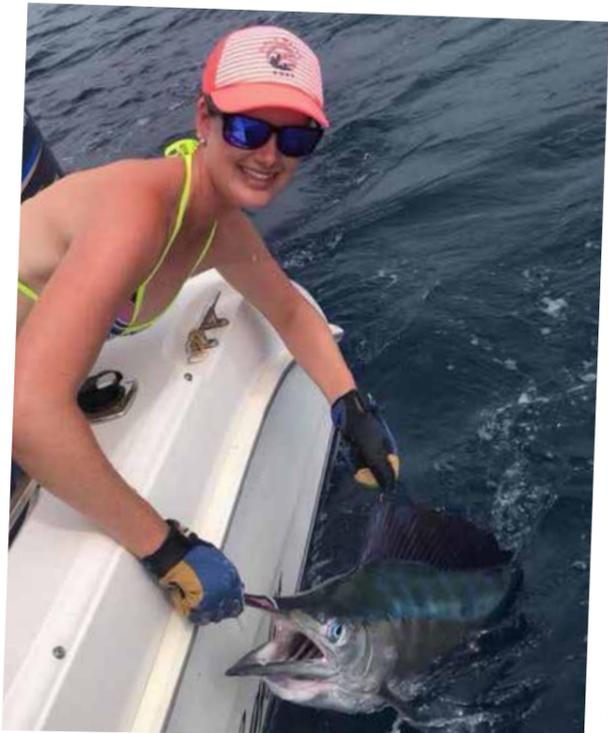


Raising Havoc

Owner: Daniel Barker
Build: Cruise Craft 575 Outsider
Power: 150hp Yamaha 4 stroke

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