

Gold Coast Canals

By Darryl Lund

The Club outing to the Gold Coast Canals targeting Bream and Jacks was poorly attended with only three boats attending, with 4 members and 2 visitors. We all hit the water around 4.30am, Bruce Moss heading up the Nerang, Steve Slobodzian and Myself heading to the mariners towards Sea World. For me this trip was about first, it was my first outing in my new boat, my first time targeting bream on plastics and first time fishing around mariners and pontoons with an electric.



It would be great to say it was a huge success but the reality was that it was hard work. I did manage to pull a bream around the 28cm mark after about ½ hour, which I thought might be the beginning of something (Sorry Jeremy I let it go without a photo). With no more touches in the next hour, we headed up the Nerang to try the pontoons. There was something chasing bait in the area, but we could get a decent strike. We did have a couple of bites on bass minnows but no hookups. We headed further up the river and stopped along the way to talk to Bruce. He had had no luck either and was starting a troll to look for a Jack. We persisted with the

plastics and tried a couple of rock wall. Although they looked fishy, we couldn't get a bite.

We change over to trolling for a while but it just didn't feel right. I made a decision to head down to the seaway. It gave me a chance to see how my boat handled. I was impressed and was cutting through chop with a breeze. I can't wait to get it offshore, it cruises beautifully at 20kn with 3 grand on the taco.

We run in to Steve in the Seaway, he had only caught a small finger mark around the pontoons so he had changed his attention to chasing a flathead. We started throwing plastics at the end of the North Wall. We had a couple of hits before I hooked Tailor. It is great fun catching choppers on 4 lb braid, even if they destroy your plastic.

The next two drifts past the end resulted in two Dart for me, my first on plastics. I am convinced that almost anything will eat them. Chris was getting a bit frustrated and suggested that it was his turn for a fish, and that turned out to be true as he added a Dart to his list of species caught on plastics.

A boat moved in and anchored in our drift so we decided to head back in to the Broadwater to target flathead. We did this until 10.30 when we pulled up stumps. It is absolutely mayhem in the Broadwater in summer and you need to keep a good lookout to avoid being run over by a jet ski or a 30 foot cruiser.

Although we didn't catch many fish we all enjoyed ourselves, and that what it is all



about. So why don't you join us on the next trip and see if you can catch a Marlin. I am sure there will be boats looking for a crew or people willing to show you how to catch one in your own boat. Check out last year's marlin trip on our web site if you need some inspiration

