

New moon heralds amazing winter fishing in the harbour

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GAPDL CEO

WE HAVE seen the breeze last weekend pick up from average winds to gale force as Tropical Cyclone Linda made its way past our region.

Now a tropical low, it is expected to bring large seas and awesome surfing conditions to the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast.

But today the wind and seas are abating resulting in the prediction that on Sunday seas could be less than half a metre and SE breezes below 10 knots.

Coupled with the new moon tonight, the fishing could be amazing.

This run of strong winds, however, hasn't prevented anglers from wetting a line.

There were some amazing catches over the weekend, especially in the harbour, with Darren Box and son Clayton heading out to target black jew using local squid.

As you can see from the two pics, the species in question wasn't caught but young Clayton came up with a 57cm *Lutjanus Johnii*, AKA fingermark, or if you are from up north, they call them golden snapper.

Clayton's father Darren landed this real nice chrome-looking barra, which

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went 102cm.

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Locally in the rivers and creeks, the barra have been very lively, inhaling anything from soft plastics, hard-bodied lure through to live and dead baits.

Seeing a solid fingermark caught in the harbour is a great sign of the quality of winter fishing we have ahead of us.

This sort of moon phase, even though it brings big tides, will certainly produce some amazing fishing with reds, trout and sweetlip.

The pelagics throughout the region are plentiful as well with some excellent spanish mackerel and cobia being caught.

The likes of the GTs and queenies are very sizeable too, with many flicking surface poppers across the reef flats as well as the inshore sand flats.

Large cobia are about and

often take a bait, which was destined for another species.

They will play dirty if you are near a structure such as a channel marker as I found out one day.

Old mate Jacko was at the helm on this particular day, spotted what was about to happen and shouted advice: "Daggy, get a hold of it mate before it takes you around..."

Ping - it was gone as the line wrapped around the Fairway marker!

There were a few other choice words, as you can imagine and I'm sure many of you have had the same thing happen.

These channel markers also hold a lot of bait that the schooling mackerel love.

To produce the goods, cast a pilly out with some gang hooks in it but the line unweighted.

Slowly retrieve after it has descended a metre or two.

Have a great weekend and don't forget to enter the Boyne Tannum HookUp at www.boynetannumhookup.com.au.

There is also a team section to enjoy a bit of camaraderie.

Check it out.

— Hooroo, Daz



SUPER CATCH: Clayton Box proudly holding up his fingermark.



Darren Box with his barra from Gladstone harbour.

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

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