

2024 NSWGFA Junior Team Fishing On Board Tantrum

I just had a weekend that will stick in my memory for a long time. I was fortunate enough to be selected by the NSWGFA to fish in the NSW Junior Game Fishing Team. This consisted of myself, Hunter Davies, Hugh Thomas and Isaac Moussa, a great bunch of guys with the same passion for fishing as me. We fished on board Tantrum in the Port Hacking 100 Tournament planning to have a fun weekend full of action, little did we know what we were in for. After settling into our rooms and having a quick tour of the boat meeting Glenn, Karen and Giles, we were all super excited for our next two days to come.

When we all woke up on the first day of the tournament we all quickly got up to get to the boat. When we left, we were all pumped and couldn't wait to get out and start fishing. It took around about 1-2 hours to get out but it only ended up feeling like 30 minutes to me. Once we got out it was time to start fishing, we put the rods out and the waiting game began. It didn't take long for us to hook up, Hugh grabbed the rod and started cranking, our hopes suddenly shot up, unfortunately it was an undersized Mahi Mahi but at least there was some action.

Then at eleven o' clock the rod went off again and Hunter grabbed it, but this time a massive Marlin had emerged from the water. We were quick to try and chase it but on 15kg it was hard to stop, it started going straight down taking metres of line in a matter of seconds. That's when we realised that this was not going to be any easy fight. He went hard on the fish but no matter what we did it wouldn't come up. He was getting tired after a long and gruelling battle that had lasted 6 hours at the time when Hunter gained a second burst of energy where he managed to get it to the trace. Giles grabbed it and pulled the fish closer then Isaac tagged it, then after a few attempts we put the gaffs into the fish and pulled it into the boat.

To experience a fish like that is an amazing feeling and I can definitely say that I was buzzing with excitement. After a long day we headed back to the marina where we weighed the Blue Marlin, it ended up weighing 174.5kg. After such a big day we couldn't have asked for a better start to the tournament.

After the first day we were all exhausted and got a good night's sleep to prepare for the next day to come. We headed out at the same time as yesterday and put the rods out. It didn't take long to find a fish, but unfortunately the hooks didn't stick and it got away. It was a slow day as we didn't have much action after the first hook up, but suddenly one of the rods took off, again the hooks didn't stick, then the rod on the left takes off and then another rod screams off, we had a pack attack but were not fortunate enough to set the hooks and they all got away. No more action for the rest of the day, it was a pretty slow afternoon, so we headed in. We cleaned up and went to the Presentation, taking out Champion Junior Capture, Champion Boat Capture and Heaviest Marlin over 150kg on a Tantrum lure to finish the weekend.

I couldn't have asked for a better experience and would like to say a huge thank you to everyone involved, Grahame Williams who helped arrange this event, Karen, Glenn and Giles who welcomed us on board Tantrum and to the juniors who I fished with.

I can definitely say that I will be remembering this for a very long time and will always be grateful for being able to experience something like this and to make some great mates that share the same interests that I have for fishing.

Regards
Taj Mossman