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North Australian

FISH FINDER



EXTRA
BARRAMUNDI
AUSTRALIAN
FISHING

SEVENTH
EDITION

Make your northern sportfishing adventures today!

THE HOTSPOTS
WARRAMUNDI WA
ACROSS THE
PIRRAH & NYMBERLEY
NT & QLD
NORTHERN NSW



WHAT'S NEW

- **WARRAMUNDI WA** - all the best spots
- **PIRRAH & NYMBERLEY** - the best spots
- **NT & QLD** - the best spots
- **NORTHERN NSW** - the best spots
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- **NORTHERN NSW** - the best spots



WIN SHIMANO GEAR



BEST barramundi guides & reef charters includes:
chart extracts · aerial photos · methods maps · GPS data

queenfish, trevally,
mackerel, sharks approx
10 54.670S
142 12.614E

Hotspots

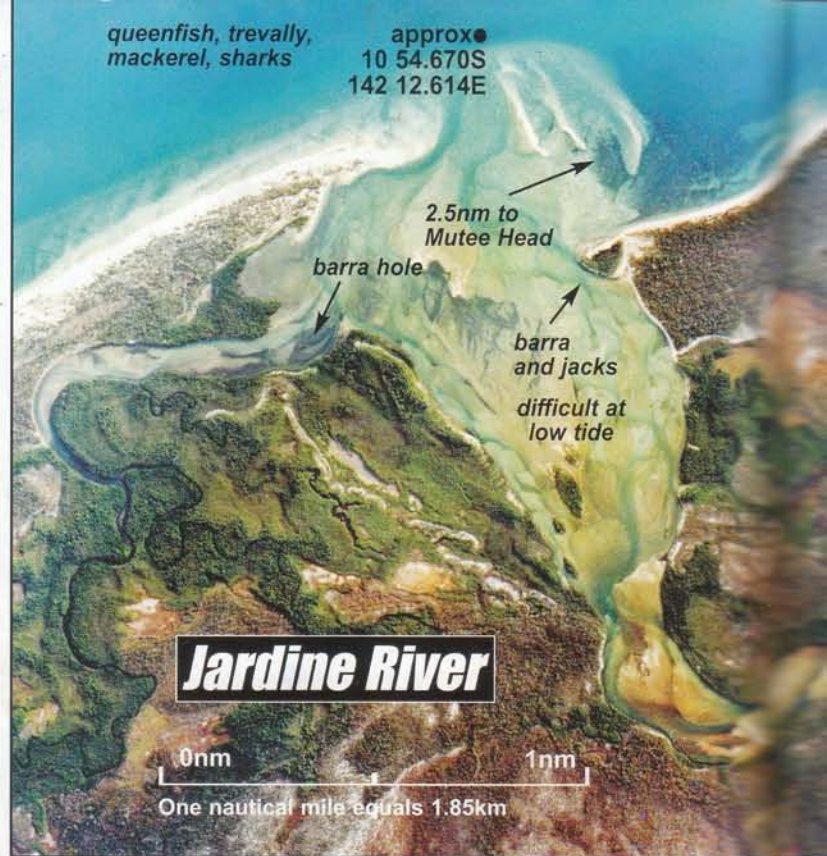
1. Quoin Islet: great spot on the runout tide for queenfish, trevally, tuna and mackerel.
2. A brilliant fish producer. Fish the bay from the Captain Cook Monument down. Look for birds feeding over bait. Use chrome lures and poppers for surface action. All pelagic species, best fishing in September to December.
3. Mutee Head south to Jardine: jewfish near heads; queenfish, trevally along current lines in summer with big macks and tuna in winter. Big sharks are unusually abundant at times.
4. Jardine River: live bait holes at mouth for barra, salmon, queenfish.
5. Woody Wallis and Red Wallis Island: giant trevally, queenfish, mackerel, sailfish, coral trout, tuna. The islands offer little protection, so fish in good weather.
6. Crab Island: queenfish, trevally, salmon, mackerel. A turtle rookery.
7. Crystal Creek (also called Number 1): see page 201.
8. River Number 2: as for Crystal Creek.
9. Vrilya Point: track is off main road south of Jardine ferry. Travel up beach by 4WD to River Number 2. See previous pages.
10. Seisia jetty and nearby islands: jetty is still one of the great fishing spots on the Cape. Many species caught here, including barra. Sardines

Key to Map

- can be caught with a cast net or jig in large numbers. Be prepared, with heavy line and a drop gaff. Islets behind Red Island and Parau Island are all worth a fish and are easily reached from Seisia by boat.
11. Two small creeks hold salmon, barra. Best just before wet season.
 12. Jetty holds large school of sardines (herrings). Queenfish, trevally and mackerel.
 13. Long shallow ledge on north side of Friday Island has sweetlip, parrot, trout.
 14. Coral trout on lures along reef drop-offs. Mixing currents and steep reefs - take care.
 15. At the front of Peak Point locate the deep hole in the area which goes from 10m to 25m deep and extends for about 70m. Golden snapper, jewfish and sweetlip (best April/May) and mackerel and queenfish. Pressure waves and currents here at times.

Launch sites

1. Ramp near Seisia jetty useable most tides.
2. Mutee Head and Jardine River, sandy bank launches, tyre deflation required.
3. Vrilya Point beach launch, drive north along beach to Number 2 for sand creek launch into deep channel.



Driving to the tip of Cape York Peninsula is something most outdoor-minded Australians want to do at some time. But keep in mind that you can simply fly in to Bamaga Airport and then fish with a local guide. This is wild country, and the sight of stingrays, sharks and fish fleeing from your boat as you race across the flats is memorable.

Bamaga: Bamaga is the main centre at the Tip. It is closest to the Jackey Jackey launch site on Fishbone Creek. But most people choose to stay at Punsand Bay or Seisia, next to the sea. Seisia has a campground and a jetty that is a hot fishing spot in itself. Punsand Bay resort has beachfront camp sites ... and a great Saturday night seafood buffet.

Seisia: The jetty at Seisia offers good fishing because it is a prominent structure in a primarily sandy channel between Red Island and the mainland. The pylons hold schools of herring and these in turn attract big queenfish, trevally, mackerel and barracuda. Other catches include barra, cod, wolf herring, giant herring and squid. The dry season months are a prime time but it can be crowded. Use live bait.

Jardine River: The Jardine River mouth is 10 nautical miles by water from Seisia, or by sandy 4WD track from Mutee Head. This sandy river flows constant freshwater, even late in the dry season. However it is shallow from the mouth upstream and access is only easy at mid-tide up. Barramundi can usually be caught in the lower reaches, with live bait dropped into the deeper holes the best method. There is a deep hole at the mouth of the arm to the west of the river mouth that holds barra. Large trevally and queenfish frequent the mouth and can be caught casting lures. Upstream, the Jardine's freshwater reaches hold barra, saratoga and sooty grunter. Cast to snags along the bank. Barra fishing is best just before and after

The Tip

the wet season. In cold weather trevally, queenfish and salmon action in the lower reaches usually makes up for the slower barra. The area near Mutee Head was a famous jewfish congregation area, but has suffered badly from overfishing.

Coastal Reefs: There are numerous



coastal reefs near Seisia. In calm weather the 20 nautical mile trip west to Red and Woody Wallis islands is the best offshore option. These rocky outcrops hold mackerel and barracuda, as well as endless shoals of trevally, plus coral trout and various emperor. Troll past the rocks, or if it is calm get in close and cast lures. If the wind is blowing it is safer and more comfortable to head the eight nautical miles north to Quoin Islet, taking into the account the shallow areas when navigating. Here there are mackerel, trevally and queenfish. Look for feeding birds.

Torres Strait Islands: The trip across Endeavour Strait should only be made during good weather and on neap tides. Fishermen must have enough time to be able to delay their return trip if the weather turns bad. There are reefs in this area that rise straight up out of deep water, and the pressure-waves caused by currents pushing between the reefs and islands can be eye-opening. A favourite pastime is to throw lures over coral and watch coral trout chase them. Thursday Island is the main centre in the group, with hotels, accommodation and charters. Thursday and Horn Islands have jetties that hold fish, while two small creeks on Horn Island (see map) offer reasonable fishing.

Other Areas: The first estuary south of the Jardine is dubbed Number One. The next is called Number Two. These are about 25 nautical miles south of the Jardine mouth. They are deeper at the entrance than the Jardine but do not have the same big freshwater flow. Number Two has trevally and queenfish in its deep-water entrance. Number Two has a popular camping area that can be reached by 4WD from Vrilya Point (see next page). Rather than take the long return trip by sea from Seisia it is easier to bank launch here. This area is relatively protected from s-e winds.

The Tip: The northern tip of Australia, Cape York, can be reached by road, and a short walk. The area around the tip includes exciting deep drop-offs and reefs. Coral trout and golden snapper are common along the edges. Pelagic fish are often seen feeding just off the rocks off the cape and in the channel between Cape York and Eborac Island. There are some good land-based spots and a rough beach launch off the track into Somerset. To the south is the prolific and more sheltered, Jackey Jackey system where a new track and boat launch into the Escape River was mooted at the time of publication.

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the locals at www.fishingterritory.com

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A closed area exists from Turtle Head, Hammond Island, to Hammond Rock, to 1nm east of Menmuir Point, Hammond Island; to the northern tip of Kapuda Island; to Bruce Point, Hammond Island; and along the eastern shore of Hammond Island to Turtle Head.



Seisia/Bamaga

Thursday Island

Jardine River



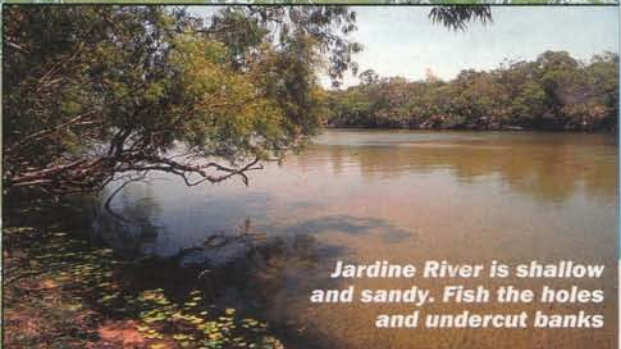
Regulations
No fishing permitted in the Jardine River above the crossing or within Jardine River National Park (east of Telegraph Road).

An \$88 ferry fee is payable to cross the Jardine River (\$11 extra for a trailer), which also provides for camping in some areas. Diesel and unleaded fuel is usually available at bowlers near the ferry. Call the ferry office on 07 4069 1369 for the latest information.

The Jardine River flows large quantities of fresh water all year but towards the mouth is difficult to negotiate at low tide.



Seisia wharf
Picture: MATT FLYNN



Jardine River is shallow and sandy. Fish the holes and undercut banks

The area from Peak Point to the Jardine River offers semi-sheltered waters thanks to protection from the many islands of Torres Strait. That's not to say it doesn't get rough, and there are bombores, sandflats and currents around the islands, but the area is reasonably safe for trailer boats. In 2007 it's still a hard slog to reach the top and a relief to finish the corrugations and settle down to fishing. There are alternatives to driving. Visitors can fly in and take a mothership, or have their car ferried to Weipa or Seisia from Karumba. Motherships such as Carpentaria Seafaris work the peninsula coast from Seisia, anchoring in river mouths along the way. This is the ideal way to experience Cape York Peninsula fishing. The wet season can be an excellent time to fish, especially for barramundi, but it is not possible to travel the cape by road at this time. During the Wet, visitors must fly in or take the ferry. If you want to drive in during the dry season, the choice of taking the easier Bypass Road to the tip or following the Old Telegraph Road and tackling the creek crossings is a personal decision. Some motorists enjoy the challenge of the Old Telegraph Road. As long as a 4WD vehicle has high-clearance and it is not too early in the year after the wet

Sheltered seas at The Tip

season there should be no problems. Always call ahead first to check conditions on the Old Telegraph Road. Some years, for example, the famous Gunshot Creek crossing is easy, while other years it is very difficult. From a fishing perspective, self-drive fishermen should travel to the tip in September-October. This is a good time to fish, especially as it warms - the creek crossings are low or dry and most of the winter crowds have left. The weeks immediately following the wet season (usually about April) are good for billabong fishing, but road access can be difficult over crossings and boggy sections, depending on rainfall. Near The Tip, Punsand Bay lodge puts on a seafood buffet each week, and offers has surprisingly good fishing along the beach. Seisia has camping resorts such as Loyalty Beach and a small but productive jetty. Seisia boat ramp opens the way to the many islands of the strait where reef and pelagic fishing can be excellent along the reefs.



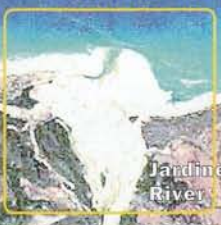
NEW MAP!

Golden snapper, barramundi, queenfish, trevally and salmon are caught along the foreshore at high tide - use livebait as the fish can be shy. Check the bottom at low tide and look for areas of rough bottom, then fish there at high tide. Beware of crocodiles.



Fishing the northern tip of Australia

AERIAL PHOTO PAGE 202



Jardine River

catch yourself in CAPE YORK



Barramundi, Saratoga, Mangrove Jack, Fingermark, Mackerel, Tuna, Trevally... You'll find them all in the diverse fisheries of Qld's last frontier - Cape York

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Cape York

Somerset

0nm 196 5nm
One nautical mile equals 1.85km

TILSAM
TIMBER LURES



Punsand Bay (lodge)

Punsand Bay is a private lodge with camping, accommodation and tours. Boats can be launched from the beach

Kennedy Inlet is best reached from the boat ramp on Fishbone Creek behind Bamaga Airport. See Jackey Jackey map for details.

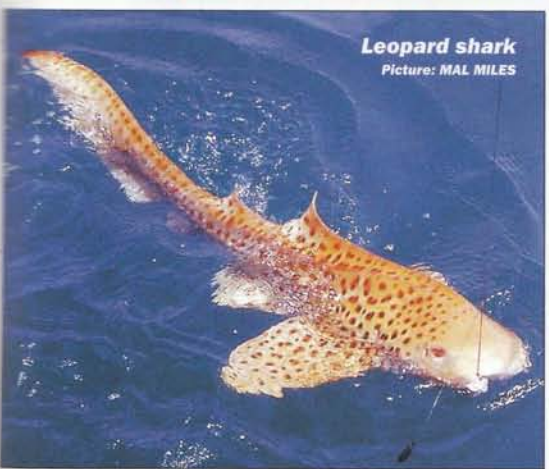
AERIAL PHOTO SEE PAGES 206-207

Cape York

The reefs in this area provide good fishing, but are exposed to south-east winds during the dry season. Consequently they do not get to see steady amateur fishing pressure. Most fishing in this area takes place within Kennedy Inlet and the Jackey Jackey creek system, which provides shelter. Small boats can be launched from the beach near Somerset but the track in is rough. It is about 20 nautical miles from the Jackey Jackey launch site to Harrington Reef. Most bottom fish can be caught on the reefs. Inshore, queenfish and giant trevally are common, with mackerel best in the winter months (June to September). Barracuda, cobia, golden and tricky snapper, scarlet sea perch and giant herring are other regular catches.

Key to Map

- Hotspots**
1. Mid Rock: (10 40.587S 142 35.869E) trevally, mackerel, queenfish. Calm weather only.
 2. Troll around Cape and Eborac Islands for pelagic fish: Look for birds working. Reef fish on drop-offs. Hole on east side of Eborac fishes well for golden snapper, jewfish and scarlet sea perch.
 3. Alpha Rock (10 36.690S 142 30.955E) troll deep lures for big trevally, mackerel, cobia. Good reef fishing in deeper water.
 4. Quetta Rock (10 40.208S 142 37.814E). Good pelagic fishing.
 5. Fish from shore at Fly Point for queenfish, trevally, mackerel.
 6. Albany Rock: troll for big pelagic fish in calm weather.
 7. Sana Rock: cast at the bommie for all pelagic fish.
- Wrecks**
- A. Wreck, reef fish, approx, 10 38.989S, 142 30.531E, 16m.
 - B. Wreck, historic site, approx 10 39.858S, 142 37.450E, 8m.
- Launch sites**
1. Beach launch at Punsand Bay. 2. Beach launch near Somerset. Also ramps at Seisia and Jackey Jackey's Fishbone Creek.



Leopard shark
Picture: MAL MILES

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