



Kino Bay.... A Fishing Village

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Reporting Period: January 23 to February 24, 2017

Note: Missing dates normally mean that the wind contributed to boats not going out to fish.

If you can send me any fishing news or pictures, please send to me at: lyncurt0@gmail.com

01/23 Calm seas returned on a clear day but the fishing continued to be slow for most. **SAND DOLLAR** landed one yellowtail and lost two more deep jigging/fast retrieve in the Turner area, along with a few bottom fish. **NIGHT WINGS** fished from shore again at Christmas Tree but only caught small rockies and bonefish/machete types. We did see some Brant geese and loons however.

01/25 Heard a third party report about **IF AND WHEN** catching 12 yellowtail at Turner Island.

02/01 A number of boats went out but not many fish reported. **PERRYDIZE** got one yellowtail and 10 goldies at Turner. **DAKOTA** reported one yellowtail and bottom fish at Turner. **SAND DOLLAR** fished over reef at the south end of Turner for limits of yellowtail, all caught deep jigging/fast retrieving.

02/02-04 A number of boats went out to Turner but few fish were reported and even the bottom fishing has been slow. Another third party report came in for **NORTHERNER** catching limits of yellowtail at Dead Man and Turner, again deep jigging/fast retrieving working best.

02/10 **SHARIA** got two nice white sea bass south of Turner.

02/11 **DAKOTA** caught three yellowtail at Dead Man trolling and one jigging in addition to losing some really big ones while jigging. **SAND DOLLAR** landed 7 yellowtail and lost three more jigging in 120 to 155 feet of water at the same location. **PERRYDIZE** fished San Pedro Matir for one yellowtail and bottom fish.

02/20 **ESCAPE** trolled at Isla San Pedro for limits of nice yellowtail,

NOTE: As sea surface temperatures dropped below 60 degrees F in the Turner area, trolling catches dropped significantly. It may be that the cooler temperatures has driven the bait fish out or deeper, and the yellowtail along with them. During this time, fishermen who "jigged", AKA deep jigged or fast retrieved, had better catches, so it would be worth trying if the trolling is not working for you. Since my wife and I prefer fishing this way, here are some suggestions for those not familiar with this technique. If you already know all of this feel free to ignore.

RODS: either a 6-6.5 footer with good action, or a shorter "jigstick" such as the Ugly Stick Rhino "Jig Sticks" work well, but one of my favorites is a Seeker Black Steel with rated to 80lb is important to horse the yellowtail or white sea bass away from the bottom, where they are often found. Calstar, Shimano, Penn and Daiwa all make excellent ones.

LINE: Mono or braid with a top shot of mono of fluorocarbon are great as long as it is a premium brand. We use 50lb test since we are fishing so deep that visibility isn't as important and again, stopping the "run" to the bottom is critical. The same is true if using braid but I have heard braid is more susceptible to abrasion on bottom rocks (but I do not have any scientific data to support this).

Don't forget to use fresh line and change after a hard day fighting yellowtail or sea bass..

REELS: Any good quality high speed reel (5+ to 1 retrieve ratio at least). You cannot out run a yellowtail retrieving! There are a lot of good reels in the 3/0 size but a lot of sizes will work. Diawa, Shimano and Penn are good brands., just get as fast a retrieve speed as you can afford.

LURES: There are two major categories:

- the old "candy bar" types with a treble hook on the back end, such as Salas, Tady, and Sumo, are classics, in sizes from 3 to 7 ounces, depending on depths fished and currents speeds. Greater depth and faster currents (drift) require heavier jigs to get to the bottom quickly and efficiently.

- the newer "free style" or knife jigs which are sleeker and drop quickly, with less resistance and use single hooks with braid and rings for attaching. Shimano "Butterfly" types, "free styles" and knife jigs from 90 to 400 grams or more.

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The key is to get the lure to the bottom without putting out a lot of line at a large angle. Optimum is straight down so that the fish cannot pick up any slack if it swims towards you.

Colors: blue and white, "scrambled egg" (yellow and white), chrome or chrome and blue, and "dorado" (green or blue, yellow and white). In "free styles" the sardine, blue and white, pink and white are all good. Any of these variations in the mackerel pattern are also good, especially blue mackerel and "angry squid". Finally, many use chrome "diamond jigs" with great success for yellowtail or white sea bass. For the latter, it is important to be jigging between the bottom and 15 to 20 feet of the bottom. Using a piece of squid bait helps a lot also, but does attract other bottom feeders.

LOCATIONS: Finding 'structure' is critical, meaning reefs, sea mounts, rocky bottoms all attract yellowtail, as well as bonito, and to some extent, sea bass. I usually hunt for yellowtail while cruising around at trolling speed observing the fish finder to look for fish marks or bait schools. The best chance of finding the yellowtail is watching for decent sized marks suspended up off the bottom, especially if near a bait ball or school. The range in depths from 40 to 400 feet. Just be aware that jigging down deeper than 250 feet means a long tough battle with a determined yellowtail or a long haul to the boat jigging or fast retrieving. Another important thing to observe is the current speed and direction of drift. The fish often hang out on the "down" current side of some structure, such as a reef or large rock. On the other hand you need to keep aware of the changing depth as the drift moves you into deep water, away from the fish, or into shallower water where you might hang up on a rock or the bottom.

JIGGING STYLE: Simply put, there are two different styles of jigging and both seem to work equally overall. Sometimes one works better than the other, so try both or combine. In both, either drop the jig straight down in free spool, but under control, or cast out from the boat and allow the jig to sink. In any case, keep control of the free spool to avoid a backlash or detect a sudden surprise strike on the down drop. If the line suddenly starts to peel off rapidly, engage the gear and strike hard.

In a basic "fast retrieve":

1. As soon as the lure hits bottom, reel in a few turns to get it off the bottom.
2. Deliver three sharp "jigs" by rapidly lifting the rod tip as high as you can and allowing the lure to settle again. This may be done as many times as you wish, the idea being to attract the attention of any fish in the area and trigger a strike.
3. then proceed to reel in the lure as fast as you can wind all of the way to the surface. Sometimes it is a good idea to stop half way up and repeat the process again. In any case, watch for your lure as it approaches the surface so that you do not fast-retrieve it right into the side of the boat or your neighbor as it flies free of the water. Both cases are usually frowned upon.

The other techniques begins with the same steps 1 and 2 above but the retrieve is very different.

1. While reeling in as fast as possible give sudden upward swings and drops of the rod tip all of the way up, almost like you are repeatedly striking. This produces a radical jerking and dropping motion that really attracts fish.

There are many videos on the internet demonstrating a variety of examples of this. But it is very tiring work so being in shape helps. Fishermen from New Zealand and the western Pacific really use this to an extreme. Here is one site explaining more than I do here (<http://www.bayofislandsfishing.com/bay-of-islands-fishing-charters/mechanical-jigging.htm>).

There are many variations on these techniques and even Lynne and I do it a little differently. You will also see jiggers using longer, slower upsweeps and then allowing the lure to sink again, trying to stay near the bottom while making a drift over a reef or stretch of bottom. This is especially true when fishing for white sea bass. Although this is a more demanding style of fishing it can be very rewarding since you actually hunt for the fish on your sonar, then try to plan your drift to drop on the suspected prey, and then enjoy the rush of

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Thank you to all of you who attended the Annual General Membership meeting. The recommended By-Law amendments to articles **VII**, MEMBERS, and **XII B**, ADMINISTRATION, were approved. Congratulations to our newly elected Board members and returning Board. I look forward to working together as a team and sharing ideas.

Your Officers and Directors for 2017/2018 are:

President

Francine Bailey (1 year left in term)

1st Vice President

Tom Vala, (2 year term)

2nd Vice President

Brent Henderson (1 year left in term)

Treasurer

Joan Fairweather (2 year term)

Secretary

Maggy Becker (1 year left in term)

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Meals report

- On March 26 will be a Biscuits, Sausage & Gravy Breakfast organized by Bill & Anne Stern and sponsored by Lynette & Barry Bennington and Sandy & Don Dalton.

A plea from the director

I hope the all the members of the club will support our meals, and the volunteers who prepare the meals. Be sure to express your appreciation for the work the volunteers do, **if it is not a rewarding job, people will not volunteer**. The revenue from meals is one of the major ways our club is financed, but it is also a lot of work. Please realize that we are all volunteers, not professionals, and that all of us are here in Kino to have a good time, but are also willing to work for the club.

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feeling the actual take of the lure as it tries to drag your line into the rocky bottom. You have to be ready for the bite and be determined to turn the fish before they "rock" you after they nearly rip your arms out. For that reason, we really tighten the drag down to near maximum and use fresh 50 pound test, minimum.

Below are examples of popular jigging reels with two Shimanos on the left and three Daiwas on the right, with retrieve ratios from 6.2 - 7.2 to 1. The jigs are Tady and Salas on the left and "free style", "butterfly", and knife on the right.

