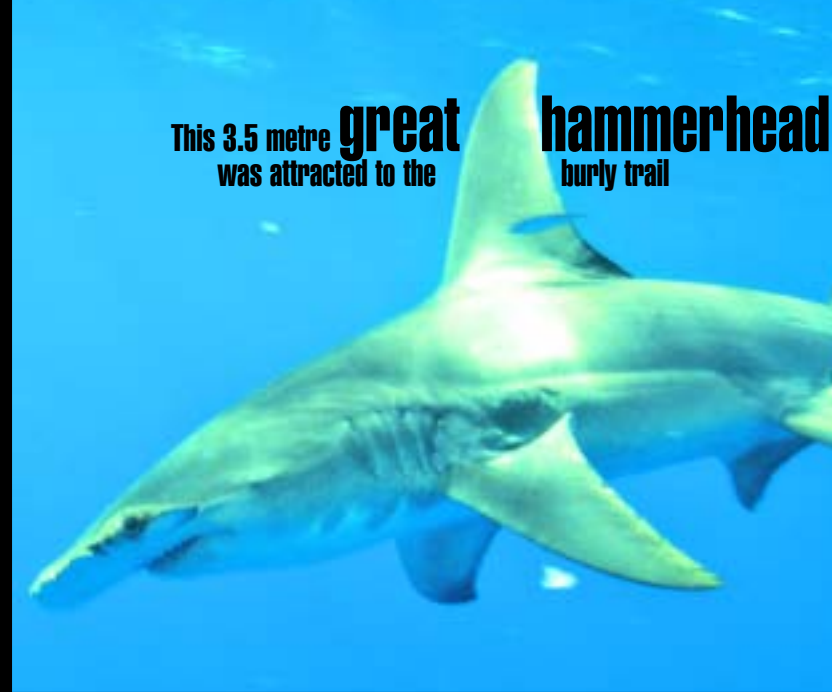




Winners are grinners, South African mates Zac and Daryl celebrate **Marion Reef** trophies



This 3.5 metre **great hammerhead** was attracted to the **burly trail**



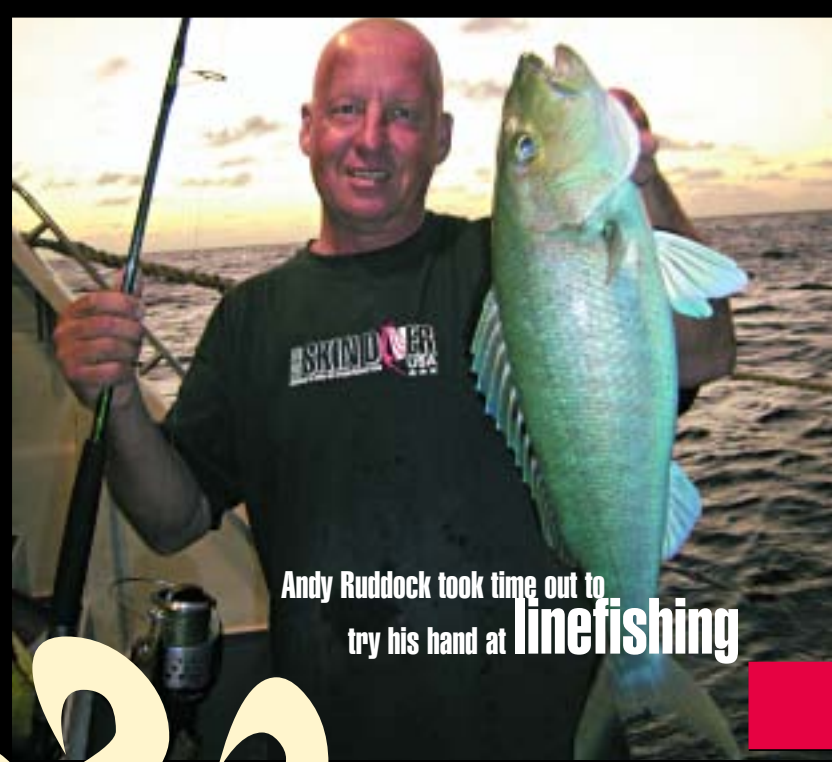
The magnificent **Norkat 11** on anchor at Marion Reef



Daryl Balfour fighting a **dog tooth tuna**



The boys with a morning's catch of **both yellowfin and dog tooth!**



Andy Ruddock took time out to try his hand at **linefishing**



Chris Lopez first ever shot of his Riffe Blue Water **giant trevally** resulted in this big



Dwayne Williams with a **PB coral trout**

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SEA



Curious **booby bird** watching the dives below

Nick Lopez with an average **green jobfish**

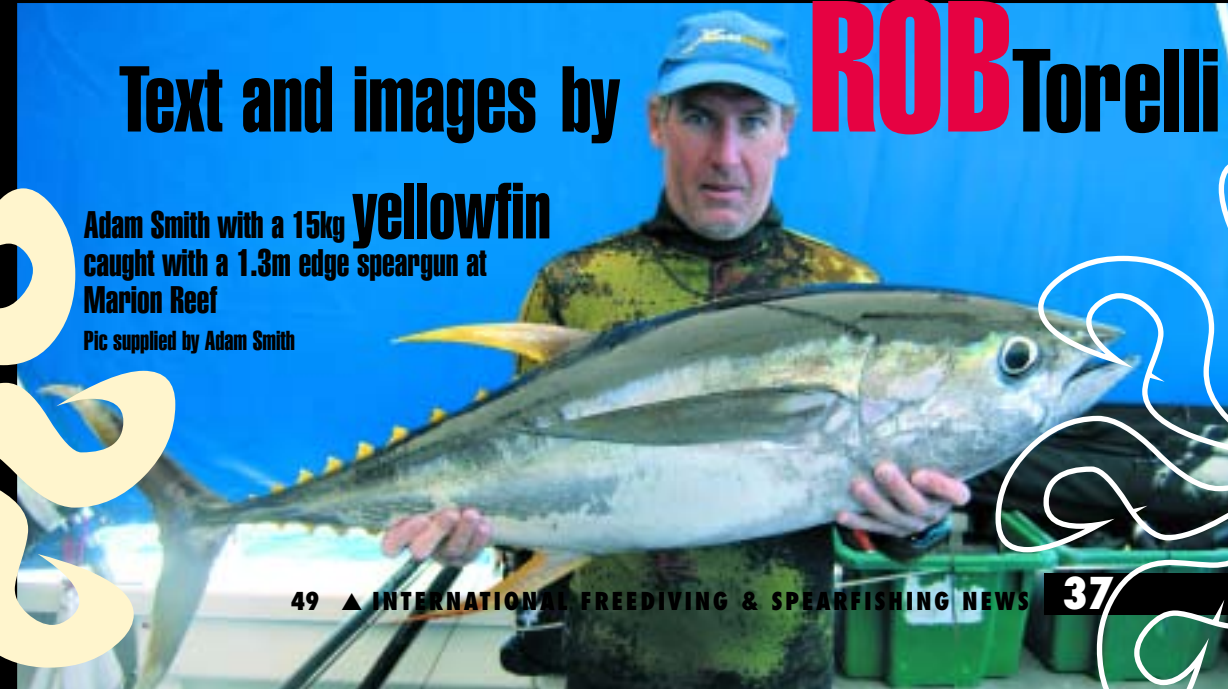
Marion Reef in the Coral Sea is one of the most exciting and challenging places to go Blue Water Spearfishing. I first visited this remote area in 1996 and it has taken me 10 years to return.

Not much had changed; the water was still crystal clear and toasty warm. The pelagic fish were still in numbers headed up by the Dogtooth tuna. One change I did notice was the increase of shark numbers, but maybe back then we didn't burly as much? December 2006 saw a major change to Blue Water Hunting International traditional Coral Sea trips. In stead of departing X Gladstone on the 82 foot cat the Kanimbla (with 16 paying pax and 4 tenders) we had down sized to the new 70 foot Westcoaster the MV Norkat 11. (With just 10 paying pax and two guides) My reasons were simple; fewer divers would hopefully mean better results for my clients and less headaches for the crew. The Norkat has two very stable diver tenders and would be driven by professional skippers and would both have a guide. This year our guides were Dr. Adam Smith, fresh and fighting fit after his win in the National Spearfishing Titles a few days earlier and myself. We departed Townsville and spent the entire nine days exploring Marion Reef. The ten paying passengers were of mixed spearfishing ability and came from as far as the USA and South Africa. Only half of the divers had visited the area previously and they were all keen to land a few trophy fish. It did not take long to open the account with some quality Dogtooth tuna upto 30 kg being landed. As is so often the case the 50-meter visibility played havoc on the new guys (and some of the more seasoned divers) and some good fish over 50 kg went missing. Even fish upto 85 kg were seen again but proved to be challenging. The visibility also made landing the wahoo and sailfish challenging but the use of chum and flashers did help. There were plenty of other quality fish present as well such as big Green Job fish, Yellowfin tuna and Giant

Trevally. Newcomer to the sport of blue water spearfishing Chris Lopez landed his "personal best" ever game fish with a 60 pound Giant Trevally. Dr. Adam Smith chipped in with his first decent Yellowfin tuna. South African Daryl Balfour also landed his first ever Dog Tooth Tuna and was amazed with their strength. Our fishing techniques varied slightly each day but usually consisted of drifting and chumming and working our flashers. This usually meant we had a regular entourage of sharks mainly consisting of Silver Fringe whalers, Grey Reef sharks and the occasional Tiger shark and Great Hammerhead. Whilst some fish were "vaporised" many were saved due to good teamwork and unselfish play. We tended to work both the channels or passes as well as isolated reefs on the lagoon side of the reef. The great tenders that the Norkat 11 have, (complete with GPS and sounders) make this task a breeze. The weather improved over the nine day trip as did divers skill and catch rates. Most divers landed Dog Tooth Tuna or at least hit them. Before long we were heading back to Mackay in oily calm seas. Blue Water Hunting International was impressed with the Norkat 11 and their professional attitude. This charter vessel is owned by spearfisherman and actually try and cater for spearfisherman, a unique situation here is Australia. Blue Water Hunting International have two trips planned in October and December 2007, both nine days expeditions. This year we are however moving further north again and departing from Cooktown. For more information on these trips check it out at the new look Blue Water Hunting International web site: www.bwhi.com.au or e-mail Rob Torelli at enquiries@bwhi.com.au



Craig Barnnet (Co owner of the Norkat 11) and Andy Ruddock proudly display their catch of **emperor and jobfish**



Text and images by **ROB Torelli**

Adam Smith with a 15kg **yellowfin** caught with a 1.3m edge speargun at Marion Reef
Pic supplied by Adam Smith