

2015 NSWGFA

Junior Team

By Reece Cokun

Port Hacking Game Fishing Club – Central Zone Representative

I was very excited to be selected in the NSW Game Fishing Association junior team and couldn't wait for the Kiama Big Fish Tournament to start. When we got there I met the boys Brandon, Lachlan, Harry, Graham and Brody. As soon as we got there we had a team meeting and got to know each other and what was happening. We went to dinner at the club. After that we went to the briefing. At the briefing we were told the rules and our fishing boundaries. When we got back we stayed up till late talking even though we were supposed to be sleeping.

In the morning we got up and went to the boat (NEMO) and got ready to go fishing. As we left on the first day the weather was good so straight away we got two live baits but couldn't get any more and as we went past the fads we got a couple of dolphin fish to Lachlan on lures and kept going all the way to the Banks. When we got there we trolled around trying to find bait but we couldn't so we put our two live baits out and live baited but couldn't catch a fish. When we got back we all had a shower and went to the dinner. At the dinner we all sat and talked, laughed and had a great time, we also won lots of prizes in the raffle, I won a jig rod.

In the morning we got up and got the boat ready and headed off. It was so calm. We loaded up on bait and went to the fad. At the fad we put live bait in but couldn't get a fish so we kept on trying. Eventually we gave up and tried to get a marlin on lures, that didn't work out so an hour before stop fishing we went back to the fad and tried again for a Dolphin fish.

1/2 minute before stop fishing a dolphin fish takes the bait. Harry called it in and I was on.

In less than 2 minutes it was tagged and released. In the rules if you tagged a fish you have to have the tag card back by 4pm. It was now 3.01pm that meant we had less than 1 hour to get back. Because we ran so far south it would be a close call to get back.

Grahame said to get in the cabin and hold on because now the weather was worse and we had to go fast to get back in time. It was madness inside the cabin, chip packets were going everywhere, and we were giggling. The race was on it was so close. With 5 minutes to spare we came into the harbour. We berthed the boat and handed the tag cards in just in time too. When we got back we had a shower and went to the presentation.

I won the Small Fry Category and received a rod, reel and fishing line. Lachlan also took out the Junior Category. Then we all got picked up by our parents. On this weekend I learnt how to tie an easy double and how fast big boats can go.

I'd like to thank Harry for the use of his boat, Brody for being on the deck and Grahame for looking after us and organizing everything