

## NSWGFA Junior Team 2018 Kiama

My experience with the NSW junior team was fantastic meeting anglers Kaitlyn, Jack and Rhys along with Grahame, Harry and Snappy on the 35ft Caribbean called Nemo.

Day 1.

The first day we caught Yakka's and Slimies then went out to the Kiama FAD and got 2 dollies, then we were trolling lures and found a private FAD, so we put out baits and we got 5 more dollies.

The tally from me was 2 from 9. I lost 7 dollies on Saturday and out of the whole day we got 7 dollies all up. The others on the team had 5 between them.

Day 2.

So Kaitlyn (the female one of the juniors) decided to set her alarm at 4 o'clock and she slept through it and it woke everyone up except her, it went for about 20 minutes.

When we got up and went down to the boat we caught some Yakka's and then headed out.

We tried to get slimies but had no luck so we started heading wider and found a bait ball of slimies. Then we went back to the private FAD and get more dollies on our baits.

I got 3 and the rest made it up to 10 but at least I lost 5 not 7 this time.

Then we started skip baiting and Snappy showed us how to rig a skip bait. Then Grahame yelled out BAIT BALL, we found a whole heap of bait balls so we put the slimies out, 10 minutes later BANG!!!! The rod goes off. It was my turn on the rod, lucky for me as it was only 1 minute 30 until it was an angler change over.

The skipper Harry was asleep up the front so we tooted the horn 4 times to wake him up.

He finally came out and noticed I was on the rod and said o here we go.

Grahame and Snappy were talking to me the whole fight.

Snappy was on the trace and Grahame was on the tag pole (never seen someone so good on it).

We got it up in the first 5 minutes but not close enough, then it did a good run again and left me 55 more minutes to get him back up and then the tag was in it. Snappy grabbed the trace and Grahame held the fish's bill while we got some photos and then the fish was released very healthy.

That Striped Marlin and my 5 dollies over the two days won me Champion Junior Tag & Release Angler.

Our boat Nemo also won the Most Other Gamefish Tag & Release Trophy.

The experience on the junior team was sensational.

I would like to thank Grahame, Harry and Snappy plus the other guys for a great weekend.

I learnt so much. It was a weekend to remember.

I would encourage all other juniors to nominate for next year's team.

Tight Lines,

Ryan Kaczorowski.