

TACOMA

Newsletter

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Where does Tacoma's tuna go?



Over the years, our catch has increased as we have developed more receiving outlets

This year's catch will supply the following restaurants and outlets

- HQ Coffin Bay
- 1802 Coffin Bay
- Fumos Port Lincoln
- Clare Winery
- The Fish House, Melbourne
- Boston Bay Winery
- L'Anse French Café & Croissanterie
- Harrys, Port Pirie
- Electric Marina Tours
- Lincoln Smoke House
- The Fresh Fish Place
- Capital Seafoods

The smoked product produced by Robert at the Lincoln Smoke Houses is world class. It can be purchased from him or from Tacoma. All our frozen products are available from Mori tuna North Point Boulevard or contact us.

Tuna Fishing Trips



The 2025 tuna poling program comprised three trips (31st Jan, 6 February and 13 February). Two for women and one for men. The trips were successful, with about one hundred of fish per trip 100, but weather gods provided a mixed bag. The first of women's trips had clear skies and light winds and warm weather. We did a lap around Low Rocks, followed by a three-hour afternoon cruise to the Cabbage Patch. One hour and a half minute later, Tacoma's on deck bins were overflowing with tuna and it was homeward bound through Cape Catastrophe at sunset with an overnight anchorage at Taylor Island. After an earned late start with crew training, we had planned a seafood lunch under the cliffs of Thistle Island. But AFMA interrupted our plan because of a marine incident when a boarding crew capsized their dinghy (see report). We returned to Port Lincoln fully loaded.



Braden got an Award



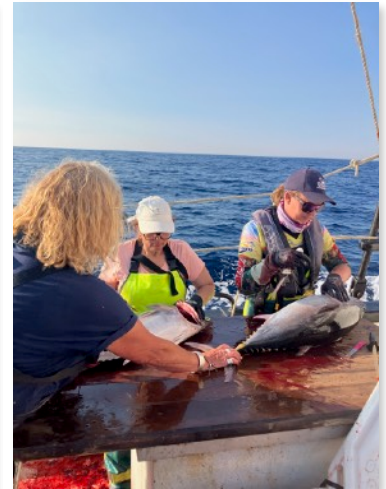
The TPS member Braden Stockham's visit to the Australian Wooden Boat Festival was not all about looking at wooden fishing boats. Braden attended an award ceremony where ten vessels were added to the Australian historic vessel register, of which Braden's fishing cutter, Osprey, was one of them. Congratulation!

Hair Cut Suffering (Captains Report)



I tried to get a haircut before going on our tuna trips, but time was short, so at sea a cunning plan was hatched. I would auction off the right to hack into my silver-grey locks.

Tuna Trips continued...



On the women's trip number two, the weather gods had plans for us. We stayed Friday night in the cove, and Saturday, at lunchtime, we were off to Taylor's Island to await our fate for a possible Sunday fish. The plan was to return to south Neptune at the same location of our last success. We got three fish on the deck and five released because of the accuracy of the gaff. Then we were off to a three-hour rolling trip to the Cabbage patch, arriving at 5.30. It was our last chance. The women jumped into the racks and 124 fish and tired muscles. We were in the bunks at 2.00 am.

The men's trip started with strong winds. Sheltered in Spaulding Cove, we attempted an unsuccessful bait shot. After two days sheltering, Tacoma cleared Cape Donnington with the deck awash and a rollercoaster ride to the lee of Taylor's Island. The late afternoon offered an opportunity to check out Low Rocks, but it was back to Snug cove for the night. Three days and with no fish and the galley table whined.

The next day, the South Neptune was the target. We were beaten to a nice patch of tuna by the Night Stalker, but the skipper kindly offered us the school. Chumming alongside the school, the crew and the poles went into action. Seventy minutes later, we were full.

That night Boston Bay turned on a mirror calm as the moon rose with dolphins, seals, and a shark keeping us company, but the chances of catching bait were nil. The next morning, we unloaded and returned to our berth.

The bidding started \$100 and ended \$150. Then another good idea emerged. Why not use my silver locks for a tuna lure nicknamed "The Tickler." My hair cut revealed the true shape of my skull and old battle scars from an argument with a forestry crane and early rock throwing encounters. Photo above.



Riviera Boats in all shapes and sizes are popular in Port Lincoln and elsewhere, especially as off-shore recreational sport fishing vessels. Tacoma has been working with Riviera Boats for 8 years, providing a floating platform for the "Raft-Up). The guests will enjoy the events held on Tacoma, including a live-band music, and a day with fishy delights.

Crew Highlight



Greg Sleep is one of these people who are not making a lot of fuss, but plays an important role on Tacoma by maintaining and running the engine below in the dungeon. Thanks for your effort, Greg!

A Marine Incident That Could Had Been Avoided



The compliance arms of two government fisheries authorities, PIRSA and AFMA, attempted to board Tacoma while underway at a speed of 7.8 knots. The master of the AFMA/PIRSA vessel, Sea Ranger, ordered Tacoma to maintain speed and course. The boarding crew onboard a high-powered inflatable miscalculated their approach, causing the vessel being overwhelmed by the physical forces. The vessel capsized and threw its three crew into the water. The Tacoma crew went to man overboard mode, helping the upturned vessel's crew eventually picked up by the Sea Ranger. A female officer, picked up by Tacoma, was transferred back to the Sea Ranger after launching our dingy.



Water Run to Taylors Island



Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink... with half of Australia under water, it's been ironic that an island close to Port Lincoln has run out. Each year, Tacoma sail to Taylor Island and picks up some 16 bails of wool from Ray Watherston's 600 sheep. The island's water supply is mainly from soaks and springs along the coastline. The dry condition over the last two years has seen a dramatic reduction in the availability of water and Ray has reduced his flock to 300. Average rainwater supply is 400 ml, but the last year produced only 120 ml. So, Tacoma came to the rescue with its 4 water tanks holding 12000 l. The challenge was to pump the water 250 meters to a shore tank, and then up the hill to other holding tanks. The pumping process has taken some 4 hours per trip. Ray estimates he now has a supply for three weeks and if no rain falls, Tacoma will need to do a third trip. The alternative to our trips was that the sheep would be put down.



2025 Port Lincoln Tuna Classic

The Riviera Port Lincoln Tuna Classic took place 7-9 March.

\$91,400 Calcutta Prize Pool set a record. Congratulations to "RISKY BUSINESS" for catching the heaviest fish, taking home \$63,980. Congratulations to "CHECKMATE" for catching the second heaviest fish, winning \$18,280, and to "DAUNTLESS" in their first year competing taking home third prize \$4,570. \$4,570 was donated to Variety, the Children's Charity, via Car MLC the Runaway Brides. And for the "SHOOTOUT," 540 Tuna were successfully released, of which 101 were tagged Thanks to a partnership with RecFish SA & The Tuna Association. The Champion Boat, "REALITY CHEQUE" released 122 fish. Champion Female Angler was Melissa Rolevink.



During the evening, Tacoma served 600 meatballs in tomato sauce with volumes of spaghetti, flushed down with beers and Taylors Wine were aplenty. Later, the competitors were ferried back to their boats for a well-deserved sleep to be ready for the dawn flurry of anchors retrieved entering a second day of fishing. The weather was perfect.



THE TACOMA PRESERVATION SOCIETY

AND

SALT

FESTIVAL
PRESENTS

SONGS OF THE SEA

A celebration of folk songs of
the sea and the community
that support them.

Join in with a sea shanty!

At **JUMPSHIP BREWING**
Saturday April 26th 7 - 8pm
Adults \$15 - Free for kids

Bookings
via **SALT FESTIVAL**

