

Gonefishing

with Al McGlashan

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Multitude of marlin

Heaven on the water as fighting fish come out to play

Al's marlin tips

- Focus your efforts around the bait schools
- Use circle hooks and light leaders
- Catch the fish quickly and release them healthy
- Slimy mackerel are the No. 1 bait



Friendly: Marlins were up close and personal with anglers fishing at 'The Carpark' off Port Stephens last weekend

Picture: Al Mc

AS anglers, we all dream about those perfect days where the water is calm, the sun is shining and the fish snap their heads off.

Those perfect days are few and far between, but they are the main motivation that drives us back out to sea time and time again.

Last weekend we had one of those perfect days, in fact it was one of the best days I have ever seen.

We had Strikezone up at Port Stephens and, after getting a few marlin on the Saturday, we got back out with high hopes on the Sunday.

Running at 30 knots, we made it to the marlin grounds some 45km offshore in record time. Called "The Carpark", this spot just inside the continental shelf certainly lived up to its name as the boats started to crowd in.

That didn't seem to faze the

marlin, which proved to be seriously ravenous.

Our first bait in the water got snapped up by a hungry striped marlin and as we tore after the fish I noticed several other boats hooking up as well.

What was amazing was that it wasn't even 7am.

After catching that marlin, which was close to 100kg, we headed back to the crowd and instantly hooked up again.

With more and more boats

arriving, fighting fish got more and more tricky. Not only did we need to concentrate on staying attached to the fish but we also had to navigate through the boats. It was an adrenaline rush like no other.

Normally the marlin bite for short periods and then shut down, suffering a severe case of lockjaw. But not these fish — they just kept biting.

Never before have I seen multiple boats fighting fish all

day, there was no moment someone hooked up and then shut down after a fish.

Then there were marlin just swimming around. While fighting marlin, we had a swimming along with

The best part is vast majority of them were released so there were for someone to enjoy as much as