

Demons of the Deep – Part 1

Deep Water Jigging Off The Canyons!

As the 90lb braid peeled off my spin reel, I wondered what ooglies lay below, waiting to inhale the 400 grams of painted lead plummeting towards the bottom. The 2 kilowatt Furuno sounder showed we were in 235 metres of water, just on the top edge of the continental shelf out from Fraser Island.

The shelf drops dramatically from around 250 metres straight down to around 500 metres, and the top edge is always seemingly 'alive' with fish. Today was no different than any other day I had spent trolling along the edge of the shelf, looking at the amazing show of life on the sounder, except for the fact we were for the first time dropping a jig down to these dark depths to see what lived below.

We were thinking that Blue Eye trevalla and Hapuka might be a chance, but to our surprise, it was a 7kg kingfish, which was the first to be hauled from the depths. Every jig which got anywhere near the reef below was nailed by a procession of species including snapper to 8kg, pearl perch, amberjacks and plenty more kingfish, with the biggest going around 12kg. Of course to drop a jig in 235 metres, there's got to be a lack of both wind and current, and this particular occasion was the only chance we've had to drop jigs in this depth. Subsequent



Deepwater jigging is a technique seemingly new to Australia. But as we're about to find out this exciting style of fishing has been around for a lot of years, but there's some amazing new gear available which allows anglers to take deepwater jigging to a new limit. Join us now on the game boat "Nomad" for the first of a 2 part series by Capt. Damon Olsen, exploring the wonderful world of deepwater jigging.



This Page: Rebecca Quigley with around 27kgs of samson fish taken in 85 metres of water on a pink Searock jig and using a 16000F Stella and Precision spin rod with 50lb braid

Facing Page: Tim with a Fraser Island Sambo taken on a jigs ace brand fast style jig.