



Emanuel Eliadis with a nice spun-up spotted mackerel.

**The first leg of Aaron's new Three Part "How To" Series on Mackerel and Wahoo!**

The mackerel clan boast some of the most highly regarded target species around the entire tropical and sub-tropical coastlines of Australia.

Their average size, availability to small boat anglers, great eating and impressive looks endear themselves to all who target these tasty speedsters.

Having a tendency for warmer water, it's mackerel time right now.

Having already had a few great sessions on spotties this summer it's probably wise to start with these, as they're the first of the mackerel clan to make their presence felt as they head south.

**Special Report by Aaron Concorde**

# Spotty Mackerel

## - The Perfect Target For The Small Boat Fisherman!

Found right around the tropical and sub-tropical coastline of Oz, the spotted mackerel usually arrives in my neck of the woods (Moreton Bay/Southern Queensland) around December, and can hang around into June.

Peak numbers of spotties occur in December, January and February as they migrate south towards northern New South Wales, and although they have been found as far south as Port Hacking, Coffs Harbour is a more realistic cut off point for numbers of fish.

Their name is derived from the 3 to 4 rows of very prominent spots that run along both flanks that are visible both when alive and dead.

Growth potential is up around 12kg, though the average would be around 3kg inside bay areas such as



present.

This year has shown a glimpse back into the past, with spotties in far larger numbers and significantly bigger sizes than I have seen in the last decade showing up in Moreton Bay. It has truly been fantastic to see these magnificent fish that help sustain the recreational fishing industry, make a come back.

Hervey and Moreton, yet offshore reefs tend to yield larger sized fish.

At the southern most extent of their migration run is where the largest fish are found, with quality fish in the 6 to 8kg size being caught every year.

Fluctuations in bait, water temperature and until a few seasons ago, ring netting inside the bays of Queensland, had a massive impact on the strength of their migration, and also the size of the mackerel

### High Speed Spinning.

This has to be my all-time favourite way to catch spotties.

It is a fantastic small-boat sport fishing adventure.

Off Mooloolaba and Moreton Bay in good weather, I've caught my share out of 10 to 12 foot tinnies with 9.9 to 15 hp on the transom. It's the realm of sub-6.0m sport fishers.

Spotted mackerel happily feed in schools on the surface, slashing