



Part One: The Science of Coral Trout

Not too many fish are regarded with such burning desire as the legendary coral trout. Taken from thousands of miles of the northern Australian coastline, from waters in Queensland, the Territory and West Australia, the 'trout' is on top of the list in terms of its desireability to eat, and to catch.

Geoff Carey at the helm for his fourth "Fish Trax" report.

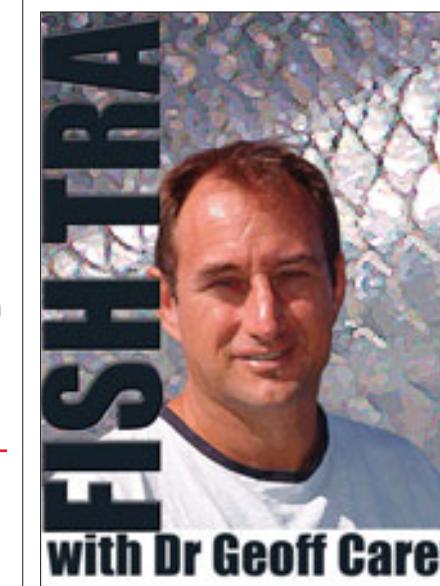
Just a mention of the name of this fish conjures visions of the tropical north and azure blue seas with swaying palms and gin clear water covering spectacular coral reefs. If not the ultimate piscine 'pin-up model' of many coral seas here and around the world, this guy is at least on the podium.

From the bright red, pink, orange, brown or even green of its flanks to the electric blue of its spots, this fish signposts the idyllic tropics, and even more specifically, coral reefs. To those who have eaten them, their looks are enhanced by their taste, and they are often referred to as the

Beautiful trout, taken from the Scott Shepherd/Larraby files from their adventures in Hervey Bay in Southern Queensland.

benchmark which other fish are compared.

And just to tick all the boxes they



are a terrific sportfish, such an aggressive predator that it will grab almost anything tasty looking that is nearby.

They can be caught on a variety of baits and lures, pull like a train, and their structure-hugging disposition and intimate knowledge of fish-sized hidey holes in the reef, makes the achievement of extracting one of these guys from the reef even sweeter. This month, we're dissecting coral trout.

Name And Background

This will probably not be a surprise to many but coral trout are not a trout, they are technically a grouper, from the family *Serranidae* which includes groupers and cod. However they do look reasonably similar to their distant freshwater cousin, especially when both are brown. And