



Fun to catch - for a while - on light tackle, the trevally were often a nuisance . . .



Andy with a very tasty, perfect pan size red emperor - one of the key targets of this long range fishing trip.

FaNTastic Flat Top Banks

Report and pics from Andy Myers, in Darwin, NT.

Two weeks prior to this expedition I had started a local fishing forum thread, tracking weather developments and outlooks for the weekend of the 17th of August 2013.

For a bit of a stir I let it evolve into a potential safari out to some quite remote shoals accessed from either Darwin or Dundee Beach NT. As the aforementioned weekend drew closer, it became apparent that we were indeed looking at conditions we had not seen in 2013 since our trip to Emu Shoals earlier in the year. In truth, this weather probably heralded the commencement of the coming build up where the days become increasingly calmer and the winds more light and variable, until the inevitable afternoon storms become the

norm. Once the build-up storms commence, trips to such areas are off the list for me as I have no wish to get caught in an NT lightning storm 100 km from the nearest land!

The focus of this trip was shaping up to be a huge area of reef pretty much west of Darwin called Flat Top Banks. Exploratory trips out wide (and wider), to this area in trailer boats are nothing new up here and some quite notable adventures have already been reported locally. One crew travelled out there for a weekend and caught virtually nothing but very large catfish. Another trip (and this seems a very common thread), were plagued by sharks at every stop and never boated a fish before all their gear was gone. So these banks are known by