

# Champion Boat At Townsville Challenge Thanks WESMAR

“Thank-you WESMAR, It’s Your Win Too,” Captain Jim Dalling

September 9 was a day of celebration for Captain Jim Dalling and his team of anglers on board his Australian Game Fishing charter vessel Reel Chase. They took all honors at the prestigious 2004 Townsville Billfish Challenge. It is Australia’s premier light tackle tag and release tournament that always preludes the start of the heavy tackle Giant Black Marlin Season.

The Reel Chase team included Captain Dalling, Deckie Wade Alleyn, and four anglers— two women and two men: Anne Dalling, Janelle Parkes, Lindsay Pemberton and Ben Bright. Together they tagged and released 12-juvenile black marlin over the five-day event.

Not only did they win the \$10,000 purse as Champion Team, they also took Champion Captain & Crew and Champion Boat. Plus the Champion Angler award went to Jim’s wife Anne Dalling for her five marlin tagged and released. The team also won many of the tournament daily awards along the way as well.

The anglers on Reel Chase reeled in 12-black marlin, doubling the catch of the number two boat, which tagged and released 6. He said there were 35 professional boats in the tournament, all 30 feet and above in length, and over 100 anglers including 26 lady anglers.

Dalling said women make very good light tackle anglers. They use skill and dexterity rather than brute strength. He was also quick to credit

his WESMAR sonar. “The WESMAR is good for navigation and it’s good for fish finding,” said Dalling adding it is ideal for game fishing.

Dalling has been a staunch fan of WESMAR sonar and gives the sonar great credit. After the Townsville win he said, “The WESMAR sonar helped immensely during the tournament. I can’t emphasize enough how helpful it was. Really I feel like I’m cheating at times using it. The marlin feed off live bait and we locate the schools of bait with the sonar. It’s a big advantage.”

“Thanks very much to everybody at WESMAR, it’s their win too,” said Dalling.

The Townsville Billfish Challenge is big. Each year it signals the gathering of the many of the marlin fishing fleet who arrive in the city from ports all along the east Australian coast. Following this tournament, the fleet travel north 200 miles to Cairns, the Black Marlin Capital of the World, for the start of the heavy tackle giant black marlin season, explained Dalling.

The Reel Chase is a premier 55-foot custom-built game fishing boat and part of the 50 boats between 30 and 63 feet that comprise the Australian



*The Reel Chase.*

Charter fishing fleet.

Dalling brings a lot to the fishery: 25 years as a captain and countless tournaments to his credit including the prestigious Lizard Island Black Marlin Classic, the Lexus Tournament, the Australian International Billfish Tournament, Tangalooma Classic, and Cairns Light Tackle Tournament as well as previous Townsville Billfish Challenges. Earlier this year he was a champion in the huge NSW Inter Club Tournament at Port Stephens.

Reel Chase and crew will now bait fish their way to Cairns for the 2004 heavy tackle giant black marlin season on September 22nd.

For information about fishing onboard the Reel Chase, visit [www.reelchase.com](http://www.reelchase.com)

