

hamilton-jason-2018-10-30.mp4

Jason Hamilton [00:00:10] Well, it started for me, a long way back. My father used to have a tuna boat, out of Albany, so I was always interested in fishing. And when I left school, I started building aluminum boats. I did that for about 20 years, and I decided I wanted to drive boats. So here I am, now driving boats.

Jason Hamilton [00:00:35] Commercial, yes. He actually worked on the wireless, back in the early 1970s. And then he had a tuna boat, early '80s.

Jason Hamilton [00:00:51] The tuna, back then, they were poleing for them. So just on a little short lead, and a bit of a hook on the end, and the poleing.

James Thull [00:01:01] Excellent. So that seems like a pretty sustainable method of fishing.

Jason Hamilton [00:01:03] Yeah, it was back then. Yep, yep.

Jason Hamilton [00:01:14] About a year now.

James Thull [00:01:15] How do you like being a guide?

Jason Hamilton [00:01:17] I love it. There's nothing more.... Better than being out on the water every day. And I'm able to share the experience with everyone else, it's really gratifying.

Jason Hamilton [00:01:32] On the, on the charter here, we catch anything from Kingies, Mako Sharks, we've even been known to catch a Swordfish. Pink Snapper, Whiting, Nannygai, Gurnered, Sargent Bakers. The list goes on. Trigger fish.

Jason Hamilton [00:01:55] Yes. Yeah. They're, like, it's sort of like a herring, but um, yeah, salmon. They're not bad. They're good.

Jason Hamilton [00:02:09] Well, for a while there, it was getting hard to catch a fish. But since fish management, and all the rest of it, has come into play, I think it's much better on the, on the fish stocks, so to speak.

Jason Hamilton [00:02:27] Very good, very good. Size limits and, yep. So I think they're doing very well.

Jason Hamilton [00:02:42] The list goes on. Up on the Great Barrier Reef, there was one reef that we used to pull up on, called Bat and Ball. We'd pull up at the reef, anchor up, and the boys would come in with their catch, and would put a big trevally on a piece of rope. Let's throw it in the water, and these six-foot gropers would come up and eat the trevally, and swim around the boat. So that's quite, quite special.

James Thull [00:03:09] I've heard they can, almost, not be tamed, but get pretty friendly.

Jason Hamilton [00:03:14] Yes, friendly and also aggressive, if you're in the water, yeah.

Jason Hamilton [00:03:23] Well, you catch the Mako Sharks, they're not bad eating, the smaller ones. But in the commercial side of things, we catch a lot of Blue Sharks but, happily to say, these days we cut and release them. So that's a good thing.

Jason Hamilton [00:03:48] Yeah, for sure. Yep, yep, big time. Yep. Or you'll find a lot of fishermen, won't take a feed home now, just go out for the sport. Yeah. And you'll find that people, these days, will take a feed and be on their way. It's not everyone that breaks the rules.

Jason Hamilton [00:04:13] It's the water temperatures, seems to be the water temperatures are getting warmer. Further south, and also, 'scuse me, the pollution. The pollution is just out of control in my, my eyes. I have seen some projects where they put socks on drains from the streets and suburbia, and so on, and so forth. And they catch all the plastic and debris and empty it out. So at least we're starting to improvise ways of collecting the rubbish, rather than having it go in the oceans, yeah.

Jason Hamilton [00:04:52] It has been, but we realized very early on, the repercussions from fertilizers, and so on and so forth, into our waterways. So I know that's being managed a lot better these days too. So, yeah.

Jason Hamilton [00:05:14] Quite a mixed bag. Quite a lot from around the world. Pakistan. Sri Lanka. Thailand. America. Quite a few English and Irish. Yeah, so quite a lot. Yeah.

Jason Hamilton [00:05:35] It's radio, yep. I don't know that there's so many down here, but further up the coast. When you get up toward Sunshine Coast, Port Douglas and Canes, you get more of that thing happening.

Jason Hamilton [00:05:57] I'm a saltwater fan.

Jason Hamilton [00:06:05] Oh, I enjoy the, working out what the fish are doing, the water, the tides. And I enjoy eating fish. So yeah. Just find everything about being out on the water enjoyable.

Jason Hamilton [00:06:24] No. Not to target. Probably the Tuna. They're the most fun. But to eat, probably Coral Trout. They're my favorite.

Jason Hamilton [00:06:35] Coral trout? Are those the ones that are real bright red?

Jason Hamilton [00:06:40] Yeah. They get really bright orange, really color. Also get greens, and so on and so forth. There aren't- more oranger fish, are deeper fish. So, yeah.

Jason Hamilton [00:06:59] I don't see as many kids fishing like I used to, as a kid down on the jetties, and what have you. And yeah, I think it's a good thing. Being outdoors and just, yeah.

Jason Hamilton [00:07:09] It's just a lovely place, it's such a variety of different types of fishing that you can do so, you know, there's a type of fishing for everyone really, at the end of the day.