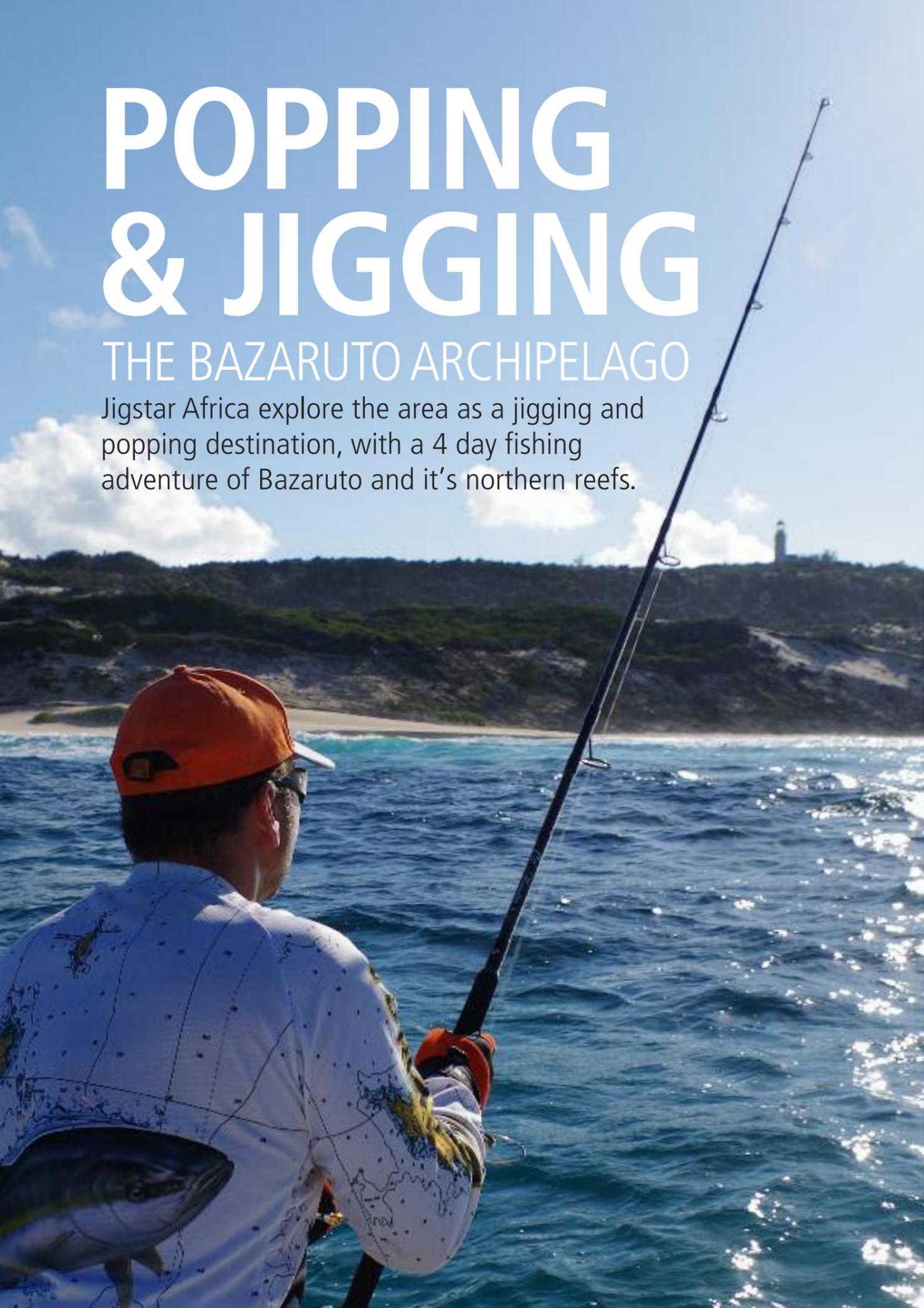


# POPPING & JIGGING

## THE BAZARUTO ARCHIPELAGO

Jigstar Africa explore the area as a jigging and popping destination, with a 4 day fishing adventure of Bazaruto and it's northern reefs.



**Based at Cashewbay Lodge, Inhassoro, 60km's north of Vilanculos airport. Fishing off Shameless their 21' Butt Cat. Our aim was to investigate the area as an affordable option to some of our other popping and jigging destinations in New Zealand and South Pacific**

We were collected at the airport and arrived at the lodge hosted by Derek and Wendy Flaxman. Enjoyed a few snacks at the bar while we unpacked our tackle and planned the first days route.

WE SPLIT THE AREA INTO 2 SECTIONS:

- 1 The northern part of Bazaruto Island with shallow reefs just off the back line around the light house and some deep holes that drop off to 130m east of the northern point.
- 2 25 Mile reef that starts 12km's north of Bazaruto Island and runs for some 8km with pinicals that rise from 25m to 13m.

We were on the water early the following day and headed for the point of Bazaruto, around the sand-spit and onto some of the deeper drops to target Amber Jack.

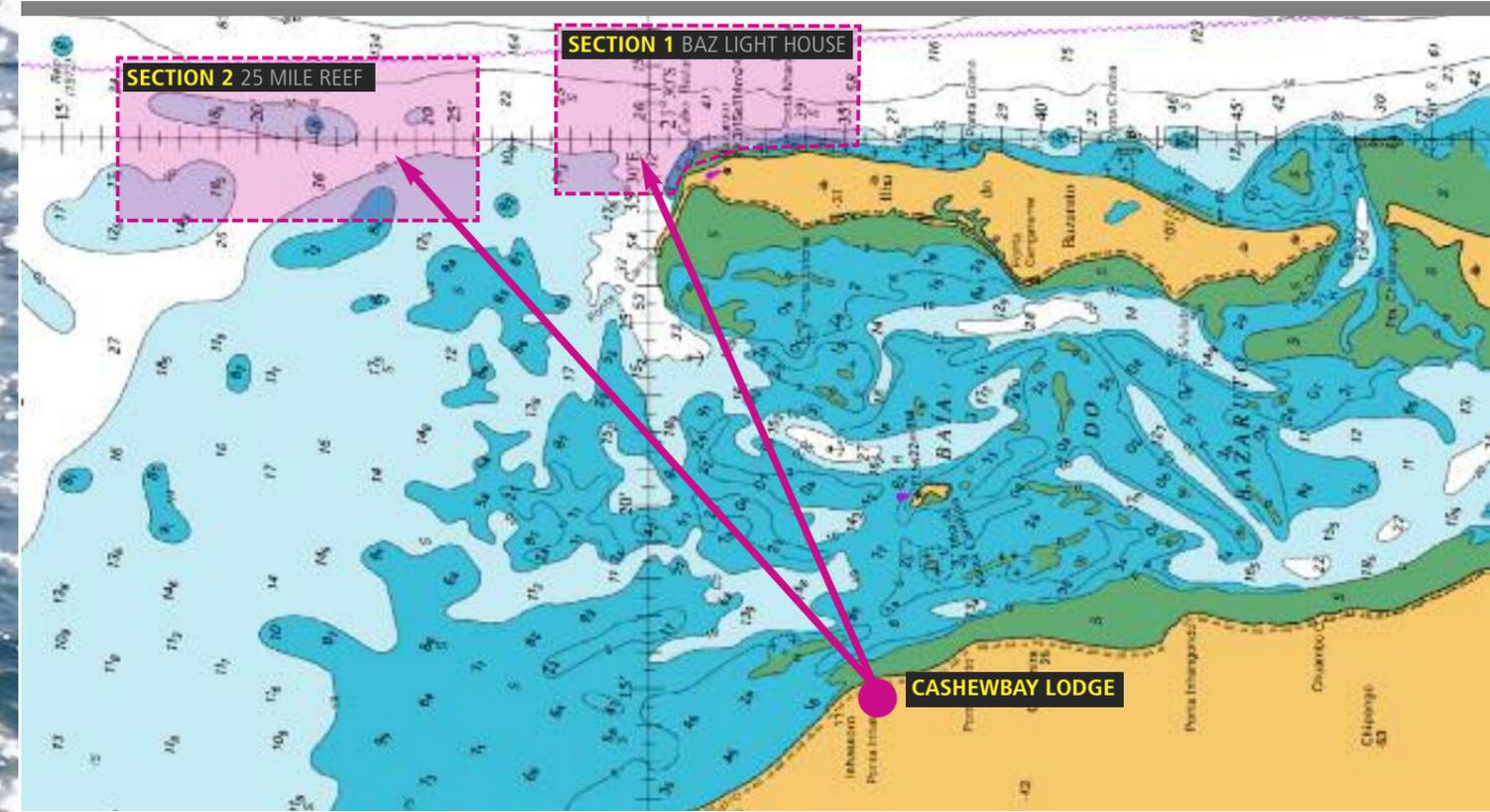
With the spring tides it was important to fish the tide on the low, with the least current for our drifts.

It wasn't too long before Graham was on with a decent fish, his Jigging Master arced and drag on his JM - PE8 holding the fish. A few minutes later the hook pulled, the line slacked and we all looked at each other. "SH1!! that was a good fish, almost certain it was an AJ, don't even think he new he was hooked" We did the drift a few more times and Graham was on again. Rod bent and this time slacked off on the drag to make sure the hook won't pull. 10m from the boat and the line slacks. "Not again!" Graham mutters to him self. This time it was the tax man taking his share.

The tide had now turned and we would have to use the motors to hold the drift, so moved off to some 70m structure. A few drifts later and Roy was on a small Amber. Nothing to boast about, but we were now on the score board. Did a few more drifts and every one had a few hits, dropped a few fish and lost a few jigs, guess on King Macrel.



Graham De Wavrin with a taxed GT off the point of Bazaruto Island



We end the day popping the back line off Baz with ideal GT structure. Had a few hits with small GT's hunting in the white water. An amazing stretch that is full of action. Just watch those curlers that can come from no where. Unfortunately it's 16h00 and we have to head back to the lodge.



The next day on the water we head east from Cashewbay to 25 Mile Reef and find some great structure with pinnacles at 13m. Out with the popping sticks and we all use a variation of surface lures. A twitch bait which is the latest in the Jigstar range with an amazing darting action that can be fished faster than the stick baits. A Darkstar GT Mania popper that the GT's can't resist and a Darkstar Stickbait that we let sink for a few seconds and use a slower retrieve action.

After a few drifts we have our first fish on, a GT of about 15kgs on the GT Mania Popper. With the drag set high we keep the fish off the reef and have it on the boat for a few quick snaps and back in the water for another days fight.

There was a lot of bait fish around and spent some time casting into shoals of fusileers and the odd shoal of Bonita that were in casting distance of the boat.

Upped the sticks to moved onto another piece of structure about 3km into 25 Mile. Same pattern with a drift over the structure and the blooping popper is smashed. Graham is on with a good GT, rod bowed and the fish runs. After a good fight we have the fish on the boat. It seems the popper is what they are looking for, but we all persist with our plan.

Then Roy's twitch bait is hit by a King Macrel that darts into the air with the lure in his mouth. Just worried that those teeth will make light work of the Leader. A few minutes and we have it on the boat.

*Roy Skea with a small Amber Jack caught on a Jig at a 130m hole off Bazaruto Island*

*King Macrel caught on a twitch bait on 25 Mile Reef*



Not too long after and we have another King Mac on, this time it smashes the popper and then darts under the boat, dipping the rod into the water and we manoeuvre the boat to land the fish.

We drift a few more times over the structure and change over to light jiggging tackle that is hit by a few Green Job fish, Baracuda and King Macrel.

All in all the day produced six species, and some amazing popping structure that is known for large GT's in excess of 40kgs.

The weather picks up and we head back to the lodge for a few cold ones and fresh sushi.