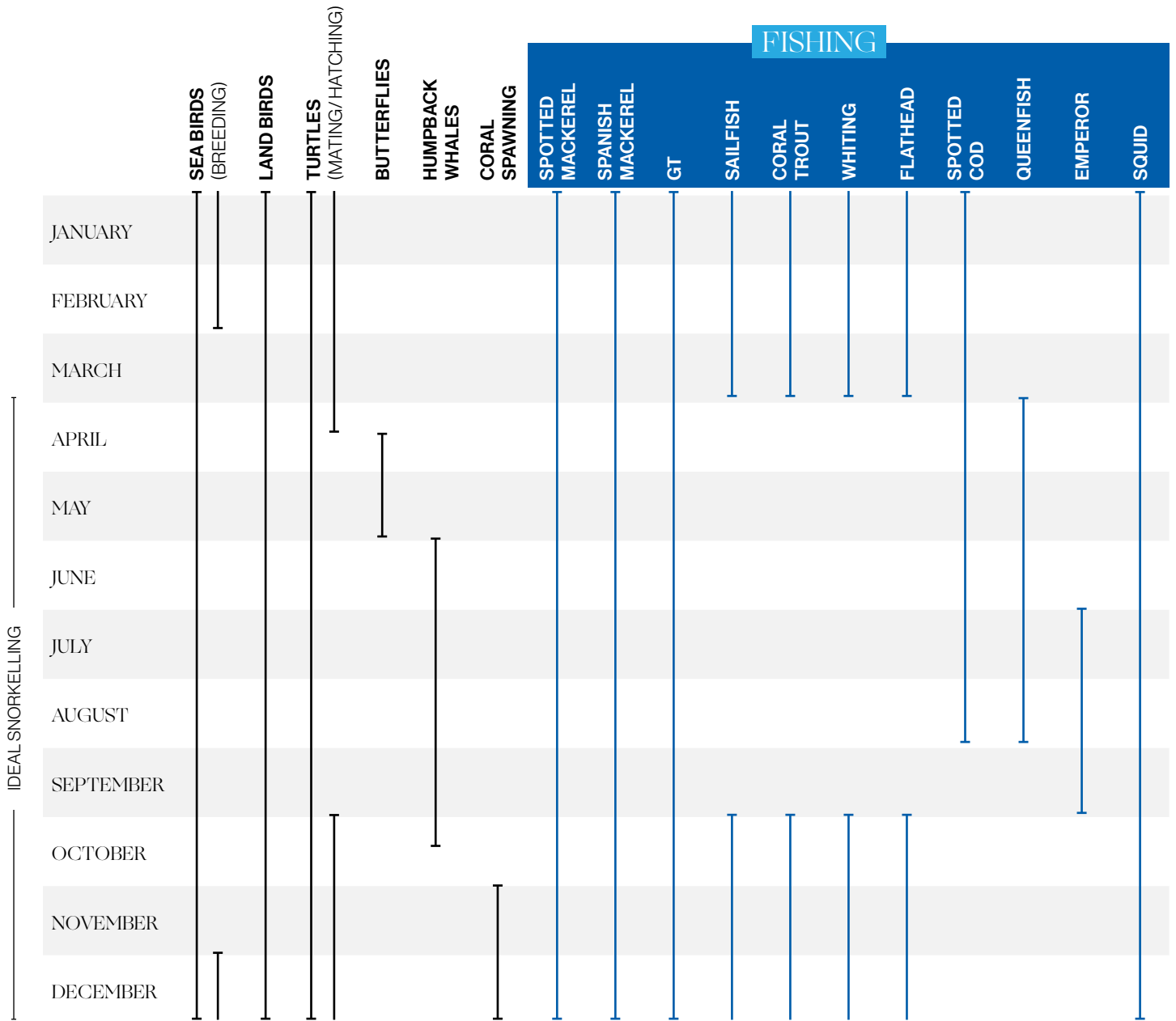


nature calendar



PUMPKIN *Island*
SOUTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF

NATURE CALENDAR



Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee sightings of wildlife or marine life.

Pumpkin Island strives to encourage best environmental practise whilst interacting with the natural environment and highly recommend that guests refrain from feeding any wildlife found on the island and also not to touch any of the coral reefs surrounding the island.

NATURE CALENDAR



january

January is the peak breeding season for sea birds, so they are very active this time of year. Birds of prey are often seen above the bay and beaches, and some nest on the islands. Terns and cormorants hunt for fish at sea, while waders such as pied oystercatchers and beach stone-curlew forage along the beaches and small estuaries. Many land birds including honeyeaters, rainbow bee-eaters, pheasant coucals and friarbirds are permanent residents of the islands.

Female turtles are laying eggs on neighbouring islands and turtle hatchlings may be seen making their way to the sea if you are lucky.



FISHING

SPOTTED MACKEREL SPANISH MACKEREL GT SAILFISH CORAL TROUT WHITING FLATHEAD SPOTTED COD SQUID

february

The island birdlife remains active. Female turtles could still be laying eggs and hatchlings continue to emerge from their nests.

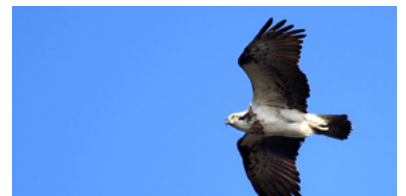


FISHING

SPOTTED MACKEREL SPANISH MACKEREL GT SAILFISH CORAL TROUT WHITING FLATHEAD SPOTTED COD SQUID

march

Some birds show breeding plumage during March as they return to their Arctic nesting grounds. Female turtles are at the end of the nesting season.



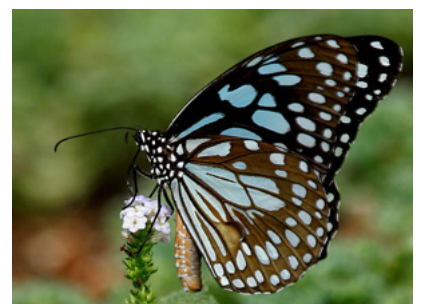
FISHING

SPOTTED MACKEREL SPANISH MACKEREL GT SAILFISH CORAL TROUT WHITING FLATHEAD SPOTTED COD SQUID

april

Thousands of Blue Tiger, Monarch and other butterflies species descend on the islands and the Capricorn Coast during April to May. Always a little hard to predict the timing, but we usually start spotting them around mid April. It is an unbelievable sight to see the swarms coming over from the mainland and cover the green foliage in vibrant blues, yellows and orange.

The last of the turtle hatchlings can be seen emerging from their nests.



FISHING

QUEENFISH SPOTTED MACKEREL SPOTTED COD GT SPANISH MACKEREL SQUID

NATURE CALENDAR



may

Spot the butterflies before they migrate north towards Townsville. Turtles can be spotted all year round in the water around the island. Snorkelling is best from April through to December.



FISHING

QUEENFISH SPOTTED MACKEREL **SPOTTED COD** GT **SPANISH MACKEREL** SQUID

june

Humpback Whales' northern migration begins in June. They are often seen passing through waters around the Island, and the lookout points are great spots for Whale Watching. An average Humpback weighs 40 tonnes and measures 16 metres. Whale songs can be heard under the water while swimming, snorkelling and diving.



FISHING

QUEENFISH SPOTTED MACKEREL **SPOTTED COD** GT **SPANISH MACKEREL** SQUID

july

Humpback Whales are frequently sighted in the Capricornia Bunker region in July, and the lookout points are great spots for Whale Watching. Whale songs can be heard under the water while swimming, snorkelling and diving.

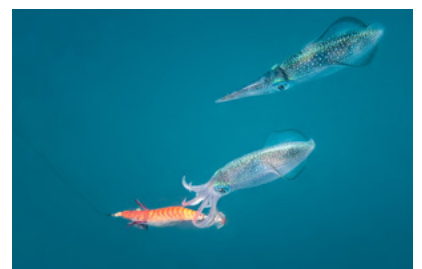


FISHING

QUEENFISH SPOTTED MACKEREL **SPOTTED COD** GT **SPANISH MACKEREL** SQUID

august

August is warming up to spring. There is more general activity on the reef and the island. Humpback Whales can be sighted in the waters around the island. Whale songs can be heard under the water while swimming, snorkelling and diving.



FISHING

EMPEROR GT **QUEENFISH** SPOTTED MACKEREL **SPOTTED COD** SPANISH MACKEREL **SQUID**

NATURE CALENDAR



september

Humpback Whales are active during September, breaching regularly, playing with their young in the waters around the island. Whales begin heading south to the Antarctic with their little calves. Whale songs can be heard under the water while swimming, snorkelling and diving.



FISHING

EMPEROR GT SPOTTED MACKEREL SPANISH MACKEREL SQUID

october

Turtle mating may be observed in the surrounding waters. A few Humpback Whales can still be spotted making their way down the coast. Whale songs can be heard under the water while swimming, snorkelling and diving.



FISHING

GT SPOTTED MACKEREL SPANISH MACKEREL SAILFISH CORAL TROUT WHITING FLATHEAD SQUID

november

Turtle egg laying begins in November. The annual synchronised mass spawning of corals* usually occurs during this month.

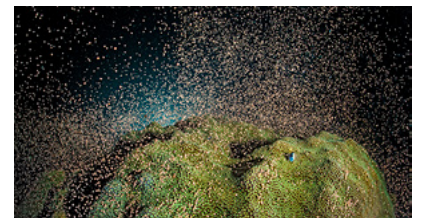


FISHING

GT SPOTTED MACKEREL SPANISH MACKEREL SAILFISH CORAL TROUT WHITING FLATHEAD SQUID

december

Bird life is extremely active in December. Numerous chicks can be seen and hatchlings begin emerging from the sand. Coral spawning* may occur if this did not occur in November.



FISHING

GT SPOTTED MACKEREL SPANISH MACKEREL SAILFISH CORAL TROUT WHITING FLATHEAD SQUID

**One of the most spectacular events to occur on the Great Barrier Reef is the annual synchronised spawning of corals. This mass reproduction only happens once a year. It involves colonies and species of coral polyps simultaneously releasing tiny egg and sperm bundles from their gut cavity into the water. By expelling the eggs and sperm at the same time, the coral increases the likelihood that fertilisation will take place.*

The mass spawning occurs after a full moon and only after rising water temperatures have stimulated the maturation of the gametes within the adult coral. The spawning lasts between a few days and a week. This is because different species release their eggs and sperm on different days to prevent hybrids from being produced.

While spawning takes place on a large scale, it doesn't happen across the entire Reef all at once. Being located at the southern tip of the Great Barrier Reef, the water around Pumpkin Island takes a little longer to hit the perfect 26 degrees and marine experts predict coral spawning will happen this year sometime between 20 and 25 December which will be an awesome Christmas present for visitors during the holiday season.



PUMPKIN *Island* 
SOUTHERN GREAT BARRIER REEF