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Angler's massive dogtooth tuna among largest ever caught

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By: **Pete Thomas** | February 25, 2019 1:35 pm

Anglers who were fishing at a remote Fijian seamount last week returned to port with two massive dogtooth tuna, including one that might have threatened the world record.

“The biggest one was hooked just before sunset, and took around an hour to land,” **Jaga Crossingham**, who was guiding the trip with client Trent Webster, told FTW Outdoors. “It weighed over 220 pounds [estimated]. However, because of our remote location the fish was unable to be weighed for quite some time and was not eligible to claim any records.



Jaga Crossingham poses with giant dogtooth tuna. Photo: Freedive Fiji Charters

“But as far as we know it’s the biggest dogtooth tuna ever taken while jigging in Fijian waters and possibly the world.”

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Dogtooth tuna, an immensely popular gamefish throughout the tropical Indo-Pacific, are so powerful that larger specimens often leave anglers with spooled reels or busted gear.



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So back at the Fijian weigh station, AKA the trusty palm tree!! This beast had to be cut into 3 huge chunks to be weighed properly and with an actual weight of 98kg without blood/guts and after 18hrs of dehydration while we were [#offthegrid](#) we all agreed on an estimated weight of between 103 - 105kg, making this giant the 3rd dogtooth tuna well over 200lb that I've guided throughout the Fijian islands! A huge congrats to everyone involved and [@_trento_](#) for his exceptional angling!! What's next 250, 300 lbs.... who knows!! [#dogtoothtuna](#) [#doggies](#) [#fiji](#) [#fijiislands](#) [#fishing](#) [#fishingfiji](#) [#offthemap](#) [@elitetackle](#) [@les.john.370](#) [@jakelawso](#) [@_trento_](#) [@glenntav83](#) [@outdoors360fishing](#) [@fishingworld](#) [@shimano.fish](#) [@reelfillets](#) [@fishing_usa_24](#) [@offshore.fishing](#)

The International Gamefish Assn. lists as the **world record** a 236-pound, 15-ounce dogtooth tuna caught off Tanzania in 2015.

Crossingham, owner of **Freedive Fiji** and a fishing guide for **Kokomo Private Island Fiji**, was on a five-day charter with Webster, who is from Australia. They caught the larger fish using large flutter jigs.

Both fish were bled and gutted at sea to prevent them from spoiling during the 18-hour journey to port at Pacific Harbour.



Jaga Crossingham (left) and Trent Webster hoist massive dogtooth tuna caught off Fiji. Photo: Freedive Fiji Charters

Crossingham explained on **Instagram** that after posing with the fish at “the trusty palm tree,” they were cut into chunks and weighed. The largest weighed 216 pounds, and had it been fresh and whole, Crossingham and his crew guessed, the weight would have been about 230 pounds.

Jaga was back at sea and out of communication on Monday, but Heather Crossingham, his wife, told FTW Outdoors that the meat would be put to good use.

“The meat is not wasted,” Heather said, adding that smaller dogtooth tuna are generally released. “It goes to the village on the island and feeds more than just the one village. It becomes a big ceremonial feast – a ‘Thank you’ for letting us fish the Fiji waters.”

-Images are courtesy of Freedive Fiji Charters

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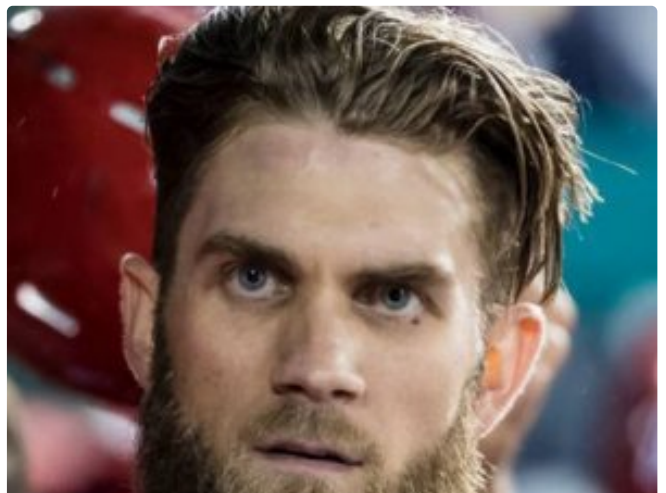
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