

MARQUESAS · FRENCH POLYNESIA

EIAO ISLAND

POPPING & JIGGING EXPEDITION



An uninhabited island at the far end of the Pacific. Only a handful of anglers have ever fished here.

UNINHABITED
NORTHERN MARQUESAS

WHERE IN THE WORLD

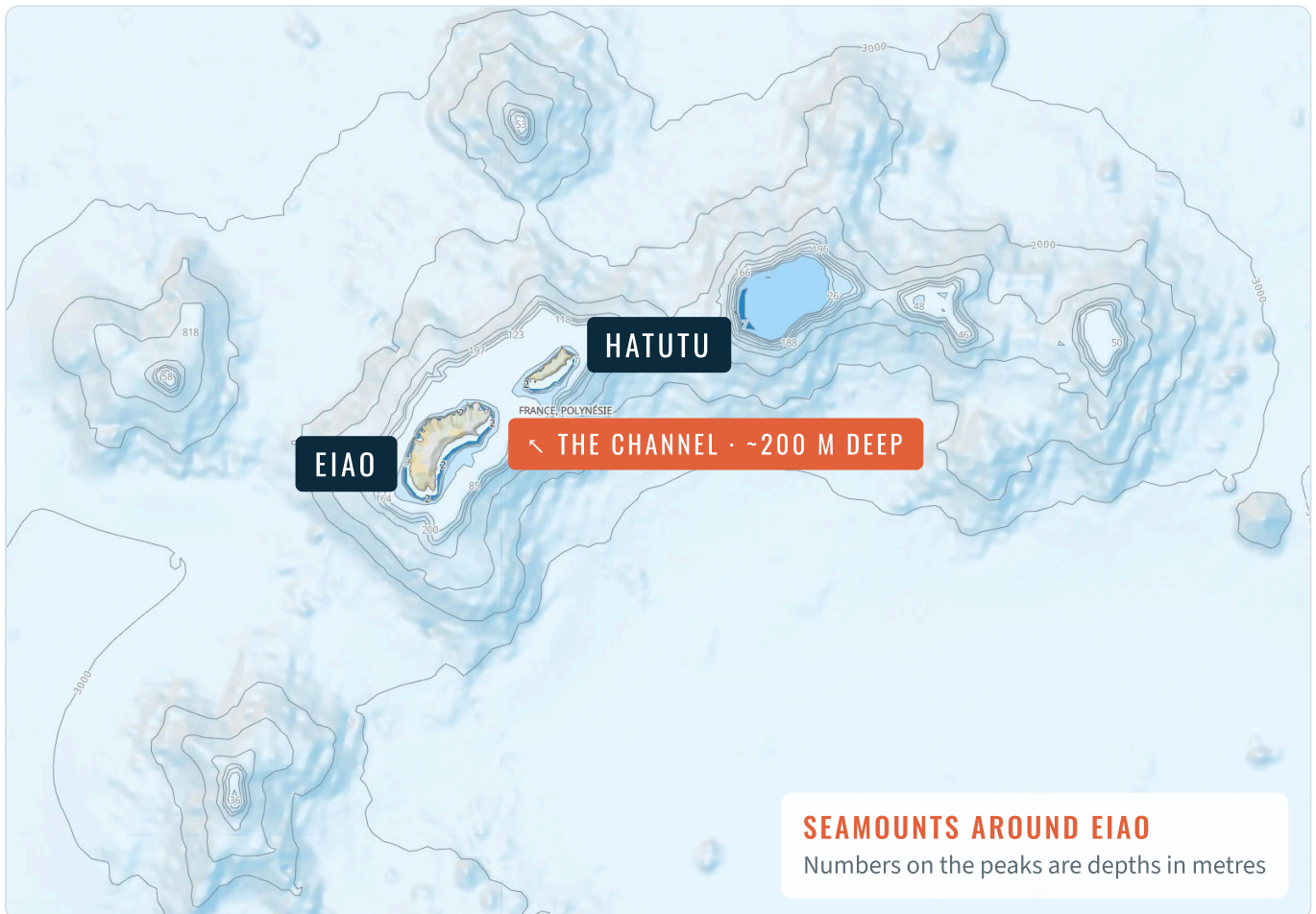
The Marquesas Islands lie in the middle of the Pacific, about **1,500 km northeast of Tahiti**. There are a dozen islands, and only six of them have people living on them.

Eiao sits in the far north of the group, and nobody lives there. It is a rocky, barren island about 11 km long and 4 km wide. It rises to around 550 m, and its cliffs drop straight into deep water.

WHY IT'S SO FISHY

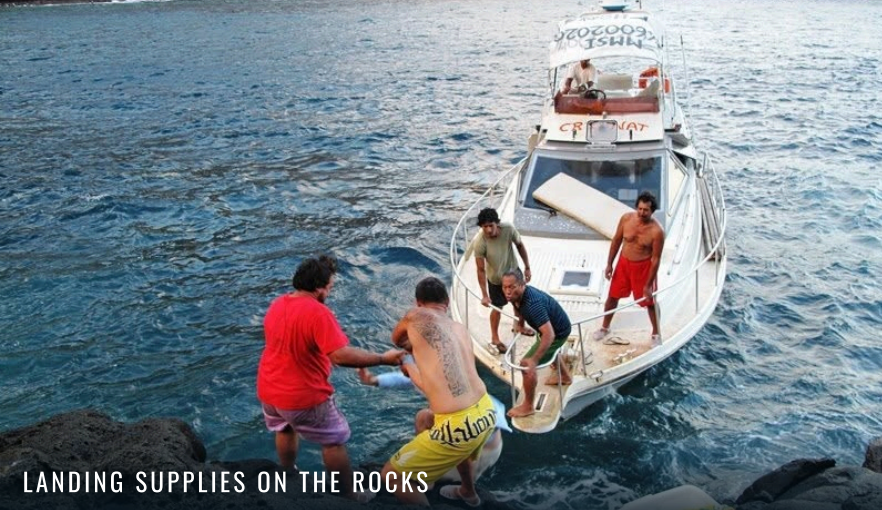
Eiao is **surrounded by seamounts**. They rise from water more than 3,000 m deep to within about 36–58 m of the surface, and they are **loaded with dogtooth tuna**.

- **The cliffs:** points with current and wave action are home to big GTs.
- **Almost no pressure:** only a handful of anglers have ever fished here.



WE'VE ONLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE.

On the few trips we made, we fished just **one of the numerous seamounts** around Eiao. There is still a lot of untouched water out there.



LANDING SUPPLIES ON THE ROCKS



THE SHELTER, BUILT IN A MORNING

THE 2012 EXPLORATION

In March 2012, a small group of us made the first popping and jigging trip to Eiao, with local fishermen from Nuku Hiva running the boats. They fish very successfully with traditional methods, so casting and jigging were completely new to them.

THE CAMP

Seven Marquesans from one family went ahead in a fast poti marara with tents, food, water, a chainsaw and three hunting dogs. We arrived after dark and slept on the boat. By morning they had piped in water from a spring, rigged a shower and built a shelter with a wooden floor and a roof. A rifle shot meant goat for dinner.



CAMP KITCHEN



FRESH CATCH FOR DINNER

THE FISHING

At the foot of the cliffs, around the points with current, poppers and jigs found **GTs**, and many of them were black.

Dogtooth are here too. In the late afternoon, hundreds of manta rays basked along the cliffs.

THE GHOSTS

That's what the locals call the giant black GTs. Malcolm Crane hooked one on a popper just 8 m from the boat. It shouldered through a pack of smaller GTs, took the popper and headed for the cliffs. It stripped line and never turned. Nobody has landed one yet.

“ENORMOUS, BLACK AND VERY, VERY SCARY.”

“If I hadn't seen that it was a GT, I would have thought it was an 80 kg+ dogtooth.”

MALCOLM CRANE



NO CAMERA TRICKS. This monster GT is sitting on the laps of two big Australian blokes, and neither of them is leaning back.

MONSTER GTs, DOGTOOTH AND GTs FROM THE ROCKS. THE STUFF WE DREAM ABOUT EVERY DAY.

THE FISHING

AROUND EIAO: GIANT GTs

Around the main island, we cast for GTs along the cliffs. Twice, we have hooked GTs that looked to be in the **70–80 kg range**.

One customer, a seasoned GT angler with 50 kg fish to his name, fought one for **nearly 45 minutes** before the hook pulled right at the side of the boat. He couldn't believe a GT that size existed. A 45-minute fight with a GT is something we had never heard of.

45 min

On one GT, before the hook pulled at the boat

THE CHANNEL

Between Eiao and little Eiao (Hatutu) runs a channel about **200 m deep** with fast currents. We've lost count of how many times we've been stripped. Every second hook-up is a one-way ticket.



DOGTTOOTH FROM THE SEAMOUNT



SPOOLED TO THE BACKING

THE SEAMOUNT

For most customers, a day on the seamount turns out to be the **best fishing day of their lives**. The dogtooth are unstoppable, and reels get spooled.

One group came back for a second trip with Stella 30000s because their 20000s had been spooled the first time.

20000 → 30000

The reel upgrade after a first trip

THAT'S HOW CRAZY IT WAS
“DROP A JIG AROUND THE
ISLAND. IF YOU DON'T GET A
HOOK-UP, I'LL GIVE YOU \$100.”



GT FROM THE ROCKS



LEAVING NUKU HIVA



THE CROSSING: 8 HOURS OF THIS

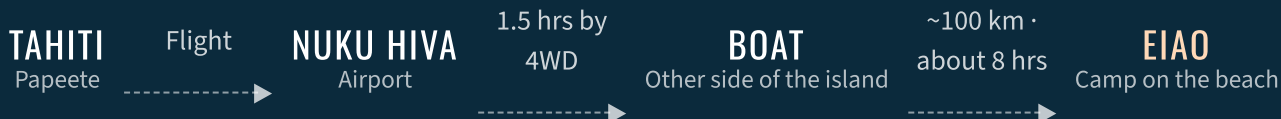
BACK TO EIAO IN 2027

Only a handful of trips went to Eiao between 2013 and 2015. In the 10 years since, we haven't heard of anyone going back.

The logistics are hard, and the crossing from Nuku Hiva (about **100 km in a small poti marara**) is, as one customer put it, *"simply torturous."*

Every time we come back from Eiao, we tell ourselves we won't do it again: 8 hours of bouncing and getting soaked. Then, after a while, the call is so strong that we forget all about it and want to go back.

GETTING THERE



2027: A BETTER WAY TO GET THERE

Every customer and friend who has fished Eiao wants to go back. So in 2027 we are putting trips together again, and this time we will find **proper vessels** that will make the crossing far more comfortable.

That will most likely mean bringing a boat up from Tahiti, across about **1,400 km of open ocean** to Nuku Hiva, before the 100 km run out to Eiao.

~1,400 km

Tahiti to Nuku Hiva by sea
(about 760 nautical miles)

~100 km

Nuku Hiva to Eiao

2013–2015

The last time trips went to Eiao

EIAO ISLAND · 2027

ARE YOU READY?

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

Tell me you're keen and how many anglers are in your group. The number of anglers decides how many trips we can run and whether we need to bring a boat up from Tahiti.

RANDY CHIN

WHATSAPP

Tap here to message me

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