

# REEL TALK



*April 2021*



## **Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)**

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

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Club Web page: <http://www.scac.net.au>

### **April 2021 : Reel Talk Contents**

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# **Club Committee for 2020-21**

All club emails should be sent to [secretary@scac.net.au](mailto:secretary@scac.net.au) and all correspondence posted by mail should be addressed to:

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

## **President**

*Martin Wearmouth*

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## **Vice President**

*Peter Osborne*

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*Victor Schilo*

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## **Secretary**

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## **Reel Talk Editor**

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## **Dry Casting Officer**

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## **Field Day Officer**

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## **Assistant Field Day Officer**

*Vince Tomazin*

## **Assistant Drycasting Officer**

*Bob Henderson*

## **Committee Persons**

*Gary Parkinson*

*Chris Stickells*

## **Recorder**

*Justin Rose*

[Jwrose81@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Jwrose81@yahoo.com.au)

## **Website Coordinator**

*Peet Wessels*



## **SCAC Life Members**

*George Holman, Eric Parker, Ian Cook, Bob Henderson, Terry Fuller, Mal Head, Peter Osborne*

## **Deceased life members:**

*Vic Davis, Doug Edward, Lloyd Dunn, Dudley Brown, Noel Knight, Les Shand, Ron Kildahl, Bob Klein, Jim Stron*



## **President's Report - April 2021**

Our March meeting at the Croatian club had a great turn out, Thanks to all those that attended, The night went very well and the meal was very enjoyable, A few members bought their partners and I hope this continues in the future.

The club seems to be going well, we have had a few more new members this last year and we have made some changes to rules that will hopefully make the field days rules easier to understand.

Our new fishing calendar is now set so please keep in mind our fishing dates; it would be great to see a few more fishing.

Dry casting needs some more support so if you have time please go along and have a go.

*Martin Wearmouth; President*

## **April General Meeting**

A reminder to all members that the March General Meeting will be held on:

**Wednesday 14th of April 2021 at the Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup commencing at 7.00PM.**

**A meal will be served at 7:00PM and the April General Meeting will commence at 8:00PM.**

**To encourage members to make this a social event there will be an excellent meal of crumbed chicken schnitzel, battered fish, roast potatoes & salad served at 7:00pm.**

**The club will be subsidising the cost of the meal and members will only be required to contribute \$15 each.**

**Please advise Victor Schilo (0413 152 550 or email [victor@schilogroup.com](mailto:victor@schilogroup.com)) before midday on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> of April, so that numbers can be forwarded to the Croatian Club.**

*The Croatian Club is charging \$25 per head and for future meetings the club will pay \$10 and members will need to pay \$15, those who have gone to the Presentation nights will know that this is a great price for the meals they serve up, If this works well over the next few months we will change to this venue for good, if you have any concerns please contact Martin, Victor or John.*

| <b>Field Day Venues For 2020/2021</b>   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Dates</b>  | <b>Venue</b>   | <b>Boundaries</b>   |
| <b>3 April – 5 April 2021<br/>Easter Long weekend</b>   | Bluff Creek and standard local<br>Lines down 6 am Saturday<br>Lines up 9 am Monday | Cheynes and Bluff Creek area<br>and local as below at bottom of<br>page |
| <b>Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Point Peron in the South</b><br>Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest – Saturday 6.00 am<br>Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – Monday 9.00 am<br>Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.00 am<br>Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00 am<br><b>Sign-on / Weigh-in times; Where possible please fish together; Spots and locations are to be decided at the General Meeting prior to the Field Day</b> |  |   |

## Field day venues for 2021/2022

| Dates  | Venue   | Boundaries  |
|--|---|---|
| 15 -17 May 2021  | Rottnest Island and Open<br>Lines down 6am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Monday                                    | Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA                                |
| 12 - 13 June 2021  | Open<br>Lines down 9am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Sunday  | Open anywhere in WA   |
| 17 - 19 July 2021<br>Long weekend due to safari                | Open<br>Lines down 6am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Monday  | Open anywhere in WA   |
| 16 - 26 July 2021<br>Dirk Hartog Island and Steep Point safari | Dirk Hartog Island safari<br>2 fishing days to be chosen by traveling group once on the island                | All of Dirk Hartog Island and Steep Point Shelter bay area      |
| 28 - 30 August 2021  | Rottnest Island and Open<br>Lines down 6am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Monday                                    | Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA                                |
| 25 - 27 September 2021<br>Long Weekend                         | Open<br>Lines down 6am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Monday  | Open anywhere in WA   |
| 16 - 17 October 2021   | Dunsborough to White Hills<br>Lines down 9am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Sunday                                  | Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page |
| 13 - 14 November 2021  | Cervantes to Leeman<br>Lines down 9am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Sunday   | Cervantes to Leeman and local as below at bottom of page        |
| 11 - 12 December 2021  | Lancelin to Jurien Bay<br>Lines down 9am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Sunday                                      | Lancelin to Greenhead and local as below at bottom of page      |
| 15 – 16 January 2022   | Open<br>Lines down 9am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Sunday  | Open anywhere in WA   |
| 12 - 13 February 2022  | Dunsborough to White Hills<br>Lines down 9am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Sunday                                  | Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page |
| 5 - 7 March 2022<br>Long Weekend                               | Bremer Bay area and Open<br>We plan to fish Bremer Bay area<br>Lines down 6am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Monday | Open anywhere in WA   |
| 16 April – 18 April 2022<br>Easter Long weekend                | Bluff Creek area and Open<br>Lines down 6am Saturday<br>Lines up 9am Monday                                   | Open anywhere in WA   |

### Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Preston Beach in the South

Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.00am

Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00am

Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – Monday 9.00am

**Sign-on / Weigh-in times, possible fish together spots and locations to be decided at the general meeting prior to the Field Day**

## SCAC Meeting dates for 2021

April: Wednesday 14th

May: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

June: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>

## **CHANGE OF MEETING VENUE Report by John Curtis**

Following the debacle of the January General Meeting, where members arrived and found a pile of rubble where the clubrooms once were, it was resolved to find alternative accommodation for club meetings. We had not been notified by the City of Stirling, the cricket or football club of the intention to demolish the clubrooms and were surprised when we arrived and discovered the situation. Several members were quite proactive and found a variety of seats of various types and age and the meeting proceeded. Slavka was introduced to the Chez Hansen, the mobile kitchen and soon had supper organized and every one enjoyed a cuppa and chatted at the conclusion of the meeting.

Several members of the committee had been invited to a dinner at the Croatian Club at Christmas as a Thank You for using the clubs services and facilities for the SCAC Presentation Night in recent years. In discussion during the meal, it was suggested that consideration be given to using the Croatian Club facilities on a more regular basis.

During our January 'alfresco' meeting under the gum tree in the car park, Vic Schilo was tasked with finding out if the Croatian Club was available on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday night of the month and if the SCAC could use the Croatian Club for its General Meetings for the next few months. The Croatian Club agreed and indicated that we could use the premises for our meetings and if we wished we could include dinner with the meeting. The committee felt that this was a good idea and would provide a more social atmosphere for the members to socialize prior to a General Meeting.

The February meeting was to be our initial meeting at the new venue, but due to a COVID-19 lock down this meeting was cancelled. The March General Meeting became the initial Dinner General Meeting held at the Croatian Club. General consensus from those attending was that it was very successful.

The S C A C picked up the tab for the meals for everyone attending this initial meeting with a view to encouraging everyone to come. The night was quite successful with one of the best turnouts for a General Meeting for several years. We had 27 members attend with 5 apologies and 5 visitors, 2 of whom were potential new members. The only problem for the night was that no-one took any photographs to record the occasion.

We will hold our April General Meeting at the Club on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, commencing with a meal at 7:00PM and the General Meeting at 8:00PM. For future meetings the club will subsidize the cost of the meals and members will have to pay \$15-00 payable to the Treasurer on the night.

The Croatian Club has a regular Friday Night dinner for members and friends and one night per month is a 'fish night'. S C A C members are able to attend this evening meal and dine at the Croatian Club for \$25-00 per head. Good Food and good value get some friends together and have a good night out.

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### **April General Meeting**

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**To encourage members to make this a social event there will be an excellent meal of crumbed chicken schnitzel, battered fish, roast potatoes & salad served at 7:00pm.**

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## **Surf Casters March 2021 Port Gregory field day report by Martin Wearmouth**

I left home on the Friday morning at 7.30am and picked up Peter, we met Gary at Cataby and continued up the Brand highway stopping at the 440 Roadhouse for lunch where we met up with Stuart and George who had the caravan in tow, We arrived at the Port Gregory caravan park at 2pm and unpacked the cars.



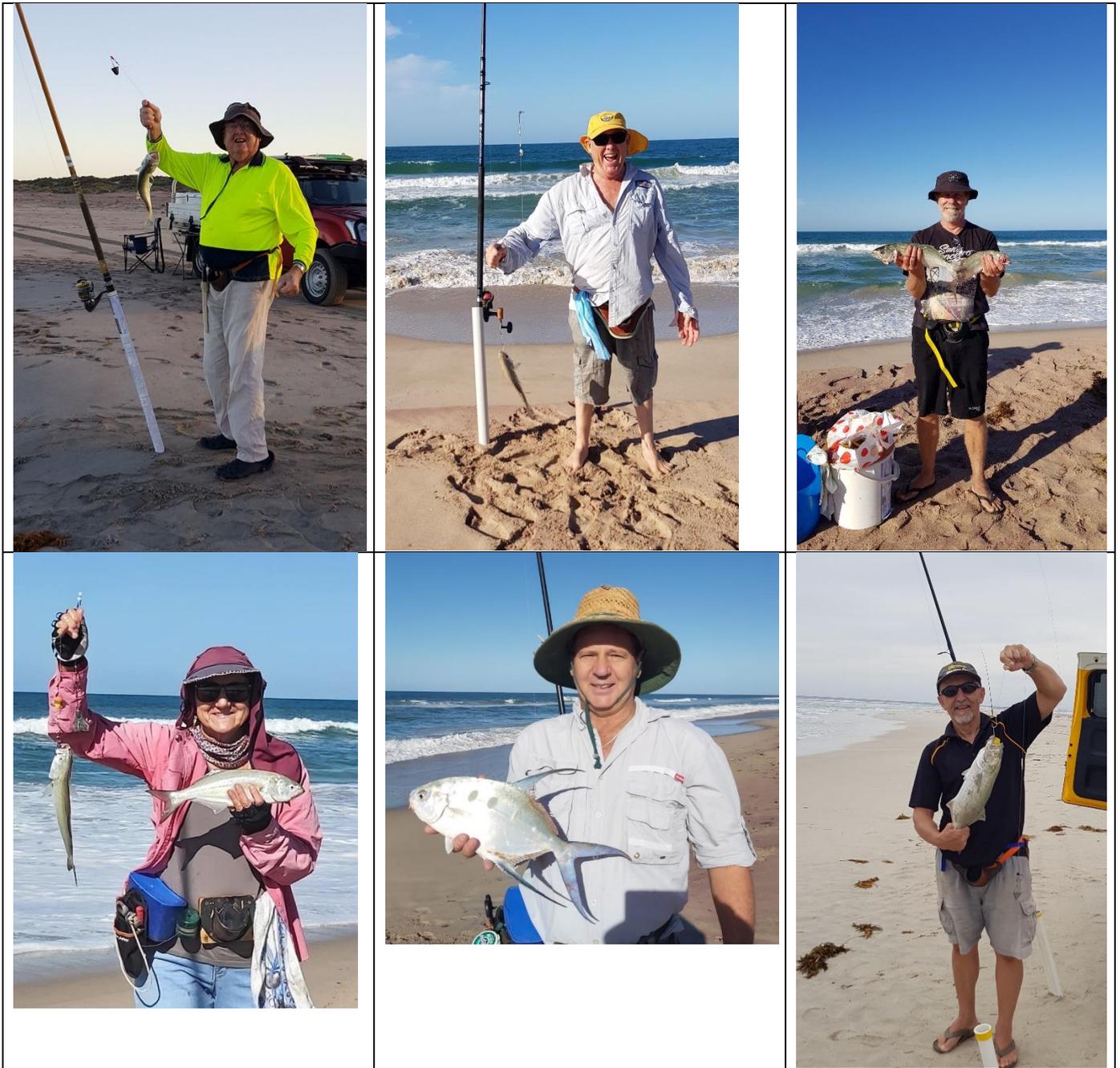
**In the cabin planning the field day fishing**

After a short rest we let down our tyres and headed north of Port Gregory on the beach looking for some fishing spots, the swell was up, and the wind was 50km so the water was very dirty and a lot of sea weed. We could only get 4.5km north until the beach became a cliff with no room for a car to drive, the track at the back of the dunes was over the salt lake and became a mud pit so we turned around and headed south to Nobbys hole. The seaweed was worse and the hole was no longer there so we continued south to Hutt River, all the way the weed was on the beach and a lot in the water, with the wind still 50km we decided not to fish and headed back. Peet and Sandra had arrived when we returned, and we had relaxing afternoon then dinner.



**Saturday morning fishing north of Port Gregory**

Saturday morning Gary, Peter and I headed north about 2km as the following day this had the least amount of sea weed, we started fishing about 6am and only Peter caught a Tailor the wind was ok but the swell was still up, with not many bites we packed up at 7.30am and headed to Hutt River, Peet, Sandra, Stuart and George where fishing here and had not had much luck but the Tailor started to bite just as we arrived so we set up and got fishing, the weed was making the morning hard fishing but the Tailor did hang around for an hour and a half so we all managed some fish, we also caught some Dart.



We left at 11am to go for lunch and rest after the back breaking weed hauling session, Gary and I stopped at a spot inside the reef for a few casts without weed and to see if we could find some other species, first cast I had a good bite but no hook up, the baits were getting stripped quick and after Gary caught a very small butter fish we packed up and headed back.

After lunch at 4pm we headed out for the afternoon fishing session, we all headed to the Hutt River but with the higher tide and stronger winds the weed was worse, Peet and Sandra had left earlier and advised that they had not caught any fish and the weed was getting on the line straight after you cast, We decided to go back north of Port Gregory to the beach we fished that morning, on arrival the water looked good and a lot less weed.

We started getting some tailor about 6.30pm and the fish seemed to be biting well but as the wind got stronger and the tide rose the water was coming up over the beach and running behind us and creating a lake, we stuck it out for ½ an hour but when a wave came over and smashed into the back bumper of the car I decided it was time to go before the water carried the car away, I had just got 2 tailor in 2 casts so the fish seemed willing but again the conditions and wind worked against us.



**Saturday afternoon fishing, water started coming over the edge and we had to leave**

We all had a good sleep and with lighter winds forecast for Sunday we hoped for a better day, again we headed out to Hutt River and started fishing about 6am, the wind was light and the swell had dropped making the water cleaner but we still had a lot of weed in the water, fishing was easier than Saturday but at times big amounts of weed came through and all you could do was sit and wait for it to pass, We again had a tailor bit about 8.30am and a few Dart until we left at 10am, the wind was even lighter so we decided to go the Lucky Bay after lunch.

We headed out about 1.30pm to Lucky Bay hoping for a sea weed free fishing spot, as we drove along the beach we found a nice gutter close to the outer reef that had some Mullet jumping, we set up and started fishing about 2pm, on my first cast I landed a 42cm tailor, what a great fight it put up without the sea weed hanging off the line it allowed the fish to jump and shake its head trying to get rid of the hooks.

The conditions had improved with next to no wind and a high cloud cover so the sun was not cooking us, most caught tailor over the next 3 hours but at 5pm they disappeared and a couple of Dart got caught, Gary had put on a mulloway rig in the hope some fish may pass through this gutter, At about 6pm Gary hooked into a good fish and after a 10 minute fight a 105cm 9.3kg Mulloway was slid up the beach, everyone was happy and after a quick photo the fish was released and swam off strong, we all got back to fishing, at 7.15pm my rod bent over and had a solid fish after a good fight out came a 80cm 5.5kg mulloway to make my day, I was so happy to have some quality fish caught on a field day, it has been quite a while since we have had some good fish like this on one of our beach trips, I hope this is the start of a great fishing year in 2021.

**Ron Thomas** fished at Hill River for a short time until the seaweed came in, doing very well with 5 species and 18 fish.

**Mark Hansen** fished at Reef Beach and managed 7 species and 31 fish for the trip, great effort Mark.



**Sunday afternoon 6pm Mullet, well done Gary**



**Lucky Bay gutter, no sea weed and much easier fishing**





**So much sea weed**





Yes Gary's was bigger



| ANGLER           | Species Mulloway |                | Species Tailor      |                | Species Dart all       |                | Species Flathead (all species) |                | Species Whiting    |                | Species Butterflyfish Western |                | Species Pike |                | Species Herring Australian |                 | Total weight | No. of Species | No. of fish | F.D. points | Attendance |  | Total points |  |
|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--|--------------|--|
|                  | Number           | Weight of best | Number              | Weight of best | Number                 | Weight of best | Number                         | Weight of best | Number             | Weight of best | Number                        | Weight of best | Number       | Weight of best | Field Day                  | General Meeting |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
| Martin Wearmouth | 1                | 4.95           | 15                  | 8.69           | 5                      | 2.25           |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 | 15.89        | 3              | 21          | 209.9       | 1          |  | 219.9        |  |
|                  |                  | 4.95           |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
| Mark Hansen      | Trevally         |                | Whiting King George |                | Western Rock Blackfish |                | Wrasse (all species) 1 only    |                | Herring Australian |                | Western Blue Devil            |                | Zebra Fish   |                |                            |                 | 4.84         | 7              | 31          | 149.4       | 1          |  | 159.4        |  |
|                  | 1                | 0.33           | 1                   | 0.17           | 2                      | 0.42           | 1                              | 0.36           | 24                 | 1              | 1                             | 0.20           | 1            |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
| Gary Parkinson   | Mulloway         |                | Tailor              |                | Dart all               |                | Flathead (all species)         |                | Whiting            |                | Butterfish Western            |                | Pike         |                | Herring Australian         |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
|                  | 1                | 8.37           | 2                   | 0.72           | 2                      | 0.90           |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 | 9.99         | 3              | 5           | 134.9       | 1          |  | 144.9        |  |
|                  |                  | 8.37           |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
| Peter Osborne    |                  |                | 11                  | 5.38           | 7                      | 2.72           |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 | 8.10         | 2              | 18          | 119.0       | 1          |  | 129.0        |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
| Ron Thomas       |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 | 3.31         | 5              | 18          | 101.1       | 1          |  | 111.1        |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
| George Matrakis  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 | 6.66         | 2              | 13          | 99.6        | 1          |  | 109.6        |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
| Stuart Waterman  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 | 5.93         | 2              | 12          | 91.3        | 1          |  | 101.3        |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
| Peet Wessels     |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 | 4.51         | 2              | 8           | 73.1        | 1          |  | 83.1         |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
| Sandra Wessels   |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 | 4.06         | 1              | 7           | 57.6        | 1          |  | 67.6         |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |
|                  |                  |                |                     |                |                        |                |                                |                |                    |                |                               |                |              |                |                            |                 |              |                |             |             |            |  |              |  |

| Field day prizes for March |                  |          |        |
|----------------------------|------------------|----------|--------|
| Section                    | Angler           | Species  | Weight |
| Best scale fish            | Gary Parkinson   | Mulloway | 8.37   |
| Best bag of scale fish     | Martin Wearmouth |          | 15.89  |
| Best shark                 |                  |          |        |
| Best bag including sharks  |                  |          |        |

| Top scores up to March |                        |              |
|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Rank                   | Angler                 | Total points |
| 1                      | Martin Wearmouth       | 1875.7       |
| 2                      | Peet Wessels           | 1440.9       |
| 3                      | Ron Thomas             | 1196.9       |
| 4                      | Mark Hansen            | 1010.0       |
| 5                      | Sandra Wessels         | 849.5        |
| 6                      | Vince Tomazin          | 735.7        |
| 7                      | Stuart Waterman        | 471.8        |
| 8                      | Gary Parkinson         | 465.8        |
| 9                      | Peter Osborne          | 308.0        |
| 10                     | Theo Van Niekerk       | 302.4        |
| 11                     | Shane Wignell          | 301.7        |
| 12                     | George Matrakis        | 269.9        |
| 13                     | Sabby Pizzolante       | 224.4        |
| 14                     | Steve Harrison         | 163.0        |
| 15                     | Brad Zaknich (visitor) | 161.2        |
| 16                     | Chris Stickells        | 152.2        |
| 17                     | Alan Green             | 67.2         |
| 18                     | David Wilding          | 59.0         |
| 19                     | Geoff Raftis           | 47.5         |
| 20                     | Oliver Wessels         | 39.3         |
| 21                     | David Trainer          | 30.0         |
| 22                     | Trinity Wessels        | 29.0         |
| 23                     | Logan Wessels          | 21.8         |
| 24                     | Sri Srigandan          | 20.0         |
| 25                     | Grace Wessels          | 10.0         |
| 26                     | Ian Taggart            | 10.0         |



**Mark Hansen's fish from Reef Beach**

## Open fishing competition 2020/21

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2021, other than on Club gazetted Field days, but not in any other AAA affiliated club event on the same dates. Entries for the Open competition close **30 days after capture**. See Competition Rules Section 4.

| Section | For  | Minimum weight | Entry   |
|---------|--|----------------|---|
| 1       | Most meritorious capture   | None           | To be awarded by Committee                      |
| 2       | Best shark   | 4.5 kg         |   |
| 3       | Best mulloway  | 5 kg           |   |
| 4       | Best salmon  | 3.5kg          | Peet Wessels, 6kg Reef Beach 1/6/20             |
| 5       | Best flathead  | 0.5 kg         |   |
| 6       | Best tailor  | 1.5 kg         | Geoff Raftis, 2kg Jurien 6/2/21 *est            |
| 7       | Best samson fish   | 5 kg           |   |
| 8       | Best fish on single handed rod maximum 4kg line class (Bait)                                   | Legal size     |   |
| 9       | Best pink snapper  | 2 kg           | Justin Rose, 4.5kg DHI 15/12/20                 |
| 10      | Best tarwhine  | 0.5 kg         | Martin Wearmouth 0.77kg S-Bend 30/12/20         |
| 11      | Best mackerel  | 4 kg           | Justin Rose, 16kg DHI 14/12/20                  |
| 12      | Best skipjack trevally (southern)  | 1 kg           |   |
| 13      | Best trevally (northern)   | 2 kg           | Justin Rose, 2kg (gold spot) DHI 14/12/20       |
| 14      | Best snook or pike   | 0.5 kg         |   |
| 15      | Best black or yellow finned bream  | 0.6 kg         |   |
| 16      | Best scale fish other than sections 3-15   | 2 kg           | Justin Rose, Bald Chin Groper, 4kg DHI 13/12/20 |
| 17      | Best fish caught on fly rod.   | Legal size     |   |
| 18      | Best fish caught using a soft plastic or hard body lure on a single handed rod (4kg line max.) | Legal size     |   |

## *Ocean clean-up plastic*

Recently I learned of a product being made from recycled plastic from the great Pacific garbage PATCH ocean clean-up sunglasses. The sales of these glasses go to the continuing clean-up efforts of the ocean clean up. Each pair of glasses sold raises enough funds to clean an additional 24 football fields worth of plastic. This can only be good for the creatures on the world's oceans.

They are also look to make drink bottles and clothes from the recycled plastic [www.theoceancleanup.com](http://www.theoceancleanup.com)

Another company doing a similar thing closer to home is the W.W.F. they are clearing the great barrier reef of discarded fishing gear like gill net which as ghost nets go on killing all types of marine life forever as these nets are synthetic and will not break down. [Www.wwf.org.au](http://Www.wwf.org.au)

Thank you, Chris for bringing this issue to our attention – check out the websites for very interesting statistics.



## Surf Casters Dirk Hartog safari July 2021

Dates: Friday 16/7/2021 to Sunday 25/7/2021

That includes 2 days traveling and 8 days on the island, staying at the block and Urchin Point.

Please contact Vince Tomazin if you are interested in going



### Trip details as follows

- 16/7/2021 Drive from Perth to Shelter Bay, Shark Bay and camp overnight.
  - 17/7/2021 - 7.30am - Barge picks up vehicles and transport to DHI. Drive north to The Block and Urchin point, unpack and fish for 8 days
  - 25/7/2021 - Pack up drive south to pick up point by the barge and camp overnight. More fishing (if you feel like it)
  - 26/7/2021 - 7.30am Barge picks up vehicles and transports to shelter bay. Drive to Perth.
1. Camping Fees - \$20/night per person.
  2. Barge fees - average of \$665 per vehicle. To DHI and back to mainland and a one of fee of \$35 per person
- Average cost/person for 10 nights camping (8 nights on The Block) is  
 Camping 10 x \$20 = \$200,  
 Approx cost if 2 people per car is \$550.00 ea plus fuel, food and bait.

Contact Vince Tomazin for further details. Ph 0417 910 531, Email: stptax@gmail.com

## DRYCASTING – 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

I am hoping the next dry casting day will be on a Sunday. This will build up the numbers a little as we only had four at the last casting day. You will be notified of any changes.

I know you have your good days and bad days, but it's hard to understand how you can do so well in one event and so bad in another. For example, the scores in the DHA were Mal 100, Gary 119, Ron 131, Bob 132, and yet in the distance casts, even though there were one or two outs or break offs, the overall results were good. For example, the longest cast for the day was 162m in the 112gr event, in the 56gr cast 155m was the longest. I know we had a tail wind but taking everything into consideration distances were very good.

Bob took out the honours in the SHA with 27, once again not a good score at all. Especially for Bob who normally does a lot better than that. The overall winner for the day was myself with 488%.

Hope to see a few more at the next cast, which will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday or Monday, as the first of these two days will fall on easter. Once again you will be notified.

Ron Thomas  
DCO

| <b>SURF CASTING &amp; ANGLING CLUB</b>     |                |             |              |          |  |                        |             |              |          |  |                |             |              |          |
|--|----------------|-------------|--------------|----------|--|------------------------|-------------|--------------|----------|--|----------------|-------------|--------------|----------|
| <b>Dry casting results -8th March 2021</b> |                |             |              |          |  |                        |             |              |          |  |                |             |              |          |
|  | <b>56 gram</b> |             |              |          |  | <b>Artificial Bait</b> |             |              |          |  | <b>112gram</b> |             |              |          |
|  | <b>Cast</b>    | <b>Cast</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>%</b> |  | <b>Cast</b>            | <b>Cast</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>%</b> |  | <b>Cast</b>    | <b>Cast</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>%</b> |
| <b>Veterans</b>                            | <b>1</b>       | <b>2</b>    |              | <b>%</b> |  | <b>1</b>               | <b>2</b>    |              | <b>%</b> |  | <b>1</b>       | <b>2</b>    |              | <b>%</b> |
| <b>BOB HENDERSON</b>                       | 126.75         | 138.82      | 265.57       | 87.22    |  | 106.45                 | 105.90      | 212.35       | 81.13    |  | 126.68         | B/O         | 126.68       | 39.36    |
| <b>GARY GILDERSLEEVE</b>                   | 133.95         | 137.63      | 271.58       | 89.19    |  | B/O                    | 115.14      | 115.14       | 43.99    |  | B/O            | 140.02      | 140.02       | 43.51    |
| <b>MAL HEAD</b>                            | 102.52         | 106.76      | 209.28       | 68.73    |  | 99.15                  | 93.50       | 192.65       | 73.60    |  | 116.13         | 103.09      | 219.22       | 68.12    |
| <b>RON THOMAS</b>                          | 155.14         | 149.34      | 304.48       | 100.00   |  | 129.27                 | 132.47      | 261.74       | 100.00   |  | 160.13         | 161.68      | 321.81       | 100.00   |

| <b>SURF CASTING &amp; ANGLING CLUB</b>     |                               |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |              |          |                               |            |            |            |            |              |              |                   |               |    |        |
|--|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----|--------|
| <b>Dry casting results -8th March 2021</b> |                               |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |              |          |                               |            |            |            |            |              |              |                   |               |    |        |
|  | <b>Double Handed Accuracy</b> |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |              |          | <b>Single Handed Accuracy</b> |            |            |            |            |              | <b>Total</b> | <b>Attendance</b> | <b>Total</b>  |    |        |
|  | <b>Target number</b>          |          |          |          |          |          |          |          |              |          | <b>Target distance</b>        |            |            |            |            |              |              | <b>D/Casting</b>  | <b>Points</b> |    |        |
| <b>Veterans</b>                            | <b>3</b>                      | <b>3</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>%</b> |                               | <b>1st</b> | <b>2nd</b> | <b>1st</b> | <b>2nd</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>%</b>     | <b>%</b>          |               |    |        |
| <b>BOB HENDERSON</b>                       | 23                            | 22       | 16       | 20       | 9        | 10       | 10       | 22       | 132          | 100.00   |                               | 6          | 10         | 5          | 6          | 27           | 100.00       |                   | 366.71        | 10 | 376.71 |
| <b>GARY GILDERSLEEVE</b>                   | 7                             | 6        | 24       | 18       | 9        | 15       | 21       | 19       | 119          | 90.15    |                               | 9          | 6          | 2          | 0          | 17           | 62.96        |                   | 212.69        | 10 | 222.69 |
| <b>MAL HEAD</b>                            | 17                            | 4        | 16       | 13       | 13       | 1        | 24       | 12       | 100          | 75.76    |                               | 1          | 2          | 0          | 3          | 6            | 22.22        |                   | 316.45        | 10 | 326.45 |
| <b>RON THOMAS</b>                          | 15                            | 21       | 24       | 13       | 11       | 11       | 15       | 21       | 131          | 99.24    |                               | 7          | 2          | 6          | 9          | 24           | 88.89        |                   | 455.00        | 10 | 465.00 |

| <b>VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2020 - 2021</b> |  |  |  |  |  |        |  |  |                   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--------|--|--|-------------------|--|--|--|
| LONGEST 56 GRAM                                     |  |  |  |  |  | 155.14 |  |  | RON THOMAS        |  |  |  |
| LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT                             |  |  |  |  |  | 132.69 |  |  | RON THOMAS        |  |  |  |
| LONGEST 112G  |  |  |  |  |  | 161.68 |  |  | RON THOMAS        |  |  |  |
| HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY                      |  |  |  |  |  | 157    |  |  | GARY GILDERSLEEVE |  |  |  |
| HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY                      |  |  |  |  |  | 35     |  |  | BOB HENDERSON     |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |        |  |  |                   |  |  |  |
| <b>SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2020 - 2021</b>  |  |  |  |  |  |        |  |  |                   |  |  |  |
| LONGEST 56 GRAM                                     |  |  |  |  |  | 97.80  |  |  | MARK HANSEN       |  |  |  |
| LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT                             |  |  |  |  |  | 97.16  |  |  | MARK HANSEN       |  |  |  |
| LONGEST 112G  |  |  |  |  |  | 121.35 |  |  | MARK HANSEN       |  |  |  |
| HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY                      |  |  |  |  |  | 135    |  |  | MARK HANSEN       |  |  |  |
| HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY                      |  |  |  |  |  | 29     |  |  | MARK HANSEN       |  |  |  |

*An article written many years ago. It has been previously published as a chapter in an Australian fishing book, in an eastern states based fishing magazine, in a tourism guide, and an in-flight magazine.*

## **ROCK FISHING ESPERANCE TO CUVIER**

Touring anglers, travelling by road from the east, often head north towards Kalgoorlie from Norseman on their way to Perth. From there, they travel further north to the oft-reported locations of Kalbarri, Steep Point, Carnarvon, Quobba and Cuvier, and even Exmouth and Broome. All want to sample the excellent fishing that can be found along this section of Western Australia's extensive coastline.

In so doing they are missing out on some of the best rock fishing available in Australia. This can be found by leaving the Eyre Highway at Norseman and heading south some 200 kilometres to the quiet coastal town of Esperance, whose boast is, 'The best beaches in Australia'. This is no idle claim. If you're looking for kilometres of clean white sand, caressed by the clear, cool blue waters of the Southern Ocean, with hardly another soul in sight, and the opportunity to catch big fish, then this is it.

What can the itinerant angler expect from this area? The climate is surprisingly mild, with summer temperatures averaging in the high twenties, and dropping to the low 'teens' of an evening. During this time of the year the prevailing winds are easterly, with a south-easterly sea breeze during the afternoon. Despite its relatively cool climate, Esperance can experience some very hot days.

Fish species often caught in the area are salmon all year round (just their size varies), herring (tommy ruff, mulloway, whiting, flathead, tailor, skippy (white trevally), garfish, pike and gummy sharks. These species seem to be taken more regularly from the gutters and holes along the beaches, generally early morning or evening.

For the rock-hopper the coastline boasts a number of quite prominent rock platforms which jut out into the Southern Ocean and afford the angler a chance at catching pink snapper, sweep, blue and black morwong, blue groper, samson fish, and, on odd occasions, bonito and southern bluefin tuna.

Close to the town, on the western side, there are a number of locations which are accessible by conventional vehicle. All provide quiet and safe swimming areas for the family, along with good fishing for the above species. A little further west are the Nine, Ten, Eleven and Fourteen Mile beaches. These spots are a combination of sandy beaches, rocks and reef.

Cape Le Grande, Hellfire Bay, Wylie Bay, Lucky Bay and Rossiter's all provide excellent rock and beach fishing from numerous, easily reached areas. If you don't have the luxury of a four-wheel drive, don't be disappointed. There is a good bitumen road out to the Le Grande National Park and other locations in the area, with excellent roadside scenery.

Further east are Dunn's, Wharton, Alexander's, Kennedy's, Duke of Orleans Bay, Tagon and Cape Arid which provide anglers with fishing challenges often only dreamed about. Rock hoppers will fall in love with the sloping rocks of volcanic origin dropping into the deep water, which vary in hue from pale green to almost black. The beauty of the area is that it produces good catches continually, and the capture of large fish is not uncommon.

The small town of Hopetoun is quiet and relaxing for the visiting angler. Excellent rock fishing is available in this little town at numerous locations, but the best is approximately three kilometres west of the town along a rough dirt track to the salmon anglers' camp, where salmon, skippy, groper, snapper and Westralian dhufish can all be caught at various times of the year.

At Bremer Bay rock-hoppers will delight at the number and variety of species available from the rocks around the area. Being on the south coast, its headlands jut southwards and provide an east-west aspect. This means that there will always be places to fish, despite the weather.

Whalebone Point, Doubtful Island Bay and Hood Point all provide excellent rock fishing. From Hood Point around to Peppermint Beach low cliffs offer plenty of action for the rock-hopper. The cliffs around Cape Knob also provide excellent angling for the itinerant angler, with an excellent view across Dillon Bay on the east side of the cape. It is an excellent groper spot.

Locations such as Reef Beach, which is aptly named, provide the land-based angler with some exciting tussles with big sharks. Here, a live salmon that is swum out invariably ends up being a meal for a predator. The area has a history of excellent captures, and numerous angling clubs from Perth have a weekend at Reef Beach on their calendar.

Albany is the next major town located along the 'Leeuwin Way' and anglers will always remember it, not only for the variety of fish that can be caught in the area, but also for the climate and beautiful scenery. The area offers numerous rock-fishing locations, but it must always be remembered that 'sneakers' or king waves are ever ready to remove the unwary angler from the rocks. When fishing from the rocks anywhere in the south-west, *never* take your eyes from the ocean for an instant.

Many areas around Albany are popular rock-fishing platforms as the coastline lends itself to this style of fishing. Places such as the Salmon Holes, the Sand Patch, and Jimmy Newell Harbour produce excellent captures for the visiting angler almost any time of the year. Species encountered include small (and larger) sharks, salmon, skipjack trevally, tailor, herring and an occasional blue groper.

West of Albany towards Torbay there is a set of high coastal cliffs. Access to the area is limited and it is not regularly fished. The only really popular location, despite the difficulty in accessing it, is the Sand Patch which produces a wide variety of species. The fishing platform is located at the base of a steep limestone and sand track. A minimal amount of tackle and gear is the answer to fishing this spot, as the walk-out after a good session can be almost murder! Many a good fish has been left on the side of the track as an angler has had to forgo it, just to get himself back to the top. Not a spot for the unfit!

At Cosy Corner, access to the rocks for salmon, herring, skipjack trevally, and groper is relatively easy and safe for children. It is protected from the southerly swells by a headland, which makes fishing a lot safer.

There is some good fishing to be had from the rocks around Forsyth Bluff and Torbay Head. West Cape Howe is situated on the other side of the peninsula and all spots are fishable, with care, for salmon, groper, herring, skipjack trevally and other small species.

Lowlands Beach provides excellent rock fishing at the western end and is the last readily accessible spot for rock fishing until Nullaki Point, adjacent to Wilson Inlet. The rocks on the south-east end of Back Beach are reached via a track which takes in the spots of Lights Beach, Madfish Bay and Sphinx Rocks. All provide above-average rock fishing, but again care must be taken when fishing from these more remote locations.

Parry's Beach at the south-west end of William Bay has some good rock fishing for skipjack trevally, salmon, mulloway, groper and tarwhine. Access is good and from this spot fishermen often battle with large sharks on heavy tackle with honours going each way.

At Augusta there is excellent small-fish angling available from the rocks between Dukes Head and Point Matthew. Groper Bay, Ringbolt Bay and Sarge Bay all offer good fishing prospects as well, particularly for skipjack trevally. In addition to skipjack trevally, anglers are able to catch plenty of herring, salmon, samsonfish and the occasional tailor. This location is dangerous in heavy weather and all care should be taken.

Cape Leeuwin is the south-west corner of Western Australia. From here anglers head north along the coast to Cape Naturaliste. This section of the southern coastline is a rock angler's dream come true. Many locations offer excellent fishing but care should be taken at all locations because of larger than average swells which will readily remove the unwary angler from a fishing platform.

Fish that can be captured from the many rock platforms include the usual smaller species of salmon, herring, skipjack trevally, tailor, sweep, and pike. Larger fish often caught along here include mulloway, samsonfish, sharks, southern bluefin tuna, groper, yellowtail kingfish, pink snapper and Westralian dhufish.

Deepdene, Cape Hamelin and Cosy Corner (not to be confused with the Cosy Corner near Albany), all have good rock fishing. To reach Elephant Rock and Honeycomb Rock from Cosy Corner is relatively easy and these spots are very popular. Hamelin Bay is a little more readily accessible and has a number of good fishing locations within easy walking distance of the township.

North from Hamelin Bay to the estuary of the Margaret River, at Prevelly, much of the coastline is inaccessible. For Western Australian anglers, Cowaramup Point, Cowaramup Reef, Moses Rock, Big and Little Injidup, and Wyadup are synonymous with excellent reef and rock fishing.

Canal Rocks is one location that almost regardless of the swells is fishable somewhere. The main feature of this spot, as its name suggests, are the natural cuttings through the rocks forming canals, which provides some exciting fishing. North from Canal Rocks, Torpedo and Slippery Rocks are favoured fishing platforms, although, as their names indicate, care must be taken when fishing from them.

From here to Cape Naturaliste the coastline consists of rocky beaches interspersed with high sheer cliffs. From Cape Naturaliste the coastline heads south-east. This section is protected from the prevailing weather, which makes fishing from here much more popular with anglers, particularly during the cooler months of the year. Bunker Bay, Rocky Point, Eagle Bay, Gannet Rock, Sail Rock, Castle Bay and Bird Rock are all very popular fishing spots, generally safe enough to fish in all weather conditions, and offer many species of fish.

From here northwards there are only limited opportunities for rock and reef fishing, until anglers reach the southern limits of Perth. Rock fishing in and around the metropolitan area consists mainly of fishing from the rock groynes adjacent to the various harbour entrances or from the rock platforms installed for control of beach erosion. Fishing from these locations should never be frowned upon as they have provided some excellent captures of very large fish.

Offshore from Perth lies Rottneest Island and this saves the sanity of large numbers of Perth-based rock anglers. The island offers unlimited fishing for the rock-hopping enthusiast, and being an island there is always a lee shore. In the winter months the West End is visited regularly by salmon fishers. Large salmon feature regularly on the menu in Perth households after a trip here, and it is one of the few locations in Western Australia where yellowtail kingfish are captured. Although they are not very big, and their numbers few, the challenge of landing one from the rocks draws anglers regularly.

Herring are the mainstay of anglers visiting the island, and can be caught all year round. In addition there are skipjack, tarwhine, flathead, King George whiting, sand whiting, pike, tailor and mulloway in numbers sufficient to ensure that even the most inexperienced angler can take home a feed of fish.

Bickley Point, Jubilee Rocks, Henrietta Rocks, Vera Rocks, and Parker Point all face roughly south-east and are a little more protected than other locations from the prevailing south-westerly winds and swells. All spots offer some form of reef or rock fishing, are not too far from the main settlement, and can be reached by walking or riding a bicycle.

For the angler who is a little fitter, locations in Salmon Bay provide excellent angling from the rocks and reefs. Jeannie's Lookout, Salmon Point, Fairbridge Bluff, Nancy Cove and Kitson Point are only a few kilometres ride from the settlement, and all offer good fishing.

West of Narrow Neck is known as the 'West End', and reef and rock fishing are almost unlimited. From South Point, through Wilson Bay, on to Radar Reef, with its popular herring location known as the 'Tennis Court', Fish Hook Bay, Cape Vlamingh, around the corner to Cathedral Rocks, Eagle Bay and King Head, the area is surrounded by reefs.

The northern shoreline of the island is also well protected from the prevailing wind and swell, and offers a little more relaxed fishing from locations such as Mabel Cove, Hayward Cape, and Celia Rock on the western end of Marjorie Bay. Abraham Point on the western end of Rocky Bay, Crayfish Rock at Ricey Bay, Charlotte Point, Armstrong Point, North Point, are other good reef and rock-fishing locations.

Along the northern and eastern shore of the island the locations of Parakeet Bay, Geordie Bay, Point Clune, Fay Bay, Longreach Point, The Basin, Bathurst Point, and Mushroom Point are all within good walking distance of the settlement, and offer rock and reef fishing in protected waters.

North of Fremantle, where the Swan River meets the Indian Ocean, reefs extend along sections of the beachfront. From the Cable Station at Leighton to North Cottesloe reef, anglers chase tailor, herring and skipjack trevally from the low coastal reef formations. At Cottesloe the groyne affords access for disabled

anglers and it is a popular spot with elderly anglers. The prime location for the 'retired' brigade is the Grant Street reef.

The reefs from Trigg Island north are low and flat and are best fished at low tide. They peter out at Marmion. Sorrento Beach is broken by the three sand erosion control groynes. These groynes are popular spots, particularly in winter when the first north-westerly storms bring out the snapper anglers. The Hillarys marina complex provides anglers with plenty of rock fishing opportunities from the extensive rock walls.

From the Ocean Reef marina north there are several isolated reef formations which allow anglers ready access to reasonably deep waters close to shore. The suburbs of Burns and Quinns Rocks are popular spots for reef anglers and the surrounding coastline is the regular haunt of mulloway and herring anglers. One of the more popular spots is the 'Kingie Hole', located just south of Quinns Rocks.

Pippindinny is a few kilometres north of Quinns Rocks and the reefs along this stretch produce some of the largest tailor to be taken in the metropolitan area. The freighter Alkimos is a ready landmark for both reef and boat anglers as it lies stranded on the shore here. The reefs adjacent produce a variety of fish.

Between Yanchep and the Two Rocks marina lie two spots that are very popular with outer metropolitan anglers. The groyne at Club Capricorn and 'The Spot' produce large tailor, skipjack, tarwhine and mulloway regularly. A little to the north of these spots is Wilbinga Beach, which is 4 WD access only. This is a popular location for anglers' balloon or drone fishing for spanish mackerel and large sharks.

Just north of Guilderton, at the mouth of the Moore River some 80 kilometres north of Perth, two of the more popular fishing locations are the Two Mile and Five Mile reefs.

A few kilometres north of Cervantes, there are a few isolated patches of reef and rocks which are worth fishing. Adjacent to the mouth of the Hill River a few small reefs regularly turn on good tailor, mulloway, herring, garfish, tarwhine and skippy. It is worth spending some time in Jurien Bay fishing from the groynes and rock walls of the harbour. Samson fish and pink snapper are caught regularly during the cooler months of the year, from both locations.

Port Denison is the port for Dongara where the major industry is cray fishing. The rock walls and groyne which protect the harbour are a top location for rock anglers. North of the town, the Seven Mile and Nine Mile beaches are both good for reef fishing. The offshore reefs come quite close to the shore here and allow anglers ready access to reef fishing in protected waters.

Jews, Flat Rocks, Lucies, and Drummonds are all top fishing spots, located near 'S' Bend. They are renowned among Perth's angling community. It is one of the few locations in the State where Westralian jewfish can be caught regularly from the beach and rocks, hence its popularity. It is not only the jewfish which draws anglers to this area-good hauls of herring, tailor, cod, small sharks, whiting, skipjack trevally and tarwhine can be taken regularly.

At Geraldton, rock and reef fishing for herring, skipjack trevally, mulloway, tailor, small sharks, and whiting, is restricted to the harbour breakwater.

On the North-West Coastal Highway, the turn-off to Horrocks and Port Gregory is at Northampton. This bitumen road now takes anglers through to Kalbarri with a variety of fishing locations along the way. Rock fishing at these locations is somewhat limited, but the road leads on towards better reef fishing at spots such as Lynton, Sandalwood Bay, Halfway Bay, Lucky Bay and Wagoie.

At Wagoie there are chalets available for hire which provide anglers a perfect location to enjoy some excellent fishing and also a chance to relax and enjoy the location. Wagoie Reef extends from the northern end of the beach, and anglers are able to walk onto the reef and fish the front and back of it. Large swells often make this spot unfishable, and care should be taken.

The reef has a narrow gap through which a large amount of water flows when the tide is running, or the swell is up. This assists with drifting baits out considerable distances but a wary eye should always be kept on the water for a rogue swell.

Anglers are able to balloon from this spot when there is an easterly wind blowing and it is not uncommon to catch narrow- and broad-barred, as well as spotted, mackerel from here. Pink snapper, an occasional spangled emperor, mullet, Westralian jewfish, sharks of all sizes, tailor and whiting can also be caught from this reef, particularly during summer months.

From Wagoe, northwards towards Kalbarri, there are several locations that produce large fish on a regular basis. Spots such as Natural Bridge, Castle Rock, Layer Cake Gorge, the Shell House, Goat Gulch, Madman's Rock, Eagle Gorge, Pot Alley Gorge, and Mushroom Rock are all top fishing spots. Species caught are cod, groper, tailor, snapper, Westralian jewfish, spangled emperor, Spanish mackerel, samsonfish and many more, all being taken at different times of the year.

Most of these spots are also accessible from Kalbarri in a conventional vehicle. In most cases, however, it involves a long walk from the car to the selected spot. Closer to Kalbarri itself, Red Bluff often evokes a lot of interest with rockhoppers, with good catches of the smaller species. A little closer to town the Blue Hole, Chinaman's Rock and the reef on the southern side of the estuary, all provide excellent fishing.

On the north side of the estuary, Oyster Reef provides plenty of action, in particular Frustration Rock. This spot is aptly named, as not only do anglers lose a lot of tackle to the reef, but also a lot of fish.

The Zuytdorp Cliffs extend northwards for some 200 kilometres and end at Steep Point. Access to 'The Point' is via North-West Coastal Highway, turning off at the Overlander Roadhouse. The track is accessible on odd occasions to conventional vehicles, but the use of a four-wheel-drive is strongly recommended. Another popular cliff fishing location here is False Entrance.

Species of fish that are caught from Steep Point, the most westerly point of the Australian mainland, read like a *Who's Who* of the fishing world. Small marlin, sailfish, yellowfin tuna, northern bluefin or longtail tuna, shark mackerel, narrow and broad-barred mackerel, trevally of several kinds, tailor, snapper, spangled emperor, amberjack and cobia. Steep Point is also one of the few locations in Western Australia where large yellowtail king fish can be caught although, from the rocks, the task is pretty daunting.

It is a very popular spot with anglers from all over Australia, and is coming under increasing angling pressure all the time. There are no facilities out on the point and so all provisions, including water, must be carried in.

If you visit the area, don't spoil it for others. Remove all of your rubbish, including plastic bait bags, discarded line, etc, and don't leave fish frames to rot on the rocks. There have been threats of closing access to the area, and so prevent angling activities, if it becomes too dirty and untidy.

At Carnarvon, reef and rock fishing is limited, but when the coastline north has so much reef and rock fishing on offer, nobody is really upset. The Blowholes are located some 70 kilometres north of Carnarvon and the area adjacent is renowned for its excellent reef and rock fishing Australia wide. When there is a large swell running, the Blowholes are quite spectacular, shooting jets of water 25 metres into the air.

Two kilometres north of the Blowholes is the 'Old Boundary' of Quobba Station. This section of the coastline is probably even more well known by Australian anglers than is Steep Point. Mention locations such as High Rock, the Two Mile, the Ledge, Garth's Rock, Camp Rock, the 17 Mile, the North 17 Mile, the Caves and Red Bluff to rock fishermen anywhere and they will have heard about them, or more than likely fished them.

Quobba Station is located on the southern tip of the Ningaloo Reef Marine Park, north of Carnarvon, Western Australia. It is a working pastoral station with 80 km of coastline bordering the Indian Ocean. The Quobba experience includes land based game fishing, isolated beaches, world renowned surfing, snorkelling, whales and other abundant marine and wildlife on the arid outback landscape. Your choice of accommodation ranges from camping or palm frond humpies, fishing shacks, cottages through to luxury eco safari tents on top of the Red Bluff cliffs. Itinerant anglers are able to have almost all of the comforts of home here, with fabulous fishing to boot.

Quobba Station has a reputation as one of Australia's longest stretches of coastline for land based game fishing. Try ballooning, spinning, bottom bouncing, salt water fly and spear fishing along the 80 kms of harsh, jagged and unpredictable coastline that is Quobba's western boundary and is a unique piece of Australia.

There are very few places where you can see such a rugged yet so beautiful coast. There are many things to see and do on arrival at Quobba Station. One of the main attractions is the land based game fishing that is a challenge to any fisherman of any experience. With the water depth reaching up to 80 ft, casting distance from the rocks, the opportunity to catch game fish is almost unlimited. Spanish Mackerel, Shark mackerel, Broad bar Mackerel, Cobia, Tuna, Bonito, Sharks and Sailfish have all been caught from the Quobba rocks. Reef fish waiting for you to catch include Spangled Emperor, Pink Snapper, Bald Chin Groper, Queenfish, Trevally and a plethora of other species.

The fishing from the area is possibly the best there is on offer in Australia. *“Quobba Station is equal to any land based game fishing in the world –I have been coming for 36 years, and always find it hard to leave.”* – Allan Barker.

A list of species that can be caught at the various locations includes: narrow-barred, broad-barred and shark mackerel; longtail (northern bluefin) tuna, striped tuna; golden, gold-spot, bludger, turrum and giant trevally; queenfish; tailor; cobia; sailfish; samsonfish, yellowtail kingfish; amberjack; swallowtail and spotted dart; snapper; spangled, red, and red-throat emperor; spotted cod; and Spanish flag. This list doesn't include any of the numerous species of sharks.

### **Types of Fishing:**

#### **Spinning:**

These species are able to be taken on a variety of lures, and virtually any minnow pattern will work. High-speed spinning with metal lures is also very successful, but, be warned, you will need a good supply of any kind of lure.

**Ballooning / Drone Fishing;** – The other very popular method of fishing the area has been ballooning and using a drone to put baits out beyond casting distance. Perhaps the most exhilarating form of land based game fishing. Imagine a surface strike plainly visible to the naked eye, as 30 kg of Spanish Mackerel leaps 3 m clear of the water to smash your bait, hanging below a gas balloon some 10 m above.

There are two methods for ballooning. One uses exhaled air and a series of party balloons and the other uses balloon gas. This is a mixture of helium and nitrogen which is far safer than hydrogen and is also inert. This latter method is possibly the more productive. Ballooning rigs are sent out, and then most anglers continue to spin until a strike.

Regardless of your level of experience every strike will force a spike of adrenalin through you and all observing.

**Beach Fishing:** – there are less dangerous and rugged places on Quobba to fish from. Several beaches along the coastline can provide a less risky catch of Mulloway, Taylor, Dart, Trevally, Snapper, Squid and in some places Bonefish.

### **Locations to fish along this coastline include;**

**Whistling Rock** - located 5 miles north of the homestead, 6 m above sea level is one of Quobba's most consistent spots on the coast for catching Spanish mackerel, tuna and the odd sail fish during the winter season. Ballooning, spinning and bottom bouncing is best with a low swell and offshore winds.

**High Rock:** About 1 mile south of the homestead, 10 m above the water lies High Rock. Ballooning, spinning and bottom bouncing are your options from this spot. A cliff gaff or 9 m pole gaff is needed. There is a stainless-steel safety wire along the top edge of the cliff. This spot has seen many anglers lose their lives so care needs to be taken when there is any kind of swell running.

**The Ledge:** is located north, near the 13 mile fence line and is the best spinning location on the Quobba Coast. The Ledge caters for saltwater fly, spinning and bottom bouncing. It is at its best during the summer season for the annual shark mackerel and cobia run. A 5 m pole gaff is required. Access is via a goat track down the cliff face or for less nimble people, drive to Camp Rock and walk south approx. 400 m to The Ledge. Seek local advise before first visiting The Ledge.

**2 Mile:** Located 2 miles north of the Quobba Homestead, is one of the prime spinning locations on the coast. Fishing safely from this platform is very dependent on tide and weather conditions. Seek local advise before “pinging a lure”

**The Caves:** Extremely picturesque spot, very difficult to access – 4WD only, but great spinning and bottom bouncing to be had. A 6 m pole gaff needed. The Caves are not fished regularly because of its isolation, a good level of fitness is required for the long walk in.

**Red Bluff:** Safe fishing in nearly all-weather conditions. Spinning, baitcasting, from the rocks, balloon fishing from the beach. A small pole gaff needed if fishing from the rocks.

**Camp Rock** Located half a mile north of The Ledge, this spot is accessed by a 4WD track down the cliff face. 4WD drive hubs need to be engaged, and tyres let down to 15 lbs .Easy access to the rocks, where you will need a rope gaff or at least a 4 m pole gaff. Ideal for spinning and bottom bouncing.

Wherever you fish from the rocks always be careful and wear a life jacket and be aware of the prevailing conditions. No fish is worth your life.

John Curtis



## FISHING EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

This gear is specifically suited to spinning from the rocks or ballooning. It would be an ideal top up for the tackle box for those heading to Steep Point or on the Dirk Island Safari or casting lures for salmon down south. Contact me on 0412 776 558 or email me at [jcurtis@inet.net.au](mailto:jcurtis@inet.net.au) to make an offer for any item. Listed below is what I have for sale.

### **RODS:**

1 x G Loomis IM6 Graphite rod C 663; 2 – 4 Kg O/H in as new condition minimal use Purchased for AU\$300 \$75

### **LURES:** \$10 the lot

#### Minnows:

2 x Bagleys Shad-a-lac.  
2 Halco Combat  
1 x Shakespeare Big O  
8 small assorted small Rapala minnows  
1 x Jensen Krokodile

### Blades: \$10 the lot

13 Blade Runners  
2 x mini Blade Runners

### Jigs: \$30-00 the lot

11 x Lead Head Maribou Jigs 15 g  
25 x Firetail Lead Head Jigs

### Metals: \$25 the lot

9 x Halco Flashback 40 g  
2 x 50 g Raiders  
3 x Grim Reaper 40 g  
3 x Grim Reaper 25 g

#### Halco Metals:

2 x 55 g Twisty  
1 x 50 g Hex slice  
1 x 50 g slice  
1 x 45 g slice  
1 x 40 g Twisty  
1 x 35 g slice  
1 x 30 g slice

### Assorted: \$10 the lot

2 x Bills Slug 35 g  
4 x Lazer 30 g  
1 x large metal spoon  
4 Asst'd lead flash lures.

### Line:

Bulk spool Australian Monofil 30 lb (approx. 4000 m) has only had 600 m removed from original. \$50.  
3 x 550 m 20 lb monofilament clear \$2-50 ea  
3 x 1000 m 12 lb monofilament clear \$2-50 ea  
4 x 1150 m 10 lb monofilament line \$2-50 ea