



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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July 2021 : Reel Talk Contents

Cover	Dirk Hartog Fishers
	Contents
	Club Committee and Life Members
5	President's Report
5	2021 – 22 Field Days
6	DHI July Field Day Report and Results
22	Drycasting Results
23	Steep Point Adventure
26	Digital Footprint

Club Committee for 2020-21

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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 Strong



President's Report - August 2021

Our AGM is this month so please try to attend the meeting and support the club.

With the Dirk Hartog safari now done make sure you have a read of the report, it was a great trip and with a few new species ticked off my list I am thinking a Quobba trip could be worth looking at next year.

Please remember to pay your membership fees, the fees have been reduced to \$50 so if you know anyone that may want to join, please let them know, we need some new members.

Martin Wearmouth; President

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
28 - 30 August 2021	Rottnest Island and Open	Rottnest and Open anywhere in
•	Lines down 6am Saturday	WA
	Lines up 9am Monday	
25 - 27 September 2021	Open	Open anywhere in WA
Long Weekend	Lines down 6am Saturday	
_	Lines up 9am Monday	
16 - 17 October 2021	Dunsborough to White Hills	Dunsborough to White Hills and
	Lines down 9am Saturday	local as below at bottom of page
	Lines up 9am Sunday	
13 - 14 November 2021	Cervantes to Leeman	Cervantes to Leeman and local as
	Lines down 9am Saturday	below at bottom of page
	Lines up 9am Sunday	
11 - 12 December 2021	Lancelin to Jurien Bay	Lancelin to Greenhead and local
	Lines down 9am Saturday	as below at bottom of page
	Lines up 9am Sunday	
15 – 16 January 2022	Open	Open anywhere in WA
	Lines down 9am Saturday	
	Lines up 9am Sunday	
12 - 13 February 2022	Dunsborough to White Hills	Dunsborough to White Hills and
	Lines down 9am Saturday	local as below at bottom of page
	Lines up 9am Sunday	
	Bremer Bay area and Open	Open anywhere in WA
5 - 7 March 2022	We plan to fish Bremer Bay area	
Long Weekend	Lines down 6am Saturday	
	Lines up 9am Monday	
16 April – 18 April 2022	Bluff Creek area and Open	Open anywhere in WA
Easter Long weekend	Lines down 6am Saturday	
	Lines up 9am Monday	

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 ${\bf P}$

August General Meeting Wednesday 11th

Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

SCAC Annual General Meeting <u>Wednesday 11th August</u> 8.00 pm

Surf Casters July 2021 Dirk Hartog field day report by Martin Wearmouth



With rain on the forecast for Perth I arrived at Justin's house about 4.15am on Friday 16th July for our drive to Shelter Bay, we had some rain but as we went north the clouds got lighter, we met up with Stuart, George, Gary and Vince at the 440 Roadhouse in Geraldton for a fuel and food stop. The road was busy with caravans and our next stop was the overlander roadhouse for our last fuel and food stop before we went off road.

We headed out on the Useless Loop road that had just reopened the day before after some rain earlier in the week, the road was ok but did have some water and rough spots so the speed was slower. The last part of the track into Shelter Bay was quite hard after the rain and we arrived about 4pm to set up camp and sleep on the beach waiting for the barge pick up on Saturday morning.

Our barge time was 9am but it was a busy barge day and we did not get over to the island till 10.30am, the barge ride was about 20 minutes and once on the southern end of the island we started or 90km drive up to the northern end to The Block campsite we had booked, the track was rough in places so we arrived at 2pm to find some fisherman camped at our spot that did not have a booking, after they packed up we emptied the cars and went for a late afternoon fish on the cliff at the front of our camp.





Mostly only small fish got caught. I had a good fish on that was taken by a shark and I managed to get the shark to the surface near the cliff before it broke free. George landed a 3.4kg snapper so hopes were high for the next 6 days that a few more would get caught.

We all had dinner and then sat in the shack chatting and enjoying the remote spot. The only issue was the thousands of mosquitoes, luckily we had some insect repellent and Justin had bought some mozzie coils that helped keep them away.

On Sunday we again fished the cliff at camp and mostly caught small emperor and blacktip rock cod. Gary and I each landed a trevally but fishing was not great. We decided to have Monday and Wednesday as our field day days so we took it easy ready to fish hard the following day.



Monday, we started at the cliff out from camp but with not much going on Justin and I headed south on the track to some other spots Justin had good results at in previous trips, at these spots we had a lot more bites and mostly caught small emperor and blacktip rock cod. Justin got a good 1.5kg Stripped Sea Perch and 3.2kg Baldchin Groper, I got a Triggerfish and Stripped sea perch. Gary and Vince tried Mystery Beach but had no luck.

Tuesday was much of the same, but Stuart and George caught some Slender Suckerfish the biggest going 2.4kg and 900mm. We went for a drive to the lighthouse to see if we could get some phone reception to check the weather but with clouds and some wind had no luck getting a phone signal.



Wednesday we started at the camp cliff and again did not managed too many fish. Justin and Vince decided to get some balloons out for Mackerel and the rest of us drove to the western side of the island to find some beach fishing. After looking at Turtle bay and Cape Levillain we ended up at Dampier's Landing and set up the fishing rods, as we set up a small shark was patrolling the shallows, once we had lines out the small sharks proved to be the only fish around at the time. Stuart managed to catch 2 and Gary caught 1, George and I both lost one as its teeth cut the line.

We returned mid-afternoon and found that Justin had landed 2 Spanish Mackerel and Vince had some taken by sharks only managing to get the head of a 20+ kilo Spanish Mackerel. As I got to the cliff Justin had a large shark on his balloon rod and we took turns trying to bring it in or bust it off, it turned out to be a large 3m bull shark that finally got free and swam off.

George caught a 1.4kg Barracuda and some Stripey sea perch, Vince caught a suckerfish, Justin got the 2 mackerel a 3.6kg Rankin cod, a 1.8 kg Stripey sea perch and some blacktip rock cod, I only managed some blacktip rock cod, that was the end of the 2 field day days.

Thursday we decided to again get some balloons out and while they worked we did some lure spinning and bottom fishing, Justin got 2 Rankin cod and a spangled emperor before the balloon rod went off, it was my turn and the fish made a couple of good runs as I worked it into the rocks, all the time praying that the sharks stayed away. I got lucky and managed to get the fish next to the cliff, Justin sent down the cliff gaff and up came a 22.6kg 137cm Spanish Mackerel, this put a big smile on my face, A fish of a lifetime and thanks to Justin for all his help.



Most of the Mackerel seemed to be coming through in the middle of the day so first up on Friday we headed south again to try some other spots, here we got a lot more bites but only small fish so we headed back to get the balloon out again. George had landed a 4kg Shark Mackerel on his balloon rig, Gary got the first Spanish Mackerel at 12.1kg, Justin got the next one at 13.55kg, Stuart was next but the sharks managed to find it and he only got half in but that was 7.2kg so still plenty of fillets.

Our last day was Saturday, we again stayed at the camp and put the balloons out while fishing the lures and bottom rigs. Vince caught a 3kg Trevally before Justin decided to move the balloon rod south due to no bites. At the new spot the bait was sitting behind the reef, only 30 seconds later the drag went and George reeled in a 20.1kg Spanish Mackerel, We had another run but again it was a shark that we got into the rocks then cut the line.

Sunday was time to pack up and head back to the homestead for the last night on the island before we got on the barge on Monday morning, we left mid-morning and got to the Homestead at 2pm where we set up camp had a nice shower and relaxed as the sun was out and no wind, best of all not many mosquitoes.

Monday morning, we got up early and headed for the barge pick up beach, the barge arrived early and with flat seas the return trip was quick. We stopped in and saw Peet Wessels who was camped at Shelter Bay then headed out on the track, the traffic was light, and we got back to Perth at 5.30pm just as a storm front hit with rain coming down so hard the road turned into a river, this slowed us down a little, but we arrived home safe after a epic fishing adventure.

Ron fished at Quobba on Saturday and Sunday and did very well with 8 species

The Wessel's crew camped at Shelter Bay and only Oliver fished for the field day catching 3 species.







Justin Rose

The island always throws up new challenges, previous trips out of peak tourist season were far more predictable for myself with strong winds and bottom fish plentiful.

The weather in July made the island far more liveable although at a compromise with changing winds were mosquito plagues that had to be seen to be believed. The great thing about DHI is if you can push through the hard fishing at times then when it turns on the results can be spectacular. We had some memorable sessions with balloon baits being smashed and it was great to see the group tick off a few firsts especially catching large Spanish Mackerel, it doesn't get much better as a land-based angler magnificent sports fish in the water and on the plate. The island is a hard place to fish it can be brutal on both tackle and angler, I'm sure all the touring party picked up a few new skills or ideas along with the great memories.







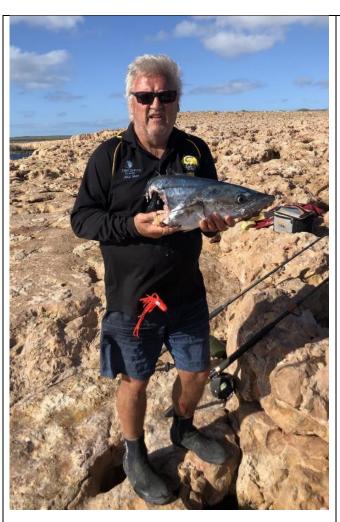
Gary Parkinson

After having come back from Dirk hartog I have to say of cause the highlight would have to be 1 catching a spanish mackerel 2 the late night music sessions a great safari with more to come I hope









Vince Tomazin

Every trip to DHI is memorable in its unique way. Highlights for me on this trip as follows

- 1. Hooking up to a large Mackie only to be sharked and recovering the head only, which weighed just under 4 kilos.
- 2. A horror night of mosquito invasion, when the wind dropped. No one got any sleep and we had repellent but nothing to prevent them from invading our sleeping quarters.
- 3. Witness a whale launching itself out of the water on numerous occasions not far offshore, on the last morning of our trip, while making a last pitch effort to land a complete Mackie (head to tail) on balloon.
- 4. Last but not least, acknowledge the huge contribution to the trip by Justin to everyone. It was pleasing to see some members land their first Mackie on the trip. Thank you to Justin. Also a thank you to Martin for keeping me company on the last morning and taking photos of the whales.







Stuart Waterman

Definitely another bucket list item ticked off. An adventure that few will ever participate in.

The ultimate goal of pulling in a Spanish mackerel was achieved, with a little help from Justin. Many thanks to those who organised the trip, and the guidance given out by Justin.

The whale watching each day was an amazing feature, very privileged to be so close as they glided through the water.

The biggest draw back was the tracks on Dirk Hartog, a credit to vehicle manufactures and caravan manufactures to be able to survive such torrid tracks, or maybe it was the mosquitoes 24/7 that was the biggest drawback.

Fabulous time had by all.







George Matrakis

Dirk Hartog Island will hold a lot of memories for me.

The trip to Sheltered Bay was long, especially leaving Perth at 4am to get there before sunset on Friday to set up camp.

Then Saturday morning we drove onto the barge to be transported onto the island. The boat trip was smooth and fine but the next three and a half hours over rough corrugated tracks really tested our patience and vehicles. My first catch for the trip was some small reef fish and then a 3.4kg Pink Snapper. The following day I landed a 4kg Shark Mackerel. At night after dinner the highlight was Justin playing DJ and singing along to some old classics

Over the next few days my most notable catches were a 2.4kg Remora, a 1.4kg Barracuda and then finally a 20kg Spanish Mackerel on Justin's balloon outfit.

A great trip that can now be ticked off the wish list, that was only spoilt by the mozzies.







Martin Wearmouth

This was a tip of a lifetime and I caught so many new species, The 22.6kg Spanish Mackerel is the highlight but seeing all the other people catch there first Mackerel was also good, everyone helped each other when needed and thanks to Justin with his experience with this type of fishing everyone got a chance at getting a good fish.

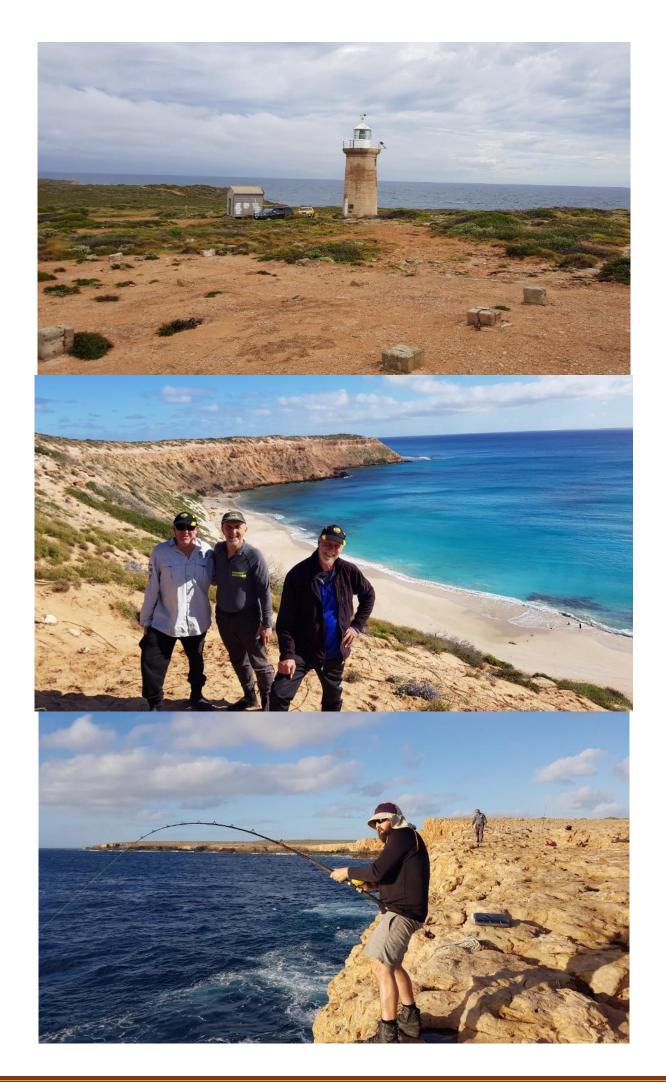
The scenery was spectacular and whale watching was a highlight, Some whales came so close to the cliff it felt like you could jump on their back.

The music after dinner helped with a great atmosphere at night.

The weather was good and most days we had a good wind for ballooning, I learned a lot on the land based game fishing and am thinking another safari is needed soon so I do not forget.













		Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species					Attendance	nce	
ANGLER		Snapper Pink	Snapper Darktail	Stripey Seaperch - Snapper Stripey	Dart all	Emperor Spangled	Trevally Goldspot	Emperor Redthroat	Parrotfish			Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Field	General Meeting	Total
	Number	1	1	1	2	1	4	2	1									
Ron Thomas	Total weight	2.15	0.68	0.81	0.88	3.55	12.92	1.35	2.48			24.82	œ	13	341.2	_	-	361.2
	Weight of best						4.46											
		Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species					Attendance	nce	
		Stripey Seaperch - Snapper Stripey	Mackerel Spanish	Baldchin Groper	Blacktip Rockcod Chinaman	Rankin Cod	Shark Dusky Whaler	Snapper Golden Fingermark	Barracuda	Leatherjacket	Emperor Grass	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Field Oay	General Meeting	Total
	Number	4	2	-	9	1												
Justin Rose	Total weight	4.57	15.03	2.88	1.80	3.24						27.52	2	41	339.2	-		349.2
	Weight of best	1.62	9.54															
	Number						2											
Stuart Waterman	Total weight						9.81					9.81	_	2	110.1	_	-	130.1
	Weight of best						4.91											
	Number	2			5			1	1									
George Matrakis	Total weight	1.60			1.50			0.60	1.26			4.96	4	o	98.6	-	-	118.6
	Weight of best																	
	Number	2			9					-	1							
Martin Wearmouth Total weight	Total weight	1.60			1.80					0.40	0.70	4.50	4	10	95.0	_	_	115.0
	Weight of best																	
	Number				1		-											
Gary Parkinson	Total weight				0.30		5.76					90.9	7	2	97.6	-	-	102.6
	Weight of best						5.76											
		Species	Species	Species	Species	Species										Attendance	nce	
		Whiting	Flathead (all species)	Butterfish Western	Blacktip Rockcod Chinaman	Suckerfish Slender						Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Field	General Meeting	Total
	Number	1	1	10														
Oliver Wessels	Total weight	0.10	0.25	2.00								2.35	က	12	65.5	-		75.5
	Weight of best																	
	Number				1	1												
Vince Tomazin	Total weight				0.30	1.08						1.38	2	2	35.8	_	-	55.8
	Weight of best																	

	Top scores up to July	
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	718.7
2	Ron Thomas	700.8
3	Peet Wessels	452.2
4	Vince Tomazin	427.4
5	Justin Rose	349.2
6	Mark Hansen	331.8
7	Gary Parkinson	331.1
8	Sandra Wessels	288.0
9	Alan Green	155.3
10	Stuart Waterman	130.1
11	George Matrakis	118.6
12	Sabby Pizzolante	111.6
13	Theo Van Niekerk	109.2
14	Oliver Wessels	75.5
15	lan Taggart	35.0

	Field day priz	zes for July		
	Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best	scale fish	Justin Rose	Mackerel Spanish	9.54
Best	bag of scale fish	Justin Rose		27.52
Best	shark	Gary Parkinson	Shark Dusky Whaler	5.76
Best	bag including sharks	Stuart Waterman		9.81
	Field Day Sections up	to and including July		
	Section	Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	0	0	0.00
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	0	0	0.00
2	Most meritorious fish	0	0	0.00
3	Best shark (4.5kg min)	Gary Parkinson	Dirk Hartog July 2021	5.76
4	Best mulloway (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
5	Best tailor (1kg min)	0	0	0.00
6	Best salmon (3kg min)	Alan Green	Yallingup June 2021	4.91
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Martin Wearmouth	Yallingup June 2021	0.88
8	Best mackerel (2kg min)	Justin Rose	Dirk Hartog July 2021	9.54
9	Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)	0	0	0.00
10	Best scale fish (Other than above)	0	0	0.00
11	Best bag of scale fish	Martin Wearmouth	Yallingup June 2021	27.82
12	Best bag of mulloway (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Ron Thomas	Hill River May 2021	4.07
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
15	Best fish caught on fly rod	0	0	0.00
16	Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
17	Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
18	Best fish caught using a drone	0	0	0.00

Open fishing competition 2021/22

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	
5	Best flathead	0.5 kg	
6	Best tailor	1.5 kg	
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	3.4 kg George Matrakis, Dirk Hartog Island 17/7/21
10	Best tarwhine	0.5 kg	
11	Best mackerel	4 kg	22.6 kg Martin Wearmouth, Dirk Hartog Island 22/7/21
12	Best skipjack trevally (southern)	1 kg	
13	Best trevally (northern)	2 kg	3kg Vince Tomazin, Dirk Hartog Island 23/7/21
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	3.5kg Spangled Emperor, Justin Rose, Dirk Hartog island 22/7/21
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	

			<u>S</u>	URF CA	\STII	VG & A	ANGLII	NG CLI	<u>JB</u>					
			D	ry casti	ing r	<u>esults</u>	- 5th.	July 20	<u>)21</u>					
		<u>56</u>	gram				<u>Artific</u>	<u>cial Bait</u>			<u>.</u>	112gram	<u>1</u>	
	Cast	Cast	<u>Total</u>			Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	<u>Total</u>	
<u>Veterans</u>	1	2		%		1	2		%		1	2		%
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	ARY GILDERSLEEVES 125.75 111.38 237.13 93.27 106.11 114.77 220.88 100.00 131.33 128.07 259.40 10													100.00
BOB HENDERSON	122.54	131.70	254.24	100.00		97.83	103.67	201.50	91.23		O/B	112.47	112.47	43.35
MAL HEAD	92.93	79.70	172.63	67.90		85.48	90.90	176.38	79.85		104.22	104.36	208.58	80.41
<u>Mens</u>														
MARK HANSON	111.37	114.18	225.55	100.00		91.51	95.25	186.76	100.00		113.27	120.19	233.46	100.00

								SU	RF CA	STING	& A	NG	LIN	G C	LUE	<u> </u>				
								Dry	castir	ng resi	ılts -	- 5t	h Ju	ly 2	202	<u>1</u>				
				Doul	ole F	land	ed A	ccur	ac <u>y</u>			Si	ngle	Han	ded	Accurac	<u> </u>	<u>Total</u>	Attendance	<u>Total</u>
					Targ	get n	umk	<u>er</u>					Ta	rget	dist	ance			D/Casting	<u>Points</u>
<u>Veterans</u>	<u>3</u>	3	1	<u>1</u>	4	4	2	2	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>1st</u>	2nd	<u>1st</u>	2nd	<u>Total</u>	%	%		
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	23	18	22	25	17	16	23	22	166	100.00		6	4	7	8	25	73.53	466.80	10	476.80
BOB HENDERSON	20	20	17	18	25	9	20	17	146	87.95		8	9	8	9	34	100.00	422.53	10	432.53
MAL HEAD	11	17	11	17	19	21	12	16	124	74.70		8	9	8	8	33	97.06	399.92	10	409.92
<u>Mens</u>																				
MARK HANSON	19	12	15	19	13	11	17	18	124	100.00		8	5	0	7	20	100.00	500.00	10	510.00

		V	/ETE	RAN	<u>s</u>	BES	T CA	STS FOR	R THE YE	AR 20	21 -	202	2		
		_													
LON	GEST	56 G	RAM						156.96			RON	тно	MAS	
LON	GEST	ARTI	FICIA	AL BA	IT				134.92			RON	тно	MAS	
LON	GEST	1120	GRAN	Λ					156.96			RON	тно	MAS	
HIGI	HEST	DOU	BLE F	HAND	ED A	CCUR	ACY		166			GAR	Y GIL	DERS	LEEVE
HIGH	HEST	SING	LE HA	ANDE	D AC	CURA	CY		34			вов	HEN	DERS	ON
		SE	NIO	RS	ВЕ	ST C	AST	S FOR TI	HE YEAR	2021	- 20	<u>22</u>			
LON	GEST	56 G	RAM						114.18			MAF	RK HA	NSEN	ı
LON	GEST	ARTI	FICIA	AL BA	IT				96.20			MAF	RK HA	NSEN	I
LON	GEST	1120	G						120.19			MAF	RK HA	NSEN	J
HIGI	HEST	DOU	BLE H	IAND	ED A	CCUR	ACY		163			MAF	RK HA	NSEN	J
HIGH	HEST	SING	LE HA	ANDE	D AC	CURA	CY		29			MAF	RK HA	NSEN	I

Steep Point Fishing Adventure - July 2021 by Peet Wessels

Fishing adventures away from all the hustle and bustle of the modern world, that's what I want to do all the time!!







After meticulous planning and organising, four of us left Perth on a Friday morning, heading North to our favourite fishing waters ~ Steep Point. Our halfway stop was Geraldton. Seeing we are getting older and like to take things slow and easy, this was a great option.

Early Saturday morning, well rested and ready for the day ahead, we left the comfort of our hotel, for our destination ~ Shelter Bay.



The track into Steep Point was as corrugated as ever, with very deep potholes that rocked us in all directions. We took it very slow along this stretch, trying to limit damage to the trailer and car, but to no avail, we arrived at our campsite with a very big crack in our Tinny's hull and a boat battery that was unserviceable!

After setting up a proper and well-laid out camp, we made plans to overcome our problems and breakdowns. Soon it was all go and we were fishing our old hotspots.

The fishing was hot and the fish were hungry. But it wasn't easy to land these fish, as the Sharks were there in bigger numbers than ever before! It was hard going and we averaged about 1 fish to us and 6 to the Sharks. Fishing along the Faultline, where we hooked into some really big fish, it was even harder to land a fish. In the end we had to find other fishing spots in much shallower water.

With much of our time having favourable weather, we managed to enjoy many hours fishing and enjoyed this beautiful part of WA.

As always when having fun, our 2 weeks came to an end and before we knew it, we were safely back in Perth.

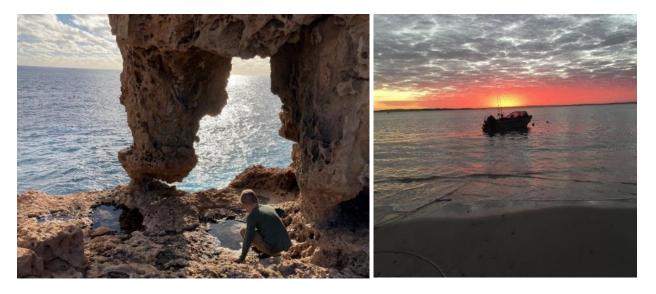












Tight lines and hope to meet up with some of you on our next fishing adventure.

Want to know more about your digital footprint?

By Emma McGowan July Avast Newsletter

If you're active online, you have a digital footprint. Everyone does. Every comment made on social media, every news article shared, and every purchase made online contributes to a person's data trail. Your data trail reveals a detailed picture of who you are and what you like.

This data is valuable and often monetized by "free" services and apps like Facebook, Google, and Twitter. When you're logged in, you're being tracked across every page you visit.

There are costs and benefits to go with your data trail. For example, when sites know what you like, you see more relevant ads for products and services that appeal to you. When you allow cookies from websites, they remember what you've seen or clicked on and can make your visit faster and less repetitive.

Elements of your digital footprints can be searched or shared by others. And something that you thought you were sending as a private message can easily be shared with a larger audience, which can be embarrassing or hurtful. Worst of all – once it's on the internet, it's there forever.

Here's how it works: When you visit a website, it collects information about you by installing cookies on your phone, tablet, or computer browser. This information includes your IP address (Internet Protocol - a unique address that identifies a device on the internet or a local network), your login details, and anything else about you that you reveal or gets posted about you.

When you choose to post on social media platforms, sign up for newsletters or text alerts, or agree to install cookies by clicking "Accept" on a cookie consent banner on a website, you are leaving a data record of your activity.

Your digital footprint is basically your online reputation. It can be helpful or harmful. What you say online can impact your everyday life. And managing your data trail isn't only about privacy and data security. Employers, schools, and law enforcement could use your online activity on social media to make character assessments. So, it's important to keep your online identity positive. Imagine what someone might think about you based on your actions online.

Additionally, you may not always be aware of the digital footprint you're creating. Examples of hidden data collection include websites that install cookies without telling you, mobile apps and sites that use geolocation to determine your location, and social media ads or news sites that profile you based on your likes, shares and comments to serve you advertisements that relate to your interests.