

REEL TALK

December 2021



*Checkout your special invitation
on Page 6*

Eric Parker – Life Member – Club member 1968 – 2021

Last month we had the Funeral and memorial service for Eric Parker, thanks to all the members that attended.

I thought it appropriate to put in some details this month to remember Eric and his long and dedicated service to our fishing and casting club.

Eric joined the club in 1968 and was always active in attending events and helping run the club, he held 10 various committee positions in the club over his 53 years, and was awarded Life Membership in May 1988,



Eric 1990 with Mackerell

Club President –	3 years
Vice President –	1 year
Secretary –	9 years
Treasurer –	9 years
Property Officer –	6 years
Recorder –	1 year
Immediate Past President –	3 years
AAAWA Delegate –	1 year
Membership Coordinator –	4 years
Committee Member –	3 years

He made a lot of long-term friends at the club and was always helpful and informative for any members, he often made and supplied sinkers and lures for club members at a very cheap price, so this made a fishing trip much more affordable.

At the Funeral we had 5 of the 6 pallbearers from the club being George Holman, Dennis Green, Tom Corcoran (all past presidents), Terry Fuller (life member), Martin Wearmouth (current president) and Jerry Driver (Eric's next-door neighbour)

Eric was a member of the state casting team and helped win a few titles for the WA team while travelling around Australia with other members, these are great memories for all our long-term members and it made our club great and so successful for many years.

Rest in Peace Eric.



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Email: secretary@scac.net.au

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

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	Eric Parker Life Member
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Peet Wessels



SCAC Life Members

George Holman, 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, Eric Parker



President's Report - December 2021

It was nice to see some returning members who had not fished with us for a while at our last fishing field day in November, the weather and conditions turned out to be the best we have seen for a while, let's hope that continues for the next few events.

The December meeting will be somewhat special in that the Club will subsidise the meal and drinks. Please take this opportunity to come along and enjoy the company of your fellow members.

I would like to wish all members a safe and happy Christmas and New Year, with 2022 just around the corner now let's hope for a great year of casting and fishing.

Martin Wearmouth; President

Field day venues for 2021/2022

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
11 - 12 December 2021	Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Greenhead and local as below at bottom of page
15 - 16 January 2022	Open Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
12 - 13 February 2022	Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
5 - 7 March 2022 Long Weekend	Bremer Bay area and Open We plan to fish Bremer Bay area Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
16 April - 18 April 2022 Easter Long weekend	Bluff Creek area and Open Lines down 6am Saturday 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 Rottneest - Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends and Rottneest - 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

December General Meeting

Wednesday 8th

Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

The meal including drinks will be fully subsidised by the Club



YOUR INVITATION

To attend the Club's December
Dinner & Meeting

Wednesday, 8th December

Croatia House, 18 Wishart Street; GWELUP
Meal at 7pm – meeting at 8pm

As this is our Christmas meeting, there
will be no charge for the meal including
drinks

Please RSVP to: Vic Schilo 0413 152 550

victor@schilogroup.com

DRY CASTING RESULTS – 1st November 2021

Somebody forgot to tell the weatherman to do what it was supposed to do. Instead of being Westerly it turned to the South just before we started our distance events which made it a little harder to achieve a good distance. I have an excuse every time don't I. It's just that the 160 metre mark seems to have a barrier there.

Gary lost his favourite art bait rig just before we started, so that put him behind the 8 ball in the DHA, that is the understatement of the year. 114 was the outcome. We all have our bad days from time to time don't we Gary. I top scored in that event with 145 beating Hendo by just 2 points.

Klaus took out the honours in the SHA with 26, not a good score but good enough to win. In the distance 156.53m was the longest cast for the day, that was in the 112g event. The longest art bait was 137.80m which was the longest for the year so far. 149.76 was the longest 56g, beating Bob by 1 ½ metre. Barry still needs a lot more tuition but he did have his 2nd longest cast so far in not very favourable conditions, so keep at it Barry, and take note of what you hear.

We are back to Mondays again, that is the 1st Monday of the month unless there are any changes, then you will be notified.

Ron Thomas
DCO

Dry casting results - 1st November 2021														
	56 gram					Artificial Bait					112gram			
	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>Cast</u>	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Total</u>			<u>Cast</u>	<u>Cast</u>	<u>Total</u>	
<u>VETERANS</u>	1	2		%		1	2		%		1	2		%
BOB HENDERSON	134.22	148.13	282.35	94.29		106.03	100.21	206.24	75.40		125.63	124.97	250.60	82.83
MAL HEAD	71.52	81.17	152.69	51.00		85.81	85.17	170.98	62.51		95.48	105.38	200.86	66.39
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	135.88	136.32	272.20	90.90		117.51	105.96	223.47	81.70		133.20	127.87	261.07	86.29
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	112.71	116.78	229.49	76.63		94.23	92.32	186.55	68.21		96.38	106.41	202.79	67.03
BARRY CHAMBERLIN	70.59	44.51	115.10	38.44		45.01	64.65	109.66	40.10		72.76	70.40	143.16	47.31
RON THOMAS	149.76	149.70	299.46	100.00		137.80	135.71	273.51	100.00		146.02	156.53	302.55	100.00
<u>MENS</u>														
MARK HANSEN	111.99	109.76	221.75	100.00		99.56	109.01	208.57	100.00		117.11	125.88	242.99	100.00

Dry casting results - 1st November 2021																					
	Double Handed Accuracy										Single Handed Accuracy								Total	Attendance	Total
	Target number										Target distance									D/Casting	Points
VETERANS	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Total	%		1st	2nd	1st	2nd	Total	%		%		
BOB HENDERSON	6	16	25	19	16	17	21	23	143	98.62		5	7	1	9	22	84.61		435.75	10	445.75
MAL HEAD	19	10	23	18	12	0	19	19	120	82.76		1	6	0	0	7	26.92		289.58	10	299.58
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	15	4	19	17	20	15	2	22	114	78.62		9	4	4	0	17	65.38		402.89	10	412.89
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	1	7	25	21	15	16	23	24	132	91.03		6	7	7	6	26	100.00		402.90	10	412.90
BARRY CHAMBERLIN	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	3.45		0	8	0	0	8	30.77		160.07	10	170.07
RON THOMAS	21	21	19	23	12	13	20	16	145	100.00		6	6	6	7	25	96.15		496.15	10	506.15
MENS																					
MARK HANSEN	3	21	19	4	10	14	16	10	97	100.00		0	3	5	6	14	100.00		500.00	10	510.00

<u>VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022</u>														
LONGEST 56 GRAM									157.57			RON THOMAS		
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT									137.80			RON THOMAS		
LONGEST 112GRAM									157.57			RON THOMAS		
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY									166			GARY GILDERSLEEVE		
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY									34			BOB HENDERSON		
<u>SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022</u>														
LONGEST 56 GRAM									114.18			MARK HANSEN		
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT									109.01			MARK HANSEN		
LONGEST 112G									120.19			MARK HANSEN		
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY									163			MARK HANSEN		
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY									29			MARK HANSEN		

Surf Casters Quobba Station safari July 2022

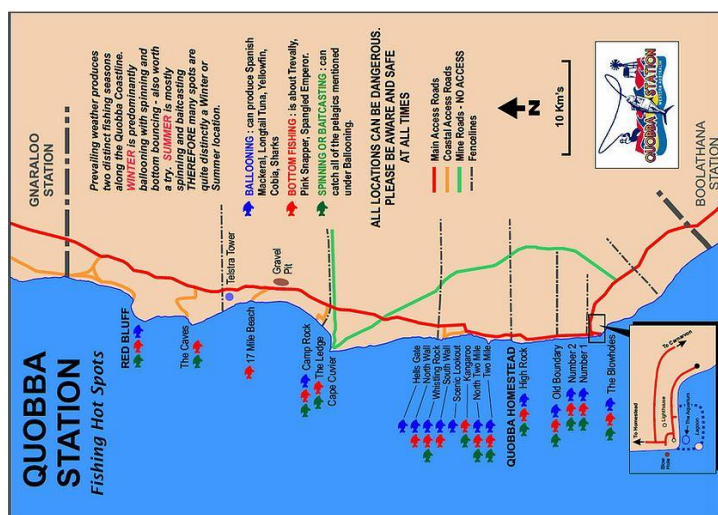
- Check In Date Saturday 16th July 2022
- Check Out Date Sunday 24th July 2022
- Number Of Nights 8

Staying at The Long Cottage – **Contact Martin if you are interested in going ASAP**

The Long Cottage sleeps 8 people, with one double bed, six singles. It consists of a self-contained kitchen covered veranda, shower and toilet facilities (donkey hot water system - you have to light a fire under 'donkey' to heat water for shower), 24-hour power to lights and fridge (10-hour power to power points and BBQ facilities. This cottage is ideal for larger groups or the budget minded family.

*Bed linen/towels/pillows NOT supplied.

**Firewood collection is not allowed on the station so please bring your own supply for the Donkey hot water system, otherwise wood can be purchased at the office.



Surf Casters November 2021 Hill River field day report by Martin Wearmouth



I set off early on Saturday morning with the weather forecast looking very good for a change. I arrived at 8.15am in the Hill River car park and let down my tyres, I was the only one to arrive early but some other members had come up on Friday. I drove a bit north of the car park and onto the beach to find Dave, Rob, Dom and Carmel who had arrived Friday afternoon and set up camp, they reported having each got some Tailor on Friday night but had only fished a couple of hours, this was good news.

I then decided to head down to the river mouth to see what the winter storms had done to the beach and find Ron who had come up on Friday morning. The beach at the river was wide and had pushed further into the river at the river mouth. Ron was fishing about 1km south of the river mouth and even the beach there was a lot wider, you can now drive all the way from the car park to the river mouth easily due to the beach being much wider and flat.



I set up next to Ron and started fishing, the wind was so light that the flies became a nuisance but as the morning went on a nice gentle breeze came in to cool us down and blow the flies away. Ron was catching a few species but also some Puffer fish, First cast I caught a Butterfish and over the next few hours managed almost a fish every cast, the spot Ron was fishing had a nice bit of reef and sea weed bank about 60 to 70m out, this was normally hard to cast to but with the beach being 50m wider it was now within casting distance.

I had a good couple of hours using my light fishing rod to tussle with the Butterfish, I have to say on light gear they put up quite a good fight, One was 225gm and put on a great fight, Steve arrived at 10am and set up next to us, just after he arrived I caught a 41cm Flathead and next cast a Herring, over the next couple of hours mostly just Butterfish but also 1 Trumpeter.

From 12pm to 2pm Shane, Gary and Alan arrived and all set up on Ron's spot, the water was nice and clear and best of all no sea weed, we now had a good group all set up in hope of some good fishing action, at 2.45pm Ron had a nice bend in his fishing rod so I moved over to help only to see a North West Blowie come up the beach, I have not seen one caught here for a few years.

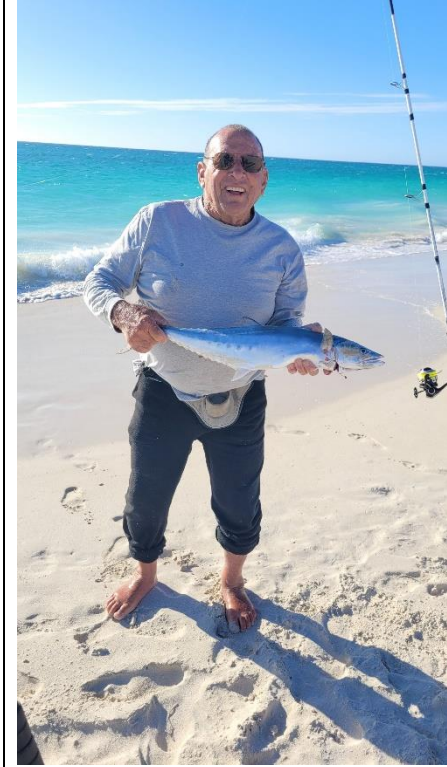


At 5.10pm Ron again was fighting a good fish and this time pulled in a Spotted Mackerel of 1.81kg then 10 minutes later had a smaller 0.88kg spotted Mackerel, Next at 6.10pm Alan landed a 0.84kg Spotted Mackerel, Ron had started to catch some Tailor but I did not land one till 7.15pm and managed 2 more before we finished fishing, We had a fire and sat around chatting till about 10.30pm when we all went to sleep.

I woke up at 5am and started fishing, Ron had started at 4am and caught a nice Tailor and Skippy but I could only catch Butterfish and Blowies, Ron had a Eagle ray at 6.15am and that was it for the morning, Gary, Shane, Steve and Alan all packed up early and headed home by 7.30am, I left at about 8am and Ron shortly after.

So much better conditions this trip, the fishing was not great and still not a hot Tailor bite at sun down, But a few different species over the 24 hours and great to see Shane and Steve back on the beach fishing, With the 6 of us fishing together it was a great trip, we all had a good few laughs and just enjoyed the great beach weather a fish was a bonus.

I had a close call on my drive back, just after the wedge turn off I was passing a caravan and as I just got past them a Emu came running across the road, luckily I missed it by about 2 meters and it was just running flat out, I think the Emu was just as surprised as me at the near miss as we looked each other in the eyes for those few seconds.



Ron with a Spotted Mackerel



Ron with Tailor



Alan with a Spotted Mackerel

ANGLER		Species Butterfish Western	Species Tailor	Species Herring Australian	Species Trevally Silver Skippy	Species Trumpeter - Grunter striped	Species Flounder (all species)	Species Pike	Species Flathead (all species)	Species Mackerel Spotted	Species Whiting	Species Stingray Eagle	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
																	Field Day	General Meeting	
Ron Thomas	Number	8	6	10	1	3		6	1	2		1							
	Total weight	1.20	2.38	1.49	0.27	0.50		0.84	0.37	2.42		5.22	14.69	9	38	274.9	1		284.9
	Weight of best									1.63									
Martin Wearmouth	Number	20	3	1		2		1	1		3								
	Total weight	2.99	1.17	0.12		0.24		0.25	0.27		0.30		5.34	7	31	154.4	1	1	174.4
	Weight of best																		
Robert Wilding	Number		3								1	1							
	Total weight		1.17								0.10	2.00	3.27	3	5	67.7	1		77.7
	Weight of best																		
Alan Green	Number			2				1		1									
	Total weight			0.22				0.16		0.76			1.14	3	4	45.4	1	1	65.4
	Weight of best																		
David Wilding	Number		2								1								
	Total weight		0.78								0.10		0.88	2	3	31.8	1		41.8
	Weight of best																		
Shane Wignell	Number							2	1										
	Total weight							0.32	0.32				0.64	2	3	29.4	1		39.4
	Weight of best																		
Steve Harrison	Number						1	1											
	Total weight						0.15	0.16					0.31	2	2	25.1	1		35.1
	Weight of best																		
Dom (visitor)	Number		2																
	Total weight		0.78										0.78	1	2	19.8	1		29.8
	Weight of best																		
Gary Parkinson	Number			1															
	Total weight			0.15									0.15	1	1	12.5	1		22.5
	Weight of best																		

Top scores up to November		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	1456.7
2	Ron Thomas	1330.8
3	Peet Wessels	1094.3
4	Mark Hansen	777.8
5	Sandra Wessels	700.7
6	Vince Tomazin	661.3
7	Gary Parkinson	393.6
8	Sabby Pizzolante	361.7
9	Tino Baiardo	355.8
10	Justin Rose	349.2
11	Chris Stickells	298.7
12	Alan Green	230.7
13	Robert Wilding	153.2
14	Brad Zaknich (visitor)	148.0
15	George Matrakis	138.6
16	Stuart Waterman	130.1
17	Theo Van Niekerk	109.2
18	David Wilding	99.0
19	Oliver Wessels	75.5
20	Helen Carnell	56.1
21	Ian Taggart	55.0
22	Dom (visitor)	52.3
23	Shane Wignell	39.4
24	Steve Harrison	35.1

Field day prizes for November				
Section		Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish		Ron Thomas	Mackerel Spotted	1.63
Best bag of scale fish		Ron Thomas		14.69
Best shark				
Field Day Sections up to and including November				
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 mulloay (2kg min)	Ron Thomas	Wilbinga Sept 2021	13.23
5	Best tailor (1kg min)	Sandra Wessels	Lucky Bay Sept 2021	2.71
6	Best salmon (3kg min)	Alan Green	Yallingup June 2021	4.91
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Sabby Pizzolante	Rottneat August 2021	2.07
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 mulloay (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Ron Thomas	Wilbinga Sept 2021	9.56
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	Mark Hansen	Salmon Bluff Cr Sept 2021	0.70
15	Best fish caught on fly rod	0	0	0.00
16	Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	Mark Hansen	Salmon Bluff Cr Sept 2021	0.70
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 mullet	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	

Surf Casters March 2022 Bremer Bay Field day booking

The club has booked a large house in Bremer Bay for 3 nights in March 2022, Friday 4th March 2022 to Monday 7th March 2022 (check out by 10am on Monday)
It can sleep up to 12 people so I am hoping to get a good few going (we may be able to fit a few more if needed)

We will be voting at the December 2021 General meeting to see if the Club can pay for the accommodation for this trip,

The cost for the 3 nights is \$1260

Some details below

12 guests

3 bedrooms

9 beds

4 baths

Each of the three bedrooms are furnished the same with one queen bed, two single beds and an 'open' plan wardrobe in each. All bed linen and bath towels are supplied along with hand towels, face cloths and tea towels.

Link to house on Air B&B

https://www.airbnb.com.au/rooms/33169616?guests=1&adults=1&s=67&unique_share_id=234a788c-e9bb-468f-85fd-971f9af62e12

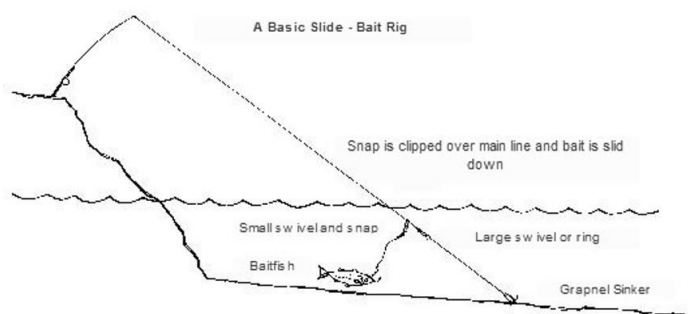
A few members are planning to head out past Esperance on the Monday 7th March 2022 to Thomas River for an extra week, if anyone is interested in going please contact Martin for details.

HOW TO FISH USING A SLIDE BAIT

INTRODUCTION

An ability to cast a good distance from the beach along the west coast of W A is often hampered by a strong sea breeze. Although this stirs up the water, and many anglers prefer it as often brings tailor on the bite. Anglers fishing for mullet from metropolitan beaches generally find the months of November to March the most productive. January is on record as being our windiest month of the year and trying to cast a big bait destined for a mullet into a strong sea breeze becomes an almost impossible task. If you are to reach the deep gutter behind a sandbar along our beaches you will almost need to be Hercules.

To achieve this simply and effectively, South African anglers solved this problem by 'slide baiting'. This involves casting a sinker out into the gutter, and then attaching a baited rig to the line and sending it out. Using the right gear, it is possible for an average caster to achieve a 100m cast, and better casters are able to achieve 150m casts. This will allow you to fish the gutters out behind the sandbars and fish deeper water in search of bigger fish.



GEAR YOU WILL NEED:

Most beach fishermen have gear that is generally suitable to enable them to go slide baiting. There may be some changes required with some gear, but you should be able to successfully slide bait with your current outfits.

RODS:

Generally we use longer graphite or graphite composite rods for beach fishing, and one that is 4 to 4.5 m in length, that can cast up to 170g (6 oz), will generally be adequate. With modern technology now producing some excellent multi-piece rods, these are ideal for slide baiting. The added advantage of these rods is their portability and ability to be readily and easily stored. These can be either set up for an overhead reel, a larger spinning reel or a side cast reel. This is the anglers choice.

REELS:

This is up to each individual as to what they use; the important factors involved in choosing the reel are (1) line capacity and (2) the amount of drag that can be imparted. Generally overhead reels are better suited to slide baiting, however larger spinning reels and side cast reels are also effective. Generally a minimum line capacity of 300m of braid topped off with around 100m of nylon will be adequate. Using a larger overhead reel will mean that you get better capacity coupled with a good, smooth drag system. Generally the only drawback is the ability to cast using the larger sized overhead style of reel. Once this is mastered you will have no trouble in achieving good long trouble free casts.

SLIDE BAITING RIGS:

There are two type of slide baiting rigs in common use by anglers.



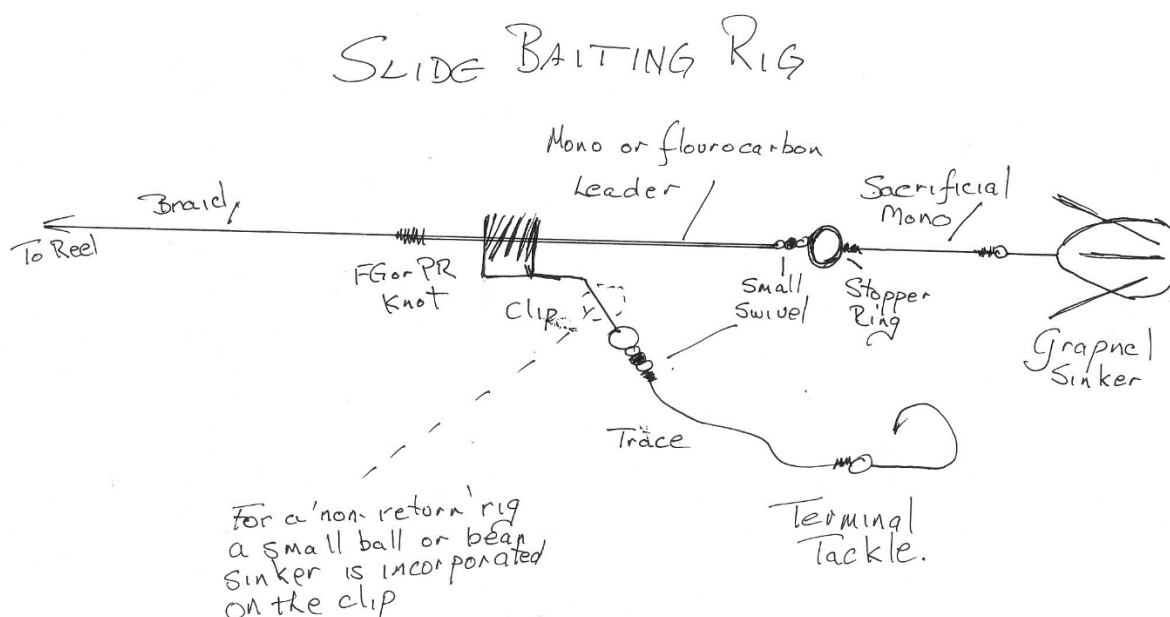
The upper rig is a rig which is designed to slide up and down the line. This rig will allow a bait to be worked down the line and it can also come back up the line.

The lower rig is a 'non-return' rig. Once the bait has been slid down the line it remains in its final position, often just above or adjacent to the grapnel sinker. It cannot work its way back up the line.

Both are quite effective and can either be hand made by the angler, or purchased as a commercially available rig for a few dollars.

THE RIG:

The slide rig is pretty special in its make-up. Being able to slide your bait down the line after the sinker has been cast requires some specific choices being made.



BRAID

Braid is used to guard against running out of line when the fish on the other end goes for a big run. Being much thinner than mono, you can fit a lot more of it on. Look for a thin, strong and hard wearing braid.

CASTING MONO

This is the line that will be running through your guides when casting. Look for a thin, wear resistant and supple line such as Platypus Platinum.

LEADER

Strong and wear resistant is the name of the game here. This is the line that could come in contact with rough skin/sharp teeth so do not skimp on it. The biggest issue with this line is the knot size when connecting to your casting mono – an FG or PR knot is one solution, a wind on leader is another. Heavy mono or fluorocarbon line can be used here.

SACRIFICIAL MONO

This is used to break away and not lose the rig, only the sinker. A thinner line that will break before the rest of your rig does.

SINKER

You need to use a grapnel style of sinker here to ensure you have the holding capacity to keep a tight line which is a crucial part of slide baiting. 170g (6oz) grapnel should hold in most cases unless your fishing in a heavy swell or strong current, in which case anything up to 224g (8oz) may be required. The heavier it is, the shorter the cast but the better you will hold ground.

WIRE TRACE

Connecting your hooks to your one way slide is wire trace. You can use Mono/Fluorocarbon lines here but you run a big risk of getting bitten off when a set of sharp teeth take the bait.

HOOKS

The size, number and style of hooks you use depends on your target species. It is recommended that you use two good quality circle hooks between 6/0 and 14/0 in size. Also a circle and a 'J' hook can be used, with the circle being the 'bottom hook'. There are a number of ways to rig your bait but the rule of thumb is to try and make it look realistic. This will depend on target species and the size of the bait.

SLIDE RIG

This is the part that brings it all together. This clips on over your line after it has been cast out and carries your bait out to the intended destination. Quality slides are made from stainless steel spring wire and have strong swivels attached. Non-return rigs have a small ball or bean sinker included on the rig clip. See the sequence of pictures at the end of the article showing how to rig this set up.

BAIT

Get some bait that is appropriate to where you are fishing, and the species you are looking to catch. As an example you could use a herring, tailor, small skipper or slimy mackerel and keep them alive long enough to then return to the ocean with hooks attached. Make sure you use legal length baits.

If bait is a bit scarce, you might have some left over fish caught on a previous trip, or you use your own frozen bait such as mullet or squid. Fresh is best as the saying goes and you can't get much fresher than live bait. Whatever bait you decide on, make sure it is well secured and natural looking.

THE OTHER STUFF

Make sure that you have everything you need to wait for the strike and then retrieve your catch. This can all the normal gear that you would take for a fishing trip. Don't forget the gaff that is suitable for the location you are fishing.

WHERE TO FISH

Slide bait fishing into beach gutters or deep water from high points on a beach is optimum. Also wharves, jetties and rock groynes can be particularly effective locations to use slide bait as the extra height means you won't have any problems sliding your bait down the line.

Essentially you want to get a big bait to a location that is normally further than your ability to cast it – preferably in a nice gutter or other fishy looking area. For all its positives, slide baiting has some restrictions.

If there is weed, forget it. You will never get the slide out to the stopper. If the current is too strong you may not be able to get your sinker to hold. If the waves are too big or frequent it might be difficult to get your slide out. It's normally still worth a shot.

Tip: Fremantle wharves are an ideal location to fish a slide bait for mullet or snapper. Just remember that you will need a long handled gaff or a rope gaff. It is also a good place to practice casting heavy weights.

CASTING THE SINKER

Once you have your fishing location and your bait, you are going to want to launch your sinker into the deep water. Generally the back of the gutter will look deceptively close but don't be afraid to make an effective cast with the grapnel sinker.

It is pointless to cast onto a sand bank, into shallow waters or areas where other fishermen are. You may find you need to wade out onto a sandbank and cast from there or wherever you can get to – as an extra 50m can make all the difference. Leave your sinker be once you have cast it so that it can settle and get a good grip on the bottom.

Some tips for getting the distance:

Do a dummy cast first (without the grapnel wires set). This wets and lubricates the line and gets it laying properly on your reel;

Practice makes perfect. Casting along the beach or in an empty park helps you develop your casting skills.

Take a tip - go and learn distance casting from the experts at dry-casting.

To practice casting in chest deep water, practice casting on dry land but on your knees.

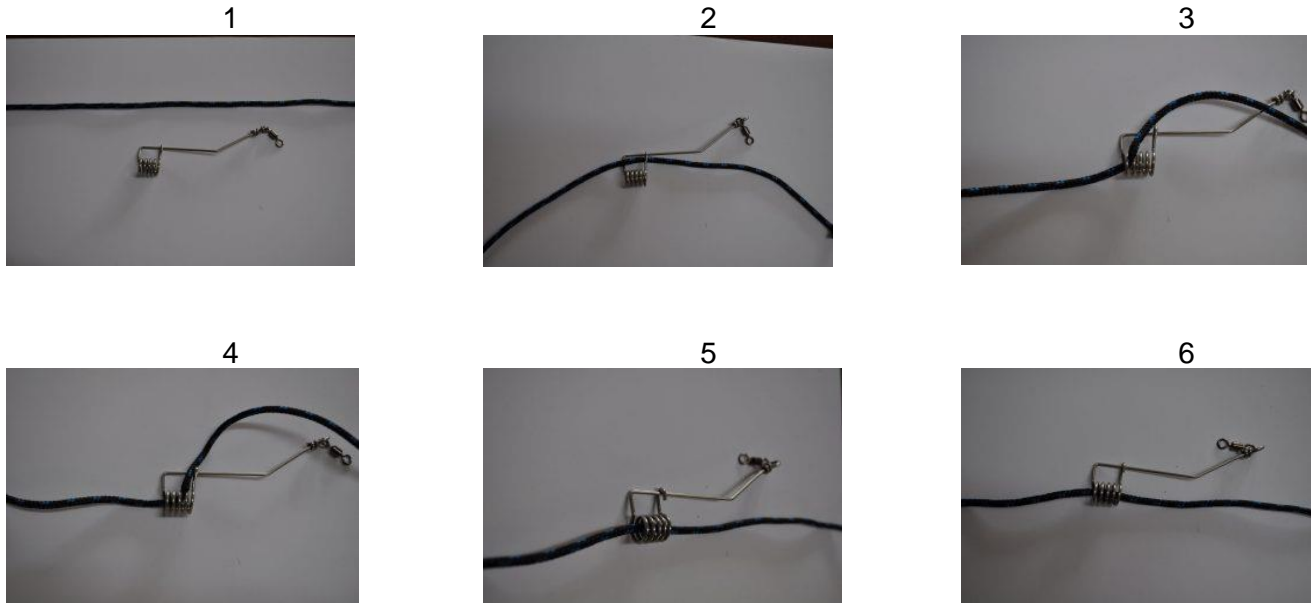
RIGGING UP

While your sinker is bedding in is the perfect time to go and get your rig ready. Rig your bait up and if it is live place it back in the holding tank or race it down and pop it into the water's edge (but please hold on to your slide tight, you would look a bit silly if your bait swam away). It is much, much easier at this stage if you get a friend to help you. Your fishing buddy can grab the rod and lower it so your line is within arm's reach whilst you unclip your slide and then thread it onto your main line.

To attach the clip, you need to unclip the line guide and wrap the line around it with the end you attach the bait to facing away from the rod.

Setting Up A Slide Bait Rig:

The following pictures demonstrate how to set up a slide bait rig step by step.



The easiest way of doing it on your own it to flip your reel into free spool/pull back the bail and tip your rod over your head to let some line out then disengage free spool, tip the bail back over and grab the slack with your other hand as you move your rod back forward.

SLIDING OUT YOUR BAIT

You have two options: launch the bait from dry land or the more drastic option of swimming the bait out over very shallow sand banks or bad breakers. Try doing it from the beach first. No one likes getting wet if they don't have to.

FROM THE BEACH

When you are ready to slide your bait out pull your rod swiftly upwards while letting go of your bait. Start reeling in the slack on your line in the same process and this will send your rig shooting down your line towards the water. Once the bait hits the water shake your rod quickly (as quick as you can) up and down in short sharp strokes and your bait will hop across the water until it starts to get dragged under.

If/when you encounter a wave, straighten your rod over your head and get your line tight. The one way slider will engage on the tight line when the wave hits and you will not lose your progress. Once the wave passes, proceed to shake your rod again.

When your bait and slide disappear into the water, move to big long smooth slow strokes of your rod from almost horizontal to vertical. Continue this until your slide reaches the stopper ring. You will get tired from doing this so you can get help from a friend or spin around and lever the rod by its butt over your shoulder. Depending on how good your sinker is anchored you might feel your sinker pull a little, if this happen just wait 10 seconds for it to settle again and continue a bit more gently.

GETTING WET TO GET THE BAIT OUT

If you feel like getting wet or you can't get your bait through the breakers you can get your bait by wading/swimming out. Only go out as far as you feel comfortable, remember the surf can be a dangerous place so use your judgment and don't do anything stupid. Try and time your bait 'drop' to throw it over a nice big breaker into some clean water and get your helper to start jiggling the line straight away using the methods detailed above.

HOW LONG TO 'JIGGLE' FOR?

It can be difficult to determine when your slide reaches the stopper. Sometimes you will feel it, but most of the time you will just have to guestimate. A reasonable time to expect is 10 minutes, more in difficult waters. Feel free to give up early, but if your bait isn't all the way to the stopper ring there is a high chance of being burnt off when a big fish picks up your bait. If you have concerns, jiggle longer.

DRAG

Once you think your bait has reached its final destination/you have given up on jiggling it is time to put your rod in the holder and make sure your drag is set correctly. The setting of your drag is a contentious

issue and everyone will have their own opinion. We have found that your best bet is to set relatively loosely. Not so loose that a wave pulls drag, but you want your fish to pick up your bait without feeling much resistance. This will also ensure your rod remains in the rod holder, and doesn't go flying along the beach into the ocean. Keep an eagle eye on your rod too because when it bends over you are going to want to race over before you get spooled!

THE RETRIEVE

When your rod starts pointing to the horizon, grab it out of the rod holder and depending on how long it has taken you to get there you will want to slowly start increasing your drag. If you are using circle hooks you want to slowly tighten the drag, which will pull the hook into the corner of the mouth and set the hook once you start to get some tension on it.

If you are using J hooks, you are going to want to slowly increase the drag and then strike at the fish to set the hook, much like most other forms of fishing.

Your fighting drag strength will depend on the line class you are using and the length of your rod. We like to stop just before what you would consider your maximum drag to be, so you can use your thumb on the spool and retain a little bit of extra control and feel what is happening.

I'm not going to tell you how to fight your fish because every fish is different but we like to back the drag off just a little bit once we have them under control and gaining line on them again. This just reduces the tension on the line and hopefully reduces the chance of the line breaking. You can always use your thumb on the spool if you need that drag strength again.

LANDING YOUR CATCH

We won't discuss landing whatever is on the end of your line because it differs for every different species, each different location, the conditions and your comfort levels with what you are doing. Remember though, Catch and Release. Always try and have a fish out of the water as little as possible. If you cannot safely/easily remove the hook then cut the line as close to the hook as possible and let it go free.

Submitted by John Curtis

BEST PRACTICE FISHING PRINCIPLES.

From the second they're hooked to the moment of release, fish experience some level of injury and stress (in scientific terms: physiological disturbance) during fishing. Even if a fish vigorously swims away when you release it, impacts associated with catch-and-release can cause negative consequences such as diminished ability to avoid predators, reduced reproductive success, and mortality due to increased susceptibility to disease.

These *Principles* address the elements of the angling event that are most in an angler's control. The three Principles are universal and can be used for a wide range of species and settings, and are backed by scientific evidence.

PRINCIPLE 1: MINIMIZE AIR EXPOSURE



Just like humans, fish need oxygen to support essential bodily functions and keep them alive. What's different is that fish get their oxygen from the water (it is dissolved), not the air. Fish respiration ("breathing") involves moving water into their mouth and over their gills, whether by pumping it or when swimming with their mouths open.

Also like humans, fish need to respire more during and after exercise, including when they are fighting on the end of a fishing line, as well as after they are landed. Maximizing the ability for fish to get oxygen when they are recovering from the stress of angling is essential for a speedy recovery.

Holding a fish out of the water prevents recovery and can lead to death if done for too long. Even short durations of air exposure (as little as 10-20 seconds for some species) can harm fish.

You can reduce negative impacts by keeping a fish's mouth and gills fully submerged in water as much as possible. It's simple – keep fish wet.

PRINCIPLE 2: ELIMINATE CONTACT WITH DRY SURFACES



Fish have a layer of protective mucus (slime) and scales that protects them from disease. Contact with dry, hard, or rough surfaces (such as hands, rocks, sand, and boat bottoms) can remove slime and scales making fish more susceptible to diseases, especially fungal infections. Keeping fish in or over the water, and holding them with clean, wet hands or a soft rubber net will help keep their slime layer and scales intact and the fish disease free.

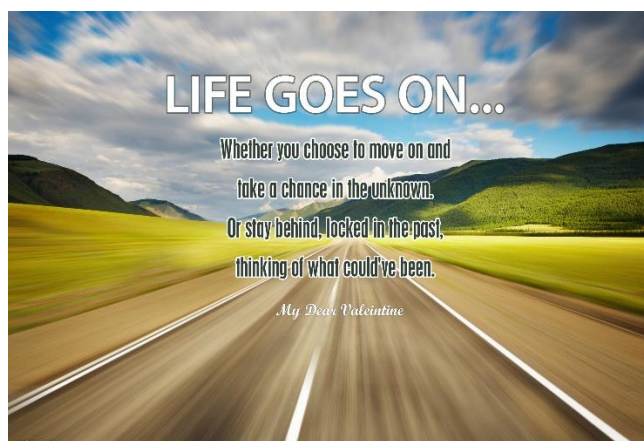
PRINCIPLE 3: REDUCE HANDLING TIME



Fish are wild animals and handling is stressful for them, whether they are in your hands or in a net. Most fish that are brought to hand are still amped up based on the release of glucose to fuel their 'fight or flight' response to being caught. It can take hours for a fish to physiologically return to normal once it is released. The longer you handle a fish, the more stressful it is for them, which compounds the stress associated with capture.

Don't confuse seeing a fish 'swim away just fine' as a sign that it has completely recovered. If you are not going to take a photo of your catch, consider releasing the fish without touching or netting them. Run your hand down the line and remove the hook – something made even easier if the hook is barbless.

John Curtis



USING LURES IN THE ESTUARY.

The often tranquil and semi-protected waters of our estuaries are home to a god spread of lure eating targets, and when combined with the easy access to these areas, it really does make them a good option from every angle!

Getting started with lures in estuaries for fish shouldn't be an intimidating exercise. While it's easy for first timers to get lost in the almost overwhelming amount of tackle aimed at this form of fishing, truth be told, the core gear needed for success isn't that extensive. Also pleasing is the fact that locating quality fish in an estuary, and working your lures effectively for them, needn't be a hair-pulling exercise.

Bream

Bream are probably the most popular estuary fish in the country, at least in terms of the sheer volume of anglers that chase them, with lures now a well-recognized way to have consistent results on these prolific and opportunistic feeders.

Black bream, are a hot lure propositions that readily inhabit a range of areas in your typical estuary. Rock bars, timber snags, shaded areas under overhanging trees, holes, edges, undercut banks and weed beds constitute a bulk of the features in a more natural estuary settings. However in 'developed' waterways you can add in pontoons, bridges, jetties, rock walls, sunken structures, boat moorings, moored boats, sandy flats and much more. Whether you fish from shore, a boat, or a kayak or canoe, you're in the game when throwing lures for bream.

With bream lures there's so many artificial lures available that are suited for targeting bream, you could be forgiven for taking the kitchen sink with you each session! When you cut through the options however there are standout traits to be looking for. Smaller is often the way to go with hard bodies, and suspending 4 - 6 cm options are used regularly, while you can go slightly larger when picking a surface lure for the flats if required, although the general thinking is smaller is better.

With 'hard bodied lures' make sure your hooks are in good shape and sticky sharp if you want to pin a blue-lipped monster, and try to bring a mix of natural and brighter colour options to cover bases. Fished with a slow stop-start retrieve, vary the length of pauses until you crack the bite code for the day. The beauty of hard-bodies is the bream essentially hook themselves with their crunching, no-nonsense attacks

Soft plastics are probably the ultimate go-to option for first time bream anglers. Patterns that are dependable workhorses and are far less agonising to lose dollar wise compared to a hard-body, making them ideal for casting at structures. But they work anywhere and just seem to get eaten! Begin with a 65 - 100 mm soft plastic, fished with say a size #2-6 jig head in the 1-2 gram range as a basic starting point for shallower waters. From here the sky is the limit, as you fine-tune your fishing and may want to experiment with weedless rigging etc, but for the most part a well fished grub or curl tail pattern will catch you fish!

Mulloway

The mulloway, is one of the most prized lure captures for the lure fishermen. Part of the joy of mulloway on lures is that it's mostly carried out during daylight hours, or at least when there's some daylight present. This said, lures can still be fished well into darkness, with both soft and hard options being taken at any time of the day or night.

Mulloway are a fish that don't like to work overly hard for their next meal and will position themselves in areas where there's an easy food supply on offer, and usually some break in the current that also helps to conserve energy. This could be a hole, near drop-offs, around rock walls, bridges, submerged rock and other significant structure. Also being a predatory fish, any areas where there's concentrations of baitfish could well see these fish lurking around, even in quite shallow water in low light conditions. Peak feeding times in many estuaries are considered to be during low light, or around tide changes when the water flow backs off, it is more than possible to locate and catch fish at any time of the day.

Blades, plastics and hard-bodied divers can all be used for these. Generally vibes work better in deeper areas, bibbed minnows are preferred in shallower parts, and soft plastics are a great all-rounder for most water depths.

A range of soft plastics will get you hooked-up on a mulloway. Generally when targeting smaller sized fish, say up to a metre or so, lures around the 80-120 mm size are preferred. If you're genuine trophy fishing then sticking with 120-170 mm plastics will see you presenting a larger profile for the better fish, albeit the smaller

jewies will still smash them! Jig head selection is a crucial , and the jig head you select should be based on depth, current conditions and the size of the lure used. Ideally you don't want an overly quick sink rate on your softie, but you do want to be able to keep in touch with the bottom. Slow retrieves that 'hop' your soft plastic over the bottom work well.

With diving minnows, generally 10 cm plus suspending lures are standouts for these fish which aren't afraid to tackle a larger lure. Try and emulate the local bait with size and colour for a safe option you can back to get eaten, with again a twitch and stop retrieve best to tempt them.

Whiting

Yellowfin whiting are high profile lure eaters in the estuary. These fish have now become mainstream lure targets and are great to catch on small topwater lures, tiny plastics and even little vibes and various other finesse presentations.

Whiting can often be found in schools around tidal fringes and flats of estuaries. Often pushing to the margins on the high tide and retreating to holes and channels when the water recedes, it becomes important to tune into where they like to feed/hold at various stages of the tide. Fishing in drains, channels, or around subtle structures in shallower water such as weed beds, depressions and low rocks, will often see you encounter these fish.

Small poppers and stick baits fitted with stinger hooks are deadly on shallow water whiting. Small soft plastics worked slowly along the bottom will also be inhaled by these aggressive fish. Keep your hook size appropriate for their tiny mouths, around #4-6, and jig head weight as light as you can. With all whiting lures use a decent length of 2-3 kg fluorocarbon to provide a better presentation.

Flathead.

Flathead are a perennial estuary lure favourite, often tackling a range of hard and soft presentations with fearless aggression. Estuary hot spots for these fish can range from drains, flats, rock walls, through to channel edges and much more. Key characteristics of a likely lure area for flathead are plenty of food and good ambush points for this fish. Much like whiting and other notorious shallow water feeders, knowing where to be flicking at different stages of the tide is critical for these fish.

Soft plastics in the 70-90 mm range are a safe starting point. Flathead have big mouths and relentlessly headshake when hooked, so select a quality jig head that won't bend and has enough hook gape to get a secure initial hook-up. Keep jig head weights down, as you can be fishing in super shallow water, and you want to maximise time in the strike zone where possible. Slower sink rates can also mean less snags. 1/8 and 1/6 weight heads are great for shallower areas, and you can step this up in more tidal or deeper parts as required, with a 1/0 to 3/0 hook size suitable.

Other Options

Estuaries are home to a range of lure eaters, many of which haven't been covered here. From tailor, salmon, skippy and many more they are truly a species rich environment that you can easily spend a lifetime flicking lures.

John Curtis

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