

# REEL TALK

A coastal landscape featuring a sandy path leading through dune grass towards a dramatic, cloudy sky. The path is marked with footprints and leads the eye from the foreground into the distance. The grass is green and yellow, typical of coastal dunes. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, suggesting an approaching storm or late afternoon light.

FEBRUARY 2022





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

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### **February 2022 : Reel Talk Contents**

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# **Club Committee for 2021-22**

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:

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## **Website Coordinator**

*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 - February 2022**

Welcome to 2022, it looks like the COVID issues will be increasing this year, I hope all our members stay safe and can join in on as many club events as possible.

If anyone has any fishing venues that they want to include in the next fishing season, please let me know.

We have our Bremer Bay field day in early March and a few of us are off to Thomas River past Esperance for a week after the long weekend, if anyone is interested in coming, please let me know.

The club has booked for the Rottne trips so please let me know if you want to go, ***I got an email this week saying that only fully vaccinated or those with a medical exception will be allowed on the island so keep this mind.***

*Martin Wearmouth; President*

### **Field day venues for 2021/2022**

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
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 Rottne – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends and Rottne – 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**

### **February General Meeting**

**Wednesday 9th**

**Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup**

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

### **Urgent reminder**

**Mark McGowan has dictated strict new proof of vaccination rules:**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> February, **Unvaccinated West Australians** will be barred from a huge number of locations, including gyms, cafes, and bottle shops.

**Proof Members have been double-jabbed will be required to attend SCAC meetings at the Croatian Club.**

**To avoid any embarrassment Please ensure that you have the necessary "Passport" with you.**

## DRY CASTING – 9<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2022

A great day for casting with an easterly for the distance but no great distances were achieved. There being no AAA anymore, and no specific ruling as to how we cast, we decided to change the format slightly. Instead of having 6 distance casts, we will have 9. There was a suggestion that we take the 2 best casts from each division and do away with the worst, but I think in all fairness the first 2 casts should count. We will sort these little differences out at a later stage.

The longest casts for the day were as follows. 56gr 147.62m, Art bait 136.68m and 112gr 159.89. Gary had the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest 56gr with 135.25m and also the 2<sup>nd</sup> longest 112gr with 142.20m beating Bob by 1 mtr.

Gary had no competition in the DHA with a good score of 161, the next closest was 122 (not good). A top score of 30 by my myself in the single-handed accuracy was enough to win on the day, with Mark with 28. Mark once again took out the honours in the Men's division, not hard to do if you are the only one casting.

The next drycasting will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> February, hopefully.

Ron Thomas

DCO

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB														
Dry casting results - 9th January 2022														
	56 gram					Artificial Bait					112gram			
	Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total	
VETERANS	1	2		%		1	2		%		1	2		%
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	130.70	135.25	265.95	92.44		112.24	116.23	228.47	85.35		137.93	142.10	280.03	88.16
BOB HENDERSON	134.41	OUT	134.41	46.72		122.28	116.54	238.82	89.22		141.01	138.98	279.99	88.14
MAL HEAD	97.20	66.56	163.76	59.92		92.95	83.17	176.12	65.79		104.16	105.61	209.77	66.04
RON THOMAS	140.07	147.62	287.69	100.00		131.01	136.68	267.69	100.00		159.89	157.76	317.65	100.00
MENS														
MARK HANSEN	121.47	122.90	244.37	100.00		97.67	B/O	97.67	100.00		122.79	129.06	251.85	100.00

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB																					
Dry casting results - 9th January 2022																					
	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	%		%		
GARY GILDERSLEEVES	18	19	24	25	17	19	22	17	161	100.00		8	1	5	6	20	66.67		432.62	10	442.62
BOB HENDERSON	12	23	20	12	0	6	16	24	113	70.18		1	7	5	7	20	66.67		360.93	10	370.93
MAL HEAD	13	18	9	9	0	1	5	21	76	47.20		6	5	7	9	27	90.00		328.95	10	338.95
RON THOMAS	22	19	8	14	3	14	20	22	122	75.78		7	8	7	8	30	100.00		475.78	10	485.78
MENS																					
MARK HANSEN	0	4	16	8	2	10	14	20	74	100.00		8	9	7	4	28	100.00		500.00	10	510.00

<b>VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022</b>												
LONGEST 56 GRAM										157.57		RON THOMAS
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										137.80		RON THOMAS
LONGEST 112GRAM										165.67		RON THOMAS
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										166		GARY GILDERSLEEVE
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										34		BOB HENDERSON
<b>SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022</b>												
LONGEST 56 GRAM										123.68		MARK HANSEN
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										109.01		MARK HANSEN
LONGEST 112G										129.06		MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										163		MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										29		MARK HANSEN

## January 2022 Cervantés field day Report



Tailor at sun down  
on a baitcasting rig

I left Perth Saturday morning, along with “Dougie”, both of us keen to be fishing. The drive up was assisted by the strong southerly tail wind. On arrival at the car park north of Cervantés, the sea had “white horses” galloping across the surface due to the strong southerly; the water was that milky green that doesn’t usually bode well for fishing.

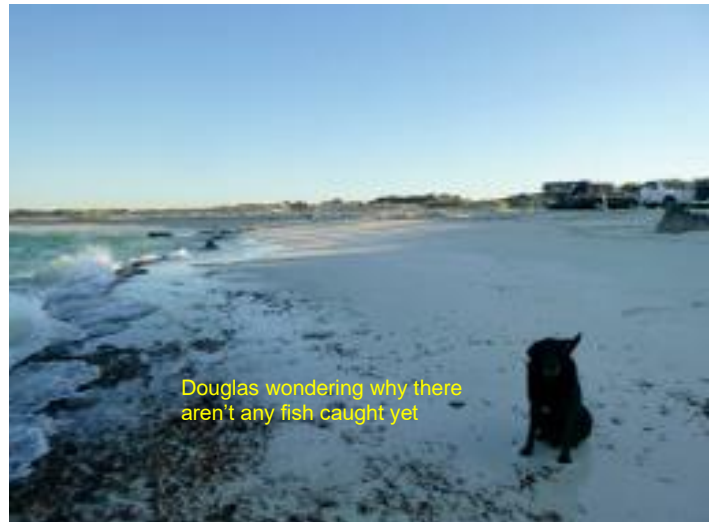
After driving down the scratchy 5km bush track to Black Rock, I set up camp a little away from the limestone, as there were already a group of campers in place. They turned out to be eight Yugoslavian gents from the various ex-states [now countries] of the former republic. I was invited over for lunch and beer and grappa. The conversation about Novak’s recent antics was rather interesting; depending on which country you were from. All this socializing took quite some time, and it was mid-afternoon before I got a line wet.

The wind was so strong that the sand was not only painfully blasting any exposed skin but also eroding from around the tyres causing the Land Cruiser to slightly list to windward.

I didn’t get any bites until just before sunset, and only managed to bag a couple of tailor. During the night the southerly didn’t let up, in fact it got stronger, making the roof top tent sway back and forth, rocking me not quite so gently to sleep.

I was up half an hour before dawn, setting up the burley bottle and subsequent oil slick trail for the usually reliable morning gardies and herring, this really needs an easterly wind to push the oily advertising out to sea, however the persistent southerly just forced it uselessly north along the shoreline, so no fish bit. After a couple of hours of nothing [not even a blowie] taking the hook, I packed up early, had an ethnic BBQ breakfast with the lads from the former republic and was ready to leave by mid-morning. Fortunately, because of the low tide, I was able to comfortably drive around the rock and south along the beach all the way to the town site to inflate tyres and be home in time for lunch.

**Mark Hansen**



Douglas wondering why there  
aren't any fish caught yet



Two tailor for Sunday night's dinner

## Surf Casters January 2022 field day

### 4 Surf Casters fished in the January field day

**Ron** fished at Quinns beach and braved the wind to get a good bag of fish for a few hours fishing.

**Mark** fished at Cervantes, It was strong southerlies the whole weekend, at Black Rock I only caught two tailor totalling 0.84Kg, the heaviest at 0.44Kg

### Gary fished at Preston

Well, here we go off to Preston, hopes are high. Two and a quarter hours later due to heavy traffic, I'm here, down to the beach look left towards Mylup. There were a lot of 4x4s on the beach. What's wrong with Preston, wind blowing choppy seas looks good beach hard head off along the beach and pass only two 4x4s. I see a spot, stop gear up cast, 3rd cast a Whiting 21cm things are looking good. Wrong, one and a half hours later wind picking up water getting sandy, waves picking up. Five hours later no more fish heading home. I spoke to another fisherman same story he's going too. Well, that's fishing bring on the next one even hours of disappointment was still relaxing and charged the batteries.

**Alan** fished around Dongara but had no luck and strong winds.

ANGLER		Species Tailor	Species Herring Australian	Species Whiting	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
									Field Day	General Meeting	
Ron Thomas	Number	8	10		4.81	2	18	86.1	1		96.1
	Total weight	3.20	1.61								
	Weight of best	0.54									
Mark Hansen	Number	2			0.84	1	2	20.4	1	1	40.4
	Total weight	0.84									
	Weight of best	0.44									
Gary Parkinson	Number			1	0.15	1	1	12.5	1	1	32.5
	Total weight			0.15							
	Weight of best										
Alan Green	Number								1	1	20.0
	Total weight										
	Weight of best										

Top scores up to January		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	1629.0
2	Ron Thomas	1606.8
3	Peet Wessels	1094.3
4	Mark Hansen	937.0
5	Vince Tomazin	734.8
6	Sandra Wessels	700.7
7	Gary Parkinson	426.1
8	Sabby Pizzolante	361.7
9	Tino Baiardo	355.8
10	Justin Rose	349.2
11	Chris Stickells	298.7
12	Alan Green	250.7
13	Shane Wignell	170.3
14	Robert Wilding	153.2
15	Brad Zaknich (visitor)	148.0
16	George Matrakis	138.6
17	Stuart Waterman	130.1
18	Theo Van Niekerk	109.2
19	David Wilding	99.0
20	Sarah Wignell	87.6
21	Oliver Wessels	75.5
22	Helen Carnell	56.1
23	Ian Taggart	55.0
24	Dom (visitor)	52.3
25	Steve Harrison	35.1



Field day prizes for January			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Ron Thomas	Tailor	0.54
Best bag of scale fish	Ron Thomas		4.81
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

## **Open fishing competition 2021/22**

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2021 and 30 April 2022, 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 mullock	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	



# Fishing With My Dad – Preston Beach.

Preston beach is a great spot for Dad and I to get away fishing for a night. Only about a 90-minute drive from home with the highway, we go for bite time. Leaving at 2pm to arrive on the beach, ready with lines in the water by 4pm sharp.

As usual Preston Beach was PACKED as it was still school holidays and a Saturday. Lowering the tyres and taking a quick picture of the rescue tractor's number, we headed out for a very bumpy ride. Lots of inexperienced drivers with their tyre pressure still road worthy - the beach was choppy than the waves!



We manage to find a spot that looked good which is hard at Preston as everywhere looks good. Once we pulled up the real task began. My job is to set up the rods, thread the line through and get the chairs out. Dad's role is to put the reels on, put the rod holders into the sand and the rigs. Turns out 'we' forgot to pack the chairs – by "we" I mean Dad! So, the trip started badly but could it get worse? The answer, yes! It did get worse for both of us. With only 2 rods ready with bait, I looked down to notice the reel on Dad's rod did not have the "reel" bit. You know the turn-y thing that allows you to bring in the fish. This time it was all Dad's fault.

So now we reach 4:30pm and down to no chairs and 1 rod leading into what we call the "bite time". Now most that know Dad and I, we secretly are competitive but don't admit it to each other.

We came up with the plan of one turn each. This is where it gets interesting. Is it one turn each as in each cast, or each fish? Changed every time. So, when I reeled in and saw Dad had his back to me, I quickly cast back out so it looked like I was still on my one turn. I think that is how I ended up catching more fish than Dad!



Night continued and we decided to leave earlier than usually as the beach was busier and sandier, so we left at 7pm with 4 tailor and 2 herring in tow. For only 3 hours fishing with one rod. I was pretty happy with that result considering I got 3 of the tailor and 1 herring which was HUGE! THE BIGGEST! AND MORE IMPORTANTLY BIGGER THAN DADS! (that's why it is in capital letters). Dad is still arguing he caught the biggest tailor of the trip, but I clearly remember mine being 0.05cm longer.

Now Preston Beach being the lovely sandy beach it is, we struggled to get out. I believed it was the driver and not the vehicle. (P.S. Dad was driving). We ended up going back 100 metres to only drive 20 metres forward. Struggling to get to high grounds to avoid the families on the beach, we were thinking of dropping the PSI in the tyres until I notice that the amazing safety features on this 5 star ANCAP rated vehicle were preventing our smooth drive home. We forgot to turn off the traction control. The traction control detects if there is a loss of traction with the car wheels. By detecting this, the brakes are applied to the wheel or wheels with no traction and more power to the one with the traction. (Sarah's interpretation). Once switched off, the drive was beautiful! No more struggles in the sand.

Pumping up the tyres is the best and worst time. Best time as Dad and I talk and reflect on the trip and worse time as the trip has ended and we don't know when we go out next. As life goes on it is becoming harder for Dad and I to find time to go fishing. More commitments with study and work, I am getting more jealous of Dad's free time to go fishing and now that he has a boat as well. I wish I can join him for every trip, every adventure except for Rotto, as I usually drop him off at Freo and look at the waves taller than me and the weather as grey as grey can be – I'm happy on the land and not on that boat.

Back to beach fishing -

There is something about the water and sand and sunsets that make the trip worthwhile every time and especially when I see how happy Dad is spending time with his favourite child. We sit and talk about all the different fish we have caught, all the stories about what we have seen on the beach and usually when we are talking about this, we are sitting in the chairs (that we remembered to pack!) having dinner then both of us throwing the dinner to the side to run to the rod with the fish on the end!

I love learning from Dad. He taught me how to fish, how to cast, how to bait, how to fillet, how to 4wd and more importantly how to take care of Dad while fishing. Always get bait for Dad first, keep him hydrated and well fed.

. Fishing with my Dad is the best thing ever! And I will always cherish these memories  
Keeping the good times coming.





## 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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> 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](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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 to Thomas River for an extra week, if anyone is interested in going please contact Martin for details.

## Surf Casters Rottnest 2022 fishing trips

The club has now booked the May and August 2022 Rottnest fishing trip accommodation, these trips can produce some fantastic fish so if you have not attended before please consider trying a trip with us.

**Please contact Martin for more information and to secure your spot, numbers are limited to 12.**

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
<b>28 -30 May 2022</b> <b>New moon 30th</b> <b>Leave from Fremantle PM Friday 27/5/2022</b> <b>Return to Fremantle PM Monday 30/5/2022</b>	<b>Rottnest Island and Open</b> <b>Lines down 6am Saturday</b> <b>Lines up 9am Monday</b>	Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA
<b>27 - 29 August 2022</b> <b>New moon 27th</b> <b>Leave from Fremantle PM Friday 26/8/2022</b> <b>Return to Fremantle PM Monday 29/8/2022</b>	<b>Rottnest Island and Open</b> <b>Lines down 6am Saturday</b> <b>Lines up 9am Monday</b>	Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA



# Surf Casters Quobba Station safari July 2022

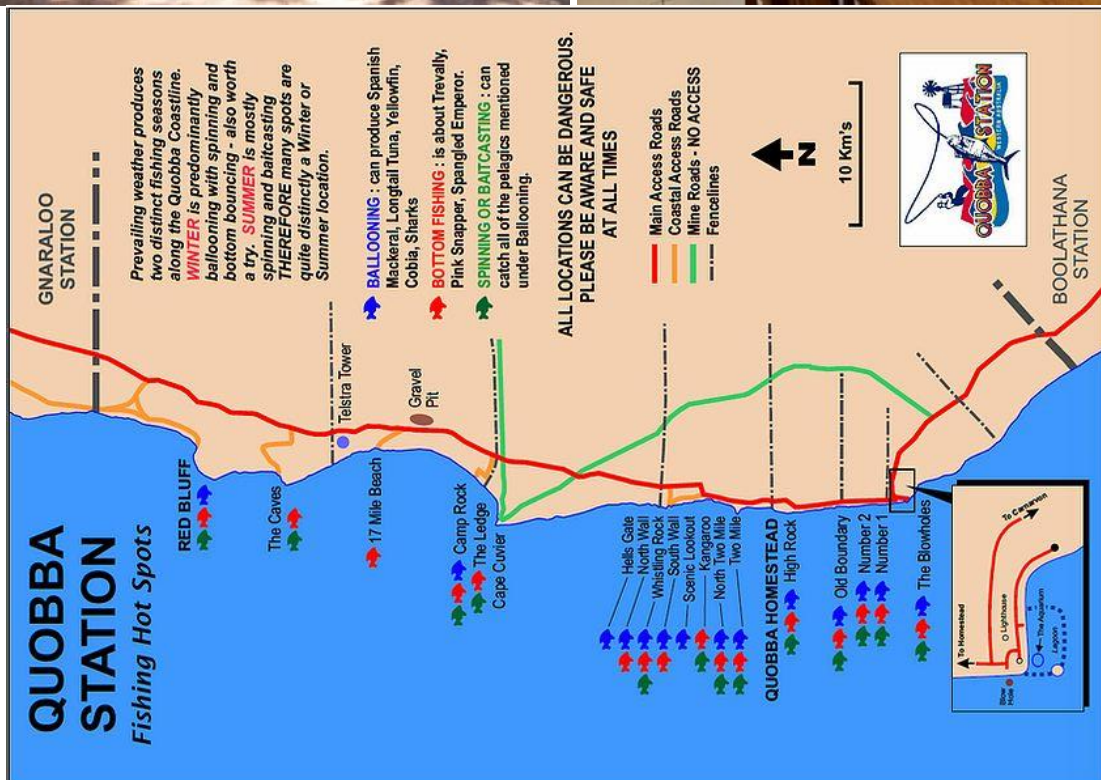
- Check In Date Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2022
- Check Out Date Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2022
- Number Of Nights 8

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 verandah, 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.

\*\*Fire wood 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.



## SPORTING ? ?

Article from Rod Maker Magazine by Tom Kirkman

Awhile back I was talking with Boyd Pfeiffer about the advent of spinning tackle. I had assumed, incorrectly as it turned out, that it was a relatively modern innovation, coming around only as of perhaps the 1930's or 1940's. Boyd mentioned that spinning tackle was available in the very late 19th century, but wasn't used much because it was able to cast very light and rather productive offerings and was therefore considered "unsporting" by sportsmen of that era. Imagine that!

Growing up in the 1960's, all of us who were involved in any aspect of the field sports were taught that anything which provided the participant an "unfair advantage" was unsporting and as a matter of conscience, should be avoided. You didn't shoot a duck on the water and you didn't attempt to snag fish. It just wasn't done by anyone who considered themselves a sportsman. In fact, that's what differentiated a sport from a game – in one the rules were self evident and self imposed, in the other they were written down and enforced by a referee.

Recent 21st century fishing innovations require the modern fisherman to search his conscience and decide what unwritten rules he will impose upon himself. Visiting a local tackle shop I was asked by the proprietor what I thought about the Alabama Rig, a transplanted saltwater meat-fishing technique that is currently all the rage in the bass fishing world. I remarked that I figured that a man fished for one of three reasons – food, money or sport.

As far as fishing for food goes, I do not believe it is any longer possible to equip oneself, incur the fees and other associated costs of the sport, and catch fish for less money than it costs to simply buy a bag of grocery store fillets. As far as money, this is the realm of the tournament fisherman and for me, is nothing more than competitive gambling. I do not ignore the impact that tournaments have had on the sportfishing industry and the business it has generated for those who depend on that huge economy. But it is not for me. Which leaves fishing for sport – which is what I do. In that aspect I was left with only one answer for the man, *"I consider it unsporting and will not use it."*

2012 has seen the advent of new fishing sonar units so adept at interpreting electronic signals and displaying them on a screen, that one might as well employ an underwater camera. The days of intelligently interpreting flasher signals and determining bottom contours that were likely to hold fish are long over. Now fishermen will simply hunt individual fish, sorting the bass from the catfish from the bream, from the small fish to the big fish, and make his casts based on what his television screen is showing him. While I see no skill in that, I am forced to acknowledge that there were once those who used plum bobs and spoon plugs to record bottom contours and probably lamented the advent of sonar flashers, which we now think of as primitive, as unsporting.

I suppose the fish still gets to decide whether to bite or not, but perhaps only for the time being. Who knows what lurks just around the corner. For fishermen of my generation or older, there is a sudden clash between these newest technologies and the sporting ideals taught to us as children. What constitutes an "unfair advantage" is something each individual must decide for themselves.

*Tom Kirkman*

*Article provided by John Curtis*

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**PEOPLE KEEP ASKING  
"IS COVID 19 REALLY THAT SERIOUS?"**  
**LISTEN UP**  
**CASINOS AND CHURCHES ARE CLOSED**  
**WHEN HEAVEN AND HELL  
AGREE ON THE SAME THING**  
**IT'S PROBABLY PRETTY SERIOUS**

# THE IMPORTANCE OF BARBLESS HOOKS



Barbless hooks have been around for years. However, as catch and release angling has surged in popularity, so too has demand for these hooks. You might be asking yourself, what's the big deal? After all, you can just crimp the barbs on your other hooks.

Here's the thing: when you crimp the barb on a barbed hook you remove the one thing meant to keep the fish on, the barb. Barbless hooks - on the other hand - are engineered to have excellent fish holding power without the barb there in the first place.

## THE HISTORY OF BARBLESS

So, barbless hooks. Where did it all start? According to Fulling Mill Technical Manager Steve Carew, Fulling Mill has been selling barbless hooks for 25 years or more. He says "the initial designs were introduced due to the increase in catch and release fishing. They were exact barbless copies of the successful barbed hooks that we sold and used in our fly production. I have to say, though, that these hooks were a resounding flop. The initial production batch were quickly discontinued, and it took us many years to sell through the stock."

However, the story doesn't end there. Steve continues, "around 2011 we saw that competition style fly fishing on rivers was really gaining in popularity and the top teams were using manufactured barbless hooks from Eastern Europe. So, we decided to launch a range of barbless flies and initially we used the hooks from Eastern Europe to tie them. We discovered all sorts of quality issues with these hooks, so after a serious sales job on the then owner of Fulling Mill, he was convinced to invest once again in getting barbless hooks manufactured. This time, however, the hooks were not just straight barbless copies of barbed designs. The rest is history. The fly range and the hooks were a huge success, and they continue to be a core part of Fulling Mill's fly and hook offering."





### **WHAT MAKES BARBLESS HOOKS UNIQUE?**

Barbless hooks are specially engineered to hold hooked fish just as well as their barbed counterparts. According to Technical Manager Eric Kelley, when you remove the barb on a hook “you need to look elsewhere within the design to see what can add holding power to that hook model.”

As an example of this, he says “a popular method is extending the hook point to give the angler better leverage to hold a fish more securely. You can mess with the angle of the bend as well to increase holding power and leverage applied. Basically, a whole mess of things can be tweaked in the hook shape to get what you’re ultimately after. Its why hook development is so fun.”



### **THE FULLING MILL BARBLESS RANGE**

When we introduced our second round of barbless hooks, they were an immediate success. According to Eric, “We released a handful of models all at once to better suit the needs and wants of anglers who kept asking for barbless hooks. The Grab Gape, Jig Force, Heavy Weight Champ and Czech Nymph hooks were the original forerunners. That was a decade ago and immediately after their release, anglers and tyers kept knocking on the door for more.”

While there is still demand for barbed hooks in some applications, with the spotlight being shown on the competition scene, more and more people are now starting to realize that barbless hooks aren’t what they used to be decades ago quality wise. More and more anglers are making the change.

### **THE BENEFIT OF BARBLESS HOOKS FOR CATCH-AND-RELEASE**

Hooks are one of the more well studied aspects of catch and release angling and the resounding consensus is that barbless hooks are better for fish than barbed hooks. There are three main reasons why barbless hooks help create better outcomes for each fish you release.





### **LESS INJURY AND BLEEDING**

Barbless hooks cause less injury and bleeding. Studies on species as wide ranging as trout, bass, and triggerfish have shown there is less bleeding and injury associated with barbless hooks. Most of the injury from barbed hooks is a result of the unhooking process. This study found that barbless hooks significantly reduced moderate or severe injury. This can become increasingly important when a fish is hooked in sensitive areas (gills, throat, gut, or foul-hooked) where bleeding is more likely to occur.

### **EASIER AND FASTER TO REMOVE**

Second, barbless hooks are easier and faster to remove. Based on research on a wide range of freshwater and marine fish, using barbless hooks tends to reduce handling time by half. This is important because the longer you handle a fish the more stressful it is for them. A study found that barbless hooks were faster and easier to remove and also reduced the duration of air exposure fish experienced by 50%.

### **LESS MORTALITY**

There are a number of studies that have shown that barbless hooks reduce mortality of fish after they are released. In this meta-analysis (a statistical analysis that combines the results of multiple scientific studies), the authors found that in some studies barbless hooks decreased mortality. Overall, the authors found that in the studies they examined the average mortality rate for barbed hooks was 14.6% and for barbless hooks was 8.2%. They hypothesized that it was often either or a combination of both of the first two reasons (less injury and bleeding, and faster unhooking) that led to decreased mortality for fish caught with barbless hooks.

Barbless hooks, in particular those designed as barbless as opposed to barbed hooks that have been crimped, lead to advantages for anglers and fish alike. Each time you catch a fish, it's an opportunity to put conservation into action by using best practices - barbless hooks is the perfect place to start.

*Article supplied by John Curtis*



## Surf Casters Rottnest 2022 fishing trips

The club has now booked the May and August 2022 Rottnest fishing trip accommodation, these trips can produce some fantastic fish so if you have not attended before please consider trying a trip with us.

**Please contact Martin for more information and to secure your spot, numbers are limited to 12.**

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
<b>28 -30 May 2022</b> <b>New moon 30th</b> <b>Leave from Fremantle PM Friday 27/5/2022</b> <b>Return to Fremantle PM Monday 30/5/2022</b>	<b>Rottnest Island and Open</b> <b>Lines down 6am Saturday</b> <b>Lines up 9am Monday</b>	Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA
<b>27 - 29 August 2022</b> <b>New moon 27th</b> <b>Leave from Fremantle PM Friday 26/8/2022</b> <b>Return to Fremantle PM Monday 29/8/2022</b>	<b>Rottnest Island and Open</b> <b>Lines down 6am Saturday</b> <b>Lines up 9am Monday</b>	Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA

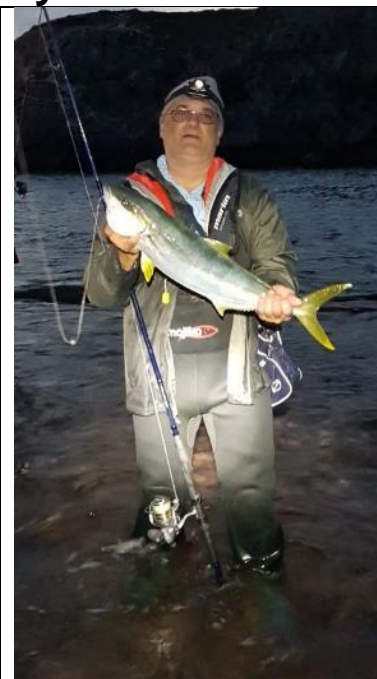
### These are some fish for the last few years



Tino with a nice Dhu Fish



Sabby with a big Skipper



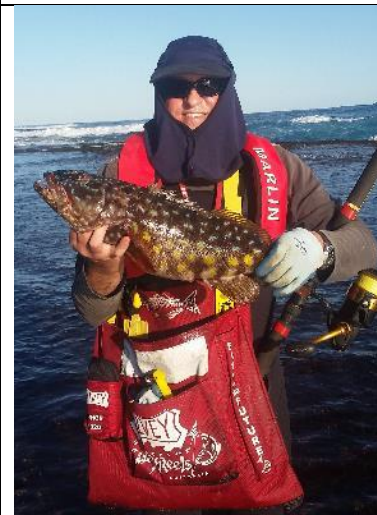
Sabby with a YTK



Peet with a YTK



Sandra with a Emperor



Martin with a Harlequin fish