

REEL TALK

SURF CASTING AND ANGLING CLUB OF WA

JANUARY 2019





Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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Acknowledgement of Donors

The club gratefully acknowledges the support from companies, organisations, club members and families for the donations towards our Presentation night.

Club Members:

Mal Head, Peter Osborne, Gary Parkinson,

Shane Wignell, Peet Wessels, John Curtis,

Derek Smith, Alan Jones

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Buildcorp Developments (Victor Schilo)

Thank you for your valued support.

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Victor Schilo, Shane Wignell

All club emails should be sent to surfcaster@iinet.net.au and all correspondence posted by mail should be addressed to:

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The Website Co-ordinator, Property Officer, AAWA Delegates, Reel Talk Editor, Dry Casting Officer, Assistant Dry Casting Officer, Field Day / Assistant Field Day Officer, Membership Co-ordinator are Committee functions and not extra Committee positions.

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 January 2019



As those of you who attended the December General Meeting will be aware Life Member, former President and club legend George Holman was recently diagnosed with a form of Leukaemia. I phoned George to pass on both my personal and club's best wishes and he seemed quite philosophical as he was about to embark on some chemotherapeutic treatment.

George has also been busy launching a media career with his battle with his local council over a long-standing tree out the front of his property. As George indicated to me not the sort of additional stress he needed at this point in time. I trust the latter can be satisfactorily sorted soon so that George can focus on the things that really matter in life.

Our Field Day Officer Martin Wearmouth has been busy and tabled some ideas he had for next season's Field Days. The suggestions seemed well received by the members present and I suspect something pretty close to that suggested will eventually be enacted. Could those who have other suggestions or variations please make them heard. Martin has also been busy looking at proposed schedule for those of us committed to the Esperance Safari in early March. I have never been to Esperance let alone fish the area, so am looking forward to the perfect weather and plentiful fish that Martin is also arranging.

As Vic Schilo tabled at the last meeting the Croatia club has been booked for our Presentation Night for Saturday 22nd June next year. We are also looking at the club subsidising a significant amount of the cost (courtesy of the funds raised from our term deposit following the Kalbarri property sale) so that it really does become a very good deal for the members. We anticipate a bumper crowd and what I am sure will be a great evening.

Quotes for the month:



HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR 2019

Each year, around the globe, New Year's Day is celebrated with great fervour and merrymaking. A new year marks a new beginning. You can celebrate the beginning of 2019 by setting goals for yourself, making resolutions for self-betterment, spending time with your family and giving back to society.

January 2019 General Meeting

Wednesday 9 January 2019

Coolbinia Sports Clubroom; Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine.

Agenda: *Please notify the Secretary if you have any items for General business.*

Field Days

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
26 - 28 January 2019	Open	Go anywhere WA.
16 - 17 February 2019	Preston / White Hills	From Preston south beach to northern end of White Hills.
1 - 8 March 2019	Esperance Safari.	Around Esperance area. Poison Creek (Sandy Bight) ect.
19 - 22 April 2019	Bluff Creek.	As far as you are willing to walk on both ends of beach.

Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Point Peron in the South

Lines Down for long weekends – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends – Monday 9.00am

Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.30am

Lines up on standard weekends – Sunday 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

Surf Casters Preston field day December 15th & 16th 2018

Due to the high winds forecast and thick weed reported at Moore River it was decided at the general meeting to change venue to Preston beach, the wind forecast was for 20 knot southerly winds all day and night and into Sunday, still not great but 6 people decided to fish, Ron Thomas was not able to go due to needing some dental work that weekend, he had planned to fish but found out that he could not go on Friday.

I could not go too early on Saturday and arrived just after 11am to find Peet & Sandra Wessels, Vince Tomazin and Peter Osborne fishing together about 10km north of the Preston car park, Beach driving was easy with nice wide and firm beach all the way.

When I arrived the wind was only light approx 10 knots but I was told it had been a lot stronger before I arrived, 1st cast after I set up I caught a Herring great start and Herring were in the area most of the time but a lot of small fish under 20cm and only a few larger fish over 22cm, Peet caught a small Salmon on his 1st cast earlier and we all got herring consistently through the day.



The wind was light for the first 4 hours then a few rain showers came in about 2pm and we got spots of rain for the next 2 hours, most retreated to the car to keep dry when the showers came through but most only lasted 5-10 minutes, most of the day we just caught Herring and some small Whiting and Tarwine, Peet and Sandra did battle some stingrays and Sandra had a very large ray on that just sat on the bottom and could not be moved, after a while Peet just broke it off so fishing could continue, The wind picked up about 3.30pm and got stronger as we approached sun set.



Mark Hansen fished at another spot before joining us about 4pm and set up next to Peet and Sandra, I managed to get a bird caught in my line when it flew into the line that was set out in the water, Vince came and gave me a hand but the line was really well tangled around its wing, I was holding the bird and asked Vince to cut the line but hold onto the rig side so I could pull the rig back in, The bird flew off ok and when the rig was pulled in it had a Tailor on the end, This was my first Tailor and this seemed to signal the start of the tailor run.



The wind was maybe 30 knots around 6pm and the fishing was very hard, the tailor were out there but it was hard to feel any bites, the tailor where small most around 35cm, Peet managed to get 8 and also released a few more, the wind had pushed some sea weed along the beach so as it got dark most decided to turn in early and hope for better conditions in the morning.

Well the wind blew the whole night making sleeping for some difficult, But as the sun came up the wind dropped of making for more comfortable fishing, Peter Osborne landed 2 Tailor in the early morning but most only got a few herring, With not many fish around we decided to do an early weigh in at 8am and head home.



Sunday weight in, Mark Hansen was having too much fun and was still fishing

I hope everyone had a great festive season and look forward to seeing as many as possible at our 2019 field days.

Martin Wearmouth Field Day Officer

Results

ANGLER		Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance			Total points	
		Herring, Australian	Tailor	Salmon Australian	Skipjack Trevally	Cod (other than listed)					Field Day	Local	General Meeting		
Peet Wessels	Number	8	8	1		2	4.46	4	19	103.6	1		1	123.6	
	Total weight	0.84	2.85	0.47		0.30									
	Weight of best		0.52												
Martin Wearmouth	Number	12	6	1		1	4.30	4	20	103.0	1		1	123.0	
	Total weight	1.51	1.96	0.45		0.38									
	Weight of best														
Vincent Tomazin	Number	12	1	1			2.12	3	14	65.2	1		1	85.2	
	Total weight	1.31	0.38	0.43											
	Weight of best														
Sandra Wessels	Number	8	6				3.11	2	14	65.1	1		1	85.1	
	Total weight	0.87	2.24												
	Weight of best		0.45												
Peter Osborne	Number	12	3				2.66	2	15	61.6	1		1	81.6	
	Total weight	1.41	1.25												
	Weight of best		0.52												
Mark Hansen	Number	12					1.43	1	12	36.3	1		1	56.3	
	Total weight	1.43													
	Weight of best														
LOCAL															
Gary Parkinson	Number												1	1	20.0
	Total weight														
	Weight of best														

Top scores up to December		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	936.8
2	Peter Osborne	768.8
3	Mark Hansen	658.5
4	Peet Wessels	625.3
5	Sandra Wessels	397.5
6	Gary Parkinson	296.1
7	Theo Van Niekerk	261.4
8	Vincent Tomazin	247.6
9	Mark Nurse	228.9
10	Paul Terpkos	223.5
11	Shane Wignell	196.9
12	Ron Thomas	152.3
13	Chris Stickells	125.0
14	Sabby Pizzolante	118.5
15	Ian Taggart	95.6
16	Geoff Raftis	88.9
17	Ian Cook	69.1
18	Helen Carnell	52.1
19	Sarah Wignell	40.0
20	Jason Bambridge	22.2

DRY CASTING Guildford Polo Ground

Sunday 6th January 2019

Competition casting starts at 8:00am



DRY CASTING REPORT – 2ND DECEMBER 2018 **SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB & BEACHCOMBERS ANGLING CLUB**

This month's report will be done a different way. Instead of one report for each club I will combine the two and hope the response will be positive. The way I look at it we are no different in any way. We are just two fishing clubs combining once a month and enjoying it.

Before I continue, I would like to thank those members that thank me for the day, but when I think about it, they are the ones that should be thanked because without them there would be no dry casting.

I had a text come through from Mark Nurse thanking me for the day and he had enjoyed himself so much that he will be attending dry casting in the future. (Great news). I might just add, Mark's results for the day (for somebody that does not do a lot of dry casting) DHA 137 only 4 behind Bob Henderson with 141. SHA 2nd highest 26, 56g 133m. artificial bait 117m, 112 gr 143m. Well done Mark.

We had a good roll up on the day. Now this is where it may get a little confusing, taking into consideration, some of us cast for both clubs. Although we only had 11 members, the Beachcombers had 5 casters and the Surf Casters had 9. There were 3 visitors, 2 of which were completely new to casting, Carl Gianatti, John Frazer and Paul Berry from Offshore. Hope to see you people in the future.

The longest casts for the day were 56g Ron Thomas 144.90, Chas Riegert 140.69, Artificial bait Chas 137.80, Ron 135.13, 112g Chas 178.31, Ron 164.01. Some great casting by Chas, well done! DHA went to Bob Hendo with 141. Runner up was Mark Hansen with 139.

Overall winners for the day –

1st Ron Thomas 450.00%
 2nd Mark Nurse 436.34%
 3rd Chas Riegert 409.84%

Mens winner for Surf Casters was Mark Hansen.

Next casting day will be held on 6th January 2019. Starting time will be 8am. Hoping to see a good roll up once again.

Just a reminder for anyone that would like to have a cast, I have rods and reels on hand at every casting day. Also if you want a little tuition 7am would be a good time.

DCO
Ron Thomas

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB														
Dry casting results - 2nd December 2018														
	56 gram					Artificial Bait					112gram			
	Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total	
Veterans	1	2		%		1	2		%		1	2		%
MAL HEAD	102.45	98.88	201.33	71.98		85.64	92.92	178.56	68.74		106.39	104.98	211.37	65.14
PETER OSBORNE	101.15	92.78	193.93	69.34		97.92	98.43	196.35	75.59		100.08	105.05	205.13	63.22
JOHN CROMPTON	94.87	97.91	192.78	68.93		81.02	82.90	163.92	63.10		86.33	96.14	182.47	56.24
DEAN STEWART	85.04	89.57	174.61	62.43		83.14	84.19	167.33	64.42		95.50	94.85	190.35	58.66
RON THOMAS	134.78	144.90	279.68	100.00		124.63	135.13	259.76	100.00		160.45	164.01	324.46	100.00
BOB HENDERSON	115.31	136.76	252.07	90.13		96.44	OUT	96.44	37.13		133.06	117.25	250.31	77.15
ALAN JONES	94.34	92.86	187.20	66.93		85.53	77.63	163.16	62.81		97.22	98.33	195.55	60.27
GEOFF RAFTIS	88.96	85.69	174.65	62.45		90.47	89.55	180.02	69.30		93.30	96.20	189.50	58.40
Senior														
MARK HANSEN	OUT	76.6	76.60	100.00		94.13	83.76	177.89	100.00		107.82	114.96	222.78	100.00
Visitors														
PAUL BERRY	76.10	OUT	76.10			67.17	79.88	147.05			OUT	79.12	79.12	

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB																			
Dry casting results - 2nd December 2018																			
	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	%	%		
MAL HEAD	14	15	14	20	15	8	15	18	119	84.40	10	9	5	8	32	100.00	390.26	10	400.26
PETER OSBORNE	19	10	13	12	13	17	11	16	111	78.72	6	5	0	8	19	59.37	346.24	10	356.24
JOHN CROMPTON	13	0	21	11	11	3	2	24	85	60.28	3	9	0	0	12	37.50	286.05	10	296.05
DEAN STEWART	0	14	14	6	10	19	13	16	92	65.25	8	0	3	5	16	50.00	300.76	10	310.76
RON THOMAS	9	19	20	18	0	11	21	15	113	80.14	5	8	6	7	26	81.25	461.39	10	471.39
BOB HENDERSON	7	21	22	13	15	19	22	22	141	100.00	2	4	1	4	11	34.37	338.78	10	348.78
ALAN JONES	17	13	17	21	16	19	0	16	119	84.4	0	1	0	9	10	31.25	305.66	10	315.66
GEOFF RAFTIS	17	17	21	18	13	8	11	13	118	83.68	0	6	0	8	14	43.75	317.58	10	327.58
Seniors																			
MARK HANSEN	19	18	17	24	19	9	14	19	139	100.00	0	9	8	7	24	100.00	500.00	10	510.00
Visitors																			
PAUL BERRY	DNC										DNC								

VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2018 - 2019													
LONGEST 56 GRAM										148.66		RON THOMAS	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										139.45		RON THOMAS	
LONGEST 112G										166.46		RON THOMAS	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										167		RON THOMAS	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										34		RON THOMAS	
SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2018 - 2019													
LONGEST 56 GRAM										140.78		ROB PEKAAR	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT										143.42		ROB PEKAAR	
LONGEST 112G										158.76		ROB PEKAAR	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY										139		MARK HANSON	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY										30		MARK HANSON	





Birthdays for January

Paul Terpkos 6th;

Pat McKeown 18th;

Emma Wignell 27th

We wish you all the best for your special day

This article was sent to the N S W government as a submission to the proposed establishment of a very restrictive Marine Park. Maybe a copy should be sent to the W A Minister for Fisheries, the Minister for Parks and Wildlife asking them to follow the recommendations made rather than taking poor advice from their chiefs of staff and other advisors.

Sydney Fly Rodders' Club is one of many recreational fishing organisations that has made a thoughtful submission to MEMA about a proposed Sydney marine park. Their submissions included the following recommendations to the government:

"Write to each recreational fishing licence holder in advance of future proposals, in order to be seen to be engaging with us as individuals. We get reminder letters of our licence fees, so this is not an onerous task.

"Ensure a better distribution of regular, relevant information about the state of the environment in popular fishing areas. Engage with us – educate us – assist us in our activities to protect the marine environment.

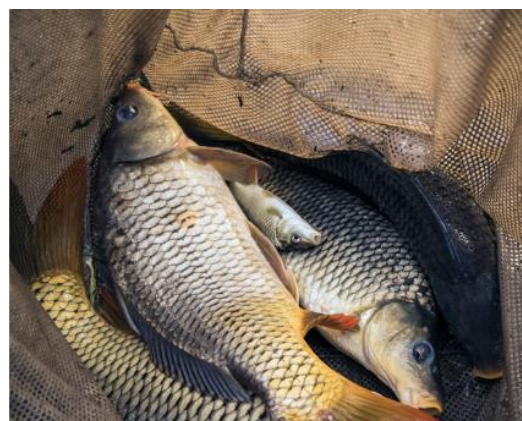
"Allocate appropriate resources to fixing the main problems besetting threatened areas and be seen to fix them. i.e. actively enforce the current laws and regulations against the major polluters and those whose activities most harm the marine environment. High-profile permanent lockouts of favourite areas are simply provocations, when anglers know their (already-limited) activities are far less harmful than other factors, which are not obviously being addressed.

"Ensure a consistent policy approach to resource management and native species conservation across all areas of state responsibility. It is incongruous that restrictions on wide-scale native bushland tree-clearing have been removed by the government, but over-zealous and poorly-directed restrictions are thought applicable to other environments, such as marine, as a cure for problems which all too often are caused by activities which occur on land adjacent to the sea or harbour."



Community help is needed to map carp populations.

There has been a really positive response from people around Australia completing the CARPMAP survey. This is a reminder to complete the survey or pass on to others. CARPMAP <https://carpmap.org.au> is an online survey tool to support community surveillance of carp aggregations. Launched by the National Carp Control Plan (NCCP), CARPMAP is being developed by YOU.



CARPMAP is a joint initiative community surveillance program led by NCCP with support from the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions, the NSW Department of Primary Industries and CSIRO.



Peter Durr is a CSIRO scientist leading NCCP funded research to understand how a carp virus, known as Cyprinid herpesvirus 3, could be effectively released in Australian waterways.

"It is becoming increasingly apparent that understanding when and where carp aggregate (10 carp or more schooling together is considered an aggregation) will be critical for developing an effective approach to carp control not just locally but at a national scale. We need information on at least 2000 carp aggregation events to complete our picture."

Can you help? Please complete the following survey tool by clicking on the link:

<https://carpmap.org.au>

John Curtis

FRIDAY NIGHT FISHING SESSIONS 2019

Here are the proposed dates and topics for 2019.
Please check and let me know of suggestions, alterations or changes.

DATE	SUGGESTED TOPIC	NOTES
4 th January	Swan River flathead / flounder and whiting.	1st Jan New Year's Day
	Locations to fish	26 th Jan Australia Day
	Wading and fishing	28 th Jan Australia Day Holiday
1 st February	What line to use – mono or braid	
	Knots their strengths and weaknesses	
	Practical session tying knots	
8 th March	Using / making / rigging soft plastics	4 th Mar Labour Day
	Lures – theory and practical	
	What lure for what species	
	Tying and using flies for fresh and saltwater	
5 th April	Winter fishing, what to wear and stay safe	19 th April Good Friday
	Rock fishing safely	22 nd April Easter Monday
	Structure, species, staying put.	25 th April ANZAC Day
3 rd May	Filleting fish – hands on practical.	
	Preparing fish for storage	
	Preparing fish to cook	
	Preparing sushi / sashimi	
7 th June	Sinkers and their uses	3 rd June W A Day
	Making sinkers safely.	
	Practical session – bring your lead and moulds.	
5 th July	Smoking fish and other meats	
	Cooking fish	
	Campfire cooking	
2 nd August	Rod and Reel servicing	
	Setting the drag, checking the drag for smoothness	
	Checking your rod, guides etc	
	Repairs on the run	
6 th September	Solunar Charts	30 th Sep Queens Birthday
	Maori Fishing Chart	
	Night vs daytime fishing	
4 th October	Baits and baiting up – practical session	
	Big baits for big fish	
	Using mulies, scalies, sauries, garfish, mullet,	
	Filletts of fish, white bait and sardines, cockles	
	Red meat, oxheart, liver,	
1 st November	Fishing locations; what to look for, what you may catch, reading the beach,	
	How to read an estuary / river location	
6 th December	Sharpening knives, hooks,	25 th Dec Christmas Day
	Selecting a good fishing knife	26 th Dec Boxing Day
	Taking care of knives and keeping them sharp	

Topics not yet included are;

Preparing and packing for an extended fishing trip,

Photographing your catch;

Seasonal species list, what is biting when,

Fishing specific locations such as Albany, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalbarri, Exmouth, Carnarvon etc.,

Please contact John (0412 776 558) for any further details and confirm your attendance.

RON THOMAS

A bit of history – From Fishing by Ross Cusack in The West Australian Friday February 14 1975

BATTLING THE BIG SHARKS

There is a rapid sequence of events when mulie baits hit tile water along Reef Beach's notorious Shark Alley, in Bremer Bay on the south coast. Salmon pick up the pungent mulie smell and track it to its source. Sharks cruise in to torment the salmon. Anglers begin to hook the sharks, and there is chaos as rods buck, lines cross and strong men sink to their knees in battles with whalers and grey nurses weighing anything between 50kg and 200Kg.

Ron Thomas (34), of Craigie, has seen seven sharks being played at once along Shark Alley. It was a visit to Reef Beach with the Offshore Angling Club eight years ago that sparked off Ron's. interest in fishing for big sharks from the shore. He beached a 77kg grey nurse on a makeshift sort. of a rig, and decided he had a lot to learn about such a demanding form of angling,

Heavy sharks make light work of inadequate gear, so Ron turned himself into a land-based game-fisherman. Nowadays his heavy shark outfit consists of a huge 14/0 Penn Senator game reel loaded with 1500metres of 36kg line, and a stumpy 36kg-class game rod with roller runners.

Broomstick

His "light" gear is a deep-spool Alvey loaded with 1000m of 16kg line, fished on a powerful old Sportex 808 rod 3.6m long. Ron says that casting the 808 is like trying to shake a broomstick.

He fishes both outfits with a back harness and the rigs he uses are shown in the accompanying diagram.

Ron has made about ten visits to Reef Beach. since those early days and has accounted for at least seven big sharks there. These were grey nurses of 112kg, 77kg and 57kg, and bronze whalers of 93kg, 90kg, 73kg and 59kg.

He has also concentrated on Preston Beach, scene of the recent State open, angling tournament. His tally there is six whalers and nurses of 50kg or more, the latest a 51kg bronze whaler taken about six weeks ago.

All but one of the Reef Beach and Preston, sharks were taken on Ron's "light" gear.

Ron prefers whole tailor of about half a kilogram for bait. He uses strip baits, too, but the strips must be big – 22cm long and 10cm wide. At Reef Beach, live salmon are the deadliest of all baits.

Qualities

Ron has the utmost respect for the fighting qualities of -bronze whalers. He would prefer to catch a big bronzie than a big spanish mackerel any time. Hooked on his Alvey gear, such a whaler is likely to run between 200m and 600m out to sea.

Ron's technique is to slacken off the reel drag and let the shark have its head on those initial runs. Then he starts to work on it with a vengeance and can usually bring it within gaffing range in 45 minutes. The hulking slow swimming old grey nurse is a much easier prospect.

I asked Ron Thomas the inevitable question: What was the biggest shark he had ever hooked? He re-called two painful experiences - one at Preston and the other in the prolific waters around Rosemary Island in the Dampier Archipelago.

At Preston, Ron was on an all-nighter and at 2.30am, his Alvey screamed and woke him from a deep slumber. By the time he had stumbled out of his sleeping bag the shark had run out 500m of line. It bit through 81kg-breaking strain blue nylon covered wire, and just kept going, and Ron has always wondered just how big that beast was.

The Rosemary Island incident happened while Ron and his wife Deirdre were working in the North-West a couple of years ago. Fishing from a 6m boat out of Roebourne, Ron hooked a whaler (he thinks) of over- 4m on his heavy gear. The. shark took the bait in about 55m of water and it was no contest until the skipper towed the shark into a depth of only 6m. Then it went crazy and made repeated runs of 400m, sweeping round in big circles.

Ron fought it for 4 ½ hours, standing all the time because there was no fighting chair. The shark eventually weakened but had to be cut off because the skipper was worried. about making the run home in the dark. Ron had to take two days off -work after that little bout. His back ached and he was physically exhausted.

Fifty years of fisheries history preserved for the future

As the world marks World Fisheries Day today, Australia celebrates with the release of fifty years of fisheries history preserved in digital format through the National Library of Australia's online service, Trove.

Australia has a long history and reputation for its fisheries science and management. This is now documented and available for the world to see following the complete preservation of the historical [Fisheries News-Letter](#). This publication provides a chronology of Australian fisheries development post-World War 2.



The preservation of this publication and its subsequent mastheads '[Australian Fisheries Newsletter](#)' and '[Australian Fisheries](#)' was funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation (FRDC), in partnership with the National Library of Australia and it allowed the digitisation of 593 issues of the newsletter from October 1941 to June 1995, now available online, for free, through the Library's Trove portal.

The series encompasses the development and ultimate demise of the whaling industry, including the Commonwealth's promotion of shore-station whaling. The army fishing unit and call for tinned seafood to provide nourishment for the Australian soldiers. It also describes the initiation and progress of 'Commonwealth' fisheries such as those for Southern Bluefin Tuna, northern prawns, deep-water trawl-fish and pearls.

The editorial statement in the first issue notes the aim of the newsletter was to bring together scientists and the fishing industry: *"This review of the work of the Fisheries Division is published chiefly with the idea of bringing the scientific worker on fisheries problems in closer touch with those people who depend on fish or its by-products for their living. It is difficult to explain the necessary slowness of scientific work. [...] it is hoped that the circulation of this 'Newsletter' will lead to much interchange of information and ideas between all engaged in every sphere of fisheries work."*

Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, Director-General of the National Library of Australia, said she is delighted

with the collaboration which has given this historic Australian publication 'a second life' via the Library's digitisation program.

Albert Caton, a fisheries biologist for 36 years with the Commonwealth Department of Primary Industry Fisheries Division and its subsequent manifestations was instrumental in achieving the digitisation of the collection. "The 'Fisheries News-Letter' was first published quarterly by the Fisheries Division of CSIRO's precursor the (Commonwealth) Council for Scientific and Industrial Research." He explains "By 1950, after joint production with the Department of War Organisation and Industry and later the Ministry of Post War Reconstruction, 'Fisheries Newsletter' had become a monthly magazine and publication was taken over by the Commonwealth Fisheries Office of the Commonwealth Department of Commerce and Agriculture."

The Commonwealth Fisheries Office and its subsequent incarnations such as the Fisheries Division of the Department of Primary Industry had the primary Commonwealth role in fisheries development (gear technology, economics, exploratory and experimental fishing), leaving CSIRO to concentrate on scientific research in fisheries and the more formal publication of its results (in the Australian Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research).

The newsletter was distributed free to all commercial fishermen holding a Commonwealth Fisheries Licence. Publication ceased in June 1995 after a Commonwealth decision that commercial publication of such a magazine was more appropriate.

The FRDC is pleased to continue the tradition of supplying the latest fisheries science with its FISH Magazine, available online at <http://frdc.com.au/Media-and-Publications/FISH> or it can be downloaded for Apple and Android as an app.

Fisheries News-Letter: <https://bit.ly/2Pn0p1T>

Australian Fisheries Newsletter: <https://bit.ly/2OxSPwI>

Australian Fisheries: <https://bit.ly/2FhaXLC>

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Fishing By Moon Phase: Increase Your Catch!

Solunar Theory

Every fisherman dreams of a bigger catch! Is it possible to know beforehand when you should plan a trip to enjoy some fishing, catch more than usual, and come home feeling 100% satisfied? Based on my own personal research around the best fishing times, I think it is.

When I first started fishing, the best fishing time for me was whatever time happened to suit me. I tried different lures, baits and techniques until I'd spent a small fortune in my quest to improve my fishing catch. When I finally heard about the "Solunar Theory" - or fishing by moon phase - like most anglers, I was sceptical.

What I'd read sounded too complicated. All sorts of factors needed to be checked and the determined angler needed to be at the water's edge at exactly the right time, TO THE MINUTE, in order to improve on his average catch. Was I really willing to take my hobby that seriously? Let's just say that curiosity got the better of me.

To help me determine whether there was any truth in the moon's effect on the best fishing times, I kept a record of every trip I made over a period of 18 months. All information related to the moon's phases, the weather conditions and the catches I made were carefully logged. What I discovered convinced me that moon phase fishing works. BUT, I also found that it isn't anywhere near as complicated as many would have us believe.

How Does Fishing By Moon Phase Work?

Every fisherman knows that the best fishing times are when the fish are feeding. This tends to be during dawn and dusk, but what often goes unnoticed are the two periods elsewhere in the day - moonrise and moonset. Because the moon has an effect on a variety of factors surrounding the fish - including the live fodder they hunt - these periods, combined with the moon's phase, are what trigger feeding.

By understanding this and choosing times when sunrise/sunset and moonrise/moonset coincide with new or full moon phases, you'll increase your chance of a good fishing catch. Assuming there are fish in the area, of course.

Choosing The Best Fishing Times

There really is nothing complicated about this at all; it's just a matter of knowing ahead of time exactly when the sun and moon will rise and set. Fish are most active during 90-minute windows surrounding each of these four daily events; that's 45 minutes before and after these four daily points.

Fishing during these four periods will help increase your fishing catch, but if you plan wisely so as to ensure you're at the water's edge on the days of new or full moon, you can use these 'windows' to reel in a catch like you've never done before. If you have to choose between sunrise/set and moonrise/set, always go with the moon as the moon is the stronger influence.

Hunters have always known that fish and game are most active at dawn and dusk - sunrise and sunset - but their activity surrounding moonrise and moonset is less noticeable because these events are likely to occur without affecting any change in the perceived light. The rise and set of a new moon is invisible anyway, and overcast weather often hides the moon. Without prior knowledge of setting and rising times, two of the best fishing times will be missed every day!

Other Considerations

When planning your fishing by moon phase, there are certain other factors that should also be considered.

Weather - Severe weather changes have an impact on the way fish feed. When a storm's brewing, or just after one has passed, is a good time. If this happens while you're in place, you'll be in for a treat! However, if there's a cold front approaching, the fish are likely to move deeper into the water and become inactive.

Season - Most fish are more likely to bite willingly during seasonal transitions with the transition from winter to spring and summer to autumn being the two best fishing times.

Now that you know that moon phase fishing really works, there's no reason why you shouldn't utilize this knowledge to increase your own fishing catch by being at the ready with your rod during the best fishing times available. It's easy and it works!

I would also suggest that you read "*Moon Up – Moon Down*" (1972) by John Alden Knight, published by Solunar Sales, Montoursville, Pennsylvania.

John Curtis

REPORT ON AAA DELEGATES COUNCIL DECEMBER 2018 MEETING

1. STATE ESTUARY EVENT:

About 40 entrants – numbers were own a little – 5 clubs participated.

Good bags of fish weighed in with a variety of species. Several good King George whiting, big tailor, gummy sharks, skippy, herring and some salmon. Three bags were disqualified due to excess to bag limits. Failure to check bags prior to presentation proved costly.

2. STATE ROCK AND BEACH

Still awaiting confirmation from Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club (MOFSC) re use of facilities. Several telephone calls and emails have not been responded to by club management.

Boundaries for this event are the southern end of 'The Cut' at Mandurah down to the northern bank of 'The Cut' at Bunbury at Buffalo Beach. Further details and application forms will be sent to clubs and posted on the web site shortly.

3. BOATING REPORT

Next year's event is well under way and booklet is ready to go to print.

Event is to be hosted by Marmion AAC and fished out of Hillarys.

Following year event is to be fished out of Port Denison / Dongara.

Next meeting of Boating sub-committee is due in January.

4. DRYCASTING REPORT:

No report. Results of this year's competition are on web site.

5. RECORDERS REPORT:

An application has been received from Queensland for a River Perch. The claim was disallowed last month due to poor photographs and a lack of adequate information on the application form not assisting identification. Queensland Museum suggest it is a Silver Jewfish not a River Jewfish.

After discussion with QAFCA Secretary the claim has been since ratified as an inaugural National Fish Record as there is not one currently listed for this species. Letter sent to the claimant expressing concerns about the way application was made and lack of information and detail on the application.

A new State Record has been ratified for a yellowtail kingfish. This fish was caught from the rocks near Denmark by an angler from the Denmark Boating and Angling Club. Exceeded the previous State Record by 4.5Kg which was caught in 1979 at Rottneest.

National Record applications for a Dogtooth Tuna and a Fanbelly Leatherjacket have been ratified. The tuna record was caught at Swains Reef in Queensland and the leatherjacket was caught at Port Hacking in NSW.

An updated version of the **State Record Application Form** was presented to the meeting for ratification and was accepted. This new form will be added to the new web site in the near future when it goes 'live'.

It was also resolved that a new form, *Application For Recognition Of A Fish Capture* be added to the web site. This form is to recognize and record deep sea captures made with powered fishing equipment (currently not allowed for record applications). This will keep a record of fish captures made in deep water where fish such as Bass Groper, and Hapuku etc., will be recorded – e.g. length, girth, weight, location of capture, water depth.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS.

a). The John Bray Memorial Classic, will be fished on December 27th in Lancelin. The event is a Junior Fishing Competition hosted by the Lancelin Angling and Aquatic Club. Event is open to kids and is a fun day with a lot of prizes for participants and winners of various sections. Further information can be obtained from the LAAC Club on ph: (08) 9655 2162.

b). There are still many former Melville AAC Fishing Trophies that have had the badges removed and are available to clubs. Contact AAA Secretary Tony Ayrey for further details. If not taken will be used for firewood.

c). Minister for Fisheries has announced the closure of Green's Pool near Denmark to fishing following an approach from a minority group in Denmark. No consultation with locals or Recfishwest was made prior to the closure. This is another very popular fishing location lost to the angling community.

d) Minister has also announced that anyone proceeding onto the rocks at the Salmon Holes without a lifejacket will be fined \$1000. This also includes non-anglers. To be policed by Parks and Wildlife personnel and comes into effect on January 1, 2019.

e). Minister has also announced that the location for the new artificial reef has been chosen. It is in 25 – 30m of water 8 – 10 Km out from Ocean Reef marina. The exact location positioning and type of reef will be finalized after completion of an in water survey.

f). Media Statement from Mick Murray announced a new on-line resource for community sports clubs. The Every Club Hub is a one-stop-shop for clubs and their volunteers. It will provide information on funding, training, and networking opportunities to support WA sorting clubs. Can be accessed at <http://www.dsr.wa.gov.au/clubs>

g). The wharf in Hillarys Boat Harbour as been closed to fishing – this is to be further investigated.

h). AAA(WA Div'n) Inc web site is almost ready to go live and executive will meet with developer to finalize transfer of current content to the new site.

i). Association laptop computer has been sold and funds passed on deposited with the Treasurer.

j). Marmion Club has introduced a 'Catch and Release' Section to their monthly competition where anglers can catch, photograph and release fish in competition and be credited with the capture. Fish are to be photographed on a club 'brag mat' and are then sent to a central recording centre. The system used is the same as was used in 'Swanfish' last year by Recfishwest. It is suitable for pelagic species but not really suitable for demersal species.

Report by John Curtis: President AAAWA

Shore Angler



Published: Sunday, 02 December 2018 15:13

Caption: Stew comes up trumps with a fine mullet.

Shore-based anglers are faced with a unique set of challenges as compared to boat anglers. To my mind the crux of it starts with the fact that the fish we target generally spend less time mooching around in shallow water close to shore. Why is this so and what can we do about it?

Central to the lives of all marine creatures (and most land animals for that matter) are the basics of survival. In short, all organisms need to eat, avoid being eaten and reproduce to ensure the continuation of their species. I'm going to focus on the eat and avoid being eaten part.

For a fish to stay out of trouble and simultaneously ensure it gets a feed it needs to take advantage of the environment around it. Floating around in clear open water in full view would probably see it becoming food for something else. And such behaviour would also make it easy to spot and avoid for any of its prey. Think of it as a game of cat and mouse between the various species.

If you have spent enough time targeting a given species you have probably worked out that certain places or certain conditions lend themselves favourably to increasing your chances of success. The most successful shore anglers have learned to recognise these indicators and will fish accordingly. In short they have gone part way to understanding the behaviour of their quarry.

There is a long-standing and pretty accurate feeling amongst shore anglers that dawn and dusk are consistently the best times to be fishing. There is little doubt that these are the most likely times for our targets to come within casting range. I think we can conclude that light levels are the main reason. Boat anglers working deeper water are a chance to catch fish all through the day thanks in part to diminished light levels at greater depths. The first 10 metres of water absorbs up to 50 per cent of the light's intensity. So boat anglers fishing depths of say 20 metres or more are effectively fishing in conditions similar to dawn and dusk for the shore angler. If you have done any diving in deeper water you will understand how light and colours drop off very quickly as you descend.

Aside from the position and intensity of the sun above the water there are other factors that affect light levels underwater. Water clarity is a big one for shore anglers to consider. Water clarity along the shoreline is mostly impacted by suspended sand and debris. Ever noticed how the water close to shore is dirty after a big blow or heavy swell? That is all the sand and debris suspended in the water after the increased water movement. Even during calmer conditions some spots along our coastline will have localised areas where wave action is causing a decrease in water clarity.

Another way light levels can be reduced in shallow water is by way of foamy surface cover from breaking waves. Often waves will break over a reef or sand bank then spill into deeper water. The foam from the breaking wave will form a layer on the surface above the deeper zone and this foam layer will act like a light filter.

For times other than dawn and dusk, shore anglers should look for areas where other factors are regulating the light under the surface. These will be the areas where fish might hang around rather than retreat to deeper water with the increasing light levels.

I'll conclude this column with a story that highlights the concepts I've been discussing.

Gary Wotherspoon, Stewart Cramer and I had travelled north at the time of the August new moon during a few days of excellent winter conditions. The weeks prior to our trip had seen some big winter swells all along the west coast. The area we fished typically has reef platforms interspersed with short sandy beaches. On this occasion the beaches were all but washed away from the swells. The coastline resembled almost a continuous rocky shoreline, although there were still areas of sand behind many of the reef platforms.

Right from the outset, mulloway activity seemed scarce. The first morning high tide failed to produce the normal flurry of activity and what became obvious as the sun hit the water was that there wasn't the usual sandy rips pulling out into deep water. Without the cover of suspended sand, it seemed the mulloway were not too keen to hang around inshore. The evening session produced a couple of school mulloway for Gary right on the period of full darkness, but activity dropped off quickly after that.

With sea conditions continuing to settle further on day two it became even harder to locate stirred-up water thanks to the lack of working sand. We did manage to find a few tailor here and there, but it was otherwise pretty quiet. The evening session was a repeat of the night before with a couple of small mulloway and a sizable shark breaking the monotony. At least we agreed we were privileged to be in such a pristine environment even if the fishing was a tad slow.

The final morning allowed for one more session before breaking camp and heading home. We all remarked that there appeared to be some sand building back up after a few days of calm weather and the predicted increase in swell period had started to get some rips working again. We headed north from camp but failed to find any action. After a couple of hours Stew headed south to explore some different country.

That proved to be the right decision for Stew. With the sun now high over the water he persevered fishing into a promising rip and right after a couple of bigger waves dragged the sand right out the back he hooked up to the fish of the trip. A few minutes later a superb mulloway of around 12kg was at his feet. Stew reckoned his fish was just out there waiting for the rip to pull right out so it could charge in and capitalise on the opportunity to nab a quick meal under the cover of suspended sand. Do your best to seek out areas of cover especially when the sun is on the water. It should improve your chances of success.



Working around weed

Published: Wednesday, 01 August 2018 21:46

From an angling perspective the summer of 2017/18 was notable for a few reasons. It was quite a bit cooler than normal. It was definitely windier than usual, especially in the latter part of summer, and for the beach angler it was an absolute shocker for weed.

Weed build-up and onshore winds often go together. Some summers on our west coast see the sea breezes easing up from about mid-January. Years like these normally see the weed on the beaches starting to clear around the same

time. Unfortunately as I wrote this at the start of May we were only just seeing the beaches return to relatively weed-free status.

The weed problem definitely affects the beaches in some areas more than others. The reason is the source of the weed itself. The worst affected stretch seems to be from roughly south of Wagoe in the Mid-West to the beaches east of Augusta. That's a pretty big stretch!

The rocky south coast seems a bit less prone to this problem, but once the sandy beaches start up east of Albany the same old problem re-emerges and torments beach anglers all the way to the Baxter Cliffs at Point Culver.

Seagrass is definitely the beach angler's biggest nemesis. Any beaches with seagrass meadows offshore are very prone to weed build-up. Seagrass also sheds from the ocean floor periodically, compounding the problem. The northern Perth beaches between Two Rocks and Lancelin are good examples of this. The zone between the shore and the outer reef line is prime seagrass country and the weed build-up at times gives this away.

Predicting weed-free conditions at your favourite beach is somewhat difficult even for experienced anglers. Often you can't just look at a beach to be able to tell if there will be a weed issue. Sometimes the beach itself can appear free of weed, but the water can be full of it. Conversely I have seen the beach littered with piles of weed only to find the water quite clean and fishable. You really have to have a cast or two to find out for yourself.

Weed moves around in the water a lot and without doubt the hardest conditions to deal with are when weed is moving across the beach with the current. The more weed moves in the water the bigger the headache. Weed moves when wind, tide and current are most active. When these variables are docile weed tends to slow down and in some cases sinks to the bottom. Assuming your line is being cast out perpendicular to the beach, side-drifting weed will make contact with your line much more often than weed which is moving parallel to your line.

When weed makes contact with your line it tends to 'grab' the line rather than just touch it and release itself. This is where the headache starts. Once a single piece of weed catches on your line it will cause a load on your line causing more line to be in the water between your rod tip and your rig, thus increasing the potential for more weed to contact the line. From here it's a downhill spiral as more and more weed begins to gather on the line. I've had plenty of time to think about weed mechanics lately!



With a better understanding of weed mechanics we can start to come up with a few strategies for easing the pain associated with fishing a weedy beach.

Weed has a natural tendency to slide down the length of your line. Any lumps or bumps on your line will act like a stopper for the weed. Examples are swivels and leader knots. Once a single strand of weed comes up against one of these stoppers, the next piece of weed will jam in the same spot and before long a mass will develop at this point. It goes without saying that avoiding unnecessary joins along your line will reduce this problem. I would suggest not using a leader at all if the weed is bad and you are fishing an open sandy beach. Thinner line might also help

reduce drag and keep line bow to a minimum which also helps because less bow means less line in the water which equals less potential to catch weed in the first place.

I touched on the direction of weed drift earlier. On our west coast the wind is often from the south-west and creates a diagonal drift of weed. Try casting directly into the wind rather than perpendicular to shore. This will reduce line bow and ensure weed is drifting parallel to your line, which dramatically reduces the amount catching along the length of your line.

Another tip is to try to reduce the amount of line you have in the water. Two ways are to keep your casts short and use longer rods that help hold your line higher above the water.

Thought also needs to be given to your terminal tackle. Straight running rigs tend to catch less weed than paternoster-type rigs due to there being less line in their construction. If fishing paternoster rigs try using a three-way crane swivel rather than a dropper loop as this should reduce the tendency for weed to catch at this critical junction in your rig. Anything that streamlines the rig is a step in the right direction.

We all love to use wire grapnel sinkers when surf fishing these days and for good reason. They can hold bottom many times more efficiently than the old spoon and star sinkers. However those wires are definitely weed magnets. In conditions where you have drifting weed across your line having your rig firmly holding bottom can greatly exacerbate the weed issue. I find allowing your rig to drift in the same direction and at a similar speed to the weed can assist greatly in stopping weed gathering on the line. Consider dropping the wires on your grapnel sinker or better still switch to a spoon or rolling ball sinker and try working with the weed rather than against it.

I have no doubt weed doesn't deter fish from our beaches. In fact large banks of weed would provide shelter and food for many species. Larger target species are attracted to food opportunities. If you are prepared to experiment with your approach at times when weed is bad you may well be successful when the rest of us are sitting around at home waiting for the weed to clear.

Captions: Weed on the shoreline south of Jurien. It doesn't always mean weedy water. A solid tailor hits the sand, but not without weed on the rig. Weed doesn't deter fish but it can put off anglers.

Articles courtesy of:



**The Surf Casting and Angling Club Committee
would like to wish all members and families**

a very Merry Christmas and a safe and wonderful New Year!

Best wishes to you all!!

Be safe and enjoy fishing with friends

