

# REEL TALK

SURF CASTING AND ANGLING CLUB OF WA

JULY 2019





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

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Email: [secretary@scac.net.au](mailto:secretary@scac.net.au)

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

### **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, John Curtis,

Bob Henderson, Alan Jones, Pat McKeown

### **Company Sponsors:**

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Belmont City Medical Centre (Dr Sri Srigandan)

Bladon WA (Martin Wearmouth)

Halco Tackle

J M Gillies Agencies

Western Angler Magazine

Buildcorp Developments (Victor Schilo)

***Thank you for your valued support.***

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# **Club Committee for 2018/9**

**President**

Shane Wignell  
0488 235 613  
[shane@arach.net.au](mailto:shane@arach.net.au)

**Vice President**

Peter Osborne

**Treasurer**

Victor Schilo  
0413 152 550  
[treasurer@scac.net.au](mailto:treasurer@scac.net.au)

**Secretary**

George Belin  
0437 489 441  
Club email  
[secretary@scac.net.au](mailto:secretary@scac.net.au)

**Property Officer**

Now part of the Treasurer's duties  
**Reel Talk Editor**  
Victor Schilo

**Dry Casting Officer**

Ron Thomas  
0407 630 053  
[dee.ron@bigpond.com](mailto:dee.ron@bigpond.com)

**Field Day Officer**

Martin Wearmouth  
0407 301 195  
[martin.wearmouth@gmail.com](mailto:martin.wearmouth@gmail.com)

**Website Coordinator**

Peet Wessels

**Member Coordinator**

George Belin

**Committee Person**

Gary Parkinson

**Committee Person**

Sri Srigandan

**Recorder**

Justin Rose  
[jwrose81@yahoo.com.au](mailto:jwrose81@yahoo.com.au)

**AAAWA Delegates**

Victor Schilo, Shane Wignell

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

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

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 July 2019



What would a Surfcaster's Presentation Night be without teeming rain? I arrived with my wife Maureen and Sarah to the now customary deluge. What was different however, was as we parked a figure emerged from the dark carrying an umbrella. In an example of old-fashioned chivalry Life member Bob Henderson escorted the ladies to the safety of the entrance of the Croatia club. The president was left to fend for himself!

The evening went well with all those attending seeming to enjoy the company and food. Attendance numbers were good and it was particularly pleasing to see so many non -fishing partners enjoying the evening.

There were many great fishing and drycasting feats celebrated on the evening and again I would like to extend my congratulations to the members receiving the awards. In particular it was great to hear the enthusiastic applause for Basil Marsh Encouragement award winner Chris Stickells. Chris has on several occasions this year contacted the committee with ideas and suggestions as well as regularly contributing interesting articles for the Reel Talk. A very well-deserved honour and I am sure Chris will continue to become even more involved in the club.

Finally, a big thankyou to all those involved in organising and helping to run the event. It really is quite an effort to organise and manage and serves as a reminder of what an enormous contribution former Social Organiser Pat McKeown made to the club during the last several years.

The August Annual General Meeting is rapidly approaching and aside from the presentation of annual reports it, of course, is time to elect the committee for next year. All positions are declared vacant so I would encourage anyone who feels they have something to offer to seriously consider nominating. Serving on the committee provides interested members the chance to be directly involved in shaping the present and future of the club. Give it some thought.

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### Quotes for the month:



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## July 2019 General Meeting

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Coolbinia Sports Clubroom; Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine.

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

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## Field day venues for 2019/2020

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
13 – 14 July 2019	<b>Open</b> Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
17 – 18 August 2019	<b>Rottnest Island and standard local</b> Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	All Rottnest and local as below at bottom of page
28 – 30 September 2019 Long weekend	<b>Geraldton to Kalbarri and standard local</b> Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Geraldton to Kalbarri and local as below at bottom of page
12 – 13 October 2019	<b>Wedge Island to Jurien Bay and standard local</b> Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Wedge Island to Jurien Bay and local as below at bottom of page
9 – 10 November 2019	<b>Open</b> Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA Plan to fish Wagoes full moon is 12 <sup>th</sup> November
14 – 15 December 2019	<b>Ledge Point to Wedge Island and standard local</b> Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Ledge Point to Wedge Island and local as below at bottom of page
25 – 27 January 2020 Long weekend	<b>Open</b> Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
15 – 16 February 2020	<b>Busselton to White Hills and standard local</b> Lines down 9.30am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Busselton to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
29 February – 2 March 2020 Long weekend	<b>Reef Beach Bremer Bay and standard local</b> Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Reef Beach and local as below at bottom of page
11 April – 13 April 2020 Long weekend	<b>Bluff Creek and standard local</b> Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Cheyne's and Bluff Creek area and local as below at bottom of page

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

Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – 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**

## NEW WEB SITE

*Surf Casting and Angling Club has a new web address:*

[www.scac.net.au](http://www.scac.net.au)

*Please forward all Club related emails to:*

[secretary@scac.net.au](mailto:secretary@scac.net.au)

*Financial matters to:*

[treasurer@scac.net.au](mailto:treasurer@scac.net.au)

## **Birthdays for July;**

*Peter Osborne 7 July*

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### **June field day report – Preston beach by Martin Wearmouth**



I headed out on Saturday morning heading for Preston beach for our June open field day, The rain was steady but as I headed south it cleared and that was the last rain I saw that day, I met Peet and Sandra in the car park at 9am and we headed north along the beach for about 11km where we set up for our fishing, The beach driving was ok with just a few soft spots, It has been partly washed away since I was last there in May but that is to be expected during winter.

The wind was very light and we started fishing, there were a lot of small fish with baits being stripped quickly, It was hard work getting through the small Tarwhine and whiting to find a size fish, A few Herring and Pilch(Mullet) came in and a couple of undersize Salmon and Skippy, The sun came out a few times and we all enjoyed the warm winter sun and very light wind.

Vince arrived in the afternoon to join us, Peet and Vince had bought some wood and Peet had a old front loader washing machine inner bowl that we used as a fire pit, this was fired up late afternoon and was enjoyed by all as the sun disappeared and the cold night set in, Fishing was very slow and the baits got taken by small pickers even at night, I had put out a live Herring at just after 1pm on reeling in the line after 8.30pm the Herring was still alive but had not attracted any attention from a larger fish.

As we sat by the fire we all enjoyed some dinner and a drink, plenty of fishing stories along with some general conversation, it made the day with everyone enjoying the night and keeping warm by the fire, nights like this are what makes it all worth while 😊

I got up just after 6am to see if I could find some other fish, after the 1<sup>st</sup> cast it was same as the previous day lots of pickers and baits being eaten within 1 minute, Vince got up just after me as did Peet and Sandra, with not much fishing action we all packed up and headed back at 9am.

We all really enjoyed the great weather and comradery, Fishing was slow but that seems to be the way when you get very light winds and nice sunny days, I hope to see a few more fisher at our next July open field day.





**Preston was on fire but not with fishing action, Peets fire was the best part**







### Local results

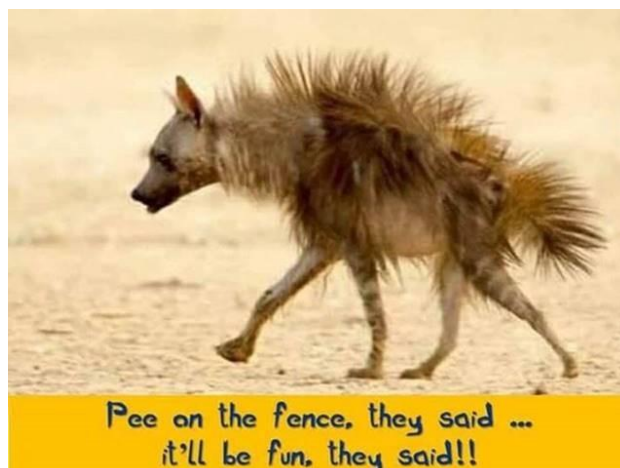
Mark Hansen fished Saturday afternoon at the south mole catching 12 herring totalling 1.18kg in an hour and a half targeting the sea side of the mole with soft plastics behind a float, Gary Parkinson fishing the riverside of the south mole, with no result.

### Jurien Bay: - Vic Schilo

Slavka and I travelled up to Jurien Bay on the Saturday morning and found that the area around the Hill River car park was completely weeded out. After enjoying lunch at the bakery, we drove to the Lesueur Drive area and found that apart from a bit of weed the water was clear. The odd thing was that for the first time in many trips there was no wind, the sea was calm.

We started “fishing” at around 2 pm, Slavka with her light rod and me with 2 rods looking for the bigger catch. Apart from the bait being stripped by blowies there was not one bite. Around 4pm I did hook onto a sting ray which provide a little enjoyment.

Although we did not come home with a bag of fish, we were thrilled at having contributed to the economy to the tune of about \$300.



Angler		Species Herring, Australian	Species Mullet (all species)	Species Whiting (other than listed)	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
									Field Day	General Meeting	
Preston Beach											
Martin Wearmouth	Number	5	2	1	0.97	3	8	47.7	1	1	67.7
	Total weight	0.67	0.20	0.10							
	Weight of best										
Peet Wessels	Number	8	2		1.08	2	10	40.8	1	1	60.8
	Total weight	0.88	0.20								
	Weight of best										
Sandra Wessels	Number	1	4		0.51	2	5	30.1	1	1	50.1
	Total weight	0.11	0.40								
	Weight of best										
Vincent Tomazin	Number	1			0.11	1	1	12.1	1	1	32.1
	Total weight	0.11									
	Weight of best										
Jurien Bay											
Victor Schilo	Number								1		10.0
	Total weight										
	Weight of best										
Slavka Schilo	Number								1		10.0
	Total weight										
	Weight of best										
Local											
Mark Hansen	Number	12			1.18	1	12	33.8	1	1	53.8
	Total weight	1.18									
	Weight of best										
Gary Parkinson	Number								1	1	20.0
	Total weight										
	Weight of best										

Top scores up to June 2019		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Peet Wessels	311.7
2	Sandra Wessels	296.5
3	Martin Wearmouth	293.6
4	Mark Hansen	209.0
5	Sabby Pizzolante	194.2
6	Mark Nurse	190.5
7	Vincent Tomazin	123.8
8	Theo Van Niekerk	119.5
9	Peter Osborne	82.4
10	Paul Terpkos	75.8
11	Brad Zaknich	63.6
12	Wally Lukic	47.6
13	Gary Parkinson	40.0
14	Slavka Schilo	30.0
15	Victor Schilo	30.0



## June Drycasting Report by Bob Henderson

Heading out to the polo grounds it was raining cats & dogs, my wipers were flat out and it looked like being a swim thru at the grounds. On arrival the rain stopped (an omen?) and Ron and Mark had the course all set up. No worries, as the rest of the lads turned up. We only had to stop once when the rain started up during the whole day. Luck was on our side with that one quick squall.

As you can see by the score sheet Ron took the honours in all the distance events and the single-handed event. Bloody good caster is he. The big surprise was in the d/handed for up jumped “an old fart” named Mal to take the honours, even though he said he wasn’t happy with the rod he was using? Good on you mate.

As usual the snags n onions were a delight at the end of the day so “thanks to Mark Hansen” again. The aroma brought in a visitor in Terry Willison, an old club member hoping to return to casting in the near future. Let’s hope a few more have a go too.

Ron, every month you are there bright and early, set the court up, run the day, collect the gear and produce the results for the reel talk. Toss in being a good bloke then I guess we could say we are very lucky to have you in the club.

From all of as “Thanks” from your “tossing Mates”

Hendo

<b>SURF CASTING &amp; ANGLING CLUB</b>													
<b>Dry casting results - 9th June 2019</b>													
	<b>56 gram</b>					<b>Artificial Bait</b>					<b>112gram</b>		
	<b>Cast</b>	<b>Cast</b>	<b>Total</b>			<b>Cast</b>	<b>Cast</b>	<b>Total</b>			<b>Cast</b>	<b>Cast</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Veterans</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>%</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>%</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>%</b>
BOB HENDERSON	130.60	134.70	265.30	96.61		110.90	101.48	212.38	82.93		128.25	143.63	271.88
ALAN JONES	94.72	24.24	118.96	43.32		78.60	84.25	162.85	63.59		105.12	120.72	225.84
RON THOMAS	139.48	135.13	274.61	100.00		130.58	125.50	256.08	100.00		156.59	151.62	308.21
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	92.63	123.90	216.53	78.85		105.77	102.18	207.95	81.20		115.63	129.41	245.04
MAL HEAD	96.90	113.10	210.00	76.47		91.60	98.69	190.29	74.31		113.08	120.37	233.45
DEAN STEWART	82.24	87.44	169.68	61.79		77.23	85.60	162.83	63.58		98.92	104.35	203.27
<b>Senior</b>													
MARK HANSEN	96.91	107.91	204.82	100.00		OUT	101.44	101.44	100.00		119.55	121.96	241.51

<b>SURF CASTING &amp; ANGLING CLUB</b>																			
<b>Dry casting results - 9th June 2019</b>																			
	<b>Double Handed Accuracy</b>										<b>Single Handed Accuracy</b>						<b>Total</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>Target number</b>										<b>Target distance</b>							<b>D/Casting</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Veterans</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>		
BOB HENDERSON	10	18	14	22	13	10	23	10	120	90.22	6	7	4	0	17	40.00	397.97	10	407.97
ALAN JONES	0	10	3	17	21	17	11	19	98	48.48	1	8	0	7	16	48.48	277.14	10	287.14
RON THOMAS	11	11	19	24	9	17	18	22	131	98.50	9	7	9	8	33	100.00	498.50	10	508.50
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	5	3	12	5	15	3	1	12	56	42.10	1	0	8	7	16	48.48	330.13	10	340.13
MAL HEAD	7	25	12	22	18	13	18	18	133	100.00	0	0	1	1	2	6.06	332.58	10	342.58
DEAN STEWART	0	7	0	24	0	18	17	22	88	66.16	6	2	4	0	12	36.36	293.84	10	303.84
<b>Seniors</b>																			
MARK HANSEN	18	19	10	23	14	14	19	16	133	100.00	7	3	8	9	27	100.00	500.00	10	510.00



VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2018 - 2019											
LONGEST 56 GRAM							155.54		RON THOMAS		
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT							139.45		RON THOMAS		
LONGEST 112G							168.60		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		

# Snag for a snag 2

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of June I took part in Snag for a Snag 2, a project run by Recfishwest and the Nature Conservancy. The aim of the project is to remove algae etc from the snags, to allow the native mussels to settle on them and become a important part of the food chain as well as filter the waters for nutrients and provide habitat for other species, and help stabilize the shoreline.

We met down at King Meadow Guildford at 3pm. I had my doubts how many people would show up given the weather (and so did the organisers!). In total about 5 volunteers attended; one person from Ozfish and 2 from the Nature Conservancy, and us. We were transported to our cleaning locations by a small plastic boat, skippered by one of the volunteers. We scrubbed the snags with deck brushes and a hand held scrubbing brush.



At one point we were approached by a guy in a small tractor carrying a chain saw. He thought we were digging up the bank, as lots of people do so. He told us the snags that we were scrubbing had been placed there (by himself) to combat this digging; he was from the Swan River Conservation Group and they were not aware of our plans. He went on his way after a brief chat and we went back to scrubbing.

After about an hour and a half of scrubbing and picking up rubbish the little yellow boat came around and picked us up for return to the BBQ and snags. Over the BBQ the team spoke about other restoration projects and options for future conservation of the river, including Snag for a Snag 3, and deploying mussels grown in a hatchery so we can get the populations back to what they have been in the past.

*Chris Stickells*

## Surf Casting and Angling Club's 2019 Presentation Night

The Club's premier social event was held on 22 June 2019 with a total of 47 members and guests attending. Based on reports, the food was great and best of all, after paying \$20 for the evening, everyone went home with a \$25 gift voucher and two fantastic drink bottles. This was made possible by the generous donations from Bladen WA, the Club, Bob Henderson, Mal Head, Allen Jones, Sri Srigandan, Pat McKeown, John Curtis and Victor Schilo.

Sandra, our resident photographer was unable to take the photos, so at very short notice Sarah Wignell "volunteered". Thank you Sarah for doing taking on the job.

The raffle was expertly conducted by Gary and Vince, who added their brand of humour to the evening.

Thanks go out the the the Committee for having the courage to subsidise the cost and thank you to the members for supporting the evening.

This year was also the first year that the Club has had to organise the event without a designated Social Organiser and what it showed was just how much Pat McKeown had done over the years.

Congratulations to all the WINNERS and the organising Committee.

Many thanks to our regular sponsors who support the Club year after year.















## Trophy Awards 2018-2019 The Surf Casting And Angling Club WA (inc)

**Marcia Pekaar Award- Junior Club Champion (Plus Medallion)**

**Oliver Wessels – 35.6 points**

**Ladies Club Champion (Plus Medallion)**

**Sandra Wessels – 901.6 points**

**Ken Matthews Trophy 1st six months (Plus Medallion) (Fish + Weight)**

**Peet Wessels – Yellow Tail Kingfish 3.31kg Rottnest June 2018**

**Ken Matthews Trophy Fish, 2nd six months (Plus Medallion) (Fish + Weight)**

**Sandra Wessels – Salmon 7.02kg March Esperance 2019**

**Hans Wytenburg Memorial Trophy (Plus Medallion) (Bluff Creek)**

**Martin Wearmouth 315.10 points**

**Field Day Officers Award (Plus Medallion) – Best out of 8 months**

**Martin Wearmouth 1774.3 points 100%**

**Basil Marsh Trophy Encouragement award (Plus Medallion)**

**Chris Stickells**

**Sports Person of the Year - first for overall Drycasting and Field Day Points (Plus Medallion)**

**Peter Osborne 1645.7% points**

**Club Person of the Year (Plus Medallion)**

**Victor Schilo**

## Casting decided by Casting organiser and committee – Best out of 8 months

**Ron Kildail Memorial Trophy Vets Single handed Accuracy Points + % (Plus Medallion) trophy**  
**Ron Thomas 1052.94%**

**Jimmy Strong Trophy Vets Drycasting Winner Points + % (Plus Medallion) trophy**  
**Ron Thomas**

**Vets Runner up**  
**Peter Osborne**

**Most Bullseyes**  
**Ron Thomas – 5**

**Mens overall winner**  
**Mark Hansen**

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## **Open fishing competition 2018/19**

Section	For	Minimum weight	Entry
1	Most meritorious capture open	None	Justin Rose, 8kg Gold Spot, Justin Rose 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2018, Dirk Hartog Island
2	Best shark	4.5 kg	7.95kg, Geoff Raftis 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2018, Jurien Bay Gummy Shark
3	Best mulloway	5 kg	
4	Best salmon	3.5kg	
5	Best flathead	0.5 kg	
6	Best tailor	1.5 kg	2kg, Geoff Raftis 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2018, Port Denison
7	Best samson fish	5 kg	
8	Best fish on single handed rod maximum 4kg line class (Bait)	Legal size	0.352kg Tailor, Darcy Tomlinson 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2019, Kalbarri
9	Best pink snapper	2 kg	4.3 Kg Justin Rose, 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2018 , Kalbarri
10	Best tarwhine	0.5 kg	0.89kg Geoff Raftis 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2018, Port Denison
11	Best mackerel	4 kg	
12	Best skipjack trevally (southern)	1 kg	1.3kg Geoff Raftis 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2018, Port Denison
13	Best trevally (northern)	2 kg	8kg Gold Spot, Justin Rose 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2018, Dirk Hartog Island
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	Catfish 2kg, Justin Rose, 21 <sup>st</sup> September 2018
17	Best fish caught on fly rod.	Legal size	



Field Day Sections up to the current month				
Section		Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Peet Wessels	Yellow Tail Kingfish	3.31kg
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	Sandra Wessels	Salmon	7.02kg
2	Most meritorious fish on a field day	Peet Wessels	Skippy	2.26kg
3	Best shark (4.5kg min)			
4	Best mullock (2kg min)			
5	Best tailor (1kg min)	Martin Wearmouth		1.19kg
6	Best salmon (3kg min)	Sandra Wessels		7.02kg
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peet Wessels		2.26kg
8	Best mackerel (2kg min)			
9	Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min)			
10	Best scale fish (Other than above)			
11	Best bag of scale fish	Martin Wearmouth		22.21kg
12	Best bag of mullock (2 fish min)			
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Peet Wessels		4.33kg
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	Martin Wearmouth	Black Bream	0.84kg
15	Best fish caught on fly rod			

## READING THE WEATHER MAP

How many times have you headed out for a fish and found yourself besmirching the good name of the local weatherman as the high winds or wet weather moves in against the best assurances of your said meteorological adviser?

If all those poor, misunderstood weather announcers could hear what was being said about their respective mothers (or rather, tack of fathers), it would surely send them all scurrying for a new profession. Something more certain like taxation prediction or doom announcing. Yes, it's a rare day when you can finish a fishing session proclaiming what a trustworthy and decent human being the weatherman is.

Part of this is just the way things are. The weather and its complexities is just something that is far too intricate and variable to accurately predict. All things considered, the Bureau of Meteorology in this country does a damn good job.

However, the problems come from an oversimplified report. Simply tuning into the evening news and seeing tomorrow's forecast of fine and 25 degrees is not enough information to throw the boat in the water and bolt for the horizon. What may have been excluded from this forecast are 40kt winds, 5m swells and occasional iceberg drifts.

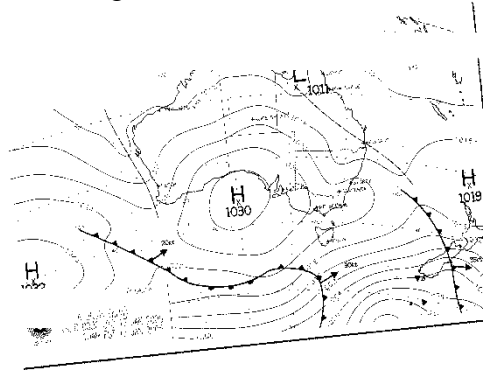
It's all in the detail. The reason TV weather reports tend to be simplified is because the general public don't know squat about the basics of weather information. If you take in just a Little technical jargon, have a small understanding of how a weather system works and go looking for better forecast information, you'll find weather conditions can often be deciphered down to the hour.

## The Synoptic Chart

You know those maps with the funny, misshapen circles on them that the weatherman waves his hands across during the nightly report? Those are basic synoptic charts and contain an awful lot of weather information. Synoptic charts show barometric pressure differences across a weather system. The pressure is measured in hectopascals (also known as millibars), with each misshapen circle (known as an isobar) representing the pressure line throughout that weather system. Each isobar will be labelled with a numerical hectopascal value, which allows an assessment of how quickly the pressure rises or falls over a large or small area of the weather system.

This pressure recording shows what the weather system is - either a high (H) or low (L) pressure system. Typically, high-pressure systems are associated with clear skies and low-pressure systems with cloud and possibly rain, but things aren't always as simple as that. What we need to know as far as fishing goes is that pressure systems basically travel from the West to the East in the Southern Hemisphere and the winds associated with either type of pressure system behave in opposite ways.

Because of the rotation of the Earth, wind 'spins' outwards from the centre of a weather system. That is, it travels almost parallel with the isobars. With a low pressure system wind spins clockwise and inwards towards the centre of the system, while with a high-pressure system it spins anti-clockwise and outwards away from the centre of the system. This therefore allows us to judge the wind direction in our fishing area fairly accurately. Some synoptic charts will even have little arrows that show the wind direction and strength. The strength is represented by little tines on the base of the arrow (they kind of look like quills or tail feathers). The more little tines on the arrow, the stronger the winds.



Without the arrows, wind strength can still be predicted by looking at the isobars. As we know, isobars that are squashed together represent an area where the barometric pressure rises or falls rapidly. This steep pressure gradient causes strong winds. Therefore, the closer the isobars are together, the stronger the winds and vice versa.

Which part of a weather system is affecting your local area greatly changes the conditions you are likely to experience? A weather system can be huge (almost the size of the country), so as it passes over, the local weather will vary dramatically. In temperate and subtropical parts of Australia, generally the most tremulous part of a weather system is the front.

A front is literally the leading edge of a weather system that meets the back edge of a previous weather system and is therefore the point where cold air undercuts warm air. Because the air temperatures and moisture levels between the two weather systems can vary greatly, pressures along a front usually drop or rise sharply. All this causes stronger winds, rain and unstable weather conditions. A cold front moving through can also herald slower fishing.

A front on a synoptic chart is represented as a black line with regular bumps along it. Triangular bumps for a cold front and rounded, semi-circular bumps for a warm front. Warm fronts in Australian weather systems are rare, but cold fronts sweep across southern and central Australia from the Indian and Southern oceans continually.

Similar to a front is a trough. Represented on a weather map as a thick dotted or dashed line, a trough is basically a long finger of air that branches off one weather system and pushes into another. A trough therefore has the potential to alter the wind strength and direction, temperature and cloud cover in the area it affects. Many weather maps are overlaid with a satellite map that displays cloud mass. These are handy because they provide a better view of exactly where the rain systems are, what sort of physical weather is due to arrive,

and how severe it may be. For example, thick lines of cloud along a cold front may indicate heavy rain, hail and lightning, while a large area of speckled cloud behind a cold front shows up patchy rain but very cold air.

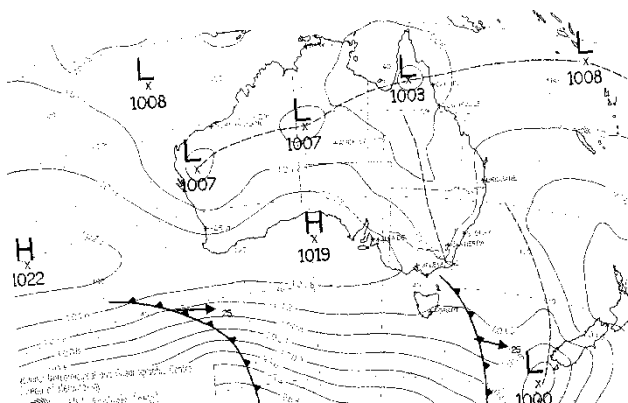
### Keeping up to Date

Though detailed weather maps are invaluable tools for weather prediction, they are not gospel. Weather systems are in essence unpredictable, so to make your assessments you need to keep an ear to the ground and a weather eye to the sky.

Getting the most up-to-date reports possible helps. For this, try the Bureau of Meteorology website ([www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)), or radio reports. If in a coastal environment, always remember you'll need the 'marine waters' forecast and observations or oceanographic services. Also check out the radar readings on the Bureau website. These show actual rain and weather activity, not just cloud like a satellite map.

Another useful site is [www.windyty.com](http://www.windyty.com). This site gives information on all facets of weather and will show conditions up to 9 days out. Obviously this is a 'prediction' but it allows for longer term planning for fishing trips, particularly to more remote locations where weather will play an important part in your results.

The best thing you can do with all this information is cross-reference to get the best possible picture of the current weather conditions and make your initial assessment from there. Do not rely on TV weather forecasts. All TV forecasts are oversimplified and unreliable.

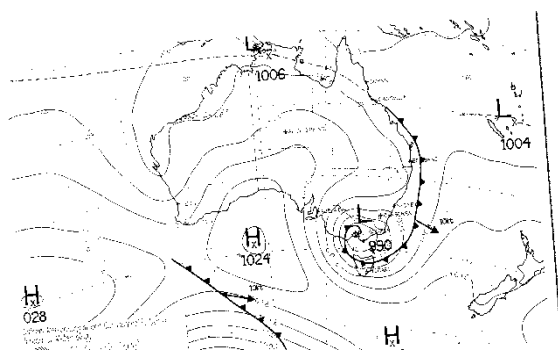


The most valuable weather prediction equipment you can use is your eyes. No matter what the forecast or weather map says, plain observation is always of more use. Isolated storms, severe wind changes and such can affect only very small areas and won't show up on a weather map.

Continually take note of what the local weather is doing and train yourself to notice even the slightest wind change, especially when boating on open waters. It's just common sense really. If things are looking unstable or potentially

hazardous, disregard any weather maps or forecasts and give the fishing or boating a miss.

Part of this observation includes an accumulated knowledge of local or seasonal weather tendencies. Localised weather factors like tide change wind swings, sea breezes or cooling air rain clouds caused by mountain ranges occur regularly and fairly predictably in certain areas at certain times. If possible, get to know these tendencies or ask the locals.



Finally, take note of how the fish react to different barometric pressures and weather changes. Most fish bite consistently under high, stable barometric pressures and may go into shutdown mode as a very low pressure system moves in. Then again, many species will go into a very short but amazingly intense feeding frenzy just as a cold front starts to move in. Take notice of these trends and the weather will be your eternal fishing friend.

*Article provided by John Curtis*





# The Freak Wave Myth

July 3, 2019 by Peter Kamstra, [University of Melbourne](#)



Rock fishers casting off the rocky coasts near Sydney, Australia. Credit: Peter Kamstra

As a nation "girt by sea," Australians live with the joy and risks of the ocean. We swim, we surf, we sail and we fish. And rock fishing is something around 1.2 million Australians enjoy doing. But over the past 13 years, Surf Life Saving Australia estimates that 158 rock fishers have died while fishing on Australia's rocky coasts. Rock fishing has been identified as the third highest cause of coastal drowning, following swimming or wading, and boating.

Wanting to understand more about the risk perception of waves, we investigated and interviewed fishers in Randwick Council; a rock fishing drowning "black spot" in Sydney's east.

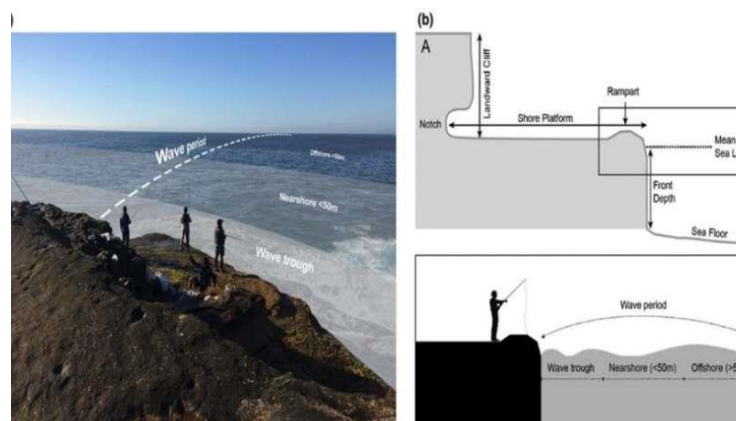
Our study, published in *Ocean and Coastal Management* that built on earlier research in *The Geographical Journal* and *The Professional Geographer*, found that although "freak or [rogue waves](#)" are often blamed for numerous rock fishing deaths by the public and the media—these are actually rare events.

In fact, our findings highlight an important mismatch between how the dangers of drowning while rock fishing are understood by scientists, government messaging and the media when that's compared to how it's experienced by the rock fishers themselves.

## Anticipating large waves

Experienced fishers describe several "zones" when they scan the sea for any risks. The more experienced fishers tend to look further offshore when they're looking for hazardous waves.

The first zone is immediately in front of the rocks where water levels drop in the wave trough, the second is up to 50 metres offshore looking at wave heights and, finally, the third zone is up to 200 metres offshore watching for wave patterns or sets.



The image on the left shows rock fishers and the different spatial scales used to anticipate risk, while the images on the right show a cross-section of shore platform morphology (a) and the spatial scales used to anticipate risk (b). Credit: University of Melbourne

Our research suggests that the further offshore fishers looked, coupled with the experience to know what they were looking for, the safer they were. This larger-scale perspective means that some fishers are able to anticipate larger waves before they strike the rocks, allowing them time to leave a risky location.

In contrast, inexperienced fishers are often unaware that there is a wave period. A wave period or interval is the time it takes for one complete wave length to pass a fixed point, and it's given in seconds.

Shorter wave periods can be eight to 12 seconds apart, they tend to look peakier and closer together. While longer wave periods can be 10 to 20 seconds apart and carry much more energy. When a larger set of waves comes through during a longer wave period, an inexperienced fisher often thinks of these as 'freak waves' instead of normal occurrences.

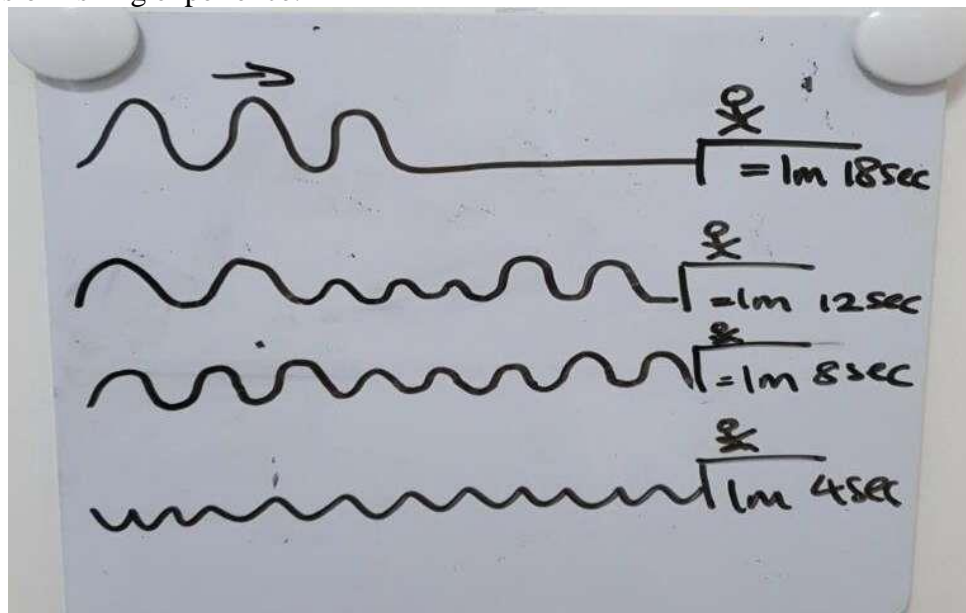
### **Calm, but deceptive seas**

For those looking for hazardous waves immediately in front of the platform they're on, only seconds remains for them to respond. These people tend to be the least experienced fishers.

This lack of perspective is potentially catastrophic when we think about the behaviour of fishers; they are often distracted retrieving a snared line or reeling in a big catch.

The result, in some cases, can be that a large wave is already upon a fisher when they first notice it.

This expert perception is possibly best described by a keen rock fisher we spoke to in 2018 in Sydney's East with seven years of fishing experience:



An example of how the risk of longer wave periods affects the appearance of risk sketched by an expert fisher. Credit: University of Melbourne.

"Large overtopping waves will come, but at different times. I think, inexperienced rock fishers come down here and say 'oh, it's glassy (or calm) so it must be safe.' In some cases they are right. But with a wave period over ten seconds, they get lulled into a false sense of security and if they don't get away from that one big wave every 30 to 40 minutes, they get knocked over, hit their head and get carried out in the water."

Experienced fishers explain that "calm" seas can present both high and low risk, depending on whether the fisher understands that an absence of visible wave heights can represent a high risk.

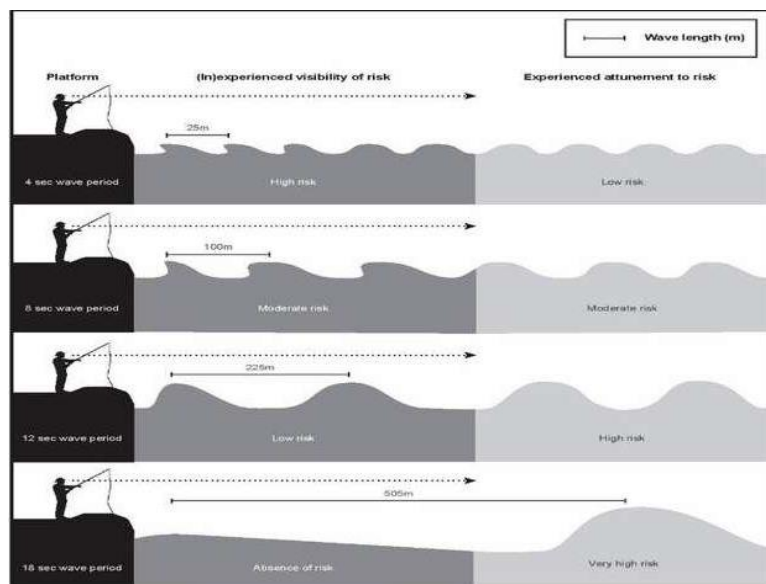
Counter-intuitively, apparently calm conditions during long wave periods is actually hazardous to inexperienced fishers.

### **Do freak waves exist?**

Unlike the sensationalised stories of freak waves sweeping fishers to their deaths, we investigated whether this idea is really just a function of the longer wave periods that are described by expert fishers. Speaking with other experienced rock fishers about the definition of freak waves, many say that "they aren't freak waves if you know they are coming." Some went further saying the idea of a freak wave was only for fishers who didn't actually see the massive wave until it was on top of them.

An example of how the risk of longer wave periods affects the appearance of risk can be seen in the form of a sketched image drawn by an expert fisher.

By using statistical testing, my co-author Dr. Sarah McSweeney and I looked at the relationship between 12 rock fishing-related drownings in Randwick Council with the mean daily wave height, direction and wave.



When the wave period is four to 12 seconds, you can see the wave heights that are dangerous more easily. Credit: University of Melbourne

The aim is to explore whether "expert" perceptions of drowning risk aligns with those longer wave periods. The increase in wave period at the times when fishers drowned suggests an accuracy in the expert testimonies which claim that inexperienced fishers are at risk due to an inability to perceive an absence of visible waves as high risk during longer wave periods.

### Communicating risk

The critical message of our research is that current risk management practices can perpetuate the myth of freak waves. Many warning signs use freak wave imagery and the media stories often feature sensationalised stories of freak waves in their reporting of drownings. Attempting to scare fishers into behaving differently through these kind of tools is not a reflection of how expert fishers' understand risk and they are unlikely to change behaviour. It also has to potential to discredit those people and organisations trying to improve safety if they rely on these kind of narratives.

Instead, experienced fishers should be encouraged to share their skills with novice fishers. This should be done in tandem with risk managers improving communication about longer period swells which can help an inexperienced fishers' ability to understand conditions that are safer to fish.

### More information:

Peter Kamstra et al. Re-casting experience and risk along rocky coasts: A relational analysis using qualitative GIS, The Geographical Journal (2018). [DOI: 10.1111/geoj.12277](https://doi.org/10.1111/geoj.12277)

Peter Kamstra et al. Qualitative GIS to Relate Perceptions with Behaviours among Fishers on Risky, Rocky Coasts, The Professional Geographer (2019). [DOI: 10.1080/00330124.2018.1559656](https://doi.org/10.1080/00330124.2018.1559656)

Peter Kamstra et al. Expert perceptions of the 'freak' wave myth on Australia's rocky coasts, Ocean & Coastal Management(2019). [DOI: 10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2019.02.015](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2019.02.015)

*Supplied by John Curtis*

## NOTES FROM AAA DELEGATES COUNCIL MEETING

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented a financial report detailing the financial affairs of the Association which show that the Association is in a healthy position financially. It was moved and seconded and approved as a true record of the Associations financial position. There were no Accounts for payment presented.

### **Estuary and Rock & Beach Report:**

Russell Bunce reported following notification that a club has arranged an interclub competition on the same date as the planned State Rock and Beach competition at Port Gregory, the event is to be **postponed to the LWE in June 2020**. This proposal is to be taken back to the clubs and discussed at the next Delegates Council Meeting and voted on at the August Meeting.

**It is imperative that clubs respond to this request by the next meeting.**

Peter Osborne (ORSSC) had previously moved a motion “**That for Estuary events held at Walpole only 1 gummy shark can be presented for weigh-in.**” An amendment to this motion was moved at the last meeting, seconded and carried “**That for Estuary events held at Walpole only 1 gummy shark of 750mm or greater can be presented for weigh-in.**”

This amendment became the motion and was passed unanimously by the delegates.

### **Boating Report:**

The State Boat Championship was successfully run on the weekend of the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. Weather was good and the presentation was held at the MAAC club rooms in The Boatshed as the main clubrooms were undergoing renovations.

### **AAA-WA Web Site:**

The web site is now active ([www.aaa-wa.org.au](http://www.aaa-wa.org.au)) with more material being added regularly. The old web site is now slowly being phased out and a message will be displayed directing viewers to the new address. Four email addresses are now active on the web site, being for the President, Secretary Treasurer and Recorder. These are [position@aaa-wa.org.au](mailto:position@aaa-wa.org.au)

**Clubs and members wishing to contact the Association and Secretary are now are asked to use the email address [secretary@aaa-wa.org.au](mailto:secretary@aaa-wa.org.au) or [info@aaa-wa.org.au](mailto:info@aaa-wa.org.au)**

The old email address will be slowly phased out.

### **Brag Mats:**

A supply of brag mats (1.5m x 20cm with aluminium L shaped end stop) has been ordered. Should clubs require their club logo to be included on their ‘own’ brag mats this can be arranged.

### **Ozfish Australia:**

It was resolved that Andrew Matthews, W A Convener of Ozfish Australia be invited to the July meeting to address the Delegates and interested members on the activities of this organization and its operations in Western Australia.

### **Current Club Information for Web Site:**

This is urgently required by the Secretary for inclusion on the web site.

Currently many clubs have not responded with this information and it is required for inclusion on the web site along with information about the club e.g. meeting times, meeting location club activities, and clear pictures of fish captures that fill the frame. No hats or sunglasses and no pictures of fish on scales or with blood on them.

**Please send this information to the Secretary.**