

# REEL TALK

May 2021







## **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>

### **May 2021 : Reel Talk Contents**

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# **Club Committee for 2020-21**

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

## **President**

*Martin Wearmouth*

0407 301 195

[martin.wearmouth@gmail.com](mailto:martin.wearmouth@gmail.com)

## **Vice President**

*Peter Osborne*

## **Treasurer**

*Victor Schilo*

0413 152 550

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

## **Secretary**

*John Curtis*

0412 776 558

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

## **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)

## **Assistant Field Day Officer**

*Vince Tomazin*

## **Assistant Drycasting Officer**

*Bob Henderson*

## **Committee Persons**

*Gary Parkinson*

*Chris Stickells*

## **Recorder**

*Justin Rose*

[Jwrose81@yahoo.com.au](mailto:Jwrose81@yahoo.com.au)

## **Website Coordinator**

*Peet Wessels*



## **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 - May 2021**

This month is the start of our new Casting and Fishing season, please attend when you can as attendance does seem to be waning for both, the club needs your support so please attend if you have time.

The Presentation night is now set for Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June at the Croatian club, please keep this date free, it will be a great night as always.

The attendance at the meeting has been good since our move to the Croatian club, I hope this continues and I hope to see as many as possible at the May meeting.

*Martin Wearmouth; President*

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## **May General Meeting**

A reminder to all members that the March General Meeting will be held on:

**Wednesday 12th of May 2021 at the Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup commencing at 7.00PM.**

**A meal will be served at 7:00PM and the May General Meeting will commence at 8:00PM.**

**To encourage members to make this a social event there will be an excellent meal of crumbed chicken schnitzel, battered fish, roast potatoes & salad served at 7:00pm.**

**The club will be subsidising the cost of the meal and members will only be required to contribute \$15 each.**

**Please advise Victor Schilo (0413 152 550 or email [victor@schilogroup.com](mailto:victor@schilogroup.com)) before midday on Sunday 9th of May, so that numbers can be forwarded to the Croatian Club.**

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## **Surf Caster's Annual Presentation Night**

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

**Save the date**

**Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup**

Once again there will be no charge to attend, enjoy a great meal and support the Club.  
Feel free to invite prospective members

Please advise John Curtis

0412 776 558

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

## Field day venues for 2021/2022

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
15 - 17 May 2021	Rottneest Island and Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Rottneest and Open anywhere in WA
12 - 13 June 2021	Open Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
17 - 19 July 2021 Long weekend due to safari	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
16 - 26 July 2021 Dirk Hartog Island and Steep Point safari	Dirk Hartog Island safari 2 fishing days to be chosen by traveling group once on the island	All of Dirk Hartog Island and Steep Point Shelter bay area
28 - 30 August 2021	Rottneest Island and Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Rottneest and Open anywhere in WA
25 - 27 September 2021 Long Weekend	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
16 - 17 October 2021	Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
13 - 14 November 2021	Cervantes to Leeman Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Cervantes to Leeman and local as below at bottom of page
11 - 12 December 2021	Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Greenhead and local as below at bottom of page
15 - 16 January 2022	Open Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
12 - 13 February 2022	Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
5 - 7 March 2022 Long Weekend	Bremer Bay area and Open We plan to fish Bremer Bay area Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
16 April - 18 April 2022 Easter Long weekend	Bluff Creek area and Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA

**Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Preston Beach in the South**

Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.00am

Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00am

Lines Down for long weekends and Rottneest – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends and Rottneest – Monday 9.00am

**Sign-on / Weigh-in times, possible fish together spots and locations to be decided at the general meeting prior to the Field Day**

## SCAC Meeting dates for 2021

May: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>

June: No meeting due to Presentation night being on 26<sup>th</sup>

July: Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup>



## **Surf Casters April 2021 Reef Beach field day** report by Martin Wearmouth

On Thursday afternoon I had a call from Malcom Harris who had travelled to Bluff creek that day to advise the South Coast highway was closed at Cheynes beach road due to road works, the detour took you inland and about 60km east past all the entry roads to Bluff Creek, So on Friday morning the 5 members going being Shane, Gary, Stuart, George and myself decided to head to Reef Beach rather than risk trying to drive the 25km of beach from Cheynes to the spot we normally camp.

The drive south on Good Friday was busy but we had no issues, after a stop in Katanning for fuel and food we arrived at the Reef Beach camping area about 12pm, after setting up camp we relaxed for a while before heading onto the beach to check the conditions, the beach at the west end was wide and you could drive all the way to the rocks, the first point close to the reef about 1km from camp looked very good, with nice deep water and the reef only 60-70m from the beach so we decided to fish this spot.



Not too much action at first then Shane got a nice 4kg Salmon about 5.50pm followed by a monster Skippy weighing 3.11kg, both got released back and swam off well, we did not fish too long but as it got dark the bites started to increase as the Herring moved in.

On Saturday morning it was cloudy as it started to get light, we started fishing about 6am and Gary and I tried a gutter west of the track about 500m, the drift was quite bad so we only fished here about an hour, Gary got a couple of Herring and I caught some baby Salmon only about 20cm long, we moved to the first point next to the reef that we had fished the night before Shane, Stuart and George had started at this spot but not much action yet.

At 7.45 I caught me first Skippy and at 39cm 0.70kg not as good as the one Shane got the day before, 5 minutes later Shane landed a 5.37kg Salmon, between 8am and 11.30am I managed 2 Salmon 4.94kg and 6.46kg and 7 more Skippy 32cm to 46cm, we all headed back to camp for lunch.

The wind was stronger in the middle of the day so we waited till 3.30pm before heading out to fish, we again fished the first point east close to the reef, again the Skippy seemed hungry, I caught 4 this session from 35cm to 48cm (1.22kg), but a few more species this session George and I caught a whiting and a few got some Herring, the Herring again came in as it got dark but no Salmon on this session.

At camp we lit a fire with some wood Gary had brought, after my fail with lighting it George took over and had the fire roaring in no time, We sat around the fire and enjoyed the night for a while.





Sunday morning was raining so we stayed at camp keeping dry and warm till it mostly cleared at 10am, we headed out planning to fish the high tide at 12.30pm, Shane and I fished the first point east the same spot as the day before, Gary tried the spot west of camp and Stuart and George fished the 2<sup>nd</sup> point east near the reef, the fishing was slower than the Saturday I managed 2 Skippy 35cm and 47cm (1.14kg) and 1 flathead, the high tide did not seem to fire up the fish, Gary caught a 40cm Salmon and a couple of Herring, Stuart got 2 nice Salmon and some Skippy, George caught Flathead, Herring and a small Salmon.



At lunch we lit a camp fire again to keep warm as the wind was again stronger in the middle of the day, we sat around the fire till 3.30pm and then went for a drive to the eastern end to escape the strong Easterly wind the beach was good and we got to the eastern end easily, It was full of people camping and fishing so we headed back west, luckily the wind was dropping and we all fished the 2<sup>nd</sup> point next to the reef where Stuart and George had fished.



Again not too many bites, Shane moved back to the first point hoping to find his big Skippy again, I got a few bites around 5pm managing a Flathead and some Herring, At 6.15pm my fishing rod bent over and as I took it out of the rod holder I new it was a good fish, it had good weight and was staying down deep, after a 10 minute fight a 4.41kg Skippy came up the beach, what a great fish after a quick weigh and a couple of photos I released the fish and it swam off well, I stayed for a couple more casts and the Herring action was on catching some nice bull herring was a great finish to the fishing.



So not a great field day for all who attended fish wise but not bad for a last minute change of location, the weather was mostly cloudy with a few showers and only a few hours of sunshine, this brings us to the end of the season, May is the start of a new season and I hope everyone can make it to a field day or 2.

Mark Hansen and Malcolm Harris fished at Bluff Creek managing to find a way in at the eastern end going through the closed road at the eastern side and onto Warriup road, they did well on Herring and managed to put in a great bag of fish each.







ANGLER		Species Salmon Western Australian	Species Trevally Silver Skipper	Species Herring Australian	Species Flathead (all species)	Species Whiting	Species Sweep Banded	Species Wrasse (all species) 1 only	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
													Field Day	General Meeting	
Martin Wearmouth	Number	2	12	10	2	1			25.22	5	27	329.2	1	1	349.2
	Total weight	10.26	12.64	1.70	0.48	0.14									
	Weight of best	5.81	3.97												
Malcolm Harris (Visitor)	Number	5	12	17			1	1	16.82	5	36	254.2	1		264.2
	Total weight	8.10	5.13	2.89			0.40	0.30							
	Weight of best														
Mark Hansen	Number	1	1	24	1		3		7.41	5	30	154.1	1	1	174.1
	Total weight	1.51	0.47	3.96	0.24		1.23								
	Weight of best														
Stuart Waterman	Number	2	2	3					10.76	3	7	144.6		1	154.6
	Total weight	8.75	1.50	0.51											
	Weight of best														
Shane Wignell	Number	1	1	10	1				7.48	4	13	127.8	1	1	147.8
	Total weight	4.79	0.75	1.70	0.24										
	Weight of best														
George Matrakis	Number	1	3	2	2	1			3.57	5	9	94.7	1	1	114.7
	Total weight	0.60	2.25	0.34	0.24	0.14									
	Weight of best														
Gary Parkinson	Number	1		6					1.92	2	7	46.2	1	1	66.2
	Total weight	0.90		1.02											
	Weight of best														

Field day prizes for April

Section		Angler		Species		Weight
Best scale fish		Martin Wearmouth		Salmon Western Australian		5.81
Best bag of scale fish		Martin Wearmouth				25.22
Best shark						
Best bag including sharks						



Top scores up to April		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	2224.9
2	Peet Wessels	1440.9
3	Ron Thomas	1196.9
4	Mark Hansen	1184.1
5	Sandra Wessels	849.5
6	Vince Tomazin	735.7
7	Stuart Waterman	626.4
8	Gary Parkinson	532.0
9	Shane Wignell	449.5
10	George Matrakis	390.7
11	Peter Osborne	308.0
12	Theo Van Niekerk	302.4
13	Malcolm Harris (visitor)	264.2
14	Sabby Pizzolante	224.4
15	Steve Harrison	163.0
16	Brad Zaknich (visitor)	161.2
17	Chris Stickells	152.2
18	Alan Green	67.2
19	David Wilding	59.0
20	Geoff Raftis	47.5
21	Oliver Wessels	39.3
22	David Trainer	30.0
23	Trinity Wessels	29.0
24	Logan Wessels	21.8
25	Sri Srigandan	20.0
26	Grace Wessels	10.0
27	Ian Taggart	10.0



## **Open fishing competition 2020/21**

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2020 and 30 April 2021, other than on Club gazetted Field days, but not in any other AAA affiliated club event on the same dates. Entries for the Open competition close **30 days after capture**. See Competition Rules Section 4.

Section	For	Minimum weight	Entry
1	Most meritorious capture	None	To be awarded by Committee
2	Best shark	4.5 kg	
3	Best mullock	5 kg	
4	Best salmon	3.5kg	Peet Wessels, 6kg Reef Beach 1/6/20
5	Best flathead	0.5 kg	
6	Best tailor	1.5 kg	Geoff Raftis, 2kg Jurien 6/2/21 *est
7	Best samson fish	5 kg	
8	Best fish on single handed rod maximum 4kg line class (Bait)	Legal size	
9	Best pink snapper	2 kg	Justin Rose, 4.5kg DHI 15/12/20
10	Best tarwhine	0.5 kg	Martin Wearmouth 0.77kg S-Bend 30/12/20
11	Best mackerel	4 kg	Justin Rose, 16kg DHI 14/12/20
12	Best skipjack trevally (southern)	1 kg	Shane Wignell, 3.11kg Reef Beach April 2021
13	Best trevally (northern)	2 kg	Justin Rose, 2kg (gold spot) DHI 14/12/20
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	Justin Rose, Bald Chin Groper, 4kg DHI 13/12/20
17	Best fish caught on fly rod.	Legal size	
18	Best fish caught using a soft plastic or hard body lure on a single handed rod (4kg line max.)	Legal size	

## **DRYCASTING – 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

The future does not look good for drycasting when only 4 turn up for what I hope will be our last Monday for quite a while. With quite a lot of rain about on Sunday, together with the forecast, it was a tossup whether we cast or cancel the day, but as it turned out the rain stopped just before 8 am.

With just a slight tail wind to help the distances, some reasonable casts were achieved considering the conditions, because as we know, on a day like we had, the sinkers just want to hit the ground a lot quicker due to the atmosphere.

The longest casts for the day were 56gr 140m, artificial bait was 130m and the 112gr was 158m.

Gary took out the honours in the DHA with 143 followed by mal with 121. Bob won the SHA with 30 followed by myself with 29.

As this was our last cast for the year (I think) the following distances and scores were the best for the year. Mark made a clean sweep in the open section. 56gr 97.80m, art bait 97.16m, 112gr 121.35m, DHA 135, SHA 29.

In the Vets division 56gr Ron 155.14m, art bait Ron 132.69m, 112gr Ron 161.68m, DHA Gary 157, SHA Bob 35.

Hope to see a few more faces next month.

*Ron Thomas*  
*DCO*

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB														
Dry casting results -11th April 2021														
	56 gram					Artificial Bait					112gram			
	Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total	
Veterans	1	2		%		1	2		%		1	2		%
MAL HEAD	100.67	103.77	204.44	73.88		96.31	95.45	191.76	74.87		113.54	100.56	214.10	68.07
GARY GILDERSLEEVE	127.97	120.91	248.88	89.94		105.23	115.79	221.02	86.30		140.88	128.84	269.72	85.76
BOB HENDERSON	127.67	126.58	254.25	91.88		98.50	95.93	194.43	75.91		117.85	134.33	252.18	80.18
RON THOMAS	137.10	139.62	276.72	100.00		130.42	125.70	256.12	100.00		158.38	156.14	314.52	100.00

<u>SURF CASTING &amp; ANGLING CLUB</u>																					
<u>Dry casting results -11th April 2021</u>																					
	<u>Double Handed Accuracy</u>										<u>Single Handed Accuracy</u>							<u>Total</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Target number</u>										<u>Target distance</u>								<u>D/Casting</u>	<u>Points</u>	
<u>Veterans</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>		<u>%</u>		
MAL HEAD	20	9	19	19	7	22	8	17	121	84.62		8	0	7	9	24	80.00		381.44	10	391.44
GARY GILDERSLEEVE	19	20	22	23	2	14	23	20	143	100.00		9	8	3	6	26	86.67		448.67	10	458.67
BOB HENDERSON	7	17	11	14	13	20	19	17	118	82.52		7	9	9	5	30	100.00		430.49	10	440.49
RON THOMAS	9	21	22	23	1	5	14	22	117	81.82		7	7	8	7	29	96.67		478.49	10	488.49

<u>VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2020 - 2021</u>												
LONGEST 56 GRAM								155.14			RON THOMAS	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT								132.69			RON THOMAS	
LONGEST 112G								161.68			RON THOMAS	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY								157			GARY GILDERSLEEVE	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY								35			BOB HENDERSON	
<u>SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2020 - 2021</u>												
LONGEST 56 GRAM								97.80			MARK HANSEN	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT								97.16			MARK HANSEN	
LONGEST 112G								121.35			MARK HANSEN	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY								135			MARK HANSEN	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY								29			MARK HANSEN	





# **WINTER FISHING**

Winter is not the time to put your fishing gear into mothballs for the next few months. There is still some good fishing to be had. All you will have to do is think a little laterally. Wintertime is the prime time to be out and about fishing. It can be done in the shallow waters of our estuaries and protected coastal waters throughout Western Australia.

With a bit of forethought and planning, you can extend your fishing well into the cooler months and also land some very good fish. What you will need is to do is some planning and prepare and you will be successful. All of the 'fair weather' fishermen have retreated to sit in front of the idiot box and watch 'aerial ping pong' or similar. There will be less people out fishing, so go. With some planning you can have a few great trips to local hotspots and get some great catches.

## **Preparation:**

The first thing is personal comfort. Keeping warm and dry is paramount. It is recommended that you obtain a set of thermal underwear as this will keep you warm and not be uncomfortable or too bulky to wear. Modern materials are very light weight and wick away any moisture or perspiration. Woollen socks are another addition to assist in keeping your feet warm.

In addition to these items a light weight polyester or a similar material tracksuit will help keep the cold out. Keeping dry is also quite important. This can be achieved by using a light weight rain suit that will also assist with wind protection. These are readily available and are far superior to using heavy overalls and heavy wet weather gear.

Keeping the chill out is vital as it can make or break a fishing trip. One item of apparel definitely required is a good beanie or balaclava style of head gear. A lot of body warmth is lost through the head and ears and so it is a smart move to cover up and keep your head and ears warm. Keeping your head dry is also important and a good sou'wester will help keep your head and headgear dry.

Footwear is another important area to be considered. Zip sided neoprene reef boots are recommended for fishing on the beach. If you intend to fish from a rock platform then boots with spikes built in or plates that can be tied on are an essential. When worn with a pair of thick socks they will keep you warm and generally dry. If you happen to get wet, then they will allow the moisture against the skin to warm up and keep you warm regardless of ambient air temperature.

## **Tackle:**

Suitable tackle for beach fishing during winter will depend upon the location being fished. If you are intending to fish from an open ocean beach with a bit of swell running you will need a longer rod to get a suitable distance, and also keep your line above the swell. Whereas if fishing in an estuary lighter tackle will still catch good fish. Distance needed to be cast in an estuary aren't as great as the open ocean but accuracy will be required.

Reels and line is again applicable to the fish being sought. If you are using well maintained tackle; and this means a functioning drag system, good guides that don't show damage and line suited to the rod rating, then you can catch fish 5 times the breaking strain of the line. There is absolutely no need to use 50 Kg braid to catch a 250 g herring. I have been fishing from the beach using 4 Kg monofilament line and catching tailor, mulloway skippy and herring. If I chase snapper or big mulloway I will use 6 or 8 Kg monofilament or braid. When chasing whiting in the Swan or Peel estuaries I will use 2 or 3 Kg monofilament line to catch fish to 450 g. It certainly adds to the experience and creates a challenge that makes fishing interesting.

## **Weather**

### **Currents:**

Although the dominant boundary current off Western Australia is the south flowing Leeuwin Current, research has shown that there is a cool northerly flowing coastal counter current running close inshore in the extreme southwest. This seasonal current has been named the Capes Current as it appears to be strongest between Cape Leeuwin and Cape Naturaliste and it is probably linked with the general northward deeper flowing, shelf current which has been observed previously along most of the Western Australian coastline further north.

Strong northwards winds between November and March, slow the Leeuwin Current (which moves offshore) and drive the Capes Current, and there may be localised upwelling as well. It has important implications for the salmon fishery as it may affect the migration of adult salmon around Cape Leeuwin at this time of year.

### **Tides**

During the late Autumn there is a distinct change in tidal activity along the Western Australian coastline. In the Summer months we generally have high tides or rising tides in the morning and low tides during the evening. Around early April this tidal activity has a radical change and over a brief period, it switches and becomes the opposite; high tides in the evening and low tides in the morning. If fishing in the Swan river this means that you can start at a location in the lower reaches of the river and move with the rising tide as it moves upstream. This will allow you to fish up one shore from Fremantle to around Maylands and then as the tide turns fish the opposite shore as the tide recedes.

### **Barometric Pressure**

Fishing has always been an inexact science, but we are certain there are strong links between barometric pressure and feeding activity - at least with some species. Anyone who's spent time on any surf beach, will know just how crucial the conditions are to success. If you manage to score some prime weather with offshore winds, your chances for success are markedly higher. Alternatively, if you get slapped with strong southerlies or south-westerlies, the conditions are harder to contend with and the fish themselves can go into lock-jaw. Timing is certainly the key.

As a low pressure 'frontal' system approaches the Western Australian coastline the winds around the system are moving in a clockwise direction. This will bring northerly winds swinging to the north-westerly followed by westerlies as the centre of the low crosses the coast. Once the 'Low' has crossed the coast the winds again change and we get south-westerly and then southerly winds. The barometer will drop until we get those westerly winds and then will start to rise as the system moves east. Older experienced anglers will tell you that if there is any northerly aspect to the wind you are wasting your time going fishing. Once the wind swings then get out and go fishing as the fish are hungry. Angler fishing for snapper will keep an eye on the barometer and once the frontal system has passed and the barometer is rising again they are off.

### **General Tips for Winter Fishing:**

Be aware of size and bag limits for recreational fish as there have been some changes in recent times. Generally you won't see an inspector when fishing but they do exist and they will check your bag if they think you are not abiding by the rules.

### **Fishing Estuaries Or On The Flats**

When wading the flats in an estuary or on the open beach, walk slowly and cast ahead as you go. Look for any likely structure and give each area where there is some structure, several casts as just one cast won't always catch a fish.

One of the beauties of this style of fishing is that there is a lot more to see than just the fish. There are other marine creatures as well as a variety of sea birds, a variety of crustacea and some spectacular scenery.

### **The Species:**

#### **Australian Herring:**

Traditionally in the Perth metropolitan area, ANZAC Day is considered to be the start of the metropolitan herring fishery. These cousins of the Australian salmon are really scrappy fighters and can be caught from most popular fishing locations along with some of our estuarine waters. They are regularly taken on small baits such as blue bait and white bait as well as prawn, squid and wogs but they are also suckers for a well presented lure. These can be hard or soft, metal or plastic or just a bit of mylar ribbon tied to a hook. All are very effective and you can soon take a feed quickly and efficiently.

They are gathering to breed in the waters between Busselton and Perth and you will find that many will be full of roe. A misnomer is that we call big herring 'bull herring', which is incorrect as they are female. The male herring are generally smaller than the female.

### **Australian Salmon:**

Dependent upon the flow of a couple of ocean currents, we can expect salmon to migrate to the metropolitan area and beyond. A few years ago they went as far north as Exmouth and a young angler caught a 4.5 Kg fish from the Navy jetty there. In some years they are plentiful on metropolitan beaches from May through to July or even August. Other years they are rarely seen; it all depends on ocean currents.

They are like herring suckers for lures, the difference being is the size of the lure. Poppers, metals and plastics all work for salmon. Salmon schools can vary in size from a few fish to large schools of many thousands of fish. Preferred baits for salmon include mulies, herring, small mullet, white bait and sardines. They will often take a live bait such as a small herring or mullet so be prepared to think 'outside the box' instead of just fishing with a mulie.

### **Tailor**

Tailor enjoy a dedicated following in WA for some very good reasons. They are plentiful for most of the year, they bite well on both bait and lure, fight hard, and they are reasonably good to eat. They can be caught along ocean beaches, off the rocks, in bays and rivers and out to sea. They can have a voracious appetite and often hunt in large schools. These characteristics make them an angler favourite.

Tailor will come onto beaches for most of the year, from well before Christmas through till late winter, although some years you can find them any time. Size can vary. Near Christmas, smaller, just legal fish can swarm along our beaches. As the season progresses, larger greenbacks make an appearance along with salmon. This often coincides with the autumn mullet runs and all this food attracts shark and mullet into the beach. It can be an exciting time with tailor averaging around the 700 gram size and fish up to two kilos not uncommon. This timetable varies depending on whether you're fishing the north of the state or down south.

Tactics for bigger fish can vary. I've caught bigger fish on live baits and while they are difficult to work off the beach they are a viable option. Poddy mullet and small yellowtail are both good. Another deadly rig that brings nearly all problem biters undone is a gang of three #1 hooks baited with a strip of mullet fillet. For big tailor you need good quality mulies or garfish for premium baits, but when the going gets tough this is a real winner.

Many people cast as far as they can to fish for tailor. Don't ignore the zone just over the drop off because just behind the shore dump is a good feeding area for fish. Bait often attempts to seek shelter against the sand bank and I've seen tailor scooting up with the surge after these hapless fry. Try a short lob every third or fourth cast as well as the big throw. Finally, keep a bait moving by using only enough lead to hold bottom. A very slow retrieve can often turn fish on if the bite is quiet, but with tailor in the surf that is a rare occurrence.

### **Snapper;**

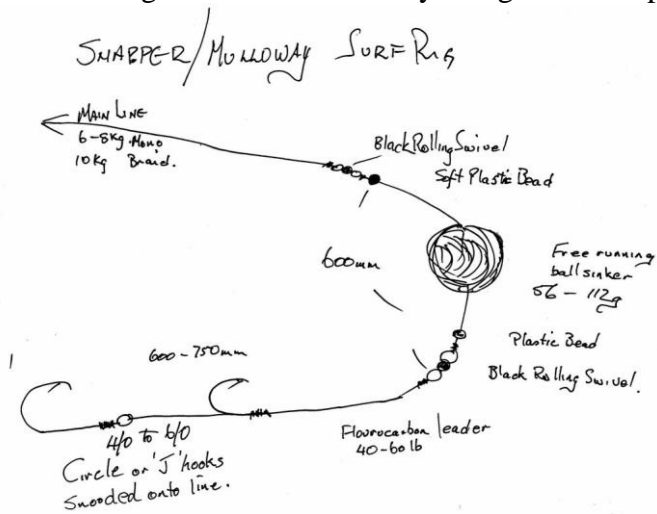
Late April through June is the time to chase large snapper from the beach at Floreat. Several club members have landed significant captures from this beach during this period. Another location that has been very productive for large snapper and mullet during this period has been the Preston Beach area. These fish are inshore feeding on the sand crabs which becomes the preferred bait for big snapper. Alternative baits include fresh fillets of herring or pilch or a small salmon. Rigs for these fish should be a pair of snooded hooks on some 40 – 60 lb fluorocarbon leader. Ganged hooks are not recommended as many subtle bites are missed and 'pickers' are blamed when the bite was a snapper or mullet. Another bait that works well on this rig is a squid threaded on to the top of the cape a couple of times with the second hook placed in the head. This leaves the tentacles free and presents a good bait for big fish.





## Mulloway:

A similar rig is used for mulloway along our metropolitan beaches.



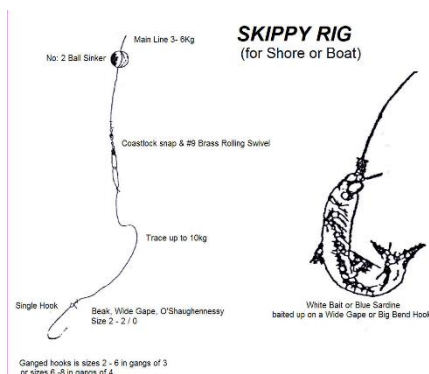
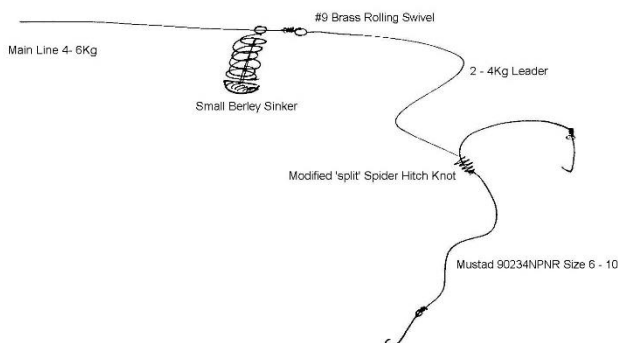
This rig is cast into a gutter in the surf and the angler moves with the rig as it rolls along. This covers a lot more ground than an anchored bait and is far more productive. Also the bait is presented more naturally.

## Skippy

These cunning fish are able to steal baits without the angler feeling a thing. They can be found along all beaches in the south-west of WA. There are two definite species in the south of the state with the smaller of them (*Pseudocaranx dentex*) frequenting the northern parts of the south west and the larger cousin (*Pseudocaranx wrightii*) being found along the south eastern beaches. Often they overlap and can be found from the SA border to about Kalbarri.

Typically a wide gape hook baited with a sardine or whitebait with a small enclosed berley cage fitted about 50 cm above the hook will work. Otherwise a paternoster rig with two smaller single hooks baited with prawn or squid will work.

One tip I picked up from an old Italian angler down on the groyne at Cockburn Sound was to use potato in your berley. He was using prawn baits and chewing up and spitting raw potato into the water and took 20 fish to my one. Since then I have substituted instant mashed potato in my berley when fishing for skippy and this has prove to be very successful.



These are the rigs generally used however I will adjust and vary them according to conditions.

## Flathead

Flathead are found in most west coast estuaries and along most of our beaches and are camouflage experts. As their name indicates, they are a flat fish (and you can read flounder in lieu of flathead when fishing in estuaries as well) These fish are bottom-dwelling ambush experts who wait for a meal to come to them, so the ideal angling strategy is to keep your bait or lure near the bottom. At this time of the year a lot of anglers are successfully targeting flathead using lures. These include both hard bodied and soft plastic lures. I have a personal preference for metal blade lures, but also use soft plastics around 7 - 10 cm long as well.

An alternative bait rig is to use a small bean sinker rigged just above a small swivel with a short 50 - 75 cm length of fluorocarbon leader of around 6 - 8 kg. The main line is generally 2 - 3 kg nylon as flathead have very small fine teeth and they will shake their head vigorously which will shred fine line very quickly, hence the need for the leader.

### **Whiting**

Whiting are becoming a very popular fish to target with lures. Most people assume that they are a fairly docile species but don't be fooled - they are super aggressive when it comes to food. A small 3 - 5 cm popper style lure that is skipped across the surface and looking like a prawn will be attacked fairly readily. Also don't be fooled by the size of whiting that are often taken as a by catch on beaches. These little bait thieves big brothers are out there and only achieve their size by being smart. I have seen whiting of almost 500 g caught in the Swan River on the sand flats in the lower reaches regularly. Both baits and a variety of lures have been successful.

Fishing for them with bait I recommend the use of small size 4 - 6 circle hooks with pieces of prawn skinned octopus or squid. Rigs are as described above, sinker size is dependent on current flow and water depth. Just use a sinker big enough to keep the baits near or on the bottom.

When fishing for whiting in shallow water using lures, keep the lure moving. Don't pause or stop as this will put the fish off. They are seeing the lure as a fleeing prawn and will readily attack it, so keep the lure moving.

### **Black Bream**

It is a similar story for black bream in estuaries. They will readily take a variety of both soft and hard bodied lures as well as baits. Lures can be bibbed diving lures as well as poppers and soft plastics rigged on a small jig head.

Again think outside the square when it comes to bait fishing. Bream dine out on small crabs, fresh mussels, prawns and shrimp so it stands to reason to use these baits when fishing for bream. White bait, prawns and octopus and squid will also work on occasions.

When it comes to fishing for bream in estuaries most anglers make the mistake of throwing their lure or bait too far. Bream like to shelter where the water is a little more to their liking, where they are not going to be harassed by predators, and where they can get a feed. In winter time they will be in locations adjacent to cover where the sun is warming the water. This means that they are generally found under over hanging trees and in locations where there is some cover.

Lure techniques when fishing for bream are different to that for whiting. When retrieving the lure pause for a short period then start winding again at a steady rate then pause for a second or two then go again. Don't be surprised if you pick up a flathead when using this technique as it works for them as well.

### **Tarwhine**

Another species that you may pick up along our sandy beaches or in the estuaries is the tarwhine. This species is a cousin of the snapper and bream and so the same rigs, baits and methods can be used.

### **Fly Fishing:**

One alternative style of fishing that has not been mentioned here is that of fly fishing. All of the species are suitable candidates for this form of fishing. It is a very therapeutic way of fishing and can become very addictive. Almost any species that can be taken using bait can be caught on a fly. Anglers do not need to spend large amounts of cash on a starter outfit. A simple 2.5 m #7 - 8 rod with a Weight Forward (WF 7 - 8) floating line, a suitable reel and a selection of flies will set an angler up for the species listed above. Any good tackle shop that has staff that specialize in fly fishing will be able to help an interested angler.

### **Summary:**

There is only one rule that applies to fishing in wintertime - have fun and enjoy yourself. It is a great way to spend time out with family and friends and the early mornings and evenings spent on our waters are something special. The added bonus of such an outing is that you may get to eat a feed of fresh fish. Don't procrastinate, get organized and get out and go fishing this winter and catch some good fish.

*Article by John Curtis*

# UHF Antennae – is bigger always better?

Posted by Emprise Marketing on Apr 23, 2021

Don't get caught up in the sales pitch when selecting a UHF antenna, know which is best for you.

When it comes to choosing the right antenna for your UHF radio, the old 'bigger is better' motto doesn't always work. The different properties of a range of antennae mean that each is better suited to a particular application; one will work best for high country cruising, while flat desert terrain will call for a different solution.



*The different properties of a range of antennae mean that each is better suited to a particular application.*

One way in which we can measure the properties of an antenna is gain; this indicates how well the antenna converts input into radio waves and transmits them in a given direction (or the other way around when receiving). This figure is given in dBi (decibels-isotropic), which can denote some complex figures, but we'll stick with the basics for now.

The simple version, as it relates to 4WD use is that a tall antenna will likely have a high dBi (9 dBi is considered high in this case), indicating an ability to transmit over a greater distance in a given direction. Imagine the signal spreading out from the antenna like ripples on the surface of a pond, making it great for flat terrain where all it needs to do is glide out over an even landscape.

For hilly terrain, however, this kind of high dBi will be blocked by terrain features or redirected when the vehicle is on an incline. Instead, hilly terrain calls for a low dBi antenna (closer to 3 dBi). These cover less distance but radiate in a more general field. This creates a sphere of transmission, reaching out in every direction, up toward high peaks and down into valleys.





*The best place to mount your antenna would be in the middle of your roof, but this is not always practical. Mounting on your bullbar is still effective.*

If you're unsure where you'll end up, a mid-range antenna of 6 dBi is a good general-purpose solution. It's also possible to have two antennae, either linked to separate UHF radios, connected to the same system with a switch, or simply changed by hand when necessary.

In theory, the best place to mount your antenna would be in the middle of your roof, where it would have maximum unobstructed range. Since this isn't entirely practical, they're commonly mounted on the bullbar, which is still very effective. It's best to avoid placing them low down or up against panels and other objects that can impede broadcasting range.

*Published in Hema Maps newsletter*