

REEL TALK



SURF CASTING AND ANGLING CLUB OF WA

NOVEMBER 2019



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

ABN 29

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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

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Thank you for your valued support.

November 2019 : Reel Talk Contents

Cover	Surf Caster's Fishing together
	Acknowledgement of Donors
3	Contents
4	Club Committee and Life Members
5	President's Report
5	Coming Field Days
6	Drycasting Report
8	November Birthdays
9	October Field Day Report & Results
12	AAAWA State Drycasting Championships
15	Solunar Predictions for November
17	Fishing and the Barometer
20	Citizen Science
22	How to catch whiting
24	Counselling Services

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

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944



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

Presidents report November 2019



With the warmer summer weather just around the corner I hope to see more members going to our casting and fishing events, our new committee had its first meeting in October and all is going along well at the moment, we now have our committee meeting right before the general meeting to save money on the club room costs, sorry to those who had to wait outside while we finished up the last committee meeting.

I would like to get some feedback on what fishing venues the members would like for our next fishing season (May 2020 to April 2021), please think about it and let me know if you have any suggestions?

If anyone has a good idea and knows someone that would do an instruction period at a general meeting we are looking for ideas and maybe some non-fishing instruction sessions, let us know if you can help or know of a topic that may be of interest.

Our next Fishing field day is on 9th and 10th November before our general meeting, let me know if you are fishing so I can sign you on, it is an open event with the extended long weekend lines up and lines down so plenty of time to wet a line.

Martin Wearmouth; President

Quotes for the Month



November 2019 General Meeting

Wednesday 13 November 2019

Coolbinia Sports Clubroom; Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine.

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

Field day venues for 2019/2020

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
9 – 10 November 2019	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA Plan to fish Wagoe full moon is 12 th November
14 – 15 December 2019	Ledge Point to Wedge Island and standard local 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	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
15 – 16 February 2020	Busselton to White Hills and standard local Lines down 9.30am Saturday	Busselton to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page

	Lines up 9am Sunday	
29 February – 2 March 2020 Long weekend	Reef Beach Bremer Bay and standard local 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	Bluff Creek and standard local Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Cheynes 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 Rottneest – Saturday 6.00am

Lines up for long weekends and Rottneest – 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

DRYCASTING – 6TH OCTOBER 2019

What a great rollup for casting. Terry Willison turned up again, even though he is still have problems with his leg. Thanks terry. Vic Schilo has shown a little interest and didn't cast all that bad either. Hope to see you in the future. Last but not least our fearless leader, Martin, who also had a reasonable day considering it was his first effort at dry casting.

The venue itself is in great shape and has been mowed just in time for the state comp at the end of the month.

Both myself and Terry took out the honours in the SHA with 30 followed by Gary with 29.

Good days don't come around all that often, but it did for me this month, taking out the DHA with 147, not great but not bad, followed by Jonesy with 146. Chas had the longest cast of the day in the 112g with 163m and 135m in the artificial bait. The longest cast in the 56gr, 139m by myself. There were a few casts out of court which is normal, but some are worth a mention, for example, Mark had one in both the 56gr and art bait, which allowed Martin to take out the honours in both events for the seniors. There were two bullseyes for the day, one in the DHA by myself and one in the SHA by Alan.

I am hoping for a good result in the team's events in the state comp as the surfcasters have 2 Vets teams, and they are as follows. No. 1 team is Gary, Bob & Peter. No. 2 team is myself, Alan and Mal.

If all goes well on the day i am sure we will get the result, we are looking for.

Our last comp was the last on a Sunday for about 5 months. We will keep you informed about the dates.

*DCO
Ron Thomas*



SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB														
Dry casting results - 6th October 2019														
	56 gram					Artificial Bait					112gram			
	Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total			Cast	Cast	Total	
Veterans	1	2		%		1	2		%		1	2		%
BOB HENDERSON	OUT	127.50	127.50	46.70		101.30	85.09	186.39	78.07		OUT	143.71	143.71	47.83
GARY GILDERSLEEVE	130.04	127.72	257.76	94.41		103.13	104.59	207.72	87.00		122.05	128.31	250.36	83.32
VIC SCHILO	78.12	81.45	159.57	58.44		78.22	OUT	78.22	32.76		90.32	101.87	192.19	63.96
RON THOMAS	138.93	134.10	273.03	100.00		117.64	121.10	238.74	100.00		150.79	149.68	300.47	100.00
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	110.41	98.03	208.44	76.34		85.75	65.44	151.19	63.33		88.60	96.36	184.96	61.56
MAL HEAD	OUT	97.21	97.21	35.60		90.67	83.02	173.69	72.75		92.02	108.68	200.70	66.80
TERRY WILLISON	DNC					DNC					DNC	106.94	106.94	35.60
PETER OSBORNE	85.13	97.90	183.03	67.04		77.84	81.02	158.86	66.54		92.78	105.24	198.02	65.90
ALAN JONES	93.14	94.93	188.07	68.89		84.15	78.88	163.03	68.29		97.82	102.73	200.55	66.75
Seniors														
MARK HANSEN	99.93	B/O	99.93	58.78		OUT	94.37	94.37	54.35		111.26	111.85	223.11	100.00
CHRIS STICKELLS	30.00	70.45	100.45	59.01		62.01	61.86	123.87	71.35		73.95	74.95	148.90	66.74
MARTIN WEARMOUT	83.10	86.90	170.00	100.00		82.32	91.30	173.62	100.00		103.58	101.60	205.18	91.96

SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB																				
Dry casting results - 6th October 2019																				
	Double Handed Accuracy										Single Handed Accuracy							Total	Attendance	Total
	Target number										Target distance								D/Casting	Points
Veterans	3	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	Total	%		1st	2nd	1st	2nd	Total	%	%		
BOB HENDERSON	12	13	20	20	21	0	23	20	129	87.76		0	5	5	5	15	50.00	310.36	10	320.36
GARY GILDERSLEEVE	8	22	17	14	20	17	15	23	136	92.52		8	6	8	7	29	96.66	453.91	10	463.91
VIC SCHILO	18	13	18	11	0	0	16	23	99	67.35		0	5	7	5	17	56.66	279.17	10	289.17
RON THOMAS	13	19	5	25	20	22	20	23	147	100.00		9	4	9	8	30	100.00	500.00	10	510.00
KLAUS SCHONWOLF	2	5	13	22	12	0	13	18	85	57.82		8	8	3	4	23	76.66	335.71	10	345.71
MAL HEAD	5	17	12	23	20	10	8	20	115	78.23		7	4	3	2	16	53.33	306.71	10	316.71
TERRY WILLISON	12	24	19	5	0	14	18	6	98	66.66		8	9	6	7	30	100.00	202.26	10	212.26
PETER OSBORNE	23	20	11	13	0	10	17	15	109	74.15		2	9	0	1	12	40.00	313.63	10	323.63
ALAN JONES	24	19	15	14	20	10	21	23	146	99.32		5	10	7	2	24	80.00	383.25	10	393.25
Seniors																				
MARK HANSEN	5	5	18	19	18	0	21	12	98	100.00		7	3	5	1	16	100.00	413.13	10	423.13
CHRIS STICKELLS	5	17	10	2	16	0	0	20	70	71.43		DNC						268.53	10	278.53
MARTIN WEARMOUTH	0	8	18	1	0	10	17	0	54	55.10		0	0	0	1	1	6.25	353.31	10	363.31

VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2019 - 2020												
LONGEST 56 GRAM									145.29		RON THOMAS	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT									130.58		RON THOMAS	
LONGEST 112G									156.99		RON THOMAS	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY									154		GARY GILDERSLEEVE	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY									36		RON THOMAS	
SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2019 - 2020												
LONGEST 56 GRAM									107.91		MARK HANSEN	
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT									101.44		MARK HANSEN	
LONGEST 112G									127.62		MARK HANSEN	
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY									133		MARK HANSEN	
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY									27		MARK HANSEN	



Birthdays for November

David Trainer 13th, Martin Wearmouth 30th

Life Members



Eric Parker 17 November



Terry Fuller 29 November

Wishing you all the best on your important day.

Surf Casters October field day 12th and 13th at Hill River

3 Surf Casters met at Wilbinga Grove at 7am Peter Osborne, Stuart Waterman and Martin Wearmouth, as we arrived light rain was falling and further north looked like more rain, we headed north and the rain was steady until we got to Cervantes where it stopped, we arrived at the Hill River car park and the sun was out, we could see some patches of sea weed in the water at the car park and Ron Thomas had travelled to the area on Friday and found that the Hill River area was the best option around Jurien Bay.

On the way Stuart pulled over just after Lancelin and when we stopped to find out why he realised he had forgotten his bag of fishing reels and was going to return home to get them, I told him he could borrow my spare Penn reel and this saved him a trip home so we continued on to Hill River.



Ron had planned to stay at Hill River overnight but a strong southerly wind on Thursday afternoon and night had pushed in a lot of sea weed onto the beach so he had gone home on Thursday night, after we let our tyres down we headed north to the river mouth to see if we could fish there.

On arrival the water looked good, some weed patches right on the beach but it was quite fishable so we parked up and got the fishing rods set up, the wind was very light when we started and not much action in the morning, about 11.30am the southerly wind started to build but this seemed to stir up the fish, Stuart got the first Tailor before 12pm and ended up with 3 from this 1 hour bite, I managed only 1 but missed a few bites, Peter also got 1 among a clump of weed, Shane arrived just in time and managed a tailor before they stopped biting.

Gary arrived and missed the lunch time Tailor bite, over the afternoon a few species came in including Flathead, Whiting, Herring, Tarwhine, as the wind got stronger it pushed in more sea weed and fishing got a lot harder as the wind pushed the lines down into the weed, Gary and I tried the river a couple of times to get a break from the sea weed but only managed some small black bream.

The wind started dropping about 5.30pm and by 6pm was very light, this made fishing a bit easier but a lot of sea weed was still in the water and after dark it was hard to leave a line in the water to long as the sea weed would load up on your line, no more tailor where caught but Gary and I fished until 10am and I got a tailor at 9.30pm, we also tried the river at night but again only caught small black bream, we went to sleep in hope the morning session would be better.

Most got up and started fishing by 5.30am and the water was a lot clearer with very light winds and flat seas, not much was biting I managed a tailor and Stuart got a nice flounder, we fished till 9am and then did the weigh in and packed up the cars for the trip home.



Another pleasant field day with a few species hitting the beach, not a lot of tailor again but some got nice big whiting and flathead, thanks to those that attended for a great fishing weekend.

Victor fished for an hour at Cottesloe but had no bites or fish for his efforts, I think he is regretting his comment a few months ago to fish at every field day this year, Gary put the pressure on him at the meeting by reminding him of this.



ANGLER		Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Species	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
		Tailor	Flathead (all species)	Flounder (all species)	Dart (all species)	Whiting (other than listed)	Tarwhine	Herring, Australian					Field Day	General Meeting	
Shane Wignell	Number	1	1			1	1	3	2.03	5	7	77.3	1		87.3
	Total weight	0.52	0.38			0.16	0.30	0.67							
	Weight of best							0.29							
Stuart Waterman	Number	5	1	1					2.84	3	7	65.4	1	1	85.4
	Total weight	2.21	0.30	0.33											
	Weight of best	0.53													
Peter Osborne	Number	1	1		1	2			1.55	4	5	60.5	1	1	80.5
	Total weight	0.52	0.38		0.30	0.35									
	Weight of best														
Martin Wearmouth	Number	3				1			1.29	2	4	36.9	1	1	56.9
	Total weight	1.11				0.18									
	Weight of best														
Gary Parkinson	Number												1	1	20.0
	Total weight														
	Weight of best														
LOCAL															
Victor Schilo	Number												1	1	20.0
	Total weight														
	Weight of best														

Top scores up to October		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Martin Wearmouth	789.9
2	Peet Wessels	615.1
3	Sandra Wessels	494.5
4	Mark Hansen	429.3
5	Peter Osborne	351.4
6	Sabby Pizzolante	251.0
7	Gary Parkinson	219.1
8	Vincent Tomazin	203.7
9	Mark Nurse	190.5
10	Shane Wignell	154.5
11	Theo Van Niekerk	142.5
12	Sri Srigandan	139.7
13	Victor Schilo	123.2
14	Paul Terpkos	114.8
15	Stuart Waterman	95.4
16	Brad Zaknich	63.6
17	Slavka Schilo	50.0
18	Chris Stickells	49.8
19	Wally Lukic	47.6
20	Ron Thomas	40.0
21	Ian Taggart	20.0
22	Pat McKeown	20.0
23	Justin Rose	10.0
24	Anthony Terpkos	10.0

Sportsperson of the year sections for October			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Stuart Waterman	Tailor	0.53
Best bag of scale fish	Stuart Waterman		2.84
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

AAAWA State Drycasting Championships

The AAAWA State Drycasting Championship competition was held on Sunday 27 October. Surf Caster competitors excelled.







For full results please check the AAAWA Website: www.aaa-wa.org.au

-MEMBERSHIP NEXT OF KIN REMINDER –

Following a recent incident where information on Next-of-Kin was required, and we as a club were unable to locate up to date information.

As a result, the Committee has added a Next of Kin section to the Application for Membership Form.

Can you please complete the new form and return it to the Secretary as soon as possible so that we can bring our records up to date?

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and the Committee apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

SOLUNAR PREDICTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 2019

Note: These times are adjusted to Perth.

DAY / DATE	PREDICTION	PREDICTED PRIME TIMES		MOON PHASE
Fri 01/11	GOOD	13:41 – 15:41	00:13 – 02:13	FIRST CRESCENT
Sat 02/11	FAIR	14:35 – 16:35	01:08 – 03:08	
Sun 03/11	POOR	15:27 – 17:27	02:27 – 04:27	
Mon 04/11	POOR	16:17 – 18:17	03:52 – 05:52	FIRST QUARTER
Tue 05/11	POOR	17:04 – 19:04	04:37 – 06:37	
Wed 06/11	POOR	17:48 – 19:48	05:26 – 07:26	
Thurs 07/11	POOR	18:31 – 20:31	06:09 – 08:09	
Fri 08/11	FAIR	19:13 – 21:31	06:51 – 08:51	FIRST GIBBOUS
Sat 09/11	FAIR	19:53 – 21:53	07:33 – 09:33	
Sun 10/11	BEST	20:35 – 22:35	08:14 – 10:14	
Mon 11/11	GOOD	21:18 – 23:18	08:57 – 10:57	
Tues 12/11	GOOD	22:04 – 00:04	09:41 – 11:41	FULL MOON
Wed 13/11	BEST	22:52 – 00:52	10:28 – 12:28	
Thurs 14/11	GOOD	=	11:17 – 13:17	
Fri 15/11	GOOD	00:43 – 02:43	12:10 – 14:10	
Sat 16/11	POOR	00:37 – 02:37	13:05 – 15:05	LAST GIBBOUS
Sun 17/11	POOR	01:34 – 03:34	14:02 – 16:02	
Mon 18/11	POOR	02:30 – 04:30	14:59 – 16:59	
Tues 19/11	POOR	03:27 – 05:27	15:54 – 17:54	
Wed 20/11	POOR	04:21 – 06:21	16:48 – 18:48	LAST QUARTER
Thurs 21/11	FAIR	05:15 – 07:15	17:41 – 19:41	
Fri 22/11	GOOD	06:06 – 08:06	18:22 – 20:22	
Sat 23/11	GOOD	06:57 – 08:57	19:23 – 21:23	LAST CRESCENT
Sun 24/11	FAIR	07:49 – 09:49	20:14 – 22:14	
Mon 25/11	FAIR	08:41 – 10:41	21:07 – 23:07	
Tues 26/11	FAIR	09:34 – 11:34	22:02 – 00:02	
Wed 27/11	GOOD	10:29 – 12:29	22:57 – 00:57	NEW MOON
Thurs 28/11	BEST	11:25 – 13:25	=	
Fri 29/11	BEST	12:21 – 14:21	23:53 – 01:53	
Sat 30/11	BEST	13:16 – 15:16	00:49 – 02:49	

These are the predicted **MAJOR** Solunar periods for this month, adjusted to Perth time. For anglers in the Pilbara and in Esperance, they will need to deduct approximately 15 minutes.

For minor periods add approximately 6 hours 45 minutes to these times.



SUNRISE AND SUNSET TIMES FOR PERTH NOVEMBER 2019

DAY / DATE	SUNRISE	SUNSET	MOONRISE	MOONSET
Fri 01/11	05:20	18:41	08:31	23:03
Sat 02/11	05:19	18:42	09:23	23:56
Sun/11	05:18	18:43	10:18	=
Mon 04/11	05:17	18:44	11:14	00:43 f
Tue 05/11	05:16	18:44	12:09	01:24 f
Wed 06/11	05:16	18:45	13:04	02:01 f
Thurs 07/11	05:15	18:46	13:58	02:34 f
Fri 08/11	05:14	18:47	14:52	03:04 f
Sat 09/11	05:13	18:48	15:46	03:34 f
Sun 10/11	05:13	18:49	16:40	04:03 f
Mon 11/11	05:12	18:50	17:35	04:33 f
Tues 12/11	05:11	18:51	18:33	05:04 f
Wed 13/11	05:10	18:52	19:32	05:39 f
Thurs 14/11	05:10	18:53	20:32	06:18 f
Fri 15/11	05:09	18:53	21:32	07:02 f
Sat 16/11	05:09	18:54	22:30	07:52 f
Sun 17/11	05:08	18:55	23:24	08:48 f
Mon 18/11	05:08	18:56	=	09:49
Tues 19/11	05:07	18:57	00:14	10:54
Wed 20/11	05:07	18:58	00:59	12:00
Thurs 21/11	05:06	18:59	01:40	13:06
Fri 22/11	05:06	19:00	02:17	14:12
Sat 23/11	05:05	19:01	02:54	15:18
Sun 24/11	05:05	19:02	03:30	16:25
Mon 25/11	05:05	19:02	04:07	17:32
Tues 26/11	05:04	19:03	04:47	18:39
Wed 27/11	05:04	19:04	05:30	19:45
Thurs 28/11	05:04	19:05	06:18	20:47
Fri 29/11	05:04	19:06	07:09	21:44
Sat 30/11	05:04	19:07	08:04	22:35

Please Note: Where a rise time is noted with a 'p', it means that the time listed is for the previous day. Where a set time is noted with an 'f', it means that the time listed is for the following day. This complication is because the Moon rises, transits and sets almost an hour later every night, so every few days there is a 24-hour 'calendar day' in which the Moon either doesn't rise, or doesn't set.

These times will be adequate for general purpose use in the Perth metropolitan area. However, corrections must be applied for other locations in Western Australia.



PREDICTED FREMANTLE TIDES FOR NOVEMBER 2019

DAY / DATE	TIME AND PREDICTED HEIGHT							
Fri 01/11	09:13	0.47	10:35	0.48	11:15	0.48	22:38	1.03
Sat 02/11	12:13	0.48	23:08	1.00				
Sun/11	12:56	0.50	23:42	0.95				
Mon 04/11	13:30	0.53						
Tue 05/11	00:15	0.90	13:52	0.56	22:45	0.84	23:10	0.84
Wed 06/11	00:46	0.85	13:47	0.59	22:02	0.81		
Thurs 07/11	13:39	0.61	20:17	0.83				
Fri 08/11	02:27	0.74	07:24	0.77	13:43	0.63	20:15	0.87
Sat 09/11	02:50	0.68	08:31	0.77	13:38	0.65	20:19	0.91
Sun 10/11	03:21	0.63	09:35	0.76	13:40	0.66	20:28	0.96
Mon 11/11	03:57	0.58	10:29	0.74	13:51	0.67	20:43	1.00
Tues 12/11	04:34	0.53	11:15	0.72	14:03	0.68	21:03	1.04
Wed 13/11	05:16	0.49	12:01	0.69	14:05	0.67	21:26	1.07
Thurs 14/11	06:05	0.47	21:51	1.08				
Fri 15/11	07:18	0.45	22:18	1.08				
Sat 16/11	08:27	0.45	22:47	1.06				
Sun 17/11	09:21	0.45	23:19	1.03				
Mon 18/11	10:14	0.47	23:52	0.98				
Tues 19/11	11:11	0.50						
Wed 20/11	00:26	0.92	13:16	0.52	21:49	0.84	23:22	0.84
Thurs 21/11	03:45	0.85	12:52	0.57	20:22	0.83		
Fri 22/11	02:34	0.76	05:20	0.79	13:00	0.61	20:01	0.88
Sat 23/11	02:55	0.67	08:11	0.75	13:16	0.65	20:07	0.94
Sun 24/11	03:34	0.58	09:42	0.73	13:09	0.69	20:14	1.01
Mon 25/11	04:30	0.50	10:45	0.70	12:28	0.69	20:29	1.07
Tues 26/11	05:41	0.44	11:57	0.67	12:23	0.67	20:48	1.11
Wed 27/11	06:34	0.40	21:08	1.12				
Thurs 28/11	07:17	0.39	21:27	1.11				
Fri 29/11	07:57	0.41	21:48	1.09				
Sat 30/11	08:33	0.44	22:15	1.06				

NOTE: These are the predicted tides for Fremantle and there may be some variation due to wind strength and direction.

FISHING AND THE BAROMETER

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.

This was highlighted on a recent surf fishing trip to the north of Perth. Leading up to the trip, the forecast looked good, with warm conditions at the beginning, followed by a cool change. This meant a falling barometer, which is often a feeding cue for mulloway, and by the looks of the cold front approaching behind the high, it was indicating a decent barometer drop.

We picked a nice stretch of water and, although it was low tide, we could see that the gutter should fill nicely as the tide pushed in. We set up our basic camp and boiled the billy just as the northerly wind began to puff. It wasn't long before the wind swung to the north-west and started to strengthen, and on that cue the temperature began to cool. By 9 am the tide had started building, transforming the shallow inshore trough into a body of water now deep enough to soak a bait. With the wind the water was starting to look really good, and we were hopeful of some action. We rigged up a surf rod each and set a bait in the deepening gutter.

On my second cast I got a small, fumbling bite, which turned into a solid hookup. This spot can be a fickle place, and we've certainly had our tough trips amongst the good ones. When chasing mullet in the surf, you can - and often do - go a couple of days without turning a reel. To be onto a fish this early was a dream start to the trip. It was one of the most visual fights I reckon I've had with a mullet. The fish spent a fair bit of time up near the surface, and several minutes later I managed to coax it over the shore break lip and into the shallows. We had already decided to keep the first fish of the trip and release any others. This fish wasn't huge, but a good start at 116cm and 15 Kg. Given the warmer weather, I decided to clean it straight away, and ventured back to camp to utilise the shade.

It had well and truly hit 40 degrees by late morning, with that north-westerly wind finally starting to ease off at around lunch time. Off in the distance we could see dark clouds building up in the west, indicating the barometer was dropping and that an evening storm was likely.

After sitting out for a couple of hours in the shade, I set another bait and within the hour had a screaming run. I was a fair distance from my rod at the time and I expected the fish to have dropped the bait by the time I made it over the sand. Luckily, it was still taking plenty of line as I prised the rod from the holder. This was a really good one, taking a stack of line and slugging it out behind the second sand bar. It took me a few hundred metres down the beach before I started to regain some line. I managed to get the fish into the first gutter, where a big silver flank rolled on the surface; such a great sight.

A few minutes later and the mullet was safely in the shallows, where I lifted it for a few quick pictures and measured it before release. The fish was only out of water for a short time and swam off well. It measured 138cm and would have been easily over 20Kg. I was pretty happy.

About an hour later and it was my mate's turn but the hook pulled early in the fight. He wasn't too worried; he set another bait and before long had another run, and this time the hook set well. This was turning into an epic day in the surf. This fish was a bit smaller at 106cm, but still well-conditioned with plenty of fight. By this stage the tide had peaked and was dropping, and we weren't left with much water in our gutter. We retired to camp, where we cooked a feed and chilled out. The temperature had dropped by this stage, and the dark clouds were looming overhead. We crashed out shortly after sunset with the plan to fish the midnight high tide, but at around 11pm a thunder storm hit us. It was an intense lightning display, with zero wind, then whipping up to around 40 knots for a short period of time. With the wind and passing rain were up and down all night, so we canned the idea of a midnight fish.

The next day dawned a lot cooler, with overcast conditions and moderate winds from the south-west. We fished through the same tide period as the day before, but the action was considerably slower. My mate released a small fish and I missed another, and they were the only two bites for the whole day. The wind had swung to the south-east by early afternoon, and was forecast to blow 18-25 knots for the next two days. We got up and fished the midnight high tide through until the early hours of the morning that night without even registering a bite. The conditions were even worse when we got up the next morning, bringing in clumps of weed, so we packed up camp and drove home early. We had definitely been there during the bite period, with difficult conditions expected from there on. It's certainly not impossible to land some nice fish in adverse conditions, but it's definitely harder.

This wasn't the first time we had seen such a strong correlation with the falling barometer. We had experienced it about three or four other times where we caught some nice fish leading up to a storm front hitting. It's an interesting link between barometric pressure and fish behaviour, and while we may not be in a position to drop the ball and go fishing every time there is a window of suitable weather approaching, it's still worthwhile trying to understand peak feeding patterns.

BAROMETRIC PRESSURE

So, what is barometric pressure and how does it affect fishing? Firstly, barometric pressure is the air pressure within our Earth's atmosphere. This air pressure is measured in hectopascals (hPa) here in Australia, but can also be measured as a unit of millibar (mbar) where one hectopascal equals one millibar. To put pressure into perspective, the average air pressure at sea level is 1013hPa. On a synoptic chart the differing air pressure is indicated in isobars, with rapidly changing pressure denoted by many isobars stacked closely together.

As a low pressure system approaches (generally associated with an impending cold front or storm), it's at this point that the barometer begins to fall. If it's an intense low pressure system, the barometer may fall below 1000hPa, with air pressure down around 990hPa indicative of an intense low. Tropical cyclones are often down around the 960 to 970hPa.

As a low-pressure system passes and a high-pressure system approaches, the barometer begins to rise. The air movement around a high pressure system is opposite to that of low pressure, with wind blowing away from a high pressure system due to atmospheric air pushing downwards to fill the area left from the air that has pushed outwards. The movement of air around a high-pressure system moves in an anti-clockwise direction in the southern hemisphere.

If the high-pressure system is quite large and the barometer is rising slowly, stable weather conditions result. This can be indicated on the synoptic chart by widely spaced isobars, and it's not unusual to have several days in a row of stable weather as that high approaches. A typical high pressure system would have the centre at between 1020 to 1030hPa.

Once we are in the centre of the high-pressure system, we often experience light winds and generally higher temperatures. After the high passes us, we usually experience winds from the southerly / south-westerly direction. If there is a low pressure system moving in behind that high, we generally experience a falling barometer and the winds will initially come in from a north-westerly to a northerly direction.

SOME TRENDS

There are some definite trends and feeding behaviours associated with various barometric pressure changes that can be seen in some of our local species. As mentioned above, a falling barometer with a low pressure system approaching is a prime time to be on the beach chasing mullet and snapper. Bear in mind however, that a storm front after warm weather often brings lightning, and it's not a great idea waving long graphite rods on a beach when a storm hits. However, just before the front hits when the wind drops out and the sky is blackened with dark clouds, it's a great time to have a bait in the water, especially if it coincides with the high tide.

Similarly, snapper in shallow water feed well with a falling barometer and a cold front approaching. I'm not sure how they recognise the falling barometer, but they do. There are theories that mullet and snapper can detect a falling barometer with their swim bladders. I'm not sure if this holds any merit, but it seems plausible, as both species have noticeably large swim bladders.

There are also some fish that prefer a rising barometer, such as estuary species like bream and also fresh water species. There's a definite link with these species and improved results during periods of a rising barometer. Many species are understood to feed more aggressively as the barometer slowly rises. They are often sluggish during periods of low barometric pressure, but throw in a rising barometer and you can experience a hot bite.

Some of this may be linked with improving water clarity during a rising barometer as we move away from a low pressure system, but whatever the cue, there is a definite correlation. Similarly, whiting feed well during a rising barometer, but again this may be linked more to the low pressure system that has passed and the resultant dirty water.

It's interesting and worthwhile to log your results in a fishing diary, and to see if there are any trends with particular air pressure changes. Snapper and mullet are probably the most recognised species for feeding during a falling barometer, but you may notice other species that also display a feeding response during similar conditions.

HOW TO TRACK BAROMETRIC CHANGE

There are a number of ways to monitor upcoming barometric changes. The easiest is to jump on the net and look up weather websites such as www.windyty.com.au or www.bom.gov.au for current weather conditions and daily barometric pressure readings. For longer range forecasting of barometric pressure I like referring to the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au/australia/charts/4day_col.shtml for the four-day synoptic chart.

To refer back to past weather conditions and barometric pressure I have used www.timeanddate.com/weather/australia/ which has proven useful. This site allows you to scroll back in time and see what the

temperature, wind, barometric pressure and humidity were at a given point in time, and cross reference the conditions with when you had that hot little bite period. And obviously, referring to a barometer in your home will show you what the air pressure is currently doing.

Tracking barometric pressure may not be the newest tool in the kit, but how it affects our fishing on a daily basis is certainly worth knowing. There are some definite links with species already, and you may even uncover some new links of your own.

Article submitted by John Curtis

CITIZEN SCIENCE - WHAT'S IN IT FOR REC FISHERS?

In Australia, we place the responsibility of managing and maintaining our fish stocks on state and federal government agencies. They make their management decisions based on data, which has traditionally been sourced from the commercial fishing sector through their mandatory log books and catch data, on-board monitoring, sampling of catches through co-ops, etc. More recently, the recreational sector has been contributing to data collection.

Did you know, for example, the Game Fish Tagging Program in NSW has been collecting tag data since 1973? Tournament statistics and tagging programs are some examples of the ways rec anglers willingly participate, but there are also many long-standing, research programs that anglers have been participating in.

Increasing numbers of grassroots, non-government organisations such as OzFish Unlimited, to name one example, are taking the initiative to address questions related to the management of recreational fisheries. Anglers involvement in recreational fisheries research can range from simply sharing insights and catching fish to be used in studies, to direct participation in experimental design, fundraising, and project coordination and implementation.

Why do we need citizen science in recreational fishing?

Such projects enable our contribution towards the data that is used to manage our fisheries, which is important if we are to trust the data behind the decisions made.

Anglers who've participated in the many and various citizen science projects around the country report feeling an increased sense of ownership of fish resources. Their involvement also informs their understanding of the processes and intentions, which I think helps debunk community scepticism and leads to greater understanding and acceptance of management decisions, which is critical for the long-term sustainability of our fish stocks... and therefore to the long term viability of recreational fishing, remembering that the key motivation to going fishing is the promise of actually catching a fish!

One thought-provoking insight I gained whilst researching this article came from a West Australian paper into the "Send Us Your Skeletons" project that tracked the recovery of demersal fish stocks, after the implementation of what some perceived as drastic measures between 2007 and 2010, to rescue the overfished fishery.

One of the measures included the banning of commercial fishing in some zones, posing a problem to scientists tasked with monitoring the effectiveness of the imposed changes. Without commercial fishers mandatory data, they had limited avenues to collect the necessary data from the new "recreational fishing only" zones.

Citizen science programs were the answer and they worked very well.

This got me to thinking... if we refuse to participate in similar programs in our hard-fought-for, recreational-fishing-only zones all around the country, how can we demonstrate that the banishment of commercial fishing from those areas is having the positive impact anticipated? And, if we don't prove that the fisheries are rebounding, what could happen to the recreational-fishing-only status of those zones in the future?

Most fishers have a natural affinity with the environment, with many of us involved in the conservation and rehabilitation of our waterways. We are a strong contingent of outdoors people who depend on the health of the natural environment for our escape from routine, to foster a sense of true freedom and to provide a healthy pastime to share with family and mates. Why on Earth, then, would we not do everything in our power to help inform the decisions around the maintenance and protection of the resources that sustain it?

Some recreational fishers don't trust citizen science. What's the problem?

There are a number of issues that typically agitate some fishers whenever the topic of citizen science comes up in my fishing conversations. The loudest one is that they believe the data may be used to restrict fishing access. There are allegations of such things happening in the past, where fishers' data of popular fishing spots was used to identify sanctuary zones. I can understand anxiety building in the face of such anecdotes. Data is available for use, once produced and published. It can be used and, unfortunately, misused. This is true of any data, no matter what the topic.

I've done a lot of pondering this sticking point and I've come to two realisations: The first is that, in the absence of our own data about our activities and impacts in our waterways, managers must make assumptions based on the data and assertions of others (the commercial sector and others), whose motivations may not include the promotion of the recreational fishing cause. I'd rather have decisions affecting my ability and right to fish to be made with insights from other recreational anglers.

In a recent conversation on this topic, Steve Morgan mentioned that people, who consider the practice of catch, tag and release cruel, even torturous, sometimes challenge him. Steve's response is simple: it's the only method of monitoring the resource that doesn't result in the fish dying. Win!

Steve let me know that this level of participation in data collecting is more accurately known as "community monitoring", rather than citizen science, because the data is being collected for "whenever it's needed", rather than as part of a specific research plan. Community monitoring data is used for surveying fish stock size, movements and health. Such a bank of data helps with my second realization, that the best way to stop other interest groups from trying to lock rec anglers out of fishing spots is to be able to debunk their data. We can only do this if we have our own!

If we have data to counteract the arguments of those who insist we are destructive, and if we have projects that are of value to the community at large, we reduce the threat of losing our permission to fish. It's a simple but powerful strategy, and citizen science is the tool.

There is the potential for great power in collaborative research between anglers and recreational fisheries scientists, but only if a mutual understanding of each other's boundaries is established early and maintained throughout the entire research process, and only if transparency of findings and results exists, making data easy to find.

This is the other common concern that comes up: People simply don't understand how the data collected relates to them. Resource managers really need to focus on fixing this sticking point. More effort needs to be invested into transparency of the data and promotion of the good work that is done with it, not only to rec anglers, but also to the broader community.

Being involved in citizen science programs has the potential to improve relationships and knowledge flow between members of the public and scientists and help build greater trust and more-widely accepted science and management decisions.

In addition, there are always the feel-good benefits, like making a contribution to sustainability and setting a good example to children, which are noted drivers for participation by fishers in studies to date. What's not to like?

Want to know more?

Attend the Australian Recreational Fishing Association's 2019 National Recreational Fishing Conference and discover the people power behind citizen science and how it will shape the future of Australian fishing. Don't stress if you can't make it to Hobart, there are virtual tickets available to the live stream of the entire conference.

Article submitted by John Curtis

HOW TO CATCH WHITING

The sand whiting is a widely distributed species found throughout most of Australia's coastline and is one of the most popular fish to chase in coastal estuaries and along the surf beaches. In recent years most of the fishing press in relation to this species has been about catching whiting on surface lures, a rather strange idiosyncrasy of this small bottom feeding fish. There are many ways to catch these great little fish, and in general bait is a much more reliable option than lures.

In southern Australia, whiting are probably the most popular summer species in our estuaries and on the beaches, and this is largely due to their superb eating qualities. Whiting have quite a unique taste, sweet and delicious despite the many bones that may be encountered. On light tackle whiting fight hard for their small size. Any sand whiting over 40 cm long is a great fish, and a whiting that weighs a kilo is a bit like a metre flathead. They exist but are quite rare, and are one fish in many, many thousand!

A lot of the more successful whiting methods are distinctly old school; they haven't really changed in many decades. A lot of serious whiting anglers spend as much time getting their bait as they do fishing. Digging up blood worms can be back breaking work but is the best way to get absolutely prime bait. Shrimp, jelly prawns, small soldier crabs and wriggler worms are also "A" grade baits. Along the east coast yabbies are very effective in certain situations, frozen prawns are a poor option and beach worms are great on the beach but not so reliable in the estuaries.

Whiting have a small down slung mouth and feed on the bottom most of the time. While the mouth is small, sand whiting are extremely fast and aggressive predators. If they disturb a prawn, they chase it down, which probably explains why they will attack a small surface lure with ferocious intent. They swallow their prey whole, as they have no teeth, and seem to have quite brilliant eyesight. If you intend to bait fish for whiting you need to plan your bait collecting prior to fishing and in general a session starts with bait collecting on the bottom of the tide and then you fish this bait on the run in tide as the water pushes up over the flats. Whiting fishing is always at its best with a fair bit of current flow.

There are two distinct areas to chase whiting in most estuaries, the sand and mud flats and the deeper channels. In estuaries where there are open expanses of flats, the water will constantly fill and then drain the areas where most of the invertebrates that the whiting feed on. These are best considered as 'in and out' areas. In a more defined river with no flats on the edges, the water goes 'up and down'. In this situation the whiting tend to stay in the main channels and edges of weed beds feeding on different baits such as small shrimp. This distinction is important as it governs how you should fish each type of estuary. One surprising thing in the more defined rivers is that whiting fishing is often at its best at night.

Any sand whiting over 30 cm long is a great fish. There are many ways to fish the flats, but one of the most exciting methods, using bait, is to sight cast the fish as you walk the flats. An acquaintance has made an art form of sight casting whiting using bait. Using a long, light rod with ultra-fine 2-pound braid and 3 pound fluorocarbon leader he catches consistent catches of big solid sand whiting.

Tide is important. As the push of a run-in tide begins, the whiting start to move up onto the flats. By getting down wind, and using a good pair of Polaroid sunglasses, it is usually pretty easy to spot the schools of fish moving up on the flats. These fish are keen and feeding. The rig consists of a small number 6 long shank hook and no lead is used. An unweighted bait on an ultra-light outfit can be cast a reasonable distance. The key to this method is being able to spot schools of whiting and work out where the bigger fish are. This is not easy, and a good pair of Polaroid glasses is a big help.

Whiting often show themselves as a series of flashes as the fish turn and move. Once whiting are spotted, cast the bait in front of the feeding fish. In general, they will rush the bait. This method is best done by wading and is incredibly productive most days. It tends to work better with a slight to moderate breeze and a bit of cloud cover. The key water depth is between about 20 and 60cm of depth. Worms and small crabs can also be used but are far inferior to natural local baits that they are feeding on. It's important to give the fish plenty of time to take the bait. This method also produces quite a few big flathead that either eat the bait or take the whiting once it's hooked. Catching a larger flathead on 2lb braid and 3lb leader is a real challenge!

Fishing from an anchored boat requires different tactics. Whiting are a small fish that fights really well, but they have no teeth and you can use the lightest tackle possible to chase them in most situations. This gets you more bites and accentuates the great fighting qualities of these scrappy fish. When fishing deeper water from an anchored boat there are a few factors to take into account. While the schools may travel in the same direction as the current, they generally begin feeding by working into the current, staying close to the bottom.

What this means from a bait fishing perspective is they often pick up a bait and slowly swim towards you, making the bite quite hard to detect. The bite can be a slight bump, or the line may appear to go slack. With experience you can pick most bites, but in general watch the line carefully and strike at any decrease in tension. Bream tend to rattle a bait and are easy to pick. Whiting are much more subtle. Longer softer rods are the most effective style of rod for most whiting fishing. In my local water a lot of the keener whiting anglers paint the last metre or so of the rod white. This makes detecting bites a bit easier, particularly at night. Whiting also occur in prolific numbers along the surf beaches of our coastline where they feed on beach worms, small shellfish and other invertebrates. They are a species ideally adapted to life in the surf zone, as their strong compact thin shape lets them cope well with the constant turbulence. Unlike the subtle bites of a whiting in deep water, the bites in the surf are quite sharp and aggressive.

Beach worms are the most reliable bait in the surf, and once again light line and leader get the most bites. In general you don't have to cast far in the surf to catch whiting, and they often feed in the shore break right at your feet. On most beaches the key is to find an area with plenty of shellfish and beach worms and fish the period from about an hour into the run-in tide up until high tide. A gutter running parallel to the shore with plenty of white water behind it usually works well. Use just enough lead to hold the bait in position and in general surf of about half to one metre in height produces the best fishing most of the time.

Over the past few years there has been an ever-increasing interest in catching whiting on small surface lures, and this is probably the most fun and interactive way to chase these great little fish. I never thought that whiting would be the type of fish to be such an aggressive predator on a surface lure. When I first heard of this method, I was extremely sceptical, and dismissed it way to early.

To catch whiting on surface lures you need a spot where shrimp and prawns are a regular part of a whiting's diet. Prawns are great food, but they are not that easy to catch, especially if you are a little fish with a small underslung mouth and no teeth! But in order to catch a fleeing prawn skittering across the surface you need speed and ferocious intent, and that is why you can, with practice, catch whiting on surface lures.

There are two basic approaches to this, stick baits and cup faced poppers. The key to success is to retrieve quite quickly and make the lure spit water, imitating a fleeing prawn. Use both lure styles and each will work differently according to the prevailing conditions. There is a large variety of suitable lures for whiting on the market and many smaller lures are quite successful. It seems that the more expensive the better the lure works (to catch unthinking fishermen).

Clear coloured lures seem to be the best most of the time and is a good match for most prawn and shrimp species. Poppers also work well, particularly when there is a bit of wave action. With both lure styles the best retrieve is a fast wind with plenty of rod movement to make the lure spit a few beads of water in front of it. If you've watched prawns skittering across the surface, you will soon get the idea.

Whiting usually appear behind or close to the lure as a small bow wave. They rarely break the surface before you hook them. When you see a fish following keep winding. If you slow the retrieve down the fish generally veer off and disappear. If the whiting are schooled up in numbers they can be quite competitive in their efforts to get the lure and these are the times you will get good catches. In general, though, you have to work for your fish. The success or failure of this method seems directly proportional to the amount of prawns or shrimp present in the estuary at the time, and some places produce great surface lure fishing for whiting for this very reason, whereas in other places it can be ineffective and frustrating. The enemy of the expensive lure is the tailor, and on the flats at times bite-offs can occur all too frequently!

Overall, whiting are a great fish to chase on the estuaries and beaches, and while lure fishing is fun, it pays to remember if you want a feed of fresh whiting fillets, good live bait that you've caught yourself is very hard to beat.

Article submitted by John Curtis

COUNSELLING SERVICES Email from our past

Dear John

Following our phone conversation, I thought I would respond in writing to your query about support for members in dealing with the tragic passing of Mark Nurse. Your list contains some options I was aware of including Beyond Blue, as well as some I am not familiar with.

With regards to seeking qualified help I feel it is important to know what the qualifications of the “counsellor” is. I personally tend to stick with psychologists and clinical psychologists when referring patients or those who ask my opinion. I am sure many less qualified counsellors are very good at what they do however, with psychologists I know they have been extensively trained and are required to be involved in ongoing education.

With respect to accessing psychological care via the Medicare system, the government will subsidise up to 10 visits per calendar year for those who have a GP Mental Health Care Plan completed by their GP. This is available to those who the GP considers to have an identifiable psychological condition. In this instance those who would likely qualify would be those whose grief reaction would be considered more severe than what would be considered normal. I will talk more about this later.

Psychologists vary in their fees ranging from bulk billing (in which case the gap fee paid by the patient would be nil) up to about a \$70 gap per session. There may be a fee from the GP depending on the Doctor’s billing policy. I find this system to be a very good one in that not only are patients accessing expert care, but also there is direct communication between psychologist and the GP who are both monitoring the patient’s progress.

As I am sure all members will know people’s individual response to grief and trauma can vary widely in intensity. As such it can be hard for people to know if what they are feeling is an abnormal grief reaction or what would be considered normal. I would suggest that members do talk about what they are feeling to those around them. Good listeners can be of great value and also can be good judges of how you are travelling. If you feel uncomfortable doing this then would recommend seeing your GP in first instance. I would also suggest those experiencing symptoms such as poor sleep, nightmares, increased irritability, loss of interest in previously enjoyable activities e.g. fishing, loss of appetite, to also see their GP.

Finally, John I would like to thank you for being so proactive in assisting your fellow club members-both Beachcombers and Surfcasters, during this tough time.

Kind Regards

Shane Wignell

National help lines and websites

Initially talk with your local GP. See letter from Dr Shane Wignell re referrals and Medicare cover. Some sessions may be covered by Medicare, if done through the GP.

Beyond Blue

<https://www.beyondblue.org.au>

1300 22 4636

Vision Counselling & Psychology

1300 184 746

<http://perthclinic.com.au/education-about-mental-illness/depression>

29 Havelock Street, West Perth, 6005 Western Australia

Phone +61 8 9481 4888

Fax +61 8 9481 4454.

Carers Australia

1800 242 636

Short-term counselling and emotional and psychological support services for carers and their families in each state and territory.

MensLine Australia

1300 78 99 78

A telephone and online support, information and referral service, helping men to deal with relationship problems in a practical and effective way.