

REEL TALK



SURF CASTING AND ANGLING CLUB INC

NOVEMBER 2020



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

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

November 2020 : Reel Talk Contents

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Assistant Field Day Officer

Vince Tomazin

Assistant Drycasting Officer

Bob Henderson

Committee Persons

Gary Parkinson

Chris Stickells

Recorder

Justin Rose
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Website Coordinator

Peet Wessels



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

President's Report - November 2020



November marks the start of the 2nd half of our fishing calendar, lets hope for some nice field days in the next 6 months, for next year if anyone has any new spots or ideas for fishing locations please let me know?

Dry casting will be on Mondays for the next few months due to the polo ground not being available on the weekend.

If fishing at any time please keep the open section in mind, if you catch an eligible fish a form can be found on the website or send an email to the secretary, fill the form in and send it to Justin Rose, we have a lot of empty spots so check out the table at the end of the fishing report for all the categories.

Martin Wearmouth; President

Membership Fees

The SCAC Membership Fees for the 2020/21 year are due as at the 1st July.

But there is good news, fees for 20/21 are now:

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Single Membership | \$70 |
| Family Membership | \$80 |
| Concession Membership | \$50 |
| Concession Family | \$60 |

Payment can be made via EFT (Please note your name in the remittance), Cheque or Cash at the monthly meetings.

The Secretary has sent out Membership Forms for all members to complete and return.

Please return them promptly, with all details completed in full.

Bank details: Surf Casting and Angling Club

BSB: 036 059

A/C: 880334

| Field Day Venues For 2020/2021 | | |
|---|--|--|
| Dates | Venue | Boundaries |
| 14 - 15 November 2020 | Cervantes to Leeman Lines down 9.00 am Saturday Lines up 9 am Sunday | Cervantes to Leeman and local as below at bottom of page |
| 12 - 13 December 2020 | Lancelin to Greenhead Lines down 9.00 am Saturday Lines up 9 am Sunday | Lancelin to Greenhead and local as below at bottom of page |
| Sunday 24 January and Monday 25th January 2021 make own long weekend Australia Day is Tuesday 26th | Open Lines down 6.00 am Sunday Lines up 9 am Tuesday | Open anywhere in WA |
| 13 - 14 February 2021 | Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9.00 am Saturday Lines up 9 am Sunday | Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page |
| 27 Feb - 1 March 2021 Long Weekend | Geraldton to Kalbarri Lines down 6 am Saturday Lines up 9 am Monday | Geraldton to Kalbarri and local as below at bottom of page |
| 3 April – 5 April 2021 Easter Long weekend | Bluff Creek and standard local Lines down 6 am Saturday Lines up 9 am Monday | Cheyne and Bluff Creek area and local as below at bottom of page |
| Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Point Peron in the South Lines Down for long weekends and Rottnest – Saturday 6.00 am Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – Monday 9.00 am Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.00 am Lines up on Standard weekends – Sunday 9.00 am Sign-on / Weigh-in times; Where possible please fish together; Spots and locations are to be decided at the General Meeting prior to the Field Day | | |

Birthdays for November

David Turner 13th;

Martin Wearmouth 30th

Life Members



Eric Parker 17th



Terry Fuller 29th

Surf Casters October 2020 Preston beach field day report by Martin Wearmouth



Oliver and Grace Wessels ready for fishing (Great shirts kids)

With a good weather forecast Peter Osborne, Peet & Sandra Wessels with Grandkids Oliver and Grace met in the Preston beach car park at 8.30am, we headed north onto the beach with a light breeze and not a cloud in the sky, Peter and I stopped about 3km from the car park after I spotted some cray pot floats about 150m from the beach, Peet and Sandra continued on to the reef area about 10km, Vince arrived about 15 minutes after we stopped and set up next to me.

With light winds I decided to put out some Drone baits, the first one I dropped was 225m from the beach and about ½ hour later the rod bent over I could feel something on the line but it was not a great fight, I got it to the beach to find a shovelnose of about 9kg had taken the hook, After it was released I sent another bait out to 260m from the beach about an hour later the rod bent over and this time I could feel some solid head shakes and a decent weight on the line but after a minute I felt it break off, after I got the rig in I found the hooks had been bitten off so most likely a shark.



The rest of the fishing was slow, Peter managed a mullet and I got an 18cm whiting but that was all for the first few hours, Gary arrived about 12pm and set up next to us, soon after Vince caught a 35cm flathead which was nice to see, as the southerly wind was now about 15 knots I packed the drone away and concentrated on the beach fishing, New prospective member Alan Green arrived about 2pm and sparked a few bites I caught 2 tailor just after 2pm and then it went quiet again.

At 4pm I caught another tailor and most of us got some tailor up to 6pm when it all went quiet again as the wind dropped and the seas calmed a bit, I also got 2 sting rays but only small ones, Gary left at 6.30pm and Vince and Alan followed soon after, Peter and I fished to 9pm but not even a bite after 6pm just very small fish stripping the baits.

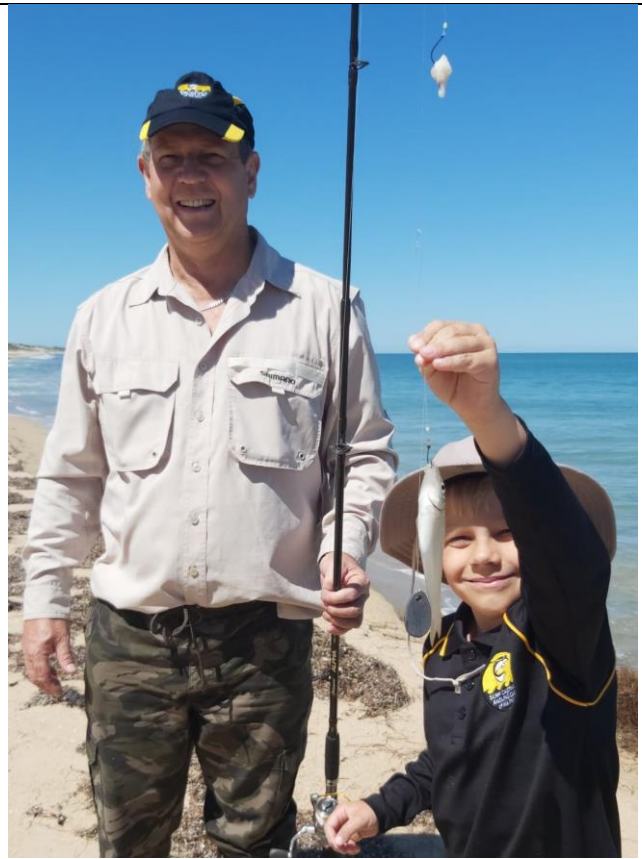
I got up at 5am for the morning session and Peter was up shortly after but it was a very calm morning with only a very light easterly blowing, I had 1 bite that I missed and managed only 2 21cm whiting until we packed up at 9am and headed back to the car park.



Peet and Sandra had a family weekend with there son and 4 grand kids enjoying the beach and fine conditions, from the photos Sandra sent it looks like the kids kept them busy, It is great to see the kids with their Surf Casters shirts and beanie.



Trinity catching her first ever "double header"! Very happy girl.



Oliver was not going to be left behind.



Opa Peet with Logan ... first ever catch!



Kids loved wearing their club attire.



Grace loved her beanie ... wouldn't take it off



| ANGLER | | Species | Species | Species | Species | Species | Total weight | No. of Species | No. of fish | F.D. points | Attendance | | Total points |
|------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | | Tailor | Mullet Yelloweye | Whiting | Flathead (all species) | Herring Australian | | | | | Field Day | General Meeting | |
| Martin Wearmouth | Number | 5 | | 2 | | | 2.77 | 2 | 7 | 54.7 | 1 | 1 | 74.7 |
| | Total weight | 2.61 | | 0.16 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peet Wessels | Number | | | 10 | | 3 | 1.13 | 2 | 13 | 44.3 | 1 | 1 | 64.3 |
| | Total weight | | | 0.80 | | 0.33 | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Vince Tomazin | Number | 1 | | | 1 | | 0.65 | 2 | 2 | 28.5 | 1 | 1 | 48.5 |
| | Total weight | 0.44 | | | 0.21 | | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alan Green | Number | 2 | | | | | 1.25 | 1 | 2 | 24.5 | 1 | 1 | 44.5 |
| | Total weight | 1.25 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gary Parkinson | Number | 2 | | | | | 1.08 | 1 | 2 | 22.8 | 1 | 1 | 42.8 |
| | Total weight | 1.08 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Oliver Wessels | Number | | | 4 | | 1 | 0.43 | 2 | 5 | 29.3 | 1 | | 39.3 |
| | Total weight | | | 0.32 | | 0.11 | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandra Wessels | Number | | | 2 | | | 0.16 | 1 | 2 | 13.6 | 1 | 1 | 33.6 |
| | Total weight | | | 0.16 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peter Osborne | Number | | 1 | | | | 0.20 | 1 | 1 | 13.0 | 1 | 1 | 33.0 |
| | Total weight | | 0.20 | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trinity Wessels | Number | | | 5 | | | 0.40 | 1 | 5 | 19.0 | 1 | | 29.0 |
| | Total weight | | | 0.40 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Logan Wessels | Number | | | 1 | | | 0.08 | 1 | 1 | 11.8 | 1 | | 21.8 |
| | Total weight | | | 0.08 | | | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grace Wessels | Number | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 10.0 |
| | Total weight | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Weight of best | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Top scores up to October | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Rank | Angler | Total points |
| 1 | Martin Wearmouth | 1360.2 |
| 2 | Peet Wessels | 869.8 |
| 3 | Ron Thomas | 822.2 |
| 4 | Mark Hansen | 767.6 |
| 5 | Vince Tomazin | 664.8 |
| 6 | Sandra Wessels | 469.4 |
| 7 | Theo Van Niekerk | 302.4 |
| 8 | Gary Parkinson | 298.5 |
| 9 | Shane Wignell | 257.5 |
| 10 | Sabby Pizzolante | 224.4 |
| 11 | Stuart Waterman | 220.5 |
| 12 | Brad Zaknich (visitor) | 161.2 |
| 13 | Chris Stickells | 152.2 |
| 14 | David Wilding | 59.0 |
| 15 | Alan Green | 44.5 |
| 16 | Oliver Wessels | 39.3 |
| 17 | Peter Osborne | 33.0 |
| 18 | David Trainer | 30.0 |
| 19 | Trinity Wessels | 29.0 |
| 20 | Logan Wessels | 21.8 |
| 21 | Sri Srigandan | 20.0 |
| 22 | Grace Wessels | 10.0 |
| 23 | Ian Taggart | 10.0 |

| Field day prizes for October | | | |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Section | Angler | Species | Weight |
| Best scale fish | Alan Green | Tailor | 0.63 |
| Best bag of scale fish | Martin Wearmouth | | 2.77 |
| Best shark | | | |
| Best bag including sharks | | | |
| Field Day Sections up to and including October | | | |
| Section | Angler | Species | Weight |
| 1A Best scale fish (1st six months) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 1B Best scale fish (2nd six months) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 2 Most meritorious fish | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 3 Best shark (4.5kg min) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 4 Best mullock (2kg min) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 5 Best tailor (1kg min) | Peet Wessels | Reef Beach June 2020 | 3.00 |
| 6 Best salmon (3kg min) | Vince Tomazin | Reef Beach Sept 2020 | 5.76 |
| 7 Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min) | Vince Tomazin | Reef Beach June 2020 | 1.56 |
| 8 Best mackerel (2kg min) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 9 Best yellowtail kingfish, samson or amberjack (4kg min) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 10 Best scale fish (Other than above) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 11 Best bag of scale fish | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 12 Best bag of mullock (2 fish min) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 13 Best bag of tailor (2 fish min) | Martin Wearmouth | Preston beach October 2020 | 2.61 |
| 14 Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line) | Martin Wearmouth | Goatfish | 0.90 |
| 15 Best fish caught on fly rod | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 16 Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line) | Mark Hansen | Whiting King George | 0.24 |
| 17 Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line) | 0 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 18 Best fish caught using a drone | Sri Srigandan | Salmon Western Australian | 5.05 |

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, Entries for the Open competition close **30 days after capture**. See Competition Rules Section 4.

| Section | For | Minimum | 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 10 | Best tarwhine | 0.5 kg | |
| 11 | Best mackerel | 4 kg | |
| 12 | Best skipjack trevally (southern) | 1 kg | |
| 13 | Best trevally (northern) | 2 kg | |
| 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 | |
| 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 | |
| 19 | Best Fish caught by Drone | Legal size | |

Barron Lure Competition

The Barron Lure competition is sponsored by Eric Parker, who donates the trophies. Try Eric's Poppers, you will not be disappointed. The rules for this competition are the same as for the clubs open fishing competition, plus the fish must be caught on a popper lure and a single fish cannot win more than one Barron lure section

Heaviest Tailor on lure No Entry

Heaviest Salmon on Lure No Entry

Heaviest Scale fish on lure No Entry

DRYCASTING – 4th October 2020

Our numbers are getting less and less. I wonder how long we will last at this rate. It seems our age has a lot to do with it, along with a few health problems, which I hope will rectify themselves with time.

Five members turned up for what was the last cast on Sundays for at least four months. From now on we will cast on the first Monday of each month until notified.

The longest cast for the day was 161m in the 112gr event. The longest in the 56gr and artificial bait was 148m and 132m. Mal took out the honours in the DHA with 147 knocking Gary off by two points. Mark would and should have won but threw a zero on the sixth target, but still finished with 135. Hendo scored the only bullseye on the day, and took out the SHA with a great 35.

Hope to see a few more faces next month, and do not forget the first Monday, 2nd November.

Ron Thomas
DCO

| <u>SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Dry casting results - 4th October 2020</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <u>56 gram</u> | | | | | <u>Artificial Bait</u> | | | | | <u>112gram</u> | | |
| | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Total</u> | | | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Total</u> | | | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Cast</u> | <u>Total</u> |
| <u>Veterans</u> | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | | <u>%</u> | | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | | <u>%</u> | | <u>1</u> | <u>2</u> | <u>%</u> |
| GARY GILDERSLEEVE | 125.55 | 137.25 | 262.80 | 89.93 | | 111.74 | 112.26 | 224.00 | 86.53 | | 137.14 | 131.06 | 268.20 |
| BOB HENDERSON | OUT | 136.19 | 136.19 | 46.35 | | 109.07 | 114.44 | 223.51 | 86.34 | | OUT | OUT | 0.00 |
| MAL HEAD | 95.43 | 102.68 | 198.11 | 67.42 | | 94.85 | 89.90 | 184.75 | 71.37 | | 114.53 | 112.74 | 227.27 |
| RON THOMAS | 145.17 | 148.69 | 293.86 | 100.00 | | 132.69 | 126.18 | 258.87 | 100.00 | | 158.54 | 161.55 | 320.09 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>Seniors</u> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MARK HANSEN | 97.80 | 96.37 | 194.17 | 100.00 | | OUT | 87.68 | 87.68 | 100.00 | | 115.57 | 121.35 | 236.92 |

| SURF CASTING & ANGLING CLUB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|--------|------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
| Dry casting results - 4th October 2020 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Double Handed Accuracy | | | | | | | | | | Single Handed Accuracy | | | | | | Total | Attendance | Total |
| | Target number | | | | | | | | | | Target distance | | | | | | | D/Casting | Points |
| Veterans | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | Total | % | 1st | 2nd | 1st | 2nd | Total | % | % | | |
| GARY GILDERSLEEVE | 18 | 23 | 15 | 20 | 17 | 6 | 23 | 23 | 145 | 98.64 | 7 | 7 | 6 | 0 | 20 | 57.14 | 416.03 | 10 | 426.03 |
| BOB HENDERSON | 12 | 12 | 21 | 24 | 6 | 13 | 25 | 16 | 129 | 87.76 | 8 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 35 | 100.00 | 320.45 | 10 | 330.45 |
| MAL HEAD | 13 | 15 | 17 | 22 | 16 | 23 | 19 | 22 | 147 | 100.00 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 21 | 60.00 | 369.79 | 10 | 379.79 |
| RON THOMAS | 22 | 7 | 13 | 18 | 21 | 24 | 16 | 16 | 137 | 93.20 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 24 | 68.57 | 461.77 | 10 | 471.77 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Seniors | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MARK HANSEN | 21 | 16 | 16 | 21 | 22 | 0 | 23 | 16 | 135 | 100.00 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 23 | 100.00 | 500.00 | 10 | 510.00 |

| VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2020 - 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---------------|--|
| LONGEST 56 GRAM | | | | | | | | | | 148.69 | | | | | | | | RON THOMAS | |
| LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT | | | | | | | | | | 132.69 | | | | | | | | RON THOMAS | |
| LONGEST 112G | | | | | | | | | | 161.55 | | | | | | | | RON THOMAS | |
| HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY | | | | | | | | | | 153 | | | | | | | | BOB HENDERSON | |
| HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY | | | | | | | | | | 35 | | | | | | | | BOB HENDERSON | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2020 - 2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 | |

Note from Chris Stickells

“Containers for change” has begun in Perth.

If you are not going to take in your beer bottles, soft drink cans etc marked with the 10c refund stamp, can you please collect them and arrange to give to me at the general meetings.

Along with the collection of copper wire, this will be one of my ongoing fund-raising efforts from now on to support various community group projects.

I look forward to your ongoing support for this project.

So far, I have raised and donated a total of \$50



1. *The future of the Donnelly River*

Published: Sunday, 23 August 2020 14:16

Recreational fishers are among those expressing concern over the plan to create a new dam near the Donnelly River.

The plan is for water to be diverted from the Donnelly for the new storage dam as part of the Southern Forests Irrigation Scheme.

The Donnelly is located between Nannup and Pemberton, and is one of WA's best freshwater fishing locations.

I've been fortunate enough to fish there on a number of occasions, with trout able to be caught right along its length, which is unusual for WA.

Trout have been caught right at the mouth of the Donnelly, and indeed from the beach there, and can be found right up in the forests towards Manjimup.

The biggest wild trout I've ever seen in WA was on the lower Donnelly, downstream from the boat ramp, and I've had some great sessions between the Vasse Highway bridge and Manjimup, catching some quality rainbows.

The stretch around One-Tree Bridge was one of my favourites and Barlee Brook, one of the tributaries, has also been a very productive small stream at times.

The Donnelly also holds good numbers of our native marron, as well as freshwater cobbler and lamprey, so it certainly is an important location for many freshwater species.

A Water Corporation study in 2006 revealed a "relatively high diversity of freshwater fish species".

Anyone who has been a trout fisherman, or marroner, in the South-West over the last few decades knows all too well how opportunities have declined and much of this has been due to environmental changes.

Uncontrolled private damming has choked many waterways of supply and areas which used to fish well are bone dry, with the obvious implications for trout and native species.

Throw in clearing around waterways, water being pumped out of systems for irrigation, and reduced rainfall and you have a region full of waterways under pressure as environmental flows are not maintained.

Some locations that used to be excellent fisheries are now barren, and then there is also the issue of reduced access to some locations.

Little wonder recreational fishers are concerned by the potential loss of water flow in the Donnelly, one of the few waterways still in something like its natural state.

Their worries have increased in recent weeks, with land at the proposed site being cleared or approved drill testing.

Former Recfishwest boss and keen freshwater angler Frank Prokop, who has fought many battles with our water managers over the years, is dumbfounded about the plan to stifle “one of our few remaining flowing rivers”.

“Have we learned nothing from the ridiculous water management practices over east that have seen such catastrophic impacts on their freshwater fish that we have to repeat them here in Western Australia,” he said.

As someone who cut his teeth on stream and river freshwater fishing in the South-West I have been following this issue with some concern for a while.

It has been like death by a thousand cuts for those of us who like to chase trout in flowing water in WA in recent decades, and potentially losing a gem like the Donnelly would be much more than a mere flesh wound for this unique fishery.

However, some freshwater anglers are not as worried and believe a new dam could actually offer some quality impoundment fishing.

Recfishwest said the Donnelly River provided one of the last unspoilt natural stream fishing experiences in the South-West and that its water was a vulnerable resource.

“Recfishwest understands the serious concerns of fishers around conserving this precious river and the fishing experience that goes with it and we will ensure that these concerns are properly represented and clearly articulated at all levels during the process to assess this project,” CEO Dr Andrew Rowland said.

If you want to learn more there is plenty of information online about the plan and this can be found using Google, while there is also a Save Our Donnelly River Facebook page.

There is also an online petition titled Don't Dam the Donnelly River at change.org, which has more than 7000 signatures.

The future of the Donnelly River, popular with freshwater anglers, is up in the air with a proposal to draw water from it for a new dam.





1. The humble piece of straw

Published: Sunday, 13 September 2020 14:16

There are plenty of new innovations in fishing, but some old favourites have stood the test of time.

When I was a kid fishing was usually a pretty simple affair that usually revolved around herring.

They were the main target most days and there wasn't a lot of science to it, with an oval-shaped herring "blob" float cast out at likely spots and the bait trailing around a metre behind.

The best type of blob was the one with a large oval hole in the middle, into which would be stuffed the berley that would draw the herring to my bait.

I say bait, but after a while I did away with that and changed to a small bit of straw over a Limerick hook.

I can't remember when I got told to try the straw method, or who told me, but I do recall using it at Rottneest Island's Fish Hook Bay to good effect as a youngster and thinking it was a pretty damn clever idea.

Fast forward some 40 years and the humble 3-4cm piece of straw, we used to cut up a drinking straw, is still a damn good way to fool the humble herring.

Indeed my experience in recent months has been that it works as well as ever, for while it seems so much has changed in fishing, and the world in general, the nature of herring really hasn't at all.

Herring numbers have been questioned in recent years, but they have been in almost plague proportions on the south coast this autumn.

One particular area I've been fishing has been absolutely thick with them, drawn to the shallows by huge numbers of small prawns.

While wading you can watch the hungry herring chasing down prawns on the surface and although they are generally smallish fish at around 20cm the odd better one does show up.

They are typically voracious and hit everything I cast, making it hard to catch other species like bream and whiting, and launch themselves energetically into the air when hooked.

While I've mainly been using small stickbaits in bid to catch the other species, a friend wanted to catch some herring, both for food and bait, and decided to use the blob and straw combo.

Sure enough, he's been cleaning up too, catching as many as needs in quick time each time he tries.

Rather than using a drinking straw he's been running a short length of lumo tube and it has been as effective as you'd expect.

At times he's had clouds of the little silver flashes buzzing around the tube as he retrieves it in the clear water and it is almost a fish a cast most days.

The whole rig probably costs about \$3 to make and can be used over and over again, making it a very cheap way to catch a feed of fresh fish.

It might not be fashionable, but then herring have never been ones to worry themselves with such matters when they think a meal is getting away.

Lumo tube is still an effective way to catch herring.

NO AIRBAGS. WE DIE LIKE REAL MEN!

BY [DEAN MELLOR](#) • OCTOBER 28, 2020



No airbags. We die like real men. Well, actually, I'd rather not die at all, thanks.

Have you seen the sticker that reads 'No airbags. We die like real men'? As I bore down on an MG SUV that pulled out in front of me on a wet highway yesterday morning I suddenly thought of that sticker.



According to my dash-cam footage, I was cruising along at around 95km/h (in a 100 zone) before I braked to avoid the silver SUV that pulled out in front of me. I was driving my 1994 Defender 110 wagon, so no ABS, no stability control and certainly no airbags. As I instinctively swerved and braked to avoid a collision, one (or more) of the BFG All-Terrains lost traction on the slippery blacktop and the Defender started to slew sideways. I eased off the anchors so I wouldn't lose control and I veered into the empty oncoming lane. The bloke in the MG also braked at the last moment and we avoided an impact by less than a metre, I reckon.

Had there been an oncoming vehicle, I reckon I would've T-boned that little SUV instead of veering across the double lines, and I don't think it would've turned out very nice for anyone involved: him, me or my Defender.

My mate Justin was driving behind me in a [new Defender](#), and he also had to brake quite hard to avoid hitting the SUV which, after I had safely passed it, continued on with its right-hand turn on to the highway.

I pulled up in a safe spot a little further up the road to check that the dash-cam had captured the incident and after reviewing it I realised my heart was pumping big-time. I love my old Defender but I really do wonder how it would perform in a high-speed crash. Not so well, I would hazard a guess, thanks to chassis tech that dates back 50 years or more, seat bases held in place with little clips, a seatbelt anchor-point bolt that protrudes from the B-pillar near my head and nothing other than a crash-pad on the steering wheel to cushion any impact.

The new Defender, on the other hand, is jam-packed with active safety tech, to both avoid a collision in the first place and to cocoon its occupants in a plethora of safety restraint systems if worst comes to worst.

The last time I was involved in a 'sorry, I didn't see you moment', I was riding a Suzuki DR650, and a quality Kabuto helmet saved my scone. Perhaps I should start wearing a helmet when I drive my old Landy.

From: Unsealed 4X4 newsletters@patcallinanmedia.com.au

Spin or Soak

When beach fishing, deciding whether to cast lures or soak baits for tailor and salmon is isn't always clear-cut. Each day presents different conditions that can dramatically affect the way we fish for these two species. While both styles will often produce the goods, there are definitely times when one style trumps the other. Casting mulies or strips of fish flesh into the surf is the best way to consistently target tailor and salmon. A mulie on a set of ganged hooks is iconic in the surf fishing scene, simply because it's so effective at catching fish.

When fishing any beach, begin the session by reading the beach before casting a mulie into the surf. By picking the holes and gutters out it will optimise your chances of finding fish relatively quickly. You will find that whenever fish aren't in a feeding mood, a mulie is more likely to attract some interest than a lure. If you're familiar with a beach and know where the fish frequent, then the need to search for them isn't that high. Instead, soaking a bait and waiting for a school to swim by or begin actively feeding is often an effective way to score a bite.

Casting lures

Spinning the surf is such an enjoyable and productive way to catch fish – when they're in the mood! A hungry school of salmon or tailor make for great sporting fun on lure casting tackle. When the fish are thick, lures will out fish baits as more fish can be hooked and released quicker; there's no time wasted re-rigging baits. However, often the schools aren't as big or as hungry as we hope. In times like this strikes can be frustratingly difficult to score, especially if you're fishing a large gutter. Undoubtedly, the biggest advantage a metal lure has is to be able to reach schools hanging a long way off the beach. A lure is heavier, more aerodynamic and durable than a mulie and as a result, can be belted out to sea to reach fish if that's where they're holding.

Double dipping

Starting a session by soaking baits is a great idea. When a school of fish move in on them, you can quickly swap to lures to try and maximise the number of fish caught before they move on. Often the bites are short-lived, so this isn't always successful.

On the flip side, if you walk onto a seemingly featureless beach and have no idea where to start, covering a lot of ground by casting lures can be a good place to begin. After you find a patch of fish you can then focus your attention on them. Even if they're not fired-up, soaking baits in the area and waiting for the fish to come on is likely to end with good results

Article by John Curtis