

REEL TALK



NOVEMBER 2022



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

November 2022 – Reel Talk Contents

Cover	Surfcasters fishing at Preston
2	Contents
3	Club Committee and Life Members
4	President's Report
4	November Birthdays
5	2022 – 2023 Field Days Calendar
6 – 7	Dry Casting Report & Results
8 – 17	November Field Day Report & Results
17 – 20	GUEST AUTHOR - Beware the Sun
20	Demersal fishing season closure

Club Committee for 2022/23

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

PO Box 2056, Marmion WA 6020

President

Martin Wearmouth

0407 301 195

martin.wearmouth@gmail.com

Vice President

Shane Wignell

Treasurer

Vince Tomazin

0417 910 531

treasurer@scac.net.au

Secretary

John Curtis

0412 776 558

secretary@scac.net.au

Reel Talk Editor

Helen Carnell

0456 005 776

Submissions to:

christopherstickells@gmail.com

Dry Casting Officer

Ron Thomas

0407 630 053

dee.ron@bigpond.com

Field Day Officer

Martin Wearmouth

0407 301 195

martin.wearmouth@gmail.com

Recorder

Peet Wessels

Peetwessels@gmail.com

Website Coordinator

Peet Wessels

Committee Persons

Gary Parkinson

Chris Stickells



SCAC Life Members

George Holman, 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, Eric Parker

President's Report - November 2022

I have been advised that George Holman is not doing well and is in hospital; Geoff Raftis has more info if you want any further details. I wish him and his family the best and hope all goes well.

At our Preston field day it was great to see so many members attend, it makes for a great weekend when everyone fishes together. We had a great camp site which meant we could all enjoy the beach and each other's company.

We are in need of some new members so if you know anyone that may like what we do, please invite them to attend any of our events. They do not need to join, just come along and see if they like what we are doing.

Martin Wearmouth; President



November General Meeting

Wednesday 9th November

Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

November Birthdays

Brian Burgess	8 November
David Trainer	13 November
John Crompton	17 November
Terry Fuller	29 November
Martin Wearmouth	30 November



Fishing calendar 2022-2023

Field day venues for 2022/2023

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
26 - 27 November 2022 New moon 24th	Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Jurien Bay and local as below at bottom of page
10 - 11 December 2022 Full moon 8th	Lancelin to Leeman Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Leeman and local as below at bottom of page
21 – 22 January 2023 New moon 22nd	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
4 - 5 February 2023 Full moon 6th	Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Jurien Bay and local as below at bottom of page
4 - 6 March 2023 Long Weekend Full moon 7th	Open – Reef Beach Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
8 – 10 April 2023 Easter Long weekend Full moon 6th	Open - Bluff Creek area 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 6.00am 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.		

Next field day is on the weekend of 26th to 27th November
Boundaries: Lancelin to Jurien Bay and local



*Yesterday, I saw an ad that said:
 'RADIO FOR SALE - \$1, volume stuck on full'*

I thought to myself, 'I can't turn that down'

DRY CASTING REPORT

2ND OCTOBER 2022

I have never in all my life scored under 100 in DHA, but I managed it this month with an 85, that's right 85, I still find it hard to believe, but I don't feel quite so bad when I look at the other scores, two more under 100.

Mark top scored with 131, the best Hendo could do was 122 (these scores are without H/C). Bob top scored in the SHA with 33 well done Hendo.

I tried something different in the 112g cast by casting an 86g sinker instead of a 112g with a good result of 169.15m. If you were lucky, you had a good tail wind in the distance event. Without it, a different proposition. I dropped almost 12m on my second cast because of it, but it was the same for everyone. Hendo dropped 14m in the 112g event. Overall winner for the day with H/C was Mark with 1056.04.

Next casting day will be on **Monday, 7th of November.**

Hope to see you all there.

RON THOMAS D.C.O.

**Dry casting is held once a month at
Perth Polo Club - Meadow St, Guildford WA 6055
Please contact Ron Thomas if you are interested in
joining in**

DRYCASTING RESULTS – 2ND OCTOBER, 2022

	B	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1				DRYCASTING		DATE	2/10/22				
2											
3	VETS	DHA	H/C	SCORE			SHA	H/C	SCORE		TOTAL
4	BOB	122	17	139			33	3	36		175
5											
6	HAL	93	32	125			12	6	18		143
7											
8	KLAUS	86	61	147			23	7	30		177
9											
10	REN	85	13	98			26	0	26		124
11											
12											
13											
14	SENIORS										
15	MARK	131	38	169			20	7	27		196
16											
17		56GR	H/C	SCORE	ART/BAIT	H/C	SCORE	112G	H/C	SCORE	TOTAL
18	BOB	① OUT	—	—	111.93	12	123.93	133.38	23	156.38	
19		② 131.46	8	139.46	106.49	12	118.49	147.89	23	170.89	884.15
20	HAL	① 91.74	57	148.74	78.20	39	117.20	96.39	50	146.39	
21		② 87.19	57	144.19	84.46	39	123.46	104.59	50	154.59	977.57
22	KLAUS	① 89.20	38	127.20	91.28	35	126.28	100.93	53	153.93	
23		② 99.50	38	137.50	86.10	35	121.10	100.26	53	153.26	996.27
24	REN	① 141.12	0	141.12	120.53	0	120.53	169.15	0	169.15	
25		② 146.65	0	146.65	121.58	0	121.58	157.77	0	157.77	980.80
26	MARK	① 113.80	31	144.80	97.50	32	129.50	122.58	39	161.58	
27		② 117.23	31	148.23	87.03	32	119.03	117.90	39	156.90	1056.04
28											
29											
30		OVERALL	WINNER	WITH	H/C	MARK					
31											
32											

Surf Casters October Field Day 2022 Preston

By Martin Wearmouth

I headed off early on Saturday morning for the drive to Preston beach, as I got to the freeway light rain started to fall but by the time I arrived at the beach car park the sun was out and the wind was light, and hopes were high for a nice weekend on the beach.

Peet, Sandra, Oliver, Morris and Norm arrived in the car park about 2 minutes after me and after letting down our tyres we drove onto the beach. The water looked very good with only a little bit of seaweed on the beach and the beach was easy to drive with no hazards to negotiate, so we drove north to the 10km mark and found Vince, Dave, Rob, Dom and Carmel who had arrived earlier and already started fishing.



Water looked good but the seaweed was hiding

We all set up and started fishing; there were a lot of bites but mainly small fish and most of those were undersize Tarwhine. There was some seaweed lying in the wave break and it slowly got worse over the day; you needed to stand close to the water and hold your line out of the breaking waves so the seaweed did not pull the line into a big clump. It seemed to just sit there and the light winds did not move it.



After 10am I had a good bite and pulled in a 38cm Tailor, and lost one on the next cast then it went quite with the small fish taking over again. Gary arrived at 12pm and started fishing, I took a break and made some lunch enjoying the afternoon sun and light winds. Not much was caught and most of us fished for a while then rested and chatted with each other; this makes a great day when you have a good group on the beach all enjoying each others company and helping each other.

At 1.40pm I had another good bite and landed a 39cm Tailor; in the next 3 casts I landed 2 more Tailor 37cm and 40cm, then lost a couple when the fish spat the hooks, but that was it and no one else managed to catch any. The seaweed was getting worse and we all hoped it would clear' at 4pm Vince and I decided to move and see if we could find some better spots without seaweed.

We packed up and headed north, Gary also packed up and headed south as he was not staying the night. We drove about 1km north and I saw a spot that looked OK so I cast in and found no sea weed. Morris and Norm came too, arriving 15 minutes after us. There were a lot less little fish and the baits stayed on longer but so much better to not have seaweed, as I could leave the line out and relax.



It took a while but at 5pm I had 2 small 35cm and 40cm Mulloway which went straight back in. I had also caught a small Mulloway in the morning and after talking to the others most had also landed small Mulloway; hopefully this is a sign that in a few years we may have some decent size fish. At 5.30 I landed a 33cm Tailor but there was a lot of water between bites, just as the sun went down Morris landed a Tailor then Norm but that was it for us that night. We fished till 7pm but with nothing happening we headed back to the rest of the group to camp for the night.

When we got back Dom had a nice camp fire going so after setting up my stretcher tent I too joined everyone around the fire. Well, I think it was the best fire we have ever had, maybe because we had a great group of us enjoying it and maybe because the weather was so good, only having light winds all day.

We all sat enjoying the fire until one by one we all went to bed hoping in the morning the seaweed would be gone. I woke up at 6am and started fishing and no seaweed, so I could leave the rod in the holder and sit down on my chair; this is my favourite type of fishing, to let the fish hook itself. Again, mainly small Tarwhine but I managed a Trumpeter and 2 undersize Tailor before packing the car to go home.



Our camp in the dunes

Everyone packed up and we made our way back to the car park, most with smiles even if the fishing was not great, we had good weather and fantastic camaraderie so what more can you want.

So we had some contenders for a world record bunch of seaweed with Sandra taking a photo of Rob holding what most thought was the biggest, not a record you want but sometimes you just have to see the funny side of things. Well done to all those that attended and thanks for a fantastic weekend; I hope to see you all on the beach next month.



Ron fished at Wilbinga and also had issues with seaweed but found the tailor on Saturday and Sunday morning when the seaweed was less due to the lighter winds, he also lost a couple of decent fish when the seaweed made it hard to keep the pressure on the line.

Mark fished Saturday afternoon until sunset at Drakesbrook Dam in Waroona, had no bites until 5.30 when he caught a 30 cm Rainbow trout and three Redfin perch at 21cm, 20cm , 20cm.



Dom with his Tailor



Morris with his Tailor



Martin with his Tailor



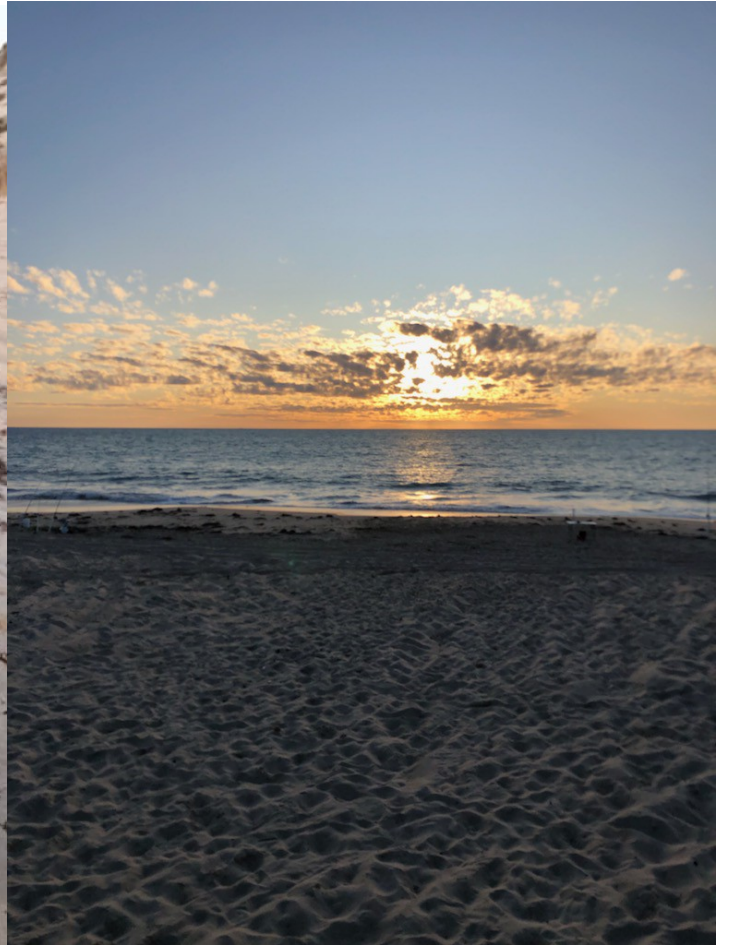
Norm with his Tailor



Oliver fishing



Rob with his record seaweed clump



You can not beat a sunset like this on the beach



Our fishing group (thanks to Vince for the photo)





A great night around the camp fire

Surf Casters October Field Day 2022 Fishing results

ANGLER		Species Tailor	Species Herring Australian	Species Flathead (all species)	Species Whiting	Species Trumpeter - Grunter striped	Species Shark Wobbegongs	Species Trout Rainbow	Species Redfin	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points
														Field Day	General Meeting	
Ron Thomas	Number	16	1	1						10.44	3	18	152.4	1		162.4
	Total weight	9.85	0.20	0.39												
	Weight of best															
Martin Wearmouth	Number	5			1	1				2.51	3	7	62.1	1	1	82.1
	Total weight	2.31			0.10	0.10										
	Weight of best															
Peet Wessels	Number		1	1		2				0.80	3	4	42.0	1	1	62.0
	Total weight		0.15	0.35		0.30										
	Weight of best															
Mark Hansen	Number							1	3	1.10	2	4	35.0	1	1	55.0
	Total weight							0.50	0.60							
	Weight of best															
Sandra Wessels	Number						1			1.50	1	1	26.0	1	1	46.0
	Total weight						1.50									
	Weight of best															
Vince Tomazin	Number		1		1					0.30	2	2	25.0	1	1	45.0
	Total weight		0.15		0.15											
	Weight of best															
Morris Kolman	Number	1								0.45	1	1	15.5	1	1	35.5
	Total weight	0.45														
	Weight of best															
Norm Vojdinoski	Number	1								0.45	1	1	15.5	1	1	35.5
	Total weight	0.45														
	Weight of best															
Dom Zangari	Number	2								0.90	1	2	21.0	1		31.0
	Total weight	0.90														
	Weight of best															
David Wilding	Number				1					0.20	1	1	13.0	1	1	33.0
	Total weight				0.20											
	Weight of best															
Gary Parkinson	Number													1	1	20.0
	Total weight															
	Weight of best															
Robert Wilding	Number													1	1	20.0
	Total weight															
	Weight of best															
Oliver Wessels	Number													1		10.0
	Total weight															
	Weight of best															

Top scores up to October		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Peet Wessels	843.4
2	Martin Wearmouth	837.1
3	Ron Thomas	705.2
4	Mark Hansen	633.3
5	Theo Van Niekerk	436.3
6	David Wessels	383.0
7	Alan Green	341.7
8	Gary Parkinson	312.7
9	Tino Baiardo	239.4
10	Vince Tomazin	217.6
11	Brad Zaknich	209.3
12	Sandra Wessels	188.8
13	Norm Vojdinoski	119.0
14	George Matrakis	95.3
15	Ian Taggart	90.2
16	Morris Kolman	73.6
17	Sabby Pizzolante	63.0
18	David Wilding	33.0
19	Dom Zangari	31.0
20	Paul Terpkos	22.3
21	Robert Wilding	20.0
22	Oliver Wessels	10.0
23	Stuart Waterman	10.0

Field day prizes for October				
Section		Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish		Ron Thomas	Tailor	0.82
Best bag of scale fish		Ron Thomas		10.44
Best shark		Sandra Wessels	Shark Wobbegongs	1.50
Best bag including sharks				
Field Day Sections up to and including October				
Section		Angler	Species	Weight
1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Ron Thomas	Gold Spot Trevally	8.06
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)	Peet Wessels	Shark Wobbegongs	12.00
4	Best mulloway (2kg min)	0	0	0.00
5	Best tailor (1kg min)	Ron Thomas	Tailor	1.58
6	Best salmon (3kg min)	Alan Green	Salmon Western Australian	4.44
7	Best skipjack trevally (0.5 kg min)	Mark Hansen	Trevally Silver Skippy	1.96
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)	Ron Thomas	Estury Cod	4.46
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	0	27.58
12	Best bag of mulloway (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Ron Thomas	Wilbinga October 2022	9.85
14	Best fish on single handed rod (max 4kg line)	Martin Wearmouth	Leatherjacket	0.95
15	Best fish caught on fly rod	0	0	0.00
16	Best fish on single handed rod, soft plastic lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
17	Best fish on single handed rod, hard body lure (max 4kg line)	0	0	0.00
18	Best fish caught using a drone	0	0	0.00

Open fishing competition 2022/23

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2022 and 30 April 2023, 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 weight	Entry
1	Most meritorious capture	None	To be awarded by Committee
2	Best Shark	4.5 kg	
3	Best Mulloway	4 kg	
4	Best Salmon	3.5kg	
5	Best Dhufish	4 kg	
6	Best Tailor	1 kg	
7	Best Samson fish	2 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)	0.5 kg	
13	Best Trevally (northern)	2 kg	
14	Best Flathead	0.5 kg	
15	Best Black or Yellow finned Bream	0.5 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	

BEWARE THE SUN

Sun Protection Is Vitally Important for Australian Anglers
by Dr David Green

Fisherman spend more time in the sun than most. Australia's incidence of malignant melanoma is the highest in the world, and for fair skinned Australians from European background the risks of prolonged sun exposure are extremely high. Unfortunately, mis-spent days in younger years commonly manifest themselves decades later in the form of a variety of skin cancers. The tragedy, particularly of melanoma, is that it affects large numbers of young productive people.

There is considerable evidence that the problems of solar exposure and latent cancer production is getting worse. The depletion of the ozone layer and a host of other factors may well manifest themselves as a melanoma problem of immense proportion in future years. If you fish, you are at risk. The more exposure you get, the higher your chances. Skin, just like lungs, kidneys and bowels, is an organ. You have to look after it. The sun is to skin what smoking is to your lungs.

A lot of public awareness campaigns have, over the last decade, changed the way we approach solar protection. Slip, slop, slap is a good motto. Fishermen, especially those in uncompromising sun rich environments such as Western Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory, require extra protection. There are many products on the market that offer great protection yet are rarely used.

Areas of great risk include the back of the hands, the eyes, the back of the neck and tips of noses and ears. Repetitively burning these areas is a one-way passport to future health problems.

Preparation

Sunburn can be extremely serious in this acute form. In hospitals from time to time, staff see people who, for various strange reasons, (e.g. drunk, or 'just arrived from England', or 'I thought it was sunblock but it was insect repellent'), fall asleep on the beach. A day later they arrive in hospital looking like a beetroot and are dehydrated, blistered and extremely unwell. Sunburn, like any other thermal injury, is potentially serious. The worst cases require intravenous fluids for several days and may slough off huge layers of skin. Never dismiss sunburn as a trivial injury.

Preparation involves protective creams and lotions, hats, clothing and sunglasses. It is a good idea to make sure you have an emergency back-up of a spare hat and sunscreen kept in your tackle box as well.

Sunscreens and Barriers

Sunscreens offer good but limited protection from solar exposure but are, alone, insufficient to protect from long term damage in situations of prolonged exposure. They should be regarded as essential protection for areas that cannot be protected by solar protective clothing.

In my personal opinion, the ideal sunscreen should have the following characteristics:

- *It should be SPF 50+ and conform to the Australian Standard for Sunscreens (AS 2604) - read the fine print on the bottle.*
- *It should be easy and simple to apply and store.*
- *It should not affect things such as camera or sunglass lenses or plastics.*
- *It should be water resistant for at least two hours.*
- *It should not be irritant to the eyes when it invariably mixes with sweat and runs down your face.*
- *It should be economical and be available in large containers for constant use.*
- *It should preferably have a mixture of active ingredients including both Cinnamates and Oxybenzones.*

After studying various ingredients in sunscreens, I use an economical product bought in Woolworths and known as 'Au Screen Ultrablock'. This product conforms to Australian Standards and contains Octyl Methoxycinnamate, Oxybenzone and Butyl Methoxydibenzoylmethane. This combination of ingredients gives good protection against UVA and UVB rays.

Ultra block lotion comes in big bottles which is handy when you've got a large family to cover from head to foot. There are dozens of sunscreens available and most fisherman develop their own personal preferences. Make sure your product complies to Australian Standards and look for products with multiple active ingredients.

Get into a routine with sunscreen. To be effective it must be applied at least 15 minutes before exposure. I apply it just after a shower. Areas commonly missed are the backs of hands, inside of wrists and the front of the neck (particularly with V neck shirts).

Sunscreens are like an undercoat. Without them you will definitely burn, but their protection is time limited. Barrier creams and peel off plasticized compounds are the next coat. Zinc cream is an excellent way to protect areas such as your nose and lips. It forms a reflective barrier. Zinc cream can be quite messy but is extremely effective in forming a protective barrier on the lower

lip and tip of nose, two areas commonly not protected well by peaked hats.

An alternative to zinc creams is available that dries on and forms a plastic skin. This is less messy, when dry, and at the end of the day you can have the thrill of peeling off an exact replica of your own nose. These creams are available in a variety of bright colours. In use I found them reasonably effective, but scratching an itchy nose causes the plastic skin to drop off. It is also difficult to remove from clothing when in its paste stage.

Protective Hats

Far too many anglers use inadequate hats that do not protect the back of the, neck or the side of the face at all. Short peaked caps may make you look trendy but are almost useless in preventing solar exposure except for a small area around the eyes and bridge of the nose. Boating anglers in particular have a lot of exposure to wind. Windage makes wearing wide brimmed floppy hats difficult, and it is hard to find a hat that is easy to wear when you are travelling fast out at sea. This problem commonly leads to increased sun exposure because the hat tends to come off as soon as the boat goes fast.

For stiff hats the sun protection afforded is directly proportional to the width of the brim. Avoid hats that let a lattice of light through the weave onto the face. Cheap wide brimmed straw hats as recommended by the Australian Cancer Council are as good as any and are comfortable to wear. In recent years cloth style hats with panels covering the sides of the face and back of the neck have become available. For the fisherman, it is very hard to go past this type of hat.

This style of hat is an excellent sun protective product. It has a reasonable sized peak and a long drape. It is extremely easy to fit and wear. One size fits all. Unlike rigid hat designs, they are also easy to store and fit easily in most tackle boxes. Although they may not be considered by many a major fashion statement, they provide excellent sun protection and are a worthwhile investment.

Perhaps the most sun protective headgear of all is the Sunlidz, a rather unique product made in Queensland. Sunlidz come in various models but are basically a lycra balaclava with a large (11.5cm) cellular foam peak. Sunlidz are rated SPF 50+ and provide almost total protection. Their biggest drawback is that a lot of people won't wear such unusual fashions for fear of ridicule by their mates.

Sun Protective Shirts and Pants

The best fishing shirts for tropical Australia are cool, light in colour and have long sleeves. Old business shirts will sometimes do at a pinch, but very thin weaves often let through a significant amount of ultraviolet light.

Over the past six months I have been using Kokoda outdoor UV protective shirts. These are long sleeved with a good collar and have gusseted cool protective panels sewn in under the arms. They are quite cool to wear and I can strongly recommend them as a good, Australian made, sun protective product.

When buying shirts for fishing, look for material that is loose, has a high sun protective factor and is easy to clean. Make sure you use sunscreen in the unprotected areas, particularly around the collar line. Melanomas sometimes have a tendency to appear in areas of solar damage that are constantly rubbed by collars and clothing.

Long pants also provide much better protection. Remember that your skin's surface area on your legs is over a third of your total body surface area and it must be protected. Loose cotton weave long pants are ideal to wear in tropical fishing environments (e.g., barra fishing).

Short pants are potentially high-risk clothing with prolonged use. Also remember to put sunblock on ankles and feet or wear socks and shoes.

Sun Gloves

The back of the hands tend to get prolonged maximal sun exposure in most fishermen. It is extremely common to see skin cancers, particularly squamous cell carcinomas, arising from skin damage on the exterior surface of the hand. Sun block may offer reasonable protection, but sun gloves are better. Sun Gloves are a fingerless glove that fits via a series of finger straps over the back of the hand. They are easy to get used to, don't get in the way, and offer great protection for what is really one of the most valuable parts of our anatomy.

General Rules

Firstly, if you take your kids fishing, you are totally responsible for their sun protection. Letting a kid get burnt is dangerous and irresponsible, and there is evidence that serious sunburn in childhood significantly increases the risk of melanoma in later life.

Get into a routine with your skin protection. Keep spare hats and sunscreen in your vehicle. Buy long sleeved clothing and have a look at Araphats and similar hats.

If you have a suspicious looking skin lesion, get it checked out by a competent medical practitioner. Don't sit and stare at something for a few months while a malignant disease potentially gets worse. Melanoma is easily cured if treated early.

Above all, don't take the sun for granted. It is the greatest potential danger faced by regular fisherman, and every episode of sunburn is an avoidable injury that goes into the radiation bank of life.

DEMERSAL FISHING SEASON CLOSURE

West Coast demersal finfish closed season 15 October – 15 December (inclusive)

The take or landing of demersal finfish is prohibited within the West Coast Bioregion during this period. If you catch a demersal finfish from a boat or from shore in this area during the closed season you must return it the water as soon as possible. A comprehensive list of demersal species affected by the closure is available [here](https://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Recreational-Fishing/Recreational-Fishing-Rules/West-Coast-Bioregion/Pages/Demersal-closure-species.aspx) (<https://www.fish.wa.gov.au/Fishing-and-Aquaculture/Recreational-Fishing/Recreational-Fishing-Rules/West-Coast-Bioregion/Pages/Demersal-closure-species.aspx>).

Unlike the Cockburn Sound pink snapper closure and the Abrolhos Island baldchin groper closure, which are designed to protect aggregations of spawning fish, the demersal finfish closure is one of several management measures to reduce the recreational catch in this area by at least 50 per cent. This reduction was required following independently reviewed research that showed demersal species, like dhufish, pink snapper and baldchin groper, were being overfished.

The closure is aimed at protecting all demersal species caught in the West Coast Bioregion – whether they are caught frequently or only occasionally. It is an important measure in assisting with their recovery.

Fishers, therefore, must not fish for demersal finfish in the West Coast Bioregion during the closure to ensure its effectiveness. If you catch a demersal finfish from a boat or from shore in this area during the closed season you must return it to the water immediately.

There are many other sustainable fishing options to try out at this time of year such as fishing for squid and whiting – see Recfishwest's [website](https://recfishwest.org.au/) (<https://recfishwest.org.au/>) for more details.