

REEL TALK



SEPTEMBER
2022





Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

September 2022 : Reel Talk Contents

Cover	Mark Hansen & Peet Wessels big Rottnest Smiles
	Contents
	Club Committee and Life Members
4	President's Report
4	September Birthdays
5	2022 – 2023 Field Days calendar
6	Dry Casting Report
7 – 12	Fishing Field Day Report
13 – 15	Fishing Results
15	FOR SALE: Bucket sinker moulds
16 – 17	Recipes
17 – 18	Restoring the kelp forests
18 – 20	Fishing for Mulloway

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*Vic Davis, Doug Edward, Lloyd Dunn, Dudley Brown, Noel Knight, Les Shand, Ron Kildahl,
Bob Klein, Jim Strong, Eric Parker*

President's Report - September 2022

I think the most talked about fishing subject in the last few weeks is the proposed demersal fishing ban. I have written to 3 politicians from the club asking for a better option, please if you can write a letter to your local member,

Having just returned from our Rottnest trip and seeing 3 pink snapper get landed in a spot we normally do not catch them seems to indicate that they are making a come back, lets hope we are not banned from fishing for them for 9 months.

Thanks also for those that attended our General meeting last month. All positions are filled again and most are continuing from last year, but thanks to Helen for taking on the Reel Talk and Membership coordinator.

Martin Wearmouth; President



September General Meeting

Wednesday 14th September

Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

September Birthdays

Morris Kolman	5 September
Elana Kolman	6 September
Helen Carnell	9 September
Peet Wessels	20 September
Sabby Pizzolante	27 September



Fishing calendar 2022-2023

Field day venues for 2022/2023		
Dates	Venue	Boundaries
24 - 26 September 2022 Long Weekend New moon 26th	Open – Dongara area Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
22 - 23 October 2022 New moon 25th	Yallingup to Preston Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Yallingup to Preston and local as below at bottom of page
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 Rottnest – Saturday 6.00am Lines up for long weekends and Rottnest – 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 long weekend of
24th-26th September
Open anywhere in WA

DRY CASTING REPORT

Dry casting in August was postponed due to lack of attendance.



One of the many whales that put on a show as we fished – Quobba, July 2022

THE FENCEPOST TURTLE



When you see a turtle balanced on top of a fencepost:

You know he didn't get up there by himself;

He definitely doesn't belong up there;

He doesn't know what to do while he is up there; and you just got to wonder

What kind of dill put him up there in the first place!

Before you say you've never seen a fencepost turtle... think about it...

**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**

Surf Casters August 2022 Rottnest field day report

By Martin Wearmouth

12 Surf Casters met on Friday afternoon at the Fremantle ferry terminal for our trip over to Rottnest, with a very poor weather forecast we spoke of options to fish the northern side of the island due the strong southerly winds and big swell, the trip over on Friday was not too bad as the weather was not due in till Saturday morning so the boat ride was smooth and we quickly arrived on Rottnest.

We collected our fishing rod tubes and accommodation keys and headed to the bungalows, for the first time ever the luggage arrived before us, as we found out over the next few days all the staff seemed to be new, but on the luggage side no complaints very fast delivery.

Once again Friday was Pizza night thanks to Sabby and his Mum, this has been a big attraction for the last few years, the Pizza is home made and delicious and in no time everyone had a full belly and was relaxing before going to bed ready for fishing on Saturday.



Riceys beach

On Saturday morning we woke and checked the weather forecast hoping it had changed but no such luck, with 40 km SW winds and a 3m swell our favoured Radar reef fishing spot was not looking good, David had a morning fish near Pinkys beach and managed a pike and herring before we got picked up by the bus at 11am, the bus driver was also new and I had to almost beg to get a bakery stop on our way out, we did make the stop with strict instructions to be quick due to the bus having other commitments at 12pm.

After a quick look at Radar reef and seeing the rolling waves and getting almost blown over by the wind we moved back to Riceys beach on the northern side, we unpacked our gear from the bus and all headed down to try and find a spot to fish, I started on the beach but it was very windy and cold, with no bites for the first 30 minutes, I moved up and down the beach until I got some small bites, after only landing a wrasse in 1 ½ hours I decided to move to the western side and onto the rocks where Brad and Mark were fishing.

I started with a float rig but had to cast as far as possible to some deeper water, the reef in front of the rocks was quite shallow for 30 meters but as the high rocks gave some wind protection and your cast was with the wind behind you it was possible to cast into the deeper water, it did not take long to get some wrasse and a herring, a lot more bites here and a lot warmer out of the howling wind.



Bakery stop in bus

I settled into this spot and managed a few wrasse and herring before getting a good bite and the fish pulling some drag, I worked it into the rocks and with Brad's help lifted up a 1.05kg Leather jacket, this is the biggest one I had ever seen and on checking the club records that night found out it does beat the existing record of 1kg also caught at Rottneest, I did release the fish after removing the hook and getting the weight, Brad took a photo of me with the fish but that night I found that none of the camera photos taken that day had saved to the memory 😞.

Brad, Mark and I fished this spot for most of the day, Brad sent our a mulie under a float and got a good hook up but lost it due to a earlier tangle in the braided line, Brad and I had earlier got tangled and the tangle was maybe 40m from the rig so most of the time on the reel but when this fish loaded up the tangle was just off the rod tip and as soon as it loaded up the braid broke, I think we both learnt a lesson that with braid make sure to cut the line if a tangle can not be taken out then retie the rig.

I had lost a float rig after a fish had reefed me earlier in the day, while fishing I started to reel in and seemed to get snagged but it quickly released and then I could feel a fish, I got it into the rocks and could see 2 floats and soon realised I had hooked up onto the rig I lost earlier but as Brad helped me lift it up onto the rocks we could see one of the hooks on the new rig had gone through the swivel eye on the lost rig, This was quite amazing and to top off the rig retrieval the old rig had 2 wrasse on it and one was 1kg, this must have been the fish that took me into the reef earlier and caused me to loose the rig.

We fished this spot till almost dark and Tino had also moved onto this spot, he yelled out that Peet had caught a 56cm 1.2kg King George whiting at the beach near us and as we moved back to the beach we got a look at it and what an impressive fish well done Peet.

With our rock spot was really only best for a float and it would be hard to fish in the dark so Brad and I moved back to the beach to finish the day but no fish or even any bites so we packed up about 6.30pm and went to wait for the bus, as we waited it rained and the wind was still 40kmh so it was a cold wait, on arrival back at the bungalow it was a very enjoyable hot shower and hot meal then off to bed.

Ian, Paul and Brad decided to head home on Sunday so did not fish.



Water looking very angry

Sunday we all decided to go to Radar reef the wind forecast was much better with 15 to 20km Southerly winds but the swell was 3.5-4m so still not great, on arrival at west end the white water at Wilsons bay was massive so everyone went down to Radar reef area, I started to the north of tennis courts and Mark also fished this area, I again went for the float rig and was getting some bites straight away, quickly landing a couple of Herring, the Herring seemed to be on the bite but a lot of fish got off the hook in the rough water as I tried to reel them in.



I fished this spot for an hour, Tino had also started to fish this spot and also landed a few Herring, then we saw that David had landed a nice 2kg Pink Snapper down at the flat rock in front of tennis courts, not too long after Sandra landed a bigger Pink Snapper so I decided to move and join them, I started with the float rig and managed a few more herring, the water was very stirred up and murky compared to other trips so this must have attracted the Pink Snapper.

Not long after Mark landed a 3.15kg Pink Snapper at the spot he was fishing to the north, at this spot he had a flat shallow reef jutting out maybe 6 meters so he had to get it up over this then lift it maybe another 5 meters up the rocks to where he was fishing, a very impressive achievement well done Mark this was a great fish to pull out of that location.

Over the afternoon 7 of us shared this small rock at tennis courts Peet, Sandra, David, Theo, Vince, Sabby and me, taking turns to cast and over the afternoon we had a few species taken Pink Snapper, Skippy, Herring, Breaksea cod, Wirrah, Leatherjacket, Buff Bream and of cause Wrasse, as it approached sunset we all change to a mulie rig hoping for a run of Yellowtail Kingfish and Skippy, well just after dark we all managed some nice Skippy as they came in and started feeding, Theo started the action with a nice 1.4kg specimen and everyone had a smile as the rods bent over.

Mark again from his high rock fishing spot pulled out a 2kg Skippy along with 2 others over 1kg, we all packed up about 7pm and made our way up to the bus pick up spot ready for our 8pm pick up, no rain this time and also not as much wind so a lot nicer wait, once back at the bungalows we again enjoyed a hot shower and meal before heading to bed.

So due to the weather we could not go and fish on Radar reef, but again a great trip thanks to the people, everyone had some time to socialise and enjoy some Rotto relaxation.

Ron fished at Hill River on Saturday and Sunday catching a great bag of Tailor with one being 1.76kg, also 7 other species so a great effort for this location.

Gary went to Preston but could not fish due to a lot of sea weed.





Mark with his 3.15kg snapper



Peet with his 1.2kg King George Whiting



David with his snapper



Sandra's snapper



Martin with skippy



Theo ready for action



Sabby ready for action



Vince ready for action

ANGLER		Species	Snapper Pink	Species	Trevally Silver Skippy	Species	Herring Australian	Species	Whiting King George	Species	Wrasse Western King	Species	Wrasse Brown Spotted	Species	Wrasse Green	Species	Wrasse seven banded	Species	Breaksea Cod	Species	Tarwhine	Species	Sharks Wobbegongs	Species	Wirrah	Species	Buffalo Bream - Silver Drummer	Species	Sweep Banded	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance		Total points	
		Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Number	Total weight	Weight of best	Field Day	General Meeting	
Peet Wessels					3	2.66	0.26	2	1	16	2	0.40	0.20	1	1	0.20	0.20		1	0.40	0.40	1	1	12.00	0.90	1	5.00				23.50	11	15	360.0	1	1	380.0
Mark Hansen			1		3		14				2		1		12		1													12.85	8	35	243.5	1	1	263.5	
		Species	Trevally Silver Skippy	Species	Herring Australian	Species	Whiting	Species	Tailor	Species	Pike	Species	Flathead (all species)	Species	Butterfish Western	Species	Tarwhine																				
Ron Thomas			2		6		2		16		1		3		1		1													12.33	8	32	235.3	1	1	255.3	
		Species	Snapper Pink	Species	Trevally Silver Skippy	Species	Herring Australian	Species	Wrasse Western King	Species	Wrasse Brown Spotted	Species	Wrasse Green	Species	Breaksea Cod	Species	Leatherjacket	Species	Trumpeter Sea	Species	Pike	Species	Western Rock Blackfish	Species	Wirrah												
Martin Wearmouth					2	1.80	1.69	7	1	1	6	1	0.20	0.20	0.50	1	1	0.95						2	1.80				9.69	8	21	197.9	1	1	217.9		
David Wessels			1		1		1				10				1		1				1								5.71	7	16	143.1	1		153.1		
Sandra Wessels			1		1				1		1		1		1		1		2										4.48	7	8	122.8	1	1	142.8		
Theo Van Niekerk					4		1				1		1		2				2										5.99	6	11	130.9	1		140.9		
																			0.40																		
Sabby Pizzolante					3		4																						2.60	2	7	53.0	1		63.0		
Vince Tomazin					1																		1						0.98	2	2	31.8	1	1	51.8		
																							0.20														
Tino Baiardo							9																						1.17	1	9	30.7	1	1	50.7		
Brad Zaknich							3				2																		0.79	2	5	32.9	1		42.9		
Paul Terpkos							1																						0.13	1	1	12.3	1		22.3		
Ian Taggart																																					
Gary Parkinson																																					
																			</																		

Top scores up to August		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Peet Wessels	781.4
2	Martin Wearmouth	574.6
3	Mark Hansen	543.8
4	Ron Thomas	542.8
5	Theo Van Niekerk	436.3
6	Alan Green	302.9
7	David Wessels	287.9
8	Tino Baiardo	239.4
9	Gary Parkinson	221.1
10	Brad Zaknich	209.3
11	Vince Tomazin	172.6
12	Sandra Wessels	142.8
13	George Matrakis	95.3
14	Ian Taggart	90.2
15	Nom Vojdinoski	83.5
16	Sabby Pizzolante	63.0
17	Paul Terpkos	22.3

Field day prizes for August			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Mark Hansen	Snapper Pink	2.87
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels		23.50
Best shark	Peet Wessels	Shark Wobbeongs	12.00
Best bag including sharks	Peet Wessels		23.50

Field Day Sections up to and including August				
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 Wobbeongs	12.00
4	Best mullet (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 Skipper	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	Estuary Cod	4.46
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	0	27.58
12	Best bag of mullet (2 fish min)	0	0	0.00
13	Best bag of tailor (2 fish min)	Theo Van Niekerk	0	9.60
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

FOR SALE



Bucket sinker moulds, set of 6

\$90

If interested contact

Victor Schilo

0413 152 550

victor@schilogroup.com

SINKER POURING WORKSHOP

John Curtis will be hosting a sinker pouring night on Friday 16th September. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to John for catering purposes.

Open fishing competition 2022/23 – DON'T FORGET TO ENTER THE OPEN

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	

Recipes

THOUSAND ISLAND DRESSING

Here is a tasty recipe to make your own thousand island dressing at home using simple, easy to find ingredients. We even tested it for quality assurance! Recipe adapted from https://www.simplyrecipes.com/recipes/thousand_island_dressing/

Ingredients & Method

1 cup mayonnaise

2 tablespoons tomato sauce

1 teaspoon lemon juice

½ teaspoon sweet paprika

Measure all ingredients in a small bowl and combine.



TARTARE SAUCE



Ingredients:

To 250 ml homemade mayonnaise or commercial mayonnaise add the following:

2 tablespoons parsley, finely chopped

1 gherkin, finely chopped

1 tablespoon capers, finely chopped

1 tablespoon onion, grated or finely chopped

CRISPY FISH BATTER

Ingredients

1 cup self-raising flour

½ tsp salt

250 ml soda water, or beer (cold)

1000 ml vegetable oil, for deep frying

1 kg boneless fish fillets, halved.



Method

Combine flour and salt in a bowl. Make a well in the centre. Gradually add soda water or beer, using a whisk to stir until well combined.

Add oil to large saucepan or wok. Heat over medium heat to 190°C (when oil is ready, a cube of bread turns golden brown in 10 seconds).

Dip 4 pieces of fish, one at a time, into batter to evenly coat and deep-fry for 3 - 4 minutes or until crisp and golden. Transfer to a plate lined with paper towel. Repeat with remaining fish pieces, reheating the oil between batches.

SALT AND PEPPER SQUID



Prep Time; 20 min; Barbeque Time; 5 min; Serves 6

Ingredients

800 grams squid hoods, cleaned (4x200g hoods)

1¼ tablespoon olive oil

1 lime, cut into wedges

Seasoning

1¼ teaspoon Sichuan peppercorns

1¼ teaspoon black peppercorns

6 teaspoons rice flour

¾ teaspoon garlic powder

4½ teaspoons sea salt

Chilli Sauce

4 red chillies, finely chopped (seeds included)

1 garlic clove, crushed

¼ cup sugar

¼ cup water

½ cup white wine vinegar

1 tablespoon soy sauce

Method:

To make the chilli sauce; combine all the sauce ingredients in a saucepan. Simmer over high heat for approximately 10 minutes, or until the liquid has reduced by half. Set aside until required.

Prepare the barbecue for direct cooking over high heat (230°C to 290°C).

Using a mortar and pestle, separately crush the Sichuan and black peppercorns, and then add to a small bowl. Add the remaining seasoning ingredients to the small bowl, stir to combine.

To prepare the squid; cut each squid hood in half lengthways. Score the inside of the flesh in a cross-hatch pattern. Cut the squid into 1.5cm strips. Pat dry with paper towel and add to a large bowl. Add the olive oil to the squid and toss to coat. Then coat the squid with the seasoning, adding the seasoning gradually while tossing, to evenly coat the squid.

Once the barbecue has preheated, brush the cooking grills clean. Place the squid onto the cooking grill, ensuring the pieces are not overlapping. Grill the squid over direct high heat for 1 minute, or until golden. Flip the squid over and grill for a further 30 seconds, or until cooked through. Serve the squid immediately with the chilli sauce and lime wedges.

Tips:

Sichuan peppercorns can be found at large supermarkets or Asian grocers.

If you like peppery heat, add an extra ½ teaspoon of Sichuan and ½ teaspoon of black peppercorns.

It is important that your cooking grill is preheated, hot and cleaned for best results.

If the squid has turned golden but is sticking a little, use a metal spatula to ease it off the cooking grill.

Restoring the kelp forests

By Chris Stickells

Recently, I have been attending a series of presentations by UWA on habitat restoration. The last one was discussing the restoration of kelp forests.

Kelp forests globally have been in decline for the last 100 years or so. Some of the reasons for this include:

- Over harvesting;
- Coastal development;
- Marine heat waves;
- Changes in predictor numbers; and
- Pollution.

For example, in 2018 a marine heatwave wiped out a known area of kelp forest covering about 1000km.



Some of the benefits of kelp forests include:

- Carbon dioxide sequestration (extracting CO₂ from the atmosphere and storing it);
- Marine biodiversity;
- Coastal defence;
- Filtering water; and
- Increased food production.

Once these ecosystems have been reduced in population, their recovery can be difficult due to:

- Poor recruitment of new kelps – the lack of genetic base and other environmental factors reduces the success of the kelp spawn surviving;
- Lack of breeding populations;
- Other marine algae moving into areas inhabited by kelp; and
- New plants being over-grazed by kelp eating fish, which is a result of a lack of predators keeping the population of these fish in check.

Attempts to restore these kelp forests by seeding green-gravel and transplanting fragments on to special mats have seen limited reproduction and recruitment, due to the kelp's need for being able to root into a substrate. Monoculture plantations are also vulnerable to heat waves and diseases which limit the success rate of these projects. Research into other species of kelp from different areas that can tolerate heat and other limiting factors are currently being researched.

Kelp forests used to be common – they were found on ¼ of the world's coastlines. One of the richest and least known of these areas is the Great Southern Reef off the south coast of Australia, stretching approximately 8000km. Much more research is needed to help restore these ecosystems.

FISHING FOR MULLOWAY

By John Curtis



Fishing for mulloway is 80% effort and 20% skill, it's all about putting in the hours, finding the fish and developing a successful method of catching them. With Summer just around the corner it is now time to start fishing for this species.

Finding Them

Now this one you're going to have to be on your own! Why? Because mullet fishermen spend a very long time searching for these fish and very rarely give away their 'favourite spot', so you're going to have to develop the skills to search for these fish yourself, and learn to identify what I like to call a mullet's 'game trail'.

Finding mullet starts at the very bottom, at the beginning of the food chain, these fish feed in small periods over a few hours, you might have a few runs over a 5 minute period, then nothing for hours, that's just how it goes.

Being a lazy fish they will find the most efficient way to feed, sucking up small fish rather than trying to hunt down larger prey. 20 poddy mullet makes a much better and easier meal for a mullet than a single 40 cm mullet. Hiding around structure, in holes and throughout channels, they will use the tide to their advantage and 'herd' their prey into their holes, smashing them in groups at a time.

What To Look For

- Holes
- Drop offs
- Gutters
- Active schools of baitfish (darting around, jumping etc)
- Good tidal flow
- Murky, deep or discoloured water

Getting Started

Once you've found a spot that looks promising, it's time to put on the patience hat and spend the time hitting your area. You could hook up on your first trip, or you could start figuring out how to get takes by the time you've spent a collective 200 hours of fishing. Either way, there will be plenty of waiting going on, so get used to it!

Fish as light as you can, almost as if you're targeting giant bream, the smaller the sinker, the better, and the lighter the leader, the better (although for larger fish you may need 60 or even an 80 lb leader to turn their heads in structure-heavy systems) such as the wharves in Fremantle Harbour.

Rigs

Bait fishing is by far the most common and easiest method of catching these magnificent fish, the standard rig consists of a running sinker, followed by a leader of about 50 – 100 cm and twin snelled hooks. Some people prefer the 'stinger' (back hook) to be one size smaller than the standard hooks, but two hooks of equal size will do the job just fine.

For 'soapies' (school mullet) 3/0 hooks are perfect, but you may have to upsize to 4/0 or even 6/0 when you begin to face larger fish. I prefer to use a combination of a 'J' hook above a circle hooks as they don't require the angler to strike. Once again, you want the sinker to be as small as possible to keep a naturally presented bait. This rig setup is designed for estuarine, river, and boat fishing. If you're targeting mullet from the surf or beach. A single circle or livebait hook or maybe a Beak hook can be used on any of these rigs if you are using the preferred bait of livebait (generally herring, tailor, mullet or squid).

Bait

As far as store bought bait goes, you can't beat high quality mulies, mullet or squid. Simply fillet them and use small 3-5 cm strips for 'soapie' mullet, or use half a butterflied mullet (spine removed with fillets left attached to the head and insides exposed). Otherwise, small whole squid, squid tentacles/rings or pilchards will do just fine.

If you're catching your own bait, which is the preferred method in mullet fishing, aim for poddy mullet or small squid. At this time of the year there are plenty around so you can always get a good supply of fresh bait. Small squid can be caught just like any squid; on a jig! Fishing on the surf beaches often calls for a bloody and dead bait, and baits such as fillets of salmon, herring and mullet are ideal for this.

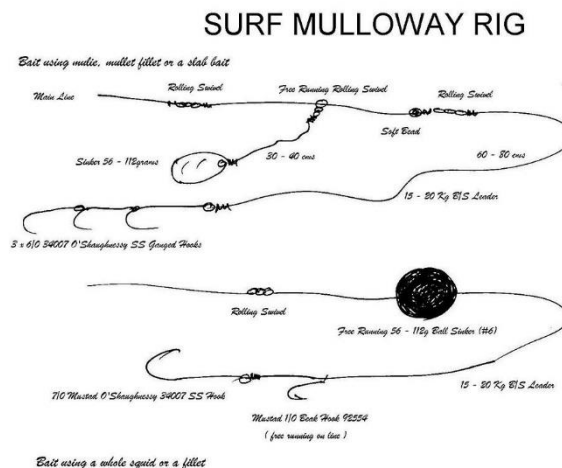
Lures

Mullet hunt via a combination of scent and vibration, using their lateral line to sense the movements of nearby prey and using their keen sense of smell to locate potential food. They are both predators and scavengers. Due to this hunting style, a noisy and smelly lure will really get them going, 4-6" paddle tail plastics, rattling hard bodied lures and small vibes are all excellent options, apply scents to your lures to increase your strike rate. For many years my go-to mullet lure was a 10" double tail Twister in purple.

The ideal outfit is a 4-8 kg graphite stick, paired with a size 4000 reel and 20 lb braid, this should be enough to stop mullet to about 10 kg, and bigger if you have a few fishing skills.

Persistence

Don't give up when chasing these fish, it will take many hours before you nail your first one, so don't lose hope! 'Go hard or go home' is the lifeblood of mullet fishing, and the more you put in, the more rewarding the final result will be.



Since drawing up this rig I have modified it to use circle hooks in place of the Mustad O'Shaughnessy hooks. I have found that this has improved my hook up rate.