

# REEL TALK

JUNE 2021



Fishing Radar Reef





## **Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)**

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### **June 2021 : Reel Talk Contents**

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## **Club Committee for 2020-21**

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### **Website Coordinator**

*Peet Wessels*



### **SCAC Life Members**

*George Holman, Eric Parker, Ian Cook, Bob Henderson, Terry Fuller, Mal Head, Peter Osborne*

### **Deceased life members:**

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



## **President's Report - June 2021**

I hope everyone has put the date aside for the Presentation night on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June at the Croatian club. It will be a great night as always, I look forward to seeing everyone there.

At our May meeting it was voted to keep having our monthly meetings at the Croatian club into the future.

We will not be having a General meeting in June just the Presentation night. If you have not been and had a meal there please come along to the next Meeting in July.

We are now into our winter months, it can be cold but with less wind on those fine sunny days it can be a great time to go fishing or casting, please try to attend the winter events if possible and support the future of our club.

*Martin Wearmouth; President*

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## **No June General Meeting**

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

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

**Save the date**

**Croatian Club in Wishart Street Gwelup**

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

Please advise John Curtis

0412 776 558

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

#### MENU

Roast Beef

Battered Fish

Cabbage Rolls (Sarma)

Fried Rice

Roast Potato and Pumpkin

Cauliflower Cheese

Garden Salad / Bread

Tea / Coffee

Dessert

## Field day venues for 2021/2022

Dates	Venue	Boundaries
12 - 13 June 2021	Open Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
17 - 19 July 2021 Long weekend due to safari	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
16 - 26 July 2021 Dirk Hartog Island and Steep Point safari	Dirk Hartog Island safari 2 fishing days to be chosen by traveling group once on the island	All of Dirk Hartog Island and Steep Point Shelter bay area
28 - 30 August 2021	Rottnest Island and Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Rottnest and Open anywhere in WA
25 - 27 September 2021 Long Weekend	Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
16 - 17 October 2021	Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
13 - 14 November 2021	Cervantes to Leeman Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Cervantes to Leeman and local as below at bottom of page
11 - 12 December 2021	Lancelin to Jurien Bay Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Lancelin to Greenhead and local as below at bottom of page
15 - 16 January 2022	Open Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Open anywhere in WA
12 - 13 February 2022	Dunsborough to White Hills Lines down 9am Saturday Lines up 9am Sunday	Dunsborough to White Hills and local as below at bottom of page
5 - 7 March 2022 Long Weekend	Bremer Bay area and Open We plan to fish Bremer Bay area Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
16 April - 18 April 2022 Easter Long weekend	Bluff Creek area and Open Lines down 6am Saturday Lines up 9am Monday	Open anywhere in WA
<p><b>Local boundaries are from Lancelin in the North to Preston Beach in the South</b>            Lines Down on Standard weekends – Saturday 9.00am            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  <b>Sign-on / Weigh-in times, possible fish together spots and locations to be decided at the general meeting prior to the Field Day</b></p>		

## SCAC Meeting dates for 2021

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

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

August: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>

## **Surf Casters May 2021 Rottnest field day** report by Martin Wearmouth



With a good weather report and low swells predicted 9 Surf Casters met at the North Port ferry terminal on Friday afternoon to begin the trip to Rottnest, the ferry ride was smooth and we arrived on the island at 6.15pm, after collecting the keys we walked out to our accommodation at Kingston Barracks, due to the Heritage Bungalows we normally use being renovated and a lack of other available accommodation in Thomson's bay area we had a 2km walk to the house.

On arrival everyone was happy with the house, it had plenty of room and as we discovered the next morning an ocean view. It was good to have everyone in the same house and as soon as the crates arrived Sabby began to cook the Pizzas his Mum had made. The pizzas just kept coming and soon everyone was stuffed but they were so good we all ate far too much, thanks again Sabby for a great meal.



We all sat around and talked and socialised until bedtime. In the morning we all relaxed as we waited for the 10.30am bus pick up to take us to west end, the bus arrived on time and after a stop at the bakery we headed for west end. We arrived and unpacked our eskies and crates and made our way down to the rocks to start our fishing, we all fished at tennis courts for a few hours and mostly caught herring and wrasse. Peet and Mark did catch some Green coloured wrasse that I had not seen before, about 4pm we all started to get ready to head out onto radar reef.



Mark went first and caught an undersized Yellow Tail Kingfish, then the rest of us followed, not many fish came in and we did not get the hot Skippy bite as the sun went down. Sandra caught a YTK, Mark caught a Baldchin Groper, this was a great capture, a few of us got 1 or 2 skippy only. Mark and I both caught an undersized Snapper off the reef, Marks was 42cm and mine 48cm just undersize.

The herring on the surface made quick work of stripping the baits, once it got dark the crayfish moved in and everyone started to catch crayfish as they tried to eat our baits on the bottom. We all left the reef about 7pm to pack up and make our way to the top of the cliff to catch the bus back. That night we all rested and sat around talking till bedtime.



Next day the same relaxing morning until the 10.30am bus pick up, we again stopped at the bakery before being dropped off at west end. Peet, Sandra and Theo decided to try Wilsons but with a bit too much water on the reef decided to walk east along the coastal track to see if they could find a better fishing spot. Forty-five minutes later they ended up at narrow neck at a spot Peet and Sandra had fished before, it proved a good decision as they started catching Skippy, YTK, Tailor and Wirrah all came out and made for a great session. They walked back to radar reef about 3pm for a rest before we headed out onto the reef.

The rest of us stayed at Tennis Court and the whole day had herring on the bite. The float and a 1m piece of line to a hook with a piece of green straw was all you needed to catch a herring every cast. Mark even caught them on a hook only and just needed to dangle it in the water to catch one. I tried fishing on the bottom to keep away from the herring but only managed wrasse, we did have 3 other fishermen come down and also fish at this spot. Late afternoon Sabby put out a live herring but sadly did not have any luck with something bigger.

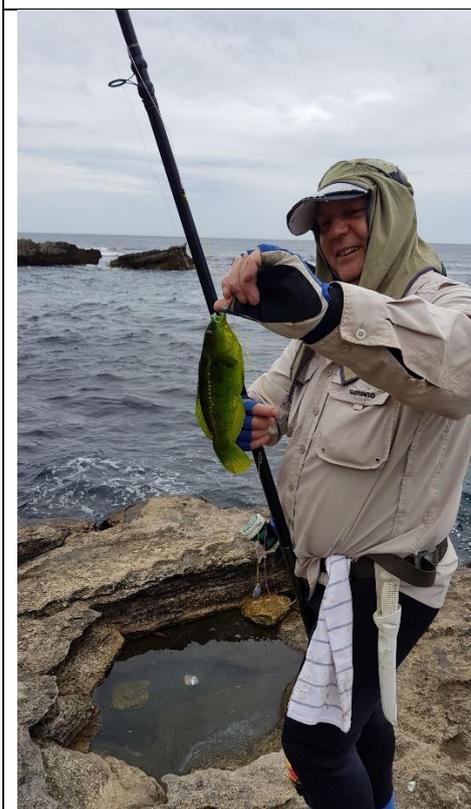
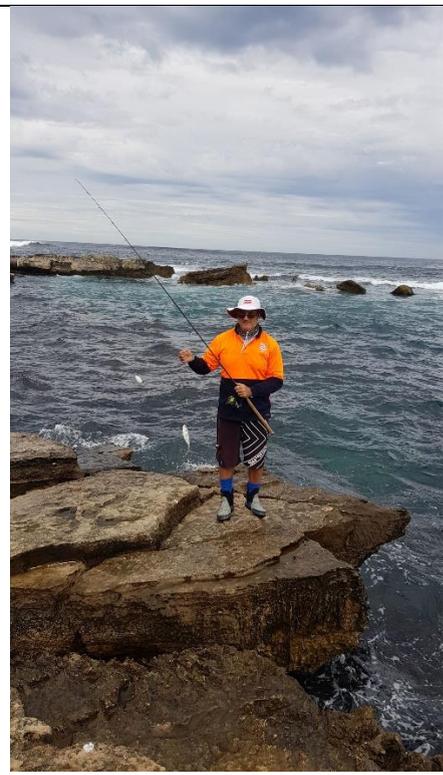
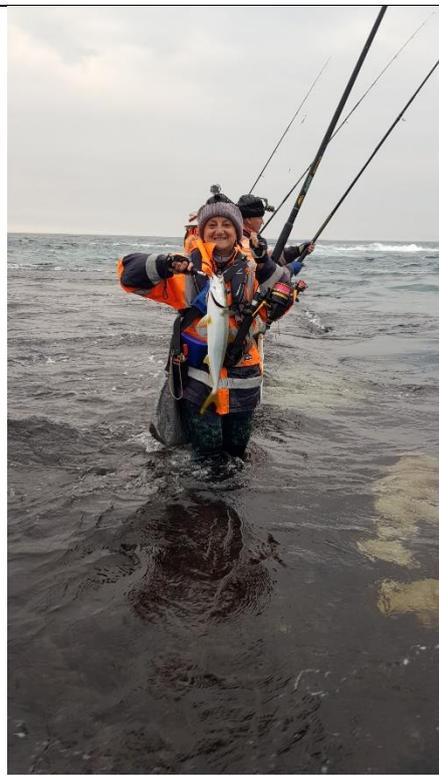
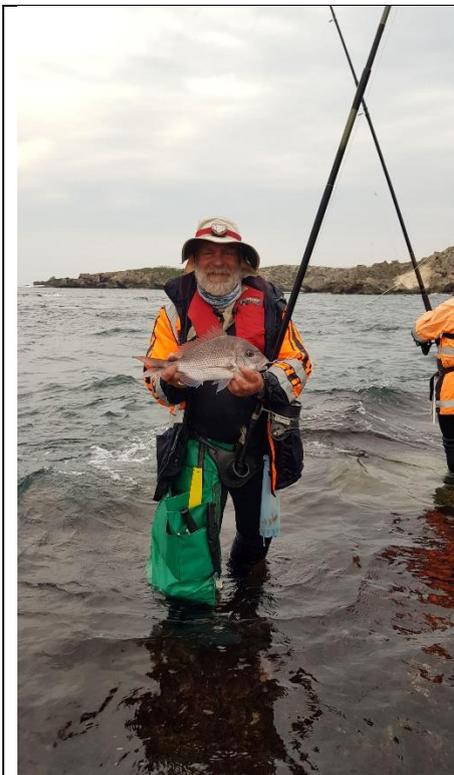


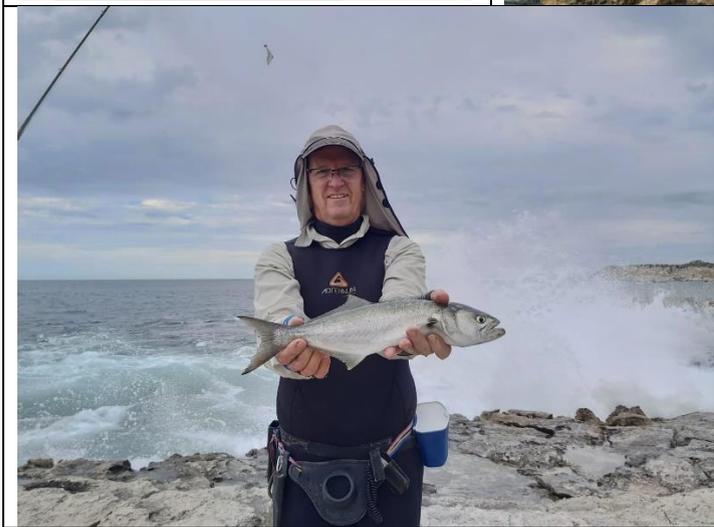
At 4pm everyone started to get ready to go onto the reef, the swell and water was higher, so some waited till 5pm. Again we did not have our hot Skippy bite, only a few managed to catch a Skippy and Vince was all smiles as he landed a good size Skippy after dark. Herring and Crayfish again took advantage of eating our baits with no larger fish to beat them to the baits.

The bus ride back was quite as everyone seemed exhausted after our 2-day fishing adventure. On arrival back at the house we all had a shower and dinner and washed our gear ready for the next day pack up and return to Fremantle on the ferry.

So not the best Rottneest fishing we have had but it was great to be at Kingston barracks and check out that part of Rottneest, it has a lot of history and interesting military background, and I can recommend a trip out there to take it all in.

Ron Thomas fished at Hill River and did very well, great effort Ron







Top score up to May		
Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Peet Wessels	355.0
2	Mark Hansen	331.8
3	Sandra Wessels	240.0
4	Martin Wearmouth	228.5
5	Ron Thomas	218.8
6	Sabby Pizzolante	111.8
7	Theo Van Niekerk	109.2
8	Vince Tomazin	101.8
9	Ian Taggart	35.0

Field day prizes for May			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Mark Hansen	Buffalo Bream - Silver Drummer	4.00
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels		18.30
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

## **Open fishing competition 2021/22**

The Open Competition is for fish caught between 1 May 2021 and 30 April 2022, other than on Club gazetted Field days, but not in any other AAA affiliated club event on the same dates. Entries for the Open competition close **30 days after capture**. See Competition Rules Section 4.

Section	For	Minimum weight	Entry
1	Most meritorious capture	None	To be awarded by Committee
2	Best shark	4.5 kg	
3	Best mulloway	5 kg	
4	Best salmon	3.5kg	
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	

## **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 – 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 2021**

The first day for 2021 for the surfcasters and also back to Sundays but still only five for the day, mmm not good.

As I am coming up for my 10<sup>th</sup> year as DCO, I was hoping for some help to do the paperwork but I think my chances are pretty slim.

You always have your good days and bad days. For Gary and myself it was a bad day especially in the DHA, Gary 119 and 116 for myself. For mark it was the opposite with a 163 in the DHA and also 29 in the SHA. Bob took out the honours for the vets in the DHA with 146 and 28 in the SHA and Mal was runner up in the DHA with 132.

In the distance events also not too good for some. Mal head had one out, I had one out and Bob two outs. The longest casts for the day were 56gr 144.39m, Art bait 120.68m and 112gr 154.80m.

You will be notified of the date for the next casting day.

*Ron Thomas*

*DCO*

<b>SURF CASTING &amp; ANGLING CLUB</b>												
<b>Dry casting results -2nd May 2021</b>												
	<b>56 gram</b>				<b>Artificial Bait</b>				<b>112gram</b>			
	<b>Cast</b>	<b>Cast</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>Cast</b>	<b>Cast</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>Cast</b>	<b>Cast</b>	<b>Total</b>	
<b>Veterans</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>%</b>
GARY GILDERSLEEVE	119.93	120.56	240.49	82.76	111.58	111.94	223.52	100.00	132.27	134.82	267.09	90.70
BOB HENDERSON	126.79	130.95	257.74	74.90	O/B	103.65	103.65	37.37	123.55	O/B	123.55	41.96
MAL HEAD	O/B	106.06	106.06	36.50	89.93	88.95	178.88	80.03	109.64	115.11	224.75	76.32
RON THOMAS	145.39	145.21	290.60	100.00	120.68	O/B	120.68	54.00	139.62	154.86	294.48	100.00
<b>Mens</b>												
MARK HANSON	91.65	89.21	180.86	100.00	88.22	96.20	184.42	100.00	105.72	103.84	209.56	100.00

<b>SURF CASTING &amp; ANGLING CLUB</b>																			
<b>Dry casting results -2nd May 2021</b>																			
	<b>Double Handed Accuracy</b>										<b>Single Handed Accuracy</b>				<b>Total</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Total</b>		
	<b>Target number</b>										<b>Target distance</b>					<b>D/Casting</b>	<b>Points</b>		
<b>Veterans</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>		
GARY GILDERSLEEVE	14	15	14	12	11	17	21	15	119	81.51	7	3	7	8	25	89.29	444.26	10	454.26
BOB HENDERSON	21	19	13	23	23	13	17	17	146	100.00	9	6	6	7	28	100.00	354.23	10	364.23
MAL HEAD	20	11	8	12	16	22	22	21	132	90.41	6	0	3	8	17	60.71	343.97	10	353.97
RON THOMAS	16	8	24	20	0	14	19	15	116	79.45	0	10	7	9	26	92.86	426.31	10	436.31
<b>Mens</b>																			
MARK HANSON	22	22	22	21	16	22	20	18	163	100.00	6	9	9	5	29	100.00	500.00	10	510.00

<b><u>VETERANS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022</u></b>		
LONGEST 56 GRAM	145.39	RON THOMAS
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT	120.68	RON THOMAS
LONGEST 112G	154.86	RON THOMAS
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY	146	BOB HENDERSON
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY	28	BOB HENDERSON
<b><u>SENIORS BEST CASTS FOR THE YEAR 2021 - 2022</u></b>		
LONGEST 56 GRAM	91.65	MARK HANSEN
LONGEST ARTIFICIAL BAIT	96.20	MARK HANSEN
LONGEST 112G	105.72	MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST DOUBLE HANDED ACCURACY	163	MARK HANSEN
HIGHEST SINGLE HANDED ACCURACY	29	MARK HANSEN

## Welcome to “Jimmy”



Just in case you are wondering “Jimmy” is behind Chris and Helen

I'd like to welcome to the group my new Jimmy. Yes its finally here it's only been a 15 month wait and life changed dramatically through that time but it was all worth the wait. I'm loving it and hope to get out there on a trip or two with you soon all going well.

She's 2 tone blue black auto small 4wd which suits us fine. She's small but capable and a lot of fun to drive. On the road its exciting, feels fast all the time, so lots of fun.

**Chris Stickells**

Few lures offer the lifelike attributes that creature baits do, and surprisingly they are super effective on many species in W A.

Soft plastics are without question a go-to lure option for so many anglers in W A, and we all have our favourite selections for certain scenarios and species that we lean on to get the job done.

While it's probably safe to say that creature baits aren't the most widely used plastic profile in our waters by the lure casting brigade, for those who have already incorporated these into their everyday attack and are well-versed in just how potent they can be, I'm sure you'll hear nothing but positives.

After tentative initial forays into using 'creatures', we're now reliant on them in many situations, and I find them not only a fun way to fish, but also downright deadly in a range of local inshore fisheries on species ranging from bream, herring, whiting and flathead, through to freshwater predators like redfin and trout. There's very few, if any, of our favourite near-shore lure eaters that can't be fooled with these little gems that can either precisely or even loosely represent a range of noted food items, and just seem to get eaten when more generic baitfish profiles aren't.

This is a breakdown of how to get the most out of these unique presentations in our waters, and ensure they're in the starting line-up of your soft plastic selections each session - right where they deserve to be!

### **What are they?**

Creature bait profiles can imitate a spread of common protein snacks for predatory fish including crabs, prawns, worms, baitfish, yabbies, marron and the like. Some of these representations are so lifelike you really have to question if the fish have any chance whatsoever, enabling you to closely 'match the hatch' like never before with a lure. Other creature baits aren't so realistic yet are loaded with fish appeal and moving parts, and perform equally as well at providing a smashable profile.

Something you soon learn using these soft plastics is that having a carbon copy of proven fish tucker isn't the be-all and end-all of this style of fishing. Also many of these soft baits are actually a hybrid of several 'creatures' blended into an alien-like form that looks plucked straight out of a horror movie and nothing like what you'll actually find in the stomach contents of a fish, but they still work and then some!

Some creature baits come pre-rigged with hooks, while others will require you to select jig heads and tails and create your own winning combo. Many of the major brands like Squidgies, Halco, Berkley, ZMan, Samaki and others all have a few patterns to pick from.

So if you're after a 'reaction meal' that fish will snap up on sight, or a reliable workhorse soft plastic for bulk twitching around structure and covering ground, creature baits can be the answer and seriously dominate sessions in all roles. We've seen it time and time again, especially with the likes of bream that were focused on certain prey and virtually snubbing other lure types, yet small yabby and crab imitations had that next level of deception going for them and were so close to what they were actually eating that they got the runs on the board.

### **Fishing Them**

Using creature baits offers a different way to fish compared to working other types of soft plastics. I think it's not only the detailed exterior of these soft plastics which makes them so lethal, it's also how they present in the water and can be fished in such a natural manner which elevates their effectiveness and allows you to push the buttons of your target. It's a dual edged sword for the fish. It looks and moves like the real thing, and as a lure angler you can't do more than serve this up to them.

As a broad way to approach using these lures, you tend to fish creature baits much slower and with a more considered retrieve compared to say using a grub or minnow pattern, where you can go into autopilot almost and getaway with a regular retrieve with only the odd changeup.

Depending on the creature you're casting you're essentially trying to make it present as it naturally would, and in the case of a yabby or prawn for example, this would entail rather sharp and irregular twitches and pauses to emulate their natural tail kicks. You can then throw in a series of twitches to simulate the 'flee response' of a yabby seeing a predator which may just fire up a lurking fish into lunging at it. The pauses are also typical of the 'fight' response of these crustaceans, where they hold their ground.

With crabs and worms, fish aren't expecting the big tail kicks of a prawn, and you can slow things down even further with more subtle movements. Shaking the rod tip while retrieving and throwing in pauses is a popular approach to impart less aggressive movements yet have the lure still active and looking the part. All up you're bringing these creations to life and putting on an underwater performance to hopefully win over your fishy audience, and there's a range of cool season creature eaters in WA to throw them at as will be looked at below.

## **Bream**

Bream are one of the original creature bait targets, and given their diverse dietary intake, it's no surprise they're keen to snaffle up a host of patterns ranging from ultra-lifelike imitations of worms, crabs and prawns, through to other crazy critters which they nail out of pure instinct. Some of the main bream situations we find creature baits shine out are around rocks and heavy bottom structure, on the flats, and around pontoons and other man-made structures.

Around the rocks you can safely assume bream are foraging for crabs and other crustaceans, and this is one of my favourite areas to be slowly working lures, taking the time to get it bouncing over all the little holes and openings where a bream could be nose down feeding. One of the better jig heads we've found for this fishing is the ZMan NedIockZ and the weedless variation the NedIockZ EWG, which presents creatures upright and will have a small profile waving its nippers around and inviting a bluenose over for lunch. You can also attack quite rocky country without too much fear of constant snagging up with these jig heads, which means more effective presentations, fearless hacking of structure, and more fish. Chasebaits Crusty Crab, ZMan TRD CrawZ, Squidgy Bio Tough Crawler and Gulp Crabby are a few of the reliable bream creatures we use.

So many of our hits come on the pause when the lure is sitting there doing nothing, which is testament to how they deceive fish. I've now got the confidence to do quite lengthy pauses and still reasonably expect to be eaten.

On the flats we find bream respond to prawns, crabs, shrimp, worms and other likely items, usually fished in any sandy clearings amongst weed patches or near laydown timber, drop offs, rocks or obvious fish feeding sign on the bottom. Backing off your jig head weight in the shallows will increase your chances and let the lure move more naturally.

Creature baits can also be fished in an unweighted/lightly weighted manner around structure and used to dead drift down the face of it for the reaction bite. This is where those lure with the additional moving parts tend to excel and wave the 'eat me' flag as they flutter through the water column and are often intercepted by bream without much rod work required at all. It's pretty cool when you can tempt a 40 cm plus fish to leave its cover and swipe at your perfectly cast creature, and they always scare the hell out of you with how hard they hit!

When it comes to selecting the correct creature type it can involve knowing your fish and the area you're fishing, and this goes for all the fish detailed here. For instance many bream fisheries have crabs in them, and bream love them. But not all crabs are the same colour and size, and you may want to do some exploration as to what they may be eating. We mostly use natural colours with our creatures, and for species like bream fish with lures of a sensible one-bite size usually 3-inches or preferably smaller.

Bream like to disarm their prey, by this I mean take out the parts which may cause them harm, and in the case of crabs this is the main nippers. Using creature baits of these patterns can result in you feeling the fish hit as they try to remove the nippers but miss the hooks, and you may want to consider stinger hooks placed into the nippers to get these fish. I personally prefer to keep rigging minimal where possible, and find the bigger bream tend to connect with jig head hooks more times than not, but it can be an issue.

## **Whiting**

The diversity possible with creature baits extends well beyond just bream in our waters. Whiting, both King George and yellowfin, are well matched to creature baits. They're opportunistic foragers, not overly selective, and they have an aggressive streak to their habits that makes them easily catchable on petite sized yabbies, crab and worm imitations. We've even thrown some quite obscure creatures at them and they mopped them

up no worries. I have found small yabbies and worms in the 2-inch size or thereabouts to get regular hook-sets on both.

Legs, nippers, antennae and other moving parts aren't a make or break factor for whiting creature baits. A likely profile outline of an easily edible size; steady retrieve to catch their interest; pauses to let them catch and eat it, and good timing with your hook-up seem like the main factors for success.

Squidgy Bio Tough Crawler, Gulp Crabby and Pulsecrawl, and 2-inch Sandworm are models that have caught both King George and yellowfin on. Some anglers even cut up grub profiles with scissors to create worms for these fish. Jig head weight should be kept practical yet light, with bream - sized weights commonly used on a size 2 - 6 hook. The more compact the better for instant hook-ups.

Yellowfin are suckers for smaller creature baits, the smaller the better, and will rush up on them, and with a pause in your retrieve, they'll usually inhale it. Similar applies for King George, whereby you tend to catch more in calmer conditions where you can watch the fish follow the lure, and then throw in a pause for a predictable take. Watching the fish helps you decide on your retrieve speed and you can work out the mood of the fish, if it needs some coaxing into eating with extra speed or lure movements, or is red-hot and just needs to catch your creature bait for it to be game over.

King George only differ for the fact that they'll more frequently hit larger creature baits. Sometimes the better fish will actually be more receptive to bigger profiles. Big King George hit hard but may struggle to connect with hooks on larger lures. If you're going to use more sizable profiles consider shortening their overall length up so fish don't miss your jig head hook on the strike, which seems a common outcome on 4-inch plus softies when a whiting hits.

### **Flathead**

Flathead aren't a fish noted for being fussy, and I'm sure you won't fall off your chair to learn that creature baits can be a weapon on these mega-mouthed shallow water predators.

Anglers have discovered weird and wonderful things in the stomach contents of flathead over the years, from being absolutely stuffed with juvenile sand crabs, tiny sea lice and prawns, to an array of fish species. If it crosses their path basically it's going down the hatch!

These fish are visual hunters and need a decent profile size to catch their attention, especially when you're talking bigger flatties, and ideally a contrasting colour to further get it seen. Bright and dark colours both work, and they stand out well. These days we rarely use lures under 4-inches. This said, if you're throwing even the smallest of creature baits around in flathead areas don't expect them to look the other way, and we've caught solid fish on 2-inch lures which is a mere bread crumb sized meal for these bucket-mouths.

As with all soft plastics for flathead, creature baits should be fished while keeping in touch with the bottom, and used in a searching role for these often spread-out fish. We prefer to use them around heavy rocky areas that are punctuated with sand holes, or through weedy zones again with clearings, usually fished weedless, but also with some of the newer jig heads that are more snag proof than standard models like the Brenious NT and ZMan NedlockZ heads. With slower lifts of the lure however you can also use regulation jig heads as well, but expect above average gear loss in heavy rocky regions especially.

Creatures can also be used for general flathead flicking in more open and weed free areas, and hopping them across the bottom in a steady manner will allow you to cover ground, and trigger a flathead attack.

### **Cold Water Creatures**

A cross-section of alternative fish not mentioned so far will happily eat creature baits over these months, whether you're targeting them or they're bycatch while on the trail of other species. Many of these also make for fun sidelines with deliberate sessions more than possible.

Salmon and herring are part of the expected crew this time of year, and even when you're not after them they have a habit of interrupting sessions with their braid peeling, high jumping antics- it's a bit rude, but usually totally welcome! Salmon seem to go nuts over creature baits of all sizes, and even when they're only slowly crawled on the bottom they'll give them some hammer.

Mullet are much underrated lure eaters, and we get piles of these fish whenever we downsize our creatures after whiting, or even target mullet themselves. We've found that these lures are by far the most effective soft option for yellow-eyed mullet. Small, soft mouths necessitate you use the smallest of creature baits, with

a steady retrieve and random pauses to get the hook-up. Skippy, tarwhine and just about any other inshore species you care to name will also have a swipe at them.

These lures don't only kick some tail in the salt and brackish environments, they can be a dominant deceiver in the fresh as well. We've found them to be a great redfin option, especially when working deeper holes and pools and concentrating on the bottom, but also backing off the jig head weight, they can be drifted around the snags with consistent impact.

When all is said and done, there's a lot of comfort in knowing you're giving yourself the best chance of rolling your target fish using creature baits and the many advantages they provide, and that's a big confidence boost each session!

## Hema's Guide to Snatch Straps

Posted by Emprise Marketing on May 18, 2021

In the right hands, snatch straps are a clever and effective way to help a stricken vehicle.

It's always safe to travel with another vehicle, bonus points if your mate has a winch. If not, never fear; snatch straps are a quick and easy way to get a buried vehicle back in action.



A snatch is a kinetic (or stretchy) piece of bound webbing. It's attached via shackles to a recovery vehicle on one end and the stricken vehicle on the other. When the recovery vehicle moves away, the snatch strap stretches and loads up with kinetic energy like a great big rubber band. That build-up of stretching force is the critical component that's used to pluck the stuck vehicle from its peril.

It's important to remember that a loaded snatch strap can be dangerous, you need to ensure the gear is up to the task and not damaged in any way. Only use a rated snatch strap attached to rated shackles on proper recovery points.

### SIZE AND RATING

It's a common misconception that bigger is better, but this is not the case with snatch straps. Your snatch needs to be strong enough to withstand the force of a recovery, but not so strong that the vehicles will be unable to stretch it. The strap should have a minimum breaking strength equivalent to twice the gross vehicle mass (GVM) of the lighter of the two vehicles involved in the recovery. For common recreational off-roader, this will be a rating of around 8,000 kilograms

## HOW TO PERFORM A SNATCH RECOVERY

First, grab your shovel, dig out the wheels and clear any other obstructions from beneath the vehicle. Let's assume that the recovery vehicle is directly in front of the stuck vehicle and the recovery will require both to travel forward (this is the ideal scenario).

Attach the snatch strap to the front of the stricken vehicle first, using a rated shackle to an off-road recovery point. If possible, it's best to use an equaliser or bridle strap to connect the snatch to both front recovery points. Lay the strap in a loose 'S' shape along the ground in front of the stuck vehicle, ensuring there are no twists or kinks. Now attach the far end to the rear recovery point of the recovery vehicle.

Lay a strap dampener over the middle of the strap, never perform a snatch recovery without doing this. If you don't have one, use a heavy blanket or something similar. In the event that something breaks or the strap snaps, the dampener will help to prevent the loaded strap from whipping back and flinging broken hardware, making it a vital safety component.

Both vehicles should be in low range, first or second gear and have a line of communication (UHF radio is ideal). Make sure bystanders are at a safe distance. At an agreed upon signal or command, the recovery vehicle will accelerate firmly and steadily. Do not accelerate quickly and suddenly shock-load the system. The stuck vehicle should attempt to match the momentum of the recovery vehicle, don't slam on the accelerator. Once both vehicles are all clear, stop and detach the strap.



### BEST FOR:

- Sand
- Ruts and washouts

Do not use in sticky mud.

### SAFETY

There's one way to use a snatch strap safely and a lot of ways in which it can be done wrong. Always be aware that a loaded snatch is potentially very dangerous. Use a dampener and stand clear when they're in use. Never use snatch straps for towing or lifting. Snatch straps are not suitable for recoveries in sticky mud, as it can create a suction effect on the tyres and overload the system. Keep the strap clean, store it in a safe place out of direct sunlight, don't drive over it and don't let it encounter any chemicals. Inspect it regularly and if there's any doubt as to its integrity, don't use it.

# FATIGUE MANAGEMENT AND ROAD SAFETY

By John Curtis and reviewed by Dr Shane Wignell

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This paper was prepared for a seminar for mine workers working remotely and driving long distances during their daily activities. However I feel that it is also applicable to club members when travelling distances on fishing trips. The paper has been modified slightly from the original, however the aim of the paper is to provide you with the information required to be a better driver, taking less risks when on the road.

Driving can be a high risk activity that many people perform daily. Driving is a complex mental and physical task that requires sustained levels of concentration and skill to maintain maximum performance. No responsible driver can afford to be fatigued.

## What Is Fatigue

There are several factors that are considered to be fatigue these include;  
'loss of alertness, drowsy driving and falling asleep at the wheel' = fatigue.

Any of these things can happen to you when you are 'fatigued', and they lead to poor judgement, slower reactions and decreased driving skill levels.

If you are a driver and you become drowsy you can drift into 'micro-sleep', which is a brief nap that lasts around 3 to 5 seconds. At 100 km per hour that's 100 metres of travel and plenty of time to run into a tree.

## You May Be Fatigued If You: -

The following is a list of some of the factors that indicate fatigue

- have trouble keeping your head up.
- have wandering, disconnected thoughts.
- eyes close for a moment or go out of focus.
- eyelids droop.
- can't stop yawning.
- find that you can't remember driving the last few kilometres.
- drift over the centre line or on to the gravel at the side of the road.
- miss a road sign.
- miss your exit.
- miss a gear.
- start to see things that are not there.
- brake too late.
- find you have slowed unintentionally

## Factors Influencing Your Fatigue Levels

Organisational Factors;

- Plan the journey (allowing time for rest breaks)

Sleep

- The quality and duration of sleep will affect the amount of time it takes to become fatigued.  
(continuous sleep for 7 or more hours prior to driving is great)

Alcohol

- Too much alcohol affects a person's natural sleep patterns

Food

- High fat and sugar foods reduce the alerting chemicals in the body
- Low fat protein foods help you to stay alert.

Water

- If the body is dehydrated it will slow down in an attempt to conserve energy, this increases fatigue

Caffeine

- Caffeine should only be consumed when you are feeling tired as the body becomes tolerant to caffeine

## Body Clock Factors

Working or fishing when you would normally be asleep.

Sleeping when you would normally be awake. (e.g. when away on fishing trips and sleeping during the day to fish at night.)

## Sleep Factors

Sleep, or lack of it is also a concern;

Getting less than normal sleep.

Getting poor sleep.

## Work Factors

There are several factors that also influence fatigue associated with work. These include;

Working very long hours for a period prior to driving.

No time to recover from work or get a decent 7 hours of un-interrupted sleep prior to travelling.

## Health Factors

These are other factors that may influence fatigue;

Medical sleep problems.(e.g. sleep apnoea)

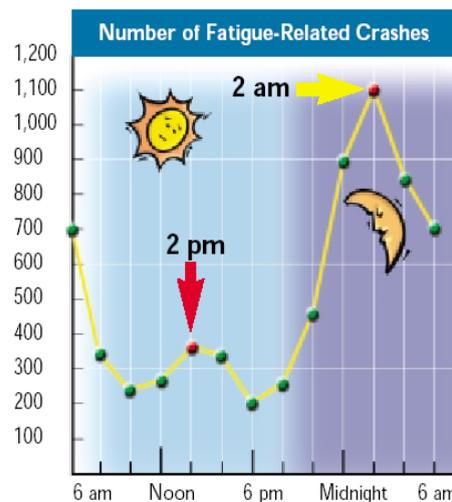
General health and lifestyle issues.

## High Risk Fatigue Times

Although there are fewer drivers on the road between midnight and 6 am, statistics show they are much more likely to have a crash.

Your body clock turns down alertness after lunch (the siesta period), there is also a small increase in road crash rates at this time too.

Not surprisingly the crashes at night and during the siesta period are more likely to be single vehicle crashes.



## FATIGUE

Here are some facts relating to fatigue;

Drivers who get less than 6 hours sleep experienced 4 times as many dangerous situations while they were driving.

Getting enough sleep is essential to safety; and you should aim to get 7 ½ continuous hours of sleep.

If you get less than 7 ½ hours' sleep each night you will build up a 'sleep debt'. Each day you go with less than 7 ½ hours' sleep, the more fatigued you will be and the more unsafe on the road you will become.

Take every opportunity on your fishing trip for a good long night of sleep. And prepare for a long trip by making sure you have fully repaid any sleep debt from previous travel.

## Avoid Fatigue By: -.

Fatigue can be avoided by simply following a set of guidelines designed to help prevent it.

- Plan your trips carefully to provide adequate time for sleep, rest and food.
- Prepare well in advance of departure time so that you get the rest you need.
- Be realistic about how much sleep you need to be a safe driver and make sure you get it.
- Start your journey without sleep debt.

- Understand your own body clock and know when you are likely to be at your least alert (eg between 1 am and 6 am).
- Take regular power naps (at least 20 minutes).
- Keep your cab at a comfortable temperature, but not too warm. An overheated cab can make you drowsy. It's better to wear extra clothes.
- Get fresh air into your cab. Smoke and stale air can contribute to drowsiness.
- Listen to music, talk-back radio or talking books or chat on your CB radio.
- Play mental games, such as calculating distances.
- Take regular breaks (say every 2 hours) to stretch, walk and check your vehicle.
- Learn to recognise the signs of sleepiness and pull over as soon as possible for a short nap.
- Eat sensibly and exercise regularly.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Never drink alcohol when driving.
- Use caffeine only when you need it.

Share this information with your fishing mates so they can support you and understand your need to get adequate sleep.

If you think you have something wrong with your sleep patterns or your general health, seek medical advice.

### **Guidance On How To Minimise Fatigue**

There are several things that can be done to assist with fatigue reduction;

- A solo driver should have the opportunity for at least 7 hours of continuous un-interrupted sleep in a 24 hour period;
- Minimise driving when the solo driver does not have the opportunity for at least 7 hours of continuous, unbroken sleep in a 24 hour period;
- Work schedules need to be flexible to allow for a short break for sleep prior to driving;
- Minimise very early departures to give drivers the maximum opportunity to sleep in preparation for the trip;

### **Did you know?**

- Fatigue is one of the big three killers on NSW roads
- Fatigue-related crashes are twice as likely to be fatal - drivers who are asleep can't brake
- From 2013 to 2017, more people in NSW died in fatigue-related crashes than drink driving crashes
- Being awake for about 17 hours has a similar effect on performance as a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.05

Reference: [roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/fatigue/index.html](https://roadsafety.transport.nsw.gov.au/stayingsafe/fatigue/index.html)



## *Editor's acknowledgements*

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*Thank you all, with out your support I could not do what I do.*

*Vic Schilo*

