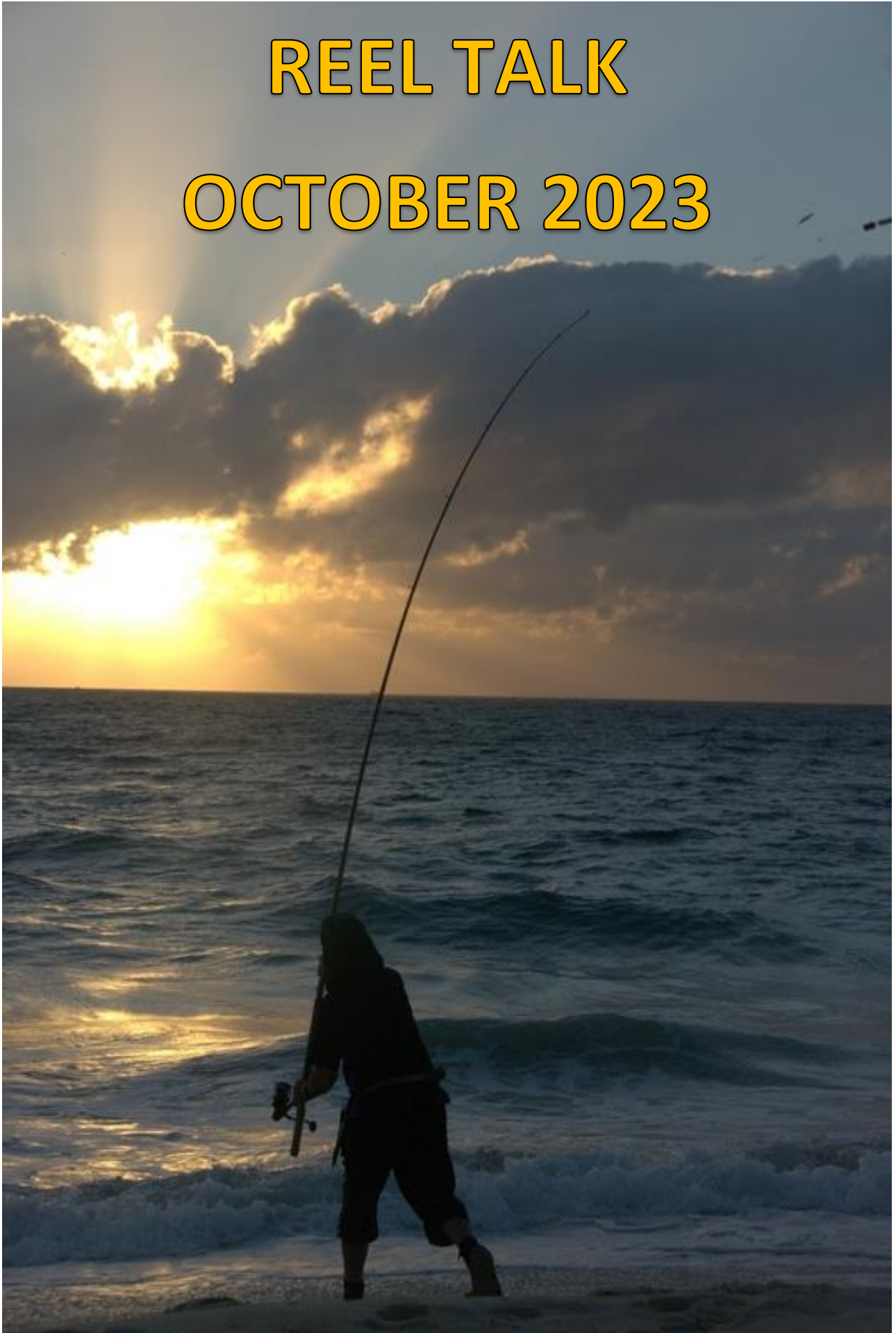


REEL TALK

OCTOBER 2023



Official newsletter of the Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc)

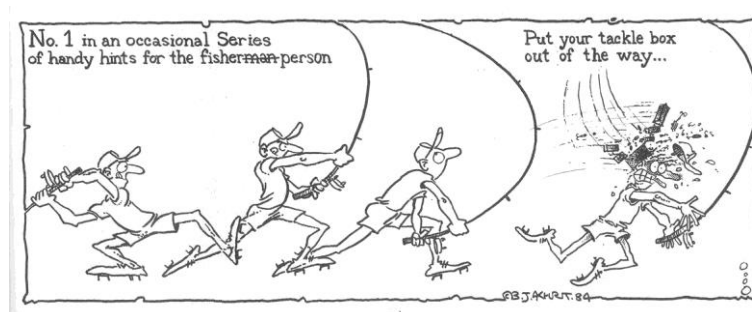


Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc)

Reel Talk – October 2023 Contents

Cover picture – Allan Jones fishing at sunset on Floreat Beach

Club committee details; life members; deceased life members	3
President's report; details of next meeting; birthdays	4
Competition field days calendar	5
Dry Casting	6
Field Day scores up until August	6
Club records	7
Fishing for Yellowfin Whiting	11
Tackle maintenance	14
Spot the difference	16



CLUB COMMITTEE

September 2023 – August 2024

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

Secretary
Surf Casting & Angling Club of WA (Inc.)
PO Box 2056
Marmion WA 6020

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Ron Thomas
0407 630 053
dee.ron1946@gmail.com

Vice President

Mark Hansen
0409 088 864
mhansen@iinet.net.au

Treasurer

Vince Tomazin
0417 910 531
stptax@gmail.com

Secretary

John Curtis
0412 776 558
jcurtis@iinet.net.au

GENERAL COMMITTEE

Field Day Officer

Currently Vacant

Assistant Field Day Officer

Currently Vacant

Recorder

Peet Wessels
0407 160 795
peetwessels@gmail.com

Dry Casting Officer

Currently Vacant

Assistant Dry Casting Officer

Currently Vacant

Committee Position 1

Gary Parkinson
0400 573 028
gary.parkinson1054@gmail.com

Committee Position 2

Chris Stickells
0429 941 111
christopherstickells@gmail.com

NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Website Co-Ordinator

Peet Wessels
0407 160 795
peetwessels@gmail.com

Membership Co-Ordinator

Currently Vacant

Social Events Organiser

Sandra Wessels
0408 125 651

Reel Talk Editor

Helen Carnell
0456 005 776

Reel Talk Submissions

Helen Carnell
0456 005 776

LIFE MEMBERS

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	George Holman	



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Not a great deal has happened since the AGM in the way of Club outings. The last Dry Casting Day was abandoned mainly because of illness and accidents we might say. While we are on Dry Casting, the next outing will be our last Sunday casting day for the year we then change to Mondays.

We still do not have a full Committee, as we still need a Field Day Officer, and Assistant Field Day Officer. Also we need a Dry Casting Officer and an Assistant Dry Casting Officer. So if there is anyone out there who would like to do the job, please put your hand up. There is very little work involved; a small amount of paperwork is all there is.

I will take this opportunity to thank those members that have put their hands up to be a part of the Committee; without you people the club would not exist.

Ron Thomas, President

OCTOBER GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 11 October 2023

Address: Croatian Club in Wishart Street, Gwelup

Doors open no earlier than 6:45pm

Meal at 7.00pm with meeting at 8.00pm

Please RSVP to secretary for catering purposes by **NOON SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER**

October birthdays



Alan Green	October 2
Aniello Pizzolante	October 9
Sarah Wignell	October 12
Oliver Wessels	October 15
Vince Tomazin	October 15
Gary Parkinson	October 18
Mariella Pizzolante	October 22
Greg Harvey	October 22

FISHING CALENDAR

Competition year June 2023 – May 2024

Field day dates have **mostly** been set as the weekend immediately following each General Meeting
Long weekends have been noted

DATE	VENUE	BOUNDARIES
October 14 - 15	Swan & Canning Rivers Full moon – October 29	Including the inside (harbour side) of North and South Moles
November 11 – 12	Tim's Thicket / Preston Beach and local Full moon – November 27	Local boundaries will be determined at the general meeting before the field day
December 16 – 17	Open anywhere in WA New moon – December 13	Open – no boundaries. Please fish together for safety
January 13 – 14 Australia Day LWE Friday 26	Wilbinga / Guilderton and local Full moon – January 26	Local boundaries will be determined at the general meeting before the field day
February 17 – 18	Cervantes / Hill River and local New moon – February 10	Local boundaries will be determined at the general meeting before the field day
March 2 – 4 Labour Day LWE	Reef Beach and open New moon – March 10	Open – no boundaries. Please fish together for safety
March 30 – April 1 Easter LWE Anzac Day April 25	Bluff Creek and open Full moon – April 25	Open – no boundaries. Please fish together for safety

Standard weekends

Lines down Saturday 0600
Lines up Sunday 0900

Long weekends and Rottneest

Lines down Saturday 0600
Lines up Monday 0900

Suggested local boundaries

The south side of Mandurah Cut to South Mole
North Mole to Two Rocks Marina
Cottesloe Groyne to Quinns Rocks
Yanchep to Lancelin
Swan and Canning River upstream from railway bridge
Ledge to Wedge Island
Seabird to Lancelin
Penguin Island to Mullaloo Point
South side of Mandurah Cut to north side of Bunbury Cut

Moore River mouth to Three Mile Reef
North Mole to Two Rocks Marina
Preston Beach to Mandurah Cut
North side of Peel Estuary to North Mole
Yanchep to Ledge
Cervantes to Jurien (LWE)
Floreat Groyne to Yanchep
Swan and Canning River including the inside (harbour side) of the North & South Moles
Seabird

DRY CASTING

As mentioned in the President's Report, September's Dry Casting session was cancelled. However, we need a new Dry Casting Officer and assistant, so if you're interested in taking on one of those positions please let one of our executive committee know.

Helen Carnell; Editor – on behalf of Ron Thomas; Dry Casting Officer



Dry casting is held once a month at:

Perth Polo Club
Meadow St
Guildford WA 6055

Please contact the club secretary,
John Curtis, if you are interested in
joining in

FIELD DAY

No reports have been submitted for the September field day.

Top scores up to August

Rank	Angler	Total points
1	Peet Wessels	659.50
2	David Wessels	652.00
3	Sandra Wessels	587.50
4	Sabby Pizzolante	482.50
5	Mark Hansen	465.80
6	Martin Wearmouth	376.50
7	Vince Tomazin	374.00
8	Ron Thomas	296.26
9	Malcolm Harris	276.50
10	Oliver Wessels	133.50
11	Brad Zaknich	90.00

Peet Wessels; Recorder

CLUB RECORDS

Version dated 25/7/2023

CAAB Code is the CSIRO Code of Australian Aquatic Biota #

Common Name	Scientific Name	Weight	Record Holder	Locality Caught	Date	CAAB Code
Australian Giant Herring	Elops machnata	6.85kg	Ron Thomas	Quobba	23/5/2023	37 053003
Barracouta	Thyrsites atun	1.98kg	Merv Britten	Cosy Corner	20/7/1960	37 439001
Barracuda	Sphyraena barracuda	9.5kg	C Waddams	Steep Point	26/8/1980	37 382008
Barramundi	Lates calcarifer	6.2kg	Ray Walker	Home Valley Stn	3/5/2016	37 310006
Blackfish, Western Rock	Girella tephraeops	0.60kg	Sandra Wessels	Bluff Creek	1/4/2018	37 361017
Blue Bastard	Plectorhinchus caeruleonothus	5.3kg	Theo Van Niekerk	Waroora Station	8/7/2017	37 350028
Blue Devil, Western	Paraplesiops sinclairi	0.36kg	Sandra Wessels	Rottnest Island	17/8/2014	37 316011
Bonefish, Pacific	Albula argentea	2.8kg	George Holman	Steep Point	1/4/2007	37 055001
Bream, Black	Acanthopagrus butcheri	2.27kg	Ken Hunt	Swan River Belmont	27/9/1962	37 353003
Bream, Western Yellowfin	Acanthopagrus morrisoni	2.5kg	Alby Norman	Useless Loop	18/7/1980	37 353012
Buffalo Bream, Western	Kyphosus cornelii	6.7kg	Alby Norman	Useless Loop	14/6/1977	37 361012
Catfish, Blue	Neoarius graeffei	3.2kg	Brian Waddams	Steep Point	0/6/1980	37 188005
Catfish, Giant Sea	Netuma thalassina	Est 2kg	Justin Rose	Kalbarri	21/9/2018	37 188001
Catfish, WhiteLipped	Paraplotosus albilabris	0.6kg	Ian Mascarenhas	Scarborough	17/8/1996	37 192005
Cobia	Rachycentron canadum	33kg	Allan Carr	Steep Point	2/10/1979	37 335001
Cod, Greasy	Epinephelus tauvina	29.48kg	Les Tate	Kalbarri	30/4/1967	37 311057
Common Bullseye	Pempheris multiradiata	0.19kg	Mark Hansen	Reef Beach, Bremer	5/3/2023	37 357001
Dart, Common	Trachinotus botla	3.29kg	E J (Lofty) Griffiths	Cape Cuvier	1/6/1975	37 337066
Drummer, Brassy	Kyphosus vaigiensis	0.41kg	Peet Wessels	Horrocks	24/1/2021	37 361014
Drummer, Silver	Kyphosus sydneyanus	7.62kg	Bob Henderson	Dongara	26/9/2010	37 361001
Eel, Southern Conger	Conger verreauxi	0.97kg	Geoff Raftis	Port Denison	28/5/2018	37 067007
Emperor, Grass	Lethrinus laticaudis	4.54kg	Ted Savage	Wagoe	9/4/1970	37 351006
Emperor, Red	Lutjanus sebae	1.5kg	R Flynn	Steep Point	-/-/1980	37 346004
Emperor, Spangled	Lethrinus nebulosus	4.08kg	Brian Hanks	Exmouth	12/6/1972	37 351008

Flathead, Bar Tailed	Platycephalus australis	0.93kg	Justin Rose	Swan River	19/11/2015	37 296033
Flathead, Dusky ***	Platycephalus fuscus	2.92kg	Dave Latto	Moore River	17/12/1966	See note
Flathead, Southern Blue-Spotted	Platycephalus speculator	1.56kg	Ian Cook	Wagoe	23/9/2010	37 296037
Flounder	Species not specified	0.65kg	Morris Kolman	Hill River	13/4/1996	= = =
Garfish, Southern	Hyporhamphus melanochir	0.19kg	Mark Hansen	Cervantes	14/11/2010	37 234001
Goatfish, Blacksaddle	Parupeneus spilurus	1.09kg	Shane Wignell	Rottnest Island	15/8/2015	37 355015
Grinner, Painted	Trachinocephalus trachinus	0.5kg	Phil Brayne	False Entrance	1/7/1997	37 118002
Groper, Baldchin	Choerodon rubescens	4.3kg	Mal Thompson	Steep Point	-/-/19890	37 384039
Groper, Western Blue	Achoerodus gouldii	26.31kg	Vic Davis	Rottnest Island	6/1/1955	37 384002
Harlequin Fish	Othos dentex	2.26kg	Martin Wearmouth	Rottnest Island	11/8/1918	37 311005
Herring, Australian	Arripis georgianus	0.65kg	Norrie Cross	Yallingup	11/9/1967	37 344001
Dhufish, West Australian	Glacosoma herbraicum	19.96kg	Vic Davis	Rottnest Island	14/5/1961	37 320004
Kingfish, Yellowtail	Seriola lalandi	24.49kg	Les Ellis	Yanchep	17/5/1959	37 337006
Leatherjacket, Horseshoe	Meuschenia hippocrepis	1.05kg	Martin Wearmouth	Rottnest Island	27/8/2022	37 465004
Longtom, Slender	Strongylura leiura	4.1kg	Graham Reeley	Cape Cuvier	22/6/1977	37 235003
Mackerel, Spanish	Scomberomorus commerson	31.92kg	Don Bibby	Exmouth	15/9/1973	37 441007
Mackerel, Shark	Grammatorcynus bicarinatus	10kg	C Friend	Steep Point	4/10/1979	37 441025
Mackerel, Spotted	Scomberomorus munroi	4.54kg	Jim Strong	Jurien Bay	9/3/1974	37 441015
Mangrove Jack	Lutjanus argentimaculatus	1.81kg	Doug Savage	Kalbarri	9/4/1967	37 346015
Morwong	Cheilodactylidae - undifferentiated	1.13kg	Vic Davis	Rottnest Island	7/3/1960	37 377000
Moses Snapper	Lutjanus russelli	0.7kg	Ron Thomas	Quobba	24/6/2014	37 346065
Mullet, Sea	Mugil cephalus	1.13kg	Bert Payne	Trigg Island	24/5/1955	37 381002
Yellow Eye Mullet	Aldrichetta forsteri	0.36kg	Sandra Wessels	Bremer Bay	3/3/2018	37 381001
Mulloway	Argyrosomus japonicus	30.39kg	Allan Livesy	Kalbarri	26/3/1968	37 354001
Parrotfish, BlueBarred	Scarus ghobban	4kg	Dave Maxted	Steep Point	17/8/1996	37 386907
Pennantfish	Alectis ciliaris	1.07kg	Peet Wessels	Wagoe	3/6/2012	37 337018
Pomfret, Woodwards	Schuettea woodwardi	0.105kg	Mark Hansen	Rottnest Island	15/7/2018	37 356003
Giant Queenfish	Scomberoides commersonianus	7.94kg	Tony Howson	Coral Bay	13/9/1973	37 337032

Rankin Cod	Epinephelus multinotatus	3.6kg	Justin Rose	DHI	30/7/2021	37 311010
Ray, Eagle	Myliobatis hamlyni	56.25kg	Vic Davis	Rottnest Island	152/5/1955	37 039004
Ray, White pointer * * *	Species not listed	27.22kg	Kevin Hawker	Quinns Beach	23/11/1959	= = =
Ray Southern Shovelnose	Aptychotrema vincentiana	50.8kg	George Holman	Preston Beach	13/1/1971	37 027001
Sailfish	Istiophorus platypterus	30.2kg	Graham Reeley	Steep Point	28/4/1985	37 444005
Salmon, Western Australian	Arripis truttaceus	7.17kg	Peet Wessels	Bluff Creek	5/3/2016	37 344004
Samsonfish	Seriola hippos	23.13kg	Rudy Lerch	Kalbarri	4/3/1973	37 337007
Sand Bass	Psammoperca waigiensis	0.38 kg	Mark Hansen	Rottnest Island	17/8/2014	37 310001
Sea Perch, Black Banded	Hypoplectrodes annulatus	0.13kg est	Mark Hansen	Reef Beach	4/3/2017	37 311091
Seaperch, Banded	Hypoplectrodes nigroruber	2.1 kg	Justin Rose	Steep Point	16/11/2016	37 311037
Sea Perch, Striped	Lutjanus carponotatus	1.8kg	Justin Rose	DHI	30/7/2021	37 346011
Sea Perch, Spotty	Hypoplectrodes wilsoni	2.2 kg	Ian Cook	Dirk Hartog Island	15/7/1999	37 311099
Shark, Blacktip	Carcharhinus limbatus	27.1 kg	George Holman	Steep Point	14/8/1996	37 018039
Shark, Bronze whaler	Carcharhinus brachyurus	76.66 kg	Ron Shirley	Kalbarri	26/2/1973	37 018001
Shark, Grey nurse	Carcharias taurus	106.14 kg	E J Griffiths	Kalbarri	26/2/1973	37 008001
Shark, Gummy	Mustelus antarcticus	10.43 kg	Allan Bunnett	Jurien Bay	9/10/1965	37 017001
Shark, Hammerhead	Sphyrna spp	23.25 kg	Tom Vivian	Kalbarri	2/3/1969	37 019902
Shark, Lemon	Negaprion acutidens	48 kg	Darren Batchelor	Dirk Hartog Island	25/5/1999	37 018029
Shark, Tiger	Galeocerdo cuvieri	38.1 kg	John Devitt	Kalbarri	13/4/1970	37 018022
Shark, Spotted Wobbegong	Orectolobus maculatus	12 kg	Peet Wessels	Rottnest Island	27/8/2022	37 013906
Sharksucker	Echeneis naucrates	2.4 kg	George Matrakis	Dirk Hartog	07/2021	37 336001
Snapper, Pink	Chrysophrys auratus	16.02 kg	A J Werner	Waikiki	19/11/1953	37 353001
Blue Morwong (Queen Snapper)	Nemadactylus valenciennesi	2.27 kg	J Graham	Cosy Corner	27/6/1955	37 377004
Snook	Sphyraena novaehollandiae	3.37 kg	Noel Knight	Augusta	30/5/1970	37 382002
Sombre Sweetlips	Plectorhinchus unicolor	0.55 kg	Mark Hansen	Cervantes	1/2/2013	37 350013
Surge Wrasse	Thalassoma purpurum	1.31 kg	Peet Wessels	Rottnest Island	21/7/21	37 384169
Goldspotted Sweetlips,	Plectorhinchus flavomaculatus	1.5 kg	Bob Klein	Quobba	1/6/1979	37 350007

Tailor	Pomatomus saltatrix	6.30 kg	Peet Wessels	Bremer Bay	17/9/2014	37 334002
Tarwhine	Rhabdosargus sarba	1.36 kg	Bob Tucker	Garden Island	16/7/1961	37 353013
King Threadfin	Polydactylus macrochir	Est 8 Kg	Ray Walker	Eighty Mile Beach	3/6/2015	37 383005
Striped Threadfin	Polydactylus plebeius	1.1 kg	Rom Niciejewski	Serrurier Island	10/7/1997	37 383009
Toadfish, Silver (NW Blowie)	Lagocephalus scleratus	6.8 kg	Bert Payne	Monkey Mia	17/11/1965	37 467007
Trevally, Bludger	Carangoides gymnostethus	7.26 kg	Alby Norman	Wagoe	22/4/1973	37 337022
Trevally, Giant	Caranx ignobilis	27.5 kg	Bob Klein	Cape Cuvier	3/5/1975	37 337027
Trevally, Golden	Gnathanodon speciosus	15 kg	A Tuvik	Steep Point	12/12/1980	37 337012
Turum	Carangoides fulvoguttatus	9.08 kg	Dennis Green	Cape Cuvier	2/6/1974	37 337037
Trevally, Silver (Skippy)	Pseudocaranx wrighti	5.44 kg	W Cooper	Trigg Island	16/9/1955	37 337063
Trevally, Thick Lip	Carangoides orthogrammus	0.38 kg	Mark Hansen	Rottnest Island	15/5/2011	37 337057
Tripletail Maori Wrasse	Cheilinus trilobatus	1.1 kg	Ron Thomas	Quobba	31/5/2014	37 384044
Trout, Coronation, Yellowedge	Variola louti	4 kg	L Clifton	Steep Point	20/4/1984	37 311166
Trout, Brown	Salmo trutta	1.26 kg	J Bennett	Drakesbrook	3/11/1999	37 094004
Trout, Rainbow	Oncorhynchus mykiss	0.562 kg	Darcy Tomlinson	Warren River	6/1/2018	37 094003
Tuna, Mackerel	Euthynnus affinis	8.93 kg	T O'Hara	Cape Cuvier	3/6/1973	37 441010
Tuna, Long Tail	Thunnus tonggol	22.28 kg	Glen Wong	Preston Beach	10/4/2016	37 441013
Tuna, Yellowfin	Thunnus albacares	16 kg	Tony Richardson	Steep Point	21/5/1981	37 441002
Tuskfish, Blackspot	Choerodon schoenleinii	2.4 kg	Peet Wessels	Shelter Bay	9/7/2012	37 384010
Tuskfish, Blue	Choerodon cyanodus	4.25 kg	D Stigelmayer	Steep Point	26/3/1985	37 384072
Pigfish, Western	Bodianus vulpinus	0.80 kg	Sandra Wessels	Rottnest Island	15/5/2011	37 384001
Whiting, King George	Sillaginodes punctata	1.53 kg	John Lee	Garden Island	12/5/1973	37 330001
Whiting, Sand	Sillago ciliata	0.57 kg	George Holman	Wedge Island	28/12/1972	37 330010
Wirrah	Not Defined - Acanthistius spp	1.81 kg	Tom Smith	Kalbarri	1/9/1965	37 311912
Wirrah, Leopard	Acanthistius pardalotus	1.44 kg	Peet Wessels	Rottnest Island	15/5/2011	37 311132
Wrasse, Brown Spotted	Notolabrus parilus	0.92kg	Mark Hansen	Reef Beach	4/3/2017	37 384022
Wrasse, Seven Banded	Thalassoma septemfasciatum	0.68 kg	Peter Osborne	Wagoe	29/7/2011	37 384171
Wrasse, Western King	Coris auricularis	0.36 kg	Peter Osborne	Rottnest Island	15/5/2011	37 38400
Zebra fish	Girella zebra	0.39kg	Mark Nurse	Rottnest Island	21/5/2016	37 361008

Notes

Weights originally in pounds and ounces have been converted to kilograms and rounded to 2 decimal places (the nearest 10 grams).

Common Names have been corrected to comply with Australian Standard AS 5300-2015 Australian Standard Fish Names (FRDC): -

- Some common names are no longer in use.
- Some species are no longer eligible as they have been declared a protected species.

*** Mis-identified as it is not found in W A waters. Possibly either a Flathead, Longhead, (*Leviprora inops*) or a Flathead, Southern Blue Spotted, (*Platycephalus speculator*)

*** **Species Common Names** listed in blue are not definitely identified as they do not give full details, e.g. there are several species of hammerhead sharks and the one listed is not specific. Hammerhead shark is either Scalloped Hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) or Smooth Hammerhead (*Sphyrna zygaena*)

*** Ray, White Pointer is possibly a Western Shovelnose Ray (*Glaucostegus typus*) mis-identified or mis-named.

CAAB - Codes for Australian Aquatic Biota - is a continuously maintained and expanding 8-digit coding system for aquatic organisms in the Australian region maintained by CSIRO Division of Marine and Atmospheric Research, Australia (CMAR). Initially developed to cover fishes and selected other organisms of research or commercial interest, it has more recently been expanded to provide more comprehensive coverage of a number of aquatic groups, as information is available. CAAB is used by a large and expanding number of governmental and industry groups for marine biology and fishery purposes and has replaced almost all other national and locally designed coding systems.

CAAB currently contains codes and taxonomic information for the following aquatic organisms in the Australian region: over 4,500 codes for fishes (CAAB category 37), representing virtually all known marine and freshwater species in Australian waters.

Fishing for Yellowfin Whiting



Yellowfin whiting have long been known as the second most popular whiting to target behind the mighty King George. However, in more recent times, chasing these shallow water gems has been gaining more exposure, with a lot more coverage on how to target them.

The best time of year for catching yellowfin whiting, is generally during the warmer months when the water temperature hovers between the 20-24 degree mark. November through to March and even into mid-April gives you ample time to target them. October sees the 'locals' scouting for them, with some experienced anglers lucky enough to find them consistently leading into peak season.

In different locations, yellowfin whiting will take some baits readily when presented to them. These places are generally sheltered spots that are generally protected from the wind and swell. Other locations that are protected will also produce good fishing and generally the fish that reside here will attack harder and get caught on stick baits, poppers, vibes, hardbodies, soft plastics and baits. Protected shallow beach areas in the Swan and Canning rivers and locations such as the beaches behind protecting islands as around Rockingham and Lancelin also provide excellent fishing for yellowfin whiting. The Peel estuary is another very popular location for shallow water wading for these feisty fish.

When using stick baits, I've found several that work. These include lures that are decorated with colours that are an ideal match to imitate what the yellowfin would usually feed on such as prawns and small fish. Make no mistake these

fish are aggressive feeders and will readily attack baits and lures if it is food. Removing the stock trebles and replacing them with a an assist hook on the front towing point so that it is sitting around the belly of the lure and stinger assist hooks on the back, (preferably with the red or gold tassels) These lures are not cheap and these modifications will make the lure fairly pricey, however, they are proven performers and soon pay for themselves when you're into a school of tasty treats to bring home.

I've also found that a surface popper, that is around 65 mm in length, with the treble hooks carefully removed and replaced with two size 8 – 10 circle style assist hooks (which I change over to the same set-up as above), weighs 5 g and has a unique 'spouting' bubble chamber. When retrieved across the water, this produces an exciting splash and pop action which whiting find attractive.

I've also talked to some local whiting experts who use small vibe lures, and catch a lot of whiting on the bottom with them. They're also somewhat expensive, but with their assist hooks, are very sticky and latch onto the fussiest of fish. I have also taken to using barbless, in-line hooks on my lures. They are extremely sharp and without a barb come out of my flesh readily, rather than having to operate to remove them. Beware assist are also extremely sharp and penetrate rapidly into flesh and can be difficult to remove if they penetrate below the barb.

Catching yellowfin whiting on bait can also be fun - time consuming, but well worth the effort. I will use river worms, beach worms, seaweed worms, cockle, fresh shrimp and prawns along with fresh oxheart. Finding and digging for beach or river worms under washed up seaweed above the high tide mark on a beach is usually my choice, and I personally think they make the best baits for yellowfin. Keeping seaweed worms fresh and alive is simple; just take a bit of seaweed and wet sand in the container/bucket you collect them in, which will be ample to keep them fresh and alive until ready to use. Just make sure if you are digging for worms that you cover over the areas you dig - for two reasons. Firstly, it conceals your area so no one else gets a sniff of your bait-finding location and secondly, it helps to keep the worm population going in that spot. Just remember the age-old quote, 'If you want to go fishing, use a lure. If you want to catch a fish, use the freshest bait.

I have a couple of variations for catching whiting on bait, the more common of which is to run a standard paternoster rig using about a metre of 8 - 10 lb fluorocarbon under a snap swivel, a sinker to suit conditions, and two Mustad bloodworm hooks in size 6. The top snood, being a shorter length and the bottom hook having a longer snood that hangs well below the sinker, gives both baits the freedom to dance around under the water and not run the risk of tangling up. I use long shank hooks with a paternoster rig because I like to feel the bite and strike the fish to set the hook. Another reason for using long shank hooks is when onto a hot bite, they are easier to remove, which means quicker rebait time and getting back into the water sooner!

Another unorthodox method I often now employ is using a bobbing light weighted styrene float, threading it between a length of 20 cm of line and two swivels. I like to use 50-60 cm of 10 lb fluorocarbon leader under the float and run that down to two Black Magic size 1 circle hooks. These are spaced about 50 cm apart, which is ample for one or two nice whiting to slurp down and get pinned just inside the jaw. I use circle hooks on a float rig so that the fish can hook themselves while dragging the float under. It doesn't matter if the baits aren't suspended in the water, as whiting are generally a bottom feeding species. I'd usually use this technique fishing in flat water conditions.

When using stick baits and poppers, don't be afraid to fish in breezy conditions. I've caught many fish in choppy weather by casting with the breeze and working the lure back into the wind across the surface. I feel the fish are more predatory and will attack more comfortably than when it's flat calm. When the wind is blowing sideways or onshore and I still decide to go, I stand out in waist-deep water and cast with the breeze. Yellowfin whiting aren't afraid to attack in knee-high water or less. Also, when casting in breezy weather, click your bail arm over before the lure hits the water. This will prevent a 'belly' forming in the line, which you'll then have to wind in and lose a bit of distance.

Using the 'walk the dog' motion has been most popular, and you'll find different variations on YouTube about how to follow this. My method has been to start with the rod slightly pointed downward, with the tip just a few inches off the water. After the cast, twitch the tip sharply a few inches, then immediately drift the tip back toward the lure a few inches, creating a bit of slack in the line. If retrieved right, you should see the stick bait dart across diagonally back towards you. With poppers you'll see a large burst of water at the bow making more of a commotion. Visually at least,

this form of fishing is by far the best and most exciting way to catch them, in my opinion. The boils of water following your lure before the strike, and then that splash of hooking up to that nice yellowfin is next level.

Vibe lures, have also performed well on the yellowfin. I like to cast, retrieve, twitch-twitch, let the lure sink for a split second and twitch-twitch again. This really gets them fired up and they are likely to get caught on the stinger assist hooks the lures come with.

The soft plastics I've trialled include the 2.5" flick prawns in the green and orange colours are best, and the Gulp 'Crabby' in camo works well too. I like to use a size 2 hook, but vary my jig head weight according to weather conditions, generally going as light as I can. I use the same technique as the vibes to retrieve soft plastics.

I feel the moon certainly comes into play when chasing yellowfin. My best results from a full moon would be right on dusk or an early start before the sun comes up. That being said, the tides then have to line up as well. I prefer to target these fish two hours either side of the high tide, and I've found when there's a new moon, day fishing is best when the tides align.

There needs to be some form of bottom structure around when hunting yellowfin. Even a little bit helps and with this style of fishing, both bait and lure, you'll need to keep moving as the fish won't hold in the same area for long. Yellowfin whiting like to congregate in shallow areas, and if it's breezy, use the wind to your advantage when casting.

With the tackle I use, I never go any heavier than 8 lb braid for my mainline and the strength of the leader varies if I'm fishing bait or lures. I do, however, tie on all leaders with an FG knot to start with, roughly 2 m in length. When the knot runs through the eyes of the rod, I can hardly feel it leaving and there's no damage to the guides at all. If, by any chance, I lose a lure/rig/ leader and I need to quickly join a knot on the go, I'll tie a double Uni knot with a length of about a metre. That way the knot won't have to travel through the rod tip, but you'll still have enough leader to play with.

Certain lures do need to be tied on differently. With poppers I tie a standard locked blood (clinch) knot straight to the towing point. I'd also be using a heavier fluoro leader of 10-12 lb, as with poppers the aim is to make them travel in straight lines, not dart around going everywhere; a heavier leader encourages that. Stick baits, vibes and soft plastics can all be tied on with a loop knot, which gives the artificial the movement it needs on or under the water to have that natural motion. Using a lighter leader between 4-6 lb is ideal here.

I like to stick with light combos for lure fishing, favouring my 1000 or 1500 size reel with 6 lb Suffix 832 braid paired with an ultra-light rod. This outfit casts a long way and is super smooth. Any whippy rod over 7 feet would be ample though. For bait fishing I love using my 1-4 Kg rod paired with a small 2500 loaded with 8 lb braid. The rod is very flexible and the reel is more than capable if you're onto a pair of 40 cm fish, knowing you're a fair chance of landing both fish.

In the cooler weather or really early mornings I'll wear waders to work areas on the beach up and back, but in the warmer months a pair of shorts and water boots is fine. I always fish with my shoulder catch bag on, my dab net clipped to the bag and either a container of bait, lures or both in one of the catch bag pockets. A set of long-nose pliers or a hook remover is also essential, and I like to fish with gloves. When you catch a decent yellowfin and you're standing out in the water, they can be slippery critters, and when you hold them, you don't want them flapping around and potentially getting away. A good pair of polaroid sunglasses is also compulsory. While fishing the flats, decent sunnies definitely help by taking that glare off the water and also enable you to see the fish following a lure.

So give this method of fishing and you will be surprised at the pulling power that these fish can turn on. They are also an exceptional table fish when freshly cooked so it becomes a great relaxing fishing outing that is quite enjoyable. Also you can use an old plastic washing basket with a pool noodle wrapped around the rim as a catch basket that will keep any fish you catch in the basket and you can release any fish not needed for the table.

John Curtis; Secretary

TACKLE MAINTENANCE

PRIOR TO GOING FISHING

Hooks

Rusty and blunt hooks don't catch fish. With sharp hooks you often don't have to have the reflexes of a cat to set the hooks, the hooks and the fish do that for you. The point of a hook should be sharpened to a triangular point so that the edges of the triangle assist hook penetration by cutting through the skin/scales/bone etc. There are a number of hook sharpening stones and jigs available. *"Keep a point on your hooks to make a point on the scoreboard"*.

Spools / Line Capacity

Ensure that the reels have the optimum amount of line on them. Too much and you'll have problems with loops dropping off or overruns and bird's nests occurring at the most awkward of times. Too little and you may lose the retrieve rate required to work a lure properly or not have enough reserve line to stay connected to a fish.

Break off's, re-rigging and post trip stripping all contribute to a reduction in line capacity. If you can afford it, re-spool with new line. If your fishing style is a little more laid back then join a new section of line on using either the Centauri or Uni-knot. Remember when tying any knot that the number of turns used is dependent on the breaking strain of the line. The heavier the line the less the number of turns.

Generally less than 4 kg 6 turns is sufficient. For 4 – 6 kg 4 turns is sufficient, and for 8 – 10 kg 3 turns is enough. Above this breaking strain, generally 2 - 3 turns is sufficient. Also remember to lubricate the formed knot with saliva before pulling it down tight and pull it down slowly so that heat generated by the binding of the turns is minimal. Never jerk knots up tight.

Reels

Check all reel operations such as free spooling, gear engaging, bail arm operation, bail roller freedom, level wind and drag system. A good drag system will allow the reel to fall smoothly and gently to the ground when suspended from the line. Erratic operation could be caused by warped or worn drag washers; clogged and/or worn fibre washers or worn/sticking bearings. Any surface that contacts the line should be checked for wear, pitting and/or plating damage.

Transportation

Rods and reels do not appreciate being transported on top of cars 4WD's and boats to all corners of the country. Dust, sand and water are forced into the reel to make life most unpleasant at some later date. I appreciate that it is convenient to rig up prior to heading out, but some effort should be made to transport your gear inside the vehicle. Vans and LWB 4WD's usually have enough headroom and length to carry at least 4 rigs.

Two-piece beach rods can be rigged and split for transportation inside. Single piece beach rods should be transported unrigged, butt first in the middle of the rack or over the driver's head to avoid tangling with track side shrubbery.

WHILE FISHING

Apart from keeping rods and reels out of the water and sand, most tackle maintenance activities while fishing involve the line. If your fishing involves a lot of casting you should employ a casting double and / or a shock leader to reduce line stress during the initial acceleration of a cast. A double can most conveniently be produced by the spider hitch, surgeons end loop or, if you have the time and patience, a bimini twist.

Again because of line stress and abrasion you should strip approx 10 metres of line off the reel after landing any big fish. (don't forget to dispose of the waste line in a proper manner) At minimum you should check the line by running the last 10 metres through your fingers as well as all knots.

With some reels there is a danger of cracking the spool if a lot of line is retrieved under heavy load. In this situation you should strip the line off (get a mate or the kids to run up the beach) and then wind it back on under more conservative pressure. If something does go bust on the job, emergency repairs can generally be effected by using a stick of Hot Melt glue or electrical tape to get you back amongst the action.

AFTER FISHING

Now the crunch comes. You're tired, you're late and you've caught too many fish and have to spend all night cleaning them. I'll clean the tackle tomorrow. If you've got any regard for the money spent on rods and reels and the pleasure you get from trouble free fishing, you'll clean the tackle NOW.

First dismantle all the rigs. Take the reels off and strip at least 10 metres of line off.(remember all those casts). Hose the rods down with fresh water making sure to scrub the reel seat, grips and guides with a stiff (old toothbrush) brush to remove all salt, scales, dust and sand. Tighten up the reel drags and spray using a spray bottle (not drench) them with fresh warm water.

While you're at it you may as well give any hooks, lures and swivels a wash before putting them back in the box. Before storing the rods give the reel seats and guides a spray and wipe with a water repelling spray to remove any moisture and assist in preventing corrosion.

Store the rods upright in suitable rubber or plastic clips (for single piece beach rods, make your own arrangements, but store them in a horizontal position and support them along their length in at least three places)

On each reel, release the drag pressure after washing down with fresh water and remove the spool and side plate and mop out any moisture. Spray all parts (including spool and line) with a water repelling spray. Re-assemble the reel and check its operation as before. If there is something amiss you can set aside a night to correct it well in advance of the next fishing outing. Store the reels in individual canvas/cloth bags to protect them from dust and abrasion. After 4 or 5 trips give the reels a full lube and grease.

OVERHAUL TIME

You should thoroughly inspect and overhaul all your tackle at least once every 12 months. More often if you fish every week. Check rod guides and bindings for signs of wear. Soak a cotton bud or a rag with some ink and wiping it around a guide will show up fine cracks and wear spots. Wooden rod butts should be sanded and re-varnished or coated with epoxy to help prevent splitting.

For overhauling reels there are some essential ingredients. A clear space on the workbench or kitchen table covered with a plastic drop sheet will prevent oils and greases leaving marks and stains. It will also help to make finding tiny springs that go "ping" a lot easier. You will need a couple of egg cartons to store all the bits stripped from the reel, assorted tools for getting into the reel, that exploded view that you almost threw away with the packing when you bought the reel. Also a good light, a sheet of glass, some 400 - 600 grade wet and dry emery paper, some solvent (methyated spirits) and kerosene along with stiff brushes for cleaning, some light machine oil (SAE 10) for the bearings and some suitable grease for the gears. Outboard engine grease*¹ is recommended as it has a high temperature tolerance, saltwater resistant and has high viscosity (sticky) thus making it an excellent choice as a reel lubricant.

Be methodical and don't rush things. Place all parts, in order of disassembly in the egg cartons as you remove them. Once stripped down, thoroughly clean everything with kerosene to remove the old grease and then clean the kerosene off using a light solvent such as methyated spirits. This will also remove any remaining grease and oil.

Tape or hot melt glue the wet and dry emery paper to the piece of glass and gently rub each drag washer in a figure of eight pattern to smooth any lumps and bumps out. Watch out when doing this as you will 'burn' your finger tips and remove them if you are not careful. This hurts. Replace any worn or 'growly' bearings. Phosphor bronze bearings are porous and should be soaked in oil (preferably warmed) to provide maximum lubrication properties. Ball bearings are usually sealed but if open should have a few drops of a light oil applied. Some drag materials such as cork or fibre don't require oiling however most drag system washers should be lubricated with a light coating of PTFE or 'Teflon' grease prior to reassembly.

When assembling gears, apply sufficient grease to just cover the gear teeth, any more is wasted. This is best done using a small stiff bristle brush such as an artist's pig bristle brush. Avoid using silicone based greases and definitely DO NOT use petroleum jelly as a reel lubricant. The silicone grease tends to migrate throughout the reel, has very low

viscosity and comes off easily and will readily emulsify with water. Generally they have very poor lubricating qualities. Petroleum jelly becomes very liquid when hot and solidifies when cold. It then leaks out of the reel covering your gear and anything else with a slimy coating. When it is very cold it solidifies, making the internal workings of a reel very difficult to operate and you run the risk of damaging or 'freezing up' the internal mechanisms such as the anti reverse.

REMEMBER:

If you spend a little time working on your gear, it will in turn look after you. and you will have many hours of trouble free fishing.

*¹ A product sold by OMC (Johnson Evinrude) is highly recommended. It is marketed under the name of "Triple Guard" and should be readily available from OMC dealers. Do not use excess as it is a waste, just cover all internal surfaces of the reel with a thin coat using a small pig bristle brush and apply a generous coating to the gear teeth. Alvey Fishing Reels for a number of years marketed small tubes of a similar grease as 'Alvey Grease'.

A check on the Alvey Reels website (<http://www.alvey.com.au/>) revealed the following; *" New technology has allowed vegetable oils to be cracked to produce high quality lubricating oils and greases. These materials are biodegradable, nontoxic and odourless. This won't affect bait and there are no mineral oils used in the manufacture of this product. You now have a choice of a thin penetrating oil or a thicker grease/lube for heavier duty applications."* If this is up to Alvey's usual standard, it will be an excellent lubricant.

John Curtis; Secretary

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

