



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

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### Field Day report April 2013 Capes South

Fishing spots at the April 2013 Capes South field day were spread from mouth of the Margaret River to Elephant Rock, north of Augusta. Mixed catches resulted from these locations.

On driving down on Friday, I had light rain and drizzle all the way, but while speaking to Terry on my mobile phone, he had looked at the Weather Bureau's rain radar which showed rain was further north, and it seemed the rest of that day should be clear. He was spot on, just beautiful field day weather.

**The short Safari trip.** A team of seven SCAC fisherpersons, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Geoff Raftis, George Holman, Pat McKeown, Dave Maxted and Peter Osborne, participated in this short safari field day event at our southwest coast.

Geoff, George, Dave and Pat had accommodation at Prevelly Park. This location gave them good access to the sign-on and weigh-in location at the intersection from Caves Road to the road down to Prevelly Park. Peet, Sandra and I went down to Elephant Rock and stayed there overnight.

The fishing time was from 12 noon Saturday 13 April to 12 noon Sunday. Fish captures and different species were reasonable with salmon making an appearance for most. George Holman caught some herring and a tarwhine and also found a school of quality skippy, bagging out on one day's bag limit. His best fish weighed 0.71kg. Unfortunately George did not hook up on any salmon.

Dave Maxted got a mixed bag of herring, tailor, skippy and tarwhine. He had the best bag of tailor comprising a total of 5 of these.

Pat McKeown managed to get some herring, skippy and a salmon. He also managed to get a salmon prior to lines down. This is a special fish for Pat as it was his first ever full sized salmon. Pat, don't they put up a good fight and they fight clean.

The Club owns an air conditioned holiday house at Kalbarri which is available for rent to the public and club members at competitive rates. Link is above.



*George anticipating a good feed of Skippy fillets*



*Geoff with two of his fish*

Pat - all of us at the weigh-in wanted to give you a message. If you continue to fish with SCAC and capture quality and large fish, you need a bigger esky.

At left: smiles from someone who knows the fishing spots from Prevelly Park to the Margaret River mouth even when occupied by lots of surf board riders.



*Pat's brace of quality Salmon*

Geoff also managed a mixed bag of salmon, herring, tailor and skippy. He ended up with the second heaviest bag.

Peet, Sandra and I went down to Elephant Rock. While weather conditions were good, fishing was slow compared to past experiences. Sandra and Peet both got a good snook each fairly early in the afternoon, with me not managing to find one of these.

I went around the corner from Elephant Rock to a spot that I had previous successes in catching skippy. Second cast, I was on with a good skippy, and then a few fair sized herring and a rock blackfish. Wow, this was great, but then a school of mini herring moved in, about mulie size, could not get past them so I gave up and re-joined Peet and Sandra on top of Elephant Rock.

Shortly after, Peet thought he would try the area I had just left and he managed some herring, rock blackfish and a just undersize leatherjacket. We fished through to until dark, with Peet and Sandra hooking up on large rays and Port Jackson sharks. I decided to quit as in theory the productive time of just before to just after sunset was not actually productive. Peet and Sandra fished on for another hour or so, but only hooked up on more rays and Port Jackson sharks. Back at the cars, we cooked up a meal and then slept in our vehicles, rising just before light on Sunday morning.

The drive out on the track to Caves Road was slow with sections of good firm sand and then washouts. Driving north on Caves road for about 18 km, we found the track that goes down to Hamelin beach. Now that's a real 4WD track. Long drive in with some massive limestone outcrops that you had to go into low gear 4wd and walk the vehicle across these section trying to ensure you would not bottom out.

On arriving on the beach, what a marvelous sight, blue sky with a small amount of woolly white clouds, blue water, 1 to 1.5 metre waves breaking and a very light wind.

Already lots of vehicles on the beach and more followed us in. We drove along the beach at the top where the sand track was firm without letting tires down, looking for waves breaking further out and a gutter formation.

Within a few kilometres we found what looked like a good gutter, hence the 3 of us had lines in the water within minutes.

Sandra immediately hooked up on a tailor. No more of these, think we should have been there last night or very early morning.

Not too long after I hooked up on a very good salmon, 4.5kg cleaned so would have been over 5kg. Shortly after, Sandra hooked up on her salmon. Peet kept trying but no luck on this species; Both Peet and Sandra also tried for herring but were plagued by small undersize fish.

Later in the morning I hooked up and landed a second salmon. This made my 3rd salmon in my esky. On the way down on Friday I had tried a couple of places in the Capes North section, and saw salmon being caught. With low swell I used my single handed rod to hook a salmon and was able climb down and with a heavy leader to lift it up onto the rocks, a lot of fun. Lost two before I managed to land on such light gear.

Too quickly time to go back to the weigh-in arrived. I am adding the following into our discussion as it demonstrate what not to do. I did not let air out of my tire and tried to reverse up onto the firm track. Nope, buried the wheels in soft sand. Peet backed over, we hooked up on the snatch trap and when he gave it the gun not enough momentum while still in soft sand and even though he let air out of his tires he buried his wheels.

Dilemma - as the snatch strap was still under elastic tension and we could not let go the shackles as neither vehicle could be moved. Fortunately a stranger came along with an older, but well set up Toyota with big tires and lifters, and he soon got us mobile.



*How is that for a big handful of different fish. You can tell from the smile someone was pleased.*

We arrived at weigh-in location with only a minute to spare. I set up tables etc. and as we put the fish across the scales everyone swapped their stories on fish caught. Again, smiles all around.

Sandra took a series of photos, where we had to take care due to spiders and webs from the trees in the background.

**Local Field Day.** This was held from midday Saturday 13 August to Sunday with the weigh-in at noon at George Holman's house.

Martin Wearmouth and John Crompton fished locally at Floreat. Fish were pretty scarce. John had a couple of good hits but came away empty handed.



*Lots of smiles following the weigh-in with quality bags of fish. Pat had the wide grin no doubt due to his two salmon.*

Martin managed to capture a couple of good tailor with one weighing 0.7kg, this being the heaviest tailor for the weekend.

New comer Aghmed Edries also joined John and Martin, unfortunately he did not manage a hook-up.

**Final reflections.** I have encountered this sort of Salmon fishing at Bluff Creek, and Esperance. Hamelin Bay beach also provided one of those surreal fishing experiences.

Picture this - imagine sitting on your esky or chair beside your vehicle, enjoying a drink, with weather, the sky, beach and water as painted in above....

And then you hear Sandra screaming at you (Sandra is good at vocalizing)

As you look up you see your rod bent in a beautiful arc and as you walk down to your rod at the water's edge, about 40 metres from the shore, out of the ocean a salmon jumps high and spins with water streaming off his back, glistening silver and white from the sun.

Walk down and pick up the rod, with sand and lapping water between your toes and with controlled care you proceed to play and land a 5+ kg fish. Can it get any better? Doesn't always happen but Surfcasters provides opportunities to fish at places to give you this experience, so give it serious thought for our forthcoming field days. Cannot be guaranteed, but when it happens it's magic.



*Peter Osborne with 4.5kg (gilled and gutted) salmon*



At left: Pat's first salmon of the weekend, caught before the Field day.

Pat wanted to enter this in the Open competition, but unfortunately a heavier salmon had already been entered.

Tight lines

Field Officer, Peter Osborne

## Sportsperson of the Year section winners for April 2013

|                        |               |                   |          |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|----------|
| Best scale fish        | Peter Osborne | Salmon Australian | 4.5 kg   |
| Best bag of scale fish | Peter Osborne | Mixed Bag         | 10.65 kg |

## Field day section winners for April 2013

|                        |               |                   |         |
|------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| Best scale fish        | Peter Osborne | Salmon Australian | 4.5 kg  |
| Best bag of scale fish | Geoff Raftis  | Mixed Bag         | 8.97 kg |

## Catch results and points for April 2013 Field Day

| Angler           | Weight   | Species | Fish | Points |
|------------------|----------|---------|------|--------|
| Peter Osborne    | 10.65 kg | 5       | 16   | 206.5  |
| Geoff Raftis     | 8.97 kg  | 4       | 17   | 169.7  |
| Sandra Wessels   | 5.61 kg  | 4       | 4    | 146.1  |
| George Holman    | 6.04 kg  | 3       | 16   | 140.4  |
| Pat McKeown      | 5.16 kg  | 3       | 8    | 131.6  |
| David Maxted     | 4.05 kg  | 4       | 14   | 130.5  |
| Peet Wessels     | 1.81 kg  | 3       | 5    | 98.1   |
| Martin Wearmouth | 1.07 kg  | 1       | 2    | 40.7   |
| John Crompton    |          |         |      | 20     |

Points include Field day and April General meeting points.

Species weighed at the Capes South Field day: tailor, skipjack trevally, herring, salmon, wrasse, western rock blackfish, snook, tarwhine.

Species weighed at the local field day: tailor.

## Field Day top scores for 2012/13

Total scores up to and including April Field day and General meeting. Competition Rules section 2.4.5 specifies only the best 11 months out of 12 will count at the end of the competition year. The winners will be announced at the Presentation of Trophies in June 2013, and adjusted scores will be published after that.

| Name             | Points | Rank | Name                | Points | Rank | Name             | Points | Rank |
|------------------|--------|------|---------------------|--------|------|------------------|--------|------|
| Peter Osborne    | 1860.3 | 1    | Theo Van Niekerk    | 287.9  | 14   | Thomas Wearmouth | 135.6  | 27   |
| Peet Wessels     | 1512.4 | 2    | Debbie Korin        | 266.6  | 15   | Peter Pekaar     | 125.7  | 28   |
| Sandra Wessels   | 1298.5 | 3    | Justin Rose         | 264.9  | 16   | Melvin Wee       | 121.5  | 29   |
| George Holman    | 1244.1 | 4    | Francis Ford        | 251.8  | 17   | Francis Gaudin   | 115.7  | 30   |
| Martin Wearmouth | 839.9  | 5    | Eddie Korin         | 248.8  | 18   | Terry Fuller     | 104.2  | 31   |
| Mark Hansen      | 648.3  | 6    | Wendy Hansen        | 246.2  | 19   | Jeff Hewton      | 104    | 32   |
| Pat McKeown      | 590.3  | 7    | Ian Taggart         | 242.3  | 20   | Josh Gorringer   | 99     | 33   |
| Slavka Schilo    | 583.7  | 8    | Raymond Walker      | 237.1  | 21   | Emma Wignell     | 73.2   | 34   |
| Shane Wignell    | 578.9  | 9    | Geoff Raftis        | 229.4  | 22   | Rob Pekaar       | 41.8   | 35   |
| Victor Schilo    | 534.8  | 10   | Dean Stewart        | 172.8  | 23   | Beverley Grigo   | 40     | 36   |
| John Crompton    | 427.6  | 11   | David Maxted        | 170.5  | 24   | Chris Stickells  | 34.5   | 37   |
| Sarah Wignell    | 375.8  | 12   | Morgan Keet         | 160.8  | 25   | Allan Jones      | 20     | 38   |
| Greg Keet        | 295.1  | 13   | Christian Wearmouth | 136.9  | 26   |                  |        |      |

## Field Day sections 2012/13

Up to and including April 2013 Field Day.

|    |                                     |                            |                   |         |       |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|-------|
| 1A | Best scale fish (1st six months)    | Peet Wessels               | Mulloway          | 7.8 kg  | June  |
| 1B | Best scale fish (2nd six months)    | Peter Osborne              | Salmon            | 4.5 kg  | April |
| 2  | Most meritorious fish               | To be awarded by Committee |                   |         |       |
| 3  | Best Shark (4.5kg min)              | Justin Rose                | Shark             | 6.1 kg  | Nov   |
| 4  | Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)           | Peet Wessels               | Mulloway          | 7.8 kg  | June  |
| 5  | Best Tailor (1.0kg min)             | Peter Osborne              | Tailor            | 1.22 kg | Sep   |
| 6  | Best Salmon (3kg min)               | Peter Osborne              | Salmon            | 4.5 kg  | April |
| 7  | Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min) | Peet Wessels               | Skipjack Trevally | 1.42 kg | Aug   |
| 8  | Best Mackerel (2kg Min)             |                            |                   |         |       |

|    |   |                |                     |          |     |
|----|---|----------------|---------------------|----------|-----|
| 9  | Best scale fish (other than above)      | Sandra Wessels | Yellowtail Kingfish | 4.72 kg  | Aug |
| 10 | Best bag of scale fish                  | Peter Osborne  | Mixed Bag           | 15.04 kg | Aug |
| 11 | Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min)       |                |                     |          |     |
| 12 | Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min)         | Peter Osborne  | Tailor              | 6.1 kg   | Nov |
| 13 | Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max) | Peter Pekaar   | Flathead            | 0.18 kg  | Dec |
| 14 | Best fish caught on fly rod             | Frank Gaudin   | Wrasse              | 0.54 kg  | May |