



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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August 2015 fishing field day

Rottnest.

Summary. As in past years, and as a follow on from May 2015, the August 2015 Rottnest field day lived up to expectations.

Those of us who fished on the Saturday and Sunday afternoon and early evening had a mind blowing fishing experience with a few Yellowtail Kingfish, some great bags of Skippy, various demersals and miscellaneous fish.

As per last year, the thought of a Rotto field day was always an anticipation of catching great fish like Salmon, Yellowtail Kingfish, Skippy, Tailor, miscellaneous species and of course Herring. Unfortunately although only a small appearance of Yellowtail Kingfish and no Tailor or Salmon, despite this, it was memorable weekend of catching great fish.

The weekend was scheduled to be fine with a possibility of a front coming through late Sunday evening, however the weather ended up just about perfect for fishing the reefs. Swell was down, tides were low just before it got dark, and with very light winds. In fact mid-afternoon with the sunshine it could have been a summer's day.

A team of 11 SCAC fisherpersons, Mark Hansen, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Ian Taggart, Theo Van Niekerk, Mark Nurse, Shane Wignell, and Peter Osborne together with prospective new members Dr: Sri Srigandan and Paul Terpkos and son Nicolas [Nic,] arrived Friday night, and divided into the two pre-arranged bungalows.

Two visitors, Daniel Bell and Chris Gaston (Kiwi) from ORSSC arrived early Saturday morning. They had problem getting access to their bungalow as it was only available early afternoon. They arranged to have security get their key and obtained it when we came in from fishing on Saturday evening.

While one group participated in some pizza etc. at the local pub on Friday night and watched the football, the rest had their precooked meals run through the microwave. The larger bungalows are three bedrooms of 2 beds per room, facilities are very comfortable.

Saturday morning at 11am we had the bus trip out to West End with stopping at the bakery to get a hot pie to eat for lunch on the way out. And as in past years to mine and Sandra's palate, the lamb and rosemary pies were on the agenda as they really are a gourmet treat. The anticipation of this was realized as this time the pies were not sold out. We had other selections available but made a request to have lamb pies available for us again on Sunday morning.

On arrival, we spread out from the Tennis Courts to Wilsons. Those that tried Wilsons could not get much action, very unusual. An effort around the corner of Wilsons by Ian, Theo, Paul and Nic proved fruitless as it was full of small wrasse that were destroying the mulie bait soon as it hit the water. Only a Breaksea Cod and some Pike were caught as a result of their concentrated effort. On leaving Wilsons, pretty well empty handed this group headed to Radar Reef later afternoon.

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.



*Radar reef before we went out.
Still too early and tide not at lowest.*



Easy fishing at the Tennis Courts

Early afternoon, the rest of us concentrated on the tennis Courts and found a few herring, a King George Whiting by Mark Nurse, miscellaneous Wrasse, and various demersals, including several Breaksea Cod, and a beaut Baldchin Groper by Peet Wessels on his second cast.



*Shane with a club record
Goatfish*

Shane Wignell also landed a big Goat Fish shortly thereafter. He had to wade out a bit as the fish had swum under a ledge.

Was the biggest I had ever seen, will be a new club record.



Mark Nurse's bag of skippy and a King George whiting

Late afternoon most gathered and set up gear on the above water rock platform. I was joined up with the Wessels, the two Marks, Shane, Sri, Ian, Theo and Paul and Nic. We all set up our gear, the heavy outfits reels loaded with 15 kg line and bait-casting with 60 or 80lb leaders. Our gear also consisted of wearing a wet suit, waterproof jacket, and reef boots.



Waiting for the big ones on Radar Reef

Conditions looked pretty good with only a very light wind blowing into our faces and a low tide and fairly low swell. When I followed the others at this fishing location those fishing already had initially caught a couple of Western Rock Blackfish. Course a few big, no very big Buffies. Nic managed a good Harlequin, only the third one I have seen in 30 years of fishing Rotto. Cast and retrieve continued and when starting to get dark some odd Skippy came in and Peet landed an undersized Yellow Tail Kingfish. That was it for Yellow Tail for

Saturday evening. I managed a Gold Spot Sweetlip. About this time one was thinking about using headlights as it was time for Skippy to really come on strong.

It was then as though a switch had been turned on that activated the Skippy to feed aggressively. The Skippy just kept coming and coming, all hooking up with most of us managing to get a close to a bagful. We had a good start on achieving a bag limit for the weekend; with nearly all the fish averaging 1kg cleaned. Mark Hansen used mulies to enable him to target Yellowtail but switched to using soft plastics to catch his Skippy.



Paul's Skippy, typical of our catches

Great to see newcomers to Radar reef hooking into quality fish, learning how to play them and get them into their reef bag and see their wide grins. Course Shane does not fit this category as he is by now a seasoned Rotto fisherperson.

Needless to say, newcomers Paul, Nic, Sri and Mark Nurse are hooked on fishing Radar and chasing quality fish.

Our ORSSC visitors, Daniel and Chris, fished the west corner of the Tennis courts by wading out and fishing holes. They did not relocate to Radar Reef but did have some success just before dark.



Nic with an unusual one: a Harlequin

They captured miscellaneous fish, with Daniel getting a smaller but size Yellowtail Kingfish. Then we saw Chris dancing around with something splashing on the reef, arms flailing, with lots of yelling and jumping, we knew he was excited about something. His fish was only lip hooked and on getting it up into shallow water on top of the reef, the hooks pulled. With great enthusiasm and energy and a comical performance we later found out he managed to grab his fish which was a small but size Dhufish, beauty.

For those of us on Radar Reef, a little over an hour of absolute adrenalin pumping fishing experience. Lots of excited talk on the bus as everyone wanted to relive their successes with Skippy, Demersals and miscellaneous fish and excitement and let-down of fighting an expectation of Yellowtail only to find it was a big Buff Bream. Once back in the very comfortable cottages, we were all able to relax, followed by a hot shower and a hot meal, end result was that everyone slept well that night.

Paul, Nic had decided to return to Perth on Sunday afternoon due to work commitments and Ian had decided not to fish on the Sunday as he wanted to watch the Footy Derby. As an Eagles supporter he was overjoyed to watch this match unfold. On Saturday night after arriving back he had strolled down to the Jetty to see some Salmon being landed. In anticipation of a repeat, he went down on Sunday night looking for a Salmon, but all was quiet.

Sunday. For the rest of us, the following morning, Sunday was a repeat of loading up the bus at 11am, stopping off at the bakery again and out to West End. Sandra was first into the bakery and confirmed they had available our request for those pies so again we all enjoyed the lamb and rosemary pies.

On arrival at the West End and viewing the sea, the weather conditions again met our expectations; swell a little lower and even lighter wind with tide, now falling. I.e. about 4 hours to low tide around 5:30pm. Mark, using a flick rod and small soft plastics ended up with a bag of 19 Herring for the weekend.

For the first session most of us concentrated on the Tennis Courts during early afternoon, very relaxing sitting on the rocks sun baking/fishing on an unseasonal very warm winter day.

I managed probably a dozen undersize Tarwhine and as many small Wrasse and then worked a burley float to get a few Herring, The Wessels had no success on the Herring as they were very finicky. Sri managed to get a few herring on prawn bait. Mark managed to get Herring wading at the south end of the Tennis Courts and using small soft plastics.

Daniel and Chris tried again at the West corner of the Tennis Courts and found Herring. During their fishing session they were plagued with a small black wasp like insects. When they gutted and gilled these fish, lots of these insects in their stomachs.

A strong contingent of the Rotto team moved out on Radar about 4pm. Mark Nurse caught a good Skippy, then shortly thereafter Sandra landed a Yellowtail Kingfish that not cleaned would have been close to 5.0 kg. Note, Sandra was using her \$30 K Mart special Tailor rod. It almost bent double but she certainly knows how to use this rod. This was followed shortly by Theo and then Daniel both getting good Yellowtail.

We all thought we were going to have some supercharged action with the Yellowtail but that was it. A few Buffies came in, then as the light started to fade, as the per the previous night the Skippy came on. Most were able to complete their bag of 8 Skippy for the weigh-in with some doing some selective weight upgrading. Again it was great to see newcomers battling to land quality fish.

Daniel fished the southern corner of Radar and did well. He has managed to be the top WA anglers under the AAA yearly R & B competitions the past few years and he carried this over to our field day having the heaviest overall bag for our rule of one day's bag limit.

We had the bus scheduled to pick us up at 8pm, and again the ride back there was the buzz of excited talk as we relived the fishing excitement

With the weigh-in set up on the bungalow outdoor table we were all done by 10pm:- everyone was agog at looking at each other's great bags of fish. Throughout the weigh-in, mobile phone photography went berserk. All put gear away and went back to their respective bungalow for a hot meal etc. Not long after we started to relax, and down came some light rain. Early rise on Monday mooring as the crates had to be loaded by 7am and to catch the ferry at 8:20 am

Of course have to mention a few oops by various Team Rotto members. Starting with mine, I had left my digital camera on my desk and despite using my check list, I left it behind, so relied on various persons using their mobile phone cameras for photos.

One of the hilarious oops was by Paul and Nic. On unpacking the crate at the bungalows, could not find some of their boxes of key fishing gear (reels, rigs, boots, waders, etc.) They then worked out it was still at their home as it not been put in their car. Paul made a frantic call to his wife and requested she go down the Ferry terminal and put this gear on the Saturday 7am Ferry.

She must have a wicked sense of humour as at 7:10 Paul received an SMS from his wife saying she missed the ferry and she would put it on the 12 noon ferry. As we were scheduled to get the bus to go fishing at 11am Paul went into a panic mode, just about having a heart attack and throwing himself on the floor with lots of screaming. 10 minutes later his wife SMSd him again advising him she did get his gear on the 7am ferry. I have never seen anyone look so relieved. We all had a good laugh at Paul's expense.

But talk about leaving things behind: on Sunday, Daniel and Chris planned to initially fish the Tennis Courts then join us on Radar late afternoon in anticipation of getting the Skippy. Chris had left his wetsuit and head lamp back at the Barracks. Despite missing out on fishing this spot, he still had a good bag of fish and was especially pleased to get a Dhufish off the shore. The ferry trip back to Fremantle early Monday morning was relatively comfortable and fast as the minimal waves, with a light wind gave a following sea.

Results of the competition are shown in the following tabulations. If reviewed with past history of Rotto in August is up with the biggest catches, the top 5 bags varied between 10 and 16kg with 6 to 9 species.

All are looking forward to doing the same thing next year.

Local. Back in Perth the action was very light on.

Pat and Dean went north as far as Club Capricorn, but on finding it fenced off, checked several spots further south but kept finding all spots weeded up or fenced off. They gave it away as a poor field day.

The rest of the locals, George Holman, Lee Yongli, Martin Wearmouth, Gary Parkinson, Victor and Slavka Schilo fished Cottesloe. While no weed, fishing was light on for them with small or zero catches being the order of the day.

George landed a Pike and a Tailor, Lee did a catch and release on a Gummy shark and Martin captured a couple of small skippy, a flathead and did a catch and release on a little Bronze Whaler. Gary managed to stay off the zero list weighing in a Skippy of 0.29kg. Scott Williamson showed up at this location but did not sign on and did not catch fish.

For your information, and to lock away in your memory bank, please note the Club has special rules on Catch and Release and there are also rules associated with Sanctuary Zones in Marine Parks and Fish Habitat Protection Areas (FHPA).

Our club has a rule for Catch and Release of fish with a nominated weight (conservatively at the bottom end of size) to be used for various species. Sharks can be also be under catch and release with an estimated weight for field day scoring, based on information/photos provided a very conservative weight taken which is then reviewed by the Committee to grant a weight.

Given the photos, lengths of 80 cm and allowing for the gutting and gilling which would have been required to weigh in a shark, the Committee made a very conservative weight assessment of 2.0kg for each of Lee's Gummy and Martin's Bronze Shark. This allowed weight for both sharks was entered into the Field Day spreadsheet.

For your information there are various Marine Parks with some Sanctuary (no fishing) Zones along our coast line, plus some Fish Habitat Protection Areas which may have different fishing restrictions as to what fish, mollusks, cephalopods etc. can be taken and what gear can be used.

I checked the boundaries for the FHPA at Cottesloe. The northern boundary is at the end of North Street. I was advised you all fished on the southern side of this point. For this FHPA, there is a no take allowed for Sharks or Rays, hence they must be returned alive. See the separate article in this Reel Talk.

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

Catches on August 2015
Field Day

		Tailor	Herring	Yellow Tail Kingfish	Pike	Skipjack Trevally	Baldchin Groper	Breaksea Cod	Tarwhine	Western Rock Blackfish	Wrasse	Harlequin	Leather Jacket	Westralian Dhufish	Sweetlip	King George Whiting	Shark	Cod	Goatfish	Flathead	Total	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19		
Peet Wessels	Number					8	1	1		1	1		1									
	Total weight					10.21	2.05	0.41		0.39	0.40		0.27									13.73
	Weight of best					1.67																
Sandra Wessels	Number			1		8		1	1	1	1							1				14
	Total weight			4.41		8.31		0.44	0.30	0.44	0.42							0.62				14.94
	Weight of best					1.20																
Theo Van Niekerk	Number			1	1	8			1	1	1											13
	Total weight			3.94	0.32	9.55			0.22	0.42	0.40											14.85
	Weight of best					1.33																
Mark Nurse	Number					8					1					1						10
	Total weight					8.59					0.17					0.69						9.45
	Weight of best					1.13																
Shane Wignell	Number					8		1												1		10
	Total weight					9.05		0.73												0.95		10.73
	Weight of best					1.23																
Sri Srigandan	Number		4			4																8
	Total weight		0.50			3.19																3.69
	Weight of best					1.19																
Paul Terpkos	Number					8		1			1											10
	Total weight					6.50		0.54			0.20											7.24
	Weight of best					1.37																
Nic Terpkos	Number										1	1										2
	Total weight										0.39	0.82										1.21
	Weight of best																					
Ian Taggart	Number							1														1
	Total weight							0.40														0.40
	Weight of best																					
Mark Hansen	Number		9			8					1											18
	Total weight		1.05			8.95					0.25											10.25
	Weight of best																					

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	Total	
Peter Osborne	Number		4			8		1		1	1				1							16
	Total weight		0.60			8.94		0.56		0.28	0.28				0.60							11.26
	Weight of best					1.38																
Daniel Bell (Visitor)	Number		10	2	2	8			1	1	1				1							26
	Total weight		1.12	5.09	0.46	8.31			0.37	0.89	0.14				0.58							16.96
	Weight of best			3.60		1.59																
Chris Gaston (Visitor)	Number		3			1				1	1		1	1								8
	Total weight		0.44			0.20				0.46	0.33		0.90	1.88								4.21
	Weight of best																					
Martin Wearmouth	Number					2											1			1		4
	Total weight					0.57											2.0			0.21		2.78
	Weight of best					0.31																
George Holman	Number	1			1																	2
	Total weight	0.60			0.15																	0.75
	Weight of best																					
Pat McKeown	Number																					0
	Total weight																					
	Weight of best																					
Dean Stewart	Number																					0
	Total weight																					
	Weight of best																					
Gary Parkinson	Number																					0
	Total weight																					
	Weight of best																					
Victor Schilo	Number																					0
	Total weight																					
	Weight of best																					
Slavka Schilo	Number																					0
	Total weight																					
	Weight of best																					
Lee Yongli	Number																1					1
	Total weight																2.0					2.0
	Weight of best																					
George Belin	Number																					0
	Total weight																					
	Weight of best																					

Catch results and points for August 2015 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Daniel Bell	16.96	8	26	259.6
Sandra Wessels	14.94	7	14	239.4
Theo Van Niekerk	14.85	6	13	218.5
Peet Wessels	13.73	6	13	217.3
Peter Osborne	11.26	6	16	192.6
Shane Wignell	10.73	3	10	157.3
Mark Hansen	10.25	3	18	152.5
Mark Nurse	9.45	3	10	144.5
Paul Terpkos	7.24	3	10	112.4
Chris Gaston	4.21	6	8	112.1
Martin Wearmouth	2.78	3	4	77.8
Sri Srigandan	3.69	2	8	76.9
George Holman	0.75	2	2	47.5
Nic Terpkos	1.21	2	2	42.1
Lee Yongli	2	1	1	40
Ian Taggart	0.4	1	1	24
Dean Stewart			0	20
Gary Parkinson			0	20
George Belin			0	20
Pat McKeown			0	20
Slavka Schilo			0	20
Victor Schilo			0	20

Points include Field day and August General meeting points.

Species weighed at the August field day were herring, yellowtail kingfish, pike, skipjack trevally, baldchin groper, breaksea cod, tarwhine, western rock blackfish, wrasse, harlequin, leather jacket, westralian dhufish, sweetlip, King George whiting, cod, goatfish.

Species weighed in at the Local field day were tailor, pike, skipjack trevally, flathead, shark.

Field Day top scores for 2015/16

Total scores calculated automatically by the field day scoring spreadsheet including August 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 2016, and adjusted scores will be published after that. Names with equal scores are sorted alphabetically.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peet Wessels	843	1	Mark Hansen	152.5	12	Dean Stewart	62.6	23
Peter Osborne	687.6	2	Ian Taggart	115.5	13	Scott Williamson	52.9	24
Sandra Wessels	655.4	3	Chris Gaston	112.1	14	Glen Wong	51.8	25
Mark Nurse	509.7	4	Nic Terpkos	89.7	15	Lee Yongli	40	26
Shane Wignell	419.9	5	Pat McKeown	86.7	16	Sarah Wignell	21	27
Theo Van Niekerk	410.3	6	Sri Srigandan	76.9	17	Thomas Wearmouth	21	28
Martin Wearmouth	278.8	7	Jamie Reilly	75.7	18	Geoff Raftis	20	29
Daniel Bell	259.6	8	Victor Schilo	75.2	19	George Belin	20	30
Paul Terpkos	240.8	9	David Maxted	69.6	20	Christian Wearmouth	10	31
Gary Parkinson	202.2	10	Michael Pisano	69.3	21			
George Holman	198	11	Slavka Schilo	65.5	22			

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for August 2015

Best scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	4.41kg
Best bag of scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Mixed bag	14.94kg
Best shark (2 with equal weight)	Martin Wearmouth	Bronze whaler shark	2.0kg
Best shark (2 with equal weight)	Lee Yongli	Gummy shark	2.0kg
Best bag including shark	Martin Wearmouth	Mixed bag	2.78kg

Field day section winners

Best scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	4.41kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	13.73kg
Best shark	Lee Yongli	Gummy shark	2.0kg
Best bag including shark	Martin Wearmouth	Bronze whaler and mixed bag	2.78kg

Field Day sections 2015/16

Up to and including August 2015 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Gary Parkinson	Pink snapper	7.64kg	June
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)				
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee			
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)				
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)				
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Mark Nurse	Tailor	1.18kg	May
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	Martin Wearmouth	Salmon	4.48kg	June
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Peet Wessels	Skipjack Trevally	1.67kg	August
8	Best Mackerel (2kg min)				
9	Best Yellowtail Kingfish, Samson or Amberjack (4kg minimum)	Sandra Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	4.41kg	August
10	Best scale fish (other than above)	Peet Wessels	Baldchin Groper	1.84kg	May
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	19.08kg	June
12	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish min)				
13	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish min)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	3.87kg	May
14	Best fish on single handed rod (4kg line max)	Mark Hansen	Herring	0.12kg	August
15	Best fish caught on fly rod				
16	Best fish caught on single handed rod (4kg line max) and a soft plastic lure	Mark Hansen	Wrasse	0.25kg	August
17	Best fish caught on single handed rod (4kg line max) and a hard body lure				

Field day spreadsheet developer, Terry Fuller