

CLUB OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT

DERRY BARBER
17 Tandy Court
Duncraig 6023
Ph 443 1999 Bus.

PAST PRESIDENT

JOHN REELEY
24 Paperbark Way
Morley 6062
Ph 377 4834

AAA DELEGATE

PETER OSBORNE
3 Rowan Place
Mullaloo 6025
Ph 401 9035

VICE-PRESIDENT

MARK PHILPOT
13 Charnwood St.
Morley 6062
Ph 275 4718

RECORDER

DAVE MAXTED
93 Clontarf St.
Sorrento 6020
Ph 448 1732

AAA DELEGATE

MARK PHILPOT
13 Charnwood St.
Morley 6062
Ph 275 4718

REEL TALK EDITOR

GEORGE HOLMAN
89 Clontarf St.
Sorrento 6020
Ph 447 5106
Fax 246 2724

TREASURER & PROPERTY OFFICER

ERIC PARKER
9 Minilya St.
Innaloo 6018
Ph 446 8249

SECRETARY

ROM NICIEJEWSKI
1 Railton Place
Dianella 6062
Ph. 276 6356 (H)
444 7311 (W)
Fax 242 2274

FIELD DAY OFFICER

IAN COOK
12 Groyder Way
Padbury 6025
Ph 401 9461

DRYCASTING OFFICER

MARK PHILPOT
13 Charnwood St.
Morley 6062
Ph 275 4718

COMMITTEE PERSON

BOB HARDIE
48 Grosvenor Rd.
Bayswater 6053
Ph 272 2562

ASSISTANT F.D.O.

DARRYL HALTON
43 Camden St.
Dianella 6062
Ph 275 6298
Bus 279 5999

ASSISTANT D.C.O.

RON THOMPSON
Lot 6 Oakover Rd.
Herne Hill 6056
Ph 296 1179

TAX CONSULTANT

G RUSSELL
Ste 214, Westpoint
396 Scrbrgh Bch Rd
Osborne Park 6017
Ph 242 3344

LIFE MEMBERS

D. Brown; J. Strong; B. Klein; *N. Knight; D. Edwards; V. Davis; G. Holman; L. Dunn; E. Parker.

CLUB ETIQUETTE

MEETINGS

The monthly GENERAL MEETING is usually held on the second Wednesday of each month at 8pm. All members should endeavour to attend the meeting so as to keep up with club matters.

DRYCASTING

Casting is usually conducted on the first Sunday of each month. Instruction is given to all new members and a competition is conducted to improve and maintain the standard of our members casting.

FIELD DAYS

These normally follow each general meeting on the ensuing weekend. It is compulsory for anglers to attend both the sign-on and the weigh-in. Anglers who cannot attend the sign-on for work or other unavoidable reasons may make prior arrangements for a late sign-on. However, only under very exceptional circumstances will failure to attend weigh-ins not be penalised with the loss of points acquired during that field day.

It is the Field Day Officer's duty to inform the committee of any anglers who fail to attend the weigh-in. It is the committee's duty to decide what action is to be taken.

Disputes may be taken to the committee.

Entries for Game Fish Badge, Club Records and Open Fishing Competitions must be lodged with the Recorder within 30 days of capture.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Please notify the Treasurer and Reel Talk Editor of any change of address or phone number.

GENERAL ETIQUETTE

If you intend to resign from the club a letter of resignation should be forwarded to the Secretary. Please assist the Treasurer by paying your subscription with-in 28 days of the Annual General Meeting. Arrears of 3 consecutive months may cause forfeiture of membership.

CLUB ACTIVITIESDECEMBER GENERAL MEETING

- WHERE - St KIERANS CATHOLIC CHURCH, Cnr Cape Street and Tyler Street, TUART HILL
- WHEN - WEDNESDAY, 9th December, " 7.00 pm".
- INSTRUCTION - This is the Christmas Meeting and will be of a social nature, so members are asked to bring a plate of goodies and have a Christmas drink with club members, wives and families.

DECEMBER DRYCASTING DAY

- WHERE - YOKINE RESERVE
- WHEN - SUNDAY 6th December 1992, 8.30 am
- EVENTS - 112 gram Level Line D/H Accuracy
112 gram Artificial Bait S/H Accuracy
S/H Open

DECEMBER FIELD DAY:

- WHERE - WHITE HILLS
- WHEN - 12th & 13th December
- SIGN ON - SATURDAY at 1.00pm. At the end of the White Hills road on the beach, ie at the bottom of the 4wd track that comes out on the beach.
- WEIGH IN - SUNDAY 11.00am at the same location.
- BOUNDARIES - Northern boundary is the sign-on location, Southern Boundary is Preston Beach.

DECEMBER LOCAL FIELD DAY:

- WHEN - 12th & 13th December
- SIGN ON - Phone in to the FDO by 8.00pm on the Friday night.
- LINES DOWN - 3.00 pm on the Saturday.
- LINES UP - 11.00 am on the Sunday
- WEIGH IN - By 12.00 am on the Sunday at G. Holman's house. Scales will be available on his back patio. Weights must be witnessed by an adult. Results to be phoned in to the FDO by 8.00 pm that night.
- BOUNDARIES - Swanbourne Drain to Pipididdy.

STATE ESTUARINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

- WHERE - SWAN RIVER
- WHEN - 28th & 29th November
- Please advise Peter Osborne if you wish to participate as we are trying to field as many teams as possible.

JANUARY FIELD DAY:

There will be no field day in January, as we will again be running the Mandurah 500. I hope as many members as can, will fish in the competition after the work is completed on the Saturday.

> SUBSCRIPTIONS <

There are still a number of members who haven't paid their subs and as these are very much overdue your attention to this matter would be appreciated.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Max Kay's Civic Theatre Restaurant certainly lived up to its reputation, providing a great night out for all of the audience including, as it transpired, a bonus for Surfcasters. We had booked 34 seats divided up as three tables of ten, plus a single table for four at the front of the stage.

Shortly after we were seated the management approached us requesting that the table for four (at which two only at that point were seated) be filled up as Max Kay requests that all of the front tables be occupied. Being a democratic person I asked for volunteers to fill the two spots, to which like the army none were forthcoming. It was then decision time so the amicable Cookie and Barber filled the two vacant spots joining Peter Osborne and his lovely daughter Julie.

We soon discovered why Max was so keen to fill the front row as this was his selection pit for the bunny of the night. You guessed it, out of the six front tables he selected us or at least one of us, it wasn't Peter, Julie or Cookie, so guess who copped it all night, much to the enjoyment of all present, particularly Surfcasters.

It was a fabulous night with top comedy and entertainment preceded by a wholesome meal and complimented by ales and wines and thoroughly enjoyed by all. At least six of the Surfcasters members present in fact booked on the night for a new programme coming to the Civic Theatre Restaurant in a few weeks. If you haven't been to the Civic Theatre Restaurant we would certainly recommend that it is worth giving a try for a most enjoyable night out, particularly with a group of friends.

Xmas is fast approaching with the last general meeting being our Xmas function to be held at St Keirans meeting hall, corner of Cape & Tyler Streets, Tuart Hill, commencing at 7pm with the meeting to conclude at 8.30pm to commence the festivities.

"PLEASE BRING A PLATE"

It was decided at last meeting to simply bring a plate ie "supper" or an after dinner snack, possibly washed down with a cleansing ale.

We look forward to seeing you at our last general meeting for '92 and wish both members and family a very Merry Xmas and an enjoyable New Year.

Would you like to live in a relaxed atmosphere with great fishing at hand and no city pressures? Well the Hardy family will be doing just that as Bob & Margaret Hardy and family have purchased a house at Kalbarri and will be shifting into same in the New Year. We wish them every happiness in their new home and charge both Bob and Andrew with the "Scouting" of the Kalbarri area for a possible future field day.

The Hardy family have given much of themselves to the Club and their contribution to both the club and the committee are greatly appreciated.

DERRY BARBER

PRESIDENT

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND FULFILLING NEW YEAR
along with GOOD FISHING
from the President and Committee of the Surfcasting
and Angling Club of W.A. (Inc)
to all members and their wives and families.

FIELD DAY RESULTS

VENUE :- Wedge Island DATE :- 14th - 15th November
ATTENDANCE :- Seniors 14 Visitors 0
 Juniors 2 Total 17
 Mini/Juniors 1

TOTAL FISH WEIGHT :- 13.19 kg
 G Holman 92 Local 2.20 kg Juniors
 T D'Alonzo 80 5.00 D Fitzsimmons 43 1.30
 E Parker 47 1.72 B Reeley 10 -
 B Marsh 43 1.35 N Reeley 10 -
 J Reeley 46 0.62
 D Barber 46 0.60
 I Cook 33 0.30
 J Strong 21 Local 0.10
 B Henderson 20 -
 M Henderson 20 -
 M Head (Snr) 20 -
 R Thompson 20 -
 A Hardie 20 Local -
 T Stam 20 Local -

FIELD DAY PRIZES

Best Bag of Scale Fish :- T D'Alonzo 5.000 kg Mixed
 Heaviest Scale Fish :- G Holman 0.700 kg Tailor
 Best Junior Bag :- D Fitzsimmons 1.300 kg Mixed

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR POINTS

Heaviest Bag T D'Alonzo 5.00 kg Mixed
 Heaviest Scale Fish G Holman 0.70 kg Tailor

SENIOR TOP TEN :-

T D'Alonzo 677
 J Reeley 507
 P Osborne 316
 M Head Sr 307
 G Holman 290
 G Reeley 283
 D Barber 263
 I Taggart 230
 D Halton 175
 E Parker 172

JUNIORS :-

B Reeley 260
 D Fitzsimmons 181
 B Taggart 44
 N Reeley 40
 A Bennett 22

MINI-JUNIORS :-

S Reeley 173
 G Taggart 43
 R Teh 10

KALBARRI COTTAGE

Members are reminded about bookings for our cottage at Kalbarri and that if you want a good cheap holiday contact our property officer, Eric Parker and make a booking. Also if you know of anyone (friends etc) who are contemplating a holiday...give them the good oil and tell them to contact Eric.

} EARLY CHRISTMAS MEETING START {

Members are asked to note that the December Meeting is to commence at 7.00 pm so that we may enjoy a social atmosphere after the meeting. You are also reminded to bring a plate of goodies and your wives, girlfriends, families etc. See you there!!!

WEDGE ISLAND FIELD DAY REPORT
14TH - 15TH NOVEMBER

Weather: Cool with light variable breezes swinging from offshore to onshore late in the afternoon. There were moderate falls of rain on Saturday evening and night. Sunday was a repeat of Saturday afternoon.

Basil, Eric, Bob and Matt Henderson, Tony, Dirk, Derry and myself signed on at the Lancelin Hotel before driving up to Wedge Island. Graham is getting on well with the construction of his new garage accommodation at Wedge and has the verandah up as well. We also met up with Ron, Mal, John Reeley and family. About 3 o'clock we split up to go fishing.

Dirk, Tony, Matt, Bob, and myself watching the others fishing in water up to their waists. Occasionally, as a swell went through, only heads were visible. I had borrowed a reef stand from Peter Osborne so stayed reasonably dry. Tony was using a tripod. Both these items have great advantages for fishing in a number of locations. Late in the day the rain clouds rolled in from the West and it started to rain. Matt & Bob Henderson had a crayfisherman friend at Wedge so we packed up and went back to his hut for the night.

Sunday morning our group, minus the F.D. Officer (sore head), fished the gutter at Wedge Island with no results! The rest of the club members had fished close to Wedge Island or at the cutting. They also had poor captures. The locals told us the fishing was good north of Wedge so next year a field day including a few kilometres north of Wedge Island may produce better results. We drove back to Lancelin along the beach.

There were numerous crayboats steaming around as it was the first day of the new season. We passed one driver with lots of \$\$\$ or plain stupid. He was driving a VW campervan (new) along and through the water heading north towards Wedge Island. Although the results were poor the F.D. was most enjoyable. We should be able to look forward to good catches of tailor at the White Hills F.D. in December so look forward to seeing a good turn out then.

Tight lines,

The Cookie Monster.

NOMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The following applications for membership have been received and will be brought before the next committee meeting for approval. If any member has any reason for not accepting any of the new applicants, they should contact a committee person before then and state their reasons.

ANDREW THORGERSON
47 KIRKHAM HILL TERRACE
MAYLANDS WA 6051

NEW MEMBERS ACCEPTED

The following applications for membership have been approved by committee and are asked to be present at our next club meeting:

BOB HENDERSON (Senior)
107 St Andrews Drive
YANCHEP

ANTHONY BENNETT (Junior)
5 Warner Crescent
KARRINYUP

FIELD DAY COMPETITION
1992/93

SECTION.	JULY		
1) HEAVIEST SCALE FISH (1st 6mths)	- S Reeley M/J	SALMON	4.55 kg
2) HEAVIEST SCALE FISH (2nd 6mths)	-		
3) MOST MERITORIOUS FISH	-		
4) HEAVIEST SHARK (4.5kg min)	-		
5) HEAVIEST MULLOWAY (1kg min)	- J Reeley		4.25 kg
6) HEAVIEST TAILOR (1kg min)	-		
7) HEAVIEST SALMON (3kg min)	- S Reeley M/J		4.55 kg
8) HEAVIEST TREVALLY (1kg min)	-		
9) HEAVIEST MACKEREL	-		
10) HEAVIEST BAG - SCALE FISH	- J Reeley		15.00 kg
11) HEAVIEST BAG - MULLOWAY	- J Reeley		4.25 kg
12) HEAVIEST BAG - TAILOR	- P Booth		2.68 kg
13) HEAVIEST SCALE FISH S/H ROD - 4kg b/s Line max	-		
14) HEAVIEST SCALE FISH 2kg min - Other Than Sect 3 - 9, & 13	-		

OPEN COMPETITION 1992/93

- 1) MOST MERITORIOUS FISH
- 2) HEAVIEST SHARK - (4.5kg min)
I Cook, 30.00 kg, Bait - Wrasse, Line 40lb, False Entrance.
- 3) HEAVIEST MULLOWAY - (3.0kg min)
M White, 10.00 kg, 4oz sinker, Mulie 3/50 rig, 35 Vo line,
False Entrance.
- 4) HEAVIEST SALMON - (3.0kg Min)
I Cook, 3.80 kg, Mulie, 3.91 Pretest line.
- 5) HEAVIEST DHUFISH
- 6) HEAVIEST TAILOR - (1.0kg min)
- 7) HEAVIEST SAMSON FISH
- 8) HEAVIEST SCALE FISH - S/H Rod (4kg or 9lb line max)
I Cook, 4.50 kg Snapper, Blue bait, 3.9 kg line,
Causeway, Shark Bay.
- 9) HEAVIEST PINK SNAPPER
I Cook, 4.50 kg, Blue Bait, 3.9 kg line, Causeway, Shark Bay.
- 10) HEAVIEST TARWHINE - (Silver Bream)
- 11) HEAVIEST MACKEREL
D. Maxted, Spanish Mackerel, Balloon rig, Gardie, 40lb line,
False Entrance.
- 12) HEAVIEST TREVALLY - (Southern 1.0kg min)
- 13) HEAVIEST TREVALLY - (Northern 1.0kg min)
- 14) HEAVIEST SNOOK/PIKE
- 15) HEAVIEST SCALE FISH - Other Than Sections 2-14 (2.0kg min)

XY HAMPER XY

Members are asked to bring something along to the December meeting which may be included in a Hamper which the club wishes to raffle at the Mandurah 500 to boost club funds. Please give these to Mark Philpot. We thank you.

ESPERANCE CLUB TRIP AND STATE ROCK AND BEACH COMPETITION
APRIL 1993

Members need to think very seriously about doing some preliminary planning as it is only five months away and Christmas is fast approaching. Accommodation will be at a premium with the State Titles being at Easter time.

Fourteen members have made a definite commitment to go. Within the next two weeks I will be trying to organise some flats/units accommodation. Anyone wishing to be included please advise me soon. Deposits will have to be placed on the accommodation to secure a booking. Some members have indicated they may try to extend the trip to two weeks by going down in the week prior to the competition.

The club has made two very successful trips to Esperance in the past few years. The weather has been moderate and the scenery is magnificent with kilometres of beach and rock fishing. Locations are unlimited and camping is easy. Fish commonly caught are Skippy (1 kg to monster size), Salmon, small sharks and other assorted smaller fish. There are a number of places a small dinghy can be launched off the beach for boat fishing. The local tackle shop proprietor Bruce Meahan is most helpful with tackle baits and information. If anyone else is interested I would like to organise a trip out to the Cape Arid National Park (Israelite Bay) for a few days.

ACCOMMODATION VERY SCARCE - ... MAKE BOOKINGS NOW!

AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (WA) INC
DELEGATES MEETING - 17th NOVEMBER 1992

1. Discussion from Marine and Harbours on current and proposed laws for safety content and use of boats - see P.T. Osborne for clarification. AAA to obtain M&H publications.
2. State Estuary Competition 28th & 29th Nov 92 McCallum Park
3. Surfcasters affiliation fees to be paid. (Note! - need fees to allow vote to be made - no participation in competitions)
4. Charges for Leeuwin National Park is currently on hold due to the quantity of submissions made to CALM and Politicians.
5. Debate on the motion on Gutting and Gilling of fish for Rock and Beach competitions. Advantages - Better quality fish. Disadvantages - Put that some species are best left whole (ice cooling needed). Possibility of offal etc at weigh-ins/interface with the public. To be voted on at next meeting.
6. A resignation from one of the AAA delegates to the Recreation Fishing Council.
7. Government funding for Port McQuarrie Interstate Competition in 1993 - Allowed \$4000 plus Airfares \$660.
8. Sun/Lunar tables will be available from the Rec Council/AAA next meeting for \$6.00 each. The fish length stick-on ruler also available for \$3.00 each.

P.T. Osborne
 Delegate

MERRY CHRISTMAS ... 1992

1992/93 STATE ESTUARY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hosted by

OFFSHORE ANGLING CLUB OF W A - BEACH

DATE: 28th and 29th November 1992
 VENUE: Swan and Canning River system
 HEADQUARTERS: McCallum Park - Taylor Road, Victoria Park
 REGISTRATIONS: 12 noon to 4pm Saturday 28th November 1992
 LINES DOWN: 3pm Saturday 28th November 1992
 LINES UP: 9am Sunday 29th November 1992
 WEIGH-IN: 10am Sunday 29th November 1992
 BOUNDARIES: Upstream of Stirling Bridge (not including bridge) Boats may be used.
 BRIEFING: Briefing by briefing sheet only
 FEES: Adults - \$8.00 Juniors & Pensioners - \$5.00
 TROPHIES: All State Trophies and replicas will be awarded. Trophies will be awarded for the heaviest of the following species - MULLOWAY BLACK BREAM FLATHEAD FLOUNDER COBBLER WHITING YELLOWEYED MULLET TAILOR
 RULES: AAA competition rules will apply.
 NOTE: All Team Captains will be responsible for checking Teams scores and individual scores. After Trophies have been awarded no further changes will be made or protests accepted. Any bag containing rotten or inedible fish will not be accepted for weigh-in and bag disqualified. Any bag containing undersize fish will not be accepted for weigh-in and bag disqualified. Any bag containing fish in excess of State daily legal bag limits will not be accepted for weigh-in and bag disqualified.
 NB:- Bag limit for the competition is one days State bag limit. All competitors must be members of an Angling Club and registered with the AAA (WA Division). Fishing from private jetties and areas designated NO FISHING is not allowed. Fish will not be accepted for weigh-in in plastic bags. Cobbler to be de-spiked to avoid persons being injured.

KALBARRI HOUSEBOOKING RATES

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Non-Members</u>
School Holidays	\$250 p/w	\$250 p/w
Off Season	\$ 80 p/w	\$120 p/w

From 1st November 1992
 Ring Eric Parker for bookings.

NOVEMBER DRYCASTING

Hooray! Finally we had a sunny Sunday for the November Drycasting. This I was happy about but getting up at 6 am I was not, as I had a farewell party for a very good friend at my place the night before. My head did not hit the pillow till 3.30 am! This is also a good excuse for a poor showing in the drycasting competition by me and I am sticking to this story.

It was good to see our new members having a go: Bob Henderson and Andy Thorgerson. We had 12 seniors and 2 Juniors on the day. Brett and Dirk had a close competition in the 112 and 56 gram, only 1 point separated them in each of these events. The distance casting by the boys is starting to edge into the 90 metre zone. Good going boys. Yes, let's not forget the patron saint of the surfcasters - who you may ask? You guessed it--- Jim Strong! Jim won 3 out of the 4 events and winner of the day with 189 points. Also, Jim is No 1 of the top ten casters and I have not even asked for a bribe yet from him! Go get them (Jim the Saint). An item that requires looking at is our start time. I have been asked when are we going to have an open event. The reason that we have not is because we have run out of time. If you wish to have an open we must have our first cast down by 8.30 am as we have the oval only until 12 noon. To make it fair to members that are ready, casting will start on time!! As summer is here remember to bring your hats and sun block as it is very easy to get burnt without knowing it. Thanks to all who help on the day with scoring and pulling up the lanes at the end of the days casting...it is appreciated.

Regards, Mark Philpot

DRYCASTING TOP TEN

J Strong	1365 Pts	<u>Junior</u>	
J Reeley	1300	D Fitzsimmons	1275 Pts
G Holman	1220	B Reeley	1116
M Head	1129	N Reeley	90
T Stam	890		
M Philpot	882	<u>Mini-Junior</u>	
G Reeley	773	S Reeley	188 Pts
E Parker	761		
R Thompson	602		
A Hardie	312		

NOVEMBER DRYCASTING

DATE: 1/11/92	112 GRAM			56 GRAM			D/H	S/H	DAY
NAME	1	2	TOTAL	1	2	TOTAL	ACC	ACC	TOTAL
E Parker	122	119	24	-	117	12	60	14	110
G Holman	146	145	29	123	-	12	119	26	186
J Reeley	107	116	22	-	102	10	105	20	157
M Head	93	-	9	88	-	9	119	13	147
R Thorfe (V)	108	98	21	-	91	9	60	13	103
J Strong	98	99	20	97	86	18	128	23	189
T Stam	88	97	19	-	-	-	42	1	62
M Philpot	91	-	9	-	86	9	68	16	102
R Thompson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
A Hardy	-	56	6	-	46	5	-	1	12
B Henderson	-	68	7	61	67	13	38	-	58
A Thorgerson	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	3	19
<u>Junior</u>									
B Reeley	85	81p	16	92	93	18	45	8	87
D Fitzsimmons	91p	85	17	81	87	17	119	27	180

112 Gram Winner:	E. Parker	24 Pts
Artificial Bait Winner:		
56 Gram Winner:	J. Strong	18 Pts
D/H Accuracy Winner:	J. Strong	128 Pts
S/H Accuracy Winner:	J. Strong	23 Pts
112 Gram Open Winner:		
S/H Open Distance Winner:		
Winner of the Day:	J. Strong	189 Pts
Junior Winner:	D. Fitzsimmons	180 Pts
Mini Junior Winner:		



FAMILY FISHING C O M P E T I T I O N

ENTRY FEE: OPEN \$10 • LADIES \$10 • CHILDREN (UNDER 16) \$5

ENTRIES COMMENCE: 12 NOON SATURDAY 9TH JAN, 1993

WEIGH-IN COMMENCES: 10AM SUNDAY 10TH JAN, 1993

WEST BANK RIVER FORESHORE

PRIZES

Including 'LUCKY SPOTS' – everyone can be a winner!

MAJOR PRIZES

OPEN WINNER _____ \$1000

LADY WINNER _____ \$500

JUNIOR WINNER _____ \$500

SPECIES PRIZES

- MULLOWAY
- SHARK
- TAILOR
- HERRING
- TARWHINE
- WHITING
- FLATHEAD
- COBBLER
- SKIPPY

(Total Prizes in excess of \$5,000)

REMEMBER: Be present at the Weigh-in . . . Your fish may win the major prize.

RUN BY

THE SURCASTING & ANGLING CLUB FOR THE AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (W.A. DIVISION)

LOCATION COULD BE NEAR PENINSULA HOTEL !!

MANDURAH 500

The club committee has been doing a lot of work towards this event to be held on the 9th and 10th of January, 1993. A poster will appear elsewhere in this issue. Further comment will be made at the December meeting and you are asked to make yourselves available over the weekend to help out. Let Peter Osborne know. Those who wish may also enter the competition as you have as much right as anyone to compete.

A GENERALISATION ON BAITSLESSON NUMBER ONE - THINK LIKE A FISH

More correctly you should think like a fish would think, if a fish could think. Learn the habits of the various fish species you generally wish to catch and reason what each species will normally be doing during the period you are fishing and what bait is best. Fish the most productive periods and use the best baits.

LESSON NUMBER TWO - THINK BAIT

Bait is the most important item in all the many facets of the never changing art of fishing.

Q: Why do we use bait?

A: To entice a fish to bite (at the bait) and, in doing so - to become impaled on the hook or hooks we have so carefully implanted in the bait.

There is no point in having \$250 worth of fishing gear in one hand and a fish in the other if we don't have the enticer to join the two together.

REMEMBER - with the right bait it is possible to catch a fish with a piece of string and a bent pin, but with the wrong bait it will not matter a damn if you have a thousand dollars worth of gear and the fanciest rigs in creation.

To understand which are the right baits, first let us reason-out what are the best baits; remembering that fish have been feeding for far longer than fishermen have been fishing. It is the fishermen who are endeavouring to introduce un-natural baits, not the fish. There are three basic attractions which entice a fish to take a bait - Sight (color or movement), Smell and Sound (vibrations of live bait). Therefore it is easy to conclude that the best baits are live natural baits and this is what we should use or simulate as closely as possible.

Q: Which are the best natural baits?

A: The baits which the fish normally feed on, depending of course on the type of fish, the location and the availability of the bait.

The art is in learning which bait for which fish - that's the problem.

Generally the fish which frequent the bottom of the water prefer natural baits which live on the bottom and conversely, surface fish usually prefer surface schooling bait as their stable diet. "Yeah! - I know, you have heard of someone catching a Snapper on a piece of Flying Fish and a garfish on a piece of Crab." But remember; this is a generalisation to make you THINK on the best baits which catch most fish of a species, not the infrequent oddities.

As an example of matching fish and bait, the Cobbler is a good one.

THINK: Black and slimy, sleeking slowly along the silty bottom and without a set of chewing teeth, but with a mouth that can act like a bellows in disturbing the mud; the Cobbler is naturally seeking a soft meal from something it will find on the bottom.

Q. What is found in the mud that are soft and nourishing (to a Cobbler that is) and which can be sucked up?

A. Worms.

So we have a match - fish and bait. Prawns are another match, because prawns (especially River Prawns) spend most of their time on the bottom. Prawns feed on the bottom and hide in the mud and sand when resting.

THINK: Having selected the right bait, now I need to fool the fish into taking it without shying away because of hooks and line.

Q. How do I present a natural looking bait?

A. With great difficulty.

Baits should look as though they could swim away. As a matter of fact, live bait where the bait can move about is generally a great bait. With a Prawn bait, if the tail is curled up underneath, the Prawn is either long dead or it is cooked and should have been eaten. Prawns move about with their tails fully extended and will only close their tails in a quick pumping motion when propelling themselves along in a hurry. In the fish world it is rare to find deformed fish, so do not present a bait which looks deformed. Hunchbacked Mulies do nothing for a fish.

Failing the availability or suitability of live bait, whole dead baits and cut baits (strips or pieces of fish and Prawns etc) should always be as fresh as possible. An exception may well be when chasing the elusive Mulloway, especially when fishing a weedy type river bottom (which can hide a bait) when the attraction would need to be smell. Mulloway are known to be great scavengers and will take dead Mullet, Tailor, Bony Herring, with the best bait being Mulies.

Why Mulies? Apart from the colouring of a fresh Mulie, it has both a bloody and oily nature and thereby expels its own berley and oil streak to entice a passing fish.

What of the other species and the best baits? That's your project - but keep on THINKING LIKE A FISH WOULD DO - IF IT COULD DO.

CANS

CANS

CANS

MEMBERS....Don't forget to save all your empty aluminium cans and bring them along to the club meetings and give them to MALCOLM HEAD. Mal knows what to do with them and through his efforts you (the members) receive the benefits come the annual dinner and dance.

SUPPORT MAL AND SUPPORT YOUR CLUB

(Thanks Malcolm Head)