



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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December 2015 fishing field day

Synopsis. The December 2015 field day was spread from Preston to White Hills with all persons fishing the Preston Beach area. Weather conditions at this venue were variable over the weekend with strong South to South West Saturday afternoon and evening, with very light winds on Sunday morning with some light rain drizzle.

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.

While the Preston Beach hot spot was fished the best it could be said was it was barely look warm. The result ranged from small bags of herring with Tailor catches down with most getting only one with a couple getting some quality fish, with a small numbers of various other species.

The trip. The sign on at the Miami Bakehouse was at 12 noon Saturday 11 December with lines down at 2 pm with fishing through until Sunday 12 December with the usual lines up time of 10 am changed to 9 am with the weigh-in conducted at 11 am at the sign-on location. Given the fish activity on Sunday morning this was a good decision and will be carried into the January and February Field days.

The Miami Bakehouse is a great venue for sign-on as is very relaxing with a cup of good coffee and a variety of pies, sweet buns, etc.

A total of 10 SCAC anglers came to the away sign-on. Lee Yongli, Sri Srigandan, Peet and Sandra Wessels, Shane and Sarah Wignell, George Holman, Pat McKeown, Dean Stewart and Peter Osborne.



Yep, let's do this again



Following sign-on we all made up a convoy and went down to the Preston Beach car park, let down tires and had a comfortable drive several km north to an area noted by others on previous trips as a hot spot.

Cars positioned themselves over a 200 metre strip of beach and set up rods. Looking down the beach it looked like a porcupine back with bristles all erect.

The wind was coming from the south west at my guess in excess of 30 knots.

Left: Pat looking the epitome of a Surfcaster fisherman



Pat M and Dean S with smiles anticipating some good fish catches

Dead on the dot of 2 pm a barrage of sinkers and mulies hit the water. Initially all quiet, but those that had a double rig of mulie and small hooks with whitebait or prawn started to find the odd herring.

For me, within 20 minutes a good bite and a skippy hit the beach, I concluded was going to be a great fishing session. Was not to be, very slow with an odd chopper tailor coming in over the afternoon and early evening. There was a bit of weed in the water, while not huge chunks, was troublesome enough for those of us that tried to use two rods, and was very difficult to manage.



Sarah showing how to relax while fishing

Shane, Peet, Sandra, Lee, obtained their one tailor each over the afternoon by real concentration of feeling a bite. The choppers ranged from 0.3 kg to 0.5 kg. George had positioned himself on the southern end of the team and did manage to get 5 tailor over the afternoon and evening.

George has a good touch as with the wind and weed a bite was very hard to feel. Am sure the rest of us had bites and just didn't feel them. George's tailor averaged a bit heavier than the others with his best at 0.68 kg cleaned.

I did not manage to get any tailor over the afternoon until just before dark with a really good hit and a strong run with the fish jumping repeatedly behind the wave break. Thought that for this time of year could not be right as initially called it for a salmon. On beaching I had a tailor of 1.35 kg, cleaned.

Later in the evening when the wind had dropped a bit I was using two rods. Had a heavy rod set up with a herring bait on a different rig, snelled with two hooks and the lower one an 8/0 circle hook where this resulted in a hit, automatic hook up with the circle hook in the corner of the mouth of another quality tailor.

The herring were hard to catch as with wind and weed and using soft bait such as prawns or whitebait, they could take the bait off the hook without the fisho feeling a thing. Shane wised up to this and switched baits, he used a small cube of herring and I used a small cube of pike. Both Shane and I managed our 12 herring, Lee, Peet and Sandra also managed 12 herring each they used a mixture of baits including mussels, occy, squid, prawns plus some plastic worms. George managed 3 herring, Sarah managed 9 and Pat and Sri managed 5 each and Dean managed to land 2.

A few whiting came in, with Peet, Sandra, Sri, and Pat getting one or two each. I tried but only managed to get a 5 cm whiting, he was dead when I wound him, a fluke catch, as he was caught on a 3/0 hook through the gill.

Sandra manage the best bag of species with 5 and in addition to the three mentioned above she also caught a pike and of all things a size salmon. Lee and Sri were the others to catch a pike.

While I had the heaviest bag, Sandra had the most points for the field day with the mixed bag of fish. George had a fair bag of tailor but not good enough for the heaviest bag weight as my bag was some 0.4 kg heavier, only a small margin.

Was pleased with the tailor I caught at 1.35 kg cleaned being the heaviest fish for the field day and the best tailor I have caught for quite a while. The detailed catch statistics can be found further in the magazine.

While the fish was slow, some of us did have some extra excitement, where Shane and I both caught Shovel Nose sharks (they are members of the ray family.)

My second one hit pretty hard and with a bit of head shaking, I initially called it for a mulloway of 4 or 5 kg. Dream on.

Some of us also had good hook-ups on rays. Lee had his first workout on a small ray with a resultant catch and release. My ray was a really big one and after working it close to shore to confirm it was a ray, my release was a deliberate break-off, i.e. no George Holman catch and release technique for me.

Our weigh-in back at the Bakery was completed with much ribbing of each as to what we had or hadn't caught. While a bit on the windy side to be truly comfortable on Saturday afternoon, all enjoyed this field day

Local. Only one Surfcaster presented a bag of fish. Ron Thomas fished Floreat Saturday evening with a resultant herring, flathead and another surprizing fish in a size salmon.



Peter Osborne with a released Shovel Nose Shark

Gary Gildersleeves fished local Mullaloo beach some half a km from where I live. He had trouble with the scales so did not weigh-in and cancelled out of the field day, but he had a bag of quality tailor and said he missed a few.

Just goes to show, we can drive 200km for a few fish but if we can make a judgement at being at the right place at the right time, good fish can be at your back doorstep.

Tight lines,

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for December 2015

Best scale fish	Peter Osborne	Tailor	1.35
Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed bag	3.97

Field day section winners for December

Best scale fish	Peter Osborne	Tailor	1.35
Best bag of scale fish	George Holman	Mixed bag	3.58

Field Day top scores for 2015/16

Total scores are calculated automatically by the field day scoring spreadsheet including December 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
Peter Osborne	1060.3	1	Paul Terpkos	240.8	13	Nic Terpkos	89.7	25
Peet Wessels	1057.9	2	Victor Schilo	182.6	14	Scott Williamson	84.4	26
Sandra Wessels	856.5	3	Michael Pisano	175.3	15	Jamie Reilly	75.7	27
Mark Nurse	646.6	4	Pat McKeown	173.2	16	Glen Wong	71.8	28
Shane Wignell	643.8	5	Mark Hansen	172.5	17	David Maxted	69.6	29
George Holman	567.6	6	Slavka Schilo	152.8	18	Thomas Wearmouth	31.0	30
Martin Wearmouth	428.5	7	Sarah Wignell	143.2	19	Christian Wearmouth	20.0	31
Theo Van Niekerk	423.5	8	George Belin	129.4	20	Eddie Korin	20.0	32
Gary Parkinson	373.7	9	Ian Taggart	115.5	21	Geoff Raftis	20.0	33
Ron Thomas	360.0	10	Lee Yongli	112.1	22	Peter Butland	10.0	34
Sri Srigandan	291.1	11	Chris Gaston	112.1	23			
Daniel Bell	259.6	12	Dean Stewart	104.5	24			

Catches and points on December Field Day

		Herring	Tailor	Whiting	Skipjack Trevally	Pike	Salmon	Flathead	Total weight	Species	Fish	Points
Species #		1	2	3	4	5	6	7				
Sandra Wessels	Number	12	1	2		1	1		2.33	5	17	93.3
	Total weight	1.26	0.3	0.19		0.2	0.38					
	Weight of best											
Peter Osborne	Number	12	2		1				3.97	3	15	89.7
	Total weight	1.25	2.38		0.34							
	Weight of best		1.35									
George Holman	Number	3	5						3.58	2	8	75.8
	Total weight	0.31	3.27									
	Weight of best	0.15	0.68									
Lee Yongli	Number	12	1			1			2.21	3	14	72.1
	Total weight	1.5	0.51			0.2						
	Weight of best											
Peet Wessels	Number	12	1	2					1.96	3	15	69.6
	Total weight	1.33	0.49	0.14								
	Weight of best											
Shane Wignell	Number	12	1						1.95	2	13	59.5
	Total weight	1.42	0.53									
	Weight of best	0.15										
Ron Thomas	Number	1					1	1	0.80	3	3	58.0
	Total weight	0.1					0.5	0.2				
	Weight of best											
Pat McKeown	Number	5		1					0.65	2	6	46.5
	Total weight	0.54		0.11								
	Weight of best											
Sri Srigandan	Number	5				2			0.61	2	7	46.1
	Total weight	0.50				0.11						
	Weight of best											
Sarah Wignell	Number	9							0.91	1	9	29.1
	Total weight	0.91										
	Weight of best	0.12										
Dean Stewart	Number	2							0.19	1	2	21.9
	Total weight	0.19										
	Weight of best											
Totals									19.16	7	109	
									Weight	Species	Fish	

Field Day sections 2015/16

Up to and including December 2015 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Gary Parkinson	Pink snapper	7.64kg	June
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	George Holman	Spanish Mackerel	3.10kg	November
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)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	1.35kg	December
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)	George Holman	Spanish Mackerel	3.10kg	November
9	Best Yellowtail Kingfish, Samson or Amberjack	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)	George Holman	Tailor	4.43kg	October
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				