



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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February 2012 Field Day, Cervantes

The group congregated at the Hill River car park at 2 pm Saturday. A later sign-on than usual to avoid the heat of the day was a good decision. As it later showed that not only for this reason, but for the first couple of hours, fishing was very slow at all venues and similarly, fishing was slow in the morning.

I had arrived early and had a look at few spots and went up and looked at my favourite spot right at the mouth, looked good as very little weed and the mouth itself has a wide sand stretch with no chance of having the river break through. Based on this, at the sign on at the car park, we made a decision that most of us would go north to the mouth of the Hill River.

On arriving, looking at the water there confirmed their observations: wind at about 10 to 12 knots, initially NW but shifted to SW when we started fishing, with a low swell, and only some minor weed: hence looked very fishable. Ideal tailor conditions - we would see ????

A total of 13 fished at the away venue and 4 fished local.

By 2:30 pm we all arrived on the beach and set up for fishing. This group consisted of Shane and Sarah Wignell; Sabatino and Aniello Pizzolante; Martin, Christian, and Thomas Wearmouth; and myself.

Wind had increased slightly in strength but with 84 to 112gram sinkers this gave a reasonable cast into the SW wind and sand holding power with all having a tailor rig set-up with at least one rod.

A few small fish caught during the afternoon, with exception of the appearance of gardies. I had a burley bucket set up at the water's edge at the north end of our group and Shane had similar at the south end so we had a good burley trail across the group.

With the wind being south west the burley did not stream out very far, just held against our area of some 200 metres length. Very few herring appeared however big storm gardies arrived. Next to me, a couple of people (Sabatino and Aniello Pizzolante) were bottom fishing for whiting etc., small hooks and prawn bait and surprise, not whiting or skippy, but a good gardie.

On seeing this, I took out my light rod, a burley blob with a 4 kilo metre trace and a no 9 long shank hook. Small piece of prawn for bait and my second cast gave me the right result, a good gardie. Sabby next to me quickly cottoned on to what I was doing and on fine tuning his gear to a similar rig, he did really well. Sabby got a total of 10 gardies before it got dark.

Casting and fishing into a SW wind was not ideal for using a blob, but gardies bit aggressively once they found the bit of prawn. The gardies were up to 0.2 kg, hence generally bigger than the herring we all caught.

For Pat McKeown's edification - if you want to know how to catch gardies, take a lesson from Sabby.



Photo of most of the Surfcasters who fished at the Cervantes field day. Bev Grigo could not make the weigh-in and Sandra was taking the photo.

Of note, Thomas, young son of Martin Wearmouth, took his flick rod behind us and threw out into the brackish water of the Hill River. To our amazement it wasn't long before a big yell and a smile a mile wide - he caught a size black bream. Well done.

Came dusk and the tailor had not appeared. The tailor only came on when the moon came up with most fish being caught between 9:00 and 10:30pm, with the first one coming in about 7:30. Catches were intermittent as they were not schooling. As expected young Sarah showed us she was up to catching a tailor along with herring and pike. Her Dad, Shane Wignell, quietly plugging away at the south end of our group captured tailor, herring, pike, a gardie and a very nice skippy (the only one caught).

Martin Wearmouth captured tailor, dart and a gardie, with his boys, Thomas capturing that bream and a dart and Christian with a big gardie. This is a great start for such young boys.

Sabby was working hard at his fishing and captured dart, gardies and tailor with his son, Aniello getting herring and dart.

Sandra I have to warn you, Sabby may be trying to take the title away from you for being the nosiest fisherperson when landing a fish. He was next to me and I was concerned that people in Jurien Bay township may send out a search party to ensure all this yelling was not someone asking for help.

My personal story of me nearly throwing Sabby into the drink goes like this. Fishing hard for tailor, working two rods, gave my first tailor just before 9 pm and by 10:30 pm I had 7. While not coming in quickly, thought that another 30 minutes would see me complete my legal tailor bag. Not to be. Only a couple of herring, pike and undersize tailor. By 12:30 am I had had enough and retired to the car to catch up on sleep.

Up at the crack of dawn, 5:15am and immediately put out my two tailor rods, but just nothing. An hour later Sabby came down and put out his tailor rod. Very shortly, big yell and he hauls in a nice tailor. Only one caught there in the morning and it should have been mine.

Generally the tailor our group caught were on the smaller size, including some that were put back as undersize.

This was not the case for Peet and Sandra Wessels. They had a social/family obligation so arrived late afternoon. While we headed north of the car park, they went to their usual spot south where a gutter had formed. Again like us it wasn't until the moon came up before the tailor came on.

Both managed good bags of 8 tailor with Sandra getting one a few grams under 1.0 kg whereas the best tailor from our group was 0.6 kg caught by Sabby and for local, a 0.59 kg fish caught by George. Peet top bagged out with a total of 8.17 kg and 5 species.

Peter and Marcia Pekaar along with Bev Grigo tried the beach/point just south of the Jurien township. While this spot has worked well in the past it was not to be this weekend. No tailor appeared but what did give them a bit of a tussle (like pulling in a brick) were some NW blowies. They even had an issue with trying to get herring, as Peter could only get a lonely one to try his bait.

George Holman and Pat McKeown fished locally and managed to get into tailor at Floreat Beach, again well after dark. George managed to get 8 and Pat 6. Good effort for local fish, but again the size was not the same as the fish the Wessels caught.



Sandra sorting and cleaning their tailor. A bag of tailor you can be proud of.

Mark and Wendy Hansen also had some family obligations and fished locally. Mark managed to find some nice flathead in the Swan river using plastics in lieu of bait.

Considering the ideal beach conditions, I think I can say with a span of nearly 30 years of fishing with Surfcasters it certainly was not one of the worst fishing experiences encountered on a field day and not the actual best, but it was up there with very, very good. Most people had a good bag of fish to take home.

Our juniors/mini-juniors did themselves proud with catches of tailor and gardies and that black bream. We had a few newer club members and across our group I saw a marked step in increased fishing skills with appropriate good catches.

For the fish weighed in, it reinforces the decision to increase the number of yearly visits to this location. viz. good bags, only a couple of hours' drive and you can get your vehicle onto beaches right where you fish.

This area will be the venue for the Australian Anglers Association Rock and Beach fishing championships on 24 and 25 March. The instruction period at the March General meeting will cover these Rock and Beach Championships.

Please consider competing in these Championships as a Surfcasters individual and team member.

Peter Osborne, Assistant Field Day Officer

Catch results and points for February Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peet Wessels	8.14 kg	5	30	181.4
Peter Osborne	5.71 kg	4	25	147.1
Sandra Wessels	4.75 kg	3	13	127.5
Shane Wignell	3.03 kg	5	12	120.3
Sabatino Pizzolante	3.54 kg	3	15	105.4
Martin Wearmouth	1.39 kg	3	6	93.9
Sarah Wignell	0.77 kg	3	4	77.7
Aniello Pizzolante	0.68 kg	2	4	66.8
George Holman	3.59 kg	1	8	65.9
Thomas Wearmouth	0.45 kg	2	2	64.5
Peter Pekaar	0.1 kg	1	1	61
Christian Wearmouth	0.19 kg	1	1	51.9
Bev Grigo	0	0	0	50
Marcia Pekaar	0	0	0	50
Pat McKeown	1.78 kg	1	6	47.8
Mark Hansen	0.67 kg	1	2	36.7
Wendy Hansen	0	0	0	10

Points include Field Day and February General Meeting points. Species weighed at the Cervantes Field Day were:- Tailor, Herring, Pike, Dart, Garfish, Bream and Skipjack Trevally. Species weighed at the Local Field Day were:- Tailor and Flathead.

Sportsperson of the Year winners for February 2012

Best scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Tailor	0.98 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed Bag	8.14 kg

Field day section winners for February 2012

Best scale fish	Sandra Wessels	Tailor	0.98 kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed Bag	8.14 kg

Field Day top scores for 2011/12

Total scores up to and including February Field Day and General meeting.

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peet Wessels	1545.7	1	Martin Wearmouth	208.1	17	Chris Stickells	90	33
Peter Osborne	1458.3	2	Marcia Pekaar	200.7	18	Geoff Raftis	85	34
Sandra Wessels	1217.1	3	Christian Wearmouth	191.5	19	Melvin Wee	84.3	35
George Holman	1020.7	4	Frank Gaudin	187.4	20	Malcolm Head	67.2	36
Mark Hansen	731	5	Allan Jones	183.2	21	Morgan Keet	66.3	37
Shane Wignell	508.3	6	Thomas Wearmouth	179	22	Felicity Keet	62.5	38
John Crompton	366.9	7	Ian Taggart	174.2	23	Wayne Shaw	57	39
Wendy Hansen	364.5	8	Aniello Pizzolante	164.6	24	Stephen Pekaar	52.4	40
Sarah Wignell	361.6	9	Sumarie Gaudin	148.5	25	Bev Grigo	50	41
Pat McKeown	353.1	10	Michael Gaudin	123.5	26	Bob Henderson	50	42
Justin Rose	336.1	11	Stuart Spickett	108.8	27	Dean Stewart	50	43
Peter Pekaar	331.8	12	Nick Edwards	103.6	28	Des De Villiers	40	44
Theo Van Niekerk	327.7	13	Ron Lindsay	100	29	Lachlan Spickett	40	45
Greg Keet	324.7	14	Shane Becu	100	30	Olivia Keet	40	46
Sabby Pizzolante	261.8	15	Liam Wignell	98.9	31	Sharon Osborne	40	47
Ray Walker	250.3	16	David Maxted	92.5	32	John Curtis	20	48

Update to Species Badge competition

The list of species registered to members has been updated for catches during the February Field Day.

Name	Black Bream	Flathead	Flounder	Garfish	Herring	Yellow Eyed Mullet	Mackerel	Mulloway	Pink Snapper	Salmon	Samson Fish	Snook or Pike	Tailor	Tarwhine	Trevally	Whiting	Wrasse	Number of species caught
Shane Wignell		1	1	1	1							1	1		1	1		8
Sabby Pizzolante		1		1	1							1	1	1	1			7
Sarah Wignell		1		1	1							1	1			1		6
Aniello Pizzolante		1			1								1		1			4
Martin Wearmouth												1	1					2
Christian Wearmouth				1														1
Thomas Wearmouth	1																	1

Recorder, John Curtis

Field Day sections 2011/12

Up to and including February Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	George Holman	Pink Snapper	6.55 kg
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	George Holman	Tailor	1.26 kg
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee		
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)	George Holman	Bronze Whaler	5.48 kg
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)			
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Justin Rose	Tailor	1.92 kg
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)			
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Sandra Wessels	Trevally, Skipjack	1.13 kg

8	Best Mackerel (2kg Min)			
9	Best scale fish (other than above)	Peet Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	5.83 kg
10	Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed Bag	17.38 kg
11	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min)			
12	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min)	Justin Rose	Tailor	5.58 kg
13	Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max)	Peter Osborne	Wrasse	0.36 kg
14	Best fish caught on fly rod	Frank Gaudin	Trevally, Skipjack	0.75 kg