



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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February 2015 fishing field day

Local with extended boundaries 14/15 February, 2015

Overview. The February 2015 field day was spread from Preston to Jurien with members fishing White Hills, north Preston beach and Perth local beaches. Saturday afternoon and evening had high swell and wind waves, high winds and heavy weed in most areas. Sunday morning gave light SE winds, wave action down and very little weed.

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.

The conditions over the weekend gave nil or mostly low fish catches with small number of different fish species, however a couple of our keen fisherpersons did manage to bring a bag limit of tailor to the weigh-in table

The trip. The sign on was at the February General meeting or by telephone to the FDO with lines down at 2pm on Saturday with fishing through the evening with the lines up at 11am on Sunday. Weigh-in was at 3pm under the Narrows Bridge in South Perth. For field days with extended boundaries both north and south of Perth this location is ideal for accessibility and room for parking etc.

Due to low catches at Cervantes/Jurien in recent months, the February General meeting voted to open up the boundaries to same as January. Based on better bags at the southern locations, eight members headed to Preston and White Hills, Martin Wearmouth, Shane Wignell & daughter Sarah, Gary Parkinson, Ken Howells, Peter and Sandra Wessels, and Peter Osborne. Two members fished local Perth beaches, George Holman and Michael Pisano.

In retrospect, with no members going to Jurien, the weigh would have best been held at the Miami bakery as all the fishos headed south.

Gary and Ken went to their favourite spot north of the Preston Beach entry point. They arrived on Friday and enjoyed comfortable weather and to find they had run of tailor late afternoon. However with the change in weather conditions on Saturday their fishing efforts resulted in no fish worth going to the weigh-in. At least they had a bag of fish from Friday to take home for a seafood feed.

The rest of us met at the Miami Bakery for lunch and then at midday, went to our spot at White Hills. We encountered the usual hard drive in on along some sections of beach. On viewing the ocean we could see the sea already whipped up by wind and swell and chunks of weed floating along the beach stretch we drove along.

At 2pm on lines down we all started fishing and quickly realized it was going to be hard work. We not only had to battle the wind waves and weed, but as we found last time, undersize tarwhine were out in force as were the tiny whiting. I probably caught dozen and a half tiny tarwhine and even hooked in the mouth a 10 cm whiting on a 3/0 hook.

Sarah was the first of our group to get a size fish, a nice surprize for her with a flounder. A little while later she managed a mulloway, unfortunately a couple of cm undersize. She continued to fish hard in trying conditions and only managed one tailor. Her father Shane also worked hard and by dark had managed his bag of 8 tailor.



Shane Wignell with tailor



The small long shank hook it was caught on

One of his fish must go down as a first. Martin, fishing beside him had just landed a tailor so he thought he needed to get his bait back out quickly. His rig consisted of a ganged set of hooks with a mulie bait on the end of the rig with a small long shank chemically sharpened red hook off the top swivel.

You may remember George demonstrating this type of rig at one of our instruction periods.

As Shane was in a hurry to get his bait in the water, he did not put a bit of prawn or squid on this small top hook. He immediately had a fish on and leaned on it to bring it in quickly, to avoid weed, and on pulling up on the beach found the tailor had left the mulie alone and taken the unbaited little hook. So Shane is now our current expert in catching fish on bare hooks. See the photo and study the head of the tailor, you can see the size of hook he used.

Martin fishing the south side of the group also worked hard at finding tailor. With the conditions as described above at times it was impossible to feel a bite and on feeling weight to work out if it is a fish (tailor) or a lump of weed. Martin had a pretty good touch and had 6 tailor up until dark. With the uncomfortable conditions still continuing after dark and as they were intending to sleep in swags, Shane, Sarah and Martin decided to pack up and head back home to get a comfortable night's sleep. Considering the conditions, they were happy to depart with a feed of fish.

Peet proved to be the gun tailor fisherperson this weekend, as by dark he had the heaviest bag of tailor. Other species were hard to find but by fishing close to the rocks, he managed a small cod.

In conditions looking favourable in the morning he targeted herring using a blob, a piece of bright green plastic tube and a small no. 4 hook. No herring showed up, but on one retrieve, just about to bring the blob over the reef and whack. He saw a large dark tail and called it for a buff bream. Not exactly positive as to what it was, he carefully played it out until he could use a wave to wash it up on the beach. Surprise, a beauty, the biggest tailor by far for the field day. Again see the photo for the details of his rig. I have caught small chopper tailor on herring rigs using a piece of prawn or a whitebait rig, but a tailor of nearly 2 kg (1.7kg cleaned) on herring gear is a real first.



Peet Wessels with 1.7kg tailor caught on a green tube

Sandra kept plugging away, like the rest of us hauling in tons of weed, and managed 4 tailor and one cod. Like Sarah, she managed one undersize mulloway. We could not repeat the January efforts on catching this species.

At this spot there is a reef about at the wave break, so on winding in you have to judge where your rig is and wind fast and lift up to get over the edge of the reef. Sandra lost two rigs on the reef edge, but later on hooked up and retrieved one of her earlier lost rigs. I managed the same, losing two rigs and then retrieving one. This demonstrates when fishing this type of structure it's best to have spare made up rigs.

I fished hard but only managed 4 tailor through until dark, I used the rig with an extra small hook on the top swivel which allowed me to get lots of tarwhine, none size, and a few whiting where two were size. Getting up at 5am the following morning to ideal fishing conditions, nothing happened for an hour or so then managed to add to my bag a couple of tailor and a skippy.

After this initial short appearance of tailor, we continued fishing till before 10am with nothing happening over the last couple of hours, we decided to finish early and return to the weigh-in location.

As Peet had helped in recovery of a vehicle that had nearly rolled on a narrow section of beach track a kilometre north of where we were fishing, he had noted the track was really chewed up, we made a decision not to return by going north, but by going south and exiting the beach at Preston. While a bit further, and low tyre pressures still required, this route is a lot easier to drive and a lot less risk.

The weigh-in at the Narrows Bridge allowed us to compare our fishing adventures and discuss how good and bad, hard work in tough conditions it had been.



At the weigh in. Peter Osborne, Mark Nurse and son, Michael Pisano, Martin Wearmouth, Peet Wessels, Sarah Wignell, Shane Wignell Sandra Wessels on the camera

Michael Pisano did show up with his one tarwhine he had caught at Perth local beaches. He tried hard for tailor but no showing. He was eager to get this fish documented in our weigh-in, as it counted to his species badge.

Others, including George who fished locally, with poor bags sent their apologies and did not attend as it was out of their way to present an empty or one fish bag.

Tight lines for our next trip to Bluff Creek,

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

Catches on February 2015 Field Day

		Tailor	Cod	Skippy	Tarwhine	Flounder	Yellowfin Whiting
Peet Wessels	Number	8	1				
	Total weight	6.18	0.28				
	Weight of best	1.7	0.28				
Sandra Wessels	Number	4	1				
	Total weight	2.7	0.5				
	Weight of best	0.9	0.5				
Shane Wignell	Number	8					
	Total weight	4.61					
	Weight of best	0.79					
Sarah Wignell	Number	1				1	
	Total weight	0.57				0.17	
	Weight of best	0.57				0.17	
Martin Wearmouth	Number	6					
	Total weight	3.39					
	Weight of best						
Peter Osborne	Number	6		1			2
	Total weight	3.48		0.19			0.18
	Weight of best	0.71		0.19			0.1
Michael Pisano	Number				1		
	Total weight				0.24		
	Weight of best				0.24		

Totals and points for February 2015 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peet Wessels	6.46kg	2	9	104.6
Peter Osborne	3.85kg	3	9	88.5
Shane Wignell	4.61kg	1	8	76.1
Sandra Wessels	3.2kg	2	5	72
Martin Wearmouth	3.39kg	1	6	63.9
Sarah Wignell	0.74kg	2	2	37.4
Michael Pisano	0.24kg	1	1	32.4
Gary Parkinson			0	20
George Holman			0	20
Ken Howells			0	20

Points include Field day and February General meeting points.

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for February 2015

Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	Tailor	1.70kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	6.18kg

Field day section winners for February 2015

Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	Tailor	1.70kg
Best bag of scale fish	Shane Wignell	Tailor	4.61kg

Field Day top scores for 2014/15

Total scores calculated automatically by the field day scoring spreadsheet including February 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 2015, 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	1097.4	1	Theo Van Niekerk	175.7	13	Christian Wearmouth	38.1	25
George Holman	954.9	2	Peter Pekaar	157.4	14	George Belin	33.7	26
Peet Wessels	908.2	3	Michael Pisano	151.7	15	Victor Schilo	32.3	27
Sandra Wessels	759.3	4	Peter Butland	145.8	16	Jason Zerella	30	28
Martin Wearmouth	485.7	5	Sarah Wignell	136.8	17	Nicolas Terpkos	28.5	29
Pat McKeown	361.3	6	Geoff Raftis	124.6	18	Slavka Schilo	22.2	30
Mark Nurse	335.6	7	Terry Fuller	110.6	19	David Maxted	20	31
Glen Wong	317.8	8	Gary Gildersleeves	109.9	20	Alan Osborne	10	32
Ken Howells	247.6	9	Paul Terpkos	84.6	21	Ian Taggart	10	33
Gary Parkinson	236.1	10	Dean Stewart	58.8	22	Robert Pekaar	10	34
Ray Walker	227.4	11	Klaus Schönwolf	40	23			
Shane Wignell	177	12	Thomas Wearmouth	38.5	24			

Field Day sections 2014/15

Up to and including February 2015 Field Day. Entries in sections 9 and 10 have been corrected, February catches added.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	George Holman	Mulloway	15.6kg	August
1B	Best scale fish (2nd six months)	Ray Walker	Mulloway	2.19kg	December
2	Most meritorious fish	To be awarded by Committee			
3	Best Shark (4.5kg min)				
4	Best Mulloway (2.0kg min)	George Holman	Mulloway	15.6kg	August
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Peet Wessels	Tailor	1.7kg	February
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	Peter Osborne	Salmon	4.08kg	May
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)	Theo Van Niekerk	Skipjack Trevally	1.11kg	August
8	Best Mackerel (2kg min)				

9	Best Yellowtail Kingfish, Samson or Amberjack (4kg min)	No entry	Previous entry listed was less than the minimum weight		
10	Best scale fish (other than above)	Peet Wessels	Cod	1.47kg	August
11	Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed bag	19.56kg	May
12	Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish min)	Peet Wessels	Mulloway	3.99kg	December
13	Best bag of Tailor (2 fish min)	George Holman	Tailor	7.96kg	September
14	Best fish on single handed rod (4kg line max)	Martin Wearmouth	Tarwhine	0.64kg	September
15	Best fish caught on fly rod				
16	Best fish caught on single handed rod (4kg line max) and a soft plastic lure				
17	Best fish caught on single handed rod (4kg line max) and a hard body lure				

Field day spreadsheet developer, Terry Fuller