



Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

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Field Day report June 2013 S-Bend

This year's AAWA State Rock and Beach championship was held in the mid west region with a generous boundary from Carson's Beach 15km south of Dongara all the way up to Coronation Beach north of Geraldton. After calling in to see some friends at Dongara I made it up to South Greenough to my wife's Aunty and Uncle's farm where we were staying for the weekend. With pretty cold temperatures in the evening I was grateful for the wood fire and shelter from the blustering south easterlies we had for most of the weekend.

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.

Due to my late arrival and sleep in before the event I didn't get a chance for a pre fish but the other Surfcasters in attendance Peet and Sandra Wessels, Ken Howells and his son Matt had looked around and thrown a line in with mixed results. The Wessels fished Lucies for a few fish and the Howells fished Duncan's. Unfortunately there were only five Surfcasters in what is the marquee land based fishing competition for the year which was a disappointing turn out, we were clearly outnumbered by the other clubs but what we lacked in numbers was made up for in effort.

After the SCAC and AAA sign on there were cars laden with people and tackle heading every which way out of S Bend, as many of the other clubs opted to fish the southern boundary area and to the north, as there were rumors the Dongara and Geraldton marinas had been fishing very well recently. The Wessels headed toward Flat Rocks, the Howells headed somewhere in between and I went north to Lucy's. I was surprised at the amount of people camped up that way but I managed to find some deserted spots and took advantage of the low tide and small swell walking about a kilometre along reef spots.

It was pretty evident after a few hours that this was going to be hard work with a lack of smaller fish like whiting and herring and even the tailor were scarce although there were schools of minnows present and not too much weed. Peet and Sandra were plagued by small blowies and opted to keep on the move fishing a number of spots. Matt Howells managed a relatively rare whiting and it was a beauty too tipping the scales over 340 grams.

Everyone got some dart and there were a few frustratingly undersize mulloway landed. I was hoping to get a balloon out at some stage but the whole weekend the wind just had too much south in it to be suitable. My Uncle fished with me and he had no problem on the mulloway front, unfortunately my baits were getting hit but I couldn't get a solid hook up only managing a dart, and didn't he let me know about it.

The following morning the action didn't really improve with most of us just managing a fish or two in very cold conditions. Later in the morning the at the spot I was fishing I could actually see the mulloway schooling up on top of the reef but they were not feeding which was very frustrating.

When the time came for the AAA weigh in it gave us a chance to find out where the fish had and hadn't been and it was apparent early on that the people who were fishing the S Bend area weren't as successful as those who went further afar. One angler from Geraldton weighed in one of the better bags I have seen with well over 10 species including a nice 6 kilo dhufish which capped off a very good bag, obviously local knowledge paid off.

Plenty of dart and school mulloway were present with one angler landing a nice mulloway a smidge under 12 kilos. Sandra Wessels was the standout for the Surfcasters taking out the

biggest herring at over 200g and won a tackle shop voucher for her efforts, Well done Sandra!

After looking at some of the bags weighed in we knew there were some pockets of fish out there so we just had to find them. It was also evident that our SCAC competition was pretty even so with renewed vigour off we went. I went and walked some reefs in the mid afternoon determined for a wrasse but couldn't get a big enough specimen and ended up with a herring, which was somewhat encouraging after a lot of walking.

The Wessels and Howells teamed up that evening and fished a likely looking piece of water near Lucy's. Matt was making Ken wonder why he brought him along with two mulloway in a row but only one was a keeper, Sandra also picked up a mulloway and a few tailor were landed with promising signs. Later on there were a few big hook ups but no fish landed. I once again fished with my Uncle and this time managed to out fish him with some nice tailor over a kilo and amongst the small mulloway a keeper, so it was my turn to let him know about it. He did have a really big run which caught him by surprise but it spat the bait out after a strong run, he called it for a good mulloway.

The following morning we had organised to meet up and fish a spot I like in between 9 mile and S Bend but when we awoke the wind was a howling south-south-easterly so we decided to fish back where the Wessels and Howells had been the night before due to its more protected location. Matt was pretty quick to get a tailor and a herring but that was about all once again it was very quiet. I headed to another spot and ended up with more weed and another wirrah while I cleaned my fish for the weigh in.



We then packed up and went back to the caravan park for our weigh in. The best scale fish was a battle of the mulloway between Sandra, Matt and me with mine being a few grams heavier in the end. As a group we managed 7 species.

After that was complete the Howells were staying on another night to relax while the Wessels and I headed our ways back to Perth.

Thanks to the Wessels and Howells for making it a pleasant field trip and I must commend them of their efforts and persistence right to the end. Hopefully we will see Matt Howells' name as a new member in coming Reel Talks.

See you on the beach.

Justin Rose, Acting Field Day Officer

June Local field day.

The local field day weigh-in results were:

Pat McKeown, 1 tailor, 0.79kg

Martin Wearmouth, 1 herring 0.13kg, 2 whiting 0.14 each.

Allan Jones, 1 whiting 0.09kg, 1 flathead 0.38kg.

Saturday night at Floreat; Peter Pekaar, 1 undersized flathead and tailor; Slavka Schilo undersized flathead, tarwhine, tailor and herring.

John Curtis

Sportsperson of the Year section winners for June 2013

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-----------|---------|
| Best scale fish | Justin Rose | Mulloway | 1.38 kg |
| Best bag of scale fish | Justin Rose | Mixed Bag | 5.68 kg |

Field day section winners for June 2013

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Best scale fish | Justin Rose | Mulloway | 1.38 kg |
| Best bag of scale fish | Matt Howells (visitor) | Mixed Bag | 2.69 kg |

Catch results and points for June 2013 Field Day

| Angler | Weight | Species | Fish | Points |
|---------------------|---------|---------|------|--------|
| Justin Rose | 5.68 kg | 4 | 8 | 106.8 |
| Sandra Wessels | 1.86 kg | 4 | 5 | 78.6 |
| Matt Howells | 2.69 kg | 4 | 5 | 76.9 |
| Peet Wessels | 1.16 kg | 3 | 6 | 61.6 |
| Martin Wearmouth | 0.41 kg | 2 | 3 | 44.1 |
| Ken Howells | 1.01 kg | 2 | 3 | 40.1 |
| Pat McKeown | 0.79 kg | 1 | 1 | 37.9 |
| Allan Jones | 0.47 kg | 2 | 2 | 34.7 |
| George Holman | | | | 20 |
| Christian Wearmouth | | | | 10 |
| Neil Maxted | | | | 10 |
| Peter Pekaar | | | | 10 |
| Slavka Schilo | | | | 10 |
| Thomas Wearmouth | | | | 10 |
| Victor Schilo | | | | 10 |

Points include Field day and June General meeting points.

Species weighed at the S-Bend Field day were: mulloway, tailor, herring, wrasse, whiting, dart.

Species weighed at the local field day: tailor, flathead, herring, whiting.

Field Day top scores for 2013/14

Total scores up to and including June 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 2014, 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 | 180.7 | 1 | George Holman | 82.8 | 7 | Ian Taggart | 10 | 13 |
| Sandra Wessels | 169 | 2 | Matt Howells | 76.9 | 8 | Neil Maxted | 10 | 14 |
| Ken Howells | 146.7 | 3 | Allan Jones | 66.5 | 9 | Slavka Schilo | 10 | 15 |
| Theo Van Niekerk | 136.6 | 4 | Peter Pekaar | 55.6 | 10 | Thomas Wearmouth | 10 | 16 |
| Justin Rose | 106.8 | 5 | Martin Wearmouth | 44.1 | 11 | Tino Baiardo | 10 | 17 |
| Pat McKeown | 88.6 | 6 | Christian Wearmouth | 10 | 12 | Victor Schilo | 10 | 18 |

Field Day sections 2013/14

Up to and including June 2013 Field Day.

| | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----|
| 1A | Best scale fish (1st six months) | Ken Howells | Mulloway | 6.28 kg | May |
| 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) | Ken Howells | Mulloway | 6.28 kg | May |
| 5 | Best Tailor (1.0kg min) | Peet Wessels | Tailor | 0.64 kg | May |
| 6 | Best Salmon (3kg min) | | | | |
| 7 | Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min) | Peet Wessels | Skipjack Trevally | 0.57 kg | May |

| | | | | | |
|----|---|------------------|--------------------|---------|-----|
| 8 | Best Mackerel (2kg Min) | | | | |
| 9 | Best scale fish (other than above) | Theo Van Niekerk | Westralian Dhufish | 1.96 kg | May |
| 10 | Best bag of scale fish | Ken Howells | Mixed bag | 6.66 kg | May |
| 11 | Best bag of Mulloway (2 fish Min) | | | | |
| 12 | Best bag of Tailor (2 fish Min) | | | | |
| 13 | Best fish on S/H rod 4kg b/s line (max) | | | | |
| 14 | Best fish caught on fly rod | | | | |

Update to Species Badge competition

The list of species registered to members has been checked for catches and entries during June.

| Name | 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 |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| Allan Jones | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | 7 |
| Ken Howells | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | | 3 |

Recorder John Curtis