



## Surf Casting and Angling Club of WA (Inc.)

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Telephone 0459 183 375 Email [surfcast@iinet.net.au](mailto:surfcast@iinet.net.au)

Club Web page <http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au>

Kalbarri house [www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/KalbarriHouse.html](http://www.surfcasters.iinet.net.au/KalbarriHouse.html)

### June 2015 fishing field day

**Overview.** The June 2015 away field day was held on the May/June long weekend from 1pm Saturday 30 May to 10am Monday 1 June and was spread from the mouth of the Kalbarri River to Port Gregory with the club persons generally fishing beaches at Port Gregory.

As in May, a bit disappointing in that the numbers of SCAC persons attending this away venue was down considerably, fishing catch expectations was not realized as the results in Port Gregory consisted of small bags of mainly small tailor.

For the local event, Perth beaches down to Preston, results were very much better. Times to fish were as above. Some quality fish were weigh-in with a couples of great surprises. To quantify, comparing bag to bag weights Local were about 4 times heavier than Port Gregory and number of bag fish species were up to twice.

**The trip.** Most of us drove to the venue on Friday to allow some looking around before the competition weekend.

The fishing period was from lines down at 1pm on the Saturday with fishing through the evening with the lines up at to suit returning to the Port Gregory Caravan Park and have bags weighed in by the FDO at 11am on Monday 1 June.

For the away trip a total of 7 SCAC anglers signed on. George Holman, David Macted, Pat McKeown, Dean Stewart, Glen Wong, Michael Pisano with FDO Peter Osborne. Generally beautiful weather, no rain, calm or light winds only, with a low swell prevailing over the weekend. This gave comfortable fishing conditions. A couple of places were weeded out but on the following day had cleared.

All stayed at cabins at Port Gregory Caravan Park, very comfortable. Beach fishing was available a couple of km north and south of the campsite.

George and company fished a couple of beaches north and south of Port Gregory with some limited success. Over the first two days chopper tailor and a few dart were landed. They also tried the lagoon area in millpond conditions, with whiting biting very cautiously only on coral prawns.

George bagged out on chopper tailor, one dart and a couple of whiting over the first two days. Dave had a shoulder problem so fished awkwardly with a small light rod. On changing to a ball sinker and bait-cast rig, he managed to get 7 tailor. He kept trying for number eight, but missed out as the tailor school had moved on. He also managed to capture 3 whiting.

Pat landed 3 tailor and Dean managed one dart and one good whiting.

With reasonable bags of fish, the team decided not to fish Monday morning but enjoyed a sleep-in and a good breakfast before the weigh-in.

Peter, Glen and Michael did a bit of exploration late Friday and Saturday morning. Chopper tailor were found and while not prolific were there for the catching, with some returned, and some kept for bait. They fished the north beach on Saturday afternoon, early evening and caught chopper tailor. Not full bags but a good start and with another evening and two morning periods to come it was anticipated getting a bag would not be a problem.

Sunday morning Peter persuaded Glen and Michael to try some cliff fishing at Pot Alley, just south of Kalbarri, a 40 minute drive north. Water was calm with a low swell, on reflection too calm. This was a new experience for Michael and Glen. After a couple of casts, Glen was on. The fish headed due west at a great rate of knots, not slowing down at all, then a break-off

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.

as Glen tried to turn it. Guess was probably a large ray, with other possibilities were a shark or a very large mullet. We all caught large rabbit fish, sometimes known as "happy moments" as they have large spiky dorsal fins that can inflict extremely painful punctures. Michael managed one good skippy, but Glen could not find anything to put in his bag. Peter had a similar problem in that early landed a good fish, a baldchin groper, but on measuring as a little off one cm too short, so back it went. An hour later, after about 6 rabbit fish, bang he's on. A good fish, plenty of weight, some head shaking, staying deep, probably a large snapper, but on finally working the fish to the surface, up came the biggest buff bream you could imagine. Sandra you would have been proud to catch one this size. Sandra is our Buffy Queen based on her Rottneest skills. Another one was hooked 10 minutes later, so with poor results we returned to camp.

That evening Michael and Glen headed to the beach north of Port Gregory. Chopper tailor were on the bite. Michael bagging out very quickly. A school had moved in close to the beach in front of them. Michael saw a huge fish swirl right in front of him. With an accurate cast he just about put his bait down the mouth of this animal as he had an immediate hook-up. Big splash and a big fish trunk with a dorsal fin headed west. Even though he was using 60lb braid line he was only on for a short period before break-off and seeing his reel spin like the wheel of a formula one race car. This was his first experience with a big shark. Michael experienced the excitement of a high powered short term fight.

With some home obligations and reasonable bags they arranged with the FDO to have their weigh-in on Sunday night and returned to Perth early Monday morning.

Peter fished Sunday evening at the mouth of the river at Kalbarri, at Chinamans, looking for mullet as in past years success had been found there on good sized fish. No such luck, he and half a dozen others fishing this area for many hours with a zero result. Peter managed one tarwhine only for his session. Initially Peter tried for whiting near the mouth, no whiting only undersize tarwhine and one tailor all of about 40 cm long on his whiting rig. He returned to the beach south of Port Gregory on Monday morning looking to make up his bag of tailor. No such luck, this time was as dead as a doornail.

**Local Field Day.** While we did catch fish at Port Gregory it pales into insignificance compared to the local catches.

Martin Wearmouth had some family obligations over the weekend hence was limited to a couple of 3 hour sessions from about 4 to 7 pm both Saturday and Sunday. A couple of weeks beforehand he had heard of salmon catches at Cottesloe and had at this time also went down with a flick rod and landed some good salmon up to 4kg. Hence on the start of the field day, Saturday afternoon, he went down to north Cottesloe. He managed one salmon each fishing period, biggest close to 5kg uncleaned, a skippy and a herring, a pretty good bag for a local beach and only a few hours of fishing time. Martin took his two young sons Thomas and Christian along with him, with Thomas capturing a good whiting.



It was the Surfcasters who went to Preston that had some really great catches. Mark Nurse, Gary Parkinson, Peet and Sandra Wessels had one of those magic weekends at the reefs north of Preston Beach.

Peter Butland attended this venue, but had some health issues so did not fish hard or weigh-in fish.

Peet and Sandra found salmon with Peet bagging out on salmon, with his best being close to 4.7kg uncleaned and Sandra's about 4.1kg uncleaned. He captured two on Saturday night and rest on Sunday morning. Sandra got one. They also managed to get some tailor, Saturday at dusk being prime tailor time, a bag limit of herring, whiting, and some tarwhine. Peet had the heaviest bag for the weekend.

*Two of Peet Wessels' salmon* The outstanding catches for the week-end were by Mark and Gary.

Gary had some herring, whiting and a flathead and deciding not to retire early on Saturday night, fished late evening and boy did he have a hook-up on working the fish until tired out and using a wave to wash it up on the beach, was extremely surprised to see a beautiful pink

snapper gleaming in his headlight torch. What a beauty. It weighted 7.64 kg gilled and gutted that would have made it about 8.4 kg as landed. It was the best fish for the weekend.

Mark also had some herring, tarwhine, a skippy and a yellowtail scad, and like Gary deciding not to retire early on Saturday night, and also fished late evening. He also had a good hook-up using similar skills by working the fish until tired out and using a wave to wash it up on the beach, was also extremely surprised and delighted to see a beautiful pink snapper gleaming in his headlight torch. His first ever, what a beauty. It weighted 5.94 kg gilled and gutted that would have made it about 6.6 kg as landed. This was the runner-up fish for the weekend.

Have you ever seen people with such big grins on their faces and sending so many digital photos far and wide. Just shows, always ensure your gear is in good shape. 300 metres of main line undamaged, reel drag smooth, leaders free from nicks, hooks sharp and so on you never know when you will hook-up on that fish of a lifetime. Congratulations to Mark and Gary for their super snapper captures.

Tight lines

Field Day Officer, Peter Osborne

**Preston report.** A group of us decided to fish Preston Beach for the June field day, Gary Parkinson, Peter Butland, Ken Howell, the Wessels, newest newbie Scott Morrison and I made our plans and would meet up on the beach at various times.

Unfortunately Ken fell ill during the week and made arrangements with Gary to collect the scales, I personally missed Ken, he is great fun at field days and his infectious joy at catching a fish was missed.

I was worried about what the storm had done to our usual fishing area, when I left after the swag surfing incident the sand bars that had made it such a good spot were already gone, when I arrived my fears were confirmed that it was now just a formless area of shoreline with no distinct gutter or hole that had kept tailor coming to feed on the resident whiting.

Gary and Peter B had set up in the previous hot spot and all in good natured fun informed me to move along and go fish somewhere else, the used words that all began with an f and ended with off. How rude, but not to worry I informed them that they were in the worst spot ever and that the storm had made it that they would catch nothing and that my spot 100m down the beach was a salmon highway.

With their mocking of my waders and that I looked like a Lone Ranger Nurse Shark ringing in my ears I showed them my bum and had to smile at our little group of buddies, you better bring your A Game of insults if you want to survive here...

I set to work catching whiting for bait and noticed that the guys where into a herring bonanza next to me and had to endure the screams of how rubbish my spot was every time they pulled a fish out the ocean, I ignored them, walked deeper into the waves in my waders and told them I was dry and they were idiots.

The Wessels arrived at around noon and set up between the warring factions but I could see in their eyes that they also knew this spot had had better days,

It wasn't long before they packed up again and moved on, we said we would communicate via channel 10 in Savannah Speak (Afrikaans) so that the potatoes to our left couldn't understand every hour on what was happening at our spots.

One hour later they informed me that they were on tailor and salmon, I told everyone but they told me to go away again with an F so I did and joined the Wessels.



*Sandra Wessels with her tailor*

Now this was where the weekend got interesting, sitting five metres away from Peet and Sandra is an eye opener, firstly because by watching them you learn more that you can imagine, they always have a kettle boiled for coffee and finally because they are just good people.

So here I was fishing over my first ever reef from the beach, I lost sinkers!! But I started to watch what the Wessels were doing and so started my reef lesson.



*Winners are grinners: Gary's big Snapper*

The Wessels will answer you honestly on anything you ask, well that was in between them hauling out salmon and tailor.

When it got dark I went back to where I had left my swag with a lot on my mind, I had to retie everything I owned to set up properly for the reef.

At around 8pm I saw some activity from Gary and realised he had a fish on, then I heard the screaming and laughter, I went over and saw a beast on the beach, I was immediately told to go back to my spot, needless to say with another F.

Seriously though, Gary had just done something I was led to believe is practically impossible, a pink snapper off the beach, well not impossible but not this size, here he had what my mind estimated at between a 9 and 10kg slab of beauty. It was just handshakes and high fives for the next while.

Over the moon with happiness for Gary I went back to my spot and wound in my whole herring, it was untouched so I slung it back out into the dark.

9.30 it happened, first a huge bite and then the drag screamed off, I set the hook and felt a good fish on, it was a great fight but my mind couldn't imagine what I saw when I finally slid it out on a wave, another pinkie, but this was impossible, then I started to scream.

I yelled to Gary that my spot was just fine thanks.

Gary and I were all smiles and that smile still hasn't left me.



*Mark had a big grin showing off his Snapper*

I now had to tie traces for the morning and it was around midnight, long after everyone else was in bed and I was also getting ready to sleep when my reel screamed again, I was nearly spooled by this fish, eventually I just tightened up the drag and held on and the fish turned, an hour later after a massive battle I had the biggest Ray I have seen on the beach, it was wider than my arm span. I put it back and said goodnight to the stars and the moon, at peace and feeling blessed.

I was up at 4am and packed everything to go visit camp Wessels again. The other guys asked me to wake them up when I went, Pete B told me to go away when I tried, so I left on my own. I showed Peet and Sandra a photo of the Pinkie, the celebrations started again.

The morning session saw Peet land another salmon to fill his bag and some tailor, then the bite stopped and the tarwhine invaded, a mulie lasted 3 seconds a whiting 10, the Wessels made the tarwhine pay and added another species, I was still on a reef learning curve and was now losing hooks.

I paid closer attention, asked Peet a few more questions and suddenly it all made sense, now I was ready to hammer the reef.

Sandra had found a stunning little whiting hole down the beach and Peet and I spent an hour or so catching bait, we chatted, we laughed, we discussed the world and our place in it on this tiny patch of sand and that we felt like there was no better place we could be.

The whiting were good size so we added them to our species, I fished right up on the beach not because I wanted to but because of a terrible cast and landed a flathead.

Armed with bait we were ready for the evening session and getting sick and tired of tiny tarwhine I put a bait on top of the reef as we had seen salmon cruising on top in the morning,

at least the tarwhine didn't get it, I had almost forgotten about it when Sandra politely told me that I had a bite, chaos ensued holding the salmon on top of the reef and I managed to land and quickly release the beauty.

Besides that fish, nothing else really happened during the night session, well except another 200 Tarwhine being landed.

During the day Peter B had joined us, I packed away all my stuff, took my chair over to Pete and we sat in the dark chatting and staring at awe at the stars and wondering just how big the universe around our little dot on the sand was.

The Monday morning session also saw no great action so Peet and I pulled out the smaller rods and started to try catching species.

Plenty of tarwhine ensued but amongst them were dozens of herring, a sweep for Peet and I got a skippy that was 25. as many zeroes as you wish to use, I asked Peet to confirm its length and released it.

I also caught something that none of us knew anything about, I took some photos, released it and hoped Peter O knew what it was, turns out it is a yellowtail scad, score one in the species column.

All that was left to do was pack up and go to the weigh in, the Pinkies were laid alongside each other and the celebrations resumed, lots of photos and Gary and I were left felling a bit star struck. I don't really remember much but suddenly I was on the highway home.



Mark Nurse and Gary Parkinson with Snapper



The team from Preston showing off salmon captures.

Left to right: Peter Butland, Scott Williamson, Gary Parkinson, Mark Nurse, Peet Wessels

Tuesday saw Peet, Peter B and I having a long and profound discussion via text messages on the best technique, time, rig, bait and area to catch a Pinkie, it eventually came down to make sure in the dark you throw your bait when you are facing the water.

I see it as a miracle fish, right time place, destiny, call it what you will, fishing on the reef gave me a different idea, I landed 3 species I was not specifically targeting, it comes down to in this beautiful ocean teeming with different species you can only catch something if you have a bait in the water.

Mark Nurse

### Sportsperson of the Year section winners for June 2015

Best scale fish	Gary Parkinson	Pink snapper	7.64kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	19.08kg

### Field day section winners

Best scale fish	Gary Parkinson	Pink snapper	7.64kg
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	19.08kg

**Catches on June 2015  
Field Day**

		Tailor	Herring	Skipjack Trevally	Whiting	Tarwhine	Dart	Wrasse	Salmon	Pink snapper	Yellowtail scad	Banded Sweep	Flathead	Total
George Holman	Number	8			2		1							
	Total weight	2.75			0.20		0.42							3.37
	Weight of best				0.14									
David Maxted	Number	7			3									
	Total weight	2.64			0.32									2.96
	Weight of best	0.50			0.13									
Pat McKeown	Number	4												
	Total weight	1.67												1.67
	Weight of best	0.41												
Dean Stewart	Number				1		1							
	Total weight				0.08		0.18							0.26
	Weight of best													
Michael Pisano	Number	7		1										
	Total weight	2.30		0.63										2.93
	Weight of best	0.38												
Glen Wong	Number	8												
	Total weight	3.18												3.18
	Weight of best	0.44												
Peter Osborne	Number	4				1	1	1						
	Total weight	1.46				0.33	0.37	0.16						2.32
	Weight of best													
Mark Nurse	Number		12	1	3	1			1	1	1		1	
	Total weight		1.56	0.20	0.21	0.27			3.5	5.90	0.1		0.18	11.92
	Weight of best													
Gary Parkinson	Number		2		2					1			1	
	Total weight		0.28		0.17					7.64			0.26	8.35
	Weight of best													
Martin Wearmouth	Number		1	1					2					
	Total weight		0.13	0.65					7.62					8.40
	Weight of best								4.48					
Sandra Wessels	Number	1	12		1	1			1					
	Total weight	0.75	1.30		0.08	0.24			3.7					6.07
	Weight of best													
Peet Wessels	Number	5	12		1	2			4			1		
	Total weight	2.80	1.30		0.09	0.53			14.22			0.14		19.08
	Weight of best	0.81							4.22					
Christian Wearmouth	Number													
	Total weight													
	Weight of best													
Thomas Wearmouth	Number				1									
	Total weight				0.1									0.1
	Weight of best													
		Tailor	Herring	Skipjack Trevally	Whiting	Tarwhine	Dart	Wrasse	Salmon	Pink snapper	Yellowtail scad		Flathead	Total

## Catch results and points for June 2015 Field Day

Angler	Weight	Species	Fish	Points
Peet Wessels	19.08kg	6	25	270.8
Mark Nurse	11.92kg	8	21	219.2
Gary Parkinson	8.35kg	4	6	143.5
Martin Wearmouth	8.4kg	3	4	134
Sandra Wessels	6.07kg	5	16	130.7
George Holman	3.37kg	3	11	83.72
Peter Osborne	2.32kg	4	7	83.2
David Maxted	2.96kg	2	10	69.6
Michael Pisano	2.93kg	2	8	69.3
Glen Wong	3.18kg	1	8	51.8
Pat McKeown	1.67kg	1	4	46.7
Dean Stewart	0.26kg	2	2	42.6
Thomas Wearmouth	0.1kg	1	1	21
Christian Wearmouth				10

Points include Field day and June General meeting points.

Species weighed at the June Port Gregory field day were dart, tailor, skipjack trevally, tarwhine, whiting, wrasse.

Species weighed in at the Local field day were pink snapper, tailor, herring, tarwhine, whiting, yellowtail scad, banded sweep and salmon.

## Field Day top scores for 2015/16

Total scores calculated automatically by the field day scoring spreadsheet 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 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
Peet Wessels	527.0	1	Martin Wearmouth	134.0	8	Nic Terpkos	47.6	15
Sandra Wessels	358.2	2	Paul Terpkos	128.4	9	Pat McKeown	46.7	16
Peter Osborne	312.5	3	George Holman	103.7	10	Dean Stewart	42.6	17
Mark Nurse	310.4	4	Ian Taggart	91.5	11	Thomas Wearmouth	21.0	18
Shane Wignell	231.6	5	David Maxted	69.6	12	Christian Wearmouth	10.0	19
Theo Van Niekerk	205.0	6	Michael Pisano	69.3	13			
Gary Parkinson	143.5	7	Glen Wong	51.8	14			

## Field Day sections 2015/16

Up to and including June 2015 Field Day.

1A	Best scale fish (1st six months)	Gary Parkinson	Pink snapper	7.64kg	June
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)				
5	Best Tailor (1.0kg min)	Mark Nurse	Tailor	1.18kg	May
6	Best Salmon (3kg min)	Martin Wearmouth	Salmon	4.48kg	June
7	Best Skipjack Trevally (0.5 kg min)				
8	Best Mackerel (2kg min)				
9	Best Yellowtail Kingfish, Samson or Amberjack <b>(4kg minimum)</b>				
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)	Peter Osborne	Tailor	3.87kg	May
14	Best fish on single handed rod (4kg line max)				
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