



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

PO Box 2834, Malaga WA 6944

ABN 29 925 237 020

Telephone 08 9209 2117 Email [surfcast@iinet.net.au](mailto:surfcast@iinet.net.au)

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

### October 2011 Field Day, Port Gregory

Our long weekend field day incorporated a distant venue from Perth being from Kalbarri to Port Gregory, with the focal point/weigh-in at the Wagoë Chalets. Period Friday 28 to Sunday 30 October for the long weekend.

Most of us that attended went one or two days early. I had arranged with Peet and Sandra to leave early Thursday morning and meet at the Cervantes Shell service station for coffee and a chat. Major coincidence occurred. I came from Mullaloo via the coastal road, Peet came down the Brand Highway and cut across from Gingin to access the coastal road. We both arrived at this intersection within seconds of each other. I'm sure we could not repeat that sort of timing.

On arrival at the Wagoë Chalets after about 7 hours of driving plus stops for coffee, lunch and fuel, we found that Ray had already arrived.

We found that for the four of us, while the Chalet was small, it was quite adequate, i.e. not 5 star, but all basics provided. Worked out at \$125 per person for 4 nights' accommodation, but you need to book early if wanting to use this facility over public holidays.



*Relaxing at the chalet*

We had a good spread of accommodation locations and thus fishing areas.

George Holman, Pat McKeown and Dave Maxted had arrived earlier and set up camp at Port Gregory. John Crompton and Ron Lindsay also arrived at the Wagoë Chalets camping area and set up a tent. Mal Head had also signed on but was using the club house accommodation in Kalbarri.



*The reefs at Wagoë*

Friday morning we got up fairly early to undertake some fishing investigation and went down to the beach/reefs. Winter storms had washed a lot of the sand away and reefs were well exposed.

Lots of fisherpersons strung all along the coast. Fremantle club were well represented. The tide was low, swell was down and easterly wind, so good conditions to get on the edge of the reefs.

Peet, Sandra, Ray and I tried a spot on part of the reef that I had previously caught mulloway.

Using bottom fishing rigs, we initially suffered from wirrah, after wirrah after wirrah, then a few skippy and tarwhine. Ray got a couple of good Western Rock Blackfish. He was pleased as he had a good feed of fish before the start of the field day, however no tailor or mulloway.

We saw lots of whales, some as close to 50 metres from the shore.

Returning to our Chalet for sign-on and lunch, we then returned to the reef, another spot I had previously fished, close to and similar to the morning spot. A strong southerly wind had arrived which made fishing a lot more difficult.



*Ray's Western Rock Blackfish and Skippy*

Again a repeat of the morning fish, except Sandra managed a couple of tailor. The rest of us did not see a sign of tailor. John and Ron joined us and also tried off the reef, but found it very difficult to stay in contact with their bait and any fish bites and had issues of getting snagged on reefs.

George, Pat and Dave down at Port Gregory found a few tailor, however George had a minor medical problem that saw his team take him into Kalbarri hospital. George stayed in hospital, recuperated satisfactorily and came out and joined us for the weigh-in on Sunday morning, thus their fishing time was limited.

Mal tried his favourite spots at Kalbarri but also found a scarcity of tailor. The following morning John and Ron also headed to Kalbarri. Wittecarra Creek/Red bluff has some good beaches to fish from that usually produce tailor, but again they were very scarce. Mal's brother-in-law had fished there earlier in the week and landed a magnificent Yellowtail kingfish from this beach.

Have to share a story on Ray's fishing adventure on reef fishing. We were all bottom fishing and Ray had a good hook-up. He was playing the fish well; I went back up to my car to get my long handle gaff. I and undoubtedly Ray was thinking: a good mulloway. I got about 2/3 way back to Ray to see him take advantage of a swell coming through. He nearly did all things right. He heaved on the fish as the wave lifted on the reef edge. Up it came, unfortunately when the wave hit Ray he was off balance and went head over heels.

With Ray tumbling, I saw alongside him in the wave the mass of a good fish and a big tail. Thought what a beaut mulloway. Ray staggered to his feet as I arrived and when the suds cleared, Ray's huge grin was shattered as his fish was not a mulloway, but a huge Buff Bream. To cap this disaster off, the tip of Ray's fishing rod had broken off on the tumble.

On Sunday morning, Sandra, Peet and I headed south of the lagoon to try a reef I had fished in the past that always produced. Strong easterly winds again with a low swell. Did have some limited success. Very quickly, managed to get a small Samson fish, then cry, cry, cry, -- landed a couple of pink snapper, one a beauty, but being the demersal closed period, I had to do catch and release. What a great fish meal that I had to see swim away.



*Ray's Buff Bream*

As no tailor appeared during this prime early morning period we decided to move and went to a good beach about a kilometre south of the lagoon. No tailor but a few small skippy and

tarwhine. Sandra had a big fish hook-up on her light gear that only lasted a few seconds before small hook failure. A few minutes later a party that had moved beside us landed a samson fish. Sandra told them she had claiming rights but they would not pass the fish to her. We continued for the rest of the morning but still no tailor. Ray had fished the reef in front of the chalets and as a good ENE wind got a balloon out, but unluckily no mackerel. However a Fremantle club member managed a good mackerel using this technique.

Went back for lunch, rest and then decided to try Wittecarra Creek/Red Bluff for a late afternoon/evening fish. Again strong southerly winds, but reasonable protection from the Bluff. Ray, John and Ron parked at the Red Bluff and fished the beach adjacent to the rocks. Mal joined us a little before dark. Only highlights were I landed a remora which is unusual to hook from the beach on mulie and large hooks, and Sandra got a small threadfin salmon. Again no tailor or mulloway.

Following morning we went to the Wagoe reef down in front of the chalets. Again no tailor and usual wirrah and odd skippy. Both Sandra and Peet landed a pink snapper which they returned to the water – cry, cry, cry again.

Ray joined us and again managed to get a balloon out. Was a sight to see this gentleman of leisure sitting on his chair on top of the reef, attached to a balloon 200+ metres off-shore. However with such strong easterly winds, his balloon would go into a kite action mode and lift his bait (gardie) 10, 20 and 30+ metres into the air. Thought he might be trying for a sea eagle or even getting a jumbo jet. While another good fish was landed some 300 metres north of us, Ray had no luck.

Returning to the Chalet for the weigh-in, Mal had brought George back from the hospital, and the rest of the team joined us. Pat and Dave arrived later as they had planned to stay longer. They had to dismantle George's camp without him and drive up the 40 odd km. Considering how Wagoe/Kalbarri/Port Gregory can fire, the fish presented at the weigh-in was somewhat disappointing. If the demersal fish return rule was not in place some of us would have been a bit happier.

Notwithstanding the lack of fish, particularly tailor, we had a good weekend which I have to finish off on a high. While I had a bit of sand in my eye from the previous night fish, I went to hospital in Kalbarri to have it looked at so could not join them. Sandra and Peet went out late afternoon. They fished that beach we tried on Sunday morning. Despite having small pickers deplete baits quickly (tarwhine) they captured a bag of very good tailor (e.g. 1.0+ kg size)

Peter Osborne, Assistant Field Day Officer

### **Catch results and points for the October Field Day**

<b>Angler</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Fish</b>	<b>Points</b>
Peter Osborne	5.98 kg	3	6	139.8
Peet Wessels	3.75 kg	5	9	137.5
George Holman	4.5 kg	2	9	115
David Maxted	3.25 kg	1	3	92.5
Sandra Wessels	1.96 kg	2	3	89.6
Ray Walker	1.56 kg	2	2	85.6
Pat McKeown	1.3 kg	1	2	73
Malcolm Head	0.72 kg	1	1	67.2
John Crompton	0	0	0	50
Mark Hansen	0	0	0	50
Ron Lindsay	0	0	0	50
Allan Jones	0.56 kg	2	2	45.6
Des De Villiers	0	0	0	40
Wendy Hansen	0	0	0	40

Points include Field Day and October General Meeting points. Species weighed at the Port Gregory Field Day were:- Flathead, Tailor, Herring, Skippy, Samson Fish, Tarwhine, Western Rock Blackfish and Wrasse. Species weighed at the Local Field Day were:- Herring.

**Sportsperson of the Year and Field day section winners for October 2011**

Best scale fish	Peter Osborne	Samson Fish	3.72 kg
Best bag of scale fish	George Holman	Mixed Bag	4.50 kg