



## 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>

### September 2011 Field Day, Cervantes

All I can say is "My mamma told me that there will be days like this"!!!

With very poor fishing weather for a number of days before and during the fishing field day, I was quite pleasantly surprised to see a fair number of keen fishers turn up.

On arrival I had a quick scout around and was not impressed with what I saw. Lots of weed was drifting around, the water was not clear and the beach was covered with loads of seaweed. The only thing that was kind of in our favour was that the Tailor wind was blowing. It also seemed as if the beach was getting softer and some of the accessible spots of earlier years were now totally a no go zone as there was no more drivable beach available. It seems like the sea is claiming back land in this area.



*Mark Hansen fishing Black Point near Cervantes.*

Soon after sign on we scattered in small groups into different directions. First Mark and Wendy left for their usual spot at Black Point, this turned out to be a very bad choice, with smelly seaweed covering the reef a meter high.

Then Peter Osborne, Ray Walker, Melvin Wee, John Crompton and Christopher Stickells drove back south to their protective spot behind the dunes.

This turned out to be not as protective as they had thought. Ray and John feared for the total destruction of their camper van during Saturday night's wind and rain storm.

George Holman and Pat "McGardie" left with Geoff Raftis and his father in law Bill Ransted to stay at the safe house in Jurien Bay. They slept in total safety and luxury while the rest of us were getting battered, but nothing could be done about it during the storm.

Our group consisted out of Sabby Pizzolante, his son Aniello, Shane and Sarah Wignell, Martin Wearmouth, Sandra and I. After a short discussion we decided to head for the Hill River mouth. On arriving at the river we had a quick look at the area where somebody drowned his Patrol a couple of weeks ago. We decided to stay clear of the river and kept to the higher and drier track. The track leads out to the mouth with some deep soft sand guarding the entrance. We stopped and deflated the tyres a bit more before venturing down and a little bit south to our spot. We decided to stop in a single file formation as high as possible above the high water mark. This proved to be a good decision with the sea coming up to almost touching our wheels during the midnight storm that hit us in full force during the early hours of Sunday morning.

The fishing was a hard slog, fighting wind, seaweed and a strong side wash. Sarah was the first one to break the ice with a little Sand Whiting. She soon afterwards got stuck into the Tailor, first losing one at her feet and then landed a beauty.

Shane not wanting to be outdone by his ever improving daughter then got his act together and landed a Herring, Flathead and a beautiful Greenback Tailor of 1.4 kg.

Sabby also kept on fighting admirably and was rewarded with 3 good Tailor.



*Sandra waiting for the new rod to fire.*

Martin on the other hand was the only one who had consistent catches throughout the day. He landed a Tailor every hour exactly on the hour. We then put a "curse" on him and that was the last of his good run.

Sandra also kept on fighting and managed a Flounder and Flathead for her efforts. She said how much she enjoyed her new rod and tried so hard for a Tailor, but no cigar. I on the other hand did not even have a bite till the twilight hour.

Finally I landed 3 Tailor in quick succession and then the conditions just got too hard and we called it an early night.

During the night conditions really got bad and the wind became very nasty. Luckily we all secured most of our gear before we went to bed, but by day break it was clear that some items were gone. During a little break in the rain I went for a quick walk down the beach to recover a lost table and chairs. During this time I did notice two figures a little bit further south who tried to put a line in the water. I could see that they are not going to have any luck, as they were blown back over the dunes quicker than they have arrived.



Cervantes beach - father and daughter fishing together before the storm.

With every little break in the weather we started to pack up. It was clear that our Field day had ended and that we needed to get off the beach as soon as possible. The wind, rain and mud made it impossible to have a weigh in at the parking area and we decided to have our weigh-in in Perth, nominating George's and our house as weigh in locations. The best scale fish section was won by Shane Wignell with a Tailor of 1.4 kg.

Best bag of scale fish was caught by George Holman with a bag of 4.42 kg. Best shark prize also goes to George Holman with a 5.48 kg Bronze Whaler Shark. George also won the best bag including shark section with a bag of 9.9 kg. Well done to all section winners.

Our next Field day is over the long week end in October, starting on Friday the 28th and ending on Sunday the 30th. The boundaries are between Kalbarri and Horrocks. Indications are that most people plan on fishing Lucky Bay and Wagoie with a few opting for Kalbarri. The weigh in will be at the Wagoie Chalets on Sunday 10 am. Wagoie have chalets and camping spots with easy and convenient access to Wagoie Beach and Lucky Bay. Our Chalet has a few spare bunks available and you are most welcome to share, first come first served. Remember it is a long week end, so book early to avoid disappointment.

Hope the next time I see you is with a bent rod in the hand. Tight lines

Peet Wessels, Field Day Officer

### **Peter Osborne's notes on September Field Day**

Arriving at Hill River late Friday afternoon, met up with John Crompton, Ray Walker, Melvin Wee and applicant Christopher Stickells.

They confirmed with me my earlier observation: lots of weed. They were at a clearing about half a kilometre south of the Hill River mouth. I went up and looked at my favourite spot right

at the mouth, didn't look good - weed and the mouth itself was narrow and looked close to having the river break through.

So decided to go back and join the crowd as the water they assessed had less weed and looked fishable. Ray had set up his Taj Mahal camper trailer, a good base, out of the wind. Looking at the water there confirmed their observations: wind waves as about 15 – 18 knots winds and no swell, some weed but looked fishable.

A little before 5 pm Friday we all trooped down over the dune and set up for fishing. Wind had increased slightly in strength but with 112/150 gram sinkers this gave a reasonable cast into the NW wind and sand holding power. With rod held high it took a while for line to catch weed and require a wind in and clear a clump of weed.

A few tailor and a couple of herring came in but we only fished to about 7 pm then back to the Taj Mahal for a drink and cook up. Weather held off except wind continued for a few more hours, but getting up at 5:30am the following morning and having breakfast etc, found the wind was only a slight NE wind, so gave comfortable conditions, hence had a line in the water about 6 am.

Still some weed about but manageable and a few tailor started to come slowly but consistently. One of our visitors, Christopher Stickells was under horse powered with his fishing gear for the conditions encountered so he had trouble casting out over the shoreline weed and getting to the fish. So I set up one of my rods and got Chris on the right track. Longer rod with heavier line of 10 kg, so when pulling in a bunch of weed, the line did not break.

With a slight wind to our backs, while still some weed, it was reasonably comfortable fishing. Christopher put in some effort and it wasn't long before he had his first ever tailor, followed by some herring. Hope to see Chris get lots more. With the right venue and weather, some practise at distance casting, he should be able to get a bag of tailor.

Late morning we went to the sign on and met the rest of the participants, some 18 persons, and discussions was about where to fish given the weed problem so members spread out from Black Point to Jurien. I returned to the Taj Mahal campsite and by a little after mid day the team there were all fishing.

The weather conditions changed with the wind shifting around to the NW and more weed moving along the shoreline, but despite hard fishing and only a couple of flathead and herring coming in nothing happened all afternoon.

Except: The story of Ray versus ray (i.e. Ray the human kind and ray the sea animal.) Mid afternoon, we looked up the beach and saw Ray with his rod bent nearly double. It didn't take long to work out he was not pulling in a lump of weed. Ray was well set up with a 10 wrap rod, an Alvey reel fully loaded with 30+ line so he thought he could manage this fish. After numerous runs further out to sea, then stopping and sucking on the bottom by the whatever, Ray started to realize he was fighting a very large ray and a positive outcome was not so likely.

After nearly an hour, continually twanging the line when the ray played at being a suction cap, Ray decided he was not going to win. He tried a tug of war by walking up the beach to the top of the dune, to break the line and even this didn't work. So much line out and being monofilament, it just stretched. The only way Ray could part company with ray was to cut the line. Game over and ray won and Ray lost. Ray's arms were 2 inches longer and he needed to relax a while before getting back to fishing.



*Christopher's first ever Tailor*

A few tailor caught just before/after sunset, but very sparse and fishing got harder with NW winds, at least 20 knots, and some clumps of weed getting very large. Some of us fished for a few hours after dark, but nothing happened. Between us we reckon our team pulled in at least 20 tons of weed.

Then up to camp again, good hot meal etc with anticipation of getting up early and enjoying conditions with fish on the bite, as we had on Saturday morning. What a misconception, I was snug as a bug in a rug and slept through till morning, but by 1 am the wind had increased to at least 30 knots and the Taj Mahal had started to disassemble.

Fellows had to get up and rework pegs etc. I woke up at 5:20 am, had breakfast, recognized the wind was now extremely strong, walked over the dune to where I had left my fishing gear etc, and disaster. The sea was foam from wind waves. The wind must have been at least 40 knots, probably gusting to 50 knots, and of course the weed was still there. My gear was blown over, with sand through everything. A table I had was 50 metres away up near the top of a sand dune. Tried a couple of casts and confirmed what I thought, "unfishable".

Went back to the Taj Mahal to see them fighting to hold things together and to fold and pack-up camp. Of course by this time it was raining cats and dogs. Discussion on return to weigh-in or go straight home, however Peet Wessels and others came down the track and confirmed to meet us at the car park and abandon the fishing on Sunday. On meeting there, about 8 am while we were blowing up tires, discussion was that it was so windy, the scales could not take a reading, hence the decision was to hold separate weigh-ins at George Holman's residence for north siders and Peet Wessels' for those with inland residences.

Considering the conditions, I think I can say with a span of nearly 30 years of fishing with Surfcasters it was one of the worst weather conditions encountered on a field day. Despite this most people had some fish.

Peter Osborne, Assistant Field Day Officer

### **The September 2011 Cervantes fishing trip**

Another club trip to Cervantes with the Surfcasters. George Holman invited me to team up with him for the weekend.

It was decided to leave early Saturday morning meeting at George's place 0630, very early when you are retired but all worth it.

We loaded up George's vehicle, all ready to roll out at 0700 for Cervantes in high spirits. A good trip up there, agreeing to have a look at Jurien first then meeting at the Hill River car park to sign on as arranged. After much chatter and looking around at conditions at Cervantes, too much weed was the conclusion, so off to Jurien to fish there.

Called in to Geoff Raftis who was already at Jurien for the competition with his father in law Bill Ransted who is a really dedicated fisherman. Hopefully I will be as active as Bill at his age.

To see Bill getting around on his peg leg, proudly sitting on the beach on his stool fishing is a sight to behold. With Geoff casting for him and Bill catching fish, this is club fishing at its best.

George and I were invited to camp there for the weekend which we quickly took up due to the weather forecast relayed via mobile from John Curtis. Hang on boys, it's going to get rough.

Swags on the bed something to eat, then rig up ready for a big days fishing. Bill had a really good fishing session with Geoff Friday so it should be ok.

Lines in the water, very little weed at this time and a rising tide - bring it on. The wind started to pick up and the weed was coming, but you could still cast out past it all but dragging it in when retrieving.

As dusk approached George caught a good sized Tailor. Quite chuffed, was George. I thought to myself "watch out Holman, I will catch the next one" then I landed a decent sized Herring.

Geoff and Bill are getting fish also. George not to be outdone lands a shark. The shark was not a happy chap but George was. George fished on then caught a stingray which worked him over, lots of groans and moans - you caught it, you land it, good luck with that.

Later that night, all being quiet and the weather starting to turn to the Curtis forecast, it was decided to fillet a herring and throw a slab out and see what happens. Next minute I am on to a decent bite that took me around Jurien and back. Not knowing what the heck I had on I just hung on and waited with words of wisdom from George. My arms are coming apart. After what seemed hours I finally got a look at it and it was a decent sized sting ray, not the huge gigantic fish I had been waiting for, but it gave a account of its self and swam off with a splash.

Now that was all over we decided it was time to pack up and return to the house, George winds in the bait he had been soaking out there somewhere in the ocean, when as only George can he drags in another Tailor.

Back at the house all fish cleaned and gear all cleaned up, Geoff had put our dinner in the oven warmed up nicely, thanks Geoff.

A couple of beers and a nice drop of red. What a great day, tidied up then off to bed. All tucked out of the weather, dozing away then all of a sudden the storm hits. Well it blew and blew then rained like crazy. This went on all night. Poor buggers in tents must be copping it.

Getting out of bed in the morning after deciding not to try and fish at 4 o'clock as it was too comfortable in bed plus the weather was not good for fishing.

George received a phone call from Peet Wessels that the weigh in had been cancelled due to bad weather. With that info we decided to pack up and head back to Perth and weigh in at George's place. Rainy and windy on the way home. Not good driving weather trying to get around caravans etc.

Arriving at Georges place we unpack his vehicle and weigh in fish. Peter Osborne arrives to weigh in had a good catch also, well done Peter. After a bit of chatter time to head home.

Many thanks to George, Geoff, and Bill for a great weekend.

Pat McKeown

### **Cervantes - the first trip**

My first trip with the club will always be a memorable one. Maybe it was because I've never been to Cervantes. Maybe it was my first Tailor. Either way it was fun.

John Crompton was nice enough to give me a lift up there and I was very excited. We left on the 16th and went up a day early. The drive up for me didn't seem too long though I enjoyed the view.

I've never been that far north before so it was an experience. The fresh air, the trees, the open road;- it's all so bloomin fantastic. The first thing we did was choose a site and set up camp. Ray's camper trailer was to be home for the next 2 nights. We set up behind a dune one of the few spots that had not been closed off. It took us little time to set up and before we knew it we were fishing.



*Bill Ransted and tailor*

Peter loaned me a big 14ft low mount rod for the weekend, again a first experience, 14 feet as well as low mount. The sea seemed calmish to me but it was windy and there was a lot of weed around that caused me to break off a few times before I learned the best way to fish these conditions. Thanks to the guys for their teachings.

On the morning of the 17th I woke up and Peter was on the beach fishing so I joined him. He was showing me best way to cast with a low mount. That morning was fantastic and it got better when I hooked onto my first Tailor ever followed by 2 Herring. I was so excited.

Soon after the wind picked up so I gave it in for the day and watched the others fish. I loved the sunset and the quiet.

I fell asleep before everyone again but when we woke on the 18th about 6, the weather was less than kind. The wind was blowing like mad and it was wet.



*Chris' first ever Tailor*

Also at some stage the camper trailer had taken a hit and was kinda falling down. So we were all up to pack it up when the weather calmed down. After packing up we headed back to the car park to meet up with the rest of the club members.

It was decided that the weigh in would not be done at Cervantes as the weather had stayed poor so we headed for home with fish in hand and happy memories.

Chris Stickells

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

### **Sportsperson of the Year winners for September 2011**

Best scale fish	Shane Wignell	Tailor	1.4 kg
Best bag of scale fish	George Holman	Mixed Bag	4.42 kg
Best shark	George Holman	Shark	5.48 kg
Best bag of fish including sharks	George Holman	Mixed Bag	9.9 kg

### **Field day section winners for September 2011**

Best scale fish	Shane Wignell	Tailor	1.4 kg
Best bag of scale fish	George Holman	Mixed Bag	4.42 kg
Best shark	George Holman	Shark	5.48 kg
Best bag of fish including sharks	George Holman	Mixed Bag	9.9 kg

<b>Angler</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Species</b>	<b>Fish</b>	<b>Points</b>
George Holman	9.9 kg	4	11	189
Peter Osborne	3.31 kg	3	6	113.1
Shane Wignell	1.72 kg	3	3	97.2
Geoff Raftis	2.5 kg	2	4	85
Melvin Wee	1.43 kg	2	3	84.3
Sabatino Pizzolante	1.74 kg	1	3	77.4
John Crompton	0.69 kg	2	2	76.9
Peet Wessels	1.6 kg	1	3	76
Sandra Wessels	0.59 kg	2	2	75.9
Sarah Wignell	0.65 kg	2	2	66.5
Pat McKeown	0.29 kg	1	2	62.9

Mark Hansen	0.11 kg	1	1	51.1
Chris Stickells	0	0	0	50
Ray Walker	0	0	0	50
Wendy Hansen	0	0	0	40
Allan Jones	0.15 kg	1	1	31.5

Points include Field Day and September General Meeting points.

Species weighed at the Cervantes Field Day were:- Flathead, Tailor, Flounder, Herring, Snook, Shark and Whiting. Species weighed at the Local Field Day were:- Herring.

### **Field Day top scores for 2011/12**

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

Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank	Name	Points	Rank
Peter Osborne	846.4	1	Ian Taggart	174.2	13	Melvin Wee	84.3	25
Peet Wessels	818.5	2	Marcia Pekaar	150.7	14	Sabatino Pizzolante	77.4	26
Sandra Wessels	635	3	Sumarie Gaudin	148.5	15	Morgan Keet	66.3	27
George Holman	506.3	4	Pat McKeown	146.5	16	Felicity Keet	62.5	28
Mark Hansen	436.5	5	Allan Jones	137.6	17	Wayne Shaw	57	29
Theo Van Niekerk	327.7	6	Shane Wignell	130	18	Chris Stickells	50	30
Greg Keet	324.7	7	Michael Gaudin	123.5	19	Ron Lindsay	50	31
Justin Rose	241.5	8	Stuart Spickett	108.8	20	Shane Becu	50	32
Wendy Hansen	204.5	9	Nick Edwards	103.6	21	Lachlan Spickett	40	33
John Crompton	196.9	10	Ray Walker	100	22	Olivia Keet	40	34
Peter Pekaar	196.9	11	Sarah Wignell	87.9	23	Sharon Osborne	40	35
Frank Gaudin	187.4	12	Geoff Raftis	85	24	John Curtis	20	36

### **Field Day sections 2011/12**

Up to and including September Field Day.

1A	Best Scale Fish (1st Six Months)	George Holman	Pink Snapper	6.55 kg
1B	Best Scale Fish (2nd Six Months)			
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

## Update to Species Badge competition

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Black Bream</b>	<b>Flathead</b>	<b>Flounder</b>	<b>Garfish</b>	<b>Herring</b>	<b>Yellow Eyed Mullet</b>	<b>Mackerel</b>	<b>Mulloway</b>	<b>Pink Snapper</b>	<b>Salmon</b>	<b>Samson Fish</b>	<b>Snook or Pike</b>	<b>Tailor</b>	<b>Tarwhine</b>	<b>Trevally</b>	<b>Whiting</b>	<b>Wrasse</b>	<b>Number of species caught</b>
Sarah Wignell		1			1								1			1		4
Chris Stickells													1					1

Recorder, John Curtis