

# **Field Day Officers Report**

## **May 2016 Field Day - Rottnest**

### **Synopsis**

As happened last year at this time, looking at weather forecasts showed terrible conditions (the reality was even worse) and again our thought processes on the way across were a bit on the pessimistic side. Saturday looked really bad but Sunday showed as a significant improvement. The weekend was scheduled to be storms, rain, wind and swell both Saturday and Sunday peaking on Saturday afternoon. Swell was to be extremely large – the late afternoon tide was a low, but with the other conditions there was no way we thought we could get onto the reefs we usually fish. (In particular Radar) As per last year, the thought of a Rotto field day was always an anticipation of catching great fish like Salmon, Yellowtail Kingfish, Skippy, Tailor, misc. species and of course Herring. Unfortunately although no appearance of Salmon and only an odd capture of Skippy and Tailor, it was memorable weekend of fishing as we encountered some fantastic Yellowtail Kingfish action for a short period late Sunday afternoon

### **The Trip**

A team of some 14 SCAC fisherpersons, arrived Friday night, and settled into the four Units at Fays Bay. Peet and Sandra Wessels, Theo Van Niekerk, Shane Wignell, Ian Taggart, Mark Nurse, Brad Zaknich, Sri Srigandan, Glen Wong, Vince Tomazin, Mark Hansen, Greg Keet and son Morgan, and Peter Osborne where Glen and Vince were newcomers to this venue. (We were up to 16 attendees prior to the trip, unfortunately Paul Terpkos and son could not make it.)

Saturday morning the storms rolled in. We heard that all Ferries had been cancelled, hence regular Rotto staff could not get to the island, resulting in a lack of bus drivers. Our Charter Bus had to double as the island tour bus. So 12 or 20 tourists in it had to mingle with scruffy fisherman and all their gear. At 11:00 am we had the bus trip out to West End with quick stop at the bakery to get a hot pie to eat for lunch on the way out. Halfway out the driver passed on a message from the local Ranger – no fishing on the south side of Rotto. We had just about arrived at Radar stop area, when a further message came through from the Ranger – all fishing from Rocks was banned. On looking at the wind, wave action, and level of water there was no disputing it was not just dangerous, but very dangerous.

We decided to return to the beach in front of our accommodation units. Wind was basically behind us and swell/waves broken up by an outer reef. We at least had a fishable location. Some of us managed to get some Herring on the go. Ian, Brad and I got them biting well by mid-afternoon, Mark H. at the northern end point, using soft plastics, also got them going. Shane and Sri at the southern end of the beach area were not able to get the Herring on the bite. Mark N, Theo, Peet and Sandra went to the point at the southern end of the beach. They found a bit of gutter/hole which did yield some fish. Between them they landed a few misc. fish including Tailor, Herring, Yellowtail Grunter, Tarwhine, Wrasse, and Theo with a Blue Mowong (one of the demersals). Of note, we were all fishing away trying to apply our best skills and knowledge to get quality quantity and different species, when one of the storms started with a bit of light rain then turned to a hail storm. Only peas size hail stones, but did they come down in volume.

Most of us retired well before dark, but a few (Peet and Sandra) stayed on the try and increase their catch. With the upmarket Accommodation units we were able to relax in comfort and watch the footie on TV.

On waking on Sunday morning initially we had reasonable weather, but we knew the forecast was the storms were going to continue, but not as severe as Saturday. We had the bus pick us up at 11:30 am and again to the bakery. Ian and Brad decided to stay behind and fish the Fays Bay area. They again found Herring. For the rest of us on going out we could see that while the big swell continued and the wind was picking up from the SW, it was nowhere near as bad as Saturday. Arriving at West End the Tennis Court looked fishable. Of course Radar reef was unfishable but this reef reduced the swells coming through into the area we were fishing. It is to be noted that during the afternoon, a few swells did come through and those on the lower rocks had some lift up over their standing positions.

With the exception of a reasonable Skippy caught by Mark N for most of the afternoon the action was very quiet. A few Herring and Wrasse came in but at 4:40 pm it all started to happen. As it was so quiet for most of the afternoon a few anglers started to make noises that we should call the bus to come back early and we all go back to the accommodation units. When Peter O hauled in a small but size Yellowtail everyone's interest lifted by 1000%. Yep, within minutes of that first fish, hook-ups and bust-offs were being experienced by all. With a bit of reef that became nearly exposed between swells if the fish dug in they could get line well and truly snagged. The trick was, when line snagged by one of these cunning fish, to let the line loose and when the fish swam out was to wait until a swell put water over this reef and then hit the fish hard to lift it up onto the shallow water and with a bit more effort, skill, and luck the fish will end up on the rocks at your feet.

As noted above, conditions were hard to land the fish and the action only lasted about 40 minutes, resulting in 3 of us getting the bag limit of three ( in fact Mark N went into a catch and release mode), others got twos or ones and a couple with nil. Great to see young Morgan show his dad how to hook and land a Yellowtail Kingfish.

Shane had a malfunction on his new Alvey reel (Drag setting adjustment locked up) just when he needed this outfit. While he hooked fish he was not able to get them out of the reefs.

Our Newbies got a good taste of the action – Glen got one, and Vince got two size, he had to return a third – talk about smiles - we now have some new Rotto converts.

Mark ended up 5 species and 3 Yellowtail (catch and release) with the bag that scored the highest points. Peet had the second highest points score but ended up with the heaviest bag and the heaviest fish. Theo had a good bag with 7 species and the third highest point score. Peter O while having both the second heaviest bag and the second heaviest fish but only two species ended up in for the fourth position in the point score ladder

Sandra had a reasonable good mixed bag of 5 species including 2 Yellowtail, she did land a Dhufish unfortunately it was a couple of centimetres undersize so she returned it quickly. With our new system of scoring, Sandra was in the fifth position for the weekend.

### Some key statistics

*(See below for results tabulation)*

#### Heaviest fish –

1 – Peet W	Salmon	3.45 kg (gilled and gutted)
2 – Peter O	Salmon	3.28 kg
3 – Sri	Salmon	2.70 kg

#### Heaviest bag

1 – Peet W	Mixed	10.21 kg
2 – Peter O	Mixed	9.62 kg
3 – Mark N	Mixed	9.33 kg

#### Most Species

1 – Theo	7
2 – Mark N and Sandra W	5
3 – Peet W	4

#### Unusual Fish

Theo	Blue Morwong	0.83 kg
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### Local

Due to severe weather conditions, only three Surfcasters ventured out to fish locally.

Conditions were waves breaking a long way out and lots of weed or dirty water

George Holman tried the local marinas and beaches on Saturday and after soaking various baits only managed a couple of Herring

Gary Parkinson and Martin Wearmouth tried Cockburn Sound and the Freemantle Moles with absolutely zero result.

### Afterthoughts

SCAC has a Rotto field day again scheduled for August, if you are looking for a fishing experience of a lifetime this venue gives a high probability of achieving this goal

As the accommodation and bus have to be booked well in advance, for the June general meeting would like to get an idea of who is going. We will require a final commitment and payment of the accommodation and bus costs at the July General meeting...

PS

Historically we have had greater success on fish captures in August when compared to May

Tight lines

Peter Osborne, Field Day Officer, 2015/16

Sportsperson of the year sections for May			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	3.45
Best bag of scale fish	Peet Wessels	Mixed bag	10.21
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			
Field day prizes for May			
Section	Angler	Species	Weight
Best scale fish	Peet Wessels	Yellowtail Kingfish	3.45
Best bag of scale fish	Peter Osborne	Mixed bag	9.62
Best shark			
Best bag including sharks			

ANGLER		Species Tailor	Species Herring, Australian	Species Skipjack Trevally	Species Yellowtail Kingfish	Species Yellowtail Grunter 1 only	Species Wrasse (all species) 1 only	Species Western Rock Blackfish	Species Morwong 2 only	Species Tarwhine	Total weight	No. of Species	No. of fish	F.D. points	Attendance			Total points	Percentage Points		
															Field Day	Local	General Meeting				
Mark Nurse	Number		12	3	3		1	1													
	Total weight		1.61	0.96	6.49		0.24	0.27			9.57	5	20	145.7	1		1	185.7	100		
	Weight of best			0.32	2.32																
Peet Wessels	Number	1	12		3	1															
	Total weight	0.85	1.85		7.32	0.19					10.21	4	17	142.1	1		1	179.1	96.5		
	Weight of best				3.45																
Theo Van Niekerk	Number	1	5		1	1			1	3											
	Total weight	0.31	0.61		2.59	0.20	0.32		0.83	0.61	5.87	7	13	128.7	1			151.7	81.7		
	Weight of best																				
Peter Osborne	Number		12		3																
	Total weight		1.75		7.87						9.62	2	15	116.2	1		1	151.2	81.4		
	Weight of best				3.28																
Sandra Wessels	Number		12		2	1	1			1											
	Total weight		1.61		3.15	0.16	0.11			0.33	5.36	5	17	103.6	1		1	140.6	75.7		
	Weight of best				1.67																
Sri Srigandan	Number		1		2																
	Total weight		0.17		4.25						4.42	2	3	64.2	1		1	87.2	47.0		
	Weight of best				2.70																
Mark Hansen	Number		12				1														
	Total weight		1.68				0.28				1.96	2	13	39.6	1		1	72.6	39.1		
	Weight of best																				
Morgan Keet	Number		7		1																
	Total weight		0.76		2.14						2.90	2	8	49.0	1			67.0	36.1		
	Weight of best																				
Vincent Tomazin	Number				2																
	Total weight				3.15						3.15	1	2	41.5	1		1	63.5	34.2		
	Weight of best				1.94																
Glen Wong	Number				1																
	Total weight				1.98						1.98	1	1	29.8	1		1	50.8	27.4		
	Weight of best																				
Shane Wignell	Number		3				1														
	Total weight		0.36				0.24				0.60	2	4	26.0	1		1	50.0	26.9		
	Weight of best																				
Brad Zaknich	Number		12																		
	Total weight		1.61								1.61	1	12	26.1	1			48.1	25.9		
	Weight of best																				
Greg Keet	Number	1	4																		
	Total weight	0.37	0.48								0.85	2	5	28.5	1			43.5	23.4		
	Weight of best																				
Ian Taggart	Number		10																		
	Total weight		1.23								1.23	1	10	22.3	1			42.3	22.8		
	Weight of best																				
George Holman	Number		2																		
	Total weight		0.31								0.31	1	2	13.1		1		25.1	13.5		
	Weight of best																				
Martin Wearnmouth	Number	0																			
	Total weight	0.00																1	1	20.0	10.8
	Weight of best																				
Gary Parkinson	Number	0																			
	Total weight	0.00																1	1	20.0	10.8
	Weight of best																				

Thanks to Sandra for the Pictures!









