

2015 AAA NATIONAL ANGLING CHAMPIONSHIPS AND CONVENTION to be held in South Australia at Wallaroo on the Copper Coast

Prepared by Peter Osborne

SUMMARY

The AGM and Executive Meetings were held on the 23rd March 2014 for the Australian Anglers Association confirmed that the next Championships and Convention will be held in Wallaroo in South Australia in March 2015. While not addressing all items discussed, particularly administrative business, the following summarizes key points of interest to WA competitors.

Some comments in this report have been gained from the meetings, the tour around the venues, and information imparted from SA anglers. In an attempt to attract anglers the competition, it will be run over 2 weeks in lieu of the traditional 3 weeks.

VENUE LOCATION

Allow 2 - 3 days to drive from Perth, allowing for a short overnight stop/s. (Good map – showing locations of items discussed refer to brochure in www.yorkepeninsula.com.au

Wallaroo is a coastal country town on the “Copper Coast” located on the east side to the York Peninsula about 160 km or 2¹/₂ hour’ drive north of Adelaide. The township is located right on the coastline with a port facility, major wharf/jetty structure, good beaches, and well serviced infrastructure. e.g. various stores, supermarkets, restaurants, accommodation and charter boat hire.

Being in the gulf, large surf swell waves are not generally encountered. March is generally very good weather: - crisp in mornings and mid-twenties temperatures during the day. For an overview of the fishing, see the brochure referenced above on Yorke Peninsula
While fairly flat seas generally prevail close to shore - ,however in the open waters of the Gulf, winds can make for very rough conditions.

Accommodation varies from camp grounds to upmarket hotels and rental properties. However most can be expensive, limited and needs to be sorted out and booked well before the competition. See also www.accomodationguidesa.com.au

THE COMPETITION PROGRAM - 13TH TO 25TH MARCH 2015

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| Friday 13 th | Registration at HG Wallaroo Football Club, Cornish Terrace

Weigh-ins are also at this venue. Plenty of room as grassy oval in front of meeting rooms and toilets

Large vehicle/boat parking area adjacent to meeting rooms. |
| Saturday 14 th | Registration will continue until 12:00 noon. Boat Inspections will be undertaken at HQ. |
| Sunday 15 th | Mayoral Reception & Opening Ceremony at 4:00 pm. Friends Night at 5:30 pm
Casting at Paskeville - Arrive and setup 7:30am for 8:00 am start

Usual events of DH Accuracy for teams & individual, 56 gram for teams, 112 grams + A/B casts for both Teams and Individual and 112 Grams for individual. |

This venue is about 20 min drive south of Wallaroo. Level grounds with grass to be cut a couple of days before the event.

Infrastructure is limited. This is a non-smoking venue with a total fire ban in place at this time of the year.

Food will be available at site, no there are to be NO BBQ's gas fires or open fires.

First events will be the teams' events.

Monday 16th Arrive at Paskeville and setup 7:30am for 8:00 am start – Individual events

Tuesday 17th 1st Offshore event

Wednesday 18th Lay Day & Federal Executive meeting

Thursday 19th 2nd Offshore event

Friday 20th 1st Estuary

Saturday 21st Lay Day

Sunday 22nd 1st Rock & Beach

Monday 23rd 2nd Estuary

Tuesday 24th 2nd Rock & Beach

Wednesday 25th Convention Meeting & Presentation Dinner at 4:00 pm at Wallaroo Community Centre.

FISH SPECIES/ BAG LIMITS

Bag limits are a lot more generous than the WA rules. E.g. Herring – 60; King George Whiting – 12; Yellow Fin Whiting - 20; Australian Salmon 21 to 35 cm - 20, greater than 35 cm – 10. No combined bag limits apply.

Refer to the Brochure for overall fish sizes and bag limits - Fisheries & Aquaculture PIRSA – on www.pir.sa.gov.au/fisheries

Boat limits apply and are a multiple of 3 times the individual quantities. I.e. 3 or more persons

SUMMARY OF SPECIES LIKELY TO BE CAUGHT:

For Rock & Beach and Estuary Events;

Typical inshore species include Herring (Tommy Ruff), Garfish, Pilch (Yellow Eye Mullet), Yellow Fin Whiting often 40 cm size, King George Whiting, Salmon, odd Snook, Silver Trevally, Flathead, Mulloway – latter mainly at night, Snapper (general the small size - 38 to 60 cm)

For Offshore Events

All of the above plus Sweep, Blue Mowong, occasionally Tuna and large Snapper (60+ cm) – *Snapper is considered the local premium fish species*

It is noted that in the SA Marine Species Rules it allows two large Snapper however, as they intend to allow Charter Boats where a limit of one large Snapper (>60 cm) per person applies. This limitation will be incorporated into the competition rules. Small snapper 38 to 60 cm have a bag limit of 5

While there are Yellowtail Kingfish, Samson and Western Blue Groper resident in SA waters, they are not likely to be caught in this area of the Gulf of St Vincent.

FISHING GEAR/RIGS/BAIT

Generally the rod and reel selection are the same as we use in WA, except tends to be lighter gear due to majority of fish captures will be same/similar to our inner shore species. For targeting larger fish gear we normally used is suitable. e.g. For boating, most use up to 15 kg braid for targeting larger snapper and go down to 3 or 4 kg line with applicable light rod and spinning reel for the small species such as Herring and Yellowfin Whiting.

Most Rock and Beach fishers use a 12 to 13 foot very light blank with a spin reel loaded with 4 kg line.

Rigs typical of what we use in WA but for rock fishing paternoster rigs used for casting into sand holes between reef and weeds.

From what I gathered, the burley cage rigs (loaded with pollard and small baits) were not common in SA for targeting herring or garfish. Would recommend bring a few bags of pollard if driving across.

Estuary fishing would best be undertaken with light spin and flick rods.

Mulies, prawns and squid are popular baits, and subject to availability frogmouth (similar to blue sardines) considered prime bait for the smaller species including the smaller salmon.

Again subject to availability and expensive from bait shops, frozen blood worms is a must for the whiting species.

At special locations in the mangroves during mid-winter during a breeding cycle, with correct tides, moon phase etc. blood worms come out of the mud to spawn and can be scooped in large numbers in small fine nets.

Same as for store purchased bait, worms are cleaned soaked in methylated spirits for a minute which toughens up the skin and doesn't allow expelling of insides and separated, then frozen in small packs.

If available would bring across some frozen blue sardines as they are virtually impossible to get in Wallaroo.

FISHING OFFSHORE

(North - marina at Fisherman Bay to South – marina at Balgowan)

Boat ramps, while some are limited in numbers all designated locations facilities are designed with concrete ramps into deep water with boarding access via floating pontoons.

Upper north boundary has Fisherman's bay with a good set of boat ramps and just to the south Port Broughton. Care needs to be taken in moving out of the launching area. Some post markers etc., but there are numerous deep channels and sand flats which can be disastrous if you steer into this sort of area on an outgoing tide.

Wallaroo has a good set of boat ramps and reasonably short channels out to deeper water.

Going south of Wallaroo:

Port Hughes has ramps but the drive in is not along the best access roads.

Balgowan has dual ramps and at low tides is a bit on the shallow side for large boats.

Note that as these locations are in the Vincent Gulf generally in more protected waters most of the locals' fish from boats 4.5 to 5.0 metres.

Most would start fishing in close for the small species – targeting close to shore and dropping bait into sand holes between reefs and weed. (see Rock & Beach fishing)

Moving further out, trolling in channels can produce Salmon and whiting can be located in sand holes in channels, similarly for small snapper.. For large Snapper, this requires motoring well out into the Gulf into deep water. I was not able to elicit any specifics as to locations for these fish) Misc. fish species include Leatherjackets, Sweep and Blue Morwong (Queen Snapper).

NOTE: A rule that will be rigidly enforced for all fishing competitions is that the barbs on leatherjackets are to be removed – failure to comply will incur penalty points

Estuary Fishing (Defined as the bay at Wallaroo, Boundaries - north to Point Riley across to the No: 7 & 8 markers concrete bunkers at the point south of the jetty including river waterways. Beach fishing from stretch just south of Jetty is not to be included.

Boat boundary from these locations includes a line from markers on the west side of the bay
Fishing can be from shore or boats both generally targeting the smaller species. If lucky schools of smaller snapper can be found. Would use flick rods and have a slightly heavier outfit in case bigger fish show up eg – Snapper, Snook, or Salmon.

The main Jetty at Wallaroo can fish well for the smaller species. Occasionally large Snapper and Mulloway are caught from the jetty or river channels but mainly at night. There is not intent to have any night fishing.

Rock and Beach Fishing (North Boundary – Tickera with the south boundary being the Balgowan marina, north side. Note a couple of beach stretches should be avoided due to very soft sand)

While there are a couple of stretches that have short stretches of fishable sandy beach (e.g. can set up and fish with two rods) the majority is fishing is off fairly flat exposed rock. – Generally virtually no surf, only wind waves.

Sand holes between reefs and weed give potential for pulling out large YF Whiting and occasional KG Whiting: catch one or two and move to next sand hole. Some spots have larger exposed reefs offshore and just about within casting distance. (E.g. Drycasting skills assist with accuracy and distance to put your bait into the right spot for most of rock and beach fishing.

Our local technique for burling up for herring and also using burley cages should work well. Groins at boat ramps and the Jetties also give opportunity for easier fishing for the small species particularly herring and if seas are flat for garfish.

It is noted that some sections have sand flats where tide movement exposes sand banks. – hence check tides for decision as to where to fish.

On the southern side, I personally liked some spots known as the Bamboos and another called the Pines, just north of Balgowan – both have rough, but firm sand tracks into the back of a dune. Nearly all have a hill sand dune you have to park behind and walk 100 to 200 metres to fishing areas.

Other Fishing

Good catches of Blue Swimmer Crabs and Squid can be made to add to culinary delights.

Drycasting

The usual rules and order of casts will remain the same as in the past. I.e. the same as the WA State DC titles.

Rules as to leaders, sinkers will need to be checked prior to casting to ensure conformance with the specifics of the day. Some of the terminal gear will be provided by the host state – (Sinkers and Dowels)

Reiterating: - due to fire hazards, no BBQs, smoking or flame are allowed at the venue. Food will be available at site.

Or bring cold food, drinks, and thermos

It is expected the grass surface will be prepared for good casting.

WA is to bring across their laser measuring equipment.

Fishing times are yet to be confirmed but will be only during daylight hours.

Time for sign on to start fishing and also for return to weigh-in for Rock& Beach and Offshore will be at least an hour to allow for travel to the further boundaries.

Key fishing rules incorporate: -

As usual a maximum of two rods in use and two sets of hooks on terminal gear are allowed.

Sharks are not included in the nominated fish species

Scoring for fishing is on basis of 1 point per fish and 10 points per Kilo. An attempt by made by Queensland and WA to also include scoring points for each different species caught was not accepted – but will be kept in mind for the future. Points will be converted to percentages with the top score converted to 100% and all other points in all divisions converted to a percentage based on the top score.

In an attempt to reduce costs it was recommended that a number of trophies be eliminated or combined. Queensland and WA voted for the motion but it was defeated

Boats must comply with SA requirements and registration – noting that WA boat registration will be acceptable for SA – refers to Brochure under www.sa.gov.au/boatingmarine.

Fire extinguishers must have a current compliance safety certificate – i.e. a pressure test – we could probably organize this in WA.

Life jackets must also have a compliance certificate.

Fish are to be presented at the weigh-in 'esbies' or similar rigid containers and on ice.

More than one team for each event can be nominated each state.

Teams shall consist of : -

Men's 7 (with lowest score eliminated on all teams)

Ladies 4 (with lowest score eliminated on all teams)

Juniors 4 (with lowest score eliminated on all teams)

Vets men 5 (with lowest score eliminated on all teams)

Vets ladies 4 (with lowest score eliminated on all teams)

The Competition rules for this competition are in process of being updated to incorporate decisions made at the A G M and Executive General Meetings (i.e. incorporating applicable comments discussed above). When finalized and distributed to all states this will be passed through to all clubs, and placed on the AAA (W A Division) website.

Similarly, minutes of meetings for the AGM and Federal Executive Meetings will be posted by the AAA National Body