



2007-08 SA RECREATIONAL FISHING SURVEY

Update 2

April 2008

Welcome to the second newsletter covering the January to March quarter of the recreational fishing survey.

It's certainly been an environmentally challenging one, not only for the interviewers, but also for fishers – with very cool, windy weather during much of February, quickly followed by record high temperatures during March.

In the south-east of the State, the strong south-easterlies brought in very cold upwelling waters to near the coastline. Also, fishers in the gulfs found the strong south-easterlies frustrating, too. During the hot weather, some fishers mentioned that they found it too hot to go fishing during the day. It is suspect night time fishing may have been a popular activity at these times.

Because of these extreme weather conditions we had to make some minor adjustments to the survey dates to maximize the number of fishers we could interview. As the survey is focusing these on-site surveys with getting representative information on size compositions of key species, and not estimating overall catch levels and fishing effort (that's being done with our other phone-diary survey being run simultaneously with the on-site surveys), minor changes of survey dates is not a big issue.



Having said that, the onsite surveys are also gathering valuable indicative information on the relative numbers of fishers who are not locals (interstate travellers or Adelaide metro fishers who choose to fish away from the “big smoke”).

Despite all these environmental variabilities, all planned interviews were accomplished.

Where and what fish have been surveyed this quarter

Location	No. of Interviews	Main species measured
Mid-far west coast (Venus Bay – Ceduna)	195	King George whiting (KGW), razor fish, blue crabs, rock lobster (RL), abalone
SW Eyre Peninsula (Coffin Bay, Farm Beach)	25	KGW
SW Spencer Gulf (Pt. Lincoln – Pt. Neill)	30	KGW, snapper
NW Spencer Gulf (Whyalla, Point Lowly (+ Whyalla snapper fishing Comp.))	148	Snapper, blue crabs
NE Spencer Gulf (Pt. Germein, Pt. Broughton)	24	Blue crabs
Central East Spencer Gulf (Wallaroo – Pt. Hughes)	41	KGW, blue crabs
SE Spencer Gulf, sthn Yorke Peninsula (Pt. Victoria – Marion Bay)	33	KGW, RL
SW Gulf St. Vincent (Edithburgh – Pt. Julia)	81	KGW, blue crabs
Nthn Gulf St. Vincent (Ardrossan – Pt. Wakefield)	18	Snapper, blue crabs
Nthn Metro (Pt Parham – Semaphore)	24	Blue crabs
Sthn Metro 1 (West Beach – O'Sullivan's Beach)	48	Blue crabs, garfish
Sthn Metro 2. (Pt. Noarlunga – Cape Jervis)	55	Snapper,
Sthn Fleurieu (Victor Harbor – Murray Mouth)	9	RL, pipis, mulloway
Kangaroo Island	9	KGW, calamari, snook
SE 1. (Kingston – Robe) (+ Kingston fishing comp.)	26	RL, snapper, mulloway (comp.)
SE 2 (Beachport – Southend)	36	RL
SE 3 (Lighthouse Bay – Port MacDonnell)	10	RL

Highlights for this quarter

- A number of the “Interstate Tinnie Brigade” were interviewed on the far west coast during late January and February. Valuable data on rock lobster and abalone catches were also collected from that area.
- Several additional recreational anglers at Farm Beach and Tumby Bay were enlisted to be part of the recreational log book program. In addition to the popular KGW samples measured at Coffin Bay, the survey gathered some valuable data on several offshore species (Bight red fish (nannygai), sweep etc), as well as some good samples of snapper and King George whiting in Spencer Gulf.
- Two interview teams were working over Easter at the Whyalla snapper fishing competition. They conducted 148 interviews over the 2.5 days, 106 targeting snapper and measuring 136 retained snapper. They also gathered information from a number of fishers fishing the Whyalla region but not competing.
- Blue crabs and trumpeters in Spencer Gulf were the most popular species harvested by fishers during January. Over the last two days of Easter, Rec Fish Recorders were kept busy at Wallaroo and Port Hughes measuring blue crabs, King George whiting and snapper.
- Rec fish recorders surveyed rock lobster fishers on southern Yorke Peninsula. Over the Easter holidays, valuable size information on blue crabs, snapper and King George whiting was collected from northern Gulf St. Vincent.
- Similarly, over Easter the popular boat ramps and jetties between Edithburgh and Port Julia were covered with more than 80 fishing parties interviewed over two days. Main species measured included King George whiting, herring, blue crabs and garfish.
- Valuable information on snapper was gathered from charter boat clients in the south east of Gulf St Vincent.
- King George whiting, herring and scallops were measured on Kangaroo Island.
- Information was also gathered in late January from the Kingston Surf Fishing Competition, including information on the lengths and weights of weighed-in fish. Additional interviews were conducted at the Kingston Boat ramp.
- Data on recreational rock lobster catches was collected from Beachport to Southend, Kingston, Robe and the Port MacDonnell area.

Progress on other parts of the survey

- **Phone-diary survey.**

Just before the commencement of the survey, 7,140 SA households were randomly chosen from the Telstra white pages phone lists for Adelaide and Country SA.

From these households we invited 1,311 fishing households to participate in the phone diary survey, which covers the same period as our on-site surveys.

Throughout the survey experienced phone interviewers have been keeping in regular contact with these households who are providing us with information on their fishing activities. The co-operation from these households continues to be excellent.

- **Recreational fishing log books**

The recreational fishing log books have now been provided to 127 recreational fishers, who are providing information on their fishing activities throughout the survey period. Here is a summary of the number of books issued to date.

Log books	Platforms	No. issued
Marine & Estuary	Shore	16
	Boat	64
Freshwater	River Murray	41
	Other Inland waters	6
Total		127

As the survey does not include on-site surveys in inland waters, the freshwater fishers filling out the log books providing size composition on key species, such as golden perch and Murray cod are vital to the survey.

Both marine and freshwater fishers are also providing valuable information on sizes of fish they release, whether they be undersized or they were simply practicing catch-and release fishing.

Profile of some of the recreational fishing survey staff / volunteers

John Mathews

John is a recent Marine Science Honours graduate from Flinders University and is gaining casual employment experience working from the Policy Unit at PIRSA Fisheries on the rec fishing survey.

He's doing many of the surveys, both local and distant from Adelaide, as well as the data-entry and later, will be assisting with the analysis of the on-site survey information.

John is a keen angler and crabber, and operates his own boat and small 4WD. John spent many of his earlier years living in Melbourne, and fishing around parts of Port Phillip Bay, then moving to South Australia in 2002.



Picture (above) Keith Jones and John Mathews discussing the blue crab scene at the Outer Harbour Boat ramp, February, 2008.

Mike Koch

Mike is carrying out on-site surveys from Victor Harbor to the Murray Mouth.

Mike's extensive experience with Fisheries in South Australia dates back to the 1960's, working with the former SA Dept of Fisheries, and more recently with PIRSA Fisheries on fisheries compliance.

His knowledge on fish species identification, recognition of the value of research information for use in fisheries management as well as his extensive experience communicating with recreational fishers are all great assets to the on-site survey.



Picture (above) Mike Koch, sampling pipis on Goolwa Beach, March 2008.



Picture (above left) The winning mulloway and happy winners from Nairne in the Adelaide Hills at the Kingston Beach surf fishing competition. **(Above right)** Dr Keith Jones, project manager for the recreational fishing survey, measuring a snapper from the Kingston Competition, January 2008.

