



*The Conservation Minded Club*

# **The Chum Bucket**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**



## **January 2020**

On behalf of our entire committee, I would like to wish each and every member and their family's compliments of the season. May your reels be screaming and catches be bountiful this year.

We trust that the holidays was enjoyed and the much needed rest recharged your batteries to start this year with renewed vigour.

We are starting this year with many projects to improve our Club house and grounds for the benefit of all the members to enjoy.

First and foremost on our list, will be the rehabilitation of the jetty walk-on. All the supporting steelwork will be rehabilitated and repaired, with sections replaced where necessary. All the wood decking on the jetty will be replaced as well.

Other smaller projects and maintenance items will include items such as the painting of the Club house southern façade and wall, repairs to the under-deck drop-down sails, levelling and sorting the lawn and minor alterations to the Wheelhouse venue.

Fishing conditions have improved dramatically over the last week. Geelbek and Silver Kob have come onto the bite on the Wildside, with Bonito (Sada-Sada) being caught in great numbers from Pine Lodge all the way around to Seaview.

I would like to remind our members of all the Club competitions and leagues that will take place this year and will detail them elsewhere in this newsletter.

We hope to see you all at the Club for a cold one every once in a while.

Regards,

**Richard Donaldson**  
Club Chairman



*The Conservation Minded Club*



**CLUB MATTERS & NEWS**



Nic and his team from Off the Hook Seafood and Grill continue to serve some excellent fare at an affordable price at our Club.

It is truly amazing to experience the quality of their meals which they manage to serve, especially on busy weekends where the capacity of our kitchen is often pressed beyond its limits.



The Wednesday night restaurant specials will resume in February and notifications will be sent to all members of the specials on offer.



Please bring your family and friends for an awesome experience to dig in and enjoy a wonderful meal while overlooking the tranquility of the PE Harbour.



We are reminding members to use their membership cards when buying drinks in order to claim membership discount. Please remember, no card, no discount. The bar staff may not swipe their supervisor cards or use other members' cards to pass on the discount in the event that you have forgotten your card at home.

Please contact Denise at the Club to arrange for your membership card should you not already have one. There will be a nominal fee for new cards or to replace lost or damaged cards.

### **The Member's Corner**

As you all know, we have three tables reserved for members upstairs in the inside deck area. The reserved for members' signs were recently vandalised and broken.

We are in the process of replacing these signs and urge all members to adhere to our house rules.

Please take note of the following:-

- The members' corner is specifically reserved for Club members. Please use the regular tables if you want to bring a group of friends and extended family to the Club for Drinks or a meal.
- We prefer that kids are not seated in the members' corner. It is a smoking area when the Club is not too busy, with some adult conversations taking place at times. We do however stress that children are always welcome at the Club, but should preferably be seated at the regular tables.
- The tables in the members' corner cannot be reserved - first come, first served.
- Be courteous to other members when seated in the members' corner.
- If persons are not recognized and cannot produce a membership card, they can be asked to move to a regular table or bench on the deck.

### **Marlin's Head Upstairs Bar Area**

Although the dynamics of the Club has changed from being a closed Club to that of an open Club welcoming the public to support the pub and restaurant, we have our traditions and house rules in place.

Please take note of the following:-

- Please note that shoes must be worn at all times when entering the upstairs inside bar area.
- Please don't enter the bar area with filthy and soiled fishing clothes.
- Fowl language within ear's reach will not be tolerated.
- No gumboots allowed inside the upstairs bar after 6pm.
- You ring the bell; you buy a round for all inside the bar area.



### Pedsac Re-Fuelling Facility

We ask all the regular anglers to refuel their boats from our Club facilities, as an increase in fuel sales will help contribute to our Club's income. It also makes it easy and convenient for all boat users to top their tanks and split fuel bills between the crew quickly and conveniently.

Fuel tags can be purchased from Denise and money can be pre-loaded onto your fuel account.



### Suggestion Box / Email feedback

We encourage members to engage the committee with any suggestion or feedback and this can either be placed in writing in our suggestion box upstairs or sent via email to [denise@pedsac.co.za](mailto:denise@pedsac.co.za).

We can only improve the Club based on feedback and suggestions we receive from our members.



The first two Super 6 rounds were fished during October and November 2019.

It was well supported, but we would like to see more Club members participate.

New members are always welcome to ask questions and ask for assistance in joining this awesome Club tournament.

The re-introduction of various goods for species and attendance draw prizes has gone down well with all who have participated so far.

Please note that the Super 6 Round 3 will be fished on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, with entries taking place at the Wheelhouse on Friday evening, 31<sup>st</sup> of January from 5:30pm to 7pm, followed directly by the skipper's briefing.

The entry meal will be sponsored by Belmore Forest and Garden Equipment.

Special thanks go out to Williams Hunt and Isuzu, Load Mass Crane Services, Zurcher's Electrical and Pedsac for sponsoring all the various prizes.

## The FORD Species Challenge



The Ford Species Challenge is our premier Bottom Fish Bonanza Competition and will be fished from the **13<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2020**.

Advertising will be sent out shortly. **Please pencil in this important date.**

## PEDSAC Steak Nights

### **STEAK NIGHT**



Please consult our Club calendar attached to the back of this newsletter for the dates of our monthly steak nights.

Tickets cost R100, of which R20 goes toward the lucky attendance draw, ensuring that one lucky winner can walk away with up to **R1600** in cash.

There is always a grill hand manning the fires that will braai your steak to perfection on your request. The steaks come with chips and salads that can be served from the serving table once your steak is done.

## **Yellowtail fishing – a beginner’s guide to success**

I LOVE Yellowtail fishing!! When not catching YF tuna, we mainly target Yellowtail, both with rod and reel, as well as by spear gun!!

There have been lots written about catching Yellowtail, so I’ll concentrate on the most effective ways to catch them.

Many anglers will undoubtedly have different views and different techniques, which no doubt will work for them, so here follows the very basics which, if you use them, WILL CATCH YOU FISH!!

Trolling Lures can be divided into *surface type lures* and *diving lures*.

### **1. Surface type lures**

I prefer these for a number of reasons when conditions are conducive. I use bungees most of the time, but the exact same applies for trolling with rod and reel. I started using squid type lures because I predominantly fished off semi-rigid boats (rubber ducks).

Rapala type diving lure have two sets of trebles and they don't mix well with inflatable boats. The funny part was that when i switched to trolling only surface type squids, we seemed to out-fish most other boats. We seemed to be catching more fish than if we had been trolling Rapala type diving lures. The reasoning behind this is quite simple!! You're trolling along and 500m ahead you see birds working!! All I do is open the throttles and get there as fast as I can!!

Whilst the other boats first have to pull their Rapala's in, before they can get there!! Needless to say, the first boat to the school normally gets the fish!! Secondly, squids don't tangle easily!! So you spend less time sorting out tangles and more time fishing!! After landing a fish, you simply throw the squid back into the water. With diving type lures, the thrashing of the fish often means that the lure needs tuning to get it to swim straight again! Once again, fishing time wasted!! If I was allowed only one trolling surface lure, it'll be the green medium sized Yamashita - 9 out of 10 times it's the one that normally hit first!! My normal spread is 4 squids, of which two will be green Yamashita's and one will be brown and one will be pink.

I've also had good success on the tuna runner type squids.

I've also had good success running all of these above mentioned lures about 1 meter behind a small bird. The bird creates a commotion on the water, attracting the ever-curious Yellowtail.

### **2. Diving lures**

As mentioned above, I’m not a big fan of them. They how-ever do catch fish, with the new Rapala x-raps working quite well!! Colours - the old red head is a must, Chartreuse, Bunker, Spotted Minnow, Silver Blue Mackerel and Yellowfin tuna are also VERY good choices!!

**XRAP 30's:**

From Top to Bottom:  
BUNKER  
CHARTEUSE  
SPOTTED MINNOW



**XRAP 20's**, slightly smaller than the XRAP 30, and dives a bit shallower. The XRAP 30 dives to 30', which is very roughly 10m deep, whilst the XRAP 20 dives to 20', which is roughly 6-7m deep. Very handy when the fish are holding in shallow area's, because your XRAP 30 will get stuck on the bottom.

From Top to bottom:

Yellowfin Tuna  
Spotted Minnow  
Bunker  
Red Head



Storm Lures. Half the price of a Rapala and just as effective!!



Some of the smaller STORM's as well



Here's a few of the **lures**, just to illustrate the sizes.

From top to bottom:

- Rapala CD18 Purple Mackerel
- Rapala CD14 Red Head
- Rapala XRAP 30 Chartreuse
- Storm Deep Thunder Pink
- Rapala XRAP 20 Red Head



Ok, we've covered the bases for trolling lures. Now, we can look at casting lures. If I was told I'm only allowed one spoon/spinner for Yellowtail, I'd without a doubt choose a 'snake' spinner. This spinner has probably caused the demise of untold amounts of Yellowtail!! There simply is NOTHING that comes close to it!!

**Chisel-nose** Perspex plugs work well, so do a plethora of spinners and spoons. My advice, bugger them all and just buy a whole bunch of 'snake' spinners!! You get two sizes these days, a large and a small 'snake'. I've had alot more success on the larger 'snake' spinners. Seems to have a better action in the water!!

Pictured from top to bottom:

- Keel Spinner
- Wally Wicks Spinner
- Steve Champion Anchovy Spinner
- Steve Champion Snake Spinner
- Ashley Read small Snake Spinner
- Ashley Read normal Snake Spinner.

This is the spinner that has probably accounted for 95% of all the Yellowtail I've ever caught whilst spinning!!



### Chisel-nose plugs



Get a few in various sizes, depending on the tackle you're using. On some occasions they are preferred over the usual spinners, but it's the visual strike on a surface lure that offers GREAT excitement!!

For sport on bass type tackle, these pictured below work well!!

Roosta, chug-bugs, Maria's, Skitter pops, etc all work!!



### Ok, so I hear that there is some Yellowtail about, what tackle would I pack in?

- 4 Bungees with 2 green Yamashita's, one brown and one white Yamashita (if you don't have trolling rods).
- 6x6' trolling rods with TLD25's or Torruim 20 or 30's or TLD20/40 of TLD15/30 or Daiwa 30's etc loaded with 24kg line!! Simply tie a snake spinner to the end. Four rods will be trolled FLAT whilst the other 2 will be trolled in an upright position.
- 2 x 8' spinning rods, with 5000-8000 sized fixed spool reels loaded with 30-50lb braid.



### Now for the most important part: FINDING the fish!!

Exactly the same applies as for Snoek. Call up your local tackle shop, check the fishing forums, speak to your fishing buddy's, etc, etc.

Generally and I do MEAN generally, Yellowtail prefer warm water. 16-19 degrees is considered perfect!! On the flip side, I've caught Yellowtail and Yellowfin tuna in water as cold as 13 degrees!! Nothing is set in stone, so use this merely as a guideline!!

## Let's go fishing!!

Assuming you've found out that there are fish at a certain spot, (I'll talk about spots later) and off to sea we go. I'm going to primarily concentrate on fishing with lures, will cover bait-fishing later.

I like a very early launch. Run to your designated spot. As you get closer to your spot, start looking for birds working. You're generally looking for 'sterretjies' or 'terns' as they're known. These birds can't dive into the water, so they hover above schools of Yellowtail, waiting for them to chase the baitfish to the surface, so that they can pick up the scraps. Most of your action will be around these birds.

Gannets are the big birds that dive-bomb from great heights into the water. These are generally working on baitfish fairly deep. I don't bother with them, UNLESS there are a good number of them working together.

Penguins often fool us anglers when they also chase up baitfish and the terns/sterretjies and the gannets work on them. I have caught Yellowtail between the penguins, but most of the time, its only penguins!!

## So, you get to your spot, very early and there are no birds. What now?

Well, the birds generally start working quite a while AFTER sunrise. So, now we start trolling, whilst waiting for the birds and the fish to rise.

Pictured below is sterrentjies/terns hovering and gannets dive bombing into a school of baitfish being pushed up by Yellowtail.



Ok, now we start trolling. Errm, what speed?? Well, I've caught fish at 3knts and I've also caught fish at 15knts!! There is no SET rule, but I generally troll between 5-6knts.

## How do I set the lines?

Different places use different lengths of line. I use 15m bungee's, which mean all 4 of my lures run 15m behind the boat. I then will set the two trolling rods upright, with snake spinners, set a fair way behind the last squid.

The problem with setting your 4 squids on rods behind the boat is that you can't get them to be exactly the same distance from the boat. Why is that a problem? Because if one lure is further behind the others, the chances are good that it'll be the one to catch the fish. It will look like a straggler/sick fish that has fallen behind the school of baitfish. The problem with this is that you only catch a single fish each time and you won't get multiple hook-ups.....

**ZZZZZZ..... The port side outside rod screams, or in my case, the bungee goes tight. What now??**

Stop the boat and start reeling in the fish? **NOOOOOO!!!**

Yellowtail travel and feed in schools. So, you need to capitalise on that!!

Try and visualise this now: you port side line goes. IMMEDIATELY turn your boat hard to the port side, maintaining speed. This does a few things. It speeds up the starboard side lures, creating a image of baitfish fleeing. As you turn around, try and go over the same area you got the fish in. Hopefully now, your single strike has turned into a 2-3-4-5 or full house strike!! NOW you stop the boat and start retrieving fish.

If you did this and still only have the one fish on, stop the boat, start retrieving the fish. At the same time, get a angler to grab a spinning rod and throw his spinner towards the hooked fish. The school will most likely still be with the hooked fish and a hook-up on the spinning rod is very likely!!

**That pretty much covers trolling.**

Now, the birds start to work and you start seeing fish on the surface!! What now?? If you are the only boat around, try trolling. Try and anticipate which way the school is travelling and try and pass the front of them. NEVER TROLL THROUGH A SCHOOL!! They will simply sound and disappear!! If trolling through a school or two doesn't work, its time to change your tactics!! Bring out the spinning sticks!! My favourite!!

Clear all your lines. Now you're going to be spinning for them!! Watch for where the birds are working. Get to them as fast as you can!! As you approach the school, slow down and slowly approach them. Even with 4 stroke motors, charging up to close to them will cause the school to sound. You need to get near to them, then slowly sneak up on them. Always try and approach them, so that the anglers on board will be able to cast WITH the wind. This is where the 8' spinning rods work well. They allow you to cast very far with the wind from behind. This means the boat doesn't have to get too close to the school.

When your spinner hits the water, start retrieving as fast as you can. The strike will normally occur within the first 5 seconds of your spinner hitting the water. If you get a hook-up, get the other anglers to cast towards your fish. The school will stay with your hooked fish and multiple hook-ups is quite common!!

The trick here is to be the first boat to the school!! You'll soon learn how to watch the terns and other birds. Often you'll see only one or two terns that finds the fish and before long you have 20+ birds there!! Also watch the water surface. Often you find fish feeding on the surface without birds!! Good eyesight is definitely an advantage here.

You'll end up charging around the whole day when Yellowtail is like that!! Take extra fuel with!!

## **Spots:**

### **Lets start off with the Point up to Noordhoek**



Large Yellowtail frequent Cape Receive from the outside pinnacles in 25-45m of water. They do not shoal here very often, but they are regularly caught in smaller numbers. The area around Thunderbolt reef is a hot spot most of the warmer months and good catches are made around and behind the engine block.

Spinning is very effective in the shallow waters behind the engine block. Those who are a bit braver will trawl Rapala X-raps and other lures following a South East to North West line as close past the engine block as possible.

Please note that this is an extremely dangerous area to fish when a big swell is running and should only be left to experienced skippers to navigate.

Some nice catches of younger 4-7kg Yellowtail are often caught on bait around the cross roads and Elizabeth's Breasts pinnacles between Noordhoek and the point.

### **Ryi Banks and Bird Island**

Many a hardened angler has returned from these fishing grounds bruised and battered by the large shoaling tails repeatedly reefing them and breaking rods and reels, no matter how strong the tackle they use. These two fishing grounds are famed for the large shoals of tail that congregate here starting from Late August lasting sometimes deep into April / May at times when conditions are favourable.



Trawling, jigging, spinning and bait fishing deliver some good catches depending on the conditions and the mood of the fish.

The Ryi Banks southern deep pinnacles (25-40m) just of the horse shoe delivers some great catches mainly on baiting and jigging when the fish are shoaling. The shallows between boulders and 74's ledge are great for bait fishing and trawling, but once again, be very careful of the Southerly Swell, as they build up to huge sizes when hitting the shallows on the banks.

Since the Bird Island complex has been declared a reserve, most of the hot spots for Yellowtail became inaccessible. There are still a few deep water marks in and around the western deep pinnacles and the southern 6 mile reef that produce quality fish most of the time. We once again caution all anglers to ensure that they are aware of the boundaries as anglers can expect heavy fines and even have boats confiscated if caught fishing inside the reserve.

### **Struisbaai!!**

This is THE place for large Yellowtail for the Western Cape anglers!! Fish of 20kg+ are still common!! Large quantities of Yellowtail are taken on the Struisbaai banks.



You need a very sea-worthy vessel, as the sea's are normally rough and even a calm sea can become very ugly in less than half an hour. A plotter is ESSENTIAL to fish here.

### Some noteworthy spots:-

- The wreck of the Pioneer
- The wreck of the Septer
- The block of the Wafra on the 6mile bank
- The Growwe Banke (6 mile bank)
- The 12 miles bank (19 miles outside the harbour)
- Saxon Reef (arniston)
- The Virgin territories of Skipskop

And finally, a place ALL anglers should visit at least once in their life-time, the Alphard Banks (41nm from the harbour!!) This is where giant bluefin, 200-350kg+ class were seen last year!! Yellowtail schools as big as 4 soccerfields, all on the surface, says it all!!

Best is to get a local angler or one who knows that area to accompany you on your first few trips!!

### Bungee's

You've seen me referring to them. What are they? And how do they work?

***Check the picture below.***

All a bungee is: it's a piece of 16mm spear fishing rubber that stretches out to roughly 3 times its length. So, say a 1m bungee will stretch out to 3m+.



Example of a bungee rig

### **How do you make one?**

- Take the 1m piece of bungee and insert a piece of cord that's 2m long through the inside of the bungee.
- Now tie off both ends. This allows the bungee to be stretched to 2m.
- Now I tie 2.0mm mono to the one end, measure off 15mm and then tie a swivel or snap swivel.
- To this I attach a 60kg trace and a squid with hooks. This gets thrown out behind the boat, with one end tied off to the boat. When a fish grabs the lure, the bungee will be pulled taught. So, you have to keep a close eye on the bungees!!
- The reason i use a 60kg trace at the end, is in case a shark or seal grabs the fish, then the trace will snap and I only lose the lure and not the complete bungee.

### **How strong are they?**

Well, if I rig it directly with a squid onto the 2.0mm mono, then you can catch Yellowfin Tuna up to 60kg's+ on this rig!! Anything bigger, you then need bigger bungees!!

Taking 80-90kg YF on bungees is common on the deck boats!!

### **Why use bungees?**

Well, they cheap!! They take very little space!! They're effective, efficient and very quick to operate and deploy!! Most commercials use them for Yellowtail, Longfin and YF tuna.

Sometimes you'll go catch crayfish and see Yellowtail!!! BUGGER!! No rods on board!! No problem; just bring out the bungees!! Four fully rigged bungees rolled away on handline yo-yo's, will fit in one carrier bag.

## **Bait Fishing**

When do you fish with bait? Once again, listen and watch!! You'll HEAR from your local contacts when the fish are feeding on bait.

Generally late January to end February, you have HUGE concentrations of Yellowtail on the Ryi Banks, B.I. and around Noordhoek, all being caught on bait. Catching anything from 1000-1500kg's (1-1.5ton) per day per commercial boat is quite normal!! Don't be too concerned, our Yellowtail stocks are in an extremely healthy state!!

Let's start off with the bait. I also work on roughly one 5kg box of pilchards per man Now comes the secret!! FRESH chokka/squid!! Not bought, but caught just before you get to your spot. (If they around and you know how to catch them.)

Tackle for chokka/squid fishing is simple. A 6-7' drop shot type rod, with a small reel loaded with 5-6kg line. With squid, the thinner the line, the better!! I use 10kg hand lines, because any thinner, you simply can't grip the line properly.

**Jigs** - YAMASHITA'S!! **They're phenomenal!!** You get floating and sinking jigs.

You need one sinking and one floating, per line. Yamashita only makes the floating one. Colours that work very well are red/pink and neon yellow. For the sinking jigs, neon yellow and I like a multi-coloured one.

Tie the sinking jig to the end of your line and the floating one about a meter higher up. Drop this over the side until it hits the bottom. Reel it a few centimetre's off the bottom. Occasionally jerk the line to give the jigs movements. When a squid grabs, you'll feel the line just getting 'heavier'. Simply retrieve within a constant motion until the squid is right next to the boat. Just before it reaches the surface, hold it there for 2-5 seconds and TURN your face away!! The squid will eject a stream of ink, that'll be aimed for your face!! Once it has ejected all its ink, lift into the boat and remove the jig. Put the squid in a cool place, out of sunlight.

**Tackle** for bait fishing for Yellowtail. I fish with a 45kg, a 52kg and a 60kg hand line and because of the various current strengths, you'll need boating sinkers (the ones with the two loops), one on either end of the sinker, in weights from 1oz to 8-10oz. Some 10/0 Snoek type hooks (with-out the swivels) and some small plastic squids. These squids are about 10-15cm long and available at all tackle shops.

Tie a sinker to the end of your line, the weight will be dependent on the current strength. Now tie a piece of trace, same breaking strain as the main line, to the other end of the sinker. Slid the plastic squid up onto the line and then tie your hook, also with a loop type knot. The small plastic squid will then be slid back down to the hook. All this does is giving the bait more life in the water. (Some rock and surf guys also use these!!)

Ok, you've got your bait and tackle sorted; caught your 20-30 chokka and now get to the spot.

## **There are 2 scenarios that you'll encounter:-**

### **First Scenario**

You get to the banks and see the commercials lying on anchor, catching fish!!

You have a couple of options now. The easiest is simply to throw anchor close to the other boats and wait for the fish to come through.

Alternatively, you can use your echo-sounder to locate schools of fish or pinnacles or any structure close to where the other boats are fishing, and then anchor. If there are plenty of commercial boats, I simply anchor close by and wait for the fish to come through.

Now you've anchored your boat. What next?? Well, WATCH what the boats around you are doing. Specifically, watch the boats that are CATCHING fish. Are they using sinkers? If so, how big?

Try and imitate their tackle the best you can. Because the strength of the current varies, it's difficult to say what size sinker to use. If in doubt, use a heavy sinker and throw your line out, feeding out line until it hits the bottom. If your sinker is too light, it'll take a VERY long time to reach the bottom, because the current will wash it up, higher into the water column.

Once you've found the size sinker that takes you down to the bottom, bait up with a piece of squid and a half a pilchard (ie. just the head cut off). Drop this to the bottom. When the line hits the bottom, pull it about 2m off the bottom and tie your line to the boat. The bait will now be set at about 1.5m off the bottom, so you'll not get stuck on the bottom and the sharks will not bother you.

Do the same with your second line, but instead of pulling it up 2m, rather pull it up 5-6m. This way you're covering a variety of depths, so that you can figure out where the fish are.

So you get a bite!! What do you do? You LEAVE the fish there!! Yellowtail RARELY gets off a hook once hooked. By doing this, you keep the school of fish under you. If you hooked the fish on the lower line, drop your first line lower and you should hook-up. Then it's a simple matter of pulling your fish in. Remember though, ALWAYS leave one hooked fish in the water!! Only once the school leaves and nobody gets anymore bites, do you retrieve the fish that was hooked and left to swim around.

Sometimes the fish are very high up in the water column. This is when you need to use drift lines (i.e. no sinkers) or very small sinkers. Using you echo-sounder, you'll be able to see what depth they're swimming at. Similarly, just watching what the successful guys around you are doing, will help tremendously.

GENERALLY, when Yellowtail are feeding on bait, especially on the bottom, trolling is futile. I've come back with well over 1000kg's on my old commercial boat and have had the recreational guys come back with 2's and 3's. As the saying goes: "when in Rome, do as the Romans do!!" I cannot emphasize enough, WATCH the COMMERCIALS and steal with your eyes!!

## Second Scenario

You get to Bird Island and see 20-30 boats all rushing up to a single spot. This is normally when they see birds working or another boat has just landed a fish. The boats will then be VERY close to each other, just drifting. Simply join in!! Be very careful though. Smaller boats drift differently to larger boats, so boats drifting into each other are quite common. The commercials, and hardened recreational's are a pretty rough bunch and I'd advice keeping well clear of them!!

Fishing technique is the same as fishing on anchor. Either drift lines or with sinkers, depending on the current and the depth the fish are feeding at. Remember to also leave one fish in the water, as long as possible!! This makes a huge difference. Instead of catching just that one fish, you can now get 10-20-30 fish off that school!!

## The Spinning Tackle Revolution

In the past, the standard spinning tackle for Yellowtail consisted of a 7' glassfibre rod with a multiplying reel and 18-24kg monofilament line.

The thicker diameter line was needed to bully the Yellowtail away from kelp beds or reefs or any other structure. The big problem was that one was forced to use large spinners, purely to be able to get a decent cast.

Tackle evolved and the 10-11' Shimano Exage's coupled with a Trinidad 20 or 30, Daiwa 30's and 50's, and similar reels, which offered 6:1 gear ratio's, still all with 18-24kg line, became the standard arsenal of the Yellowtail angler.

With the advent of braid, the fixed spool reels had started evolving into SERIOUS fishing machines!! The trend was now to go back to 8' length rods, like the Shimano Exage 8' with a 6000 - 8000 sized fixed spool, like the Shimano Stradic, loaded with 30-50lb braid. The braid is 60-70% THINNER than the same breaking strain monofilament line, which allowed the angler now to cast FURTHER (thinner line casts further than thicker line, less resistance) AND it now allowed anglers to cast smaller spinners. The BIGGEST advantage however, is that there is no more birds nest/overruns!! PURE BLISS!!



**Pictured Below: (From left to right)**

Shimano 8' Exage with Shimano Stradic 8000 with 50lb braid

Shimano Vengeance 8' 3oz with Shimano Sedona 4000 with 30lb braid

Shimano 6' 85-200gram Beastmaster Jigging rod with Shimano Stella 8000 with 50lb braid

Shimano 6'6" Trevela MH with Shimano Stradic 6000 with 50lb braid

Shimano 6'6" Trevela MH with Shimano Stradic 5000 with 50lb braid

Shimano 7' Tevela ML with Shimano Stradic 4000 Ci4 with 30lb braid

Shimano 7' Clarus with Shimano Stradic 2500 Ci4 with 10lb braid



Quite recently we were talking about the current generation tackle and just HOW far one can cast with them. This resulted in me and a friend (who ONLY fishes with a multiplying reel) taking a few rods down to the local rugby field.

**The results:-**

**Shimano Exage 11' rod, Shimano 20/40S with 24kg mono, Shimano Speedmaster 111 with 24kg, Torium 30 with 24kg. Spinner - 75 gram snake**

This was the standard Yellowtail casting set-up used by many anglers. Both of us had a few casts with each reel. The distances achieved were shocking, to say the least!! The casting distances ranged from 50m to 70m, depending on the reel. Had I fitted a smaller reel or a reel with thinner line, the casting distances would most definitely have improved, but that's not how we fish.

**Shimano Vengeance 8' 3oz rod, Shimano Stradic 5000, Shimano Stradic Ci4 - 4000, Shimano Sahara 4000, all loaded with 30lb powerpro/jerry brown braid. Spinners - 50-60 gram small snake and various others**

This is the lighter set-up that i use, especially when throwing lighter spinners. My buddy who has fished his entire fishing career with a multiplier, was adamant that the 8' will NEVER outcast the 11'er. His first cast was 70m!! Needless to say, he is now also a convert to spinning reels!! The distances casted were between 70m and 90m!!

The Shimano Vengeance 8' 3oz is simply one of THE best value for money rods out there. They cast great and has enough backbone to pull those 5-6kg west coast Yellowtail's comfortably. Not once did I feel under gunned.

**Shimano Trelvela 6'6 MH jigging rod, Shimano Stradic 5000, Shimano Stradic Ci4-4000 reels loaded with 30lb braid. Spinner - 50-60gram small snake and various others.**

This is a light Snoek fishing set-up, which I also use as a casting set-up for Yellowtail. Since my buddy was new to casting with a fixed spool, he battled to cast with the shorter rod, so i did all the casting with this set-up. Distances varied from 70m to 75m!!! This rod has AWESOME backbone and you can pull VERY hard on it. Due to the short length, it's also offers the angler BRILLIANT leverages and you'll land the Yellowtail a lot quicker than other anglers using longer rods. This set-up really surprised me, as i wasn't expecting the rod to cast that far!!

**Shimano Trelvela 7' ML rod, Shimano Stradic Ci4 - 2500 reel loaded with 10lb braid. Spinners - 20-30 gram variety.**

I use this outfit to throw small spinners. Casting distance varied between 70m to 75m. This is also a LOVELY light tackle rod. Casts the small spinners far enough and also has PLENTY of backbone. It's HUGE fun catching Snoek and Yellowtail on this set-up.

**Daiwa Exceler 10' XXXH rod, Shimano Stradic 5000 with 30lb braid, Shimano Stradic 6000 with 30lb braid, Shimano Stella 8000 with 50lb braid. Spinners - 50-70gram variety.**

I thought this was going to be THE best casting set-up, but was VERY disappointed. The BEST cast I managed with only 80m!! The spinners were simply too light to load the rod properly Since I started fishing lighter gear, my 8' Shimano Exage and 6000-8000 sized reels with 50lb braid is being left at home more often.

The lighter rods and reels allow you to fish whole day, with-out tiring yourself out. It's also HUGE fun catching the fish on lighter gear and i can honestly say that we haven't lost fish on the lighter gear, which we would have landed on heavier gear. Between the 70 fish or so landed over the last few trips, we only lost 3 fish to the reefs, but they were all hooked in the shallow 6m water depth, which means a lost fish in most cases anyways.

The biggest surprise was the 6'6 Shimano Trelvela MH rod's casting distance. Its close enough to the 8' vengeance, yet offers superb leverage for the angler and has PLENTY of back-bone. The shorter rods also store alot easier onboard. It doesn't get in the way of the other anglers.

My next step will be to go down to 20lb braid on the 4000 and 5000 sized stradics and then check how much further the thinner braid will throw. Since most braid breaks WELL over its stated breaking strength, with 20lb powerpro being tested breaking over 30lb's.

All the rods were rigged the same, main line (braid on spinning reels) threaded through the eyes on the rod, small swivel tied and a short mono trace and then the spinner. This way, no knots get pulled into the guides and no knots banging against the guides when casting. These tests were used to simulate casting off the boat. The casts made were NOT at 100% of the casters power, but rather trying to emulate the casting action off the boat.

## Recipe Of The Month

With summer here and many Saturdays and Sunday's spent around the braai fires, I thought it would be fitting to submit a firm old favourite amongst the potjie enthusiasts.

To my mind there is very few dishes that can beat a well prepared oxtail curry pot.

The nice part of a potjie recipe is that you can always adjust and tweak the basic ingredients to suit your own taste.



The most important ingredient you need for an oxtail potjie is time and patience, it's not a piece of meat that is going to be tender in half an hour or so, try four or more hours more than likely.

I guess you can use normal curry powder, but I prefer to make a spice mix consisting of 2 tsp garam masala, 1 tsp cumin powder, 1 tsp coriander powder, 1 tsp ground turmeric, ½ tsp ginger powder, ¼ tsp cloves, ¼ tsp cardamom and ½ tsp dried chili flakes.

The rest of the ingredients are:-

1. 1kg oxtail pieces
2. 3 Tbls corn starch (maizena)
3. 2 tsp Worchester sauce
4. 1 medium onion chopped
5. 70g tomato paste (1 small tin)
6. 1L beef stock
7. 10 small onions (pickle onions)
8. 12 baby potatoes peeled.
9. Oil for frying the meat and onions
10. Salt
11. Pepper

## **Method**

Heat your potjie over open flames with a little oil inside. Dust the meat with the corn starch, shake off any excess, fry the meat a couple of pieces at a time until brown, remove each batch when brown, when all of the meat are brown, put back in the pot add the Worchester sauce and fry another two minutes or so. Remove the meat and remove the oil from the pan, leaving only enough to fry your onions.

Add the chopped onions and the spice mixture and fry until the onion are soft, add the tomato paste and fry another minute. Put the meat back in the pot and mix with the onion and spices until it completely covers the meat, flavor with salt and pepper. Add the beef stock and bring to the boil, after a couple of minutes remove some of the coals to reduce the heat. Simmer until the meat is soft but not falling from the bone; add the baby onions and potatoes simmer for about half an hour until soft.

Serve an a bed of rice, that's suggestion is easy, what to drink with it is not, some say beer, some say a semi-sweet wine, I'm not going to make any suggestions, red wine taste good with anything

## **Closing**

Please feel free to mail any photo's of any significant or good catches to [denise@pedsac.co.za](mailto:denise@pedsac.co.za) or [richard@lmcservices.co.za](mailto:richard@lmcservices.co.za) and we will post them on our website and Facebook pages.

All members are welcome to send us contributions for the next news letter and this can be mailed to the same email addresses provided.

Tight Lines,

**Richard Donaldson**