



Port Elizabeth Deep Sea Angling Club

The Conservation Minded Club

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Newsletter – September 2015.

As the P.R.O. committee position was not filled at our recent AGM, I decided to continue writing the monthly newsletters until further notice. Besides the usual news bits and notices, we will take a look at legal compliances with regards to boat owners and their liability towards crew, as well as a few environmental and conservation matters. To close off with, I included an interesting recipe for those lazy days on a weekend.

On the brighter and wetter side, spring arrived accompanied by a huge down pour flooding most of the Southern Cape, but largely sparing the Port Elizabeth of repeated flooding that usually happens on spring day as has happened on many occasions over the last 100 years. This is also the time when most of the guys start dusting of their gear and prepare for summer time fishing.

Marlins Head Bar.

The Marlin's Head Pub will shortly start trading on Mondays again. The days are starting to get longer and warmer and we encourage all our members and their friends to come down for a sun downer in the evenings after work. Up the Deck Restaurant will also be ready and waiting to serve those who want to pop in at lunch time for a quick meal. Please feel free to arrange pub lunches for your colleagues, business acquaintances and friends.

Monthly Steak Night.

Our next steak night will take place on Friday, 4th September with fires being lit at 5:30pm. Lee Lindley will keep the feet tapping and bang out some well known favourite tunes. Please bring your friends and family to enjoy some good life music, even better company and a top class piece of steak to round this all off.....o yes, don't forget those chilled frosties served from the pub.

Tickets cost R80 per person, and includes your 300 gram steak, sides and salad, as well as a R20 contribution towards a cash attendance draw, winner takes all.

Pedsac Pub Night.

We have recently launched the weekly member's pub night. This has unfortunately gotten off to a very slow start, partly due to the cold and wet winter's nights we have recently experienced. We are hoping to build this weekly pub evening and happy hour into a popular and well supported evening just in time for this summer when all can enjoy a drink to unwind after a day's work while enjoying the fabulous harbour views at sunset.

We are running a happy hour from 6pm – 7pm with specials ranging from double Brandy and Coke to selected beers and ciders offered on a buy one get one free basis. Meals will also be available from the Restaurant.

The happy hour is open for all members and non-members to attend.

Annual General Meeting.

The Pedsac Annual General Meeting took place on Wednesday, 26th August 2015.

The AGM continued without hiccup and must comment Martin Gierz for running a tight ship and sticking with the program.

Our new office bearers were selected at the AGM and wish all the new, and old committee members who stayed on all the best with their next term in office.

Our new elected committee was elected as follow:

Richard Donaldson (Chairman), Wayne Gerber (Vice Chairman), Pierre Westerveldt (Club Captain), Ian Pienke (Financial Officer), Steve Brewis (Competitions Officer), Keith Schmidt (Safety Officer), Warren Rachman (Entertainment Officer), Rainer Von Schuetz (Marlin's Head) and Dawid Joubert (Projects and Planning).

The Public Relations Officer post is currently vacant and can be filled by the committee should someone step forward and willing to be co-opted into that post.

Pedsac Junior Development Day / Kiddies Fishing Competition.

Our proposed date for the junior development day has been set for the 3rd October 2015. We will send an invite and a program of events to all interested members with kids at the beginning of September. The aim of this workshop will be to introduce our young juniors to deep sea fishing by teaching them the basic skills required to hook a big one and pull one over dad.

We are currently negotiating with Transnet to put the kiddies fishing competition back on the map. Transnet prohibited all fishing inside the harbour a few years ago, and thereby stopped our last competition mid-way through the day in 2011. Negotiations with the National Ports Authority and its business stakeholders are ongoing and the initial feedback received has been extremely positive.

Super 6 Pedsac League.

It is that time of the year when excitement starts to build in anticipation of the Super 6 league to kick off again.

Steve Brewis was elected as competitions officer and we are honoured to have a past chairman stepping up to fill this critical post.

All members will shortly be notified to attend a kick-off meeting where the format, rules and other possible changes are discussed.

We encourage all our members to participate in this phenomenal event which consists of 6 competitions fished over 6 months usually on the last Saturday of each month.

Some big prizes are up for grabs.

This competition also forms the stepping stone for those anglers who wish to come into provincial contention further down the line.

Lee Cat E.P. Inter-club leagues.

The next Lee Cat League will be fished on the weekend of the 17th October and will be hosted by Pedsac.

More information will shortly be communicated via e-mail and sms.

Skippers – do you have indemnity?

(Article sourced from the Meerensee newsletter.)

Do you think it sounds ludicrous to ask your friends and family to sign a properly worded, legally binding indemnity form before they board your boat for a day of fishing fun?

Definitely not, says Allan Heydorn of Shepstone and Wylie's Litigation Department, who shows an example of just how wrong things can go...

Piet and Joe have been fishing together for many years off Piet's weathered ski boat. Neither of them are men of means, but both of them are passionate about their fishing.

On a fateful day, whilst negotiating the surf, one of the motors fail, the boat capsizes and Joe is seriously injured.

Joe earns a living as an artisan and as a result of his injuries he will no longer be able to practice his trade. Fortunately, Joe enjoys disability cover and his insurers honour the claim which he submitted.

Even without cover, Joe would never have instituted legal action against his friend Piet, notwithstanding the fact that the accident might have been caused through Piet's negligence. However, Joe's assurers see things differently. They investigate the cause of the engine failure and they find that Piet was negligent in that he had not had the motors serviced by a qualified outboard technician for many years.

Through the doctrine of subrogation, the assurers step into Joe's shoes and institute action against Piet for the recovery of the amount they have paid to Joe in terms of the policy. Joe cannot prevent his assurers from pursuing the matter as contractually the policy allows them to do so. The question that arises is what steps a skipper should take to safeguard himself against a claim of this sort which could of course be instituted directly against the skipper by a crew member.

The answer seems to be to require each crew member to sign an indemnity before boarding the vessel.

A properly worded document would preclude an assurer from taking any action against the skipper in cases where an accident is caused by negligence.

Fishing is a very popular sport with as many as 500 000 recreational marine anglers alone in SA. As thousands of fishermen flock to the coast during holidays to do a bit of deep sea fishing, skippers who fail to take proper steps to indemnify themselves, do so at their own peril.

Please contact your boat insurers to clarify legal matters and what you as a skipper need to legally comply with to safeguard yourself against any such incident.

FAD's (Fish aggregating device)

A **fish aggregating (or aggregation) device (FAD)** is a man-made object used to attract ocean going pelagic fish such as marlin, tuna and mahi-mahi (dolphin fish). They usually consist of buoys or floats tethered to the ocean floor with concrete blocks. Over 300 species of fish can gather around FADs. FADs attract fish for numerous reasons that vary by species.

Fish tend to move around FADs in varying orbits, rather than remaining stationary below the buoys. Both recreational and commercial fisheries use FADs, depending on the laws and regulations governing the country or region.

Before FADs, commercial tuna fishing outfits used purse seining to target surface-visible aggregations of birds and dolphins, which were a reliable signal of the presence of tuna schools below. The demand for dolphin-safe tuna was a driving force for FADs.

Fish are fascinated with floating objects. They use them to mark locations for mating activities. They aggregate in considerable numbers around objects such as drifting flotsam, rafts, jellyfish and floating seaweed. The objects appear to provide a "visual stimulus in an optical void",^[2] and offer some protection for juvenile fish from predators.^[3] The gathering of juvenile fish, in turn, attracts larger predator fish. A study using sonar in French Polynesia, found large shoals of juvenile Bigeye tuna and Yellowfin tuna aggregated closest to the devices, 10 to 50m. Further out, 50 to 150m, was a less dense group of larger Yellowfin and Albacore tuna. Yet further out, to 500m, was a dispersed group of various large adult tuna. The distribution and density of these groups was variable and overlapped. The FADs were also used by other fish, and the aggregations dispersed when it was dark.^[4]

FAD types

Drifting FADs are not tethered to the bottom and can be natural objects such as logs or be man-made.

Moored FADs occupy a fixed location and attach to the sea bottom using a weight such as a concrete block. A rope made of floating synthetics such as polypropylene attaches to the mooring and in turn attaches to a buoy.

The buoy can float at the surface (lasting 3–4 years) or lie subsurface to avoid detection and surface hazards such as weather and ship traffic. Subsurface FADs last longer (5–6 years) due to less wear and tear, but can be harder to locate. In some cases the upper section of rope is made from heavier-than-water metal chain

so that if the buoy detaches from the rope, the rope sinks and thereby avoids damage to passing ships who no longer use the buoy to avoid getting tangled in the rope.^[5]

Smart FADs include sonar and GPS capabilities so that the operator can remotely contact it via satellite to determine the population under the FAD.

Drifting FADs are widespread in the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian ocean purse seine fisheries. They catch over 1 million tons of tuna (nearly one-third of the global tuna total) and over 100,000 tons of by-catch in the vicinity of FADs as of 2005.^[6] Skipjack *Katsuwonus pelamis*, Bigeye tuna *Thunnus obesus* and yellowfin *Thunnus albacares* tuna are the three primary tropical tuna species that FADs target. Other fish include albacore, dolphin fish, wahoo, blue marlin, striped marlin, mako shark, silky shark, whitetip shark, galapagos shark, mackerel, and bonito.

Before FADs, pelagic purse seiners targeted free-swimming schools of tuna. Increasing FAD use over the past 30 years has increased the productivity of the fishing fleet, but has significant side-effects. The average FAD-caught fish is smaller and comes with relatively large bycatch raising concern about declining populations of several species of pelagic sharks.

As an example of recreational use, The U.S. state of Hawai'i operates 55 surface FADs around its islands to support sport fishing and marine research.

Camping / fishing trip recipe: Cowboy stew

This stew is a great way to cook up leftover braai meat from the night before – the camping breakfast of champions.



Serves 4

What you need.

- 15 ml oil
- 2 red onions, peeled and finely chopped

- 2 cloves of garlic, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 green pepper, de-seeded and finely chopped
- 300 to 400 g leftover braai meat (steak, chops and wors all work well)
- ½ teaspoon ground coriander
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon chilli powder (adjust to taste)
- 400 g can of tomatoes
- 400 g can of baked beans
- 400 g can of butter beans
- 400 g can of corn kernels
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Salt and pepper

Brown the onion, garlic and green pepper in the oil over medium-hot coals in a flat-based cast-iron pot.

Add the braai meat and spices and stir until coated.

Add the canned ingredients (tomatoes, beans and corn) along with the balsamic vinegar and sugar and cook for 25 to 30 minutes until thoroughly heated through.

Season to taste and serve with garlic bread.

Closing.

We encourage members to submit pictures and stories of their recent catches, as well as other interesting facts that can be used in this newsletter. Please send your pictures and stories to denise@pedsac.co.za or 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.