



# Port Elizabeth Deep Sea Angling Club

*The Conservation Minded Club*

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## **Newsletter – July 2015.**

We recently had some good winter rains boosting our main storage dam levels to above 83%. That is good news for many of us as we were facing water restrictions only a few weeks ago. We are currently at a change between the El Nina and El Nino weather phenomenon, meaning that we are more likely to have wetter winters and will possibly experience flooding towards the end of this winter. We will take a look at all the latest happenings and report on all the club news and announcements from the past month.

### **Marlins Head Bar.**

All members must please take note that the Pedsac Marlin's Head Pub will be closed on every Monday until September 2015.

### **Annual General Meeting.**

The Pedsac Annual General Meeting (AGM) has been set to take place on Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> August 2015 starting at 18:00.

It is important for members to attend this important annual event. The current serving committee will submit their annual portfolio reports and most importantly, the Pedsac 2014/15 audited financial report as well as the 2015/16 budget will be presented for discussion and approval.

The new proposed committee will also be voted into office during the annual AGM.

In terms of the Pedsac constitution, we encourage members to nominate worthy members who are in good standing to stand for a position on the 2015/16 committee.

Extract from the Pedsac constitution dealing with the Annual General Meeting.

1. The business and the affairs of the Club shall be managed and conducted by quarterly and Annual General Meetings of the Club and between General Meetings of the Executive Committee. An Executive Committee Meeting shall be held one monthly and General Meetings once a quarter. In the event of a quorum not being available for an Executive Meeting the Secretary shall arrange a meeting at the earliest convenient date.
2. At any General Meeting of the Club, fifteen (15) members shall form a quorum.
3. At every Annual General Meeting, the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting shall be read, or by resolution, taken as read and if passed, be confirmed.
4. (a) At the Annual General Meeting in each year, there shall be elected:
  - i) Chairman
  - ii) Vice-Chairman
  - iii) Honorary Secretary
  - iv) Honorary Treasurer
  - v) Records and Competitions Officer
  - vi) Publicity Officer
  - vii) Safety Officer – if the incumbent has completed his three year term of office.
  - viii) Club Captain – if the incumbent has completed his two year term of office.
  - ix) Entertainment Officer
  - x) Marlin's Head
  - xi) Projects and Planning Officer
  - xii) An Auditor or Auditors
- (b) The Executive Committee shall appoint a member who is not seeking election himself as electoral officer. The electoral officer shall call for nominations. On receipt of completed nominations, he shall check if they are correct and post an up to date summary on the notice boards on the Club premises.

- c) Nominations for vacancies of all officers of the Club mentioned in paragraph K.4.a. must be made in writing and submitted to the electoral officer before the closing date and time set by the outgoing Committee. Such written nominations shall contain the following information:
  - i) Office for which nominated;
  - ii) Name of nominee;
  - iii) Proposer;
  - iv) Secunder;
  - v) Acceptance or declination of nominee;
  - vi) Whether, if not elected for a specific office, nominee will stand for any other office.
- d) All nominees, proposers and seconders must be members of good standing. Proposers and seconders may only nominate one candidate for a specific portfolio. The electoral officer shall reject any nomination if it is signed by a member who is not in good standing.
- e) Nominations shall be open for a period of fourteen (14) days and the closing date shall not be more than seven (7) days and not less than two days before election.
- f) Should any candidate who has accepted nomination wish to withdraw his acceptance, he must apply to the electoral officer to do so, who shall only accept such withdrawal if sufficient and valid reason exist.
- g) Be fixed, the remuneration of honoraria, if any, of the Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Safety Officer.
- h) Any member desiring any matter to be placed on the agenda of any Annual General Meeting shall deliver such matter in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Club at least twenty one (21) days before the date of such meeting. The Honorary Secretary shall forward to each member at least fourteen days before such a meeting the notice to convene the meeting. The Annual General Meeting shall be held during August each year.
- i) A Special General Meeting of the Club shall be convened at any time by requisition of at least fifteen members, which requisition shall set out clearly, in detail, the objects for which the meeting is called and no other business may be discussed. The Honorary Secretary shall advise members concerning the meeting and the business for discussion.

### **Gonubie Inter-Club Competition.**

The selected Pedsac team 2, represented by Peter Dawson, Wayne Gerber and Christopher Gerber took gold medals at the annual Gonubie Inter-Club competition. Wayne Gerber took overall silver for individual angler.

Congratulations on this phenomenal result as it is the first time since the late 1980's that Pedsac managed to take gold medals at this event again.

### **Eastern Province LEE CAT Inter-Club League results.**

The selected Pedsac team 1, represented by Wayne Gerber, Kevin Clark and Christopher Gerber came first for a second league in a row.

The Port Alfred team took silver and our second Pedsac team, represented by Peter Dawson, Sheena Gerber ( lady) and Brian Gerber managed to snatch bronze medals ahead of the hosting club from Kenton-on-Sea. Congratulations and well done to all of you.

### **Nauti-Tech Suzuki 1-Day Game Fish Competition**

The competition went off without any problems and a total of 18 boats and 69 anglers entered hoping to scoop the main prize of a rubber duck fitted with a Suzuki outboard motor sponsored by Nauti-Tech Suzuki. Deon Kapp, fishing on Heatseeker landed a tuna weighing in at 18kg and thereby claiming the top prize for heaviest game fish landed.

### **SADSAA Bottom Fish Nationals**

The bottom fish nationals will be fished from East London Ski-boat Club from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July.

Both E.P. teams entirely consist of Pedsac members.

E.P Red: Kevin Clark, Martin Gierz and Wayne Gerber.

E.P. Black: Peter Dawson, Richard Donaldson and Eugene Van Tonder.

We wish both teams all the best on their quest to fly our colours high and return with medals.

## Steak Night.

The next Steak Evening will be held on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2015.

Tickets will cost R80 which include your man-sized meal, and will also including a R20 allocation towards an attendance jackpot draw. Expect an exciting mix-up from the usual offerings and live music usually offered.

Members, family, friends and visitors are welcome to join us on this exciting evening. Notification will be sent via email and sms shortly.

## Pedsac Junior Development Day / Kiddies Fishing Competition.

Our proposed date for the junior development day will be announced during July.

The aim of this workshop will be to introduce our young juniors to deep sea fishing as communicated in a previous news letter.

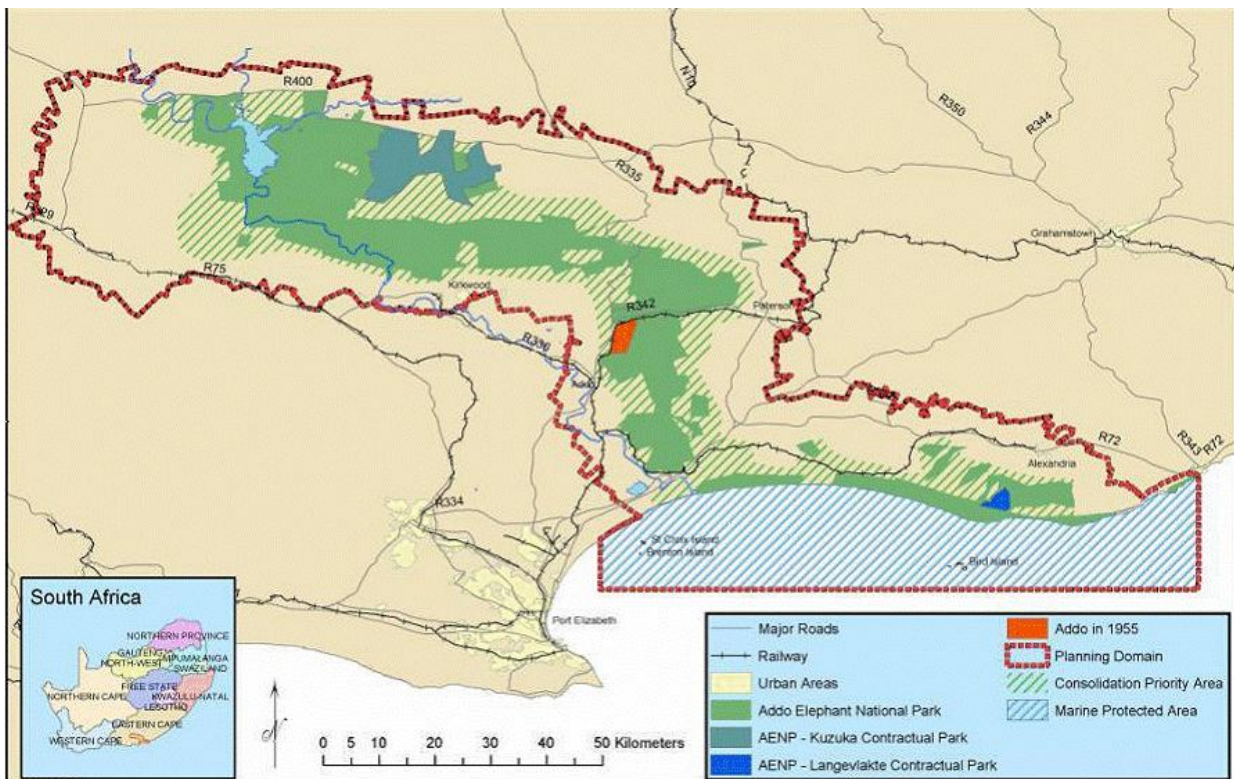
We are currently endeavouring ourselves to put the kiddies fishing competition back on the map after Transnet prohibited all fishing inside the harbour, and thereby stopping our last competition mid-way through the day a few years ago. Negotiations with the National Ports Authority and its business stakeholders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

## New Proposed Algoa Bay MPA.

I recently received a mail regarding the new marine protected area proposed by SANParks. The proposed MPA will stretch from Coega harbour and end somewhere near Boknes/Kenton. As can be seen by the demarcation pasted in below, the area will include St Croix island complex and include Van Der Riets, the entire Sundays River surf zone, Black Bush 1-4, Bird Island and all the way up to Boknes stretching some way into the ocean.

No fishing will be allowed within its boundaries which includes, deep sea angling, shore and estuary angling. Sunday's River estuary also falls within the boundary. Us PE folk are about to lose a large part of our heritage as recreational anglers, and must stand together to form some sort of resistance to this proposal, otherwise this proposed MPA will go ahead and be proclaimed.

See proposed demarcated area below.



The unfortunate truth is that we mostly have ourselves to blame as reckless unchecked fishing by commercial line fisherman and recreation anglers continued unchecked for many years in the past.

In the past, many thought that the resources were inexhaustible and fish was taken out without consideration of what the future impact would be on the available resources. We only have to page through old archive photos to see the sheer number of fish caught without much effort on a single outing prior to the 1990's. Recreational boats often left at first light and were back in port 2-3 hours later with more fish on board than what could be consumed, sold or given away back then before strict measures were put in place.

Until the late seventies and early eighties, very little thought was given to conservation, and only when catches started to drop by the mid 80's, did conservation effort and sustainability impact assessments on total catch efforts and biomass presence get into full swing resulting in more stringent bag limits being set, and additional MPA's declared. By then it was too late and catches continued to drop with many fish species in deep crisis by the mid to late 1990's.

The common knee-jerk reaction from most anglers was to blame trawlers and foreign fishing vessels, but this thought is untrue as these vessels only affect deep water and off-shore pelagic species. Our traditional line fish such as Geelbek, Kob and reef dwelling species is mostly caught by hand line, rod and reel. Today, recreational anglers outnumber commercial line fisherman by quite a margin and therefore we have quite a significant impact on the available stock in real terms.

The current dire state of our reef dwelling species can be seen in the low numbers of sizeable fish caught and it is very seldom that anyone can catch their total bag limit in nice sized fish these days.

If the proposed MPA is declared and government gazetted, recreational anglers will be left with very little water space to fish and this will only lead to a further collapse of fish stocks on the few remaining productive areas near Port Elizabeth, including Cape Recife and on the wild side as the fishing pressure in those areas will multiply exponentially in most likelihood.

The proposed MPA is a good and noble idea in principle, but better solutions must be found to accommodate recreational anglers while protecting our diminishing fish resources at the same time.

We often say that the sea and its resources belong to all of us. In truth, we are merely the guardians of our children's marine heritage. It is up to our generation to make a difference before it's too late.

### **Extract of Media Release: Bird Island Marine Protected Area extension**

*Date: 2014-07-25*

Addo Elephant National Park (AENP), the custodians of the Bird Island Marine Protected Area (MPA) off Algoa Bay, celebrated the tenth anniversary since the proclamation of the area, recently.

The Bird Island MPA was officially proclaimed by former Minister of Environmental Affairs, Marthinus van Schalkwyk, in the Government Gazette on 4 June 2004. The news cemented the Park's eastern boundary in Algoa Bay and also gave AENP the status of being the only national park in the world to be able to boast with the title of being home to the world's Big 7 – with the addition of the seasonal Great White Shark and Southern Right Whale in the water off Algoa Bay to the Big 5.

The Bird Island group (Bird, Seal and Stag Islands) is home to several species of red-data listed seabirds - including the Cape Gannett, Roseate Tern and African Penguin - while the reefs around the islands are important for abalone and linefish. Bird Island was increasingly becoming the target of abalone poachers at the time, and the immediate protection of the islands was regarded as a priority. However, the declaration of the MPA had little effect on the plundering of abalone taking place around the islands and in 2006 a complete dive ban was implemented. This had some effect, but still the plundering continued.

At the same time, the area around the Bird Island MPA became a popular fishing zone for recreational and commercial fishing vessels. This was due to the fact that the MPA created a safe haven for over-exploited line and reef fish to breed, that had a fish spill-over effect in the surrounding area where these fishing vessels could fish. Unfortunately some fishermen were not prepared to fish outside the MPA and were on regular basis caught fishing inside it.

In 2008 Addo Elephant National Park established a Marine section of rangers, to provide an ever-vigilant presence in the area. The nine-person team alternates between being based on Bird Island and on vessels in and around the MPA, and have made a number of arrests and confiscated numerous vessels over the years.

Plans are now afoot to have a greater MPA declared, which will add another 120 000ha to the current 700ha MPA. This area will stretch for about 75km along the coast from the Port of Ngqura to Cannon Rocks near Alexandria. Offshore, at it'll go out for as far as 20km at its furthest point.

The idea behind a Marine Protected Area (MPA) started in 1997 under the Greater Addo project.

Research into baseline environmental and fisheries data was carried out between 2006 and 2012, systematic conservation and draft management plans have been completed and an economic cost benefit analysis has been carried out. There has also been nearly eight years of consultation between South African National Parks, Marine and Coastal Management, the Departments of Environmental Affairs and Forests and Fisheries, and key stakeholders such as Commercial fisheries (squid, hake, sardine, shark longline and linefish), the Coega Industrial Development Zone, Transnet National Ports Authority, recreational fishers and the larger public.

The most recent of these took place in August last year when SANParks and the Departments of Environmental Affairs and Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries met with commercial fisheries in Port Elizabeth to further discuss the proposed MPA off Algoa Bay – a biodiversity hot spot along the South African coast.

The area is key as it is home to the highest percentage of endemic line fish species, hosts the largest breeding populations of gannets and penguins and has the longest, most productive sandy beach in the Southern Hemisphere.

The main objectives of the MPA are to conserve biodiversity, focus on threatened, over overexploited species, contribute to rebuilding fish stocks and minimising conflict and cost to fisheries activities. The input from the sessions with the industries was used in a proposal of regulations to DEA: Oceans and Coasts, who will now prepare the document for the Minister. She will then have to gazette an "Intent to declare an MPA", which will afford the public 60 days' comment and during which further public meetings will be held. Issues raised during this time will have to be addressed by the department within 30 days. Thereafter, the Minister will almost certainly gazette the "Declaration of the MPA.

### **Miss Lucy / Red Stumpnose.**



***Chrysoblephus gibbiceps* (red stumpnose)** is a cold water, reef-dwelling species of sea bream, closely related to the red Roman. It is endemic to the South African south and east coasts, and found from False Bay near Cape Town to Margate on the Natal South coast.

It is known as 'Miss Lucy' along the Port Elizabeth coast, and as 'Mighel' in the Knysna area.

First described and named by the French zoologist Achille Valenciennes in 1830, 'Chrysoblephus' means 'golden-eyed', while 'gibbiceps' refers to the bulbous forehead developed by adult males. Adults are territorial and solitary, and are found on offshore reefs at depths between 30 and 150 meters, the juveniles remaining in shallow water until mature at about 30 cm in length. Adults can grow to 75 cm long and a mass of about 9 kg, and have powerful molars used to crush food items such as redbait, sea urchin, octopus and crab.

The species spawns during the summer months on offshore reefs along the Eastern Cape coast. It is slow-growing and has been over-exploited because of its tastiness. Catch restrictions have been implemented since 2004 in an effort to re-establish this once abundant species.

Preferred tackle to use for targeting Miss Lucy is a rod with a soft, sensitive tip, suitable Multiplier or Coffee Grinder spooled with 6 - 8kg mono-filament line or 20-40 lb braid rigged with a light sinker and using a long bite trace with a 4/0 or 5/0 ultra-sharp hook (VMC, Lynx, etc.)

Miss Lucy's have a small mouth, and therefore it is important to present small baits.  
Miss Lucy is caught using chokka, squid, pilchard and chokka / pilchard mix grills.

Best areas to target this fish is off the point in 30-50 meters of water, the Ryi Banks (South and East sides), Bird Island and the Woody Cape passage way.  
This species prefer clean water. They are sensitive feeders at best and can quite easily be mistaken for small bait fish when taking your bait.

### Summary of popular species caught of the Eastern Cape Coast.

## Fish and Bait Fish

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### Blacktail / Dassie

Season: All Year  
Location: Coming soon.  
Bait: Bloodworm, Chokka, Sand Prawns, Mud Prawns, Red Bait, Prawn Bait, White Mussel, Pilchards, Drop Shot  
Regulations: Size > 20cm, Bag limit = 5  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Good

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### Bonito / Sarda Sarda

Season: Summer  
Location: Deep Sea only / from boat.  
Bait: Rapala, Spoon  
Regulations: Size > no regulations, Bag limit = 10  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Good, if bled properly

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### Cape Salmon / Geelbek

Season: Summer  
Location: Boat  
Bait: Chokka, Pilchard, Fish Bait Fillets, Karanteen, Sand Prawn, Octopus  
Regulations: Size > 60cm, Bag limit = 2  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Excellent

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### Carpenter / Silverfish

Season: All Year  
Location: Boat  
Bait: Chokka, Pilchard  
Regulations: Size > 35 cm, Bag limit = 4  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Good

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### Elf / Shad

Season: Summer, Spring  
Location: All.  
Bait: Chokka, Fish Bait Fillets, Pilchard (very fresh), Mullet, Drop Shot, Plugs, Rapala, Spoon (early morning).  
Regulations: Size > 30cm, Bag limit = 4  
Closed Season: 1 October to 30 November  
Eating Quality: Good when fresh

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### Galjoen

Season: Winter  
Location: Rocky areas.  
Bait: Sand Prawns, Red Bait (matured), Prawn Bait, White Mussel  
Regulations: Size > 35cm, Bag limit = 2  
Closed Season: 15 October to last day in February  
Eating: Good



### **Gurnard**

Season: All Year  
Location: Boat  
Bait: Chokka, Pilchard  
Regulations: Size > No regulation, Bag limit = 10  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Good



### **Hake**

Season: Autumn, Winter  
Location: Boat  
Bait: Chokka, Pilchard  
Regulations: Size > No Regulation, Bag limit = 5  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Excellent



### **Karanteen / Strepie**

Season: All Year  
Location: Structure / walls.  
Bait: Chokka, Pilchards, Prawn Bait, Drop Shot  
Regulations: Size > 15cm, Bag limit = 10  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Poor



### **Kingklip**

Season: Winter  
Location: Boat  
Bait: Chokka, Pilchard  
Regulations: Size > No Regulation, Bag limit = 1  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Good



### **Kob / Kabeljou**

Season: All Year  
Location: Estuary / Surf / Boat.  
Bait: Bloodworm, Chokka, Fish Bait Fillets, Sand Prawns, Mud Prawns, Pilchards, Octopus, Prawn Bait, Blacktail, Karanteen, Mackerel, Elf, Drop Shot, Plugs, Rapala, Spoon

### **Regulations:**

From shore or lagoon: Size > 60cm, Bag limit = 1,  
By boat: size >50 cm, bag limit 5 but only 1 > 110cm per day  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Good



### **Leervis / Garrick**

Season: Spring, Summer  
Location: Estuary / Surf / Boat.  
Bait: Karanteen, Pilchards, Blacktail, Mackerel, Elf, Drop Shot, Salt Water Fly, Plugs, Rapala, Spoon  
Regulations: Size > 70cm, Bag limit = 2  
Closed Season: No  
Eating Quality: Medium – Good when Smoked



### **Mullet / Harder (Net = N)**

Season: All Year

Location: Coming soon.

Bait: Pilchards, Fresh Bread, Prawn Bait

Regulations: Size > No Regulation, Bag limit = 50

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Poor

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### **Musselcracker White / Silver**

#### **Steenbras**

Season: Spring, Summer

Location: Rocky reefs inshore.

Bait: Chokka, Sand Prawns, Red Bait, Pilchard, Octopus, Red Crab, Prawn Bait

Regulations: Size > 60cm, Bag limit = 2

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Good

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### **Musselcracker Black / Poenskop**

Season: Spring, Summer

Location: Boat

Bait: Chokka, Red Bait, Pilchards, Octopus, Red Crab, Prawn Bait

Regulations: Size > 50 cm, Bag limit = 1

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Good

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### **Red Roman**

Season: Summer

Location: Boat.

Bait: Chokka, Fish Bait Fillets, Sand Prawns, Pilchard, Octopus, Prawn Bait

Regulations: Size > 30cm, Bag limit = 2

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Good

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### **Red Stumpnose / Miss Lucy**

Season: Spring, Summer, Autumn

Location: Boat

Bait: Chokka, Pilchard

Regulations: Size > 30cm, Bag limit = 1

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Good

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### **Rock Cod**

Season: All Year

Location: Boat

Bait: Chokka, Fish Bait Fillets, Sand Prawns, Pilchard, Prawn Bait

Regulations: Size > 60cm, Bag limit = 1

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Excellent

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### **Rock Cod Yellowbellied**

Season: All Year

Location: Boat

Bait: Chokka, Pilchard

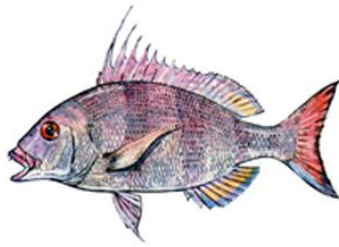
Regulations: Size > 60cm, Bag limit = 1

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Excellent

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### **Santer / Soldier**

Season: All Year

Location: Boat

Bait: Chokka, Pilchard

Regulations: Size > 30 cm, Bag limit = 5

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Medium

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### **Spotted Grunter / Tiger**

Season: Summer

Location: Estuary / Surf.

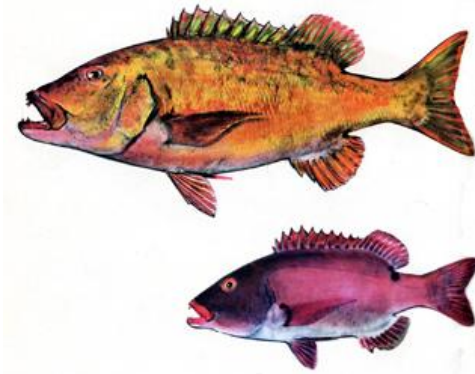
Bait: Bloodworm, Chokka, Sand Prawns, Mud Prawns, Pilchard, Prawn Bait, White Mussel, Drop Shot

Regulations: Size > 40cm, Bag limit = 5

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Excellent

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### **Steenbras – Red**

Season: Autumn, Winter

Location: Boat

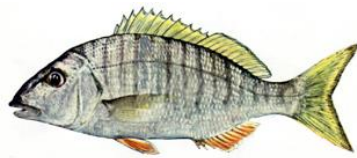
Bait: Chokka, Fish Bait Fillets

Regulations: Size > 60 cms, Bag limit = 1

Closed Season: 1 October to 30 November

Eating Quality: Good

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### **Steenbras – Sand**

Season: All Year

Location: Estuary / Surf.

Bait: Bloodworm, Chokka, Sand Prawns, Mud Prawns, Pilchard, Prawn Bait, White Mussel

Regulations: Size > No regulation, Bag limit = 10

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Medium

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### **Steenbras – White / Pignose Grunter**

Season: All Year

Location: Estuary / Surf.

Bait: Bloodworm, Chokka, Sand Prawns, Mud Prawns, Pilchard, Prawn Bait, White Mussel

Regulations: Size > 60cm, Bag limit = 1

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Good

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### **Stumpnose Cape**

Season: Winter, Spring (Sea) All Year (Lagoon)

Location: Coming soon.

Bait: Bloodworm, Chokka, Sand Prawns, Mud Prawns, Pilchard, Prawn Bait, White Mussel

Regulations: Size > 20cm, Bag limit = 5

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Good

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### **Tuna / Tunny – Yellowfin**

Season: Summer

Location: Boat

Bait: Fish Bait Fillet, Salt Water Fly, Plugs, Rapala, Spoon

Regulations: Size > 3.2kg, Bag limit = 10

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Good

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### **Yellow Tail**

Season: Spring, Summer, Autumn

Location: Boat

Bait: Chokka, Pilchard, Salt Water Fly, Plugs, Rapala, Spoon

Regulations: Size > No Regulation, Bag limit = 10

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Good

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### **Zebra / Wildeperd**

Season: Winter

Location: Reef.

Bait: Chokka, Sand Prawns, Mud Prawns, Red Bait, Prawn Bait

Regulations: Size > 30cm, Bag limit = 5

Closed Season: No

Eating Quality: Medium

### **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.