

Newsletter

Volume 22 Issue 1

August 2018

Winner of the July photo competition



Jon Vogel: Cape York Queenie (90 cm)

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About the Club

The Canberra Fisherman's Club Inc. is a sport fishing club that endeavours to promote a social awareness among its members, single or family. General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the **Eastlakes Football Club No 3 Oxley St Griffith ACT** beginning at 6:30 pm. All members and visitors are most welcome.

Members of the Canberra Fisherman's Club are eligible to set Club Records and, upon payment of an Australian National Sport Fishing Association (ANSA) affiliation fee, also able to set Australian records, and World records (through ANSA affiliation with the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA)).

Aims of the Club

- To promote sport fishing
- To foster the art of angling
- To teach the art of angling to new members and particularly juniors
- To promote the study and conservation of fish species and the environment
- To co-operate with and support other bodies with similar aims and ideals.

The Club also supports the Recfish Australia National Code of Practice for Recreational and Sport Fishing, which endorses:

1. Quickly and correctly returning unwanted or illegal catch to the water
2. Quickly killing fish that are kept for consumption
3. Using only appropriate, legal tackle, attending gear and valuing the catch
4. Taking no more than our immediate needs
5. Supporting and encouraging activities that preserve, restore and enhance fisheries and fish habitat
6. Understanding and observing all fishing regulations and reporting illegal fishing activities
7. Preventing pollution and protecting wildlife by removing rubbish
8. Taking care when boating and anchoring to avoid damage to wildlife and habitat
9. Using established roads and tracks
10. Reporting environmental damage
11. Avoiding unnecessary interactions with wildlife species and their habitats
12. Practising courtesy towards all those who use inland and coastal waters
13. Obtaining permission from landholders and traditional owners before entering their land
14. Caring for our own safety and the safety of others when fishing.

President's Report



The new committee for 2018-19.

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new 2018-19 Committee.

I'd like to again thank last year's committee for the fantastic job they did. It makes the job of this year's committee much easier and sets a great platform for the future. In particular, I'd like to thank Anthony Heiser for all he's done for the Club, both as president last year as well as all the roles he's filled over the years.

The new committee will meet after the September meeting to decide on the various roles. I'll let you know the details in the next newsletter.

For this year, my hope as President is that we learn heaps from each other (there are some real legends in the Club), have heaps of fun, and make some awesome captures.

The next outing is to Jindabyne (Kalkite) this weekend. As usual, we've managed to get a great deal on the accommodation, and with a heap of members all bunking in to the big house at Highland Lodge, it should be very affordable.

After the Kalkite Outing will be the Club's Presentation Night on 22 September 2018. If you have not already done so, please send in your RSVPs as it promises to be a fantastic night. Further details can be found in the flyer in this newsletter.

The October outing will see the Club returning to Talbingo on the long weekend, followed by the Gone Fishing Day Clinic for the Garran Scout Group at the Queanbeyan River on 14 October 2018. The Club will receive a NSW DPI Grant of 30 rod and reel combos to hand out to the junior anglers. We are planning to cater for up to 30 junior anglers and we would be grateful for members to volunteer their time for this clinic. It will be a fantastic day and one of those juniors may grow up to be the next Club President.

After the Gone Fishing Day Clinic will be our ANSA Burrinjuck Convention.

I hope you get a chance to join us at the outings and look forward to hearing your news and fishing reports at the next general meeting. The Lucky Member's Draw has jackpotted to \$150 after Stephanie Steele missed out on \$100 when her number was drawn at our August General Meeting, and Narelle Tate misses out on \$125 when her number was drawn at our

August AGM. Remember, you have to be at the meeting to claim the cash if your membership number is drawn.

Keep safe on the water

Glen Malam
President



Recorder's Report

Hi Everyone,

I hope that you have been able to wet a line in over the last month and been skilful enough to get some good catches.

If you have been skilled enough to catch a fish please email those captures to me at Recorder@canberrafishos.com.

I hear the 50th Anniversary ANSA NSW Presentation Night was a great success, although only one of our members received an award. Even worse, our members weighed in some great captures of Bream, Flathead and Carp but no one submitted entry form for Length Only Division of the ANSA 12 Month Competition.


The last outing was the Buckenderra Outing on 11-12 August 2018. Unfortunately, there were no fish captured that weekend so the competition for the All Tackle Championship is wide open right now. Hopefully, we will get some good captures at the Kalkite Outing on 8-9 September 2018. I hope to see lots of great trout captures...a few years ago, Glen and Karen Malam landed some Australian Record Brook Trout at the Kalkite Outing, but there are always plenty of Browns and Rainbows on offer.

I am still settling back into the Recorder's Role so I don't have results to post on the leader board just yet. However, the leader board for the ANSA 12-month competition is already available and I have included this in my report. Anthony has already submitted a capture form for his 60 cm Brown Trout in the Trout Length Only Division, however, ANSA NSW President Stan Konstantaras has already taken the lead with a 63 cm Trout. But there is still plenty of time to chase a 64 cm Trout to take the lead.

You should [download the ANSA 12-month competition capture form](#) and start submitting these to me together with the CFC capture form. I've also attached copies of those forms at the end of my report.

John Bosch
Recorder






CANBERRA FISHERMAN'S CLUB - CAPTURE FORM

DIVISION: 1 = Sportfishing, 2 = Lurecasting, 3 = Flycasting, 4 = Gamefishing, 5 = Handline, 6 = Landbased Gamefishing, 7 = All Tackle


SECTION: BW = Bluewater, FW = Freshwater, BCH = Beach, RCKS = Rocks, EST = Estuary



SPECIES	WEIGHT KG	LENGTH MM	LINE CLASS	PRE TEST Y/N	LOCATION	DATE	LAND BASED	DIVISION	SECTION	POINTS

CERTIFICATION OF WEIGHING: I Declare that I witnessed the weighing of these captures on certified scales# DATE: / / SIGNED:


CERTIFICATION BY ANGLER: I Declare that I Captured these fish in accordance with the rules of ANSA. DATE: / / SIGNED:



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ANSA N.S.W 12 MONTH COMPETITION ENTRY FORM



Date Received by State Recorder: ____/____/____

Angler: Club:

ANSA No: DOB (jnr & sub-jnr): Phone:

Weight Captures:

Was Pre-Test or Factory Pre-Test line used in these captures (circle) **Yes / No**

If Pre-Test or Factory Pre-Test line **was not used** in the captures, a 5 metre line sample must be provided with this entry form.

Species	Capture Date	Capture Location	Weight	Line Class	Division 1-15

Tag & Release:

Species	Capture Date	Capture Location	Tag Number

Length Captures:

Species	Capture Date	Capture Location	Division 17-25	Length (mm)

ANGLERS DECLARATION

I _____, declare that this capture was made by me, and weighed or measured on an appropriate device, in accordance with ANSA rules.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

WITNESS TO WEIGHT / MEASUREMENT

I _____, certify that I witnessed the weighing or measuring of the capture.

CLUB RECORDER

I _____, declare that the captures listed above have been authenticated in accordance with ANSA rules.

Notes for LENGTH captures:

1. Fish to be measured length overall i.e.: end of tail to the leading edge of the jaw, fish laying flat and tail in a natural position.
2. If no witness to length only measurement, a photo of capture on an appropriate measuring device must be submitted.
3. Preferably all claims should be accompanied by a photo of the fish on the appropriate measuring device. Video is acceptable.
4. One entry, per division, per angler, per year across divisions, upgrading of fish is acceptable.

Eligible Divisions for 12-Month Comp:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Land Based Game Species (Sport / Gamefishing capture method) | 9. Flyfishing Freshwater | 17. Length Only Carp (All) |
| 2. Land Based Non - Game Species (Sport / Gamefishing capture method) | 10. Gamefishing | 18. Length Only Trout (All) |
| 3. Sportfishing in Saltwater Estuaries & Saltwater Lakes | 11. Handline | 19. Length Only Bass (Australian) |
| 4. Sportfishing from a Boat (outside) | 12. Capture by a Lady | 20. Length Only Bream (All) |
| 5. Sportfishing Freshwater | 13. Capture by a Junior Boy | 21. Length Only Flathead (All) |
| 6. Lurefishing Saltwater | 14. Capture by a Junior Girl | 22. Length Only Salmon (Australian) |
| 7. Lurefishing Freshwater | 15. Capture by a Sub-Junior | 23. Length Only Kingfish (Yellowtail) |
| 8. Flyfishing Saltwater | 16. Tag & Release | 24. Length Only Snapper |
| | | 25. Length Only Mulloway |

General Notes:

1. Each fish submitted may only be entered in **one** of the eligible divisions 1–25 above.
2. Fish submitted for Weight Captures, cannot be submitted for Length Captures and vice versa
3. To be eligible all 12 month competition entry forms must be with the state recorder within 35 days from date of capture

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 03/09/2018

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS	LINE	POINTS
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DIVISION 1: Landbased - Game Species

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 2: Landbased - Non-Game Species

1 Matthew Manson	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	ROCK BLACKFISH	1.600	2	120.000
2 Matthew Manson	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	ROCK BLACKFISH	1.540	2	115.500

DIVISION 3: Sportfishing - Saltwater Lakes and Estuaries

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 4: Sportfishing - From a Boat (Outside)

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 5: Sportfishing - Freshwater

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 6: Lure Fishing - Saltwater

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 7: Lurecasting - Freshwater

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 8: Flyfishing - Saltwater

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 9: Flyfishing - Freshwater

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 10: Gamefishing

1 Michael Sciberras	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	TUNA - SOUTHERN BL	86.000	24	537.500
2 Marcus Sterianos	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	TUNA - SOUTHERN BL	65.000	24	406.250
3 Darcy Sciberras	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	TUNA - SOUTHERN BL	43.000	24	268.750

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 05/09/2018

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS LINE	POINTS
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DIVISION 11: Handline

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 12: Capture by a Lady

1 Chelsea Rutstein	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	TUNA - SOUTHERN BL	71.000	24	443.750
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DIVISION 13: Capture by a Junior Boy

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 14: Capture by a Junior Girl

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 15: Capture by a Sub-Junior

1 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
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DIVISION 16: Tag and Release

1 VACANT	NO CLUB				0
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DIVISION 17: Length Only - Carp

1 VACANT	NO CLUB	CARP			0.000
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DIVISION 18: Length Only - Trout (All)

1 Stan Konstantaras	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Asso	TROUT			630.000
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2 Anthony Heiser	Canberra Fisherman's Club	TROUT - BROWN			600.000
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DIVISION 19: Length Only - Australian Bass

1 VACANT	NO CLUB	BASS			0.000
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DIVISION 20: Length Only - Bream (All)

1 VACANT	NO CLUB	BREAM			0.000
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DIVISION 21: Length Only - Flathead (All)

1 VACANT	NO CLUB	FLATHEAD			0.000
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ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 03/09/2018

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS LINE	POINTS
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DIVISION 22: Length Only - Australian Salmon

1 Peter Logan	St George Sportfishing Club	SALMON		680.000
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DIVISION 23: Length Only - Kingfish

1 VACANT	NO CLUB	KINGFISH		0.000
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DIVISION 24: Length Only - Snapper

1 Stan Konstantaras	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Asso	SNAPPER		840.000
2 Mark McGrath	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Asso	SNAPPER		830.000
3 Nick Malliotakis	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Asso	SNAPPER		810.000

DIVISION 25: Length Only - Mulloway

1 VACANT	NO CLUB	MULLOWAY		0.000
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DIVISION 26: Most Versatile Angler

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	POINTS
Michael Sciberras	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Assoc	5
Marcus Sterianos	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Assoc	5
Darcy Sciberras	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Assoc	5
Chelsea Rutstein	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Assoc	5
Anthony Scalici	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Assoc	4

DIVISION 27: Champion Club

CLUB	POINTS
Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Assoc	23
St George Sportfishing Club	3
Canberra Fisherman's Club	2

Fishing news and competitions

The ANSA NSW 2018 Calendar



ANSA NSW Calendar 2018

Issue 2, 6th November 2017. Note that contact details for each convention are subject to change without notice.

January	Happy New Year	July	
February	16/17/18 - Nowra Convention Hosted by Nowra Sportfishing Club Contact: Faye Hanson: Tel: 0244439748 Mob: 0410 422 263 E-Mail: secretarynowrasfc@gmail.com	August	
March	9/10/11 - Narooma Convention Hosted by Narooma Sport & Gamefishing Club Contact: Les Waldock Mob: 0411 392 608 23/24/25 - Sydney Sportfishing Tournament Hosted by South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association & St George Sportfishing Club Contact: Tony Steiner Mob: 0412 611 778	September	1 Sep ANSA NSW AGM, Delegates' Meeting & Presentation 14/15/16 - Glenbawn Convention Hosted by Newcastle Sportfishing Club Contact: Greg McFarlane Mob: 0435 222 861 Eddie Sitarz Mob: 0428 294 176
April	1 April - Happy Easter Sunday 13/14/15 April - South Coast Convention Hosted by Euro Fishing Association Adam Martin Email: makitaman82@hotmail.com	October	
May	25/26/27 May - Lake Lyell Convention Hosted by Sea Bees Boating Club Contact: Rob Sinclair Mob: 0487017018 Email: sydneyseabees@gmail.com	November	2/3/4 Nov- Burrinjuck Convention Hosted by Canberra Fisherman's Club Contact: Canberra FC info@canberrafishos.com
June		December	Merry Christmas

Presentation Night – 22 September 2018



**The Canberra Fisherman's Club
cordially invites you to
the**



2018 Presentation Dinner

Eastlake Football Club

3 Oxley St, Canberra ACT 2603

Saturday 22nd September 2018

RSVP by Friday 14th September 2018

To info@canberrafishos.com

Pre-Dinner Drinks 7:00pm

Dinner 7:30pm sharp

2 Course Buffet Dinner

2 Hot Main Dishes
Vegetables and Salad
Chef's Selection Dessert
Tea and Coffee

Senior Members \$25

Junior Members \$15
(Under 12)

Visitors \$45.00 & \$25.00

For special dietary needs contact
info@canberrafishos.com



Dart Dam Trout Trolling Tournament: 19-21 October 2018



Dart Dam Trout Trolling Tournament

19th, 20th & 21st October 2018

Dart Dam Trout Trolling Tournament – Fundraiser Dartmouth CFA and Community

Registrations close on 30th September 2018

All registrations received and paid for by 31st August 2018
will have the chance to win the Early Bird Registration Prize

Being of a refund of the entry fee [\$65]

plus 3 nights accommodation for 4 persons at 3 Tokes Cres, Dartmouth.

Total Value \$600 [some conditions do apply]

Commencing 12 noon Friday 19th October – Ending 12 noon Sunday 21st October 2018

Cost \$65 per person includes entry fee and Saturday night meal at the Dart Pub.

Friday night BBQ [in Dart Pub Dining room] at a cost of \$10 per head available
but needs to be booked and paid for with entry fee.

Dartmouth CFA will have a sausage sizzle at final weigh in on Sunday.

Prizes – No prizes for Friday night but catch can be combined with Saturday for weigh in.

All weighed in fish to be Gilled and Gutted. Minimum length 35cm

Participants can only win one prize each day.

Weigh In only at Dart Pub between 4 - 6pm on Saturday and 11 - 12 noon Sunday.

Saturday - Lucky Draw prize. All participants names will go into the hat for this prize. No fish required.

Entered Trout 1st -Biggest Brown Trout – by weight
2nd Runner Up Brown Trout—by weight

1st-Biggest Rainbow Trout – by weight
2nd - Runner Up Rainbow Trout—by weight

Plus -Heaviest bag of 3 Trout (not including above Trout)

Saturday night will be entertaining for all with raffles, games and frivolity.

Sunday 1st – Prize -the heaviest trout.
2nd - Runner Up Prize—the heaviest Trout

Plus longest Trout from comp Days - Photo - Catch & Release

Call Ron 0409148690 to find out more.

Register at www.dartmouth.net.au

News & Stories

Fishing the Talbingo Outing

by Anthony Heiser



Paul 'Rocky' Hoath flicking a soft plastic off the banks of Jounama Pondage

After Kalkite, our next outing will be held at Talbingo on 29 September to 1 October 2018. This outing has something for everyone (except beach and bluewater) and is sure to be an enjoyable weekend.

Talbingo was previously a regular outing on the CFC Outings Calendar when the Wagga Wagga Family Fishing Club hosted the ANSA Talbingo Convention in October each year. It was a shame when the Wagga Wagga Family Fishing Club stopped holding the Convention, as it was always an enjoyable outing and has produced some quality Trout and Golden Perch over the years.

As for the fishing, you have a lot of options. It's hard to sum it all up in a few words but basically, you have three dams to fish. Talbingo Dam, Jounama Pondage, and Blowering Dam.

Talbingo is famous for large trout but in previous Talbingo Conventions, although in some of the past conventions, it has only produce small trout, mostly Rainbows in the 400-800 gram range, and a few medium sized Redfin. Trolling tiger worms behind cowbells seems to be a very successful method. However, this poses problems for those fishing light lines. Beware of the wind on the lake, which can be dangerous. I understand that access to Talbingo might be restricted in the near future due to the commencement of construction of Snowy Hydro 2.0. However, I was unable to find any information on the internet about its current accessibility.

Jounama Pondage has some quality Brown and Rainbow trout and shouldn't be overlooked. Don't be tempted to keep any of the Murray Crays in the lake as they're out of season. Also, it is landbased only, no boating.

One word of advice: be careful how close you park to the shoreline. Water levels can change dramatically in Jounama Pondage. If you park your car too close to the waterline, your car may end up underwater within hours if Snowy Hydro starts releasing water into Jounama Pondage. In addition, I had to get towed off the bank one year when my car got bogged on the bank.



My Corolla getting rescued after being bogged at Jounama Pondage at the 2010 ANSA Talbingo Convention.



A 55 cm Golden Perch caught at the 2009 ANSA Talbingo Convention. I caught this bouncing a yabby on a soft plastic jighead on the bottom while Chris Head and I flicked spinner baits.

Blowering is a notoriously hard place to fish and is often referred to as 'lake disappointment'. Despite this, it has some top quality Trout, Redfin, Golden Perch, and Murray Cod. It rewards those who put in the time to learn the secrets of the dam (but don't ask me I don't know them!). Don't let me discourage you from fishing there it's a great place to fish and there are some massive specimens in there.

My only trick I can share is I once baited a live yabby on a soft plastic jig head and let it bounce along the bottom while Chris Head and I were casting spinnerbaits off his boat.

This trick (which has only worked once) landed me a 55 cm Golden Perch. Some of the more serious anglers at the Talbingo Convention trolled at night for Golden Perch. Blowering also has European Carp. And finally, don't forget that you can now target Cod year round at Blowering.

Also, if you're driving off track to get to a fishing spot on the banks of Blowering, be aware. Greg Davis bogged his 4WD one year a fair distance from the shoreline – I understand there are a few springs that can make the ground very boggy



Jounama Pondage on the Sunday of the 2014 ANSA Talbingo Convention

At this time of year, Talbingo can be cold and snowing, lovely, or hot and summery. Steve Borkowskis, who used to be the Club Recorder, previously recommended chasing Trout on cold days or Natives and Redfin on hot days.

To win the All Tackle Points for the Talbingo Weekend, my suggestions are:

- Drown some worms off the bank at Jounama for two Redfin
- Drown some worms or soak powerbaits at Jounama for two Rainbow Trout and two Brown Trout
- Troll or spin Blowering Dam for two Golden Perch and two Murray Cod
- Soak some baits off the bank at Blowering for two Carp.

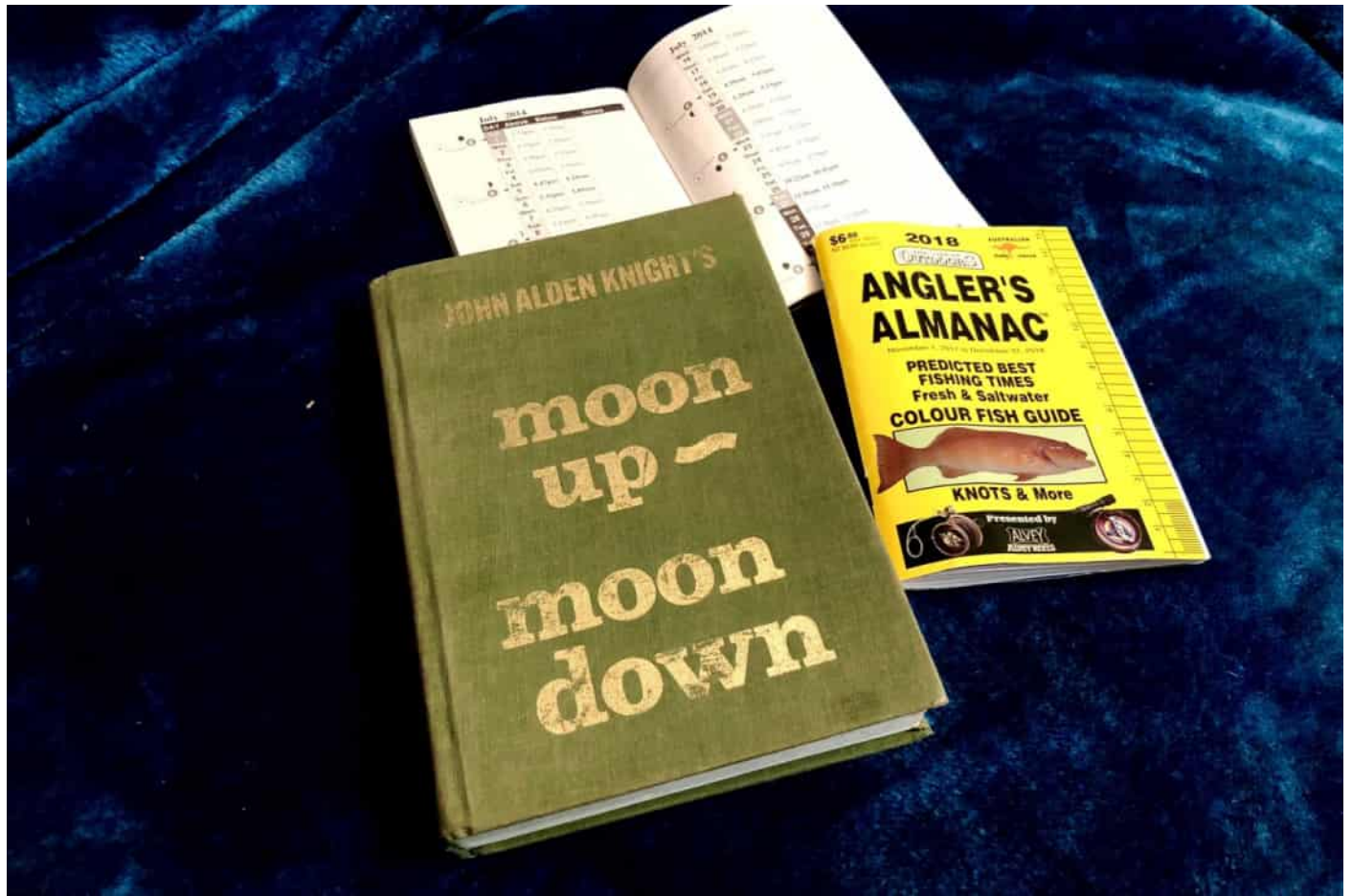
Good luck and I hope to see your photos in the October Photo Comp.



Kilo plus Rainbow caught off the bank at Jounama Pondage at sunset at the 2014 ANSA Talbingo Convention.

Fact or folklore? The Anglers Almanac & Solunar Theory

by Anthony Heiser



A copy of my 1972 reprint of John Alden Knight's *Moon up – moon down* and a couple of copies of the Angler's Almanac.

We've all seen copies of the Angler's Almanac in newsagents and tackle stores and some of us have Smart Phone apps aim to predict the best fishing times. The Anglers Almanac and those Smart Phone apps base their predictions on the Maori Fishing Calendars or Solunar Charts. But how do they predict the best fishing times and do they work?

Anglers Almanacs, Solunar Charts, and Maori Fishing Calendars

Solunar theory claims that the position of the moon and sun can predict the behaviour of fish and animals. Maori and other Pacific Islanders believe that fishing can be better on certain days of the lunar cycle.

From what I can gather, the Solunar Tables and Maori Fishing Calendars are very similar, and both have their origin in folklore. They predict 'major feeding times' when the Moon is directly above or directly below and 'minor feeding times' when the moon is rising or setting. They also predict what the intensity of those feeding times will be for each day of the lunar month. Generally, fish feeding activity is strongest during Full and New Moon, and weakest during First and Last Quarter.

John Alden Knight coined the term 'solunar' in 1936

The term 'Solunar' was coined by John Alden Knight, a New York Stock Broker who was a keen fisherman and author of several books on fishing and hunting. John wrote about his discovery of Solunar Theory and the impact it had on his life in his book *Moon up - Moon down* in 1942. The concept of 'moon up moon down' was not John Alden Knight's idea. A

fishing guide named Bob Wall introduced John to the concept while chasing Large Mouth Bass in Lake Helenblazes, Florida, on a hot summer day in 1926. In chapter 1, page 1, John wrote:

We had been fishing for large-mouth bass since dawn. Usually the fishing in 'Blazes' was excellent, but throughout the morning, the bass had been unresponsive. Tiring of fruitless casting, we had knocked off for an early lunch.

As we sat there, Bob Wall, my guide, looked at his watch and then across the surface of the lake. The heat waves had built a mirage that lifted the horizon above its normal level so that it seemed to hang in mid-air, leaving a gap of clear, shimmering nothing between itself and the quiet water. I could see that Bob was restless. Finally he spoke.

"Come on, Jack," he said. "Hurry up with that lunch. We'll miss the good fishin' if we sit here much longer."

"What makes you think they'll rise in all this heat?" I asked him.

"They'll rise all right," he answered. "Moon's down about noon."

"Whats that got to do with it," I said.

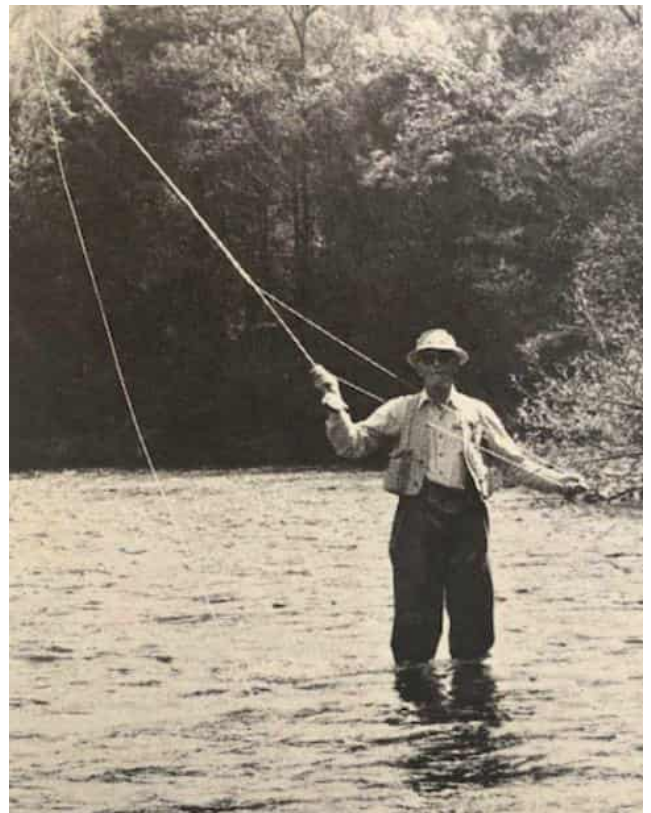
"Never mind about that," said Bob. "Just take my word for it. These fish are goin' on the feed pretty quick now".

Bob explained that his 'grandpappy' taught him the best time to chase game and fish was when the moon was directly overhead or directly underfoot. Sure enough at noon, the fish came on the chew. At page 4, John continued:

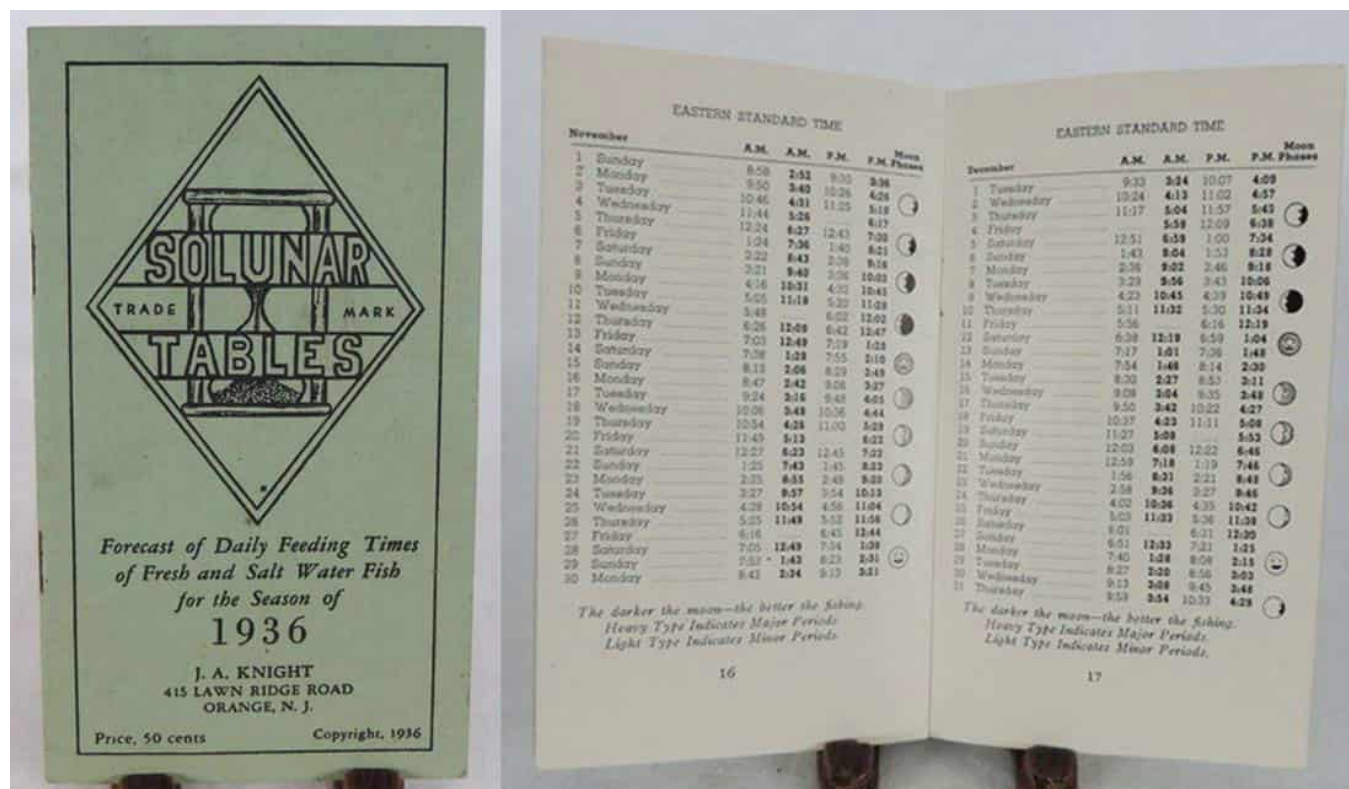
That was the beginning of almost three hours of hysteria. We hooked fish, big fish. Some we landed and some we lost. We broke lines, skinned knuckles, lost plugs, laughed, yelled and cursed. How many fish we caught and released, I do not know, certainly more than we had ever caught before. That evening we hung on the boathouse scales that part of the catch we had brought out with us – nine large-mouth bass that totalled seventy-eight pounds.

After that experience, John started analysing the moon up moon down theory he learnt from Bob Wall. He kept his own meticulous fishing records, and started looking for correlations between observed fish feeding times, and a number of variables such as weather, sun, moon, tides etc.

John found no correlations between sunrise and sunset with the different times fish showed up to feed, and found some correlations between the lunar cycle and fish



John Alden Knight fishing a trout stream in Pennsylvania



John Alden Knight published the first Solunar Tables in 1936.

feeding patterns. While there were no measurable tides in freshwater bodies, John explored the notion of 'inland' tides with the assistance of the New York Office of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. John then started testing and developing his theory by fishing according to notional tide times in inland waterways.

John Alden Knight went public with his initial theory in his article 'Ocean Tides and Freshwater Fish' published in the January 1935 edition of the *Sportsman*. John's article, which introduced the term 'Solunar Theory', generated unprecedented interest, and a mountain of letters from anglers in every US State asking for schedules of solunar feeding periods for just about every fishing spot.

To meet this sudden demand for solunar feeding schedules, John published the first Solunar Tables in 1936. The first one thousand copies sold out within five weeks, necessitating a reprint to meet demand. Suddenly, John discovered a new source of income, which proved handy when he quit his stock broker job due to health reasons.

John continued his meticulous record keeping of his fishing trips to refine his theory. He moved away from his concept of inland tides and argued that fish are most active when the moon was directly above or directly underfoot (the major periods) and are also active when the moon rises and sets (the minor periods). John also argued that the lunar effect was strongest during New and Full Moon.

John Alden Knight makes very unambiguous claims in his book about the impact of solunar feeding times on the feeding behaviour of fish and all wildlife. His book often described a dramatic increase in the number of fish or game captured at the commencement of major or minor periods.

John's book, *Moon up – Moon down*, is more of an autobiography and does not give an in-depth scientific explanation of the Solunar Theory, nor does John he set out the details of his fishing records to allow others assess his claims. This is not surprising, given John was not a scientist. To his credit, John admits he never worked out how or why Solunar Theory worked.



Moon rising over Mount Denison, over Lake Eucumbene, 2012. Solunar Theory predicts major fish feeding periods occur when the moon is directly above and directly underfoot (hence 'Moon up – Moon down', and minor feeding periods when the Moon rises and sets. However, the fish went off the bite when I took this photo.

Is there any science to Solunar Theory?

There is already a lot of research showing various relationships between migratory, spawning and feeding behaviours of marine species and the lunar cycle. There is also research showing a relationship between the lunar phases and catch rates by commercial fishers. But there is less research on using the lunar cycle to predict fishing success for recreational anglers.

The few articles I could obtain free of charge off the internet provides some support for a correlation between fish and game activity and lunar phases or the position of the moon. But those correlations are subtle in comparison to the claims in John's book.

One article from Ben Stevenson, a student at the University of Auckland caught my attention. In 2012, Ben wrote a statistics thesis by analysing data from captures by recreational anglers against the Maori Fishing Calendar. He analysed two data sets from fishing diary surveys conducted by the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries during 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994 and boat ramp surveys conducted from 1990 to 2008.

Ben's analysis demonstrated a relationship between lunar phases and fishing success. In addition, it partially supported the Maori Fishing Calendar's predictions of 'Bad', 'Fair' and 'Good'. Ben's analysis found that fishing was least successful on the 'Bad' days but found the 'Fair' days outfished the 'good' days.

However, the difference in fishing success was small. The difference in capture rates for fishing diary surveys between the most favourable and least favourable times of the lunar phase was 0.155 fish per hour (or an additional fish for every 6.4 hours of fishing). The difference between the 'Bad' days and 'Fair' days was 0.110 fish per hour (or an additional

fish for every 9.1 hours). The differences in fish success from the boat ramp surveys were even smaller.

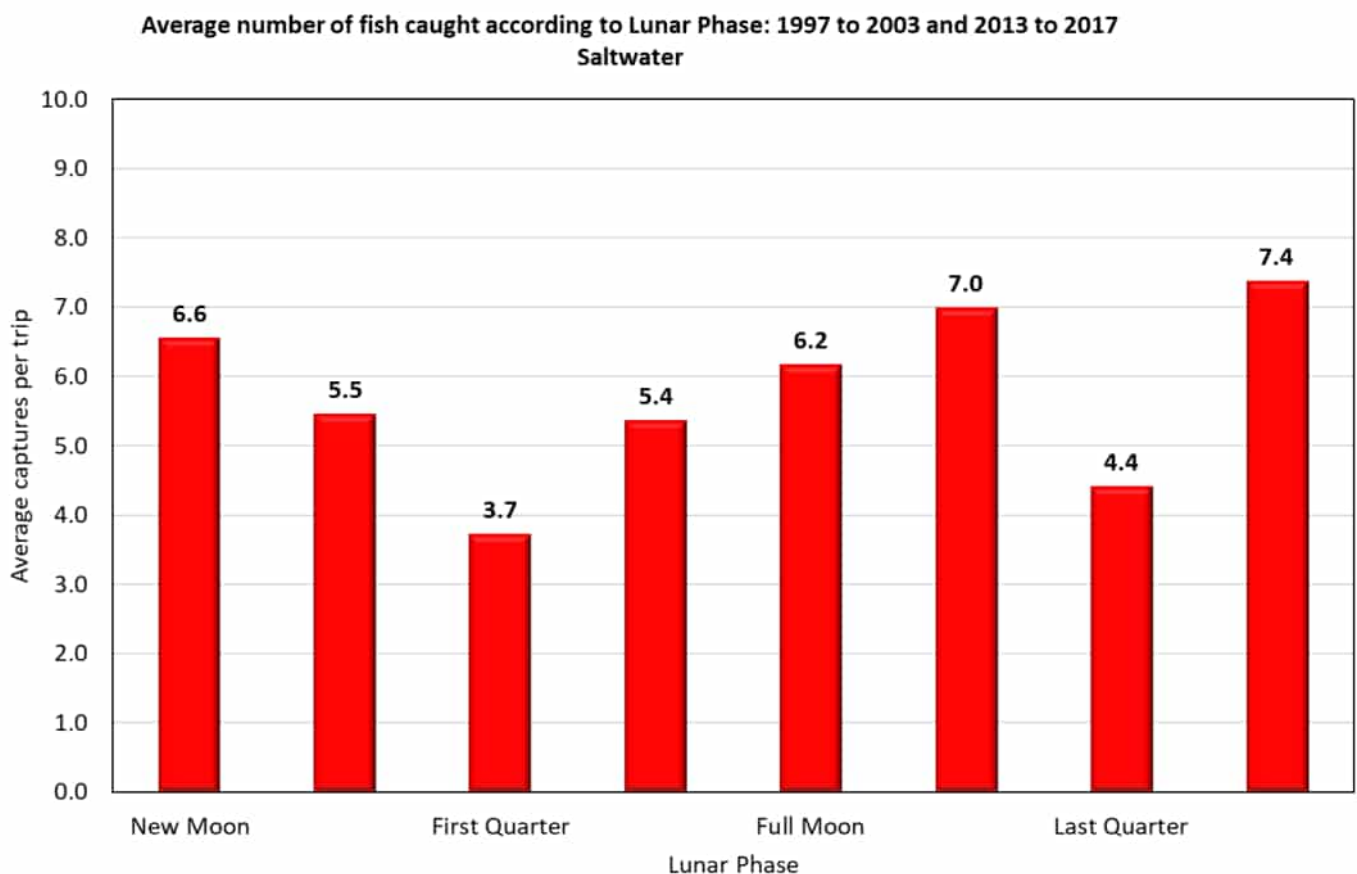
Ben was unable to analyse the fishing diary data and boat ramp data against the predicted major and minor fish feeding times in the Maori Fishing Calendar. However, a study tracking the movement of White Tailed Deer in South Carolina found deer were more active when the Moon was directly above and directly below (which equate to the major feeding times).

My own experiences with Solunar Charts and Anglers Almanacs

I've kept my own fishing diary from 1996 to 2003 and from 2013 to present. My efforts in freshwater are highly variable so I have only looked at my saltwater fishing trips. Over a combined 13-year period, I went fishing in saltwater locations 207 times and caught 1201 fish. I looked at the average number of fish caught according the lunar cycle, and according to the 'Poor', 'Fair', 'Good' and 'Best' days according to the little yellow Angler's Almanac, and the predicted fishing efficiency from the Fish Calendar App.

I expected to see peaks around New Moon and Full Moon and dips in First and Last Quarter. As expected, there dips in First and Last Quarter but the peaks did not occur exactly on Full Moon and New Moon (see figure 1).

Figure 1



The Anglers Almanac had mixed outcomes. On average, 'Fair' and 'Best' days outfished the 'Poor' and 'Good' days. The 'Fair' days outfished the 'Best' days, and the 'Good' days had the lowest captures on average (see Figure 2). The difference in captures for 'Poor', 'Fair', 'Good' and 'Best' days was about one to two fish per day.

The Fish Calendar App on my iPhone produced the least impressive outcomes (see figure 3). There was little difference in the average number of fish caught except on days where 'Fishing Efficiency' was predicted to be 76-100%.

Figure 2

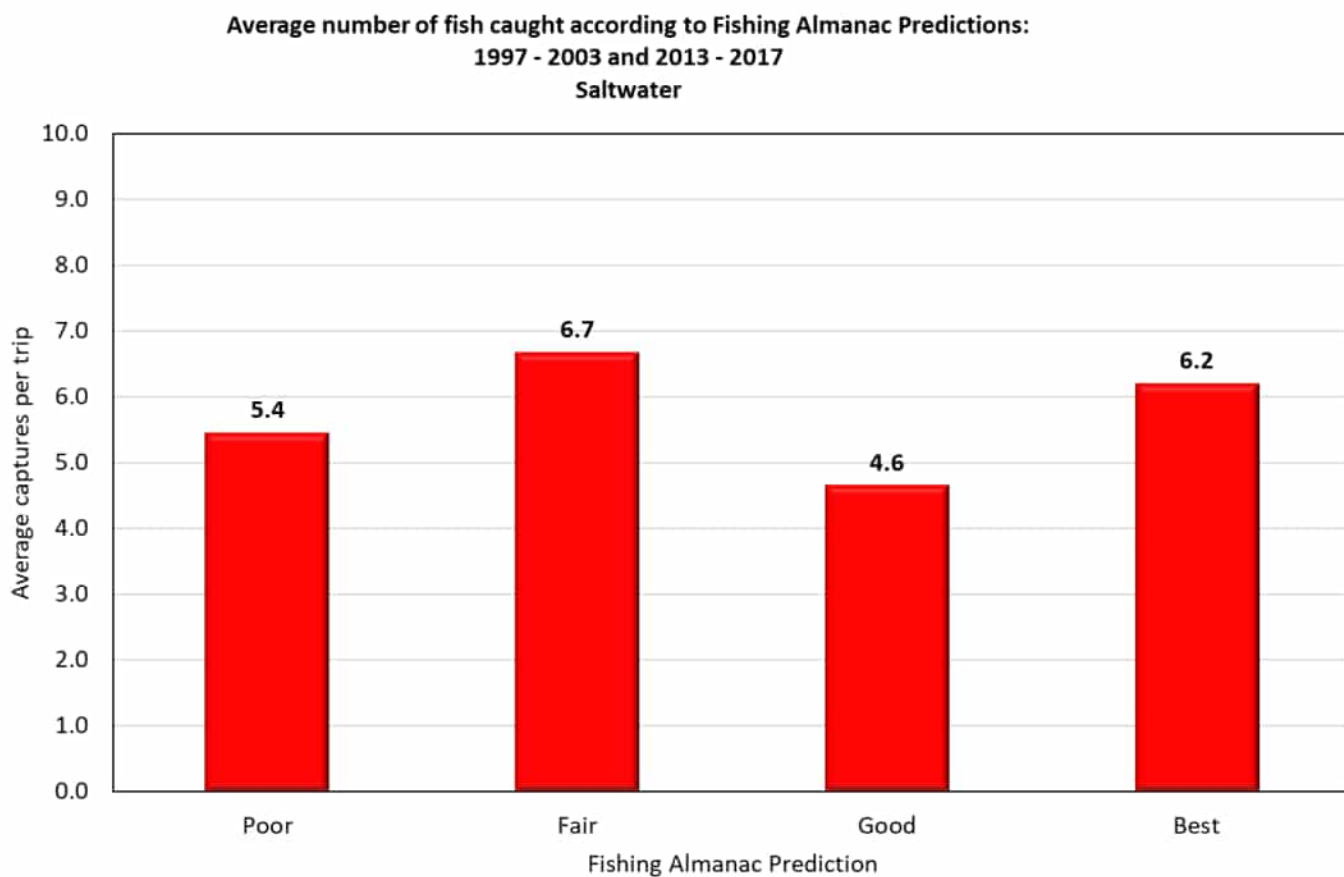
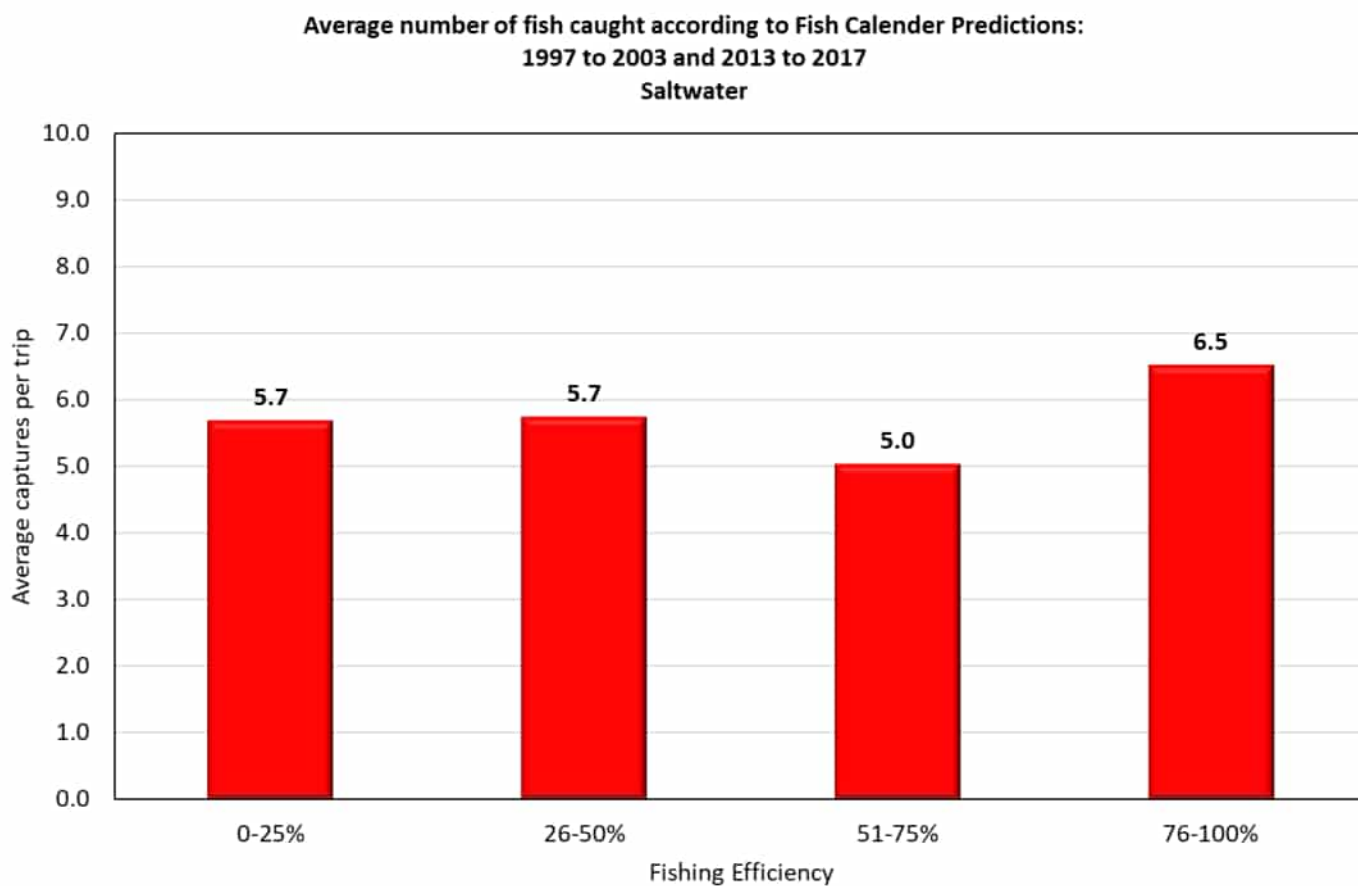


Figure 3



So do the Solunar Tables, Anglers Almanacs and Maori Fishing Calendars work?

The answer is maybe. And if they do, I'm unclear how or why they work.

John Alden Knight was convinced that the Solunar Tables work but did not know why. Unfortunately, his book *Moon up – Moon down* did not include details of his fishing records from which we can make our own assessment of Solunar Theory. On the other hand, John received huge volumes of correspondence from happy anglers recounting their successes with the Solunar Tables. His book is a delightful read and enjoyed numerous reprints (I have a 1972 edition). Anglers continue to purchase the Solunar Tables, and John was inducted into the Fishing Hall of Fame in 1957.

Ben Stevenson concluded that anglers were better off fishing according to the lunar phases than the Maori Fishing Calendar. However, the differences in fishing success according to the lunar phases or Maori Fishing Calendar Predictions were small. Ben Stevenson is now Dr Ben Stevenson and he now lectures statistics at the University of Auckland.

My own analysis of over 200 saltwater fishing trips is not as sophisticated. It shows a relationship between fishing success and the lunar phases, although it did not quite match my expectations. The Anglers Almanac is not as reliable, but it appears the 'Fair' and 'Best' days fish better than the 'Poor' and 'Good' days. The difference between the 'Poor', 'Fair', 'Good' and 'Best' days is not great. The Fish Calendar App was the least reliable, but days with 76-100% 'fishing efficiency' appear to fish slightly better.

As for the 'major' and 'minor' fish feeding periods, neither Ben Stevenson nor myself were able to test this.

If anyone is interested in finding out more, I've summarised my fishing diary data covering 1997 to 2003 and 2013-2017 below and summarised the findings of the academic papers I could find on the topic.

I would echo Ben's advice to fish according to the lunar phases rather than the Angler's Almanac. I would not rely too heavily on the Fish Calendar App predictions. If you're planning a fishing trip, use the lunar phases and the Angler's Almanac as a guide but don't be a slave to them.

Lunar Cycle	Q1 Days 1-7		Q2 Days 8-14		Q3 Days 15-21		Q4 Days 22-28	
	New Moon		First Quarter		Full Moon		Last Quarter	
Captures	236	131	82	258	136	70	75	214
Trips	36	24	22	48	22	10	17	29
Average captures per trip	6.6	5.5	3.7	5.4	6.2	7.0	4.4	7.4

Anglers Almanac	Poor	Fair	Good	Best
Captures	332	420	195	254
Trips	61	63	42	41
Average captures per trip	5.4	6.7	4.6	6.2

Fish Calendar App	0-25%	26-50%	51-75%	76-100%
Captures	449	218	176	358
Trips	79	38	35	55
Average captures per trip	5.7	5.7	5.0	6.5

Academic articles on lunar effect on fish and game

Title	Findings
<p>Promising the moon? Evaluation of Indigenous and lunar fishing calendars using semiparametric generalised mixed models of recreational data (I have a copy if anyone wants to read it)</p> <p>‘Outdoors: Study throws light on moon factor’, New Zealand Herald, 2 October 2011</p> <p>Ben Stevenson also gave an online presentation of his findings (44 mins)</p>	<p>Ben wrote a statistics thesis by analysing data from captures by recreational anglers from two data sets from fishing diary surveys conducted by the New Zealand Ministry of Fisheries during 1 December 1993 to 30 November 1994 and boat ramp surveys conducted from 1990 to 2008.</p> <p>Ben’s analysis demonstrated a relationship between lunar phases and fishing success. In addition, it partially supported the Maori Fishing Calendar’s predictions of ‘Bad’, ‘Fair’ and ‘Good’. Ben’s analysis found that fishing was least successful on the ‘Bad’ days but found the ‘Fair’ days outfished the ‘good’ days.</p> <p>The difference in fishing success were small for both the different lunar phases and for the ‘Bad’, ‘Fair’ and ‘Good’ days under the Maori Fishing Chart.</p>
<p>Effects of lunar cycles on the activity patterns and depth use of a temperate sport fish, the largemouth bass, <i>Micropterus salmoides</i></p>	<p>A study of Large Mouth Bass in Lake Werner, Ontario in October 2004 to November 2005 found that they inhabited deeper waters in the second and third quarter of the lunar cycle. However, there was correlation between the lunar cycle and distances travelled by Large Mouth Bass.</p>
<p>Muskie Lunacy: Does the Lunar Cycle Influence Angler Catch of Muskellunge (<i>Esox masquinongy</i>)?</p>	<p>A study of 341,959 muskie catch records from 1970 through 2013 (which included data on location, date and time of the catch, size of the fish, and more) found that anglers chasing Muskies during the Full Moon or New Moon improve their chances of captures compared with fishing at other times of the lunar cycle.</p> <p>The correlation was stronger with larger Muskies (102 cm and longer) and for fish caught at higher latitudes (48° N).</p>
<p>Do moon phases affect bass fishing?</p>	<p>An analysis of over 450 Bass caught by trophy Bass angler Porter Hall showed captures were evenly distributed between the four quarters of the lunar month. There was a slight increase in captures during Full Moon and First Quarter. The article did not explain how the analysis was conducted.</p>
<p>In-Depth Study Shows Moon Phase Does Not Affect Peak Rut</p>	<p>New Brunswick biologist Rod Cumberland’s study of how the moon phase affects White-Tailed Deer breeding using data over 1997 to 2005. He found no correlation between breeding and the phase of the moon. Instead, for eight of the nine years studied, mating took place during 26-29 November.</p>
<p>Movement with the Moon: White-tailed Deer Activity and Solunar Events</p>	<p>A study of 38 White-Tailed Deer tracked with GPS collars during 2009 to 2011 in Brosnan Forest, South Carolina, found that deer were more active during Full Moon and New Moon, and when the moon was overhead or underfoot.</p>
<p>Effects of lunar cycle and fishing operations on longline-caught pelagic fish: fishing performance, capture time, and survival of fish</p>	<p>Data collected from commercial long liner fishing boats in the Réunion Islands from 1998 to 2000 found that catches of Swordfish increased in the first and last quarter of the lunar month, while Albacore captures increased during Full Moon. Swordfish and Big-Eye Tuna captures were higher at low tide and during periods of weaker lunar illumination.</p>

Total Length Award species for 2018-19

The Total Length Awards bring on healthy competition from the ranks of the CFC and for 2018-19, the target species are Flathead for the Saltwater section and European Carp. The new target species applies from 1 July 2018.

The target species for the 2018-19 fishing year are:

Saltwater section: Flathead



Freshwater section: European Carp



How many metres can you catch?

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July 2018 Photo Competition

Following Phil Lawrence's suggestion at the December general meeting, the Committee has agreed to trial the following rules for the next 12 months:

- Members can submit up to two photos per month
- The photo must either be taken by the member submitting the photo or a photo of the member holding their capture
- Minor image corrections and cropping is allowed provided this does not lead to misleading or fraudulent alteration or manipulation of the photo
- The Committee reserves the right to exclude any entries it suspects has been subject to misleading or fraudulent alteration or manipulation (e.g. changing the colour of a bucket of blood from red to black – yes someone has submitted such a photo).



Jon Vogel: Cape York Queenie (90 cm)



Jon Vogel: Hinchinbrook Queenie (80 cm)



Jason Rogers: Wairo Beach Salmon



Steve Bailey: Wairo Beach Salmon



Anthony Heiser: Steve's epic battle on Wairo Beach



Anthony Heiser: Fish-eye view of Steve and his Salmon

Winner of the July 2018 Photo Competition



Jon Vogel: Cape York Queenie (90 cm)

As always, a huge thank you goes out to our major sponsor,
Otto's Tackle World Canberra.



Thank you to everyone at OTWC for supporting this photo competition. More than that, thank you OTWC for the ongoing support extended to the Canberra Fisherman's Club throughout the fishing year. Not to mention, thank you for continually stocking such a great range of gear and always being happy to extend some of the best fishing advice available in Canberra.

2018-2019 Club Outings & Meeting Calendar

Outing Date	Outing	Monthly Meetings
8th-9th September	Kalkite	11th
29th Sept – 1st October	Talbingo	9th
14th October	National Gone Fishing Day (Garan Scout Group Fishing Clinic)	
2nd-4th November	Burrinjuck	13th
1st-2nd December	Burrinjuck	11th
13th January	Carpathon	15th
26th-28th January	Tuross	
February (TBA)	ANSA Nowra Convention	12th
8th-11th March	ANSA Narooma Convention	12th
13th-14th April	South Coast Mighty Bonanza	9th
18th-19th May	Tathra and Brogo	14th
8th-10th June	Narooma	11th
13th-14th July	Ulladulla	9th

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