

For Interest:-

----- Original Message -----

Subject:RE: Western Angler: king waves

Date:Fri, 19 Nov 2010 16:21:32 +0800

From:Scott Coghlan <scottywiper@arach.net.au>

To:'Allan Slater' <ajslater@tpg.com.au>

Hi Allan,

Interesting points...have forwarded to Darryl..

Cheers,

Scotty

-----Original Message-----

From: Allan Slater [<mailto:ajslater@tpg.com.au>]

Sent: Friday, 19 November 2010 12:27 PM

To: scoghlan@westernangler.com.au

Subject: Western Angler: king waves

This is an enquiry e-mail via <http://www.westernangler.com.au/> from:
Allan Slater <ajslater@tpg.com.au>

Hi thought you might be interested in this story

KING WAVES

Letter to the Editor

Recently, on a visit with the Steel City Sportfishing Club, to the south west of Western Australia, I read the Feb/March 2007 Western Angler: "King waves: Murderous or Myth" written by Darryl Hitchen.

I thought I could give three examples of king waves appearing out of 'nowhere'. One you may have heard about as it received international publicity. It occurred during a fishing competition at Kingston in the south east of South Australia. Here, for years, the anglers slept, camped, parked and fish on the same beach ... then one night, not a storm night, one giant wave caused havoc and covered everyone and their vehicles.

I personally have experienced two giant out-of-the-ordinary waves; one definitely a king wave, the other just a giant wave, both from 'nowhere'. For many years I fished the south coast of Kangaroo Island, my favourite cliff fishing spot some walking distance from South West River, where I taught vacation swimming classes.

In brief, I fished the same spot 3 metres above the highest wave for every holiday for five years. Then, on this day, I heard a huge noise. I did not know what the noise was but presume it was the king wave hitting the cliffs to the west of me. Then it came around the corner. This was a freak. It was gigantic, 10 metres higher than all the rest of the sea swells – there were no white caps on the wide ocean - making it 13 metres high or more. Washed away forever were all of my tackle, tackle box, rod, hand line, reels, bait, and fish. Taken off my feet were my lace up shoes and socks – such was the power of this king wave. The rock I held on to, for what seemed like an 'age', I could not even grip when the waters returned to normal. For the next two years no wave, even in the roughest weather, came near to where I was standing on that scary day. However, I now fish from 20 metres higher up the cliffs.

My second giant wave experience happened just 4 kilometres to the east of the first, on the south coast of Kangaroo Island. Here I watched the South West River reef for days. No waves or water came over the top of the reef at low tide, young children regularly played along the reef. My cousin and I carefully picked our time and day (that was a mistake), and walked along the reef to find some abalone as the tide ebbed.

After we had been on the reef for about half an hour something made us look back along the reef towards the west. I think it was a sudden change in the shine of the sea near the end of the reef. Coming over the top of the reef, hundreds of metres to the west of us was a giant wave. It was 5 metres higher than the swells; it was three metres over the top of the reef – way above our heads. Again, no white caps on the ocean. Again, no strong winds, just a slight breeze. Again, no warning.

I jammed my feet into the reef crevices – my ankles still show the scars many years on. I was not washed off the reef. I saw my cousin washed off on to the shore side of the reef and watched as he swam 600 metres to the safety of the shore. I walked back along the reef with four bleeding ankles. No more waves came over the top of the reef that day.

So, yes, there are king waves. No: I do not know from whence they come.