

COWELL REPORT: 12th - 14th November 2010

While the weather forecast did look somewhat foreboding for the next few days, eighteen members with three boats in tow, left Whyalla about 10.00am on Friday 12th November and headed South to Cowell for the club's annual long weekend fishing competition. While we were unable to target snapper due to the annual November snapper ban, most members were quietly confident and looking forward to landing some good sized KG whiting over the weekend. Once again we stayed in 5 cabins at the Franklin Harbour Cabin Park making good use of the excellent facilities offered there for fish cleaning and other social activities. In addition, Peter and Heather Flavel, proprietors of the cabin park, had generously donated two new locally made and designed berley pots to be awarded as prizes for the weekend fishing competition set down for Saturday 13th. As nearly all members had arrived early with all three boats, all fishers headed to the boat ramps shortly after midday. As the competition day was set down for the Saturday, everyone was keen to locate a few good drops for the next day. The harbour was a bit choppy in front of a S/SW wind reaching about 12 - 15 knots. All boats headed outside the harbour in three different directions with Alan and Roger heading out about 7kms to Alan's secret spot where they almost bagged out with KG whiting in a choppy sea with up to about a 2 metre swell. Some of the larger KG whiting, weighed in between 300 - 400gms, and were up to 40cms long. Allan Slater's boat with Mick Sergio and Bob went South along the coast line working the sandy patches and interesting bottom. A few whiting, some tommies and salmon were landed before they located a large school of snook near the harbour entrance in some quieter water. They were soon amongst the snook and landed several dozen good sized fish up to about 80cms long. John, Bruce and Pat had fished several spots around the backwaters of the Northern entrance for a couple of whiting, salmon and a bagful of shitties. Later in the afternoon Allan called over both Alan's and John's boat to the snook area and all boats landed good catches of some very voracious snook and salmon which provided a lot of excitement at times. All boats returned to the park around 5.00 pm and after cleaning/packaging the catch, all members (some just arrived from Whyalla after work), proceeded to the Cowell Commercial Hotel for a very satisfactory meal and a spin of the pokies.

Saturday morning all three boats were away early and headed towards the harbour entrance. A very strong SE - E wind combined with a two and a half metre swell and very choppy conditions just outside the harbour made it almost impossible to fish comfortably. As a result, all boats fished the entrance and creek areas catching some more good sized snook and salmon until conditions abated a little in the early afternoon. Alan and Roger decided to venture out to their whiting spot again and found that the wind had indeed dropped and apart from a two and a half metre swell, conditions further out were indeed reasonable. Unfortunately, Roger was a bit unwell in the prevailing conditions and after catching about 15 whiting, they returned to the harbour, fished a short while then called it a day. Allan had proceeded to the South side of the sand bar near the entrance and after a couple of whiting and some tommies, also returned to the harbour entrance to fish for some more snook and salmon before also going in. John and Bruce mainly fished the entrance and along the coast line catching a few whiting, salmon and some good sized snook. As we were all ashore a bit early with catches measured, weighed and recorded, we all enjoyed 5.00 o'clock drinks and nibbles before retiring once again to the Commercial Hotel for dinner. A pool table challenge was held Saturday night with a few more drinks and nibbles to end the day. Sunday morning we all fronted up for an eggs/bacon/mushroom/onions and toast breakfast, skilfully cooked by breakfast cooks Bruce and John.

Breakfast cooks John and Bruce



Sunday breakfast

Bruce and Claire



Roger with some nice snook