

Cape Vidal February 2014

By Graeme Neary



We made our first trek of 2014 to Cape Vidal a bit earlier than usual this year. Normally we go in March or April but Nick could only get a booking in early February due to a lot of ski boat competitions taking place. Most of us didn't see this as a problem because, humidity or not, this place still produces the goods. Thus thirteen avid souties made the journey, with eight staying in the chalet and five of us camping.

The anticipated problem with raids by monkeys did not materialise, so it was great from that point of view. Friday saw most of us on the beach by 9.30 ish with some putting their ears back and heading quite a way up north and appear to have been very successful. Most opted to fish locally and a short walk down south, with some being rewarded and others not.

We were fishing over neap tides which in my opinion are not ideal for this area as you can't get out to the front of the ledges and the usual gulleys don't form. The holes and channels that form over springs are also obviously not there. The catch numbers were generally down on other trips but I would like to offer the explanation that we didn't have much wind and the water was crystal clear.



On Saturday and Sunday we did have some ongoing fun in the bay area with some blue fin kingfish that claimed squatter rights due to the large shoals of baitfish that stayed put most of the weekend. These kingies were around 70 cms and were literally swimming at our feet and didn't appear one bit nervous. It was very special to see them light up as they chased the bait fish.

Most of us had a go at them with all types and colours of fly but no success. At one stage I was fishing to three blue fins that mouthed at my flipper a few times and got me all jelly legged when two green spots muscled in, but not very seriously.

Three of the South Coast Fly Anglers joined us, Neil (also DFT), Bill and Arthur. Thanks gents, it is always great to have you along.

It was encouraging to see the number of species that were caught. I will list them and hope I don't leave any out: Wave Garrick, Stone Bream, Smelt, Lizard Fish, Bastard Mullet, Sandsteenbras, Spotdamsel, Shad, Cape Mooney, Kingfish.

It has been a while now that we have noticed the huge quantities of bait fish that seem to stay resident here now. This is very encouraging as this can only attract predators which of course attract the likes of us.



It is official, as at the weekend 7th to 9th February 2014 Bruce Curry lost his mojo and it was nowhere to be seen. This however didn't stop his usual sarky self, if anything probably sharpened his tongue a tad. In general the mood was upbeat and the level of sarky and BS was as good as it always is.

I am already looking forward to our next trip here

Tight lines