

Cape Vidal – February 2015

By

Dave Shepherd

I was fortunate enough to get to spend a week at Cape Vidal during the 2nd week of February. Seven work colleagues and I made the trip up early on the Saturday morning. Upon arrival we found that the Fisherman's Cottage, near the entrance of the resort, had a serious plumbing problem and we were "upgraded" to two 8 sleeper log cabins down near the beach. Bonus!

The first day saw some action towards the right side of the bay, where I hooked into something decent. Having being taken into backing and spending several minutes getting revved the hook straightened and it was all over.



Being just after springs there was quite a rip and I ended up fishing in the middle of the bay where I got a few small Wave Garrick and one or two Moonies.

Monday saw Dean, who had never previously fly fished in the salt, and I head up north and fished the gaps and troughs as well the ledges. Between us we landed mostly Moonies and

Wave Garrick, with the only variation to that being, me getting a Bastard Mullet and a small Shad hooked by Dean. All in all about 30 fish for that session between the two of us.

Tuesday was not very productive and the only notable event was, almost losing the spool for my reel in the shore break. I managed to rescue it and then spent a good hour trying to undo the tangle of backing and fly line. I ended up chopping up half my backing, using a nail clipper! Lesson learnt though!

On Wednesday we all decided to go give the estuary at St Lucia a bash. Between the bait fishermen in our group they hooked a number of small fish with one decent Barbel (3kgs) being landed. I gave up after about an hour. We ended up having a late lunch and beers at the ski boat club and made it back into the reserve gate with about a half an hour to spare. Talking about food, the Banana Box in St Lucia (one street behind Spar) has excellent meat at very reasonable prices!

On Thursday, I joined some of the others and fished from the boat. There was a very strong current and we basically drifted between Oscars and the lighthouse a few times. The amount of bait fish in the water was incredible with large shoals spotted every few hundred meters. The fishing only really got going in the afternoon with about a dozen or so pulls. All of these fish were lost to the 3 sharks that lurked around the boat all day – waiting!

Friday was a good day, with the tide being closer to neaps. I was only going to go for an early morning session, but ended up spending 6 hours on the beach, with no water, snacks or sunscreen! I headed up north again alone and managed to get 15 Wave Garrick. Most being bigger than the average size with 2 nice ones caught near the ledges.

Once again, Tom Gifford's Stonebream fly proved to get the best results. I got at least 90% of my fish using it and highly recommend using it at Vidal. Also tried Salty Buggers (white and orange), orange ruffies and small white and olive clousers. I tend to agree with Neil van Rooyen that the best time to fish Vidal is over neaps. All things considered it was a great trip, landed 50 fish in total, drank slightly fewer beers than that and made a few new friends.
