



Marine Rescue Port Macquarie

Radio Club News

APRIL 2025

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- ⚓ Our regular news and happenings
- ⚓ Jew Fish
- ⚓ Char Grilled Marlin
- ⚓ Wind & Waves - AMSA



WELCOME

Welcome to the April issue of Port Macquarie's PM Radio Club Newsletter.

April was a real mixed bag with the early part of the month providing reasonable offshore conditions. Then the winds and rain returned, with the added impact of the Cyclone off New Zealand putting an end to any trips offshore with huge swells along the NSW coast

Yet again sadly, people disregarded these conditions and wearing of Life Jackets, with the result being the loss of 5 lives over the Easter Break. Please help us to continue spreading the word that Life Jackets do save lives.

During May, Marine Rescue NSW will be running a campaign entitled MAYDAY 2025, with the specific objective of raising funds to help offset the ever-increasing operating and maintenance costs.

Keep your eye on social media and the special web page where donations can be directed to a specific unit and to also see details and updates.

Until next month

Visit us:

On the Web: <https://www.marinerescueportmacquarie.com.au>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/mrnswportmacquarie>

Or call in at the radio base:

2/15 Elliot Way, Port Macquarie

Ph: 02 5547 9100

Email: radioclub.portmacquarie@marinerescuensw.com.au

Name that fish...answers for last month



Tailor - Protruding lower jaw, dorsal fin spines small & weak (not very rigid). Upper body has a green to bluish tinge, lower body silvery. Seasonally abundant, often found in large schools in estuaries and inshore waters. Small tailors are often called "choppers". Maximum of 16 kg and 1.2 m in length. Tailor are found from Fraser Island in Queensland around the coast to Point Quobba in Western Australia (including Tasmania). Lower numbers are generally found around southern Australia. (from dpi.nsw.gov.au).



Wahoo - predominantly silver in colour, with 24 or more cobalt blue vertical bars on their sides. The Wahoo is among the fastest fish in the sea and is often caught incidentally while fishing for other pelagic species, such as Mahi-Mahi (dolphin fish) and Narrow-barred Mackerel. Wahoo grow to a maximum length of 2.1 m and a weight of approximately 67 kg. Unlike the Mackerels, Wahoo is a solitary species, with groups of five or more fish rarely found in the one location. They are similar in appearance to Spotted and Narrow-barred Mackerel. The vertical trailing edge of the tail is different to mackerels, which have a more pronounced fork in their tail. (from dpi.nsw.gov.au).

Ned Kellys Tips & Tricks

Jew Fishing

There aren't many anglers out there that don't love catching Jews or would love to catch their very first 'keeper'.

In this addition of Ned Kelly's Tips and Tricks, we hope to give you some good info on how to find & catch one of these fabled fish.



Location and Timing:

- **Structure:** Mulloway are often found near structures like bridge pylons, wrecks, and rock bars in rivers and lakes. They can also be found around rocky headlands in sand bottom gutters and in gutters/holes on beaches.

- **Current:** Look for spots with strong, steady currents, as mulloway like to feed in areas where currents bring in baitfish.
- **Tides:** Consider fishing during rising tides, especially at dawn or dusk, as these are prime feeding times.
- **Moon Phase:** The new moon is an excellent phase to target mulloway and the week leading up to full moon coinciding with a high tide around dusk or later is another prime time.
- **Depth:** Aim for depths between 3 and 15 meters.

Baits:

- **Live Baits:**
Mullet, Squid, Bonito and Tailor are excellent live bait choices that mimic mulloway's natural prey. They can either be fished under a float or with a small running sinker that still allows the bait to swim a little.
- **Dead Baits:**
Large beach worms can also be effective in the surf. Flesh baits like Tailor, Mullet & Bonito are excellent baits as well as whole Squid.
- **Rigging:**
A Single 10/0 hook will do the job for slab & Squid baits. Tie a half hitch around the top of the bait to prevent it from bunching up. Ganged hooks or a snell rig also work well. Use a sturdy live bait hook and rig the bait so it presents naturally pinned behind the neck for live baits.
- **Running Sinker Rig:**
This rig is effective for fishing in deeper water or areas with strong currents, allowing the bait to move naturally. It is

important to note that when Jew fish are actively feeding, they will be higher up in the water column and not near the bottom. Therefore, only use smaller sinkers that will allow the bait to move naturally in the current.

- **Paternoster Rig:**

This rig is ideal for fishing in shallower water or near submerged structures, allowing for multiple baits at different depths.

Lures:

- **Soft Plastics:** Consider paddle-tails or curl-tails in natural colors like silver, white, or black.
- **Jig Heads:** Match the weight of the jig head to the current and water conditions.
- **Lure Action:** Mulloway often strike while the lure is on the drop, so be sure to lift the rod tip and allow the lure to sink back down.
- **Hard Body:** Big hard body lures work very well particularly during floods. Break walls are the ideal place to fish in floods. Cast the lure into the strong run out current and free spool about 80 metres of line out. Then slow roll the lure back.

Gear:

- **Rod:** A 10 to 12 foot 15kg minimum rated rod or heavier is needed to fish both with big baits and lures
- **Reel:** A 4000 or 5000 size reel is recommended.
- **Line:** 15kg main line and 20kg leaders, or even heavier, may be needed.
- **Leaders:** Fluorocarbon leaders can help the bait presentation appear more natural.

Techniques:

- **Strike:** When you feel a bite, let the fish run for a bit before striking when using live or dead baits. Big Jews are very strong so drag settings need to be set fairly high to prevent a fish from reaching a snag point and cutting you off. They will generally have one big run followed by a smaller run.
- **Gaff:** A gaff can be useful for safely securing a large Jew fish and a partner to gaff the fish for you makes it so much easier to land a big fish.

Other Tips:

- **Persistent fishing:** Mulloway are opportunistic feeders, so persistent anglers who fish often are more likely to succeed.
- **Don't underestimate their power:** Mulloway are strong fighters, so give them plenty of line when they run.
- **Fish in pairs:** Consider fishing with at least one other person, especially when fighting and landing a big fish.
- **Expert friendly advice:** There are many more things to consider when targeting Jew Fish. For expert tips from the friendly gang members at Ned Kelly's, drop in and we'll do our best to help you catch that 'big one'.



Tight lines everyone

Cooking the Catch

with Shane Dayball, Head Chef at the Westport Club.

Char Grilled Marlin Loin

This month's special is a Marlin sourced from Forster, served with a Mediterranean sauce, rice and steamed vegetables. An Italian risotto would go equally well.

Marlin season is in full swing with plenty of fish being caught. It looks to be a bumper year for marlin catches with prices around \$30 per kg for premium loins.

Mediterranean sauce recipe:

Fry fennel, roasted red pepper strips, kalamata olives and cherry tomatoes in a fry pan with extra virgin olive oil, add in a store bought jar of pasta sauce or make your own napolitana, add in any additions that you may like - maybe some extra garlic, or chopped chili, a splash of white wine and some fresh basil straight from the herb garden.

To cook the fish, get your char grill, BBQ, or if you choose to panfry, up to a high temperature. Too cold and the fish will stick. We want to cook this quickly and allow resting time for those wonderful fats, juices & lemon to absorb into the fish like a sponge.

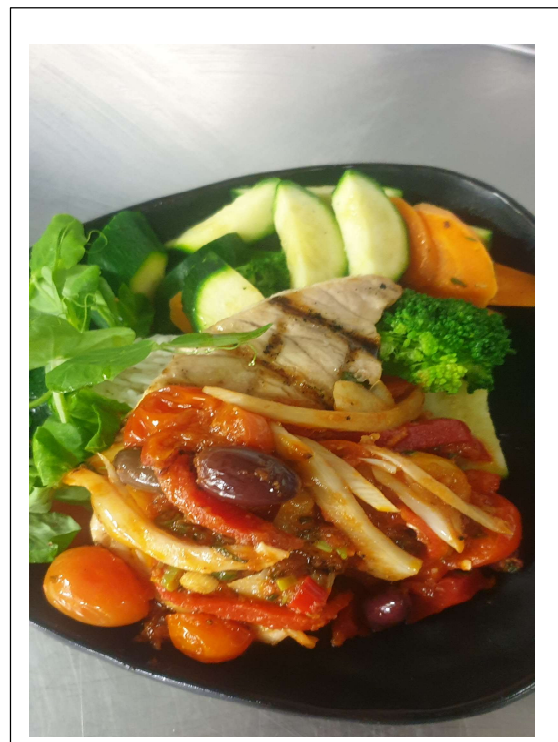
Purchase your marlin as fresh as possible and add a light drizzle of olive oil, salt & pepper, straight onto a very hot grill. Cooking time will vary depending on the thickness of your loin fillet. Once cooked, add a squeeze of lemon onto the fish whilst it is resting ready for plating.

Ideally we want to serve this medium or at worse still slightly pink inside and leave it to rest. This is one fish you would rather not cook all the way

through. Similar to tuna it will dry out if overcooked and you won't get to enjoy the wonderful fat marbling throughout the loin. Cooked medium and rested it will be still full of juices to enjoy. Thank me later.

We hope to see you at the Westport club soon.

Until next time – Enjoy!



Shane Dayball
Head Chef
THE WESTPORT CLUB
25 Buller Street, Port Macquarie

Statistics

Month	Vessels Logged On	POB	Radio Calls	Search & Rescue Assists	Vessel Assists	Value of Assisted Vessels	Volunteer Hours (24/7)
Dec 2024	460	1208	360	0	7	\$372,000	1203
Jan 2025	232	738	367	1	8	\$180,000	1372
Feb 2025	301	738	309	1	11	\$310,000	1372
Apr 2025	301	623	297	0	7	\$600,000	1372

App Log On/Log Off

The Marine Rescue NSW app can be downloaded free from the App Store for iOS devices and Google Play for Android devices. Search for 'Marine Rescue NSW'.

Please remember to Log Off.

Not a Radio Club member yet? Join the club at:

<https://www.marinerescueportmacquarie.com.au/pm-radio-club-member-new-membership-application/>

or drop into the radio base.

Charts

Fully laminated 30cm X 15cm charts which provide detail of the river and popular fishing spots off Port Macquarie including GPS coordinates are available from Town Beach Radio Room, between the hours of 0800 & 1600, at a cost of \$10.

This Month's Dad's Joke

Dad says – It takes a lot of balls to play golf like I do



Until our next issue:

HAPPY BOATING & STAY SAFE ON THE WATER

Ron Francis

Radio Club Officer

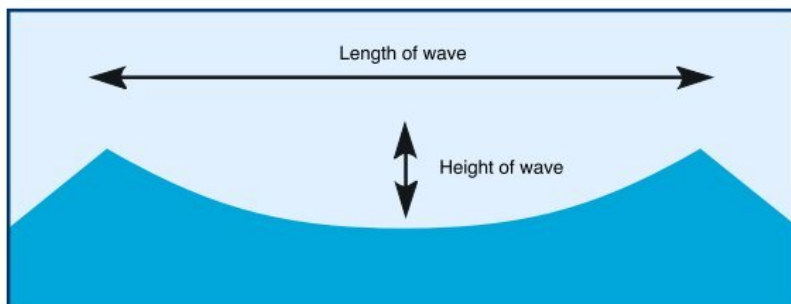
WIND & WAVES

Modern well-designed small craft are highly seaworthy. However wind and waves have a major bearing on performance and, in extreme conditions, can present a considerable threat. This pamphlet aims to assist the small craft operator to assess the effect of waves at sea.



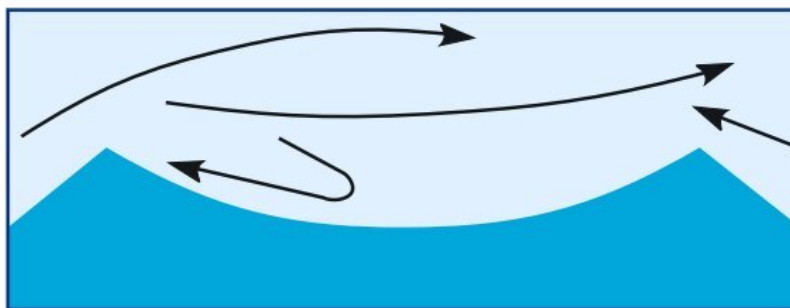
Seawaves

Waves created by direct local action of wind on the sea are termed **sea waves**.

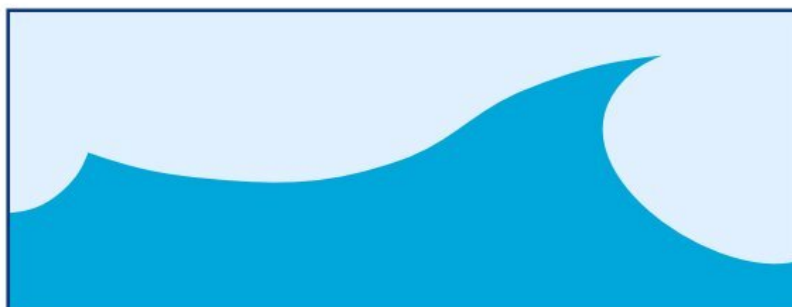


Waves are measured by length and height.

When wind reaches 2.5 km/hr, gravity takes over from surface tension as the dominant force on wave form. The crests become more pointed, the troughs rounded. The wind reinforces the wave shape by pressing down on the windward side and eddying over the crest to reduce pressure on the leeward side.



As wind increases further to around 13km/hr, the crests of the waves steepen until they become unstable and break, producing whitecaps.



Sea waves & swell

Sea waves caused by the local wind, are often superimposed on swell moving in from a distance. Interaction between the two can cause unpredictably high waves and dangers for mariners.

Swell is generally regular wave motion caused by large meteorological disturbances operating at a distance. Swell persists after the disturbance has disappeared and maintains a constant direction as long as it keeps in deep water. Swell can travel for a considerable distance. Since swell may have been instigated by a storm, the arrival of onshore swell can indicate that a storm is approaching.

*The following terminology is generally used to describe the **length and height of swell**.*

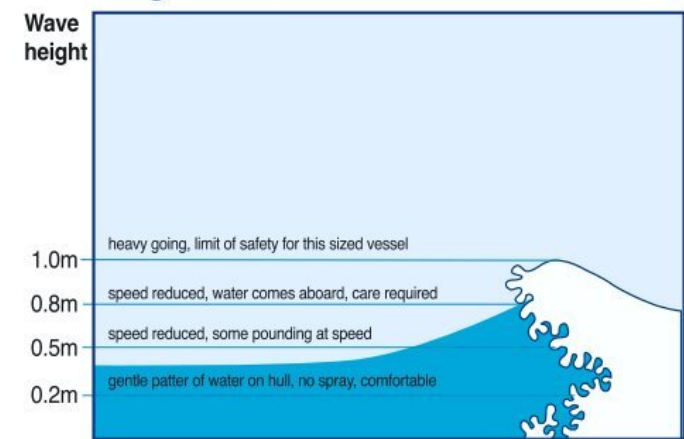
Length	Short	0 - 100 metres
	Average	100 - 200 metres
	Long	over 200 metres
Height	Low	0 - 2 metres
	Moderate	2 - 4 metres
	Heavy	over 4 metres

Wave size/boat size

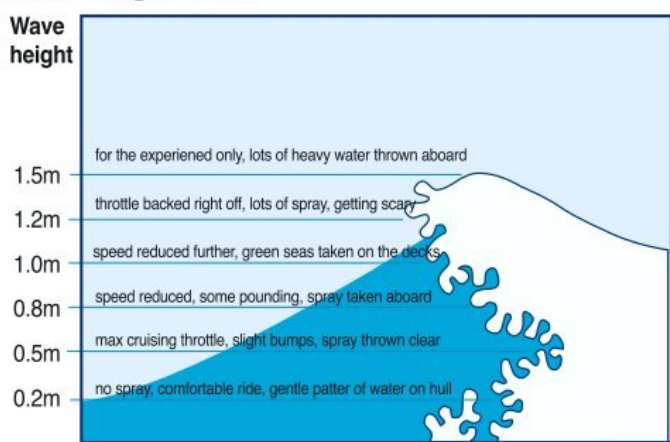
It is vital to know the performance capabilities and limitations of a boat before buying.

Take great care to select a boat which will be able to handle the types of conditions you expect to come across.

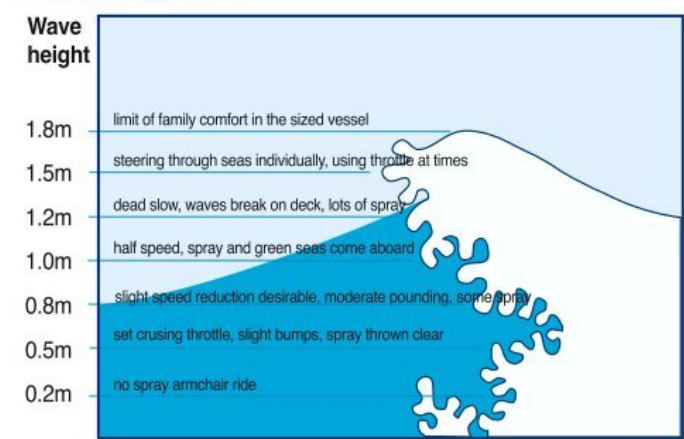
Boat Length 3.5m



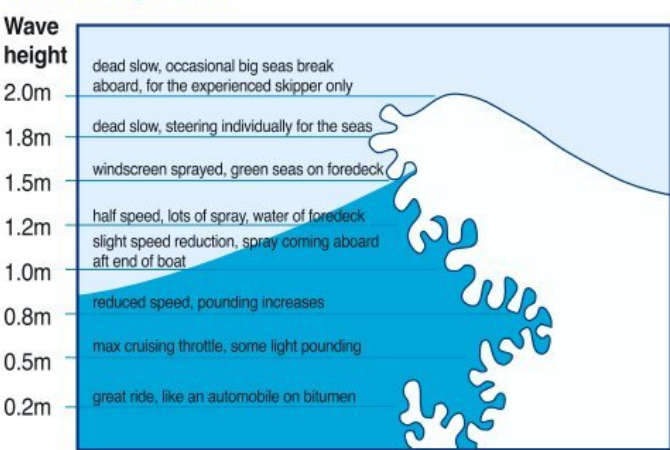
Boat Length 4.3m



Boat Length 5m



Boat Length 6m



A cautionary note

These diagrams are indicative only and do not reflect the performance of any particular design or model of craft. It should also be remembered that a combination of factors such as currents, tidal streams and geographical features can create dangerously unpredictable conditions. An example of this is when a fast running tide or current is flowing over a rock shelf or sand bar against a contrary wind.

The Beaufort Scale	Beaufort force	Mean winds (km/hr)	Knots	Explanatory titles	Open sea international code	Probable wave heights (metres)
<p>The Beaufort Scale is useful in providing a relationship between wind strength, sea state and wave height. The scale allocates numbers to various ranges of wind speed and descriptions of the sea.</p> <p>This table summarises the main features of the scale.</p> <p>The Beaufort Scale goes up to force 17 (118 knots) but force 12 is the greatest that can be identified by the appearance of the sea.</p>	0	0	0	Calm	mirror like	0.1
	1	1 - 5	1 - 3	light air	ripples	0.2 - 0.3
	2	6 - 11	4 - 6	Light Breeze	Small wavelets	0.6 - 1.0
	3	12 - 19	7 - 10	Gentle Breeze	Large wavelets	1.0 - 1.5
	4	20 - 28	11 - 16	Moderate Breeze	Small waves	1.0 - 1.5
	5	29 - 38	17 - 21	Fresh Breeze	Moderate waves, many white horses	2.0 - 2.5
	6	39 - 49	22 - 27	Strong Breeze	Large waves - rough	3.0 - 4.0
	7	50 - 61	28 - 33	Near Gale	Very rough - Sea heaps up	4.0 - 5.5
	8	62 - 74	34 - 40	Gale	Moderately high waves	5.5 - 7.5
	9	75 - 88	41 - 47	Strong Gale	High waves - crests begin to topple	7.0 - 10
	10	89 - 103	48 - 55	Storm	Very high waves, overhanging crests	9.0 - 12.5
	11	104 - 117	56 - 63	Violent Storm	Exceptionally high waves, foam covered	11.5 - 16.0
	12	118 - 133	64+	Cyclone, Hurricane	Air filled with foam driving spray	14.0