



NEWSLETTER

No 1: December 2016

FISHTORY

Share your 'fishtory' with us and leave your legacy...

Welcome to Fishtory!

Welcome to the first Fishtory Newsletter. We've been gaining momentum since our launch in April this year, and after a few technical glitches, we're now getting some great images trickling in from users on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#). We'd like to thank those of you who have contributed to the Fishtory project thus far, we've received some really wonderful images, some of which are still in the process of being digitised and loaded onto our website. Some favourites can be seen below. We hope that most of you will be winding down a busy year and heading off to the coast for the holidays, whilst there, please lookout for historical fishing photos, newspaper clippings or journals at your beach accommodations to share with us. See the 'How to' section below to see how you can share these data in a meaningful way.

What is the FishforLife project?

Fishtory is an innovative research project that uses historical records to track the long-term state of marine fish stocks and to set baselines for current stock assessments. Unlike the commercial fisheries sector, it is difficult to monitor and collect data for the recreational sector, with very little information available pre-1980s. Fishtory relies on data submitted by citizen scientists, members of the general public, who can assist us with valuable data across time and across the country. Fishermen possess a forgotten treasure in the form of old catch photos, angling journals and newspaper clippings. These records provide valuable insights into what stocks looked like over the past 100 years, whether fish species have changed their distribution along our shores, whether the diversity of species is changing in a given area and whether the sizes of fish have changed in that time. When collated in a scientifically robust way, these photographs will provide a fascinating visual record of angling and coastal fish in South Africa.

To participate, please register on the Fishtory [webpage](#) and follow the instructions to upload your scans or digital copies of your photos. If you have large collections of photographs or are unable to upload your photos yourself please contact us and we will facilitate the upload process for you. You can also join the Fishtory online community on Facebook at [Fishtory](#) and Twitter [@FishtorySA](#).

Fishtory visits Port Alfred! On 27th October we hosted a presentation at the Port Alfred Ski Boat Club which introduced us to some of the Sunshine Coast's fishing legends who produced some prize catch fishtories for us (see below). If you would be interested in coming to one of our presentations, please **email** us.



Pic: Daily Dispatch

Oct 1986. Daniel Seiderer with a 13.5 kg white steenbras from Hickman's River, East London.



Pic: Di Sonemann

Dec 1942. Keith Heatley, and his twin daughters, with a +/-12 kg white musselcracker at Riet River.



Pic: Alexandria Angling Club

Aug 1981. Barry Luckman with a 23.6 kg Leervis taken at Brazen Head.



Pic: Darian Keeton

1954. Darian Keeton's uncle with a 27.2 kg black musselcracker at Port Alfred.

How to share your Fishtory:


The simplest way to share your images is to take a photo (with your smartphone) of the photo and upload it via our website. However, if your internet is too slow, or you have lots of photos to share, please contact us and we will make a plan to capture these from you. Whether you email us your image or upload it via the website, we need:

Three important pieces of information that we need in order for the image to be useful:

1. Your **permission** to use the photograph
2. **Where** the fish was caught, ideally within 10 km, however even just the province will do
3. **When** the fish was caught, if you are not sure of the exact date, the decade will suffice

This is an example of what the website looks like when you are uploading your image, take note of the three important pieces of information outlined in red:

Upload your image



J. B. Whitehouse, of Johannesburg, with a 45-lb. musselcracker caught recently at Umzumbi.

Locate and upload your image Required

IMAGE DSCF4985.JPG

What is this image? Required

Newspaper

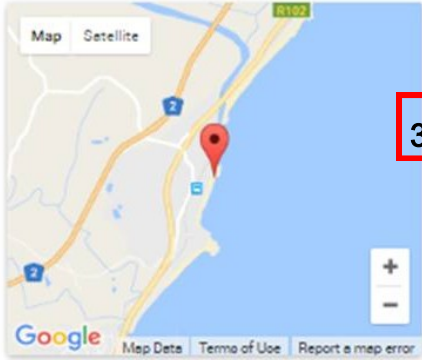
What activity was being engaged in? Required

Shore - rock & surf

1 I own all rights to this photo, or have permission from the owner to use it.

Make this submission public (private submissions are only visible to you on your dashboard).

Where was this image taken?



Locational accuracy Required

Within 100km

2 Province Required

KwaZulu-Natal

Longitude Optional

30.5466

Latitude Optional

-30.62

Nearest town Optional

Umzumbi

Nearest fishing landmark Optional

Enter landmark location

When was this image taken?

Please select the option that you are most comfortable with providing. If in doubt, please err on the side of caution.

3 I know the exact date

I can only estimate the date

Estimated date

1949 or Decade


I don't know when it was taken

We really appreciate the effort of those who have taken the time to share your Fishtory with us!

If you would like to become a Fishtory Ambassador, please contact us via the details below.

We wish you all a wonderful festive season with tight lines!

Best fishes,
The Fishtory Team



FISHTORY