

Feature

NO BOAT? NO WORRIES!

Yorke Peninsula is blessed with endless shallow flats areas, and here's a few tips to tackle them this warmer season

WORDS & IMAGES BY: GLENYS GELZINIS



Yellowfin and mullet
are top flats targets on
the Peninsula

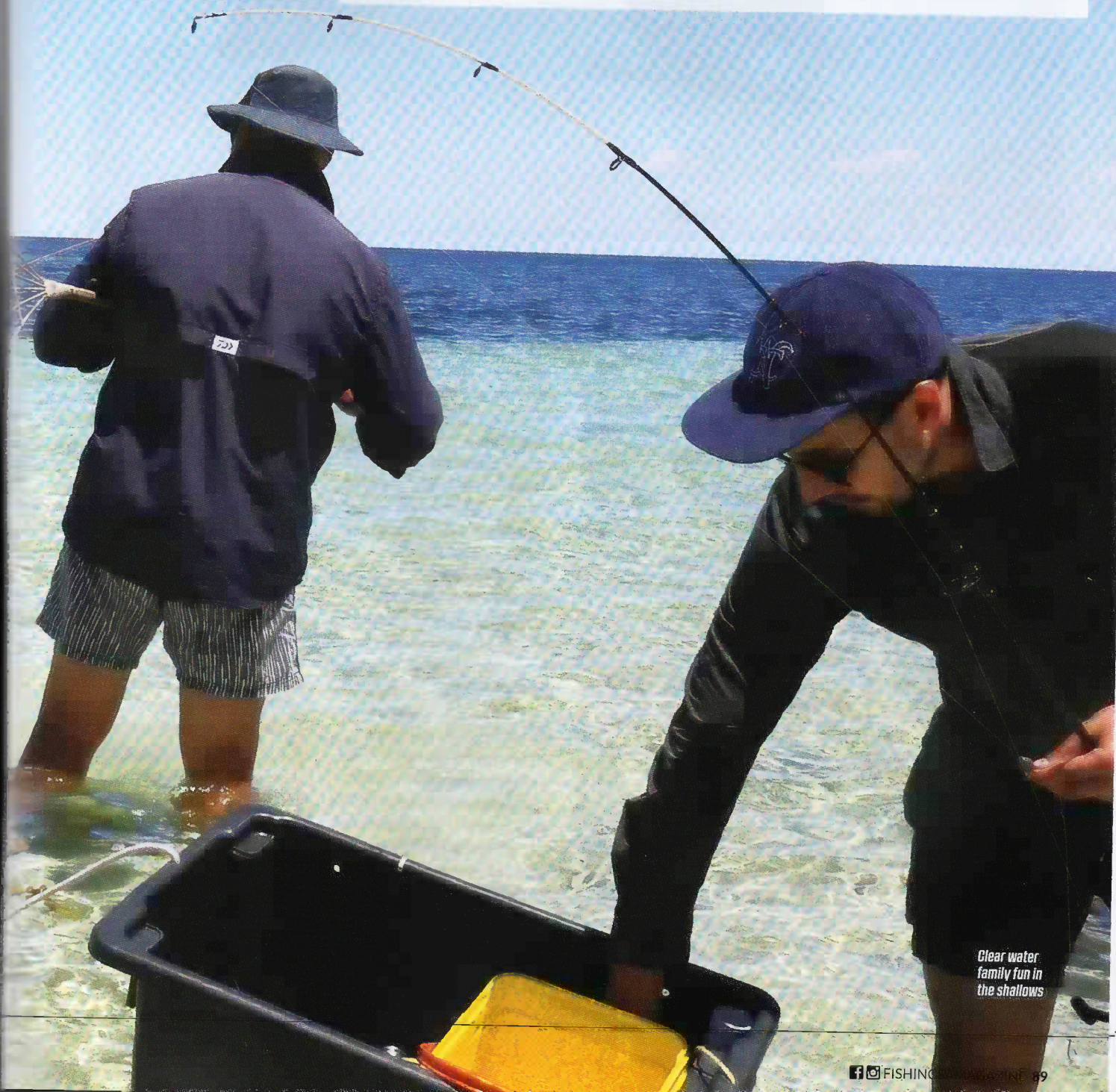


Yorke Peninsula is a popular holiday playground over the summer months, and a favourite spot for boaties. If you don't have a boat though, you can still find plenty of ways to get in on the fishing action. There are more than a dozen jetties to try on the Peninsula, but if you're looking for an even less crowded option you can give wading a go at a lot of the beaches. There's literally countless flats and beach areas for this fishing, and with a bit of preparation beforehand you can set yourself up with all you need to catch a variety of seafood, and have some fun as you wade and fish on the incoming tide.

MAKING LIFE EASY

Before our annual holiday to Yorke, a bit of prep went into creating a fishing tub that would make wading easier and enable all the gear to be carried, and be at hand when it was needed. For a wading tub we use a reasonably heavy-duty plastic tub with a hole drilled at one end to attach a length of rope to, and PVC pipes for axels which have polystyrene floats attached, which act as wheels. This lets the tub roll easily on the sand, but keeps it light enough to float once you reach the water. A few tweaks are already in mind, with version two of the wading tub to have bigger float wheels this season, to make rolling on the sand easier.

Inside the tub are a couple of cut down PVC pipes attached with stainless steel screws and nuts, which act as rod holders. All fittings are



Clear water family fun in the shallows

A mobile, floating tackle/catch station like this can make life easy



Pumping baits on the low tide for the session ahead



stainless steel or plastic to stand up to the saltwater. The tub is large enough to hold a couple of 600ml diameter crab nets, a bait bucket, as well as the necessary crab and fish measures. Plus a small tackle box and other assorted fishing paraphernalia. Occy straps are a great way to keep everything in place.

Out in the water the tub can be towed behind with the rope tied around you. Or we also anchor it in the sand with the rope tied off to a rod holder, which is a handy way for others to use the tub if there are a few people wading.

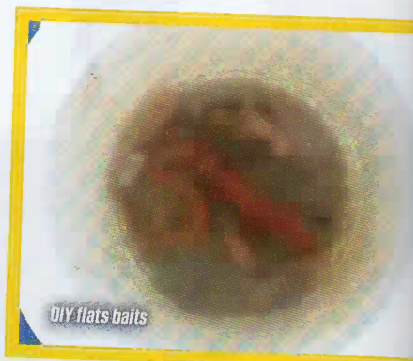
BAIT & TACTICS

When wading the Yorke's flats we carry a few different baits to increase our chances. During the day when the tide goes out you can try bait pumping for the local beach worms by looking for the tell-tale coils in the sand. But they can be elusive to catch unless you know the right way to get them. Try using the bait pump at different angles in

the sand and not directly on top of the sand piles, to have more success. As well as worms you can find clickers which the yellowfin whiting also like to eat. Covering all bases, we also throw in cockles, squid and bungum worms, while seaweed worms are equally as good at times.

While the tide is out we wade to the blue (seaweed) line and from here toss baited crab nets in with floats attached, and leave to go back and retrieve after a while. While you're waiting for crabs to wander into the nets, you can cast a squid jag into sand patches amongst

DIY flats baits





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*"Wading is a comfortable way to go fishing
in the hotter weather when on Yorkes,
keeping cool as you move along trying
different gutters and edges"*

the weed or cast for fish in the clear water. As the tide comes in the water gradually covers the sand, leaving some deep pools in between the sand bars. In the crystal-clear water you can spot and catch KG whiting, tommyes, yellowfin whiting and mullet. The flats of the Peninsula are so lively!

EXTRA GEAR

It's handy to have a crab rake nearby too for the blue swimmers that come over for a closer look. You might want to wear wetsuit material boots to save your feet from any rocks or inquisitive crabs.

Wading is a comfortable way to go fishing in the hotter weather when on Yorkes, keeping cool as you move along trying different gutters and edges. We've had success standing in as little as

ankle deep water on a sandbar and casting into the channels.

An alternative to taking a tub when you're wading is to use a wading bag, which you can sling over your shoulder and across the body. These lightweight bags have external pockets and a mesh bottom to let water flow through, and are really useful for carrying bait and measuring gear. They also have a deep inner pocket for holding the fish you catch. They are very handy way to carry everything you need while leaving your hands free for fishing, and you remain highly mobile which is great for covering ground in these vast areas.

With the shallows warming up give wading a go for a relatively cheap and easy way to get amongst the great fishing possible on Yorke Peninsula. **FSA**



*Yellowfin and blue swimmers
are just part of what you can
expect on the flats here*