



NEWSLETTER

No 2: February 2017

FISHTORY

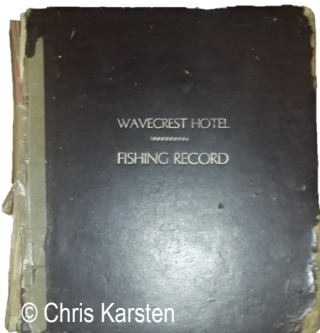
Happy 2017! We hope that everyone had a wonderful festive season (although I'm sure it already feels like a distant memory) and that you had the chance to cast a few lines and scrummage around for some old fishing photos for us! We have had some fantastic entries recently and we're finally getting around to uploading the folders of photos that we have collected thus far, go check them out at fishtory.co.za/archive (and remember to sort by 'Most Recent').

This month we're happy to highlight a Fishtory Ambassador: Wavecrest Beach Hotel and Spa. Chris Kastern, one of our partners at WWF, had the opportunity to visit Wavecrest and chat to Sean Pike (Assistant General Manager at Wavecrest) about the FishforLife program; and Sean tells us how Wavecrest has become a leading responsible recreational fishing destination on the Wild Coast. Sean also uncovered what can only be referred to as the 'Fishtory motherload' when he shared Wavecrest's precious 'Fishing Records' register that dates all the way back to 1957. This information is so valuable to our project, and we only hope that more people will share this sort of Fishtory with us! Also, if this type of record-keeping interests you, check out our other project CacthReport where you can keep an online fishing logbook.



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Sean Pike, Wavecrest Beach Hotel & Spa's Assistant General Manager, chats to FishforLife about responsible fishing



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DATE	CAUGHT BY	TYPE OF FISH	WEIGHT	BAIT	HOOK NO	WHERE CAUGHT
1957						
May 30	H.F. Wright	Blue Fish	1 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/2 lbs	Prawns	10	Silver Bay Beach
"	Ed. Kraunster	Blue Fish	4 1/2, 4 1/2, 5 1/2 lbs	Prawns	20	Silver Bay Beach
"	S. Badger	Blue Fish	4 1/2, 4 1/2, 5 1/2 lbs	Prawns	10	Silver Bay Beach
"	S. Badger	Black Fish	1 1/2, 1 1/2, 1 1/2 lbs	Prawns	10	Silver Bay Beach
May 31	H.F. Wright	Blue Fish	3 1/2, 5 1/2, 3 1/2 lbs	Swimming Crabs	10	Silver Bay Beach
"	H.F. Wright	Black Fish	1 1/2, 2 1/2, 3 1/2 lbs	"	10	Silver Bay Beach
"	H.F. Wright	Black Fish	3, 1 1/2	"	10	Silver Bay Beach
"	Ed. Kraunster	Blue Fish	2, 5 1/2, 5 1/2 lbs	"	20	"

This Wavecrest fishing register has hundreds of records, the earliest of which date back to 1957, from proud fishermen who have taken the time to diligently record their catches, and still record their catches in it today! The important details include: Date, Name of Fisherman, Fish Species, Weight, Hook Size, Bait, Location, Time, Weather and Water Temperature

Fishermen and scientists have had a rocky past, but we are seeing more initiatives trying to bridge this gap by promoting their common goal of the long-term sustainability of fishing activities. Wavecrest has become renowned for this through their 'Sustainable Fishing Policy' which encourages catch and release; as well as keeping only what you will eat that day, as opposed to stocking up your deep freeze and cooler boxes to take home. Sean reckons that by having encouraged these practices over the past 20 years, they have noticed an improvement in the quality and abundance of fish catches in their area, and it seems like others are noticing too, as Wavecrest is a popular destination amongst those in the know.

We'd be interested to hear about other responsible fishing destinations in South Africa, especially if they have kept historical fishing records like Wavecrest has. Please do get in touch with us and we will organise to have these pieces of valuable historical data catalogued!

<http://fishtory.co.za>



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