

**South-Africa  
Light Tackle Boat Angling Assosiation**



**Presents  
Mosselbay**

**International Tournament**

***9 February – 17 February 2019***





## Message from the President of SALTBA



**Ronnie Groenewald**

Dear Participants and Guests,

It is with Great Pride that SALTBA cordially invite you to the FIPS-M Light Tackle Boat Angling International in South Africa, Mosselbay. This facet of angling has been part of FIPS-M for many years but the only countries who have participated were the old zone 6 countries. We want to place this facet officially on the FIPS-M calendar every year, this will be the first year that we officially invite all the FIPS-M members to come and participate.

The competition will take place the same time as the FIPS-M world angling games 2019 in South Africa and we will be part of the opening ceremony as guests. The opening ceremony will take place in Johannesburg, the next day you will fly down to George, a town approximately 45Km from Mosselbay.

The South African Light Tackle Boat Angling Association wants to make this a memorable occasion for all the participants. We will ensure that the cost for the tournament be affordable to all by sponsoring some of the costs.

The typical species that could be targeted is cob, ray's, sharks and an abundance of other smaller fish species, the ray's and sharks can vary from 1kg to 100kg and bigger, imagine all this on only 4kg line.

The weather in Mosselbay during the month of February is hot and humid and we could have light showers in the afternoon. The town of Mosselbay is a typical coastal village with lots of South African history, good restaurants and many tourist attractions.

I am sure that you will enjoy your stay in South Africa and especially in Mosselbay, all our members are looking forward to Host you in our beautiful country.

Ronnie Groenewald  
SALTBA  
President

## **Local Organising Committee**

### **Chairman**



Ronnie Groenewald

### **Treasurer**



Gert Hattingh

### **Secretary**



Len Jacobs

### **Marketing and Communication**



Wendy Strydom

### **Weighmaster**



Susan Jacobs

### **Accommodation and Transport**



Freddie van Rensburg

### **Catering and Functions**



Gerrie Barnard

### **Safety and Security**



Johan Scheepers

### **Officials/Marshals**



Linda Scheepers

# Program and Timetable of Events

## **Saturday 9 February 2019-Official Opening Sandton Convention Centre- Dress Code National Colours**

09H00	Team Gathering Point Mandela Square Sandton
10H30	March From Mandela Square with national Flags to Sandton Convention Centre
11H15	Welcome address
12H45	Lunch- Anglers and Guests must wear lanyard and Waistband to enter lunch area
14H00	Closing

## **Sunday 10 February 2019- Depart for Mosselbay**

Departure to Airport 2 hour flight to George

## **Monday 11 February 2019- Registration and Boat Draw**

12H00-15H00	Team Registration- Team Photographs will be taken- Diaz Hotel
15H00	Captains meeting and Boat draw - All team Captains

## **Tuesday 12 February 2019- Practice day 1**

05H00-06H00	Breakfast- Diaz Hotel
05H30-07H00	Anglers board Boats and depart from Harbour- Mosselbay Yacht Club
15H00	Boats Back in Harbour
19H30	Dinner- Diaz Hotel Angling wear/Casual

## **Wednesday 13 February 2019- Practice day 2**

05H00-06H00	Breakfast
05H30-07H00	Anglers board Boats and depart from Harbour- Mosselbay Yacht Club
15H00	Boats Back in Harbour
19H30	Dinner- Diaz Hotel Angling wear/Casual

## **Thursday 14 February 2019-Competition Day 1**

05H00-06H00	Breakfast
05H30-07H00	Anglers board Boats and depart from Harbour- Mosselbay Yacht Club
15H00	Lines up
16H00	Boats Back in Harbour
18H30	Gathering and Results of day 1- Diaz Hotel
19H30	Dinner - Diaz Hotel Angling wear/Casual

## **Friday 15 February 2019- Competition Day 2**

05H00-06H00	Breakfast
05H30-07H00	Anglers board Boats and depart from Harbour- Mosselbay Yacht Club
15H00	Lines up
16H00	Boats Back in Harbour
18H30	Gathering and Results of day 2- Diaz Hotel
19H30	Dinner - Diaz Hotel Angling wear/Casual

## **Saturday 16 February 2019- Competition Day 3**

05H00-06H00	Breakfast
05H30-07H00	Anglers board Boats and depart from Harbour- Mosselbay Yacht Club
15H00	Lines up
16H00	Boats Back in Harbour
19H30	Dinner - Diaz Hotel Angling wear/Casual

## **Sunday 17 February 2019- Competition Day 4**

05H00-06H00	Breakfast
05H30-07H00	Anglers board Boats and depart from Harbour- Mosselbay Yacht Club
14H00	Lines up
15H00	Boats Back in Harbour
19H00 for 19H30	Awards Ceremony and dinner- Formal dress/National formal wear

## **Monday 18 February 2019-Breakfast &Departure**

*The times and programme are subject to alteration at the discretion of the Organizing Committee.*

# Hotels

**Diaz Hotel has ample accommodation and will be used as the event Head Quarters.**

The Diaz Hotel & Resort welcomes you to the pristine seashore of Mossel Bay's renowned Diaz Beach, offering you a thrilling and entertaining holiday experience right in the heart of the picturesque and famous Garden Route. The Diaz Hotel is located only 10m from the high-water mark and offers spectacular ocean views from every window and balcony. The Diaz Hotel was named in honour of the famed Portuguese navigator, Bartolomeu Dias, who landed in Mossel Bay in 1488. Themed on the long and vivid history of the area, the Diaz Hotel offers guests a comfortable stay with FREE Wi-Fi and considerate service throughout your stay.



The Diaz Hotel & Resorts offers 86 superior sea-facing rooms, each with a private balcony from where you can enjoy our breathtaking views. We currently have 1 wheelchair-friendly room available. Rooms are key card operated, non-smoking and are cleaned daily. Please note that not all rooms are equipped with air-conditioning. Wake-up calls can be arranged with reception. Each room has its own private sea-facing balcony with deck chairs

[www.diazbeach.co.za](http://www.diazbeach.co.za)



The Diaz Hotel and Resort offers a wealth of culinary choices for the epicurean guest. From scrumptious dinners and cocktails to informal café-style lunches and cooldrinks, you'll find a menu to suit every member of the family at the The Diaz Hotel. With both hotel and beach-side access, The Art Café is a family-friendly restaurant offering a fabulous selection from an Ala Carte menu. Treat your culinary senses while enjoying the superb views of the outdoor pool, the palm trees, and the beach. Enjoy the spectacular views of magnificent panoramas of both the Indian Ocean and the Outeniqua Mountains while you indulge in a tasteful meal from our breakfast buffet in the intimate setting of the Bahia dos Vaqueiros Restaurant. Boasting with spectacular 360-degree panoramic views, Pirates Tower Cocktail Bar is a popular social spot situated right on the beach.



# General Information

- **Organisation**

The Organiser of the Championships SALTBAAs PO Box 1468, Standerton, 2430

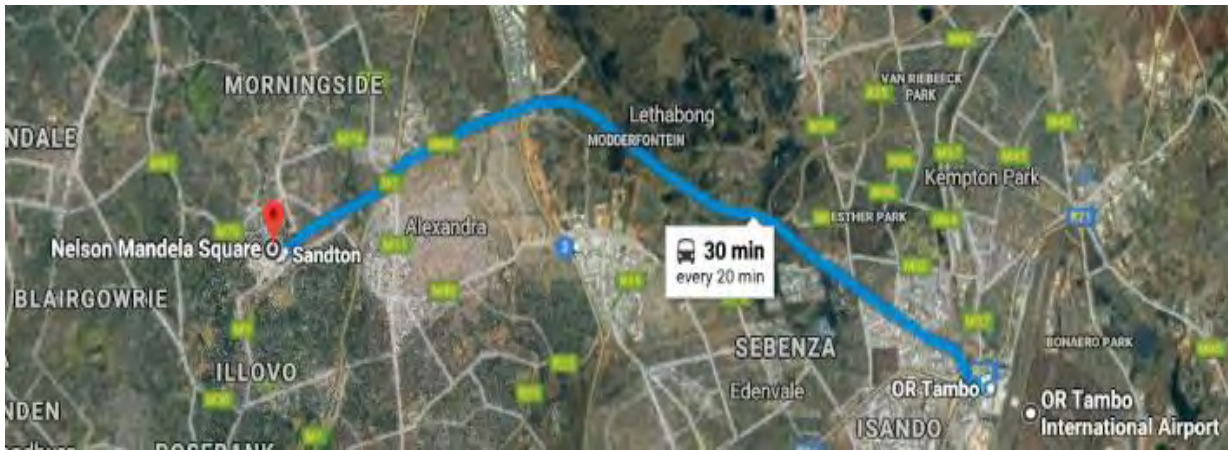
Contact Person: Ronnie Groenewald President SALTBAAs: +2783 785 6301

Email: [secretary@saltbaa.co.za](mailto:secretary@saltbaa.co.za) or [safety@saltbaa.co.za](mailto:safety@saltbaa.co.za)

Website: <http://www.fishingworldgames2019.co.za/>

- **Opening Function**

The Opening function will be held at Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa on 9 February 2019. Your arrival date will be your own arrangement. Flights will land at OR Tambo International airport. It is a 60 minute drive by car to Sandton, Johannesburg. By Gautrain travel time is 30 minutes and tickets can be purchased at the station on the Airport. There is a Train every 30 Minutes. From the Sandton station there is a 7 Minute walk to Mandela Square Assembly will take place at 09H00, Mandela Square Sandton on the 9th of February 2019 and the facets will march to the Convention centre.



- **Arrival in Mosselbay**

**Participants should arrive in Mosselbay preferably on 10 February 2019.**

From OR Tambo International airport, Johannesburg there is a 1H55 minute domestic flight to George and then a 30 minute drive by shuttle to Mosselbay.

Cars can be hired at the airport from europcar, please make sure that you inform them that you are part of the world games to ensure that you receive the reduced rates.

<https://www.europcar.com/location/south-africa/george>

Phone: +27 (44) 8769017



***Travelling by Car to Mosselbay will be a 14hour drive and not recommended.***

- **Insurance**

The Organiser undertakes to insure ALL the participants in the Championship against accidents and death, with the relevant state insurance agency, at its own expense.

- **TRANSFERS**

The Participant will be responsible for their own transport to and from the Launch site daily. 14 to 17 February 2019.

- **MEDICAL CERTIFICATES**

When the National Federation signs and stamps the registration of a team its representative assumes that all its athletes who entered in the competition have their sports medical certificates valid.

- **ANTI-DOPING CONTROL**

The Organiser would like to remind all the participants/competitors that the participation in the Championship implicitly includes the acceptance of ALL the sports anti-doping rules of WADA.

- **NATIONAL FLAG AND ANTHEM**

National organisations are responsible for supplying the organizer with at least one (preferably two) flag of their country, of the prescribed size, as well as a CD with their national anthem.

- **MEDALS AND OTHER RECOGNITIONS**

The winners will be given medals – gold silver and bronze – by SALTBA as well as commemorative Gifts.

- **CURRENCY**

The Currency in use is ZAR ( South African Rands)

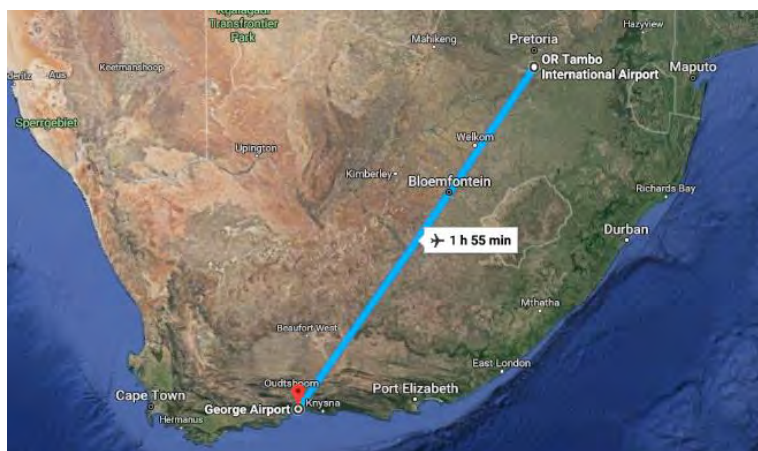
## • FISHING SHOPS

- TACKLE SHACK anthony.tackleshack@gmail.com 00 27 44 690 6801
- GO FISH gofishmbay@gmail.com 00 27 44 690 35 77
- FISHING EXTREME fishingextreme@gmail.com opening soon

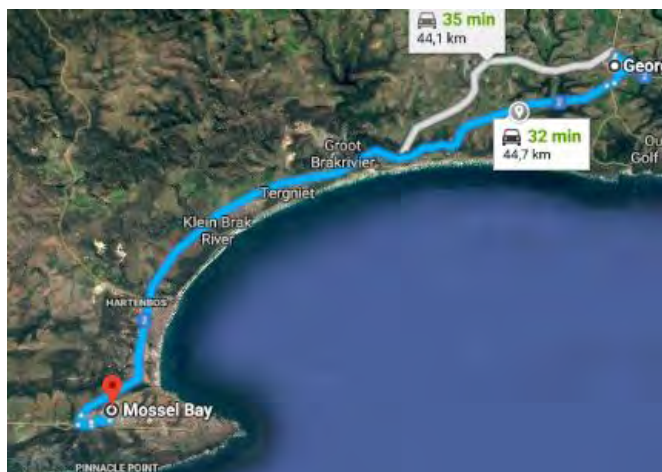


## Travel Maps

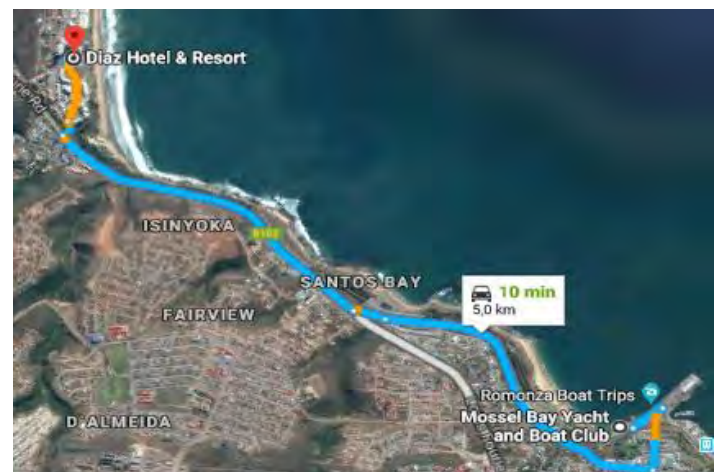
Flight from OR Tambo to George Airport



Travel from George to Mosselbay



Daily Route to Mosselbay Harbour



## Eoropcar George Airport



## Participation:

The participation fee covers

	Participant	Team Manager	Guests
Diaz Hotel & Resort accommodation	X	x	x
Closing Ceremony/Gala dinner	X	x	x
Breakfast	X	x	x
Boat Pack	X		
Dinner	X	x	x
Boats for Official Training and Competition	X		
Baits for Official Training and Competition	X		

*Beginning from Dinner 10 February 2019 to Breakfast 18 February 2019*

## Competition Entry

The following website will be used for Entries. You will be required to upload a picture of yourself to complete the entry.

<http://www.fishingworldgames2019.co.za/>

Entries close on 31 October 2018.

Cost per person:

- competitor/concurrent/concorrente	=	950.00€	Team(x4)	=	3800.00€
- reserve/reserve/reserva	=	750.00€	x	=	
- team manager/directeur/diretor	=	750.00€	x	=	
- accompanying/accompagnateur/acompanhante	=	750.00€	x	=	
<b>TOTAL</b>					=

Enquiries can be sent to [secretary@saltbaa.co.za](mailto:secretary@saltbaa.co.za) or [safety@saltbaa.co.za](mailto:safety@saltbaa.co.za)

## Points System, Gear, Technique

All fish must be measured and released. Points will be allocated for each days catch calculated on a Grand Prix system. Line is restricted to 4kg line which will be provided to each Participant prior the start of the competition.



# Fish & Baits

Bait will be supplied by the Organising Committee to each Participant.

## MEASURING OF FISH

### 1) Precaudal Length (PCL)

It is the length to be used for most sharks

### 2) Fork Length (FL)

It is to be measured for swallow tail bony fishes

### 3) Total Length (TL)

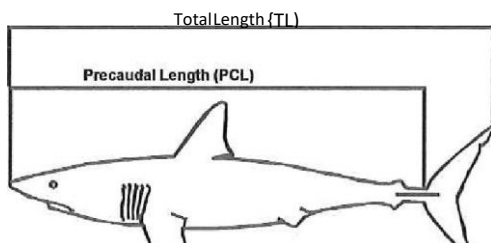
It is to be measured for bony fish with truncated tail.

### 4) Disk Width

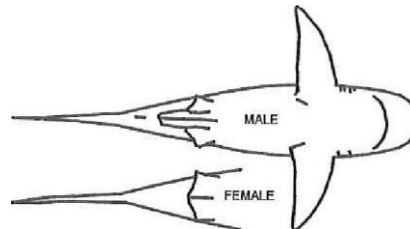
It is to be measured for skates and rays across the wingspan

### 5) Please note that Total length (TL) is used for the measurements of Lesser Sand shark and Giant Sand shark

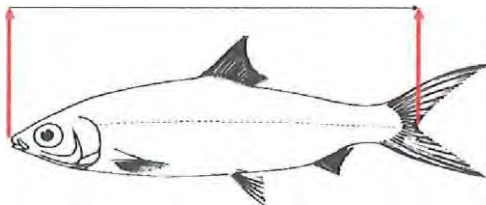
## MEASURING SHARKS



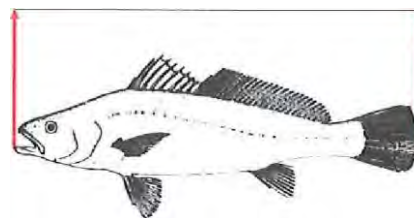
Determine the sex of the shark



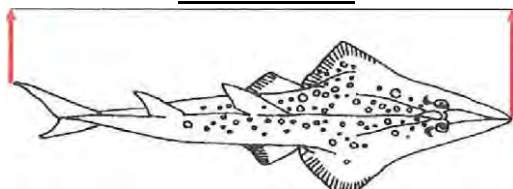
Fork Length (FL)



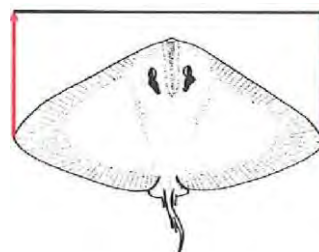
Total Length (TL)



Lesser Sand shark and Giant Sand shark



Disk Width (DW)



# MOST COMMON FISHES

CAT SHARK LEOPARD  
TL MIN MM 560



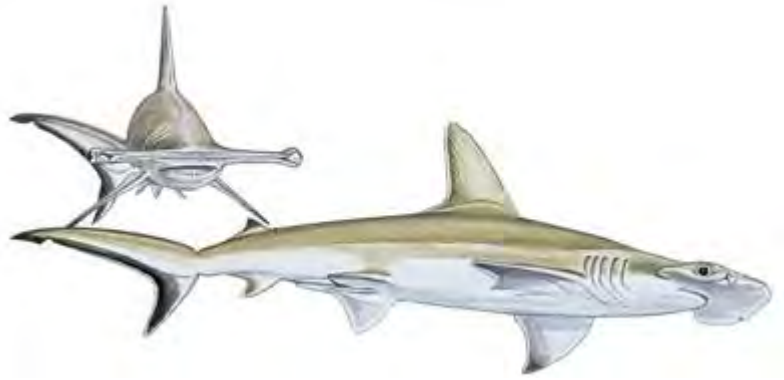
DUSKY SHARK  
PCL MIN MM 420



CAT SARK STRIPED  
TL MIN MM 560



**SMOOTH HAMMERHEAD**  
**PCL MIN MM 440**



**COPPER BRONZE SHARK**  
**PCL MIN MM 450**



**LESSER GUITARFISH**  
**TL MIN MM 660**



**COW SHARK SEVEN GILL**  
**PCL MIN MM 470**



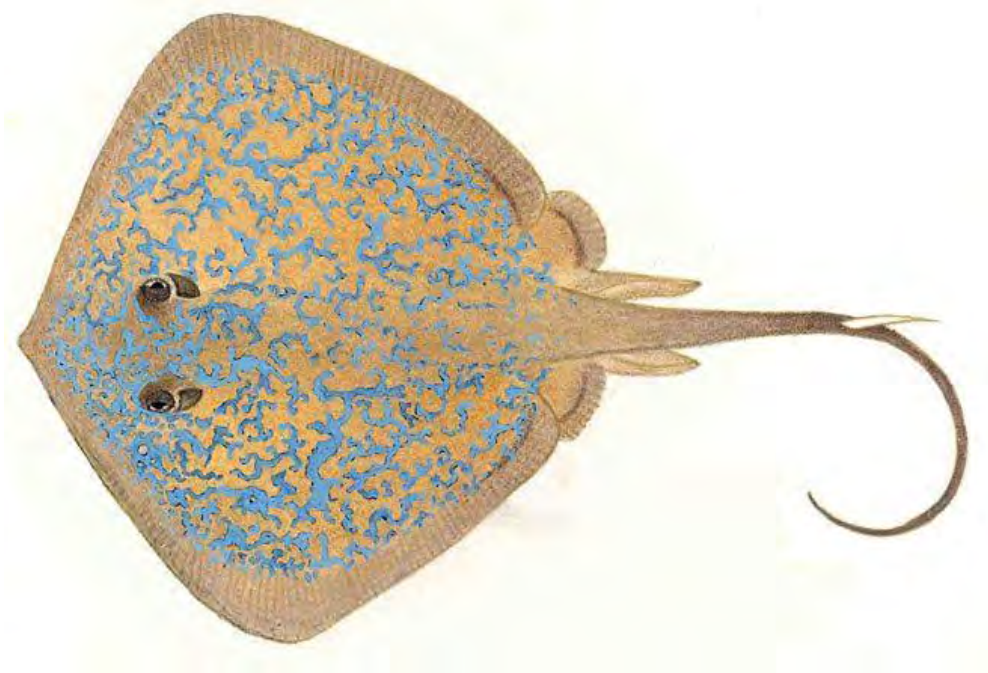
**SMOOTH HOUND SHARK**  
**TL MIN MM 690**



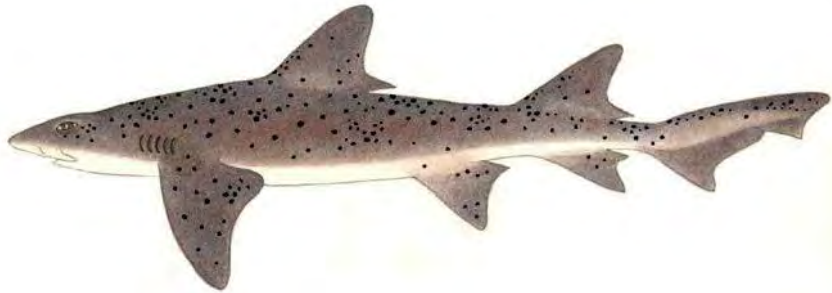
**SOUP FIN SHARK**  
**PCL MIN MM 360**



**BLUE STINGRAY**  
**DW MIN MM 330**



**SPOTTED GULLY**  
**TL MIN MM 660**



**BLACKWATER BUTTERFLY**  
**DW MIN MM 307**



**SPOTTED RAGGED TOOTH SHARK**  
**PCL MIN MM 410**



**EAGLE RAY**  
**DW MIN MM 390**



**PUFADDER SHY SHARK**  
**TL MIN MM 520**



**COB/KABELJOU/SALMON DAGGA**  
**TL MIN MM 460**



**BULL RAY**  
**DW MIN MM**



**MARBLED ELECTRIC RAY**  
**DW MIN MM 330**



**SPEARNOSE SKATE**  
**DW MIN MM 510**



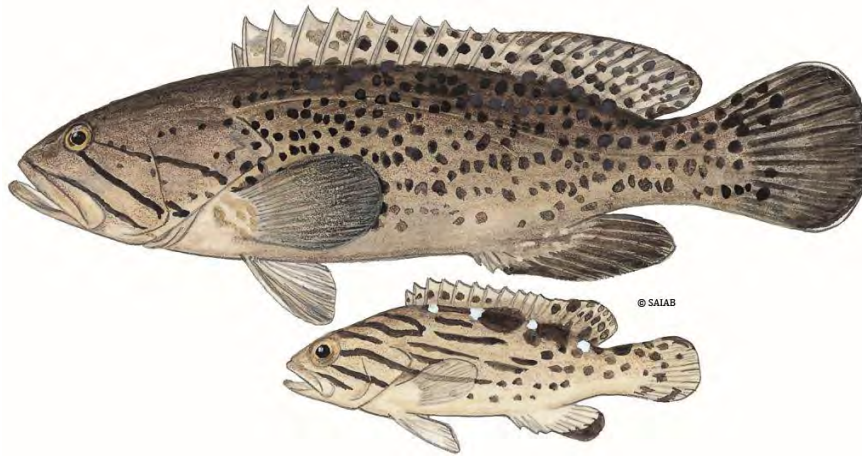
**THORNTALE SKATE**  
**DW MIN MM 370**



**SPOTTED GRUNTER**  
**TL MIN MM 430**



**CATFACE ROCKCOD**  
**TL MIN MM 430**



**Specie Exclusions:**

No Toby, Octopus, Crustaceans, Shell fish, Sea Babel, Eels, Dory's or any fresh water fish shall be legible for weighing.

## **Scoring System**

The Scoring system is based on a Grand Prix System.

Every day the fish recorded on the weigh in sheet, is entered into a program which converts the length to weight.

The conversion tables used is obtained from the Department of Fisheries and updated continuously, but not during the competition.

The angler with the most weight for the day is awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place and allocated the maximum amount of points equal to the amount of anglers.

After the last competition day the angler with the most points is the winner.

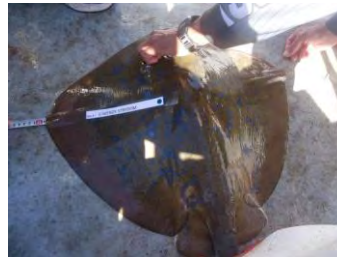
# Weigh In Sheet

«AutoMergeField1»					«AutoMergeField2»					«AutoMergeField3»					«AutoMergeField4»				
DAY 4																			
NR	SMITH NO	EDIBLE	MIN MM		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
1	166.3	CATFACE ROCKCOD	430	TL															
2	210.3	GARRICK	420	FL															
3	199.1	SALMON DAGGA/KABELJOU	460	TL															
4	179.1	SPOTTED GRUNTER	450	FL															
5	178.1	Elf (Shad)	430	FL															
		NON - EDIBLE SHARK																	
1	11.5	CAT SHARK (LEOPARD)	560	TL															
2	11.13	CAT SHARK (STRIPED)	560	TL															
3	9.5	COPPER BRONZE FEMALE	450	PCL															
4	9.5	COPPER BRONZE MALE	450	PCL															
5	2.4	COW SHARK SEVENGILL	470	PCL															
6	9.14	DUSKY SHARK	420	PCL															
7	9.27	SMOOTH HOUND FEMALE	690	TL															
8	9.27	SMOOTH HOUND MALE	670	TL															
9	9.2	SOUPFIN (VAALHAAI) M/F	360	PCL															
10	9.36	SPOTTED GULLY M/F	660	TL															
11	19.1	SPOTTED RAGGED-TOOTH FE	420	PCL															
12	19.1	SPOTTED RAGGED-TOOTH M	410	PCL															
13	11.8	PUFADDER SHY SHARK		TL															
		RAYs EN SKATES AND SANDSHARKS																	
1	30.3	BLUE STINGRAY FEMALE	300	DW															
2	30.3	BLUE STINGRAY MALE	330	DW															
3	30.7	DIAMOND BUTTERFLY	490	DW															
4	28.3	BULL RAY	350	DW															
5	28.2	EAGLE RAY	390	DW															
6	30.3	LESSER GUITAR FISH	660	TL															
7	25.6	SPEARNOSE SKATE	510	DW															
8	30.4	THORNTAIL SKATE	370	DW															
9	23.3	MARBLE ELECTRIC RAY	330	DW															
10		BISCUIT SKATE	510	DW															
		OTHER																	

## Boats



## Catches on 4kg line



## Angling Rules

FIPS-M angling rules for Light Tackle Boat will apply  
<https://www.fips-m.org/statutes-rules-gb> (Boat Angling rules)

# Tourism

[www.visitmosselbay.co.za](http://www.visitmosselbay.co.za)

The family experiences in Mossel Bay can be enjoyed in several different ways. Here is a list of great attractions in Mossel Bay.

Attractions in Mossel Bay caters for everyone. You do not need to be an adrenalin junkie to have the best of Mossel Bay. The wide sweep of shoreline against a background of dramatic, rugged mountains – Mossel Bay is one of the biggest attractions on South Africa's Garden Route.

And while you're here, here are some of the things you're going to enjoy :

## Just Outside Of Mossel Bay

Take a drive to Great Brak River (Great Brak River Museum; many art galleries); the historic mission station at Friemersheim in the foothills of the Outeniqua Mountains; the Wolwedans Dam...

## The Nature of the Garden Route

Enjoy a malaria-free game drive to see the Big Five (lion, leopard rhino, buffalo & elephant); ride an elephant; take a boat trip to Seal Island; watch whales and dolphins by boat or from the shore; visit a nature reserves; take a drive in the country side...



## Museums & Culture

We'd like to suggest that the very idea of culture was born in Mossel Bay – because it was here that the earliest evidence for modern human behavior has been found. Yes, this is where the 600 or so individuals who were the common ancestors of everyone who's ever lived began

using complex tools, harvesting the sea in an organized way, and painting with ochre's 164,000 years ago.

And over the millennia, where herders and hunter-gatherers watched the seasons come and go – and recorded many of their spiritual experiences in the rock art in their caves and shelters in the Outeniqua Mountains.

And, in 1488, where Portuguese navigator Bartolomeu Dias and his men became the first European explorers to round the Cape of Good Hope and land on South African Soil.

Today, you can explore all this history and culture in our many museums, hike historic paths to see where our ancestors lived, meet local artists and crafters, and enjoy an unmatched programme of entertainment and theatre (particularly in the summer holidays – December and January – when many of South Africa's top musicians, singers, dancers, and actors come to Mossel Bay to perform on our stages).



## Shopping

Shopping? Retail therapy? Mossel Bay's wide selection of mom-and-pop stores and national retail chains have everything you could need... and best of all? Most of our malls are open to the sky, so you can enjoy our fabulous weather as you shop.

## Whale Watching

Mossel Bay is one of the best whale and dolphin watching destinations on the Southern Cape Coast. The Mossel Bay Cetacean Project – a scientific study of the species and numbers of marine mammals that visit the Bay – has shown that at least some of them are here almost every day of the year.

### Romonza Boat Trips

Every hour on the hour from 10h00-17h00. All year round we sail to seal island and stop for a closer look at the 3000 fascinating seals. The Romonza holds the only boat-based whale watching permit in Mossel Bay. Depart from our comfortable working harbor to observe the greatest mammal close-up. Twice daily. We carry 50 persons



Here's a list of the species\* you might be lucky enough to see:

- Bryde's whale
- Killer whale
- Southern right whale (Migratory: usually seen from May to September)
- Sperm whale (Also migratory and usually seen from May to September)
- Bottlenose dolphin
- Common dolphin
- Humpback dolphin
- Cape fur seal
- Southern elephant seal (A rare vagrant)
- Two dead pygmy sperm whales were once discovered washed up on the beach (2011)

\* All recorded by the Mammal Research Institute of the Department of Zoology and Entomology at the University of Pretoria, working in conjunction with Oceans Research.

## Where to watch

Keep an eye out from any vantage point along the coast – you'll sometimes see whales and dolphins playing or resting just behind the breakers. Mossel Bay also offers boat-based whale watching tours.

## Cape St Blaize Lighthouse 1864

The Cape St Blaize Lighthouse has been a beacon to navigators since 1864. It is open Monday – Friday to the public from 10h00 – 15h00. It is closed over the weekends and public holidays. It is only one of two manned lighthouses on the South African coast today.

- Montagu Street (The Point), CBD, Mossel Bay
- Phone: +2744 690 3015
- Fax: +2744-690 3015
- E-mail: John.Basson@transne

### Cape St. Blaize Lighthouse

The lamp in Mossel Bays iconic lighthouse was first lit on the 15th of March, 1864. The tower is 20.5 meters high, and stands about 52 meters above sea level.

Cape St. Blaize is so-named because Bartolomeu Dias and his crew first landed in Mossel Bay on St. Blaizes Day (3 February) in 1488 (St. Blaize is known in Portuguese as S Br). However, the Lighthouse is also situated directly above the archaeologically important Cape St. Blaize Cave, which was used by local hunter-gatherers herders over a period of about 200,000 years – so the area is by no means just a modern observation post.

The Lighthouse was originally lit by a fountain lamp that was visible as a single red light for 15 nautical miles. The lamp was upgraded using various different types of paraffin burners in 1875, 1897, and 1911, and it was finally electrified on the 6th of April, 1931. The lights power increased with each upgrade, too – from 4,500 candelas in 1875, to 450,000 in 1931.

The Lighthouses foghorn was installed in 1914, and upgraded in 1945 and 1989, while a radio beacon with the call sign ZRF was installed in 1959.

Latitude 34 11'10.45"S Longitude 22 9'22.83"E

## Santos Beach Pavilion



According to local legend, the architect of this stately Victorian sandstone structure travelled to Brighton, in England, and drew his inspiration from the Pavilion there – but which one? Was it the Indo-Saracenic styled Royal Pavilion (a former royal residence), or was it one of the pavilions that stood on the Brighton Palace or Brighton West piers?

Whatever it was, the Santos Beach Pavilion was completed in 1906 by the builder WJR Swart, and it became a popular meeting place – particularly in the 1920s and 1930s – when members of the community would gather to socialize and to listen to live music. It was the site of the towns official reception for Prince Edward, the Prince of Wales, when he visited in 1925.

The building was slated for demolition after the roof and much of the woodwork were destroyed by fire in 1979, but it was saved when a private company was granted a long lease on the property, and paid for its restoration.

The Pavilion now houses the Santos Pavilion Restaurant and private apartments.

Latitude 34 10'48.92"S Longitude 22 8'30.97"E

## Hiking Trails



Mossel Bay was made for walking! Read on for information and links about our most popular hikes and trails.

#### [Mossel Bay Historic Walk](#)

Explore the historic old quarter of town on foot with our self-guided map.

#### [Oyster Catcher Trail](#)

Guided luxury walk along the coast from Mossel Bay to Gouritz Mond: your luggage is transported by road, you carry only your day packs, cameras, and swimming costumes, and you sleep each night in top-class accommodation

- More information: [www.oystercatchertrail.co.za](http://www.oystercatchertrail.co.za)

#### [Wolwedans Day Walk](#)

Great Brak River: 3km, 2hrs, one way, easy walk.

- Enquiries: Great Brak River Tourism
- Telephone +27(0)44 620 2550

#### [Ruiterbos Day Walk](#)

Off the Robinson Pass, 5km, 2hrs. circular, Easy walk.

#### [St Blaize Trail](#)

Day Walk, Mossel Bay, 13,5 km, 6-hours, one direction. You can walk shorter sections. Call 044-606 5143 [Click here for more information.](#)

## Point of Human Origins



3-4 Hour tour of the pinnacle point caves – Mossel Bay – led by archaeologist Dr.Peter Nilssen.  
175 Steps to discover 162 000 years of our origins.

Tour dates for December are 13, 17, 20, 22, 27, 31 and for January 2015 the dates are 03, 07, 10, 15 and 17th. Book in advance to avoid disappointment.

- Contact: Dr.Peter Nilssen
- Cell: 002779 640 0004
- Tel: 002744-691 0051
- E-mail: [info@humanorigin.co.za](mailto:info@humanorigin.co.za)
- Homepage: [www.humanorigin.co.za](http://www.humanorigin.co.za)

# History of Mossel Bay

**Mossel Bay** is a harbor town of about 130,000 people on the Southern Cape (or Garden Route) of South Africa. It is an important tourism and farming region of the Western Cape Province. Mossel Bay lies 400 kilometers east of the country's seat of parliament, Cape Town (which is also the capital city of the Western Cape Province), and 400 km west of Port Elizabeth, the largest city in the Eastern Cape Province. The older parts of the town occupy the north-facing side of the Cape St Blaize Peninsula, whilst the newer suburbs straddle the Peninsula and have spread eastwards along the sandy shore of the Bay.

The town's economy relied heavily on farming, fishing and its commercial harbor (the smallest in the Transnet Port Authority's stable of South African commercial harbors), until the 1969 discovery of natural offshore gas fields led to the development of the gas-to-liquids refinery operated by Petro SA. Tourism is another driver of Mossel Bay's economy.

The origin of the name Mossel Bay (the Bay of Mussels) has to do with the ascendancy of the Dutch shipping merchants in the late 16th and the early 17th Centuries. In one account, the explorer Cornelis de Houtman named the place Mosselbay when he stopped there in 1595, whilst in another, the Dutch Admiral Paulus van Caerden named it when he came ashore on 8 July 1601. Whatever the case, though, the mussels and oysters on the shore would have been a welcome addition to the limited diet on which ship's crews were expected to survive in those days.

Although it is today best known as the place at which the first Europeans landed on South African soil (Bartolomeu Dias and his crew arrived on 3 February 1488), Mossel Bay's human history can - as local archaeological deposits have revealed - be traced back more than 164,000 years.

The modern history of Mossel Bay began on 3 February 1488, when the Portuguese explorer Bartolomeu Dias landed with his men at a point close to the site of the modern-day Dias Museum Complex.<sup>[2]</sup> Here they found a spring from which to replenish their water supplies. Dias had been appointed to search for a trading route to India by King John II of Portugal, and, without realizing it, actually rounded the Cape of Good Hope before landing at Mossel Bay - which he named *Angra dos Vaqueiros* (The Bay of Cowherds). Dias is also credited with having given the Cape the name *Cabo das Tormentas* (the 'Cape of Storms'), although King John II later changed this to *Cabo da Boa Esperança* (the Cape of Good Hope).

Dias' excursion ashore ended hastily when the local people chased him off in a hail of stones.

By the time the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama reached the area in 1497, the Bay had been marked on the maps as *Aguada de São Brás*, (the Watering Place of St Blaize - whose feast is celebrated on 3 February). Da Gama bartered successfully for cattle with the local Khoi people in what is generally regarded as the first commercial transaction between Europeans and the indigenous people of South Africa.

## Climate

Mossel Bay's climate is mild throughout the year as the town is situated in the area where the winter rainfall and all-year rainfall regions of the Western Cape Province meet. Its weather is influenced by the Agulhas Current of the Indian Ocean to the south, and by the presence of the Outeniqua Mountains to the north. Mossel Bay receives 80% of its rainfall at night.

Frost is rare or almost absent and snow has never been recorded on the coastal platform. Snow does, however, occasionally fall on the mountain peaks and can be seen from the town on rare occasions. Prevailing winds are westerly in winter (May - August) and easterly in summer (September - April), and rarely reach storm- or gale-force strength. The average days of sunshine are 320 days per year.

