*Slammin' the Salmon with Pete and Darren

Swansea, NSW June 2016 Earlier on in June, Peter Sewell and I ventured to sunny Swansea to have a crack at the salmon.

The weather was fine, light breeze blowing, tide on the verge of a change (in favour of a run-in tide. The water was slightly coloured which was to be expected after the deluge of rain the coast copped the week previously.

Initially, the water looked quiet but once we moved out into the channel we began to see evidence of nervous water about despite the initial lack of birds.

Then it all began. Fish were starting to bust up the surface which in turn caught the eye (eye's) of the birds. Mate, mate, mate, mate!



It wasn't long before we were both shooting lengths of line out, stripping line back in and hanging on for dear life as the fish feels the sting of steel and resistance of a line it is determined to break and takes off for the briny deep.

Line tearing through fingers and slicing through the water, knuckles rapped from reels spinning out of control before the drag hopefully starts to slow the fish down a bit. Only then do you begin to think you've got this fish in the bag (or net).

First towards the open water, then back towards the boat, one minute heading aft, the next forward. You just think your gaining control then the Salmon from Oz decides to follow the yellow sandy road and circumnavigate the boat. All the while your fishing buddy is going through the same motions.

Finally, after a titanic battle, you manage to get the fish's head up and on the surface. But wait, it's not over yet. Mr Salmon after getting a bo-peep at either the boat or the masked apparition at the other end of the line, decides to make another last ditched dash across the surface only to be finally directed back safely into the net.

It's even more fun when you have to net your fish because your buddy is still battling his own fish only to just lift the net from the water and your mate(?) tells you his fish is also ready to be netted.

One of Pete's ten Salmon landed for the day













There's always a crowd at the cleaning feeding tables



To sum up:

- 17 Australian Salmon landed
- 4 fish dropped
- 3 fish busted off
- Fun Factor = 110%

Gear:

- 8# to 10# rod
- Intermediate line
- 15lb leader straight or
- Tapered leader with 15 lb tippet

Flies:

- Surf Candy #6
 - Baitfish #6

Tips - If the fish are skittish, the water's clear and you are struggling to hook a fish:

- Stay out further away from the fish
 - Use a longer leader
 - Cut the flash out of your fly
- Tie extra flies without flash
- Enjoy your surrounds regardless