

FISHING STORY OF THE YEAR

Ian McHendrie is our most experienced sports fishermen who started his career as a commercial fisherman based in Durban. The picture shows Ian's crew fishing off his large boat **Erna**. This is a surprising picture for those of us used to hand line fishing in the Western Cape



Ian might still be a commercial fisherman today except that fate intervened. The first time Ian trusted his boat to a paid skipper it got wrecked on the Wild Coast ... but this is another story. For now you just need to know that Ian then started a second career based in Cape Town where fishing became his sport rather than his livelihood.

So it is understandable that when it comes to fishing Ian is competitive, focussed and impatient. He has two sons Greg and Craig who enjoy fishing with their Dad. They are somewhat older than the rest of his five children and have many hours experience with their Dad way out where the Tuna swim. They are also competitive, focussed and impatient when it comes to fishing.

During his business career in Cape Town Ian built up an impressive reputation at Hout Bay and Cape Boat Club as a man who catches fish. In due course the beautiful **Erna 3** pictured here replaced **Erna1** and **Erna 2**. Craig was just as keen as Ian and their success is obvious from the photo.



The bottom line is that fishing is a serious business for Ian even when they are on holiday. Ask his family.

Picture then the scene in a Wild Coast beach cottage with three men cleaning their tackle after a hard day at sea without huge success. The best of us tend to be impatient and irritable when there are no fish to show for our efforts. So when young Gill comes along and starts asking questions like "what are you doing?" understandably Ian, Craig and Greg felt annoyed and wished she would go away.

So Ian said to Gill "we are busy why don't you go and catch a fish". In the Western Cape they would not be so polite and it would have been more like @#**off.

Anyway, undaunted Gill who must take after her father, picks up a rod and goes off to the river leaving the men in peace. Ten minutes later Gill reappears and absolutely floors her father and brothers ... look at the picture and you will understand why. A beautiful kob which was more than the men caught that day.

Ian tells us that they had no choice but to laugh and laugh at themselves mostly.

They had the graciousness and presence of mind to recognise a special moment and took the photo. This is one very happy and proud little girl who has taught the men to have respect and the family have never forgotten this.

