

Fisho Fishing Log User Manual

Version 1.0.0

Welcome to *Fisho Fishing Log*. With this software you will be able to enter and interrogate all the information you collect about your fishing trips. It helps you when you enter the data for a trip, and with the reporting function, allows you to analyse the data you've collected.

Fisho allows you to store detailed information about the locations you fish (along with an image if you want). When you add or edit an entry, the sun/moon rise and set times, as well as the predicted peak activity times and a rating for the day are calculated and displayed (daylight savings is taken into account for all times in *Fisho*). As you change the date or location of your trip, this information is updated for the selected date. There's also a place to store a photo of your catch, or maybe the one that got away.

That was an introduction to what *Fisho* can do. Please read on to see what other things *Fisho* does for you and how simple it is to use.

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Quick Start Guide

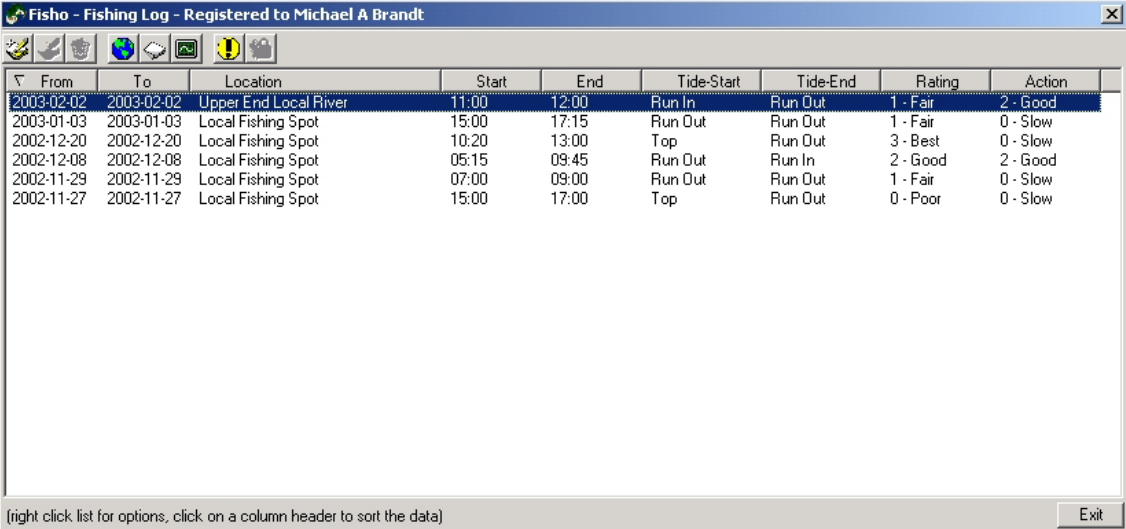
When you first start *Fisho*, there is no data in the program. For those of you who want to leap right on in and start entering information from your fishing trips, here's a quick guide to get you started. The steps you need to follow to enable you to enter entries in the log are as follows:

- Add a location – *Fisho* needs at least one location to be present before you can add an entry to the log. See the section on [Location Maintenance](#) for details.
- Add entries to the log. See the section [Adding or Editing a Log Entry](#) for details.

For complete instructions on how to use *Fisho*, please start at the section [Starting to use *Fisho*](#)
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Starting to use *Fisho*

Start *Fisho* by clicking **Start, Programs, Fisho Fishing Log**, and then click the *Fisho* icon. The main application screen will appear. This is as shown below in figure 1.



From	To	Location	Start	End	Tide-Start	Tide-End	Rating	Action
2003-02-02	2003-02-02	Upper End Local River	11:00	12:00	Run In	Run Out	1 - Fair	2 - Good
2003-01-03	2003-01-03	Local Fishing Spot	15:00	17:15	Run Out	Run Out	1 - Fair	0 - Slow
2002-12-20	2002-12-20	Local Fishing Spot	10:20	13:00	Top	Run Out	3 - Best	0 - Slow
2002-12-08	2002-12-08	Local Fishing Spot	05:15	09:45	Run Out	Run In	2 - Good	2 - Good
2002-11-29	2002-11-29	Local Fishing Spot	07:00	09:00	Run Out	Run Out	1 - Fair	0 - Slow
2002-11-27	2002-11-27	Local Fishing Spot	15:00	17:00	Top	Run Out	0 - Poor	0 - Slow

Figure 1 – Fisho Main Screen

First, let's explain what the different parts of the screen are and what they do:

- The title of the program reflects the registration status of the program

- Below this is the toolbar, one of two ways to access the functions of the program. The other is the right-click your mouse in the list of entries in the log.
- Beneath the toolbar is the list of entries currently in the log. Clicking on a column name sorts the data by that column in ascending or descending order. The column by which the data is currently sorted, and it's order, is the column with the up/down arrow in it.
- At the very bottom of the screen are reminders of how to display the context menu and sort the data, as well as the button to exit from *Fisho*.

The buttons in the toolbar, from left to right perform the following functions:

- Add an entry – lets you add a new entry to the log. If you have no locations stored in the program, this button will be disabled.
- Edit an entry – if you have clicked on a log entry, the button will be enabled, otherwise it will be disabled. Double-clicking on an item in the list will also open the log entry for editing.
- Delete an Entry – remove an entry from the log. As with the Edit button, the delete button will be disabled if you did not first click on an entry in the list.
- Locations – perform location maintenance. See the Location Maintenance section for more details.
- Log Reports – allows you to print reports from the data you have accumulated in the log. Again, this button will only be enabled if you have entries in the log.
- Tides – lets you open the WXTides program if you've installed it on your computer.
- Information – displays the information screen for *Fisho*. Well worth a look as the photo used is an extract from a 1931 fishing log.
- Register – lets you register the application. Once you have registered this button is no longer enabled.

Each of the functions represented by the buttons is duplicated in a menu accessible by a right-click of the mouse in the list of log entries. Once you've used *Fisho* for a short while, you will find this is an easier way to navigate from the main screen to the function you want to perform.

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Adding or Editing a Log Entry

The add/edit entry screen in *Fisho* is displayed below in figure 2a. The entry of data is broken down into four broad categories: General Information, Weather Information, Comments, and Picture.

The screenshot shows the 'Fisho Log Entry' dialog box with the 'General' tab selected. The dialog is divided into four main sections: General, Weather, Comments, and Picture. The General section contains the following fields and controls:

- When You Fished:**
 - Date: Start (2003-01-31), End (2003-01-31)
 - Time: Start (06:00), End (12:00)
- Location:** A dropdown menu showing 'Local Fishing Spot'.
- * Sun And Moon Data:**
 - Sun: Rise (06:15), Set (20:01)
 - Moon: Rise (04:29), Set (19:27)
 - Moon Phase (%Lit): 10, Waxing
- * Peak Activity Times:**
 - Major: 11:58 and : (empty)
 - Minor: 05:45 and 18:10
- The Tide When You:**
 - Started: Top, Run Out, Bottom, Run In
 - Finished: Top, Run Out, Bottom, Run In
- Tide Times:**
 - Low Tide At: (empty)
 - High Tide At: (empty)
- Tide Heights:**
 - Low: (empty), High: (empty)
- Fishing Action Was:**
 - Slow, Good, Fair, Hot!
- * Prediction Was:**
 - Poor, Good, Fair, Best

At the bottom of the dialog, there is a note: 'Data in frames with * is calculated for you - but you can change it.' and two buttons: 'Close' and 'Save'.

Figure 2a – General Tab, Log Entry Screen

Information relating to your outing that can be entered into the General tab of the screen is:

- Start and End dates and time – click on the '+' to increase the date by 1 day, or the '-' to decrease the date by 1 day. Notice that the information for the sun and moon, peak times, and predicted activity will be recalculated each time the date is changed.
- The state of the tide when you started and finished fishing – click the state of the tide in each case if you need this information saved
- Times for low and high tide – if applicable, fill them in. Times are entered as hh:mm in 24 hour format
- The location you fished at – select a location from the list you have compiled yourself
- Tide heights for the low and high tide times – again, if applicable, you can fill them in. Use your own units – feet or meters – as you can enter numbers as well as text here
- Sun/moon rise and set times, as well as the phase of the moon. A moon rise or set time of ':' means that this event did not occur on the day you fished
- The fishing action you experienced, as well as the predicted action based on the phase of the moon on the day you fished – select from one of the options which most closely matches the fishing action you experienced
- Peak activity times for the day you fished. Again, a value of ':' means that the event did not occur on the day you fished.

Please note that you only need to enter the information you want to save for the outing, but bear in mind that if you do not enter a piece of information, you cannot report on it later.

The data in the Sun and Moon, Peak Activity Times, and Prediction frames is calculated for you as at the start date of your outing. You can, if you like, change most of this data, but it is calculated using verified algorithms and it's accuracy will only vary from published data by a minute or two, if at all.

The Weather, Comments and Picture tabs are shown in figures 2b, 2c and 2d respectively.

Figure 2b – Weather Tab, Log Entry Screen

Information about your fishing trip you set in the weather tab is:

- How the weather was – select the option most closely matching the weather conditions you experienced during your outing. Choose from Stormy, Rainy, Showery, Overcast, Cloudy, Few Clouds, or Clear weather conditions
- Where was the wind blowing from – again select the direction closest to the prevailing wind you experienced on your trip or outing. Choose from North (N), North East (NE), East (E), South East (SE), South (S), South West (SW), West (W), or North West (NW)
- How strong the wind was – select the option closest to the wind strength you experienced during your fishing trip or outing. Choose from Calm, Light, Moderate, or Strong

- Water clarity – choose the option most closely matching the water clarity you experienced on your fishing trip or outing. Choose from Clear, Cloudy, or Muddy
- Air and water temperatures. Again, append your local units to the reading you enter
- Air pressure and whether it was rising or falling. Once again, append your local units to the reading you enter, and then select whether the pressure was rising or falling
- Other observations – this is a freeform text field into which you enter any information you think might be useful when you come to analyse the data in the reports. Things you may like to enter in this area are things like sea swell, current direction and strength, water colour, whether there were baitfish present and what species they were, what hatches took place and at what time, etc. The information you enter here is only limited by your observations when you're around or on the water.

Figure 2c – Comments Tab, Log Entry Screen

In the Comments tab, you enter the following information about your trip or outing:

- The species you targeted on your outing
- The species you caught or saw on your outing
- What bait, fly, or lures you used when you were fishing
- The methods you used during your fishing outing

Again, the information you can enter into these areas is free form. For this reason you can enter individual fish weights and at what times they were caught if you want to get to that level of detail. Remember though that the more structured and consistent the data you put into these areas is, the easier and more meaningful it will be to compare between trips when you produce a report.

You will notice that on the upper right corner of each of the entry areas is a yellow '>' and '!'. These symbols let you set up and select from your own custom lists for each of the areas.

The '>' reads the contents of the file and puts it into a list for you to choose from. Click an item in the list to select it, click on it again to unselect it. Click outside the list after you've highlighted all the items you need to close the list and insert these items into the associated area.

The '!' opens the list file in notepad, allowing you to add or edit items. Separate items should be listed on separate lines so you can select them individually when the list is displayed. Press Ctrl-S in notepad to save your changes and close notepad once you've finished your changes. The items in the file do not need to be in alphabetical order as *Fisho* will sort them that way when it loads the items into the pick list.

Please note that you do not need to use these functions to enter data into the areas on this tab of the screen. Data can be entirely manually entered and supplemented with data from your saved lists if required. Also, the species targeted and species caught lists share a common file. It means you've

only got to enter the data once for these two lists as most of the time they are going to contain the same information anyway.



Figure 2d – Picture Tab, Log Entry Screen

The picture tab of the log entry screen allows to store a picture of your catch, or any other picture that you feel you want to remember your outing by.

To insert the picture, click on the ellipsis (...) and select the image you want to display. If the picture is larger than the tab, use the zoom control slide at the bottom of the screen to reduce the size of the image, or use the scroll bars to move the picture around so you can see different parts of it.

If you want to remove the picture from the log, click the 'Remove' button.

Please note that the log does not actually store the picture in the data file – it only stores the path and filename of the picture you want to display. So, please don't think that once you've added the picture to the log that you can delete it from your hard drive. Also, moving the picture to a different place on your hard drive means that you will have to reload it's new location into the log using the ellipsis.

When you've put all the information for your fishing outing into the program, click the 'Save' button to store it away. The screen does not close at this stage – you need to click 'Close' to do that. This is so you can save information before you complete the entry and then continue entering data at a later stage, reducing the chance of data loss.

If you enter your information and then click 'Close' before 'Save', you will be prompted to save your changes before the screen closes. Respond accordingly to save or dismiss the data.

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Deleting A Log Entry

Removing an entry from the log is also a simple process. Click on the item to be deleted and click the toolbar icon showing the rubbish bin, or right-click the entry in the list and select 'Delete' from the list of options. You will be prompted if you really want to delete the item from the log. Respond accordingly to delete the entry ('Yes') or keep the entry ('No' or 'Cancel'). The prompt is shown below in figure 3.

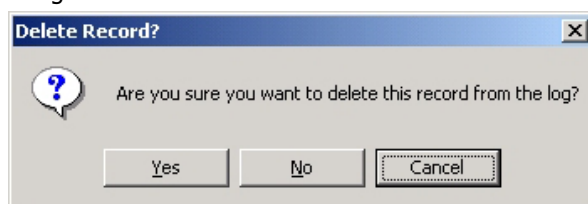


Figure 3 – Confirm Entry Deletion

Be aware however that delete really means delete! If you delete an entry from the log it is gone for good – if you want it back you'll have to reenter the information.

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Location Maintenance

Selecting the Globe button in the toolbar or right clicking the entry list and selecting 'Locations' displays the screen shown in Figure 4.

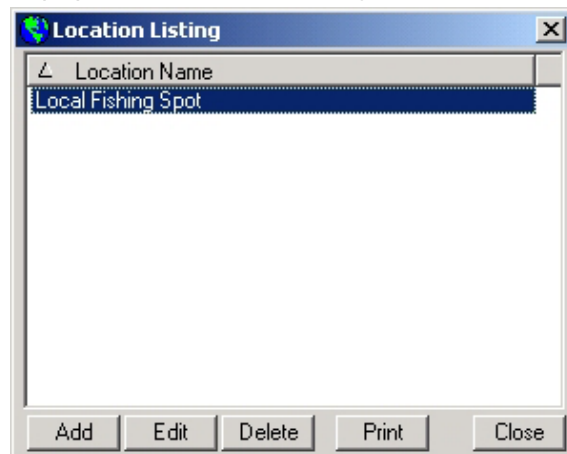


Figure 4 – Location Listing Screen

The screen will list all the locations you have entered and saved into *Fisho*. Sort them in ascending or descending alphabetical order by clicking the title of the list. The different functions you can perform for locations are:

- Add or Edit a location – see [Adding or Editing a Location](#) for details
- Delete a Location – see [Deleting a Location](#) for details
- Print a list of locations – see [Printing Locations](#) for details

Adding or Editing a Location

Click the 'Add' button to enter information for a new location, or highlight an existing location in the list and click the 'Edit' button to display it's details. For either of these options, the 'Location Maintenance' screen is displayed. It has 2 tabs in it – Details and Picture. These are shown in figures 4a and 4b respectively.

A screenshot of the "Location Maintenance" window, specifically the "Details" tab. The window has a title bar with a close button (X). Below the title bar are two tabs: "Details" (selected) and "Picture/Diagram". The "Details" tab contains several input fields and text areas:

- Location:** A text box containing "Local Fishing Spot".
- Description:** A large text area containing a detailed description of the fishing spot, including its location on a river, channel depth, and species.
- Directions:** A large text area containing instructions on how to reach the spot, starting from a house and following a fire trail.
- This Spot Is:** Three radio buttons labeled "Land Based", "Boat Only", and "Both". The "Both" button is selected.
- Latitude:** A text box containing "-33.683". To its right is a note: "N is positive, S is negative. Enter decimal degrees, eg -33.8 = 33 deg 48 min S".
- Longitude:** A text box containing "151.28". To its right is a note: "E is positive, W is negative. Enter decimal degrees, eg 151.25 = 151 deg 15 sec E".
- GMT Diff:** A text box containing "10". To its right is a label "hours".
- Use DST for this location:** A checked checkbox.

At the bottom of the window are two buttons: "Close" and "Save".

Figure 4a – Details tab, Location Maintenance

Information you enter on the Details tab for a location is:

- A description or name for the location. This is what will be displayed in the entry list, as well as on the reports.
- A description of the location – this is free form text, meaning you can enter any information you believe relevant to the location can be entered here
- Directions – how to get to your location. Again free form text, so enter anything you feel is relevant to the location
- Select whether the spot is Land Based, Boat Only, or Both
- Latitude – enter the latitude for the location in decimal degrees. North is positive, South is negative. For example, -33.8 = 33 degrees 48 minutes South
- Longitude – enter the longitude for the location in decimal degrees. West is negative, East is positive. For example, 151.25 = 151 degrees 15 minutes East
- GMT Diff – how many hours in front or behind Greenwich Mean Time your location is. For example, Sydney, Australia is 10 hours in front, so you'd enter 10. The West coast of the USA is 8 hours behind, so you'd enter -8.

Please note that the latitude, longitude and GMT difference are required to calculate the sun and moon rise and set times, and hence the peak activity times for the day of your trip. The closer you can get to the exact latitude and longitude of your location, the more accurate these times will be.

- Does the location experience Daylight Saving Time (DST)? Check the box if it does, uncheck it if it does not. Times calculated in the program take into account DST if the location experiences it.

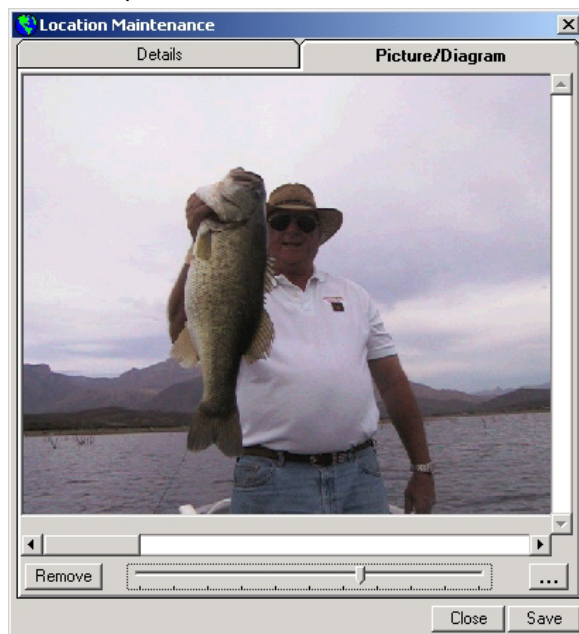


Figure 4b – Picture tab, Location Maintenance

On this tab of the location maintenance screen, you can store a picture of your location.

To insert the picture, click on the ellipsis (...) and select the image you want to display. If the picture is larger than the tab, use the zoom control slide at the bottom of the screen to reduce the size of the image, or use the scroll bars to move the picture around so you can see different parts of it.

If you want to remove the picture for the location, click the 'Remove' button.

Please note that the program does not actually store the picture in the data file – it only stores the path and filename of the picture you want to display. So, please don't think that once you've added the picture to the log that you can delete it from your hard drive. Also, moving the picture to a different place on your hard drive means that you will have to reload it's position for the location using the ellipsis.

When you've put all the data for your location into the program, click the 'Save' button to store it away. The screen does not close at this stage – you need to click 'Close' to do that. This is so you can save information before you complete the information for the location and then continue entering data at a later stage, reducing the chance of data loss.

If you enter your data and then click 'Close' before 'Save', you will be prompted to save your changes before the screen closes. Respond accordingly to save or dismiss the data.

Deleting A Location

Removing a location from *Fisho* is also a simple process. Click on the location to be deleted in the 'Location List' screen and click 'Delete' button. You will be prompted if you really want to delete the location. Respond accordingly to delete the location ('Yes') or keep the location ('No' or 'Cancel'). The prompt is shown below in figure 5.

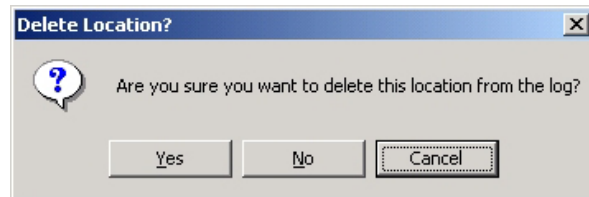


Figure 5 – Confirm Location Deletion

Be aware however that delete really means delete! If you delete a location from *Fisho* it is gone for good – if you want it back you'll have to reenter the information.

Printing Locations

Click the 'Print' button in the 'Location List' screen to produce a listing of all the locations and their information. The report can be exported to PDF format, requiring Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the file, or printed to your printer.

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Log Reporting

Selecting the Reports icon, or right clicking in the entry list and selecting 'Reports' from the list displays the Log Reporting screen. It is shown in figure 6.

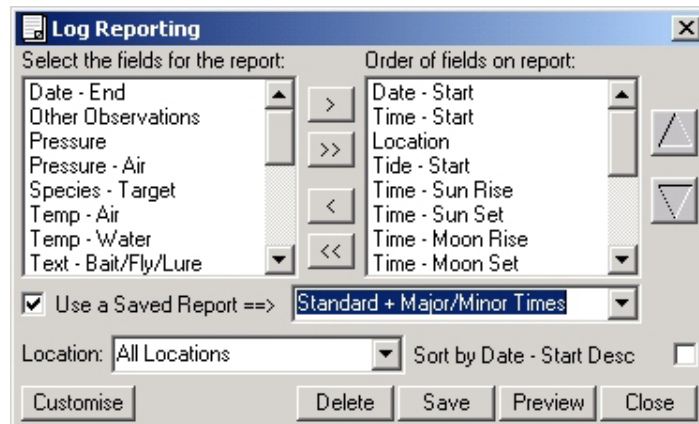


Figure 6 – Log Reporting screen

Select the pieces of information that you want to see on your report by clicking an item in the list on the left side and pressing the '>' button or double click the item in the list to move it to the right.

Once you've selected all the information you want to see on your report, move the items into the required order by clicking the item and using the up or down buttons on the right of the screen.

The report information will be sorted by the first item in the list on the right. By default the sort order will be ascending, but clicking the 'Sort by...' check box will sort the report in descending order.

If this is going to be a report you want to use often to analyse the information you have stored in *Fisho*, you can save the layout by clicking the 'Save' button. The Save Report' screen is shown in figure 6a below.

To save the report, type a description for it in the place provided. Click 'OK' to save the report, or click 'Cancel' to discard it. Check the option on the screen to save the report as a new one, or leave it unchecked to overwrite the one you currently have highlighted in the list.

To delete a saved report layout, check the 'Use a Saved Report' option, choose the report you want to delete and then click the 'Delete' button.



Figure 6a – Save Custom Report

If you have a custom report saved, you will be able to use it in just a few clicks of the mouse. Check the 'Use a Saved Report' option and then select the report you want to produce from the list.

If you want to produce the report for only 1 location, select it from the location list.

To produce your report, click the 'Preview' button.

The other button on the form is the 'Customise' button. It allows you to alter the descriptions of items in the lists, as well as the heading under which the item will appear under on the report and the column width and font size. The 'Customise Report Components' screen is shown in figure 6b

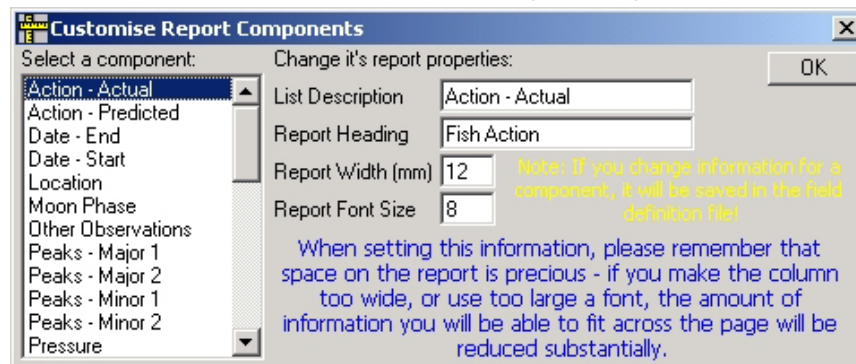


Figure 6b – Customise Report Components

To customise report components, click on the item you want to change in the list on the left. It's details will be displayed in the edit area on the right, allowing you to change it. Please note that if you change any information in this screen, it will be automatically saved. Also, please be aware that space on the report is precious – if you start making columns too wide, or use too large a font, the amount of information you will be able to display on your report will be severely reduced.

As you make changes to the list description, they will be reflected in the list on the left immediately. Report heading, width and font sizes will only be reflected in the next report you produce.

Changes you make here to the report components will be used for all reports you produce from *Fisho*, not just the current report.

Click 'Close' to return to the Log Reporting screen.

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Tides

The first time the button is clicked, you will be required to locate the program file WXTide32.exe. When the file is located and you click the OK button in the file find dialog, WXTides will be opened for you. After this, when you click the 'Tides' button, WXTides will be opened for you.

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Fisho Registration

When you have received your registration code, select this option to enter your name and code. It will stop the nag screens appearing and help me to continue to develop this and other software for the fisherman or hunter.

Please ensure that you enter your name and registration code exactly as they were sent to you otherwise the code won't match the name you enter. The best way to enter the information is to copy and paste it from the email you were sent with the information in it. Click OK to save your registration details, or cancel to discard them and close the screen.

Once you've registered *Fisho*, the registration option is no longer available in the toolbar or the menu.

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About Fisho

This screen just shows a nice image of a fishing log entry from 1931 from the north east of America, as well as details on how to contact me. The screen is shown in figure 7.



Figure 7 – About *Fisho*

If you have any comments or suggestions, or come across any problems while using *Fisho*, please contact me as I'd be delighted to hear your comments or suggestions, or fix any problems you may come across.

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Other Things

I use two tide programs – one for the PC, the other for the Palm. On the PC I use WXTide and on the Palm I use TideTool – I can highly recommend both of them, and they're both free to use.

That's it – that's what *Fisho* can do. I hope you enjoy using the program as much as I've enjoyed writing it. It's been quite a challenge in parts, but I use it to store information from all my fishing trips and am finding it most helpful in determining the best times and conditions to go for a fish at a particular spot. I hope *Fisho* does the same for you.

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