

## U. SHORES

### Field Note U12a3. Archaeology - Fish traps – Rasperpunt

There are twenty-eight sites of intertidal fish trap clusters along the Cape South Coast, eight of which are along the shores of the Study Area. They are (from southwest to northeast): Suiderstrand, Rasperpunt, Cape Agulhas, Struis Bay, Struis Point, Arniston, Ryspunt, Skipskop and Breede River, containing in total >100 traps of all shapes and sizes (Figure 1). This Field Note is about the trap clusters at Rasperpunt (Figures 2 and 3).



**Figure 1. Satellite image (rotated) showing the locations of fish trap clusters in the Study Area. Arrow points to Rasperpunt.**

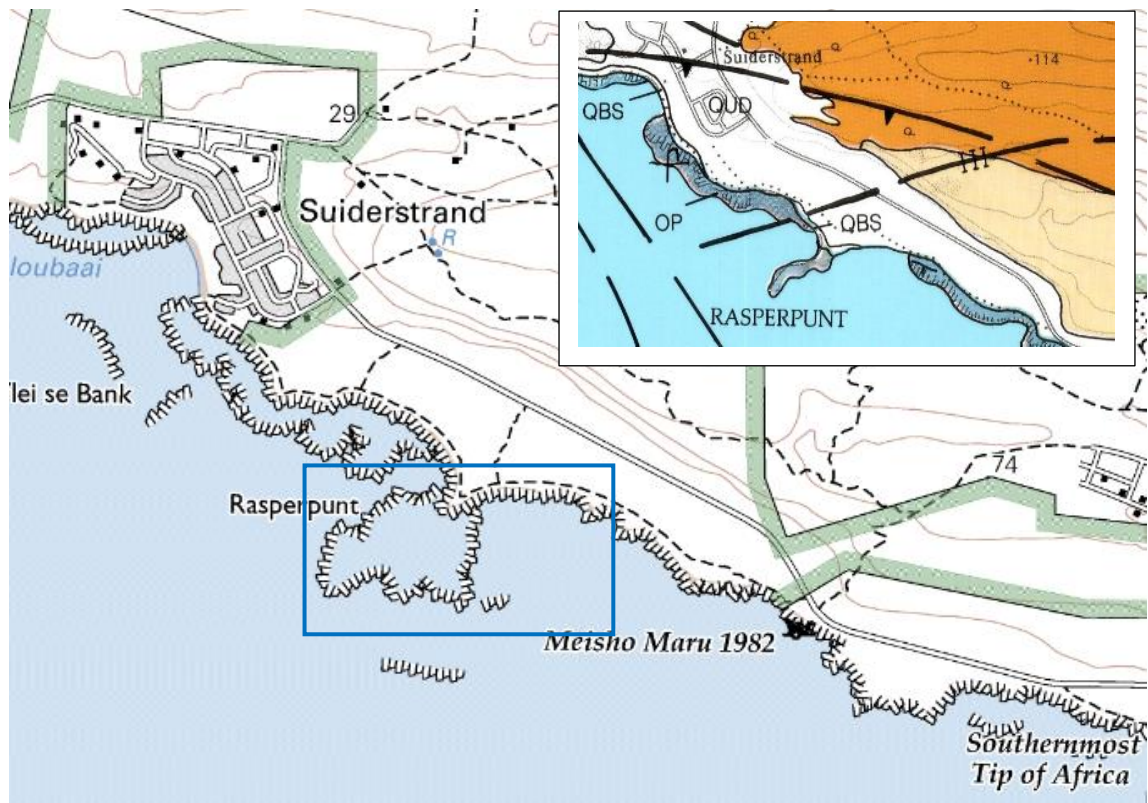


Figure 2. Topography map of Rasperpunt area. Box enlarged in Figure 3. Inset - geology map (MAG Andreoli, 1988). The rocky belt around the shore are of the TMG Peninsula Formation.



Figure 3. Topography map of Rasperpunt fish trap area. The box to the left contains Rasperpunt. The adjacent box to the right is discussed below.

Rasperpunt comprises three pebble spits, which form a pebble platform (Figures 4 to 6). It is also called ‘the Foot of Africa’.



**Figure 4. Oblique aerial photographs of Topography map of Rasperpunt at low tide. View from the north. Some of the traps are indicated by arrows.**

Source: <https://www.trailsandtravel.co.za/gallery/southernmost-africa-gallery/>



**Figure 5. Rasperpunt is a large pebble platform.**



**Figure 6. Satellite images of Rasperpunt fish trap area. Top – at high tide; bottom – at low tide. Arrows point to some of the traps.**

There are several stone-walled traps and pebble depressions in Rasperpunt (Figures 7 to 9).



Figure 7. Delineation of the fish traps in Rasperpunt (PJ Hine, MSc Thesis, 2008).



Figure 8. Topography map Satellite image of the fish trap cluster at Rasperpunt, showing spits (dashed lines), some traps and some stone walls (arrows). Blue arrow marks the point and direction from which the top photo in Figure 9 was taken. Orange arrow marks the point and direction from which the middle photo in Figure 9 was taken.



**Figure 9. Fish traps within the cluster in Rasperpunt. Top – rectangular; middle – triangular; bottom - round. Dashed lines indicate pebbly spits. Arrows point to stone walls.**

There is another cluster of traps, east of Rasperpunt (Figures 10 to 12).

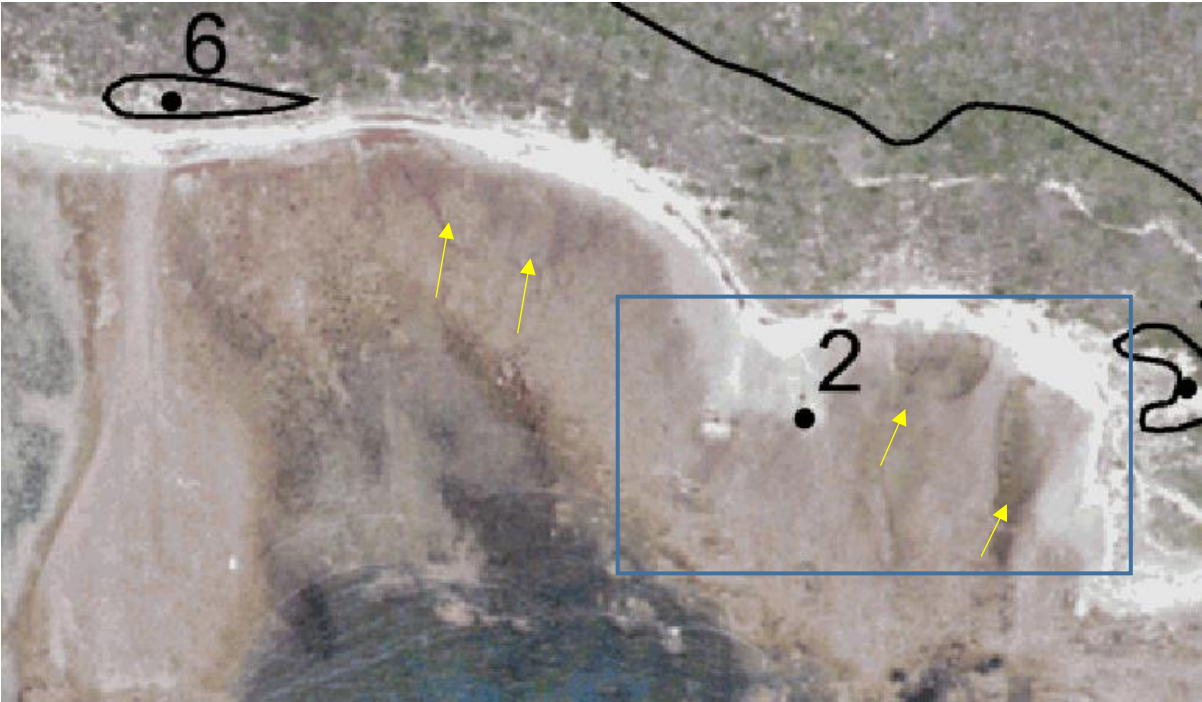


Figure 10. Topography map of the shore east of Rasperpunt, showing a cluster of fish traps (arrows). Boxed area at top figure is shown in the bottom figure. Boxed area in the bottom figure is enlarged in Figure 11.



**Figure 11. Satellite Image of the area east of Rasperpunt at low tide, showing two traps (blue arrows) full with water. Blue arrow indicates location and direction of the photograph in Figure 12, top. White arrow indicates location and direction of the photograph in Figure 12, bottom.**



**Figure 12. Photographs of rectangular fish traps east of Rasperpunt. Top – view from the east; bottom – view from the north.**



The wreck of the Meisho Maru is situated midway between Rasperpunt and Cape Agulhas (Figures 13 and 14).



**Figure 13. Satellite image of the wreck of the Meisho Maru.**



**Figure 14. The wreck of the Meisho Maru.**