

DIARY

2016

January 16 th	AGM Poole - Thistle Hotel, Poole at 1100 hours
January 17 th	Funfish – Flounder - Poole
May 21 st /22 nd	English Boat – Penzance
May 11 th /14 th	European Shore – Kilmuckridge, Ireland.
July 8 th /9 th	English Shore Championship – Aust & Littleton on Severn
July 15 th /16 th	European Species – Conger – Weymouth
September 16 th /23 rd	European Boat & Line, Cobh, Ireland.
November 26 th /27 th	English Species – Cod – Minehead.
Nov 30 th /Dec 6 th	European Game, Cobo San Lucas, Mexico.

2017

TBA	European Boat & Line Championships, Maloy, Norway
TBA	European Shore Championship, Zeeland, Netherlands.

2016 AGM Notification

The Annual General Meeting will be held at the Thistle Hotel, Poole at 1100 hours on 16th January.

Any proposals for the 2016 AGM must be with the Secretary by 30th November 2016.

All proposals received shall be included in the agenda under Special Business.

AGM Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence.**
- 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2015.**
- 3. Matters arising.**
- 4. Executive Officer's Reports.**
 - a) President, T. Entwistle
 - b) Chairman; N. Bryant.
 - c) Vice-Chairman; R. Ashby
 - d) Secretary; K. Bowden.
 - e) Treasurer; P. Hart.
 - f) Membership Registrar; G. Galbraith.
 - g) Fish Recorder; A. Smith
 - h) Public Relations Officer; J. Whippy.
 - i) Boat Festival Officer; A. Selby.
 - j) Shore Festival Officer; P. Curtice
 - k) Press Officer; M. Bobbett
 - l) Social Secretary. M. Osborne
 - m) Competitions Coordinator; K. Scaggs.
 - n) Standing Committee Delegate K. Bowden.
- 5. Report on Championships/Festivals during 2015.**
 - a) Fun Fish Competition – Weymouth
 - b) English Species Festival Boat – Weymouth

- c) English Shore Championship – Borth, Wales
- d) English Boat Championship – Dover
- e) European Species Championship – Denmark
- f) European Shore Championship – Malta
- g) European Boat and Line Class Championships – Orkney

6. Presentation of Fish of the Year Awards – Andy Smith

7. Election of Officers. (All 3 year terms unless otherwise stated)

- a. Chairman
- b. Fish Recorder
- c. Public Relations Officer
- d. Social Secretary
- e. Shore Festival Officer

With the exception of the Shore Festival Officer, all Officers have indicated that they are willing to stand for a further term. A nominee has been received for the position of Shore Festival Officer, but if there is anyone else who may wish to be considered, would they please inform the Secretary before November 30th.

8. Election of Honorary Auditor.

1 yr term - Nominee/s Mr J. Knight

9. Events for 2016.

- a) Fun Competition - Poole
- b) EFSA Species Championship - Weymouth
- c) English Boat Championship - Penzance
- d) European Boat and Line Class Championships – Cobh Ireland
- e) European Shore Championship – Ireland
- f) English Species Festival Boat
- g) English Shore Championship – Aust and Littleton on Severn

10. Special Business.

None notified

11. Annual General Meeting 2017.

EFSA Standing Committee meeting 28th March 2015.

There is a new Website for EFSA under construction. The aim is to update it with more content and features and should be live in a month or so.

Fishing rules are being updated and all Sections had been asked for anything they considered needing changing to let the Secretary know at least a month before the meeting. These were then circulated with the Agenda for the meeting. Each point raised was briefly discussed and voted on and any changes made will be incorporated and a set of update rules published. It was pointed that though not all suggestions were agreed upon but that when hosting a Championship anything you normally fish different and a dispensation to that rule can be requested at Standing Committee meeting.

There was a discussion on the future of the Line Class Championship, whether to separate it from the Boat and Line Championships, to have another Championship or to incorporate it in a Species Championship, this to be given some thought and will be on the Agenda at the next meeting.

Officers due for election at next AGM in August are all again standing apart from Festival Officer Boat, After many years at this post David Styles is not standing for another term. He will be greatly missed within the Executive committee and was thanked for all his input to the section and given a round of applause by all at the meeting. EFSA Scotland have nominated Joe Connolly for Boat Festival Officer and as there were no other nominations, Joe will be standing for election in August. Also HQ has nominated Matthieu Amato of Italy for PRO, a new post.

Boat and Line Championships

2015 Orkney. 80 anglers from 9 sections entered to date so they are still taking entries also there are still rooms available at the Stromness Hotel. There will not be a container on the pier as stated in the brochure.

2016 Cobh, Ireland. Preparation under way, one dispensation they said they would be looking for is a position move on the boat after 3 hours.

2017 Malloy, Norway. They will be looking for all fish to be brought in. Information on how to get there will be in the Brochure but it is fly to Bergen, 30-minute drive to quay to get boat for 4 hour crossing and then short walk to hotel.

2018 Iceland have put in application to host at either Olafsvik or Husavik

European Species

2015 Elsinore, Denmark. It was said to expect 30 to 40 fish for each angler during the day.

Full details of this are already on our website.

European Shore

2015 Malta have a Dispensation to have 3 rods with terminal tackle on and minimum fish size of 15cm, also no shock leader when using under 50gram weight..

2016 Ireland at venue there are only 15 cottages available, each with 3 rooms, 1 with twin and 2 with double bed, so anyone looking to go and know who to share with let me know as soon as possible and I will try and reserve.

2017 Netherlands. Similar organisation and location to the 2013 event there and to host in October or November.

2018 Italy said there were looking into possibility of hosting.

Game

2015 Miami. 8 team with 31 anglers participating.

2016 Cabo San Lucas late May or June.

2017 Panama.

2

018 Canada

SeptemberEFSA Standing Committee meeting – Orkney - August 2015

There was item from Executive Committee to remove the Line Class Championship currently fished as a one day event along with Boat Championship. This would have two-fold benefit as it would allow the 4 day Boat Championship to be fished within one week so that Saturday to Saturday would be possible for accommodation. A separate two day Line Class Championship could possibly be incorporated within the Species Championship so as to become a species fished with light line.

Feedback on this proposal is required for the spring S C meeting via Section Secretaries.

The new EFSA website is almost complete, content to go on the web will be via the Secretary, Marcus Wuerst.

There was talk of a new results program suitable for both boat and shore, to be progressed.

Future events

Boat and Line Championships

- 2016 Ireland. All is under way and is being held in Cobh again.
- 2017 Venue is Maloy in Norway
- 2018 Section Iceland are looking to host

Species Boat

- 2015 Denmark currently has 75 entries with largest Section entries from England and Sweden.
- 2016 England are hosting out of Weymouth for conger on 15th and 16th July

Shore

- 2015 Malta. All is going ahead for November
- 2016 11th/14th May Kilmuckridge, Ireland, they are hoping for 80 entrants.
- 2017 Netherlands, Zeeland in Autumn.
- 2018 Italy are looking to host but not yet certain they can proceed.

Game

- 2017 Cabo San Lucas well under way, 4th/9th December with the Rooster fish tournament on the Monday

FISH RECORDER'S REPORT

From a quiet start we have now had entries in all categories apart from boat caught flounder and shore caught whiting and conger. So if you catch a decent fish in any of these categories it is well worth submitting it. Members can register entries up to 14th December 2015, after which time I will inform the winners by post and arrange for the trophies to be engraved. Entries received after this date will be entered in next year's list.

If you are one of the lucky winners, the trophies will be presented at the AGM and it would be great if you could collect your trophy in person.

The following is the current situation:

BOAT

Bass	Paul Fox	Portland	11 lb 12 oz
Black Bream	Kevin Fox	PM	4 lb 0 oz
Cod	Gary Galbroath	PM	15 lb 11 oz
Conger Eel	Dave Hawkeswood	BCC	73 lb 8 oz
Flounder			
Plaice	Steve Goodwin	Portland	2 lb 12 oz
Pollack	Alan Bird	PM	17 lb 8 oz
Ray – Blonde	David Lynes	PM	28 lb 4 oz
Smoothound	Kim Bowden	PM	16 lb 8 oz
Whiting	Cliff Newbold	PM	4 lb 0 oz
Wrasse – Ballan	Alan Bird	PM	7 lb 8 oz
Other by %	David Lynes	PM	Spurdog 22 lb 8 oz (187.5%)

SHORE

Bass	Noddy Coan	Portland	7 lb 9 oz
Black Bream	Paul Hollingshead	West Wight	2 lb 10 oz
Cod	Noddy Coan	Portland	6 lb 10 oz
Conger Eel			
Flounder	Simon Deacon	West Wight	2 lb 8 oz
Plaice	Jordan Bowler	Portland	3 lb 14 oz
Pollack	Noddy Coan	Portland	1 lb 5 oz
Mullett (all by %)	Aiden Aisher	West Wight	2 lb 8 oz (140.28)
Smoothound	Paul Fincham	West Wight	15 lb 7 oz
Whiting			
Wrasse – Ballan	Noddy Coan	Portland	5 lb 15 oz
Other by %	Jack Porter	West Wight	Undulate Ray 16 lb 14 oz (129.8%)

Junior Fish of the Year	Cameron Hill (aged 11) Portland Spurdog 14 lb 0oz.
Overseas Fish of the Year	TBA
Conger Club Tankard	Dave Hawkeswood 73 lb 8 oz
Norman Witt Trophy	TBA

EFSA England Shore Championships Borth 12-13 June 2015

Thursday evening saw most of the competing anglers ensconced in the bar of the Marine Hotel Aberystwyth, the HQ hotel, catching up with old friends prior to drawing their zone and peg numbers for the following two days. Hopes were high as locals Mark and Sally had fished similar tides a couple of weeks earlier and had flounder, bass and turbot but a bit of surf would be needed to encourage fish to feed.

Friday morning after a good breakfast at the hotel and provisions for the day purchased, we met late morning at the car park towards the far end of Borth beach. We were introduced to Carl who had kindly agreed to act as a non-angling steward. Carl told us that he thought there would not be a lot of fish caught as the offshore wind was keeping the sea fairly calm and there was no surf. Would he be right?

Bait was handed out together with some goodies from Ultima, many thanks to them for their support. A team photo, then the trudge over the sand to the water's edge as we were fishing a rising tide and an hour or so over the top. The forecasted late afternoon showers didn't arrive so it was a pleasant warm day but as Carl had predicted there were not many fish caught. At the end of the day there were four anglers who blanked and Jerry Knight was almost another one but with less than an hour to go he had two double shots of flounder to win Zone B and was top man on the day. Zone A winner was Dave Lovelock. Chris Leonard from my local Braintree club had the longest round fish a bass of 44 cm and Reg Clough the second longest a golden grey mullet. Allan Jones had the longest flatfish and Jan Peach the second longest both were flounders

Saturday dawned with grey skies and rain in the air but good news the wind was now more on shore so hopefully there would be some surf. After another good breakfast we then pack the car in the drizzle. Get to the car park yes "Surfs Up" not worth getting a board out for but Carl was confident there would be a good number of fish caught. He was right. Fishing only the flood this time we were soon into fish and forgetting the fine rain which looked set in for the day. The fishing was patchy with most anglers finding fish in the first couple of hours but then it went quite for some with others continuing to get fish throughout the match. Most of the fish caught were small flounders with a few bass. I even had a turbot but so small it didn't even cover the palm of my hand but gave a great bite. So day two saw Steve Trish win Zone A

and Colin Crocker won Zone B. Jerry Knight and Reg Clough were joint winners of the longest flatfish pool and again there were joint winners for the longest round fish Steve Trish and Tony Porritt.

Overall winner and recipient of the gold pin was Jerry Knight with 3 points. Silver pin winner was Dave Lovelock with 4 points and the bronze pin went to Paul Hart with 5 points.

Drawn Pairs winners were Dave Lovelock and Reg Clough

Drawn three man team winners were Jerry Knight, Dave Lovelock and Barrie Senior

Thanks to Mark Cowell for pegging the beach and arranging the bait. Also to Paul Curtice for organising the event and to anyone else who helped behind the scenes.

Barrie Senior

English boat championship Dover 11/12th July 2015

Several anglers had ventured to Dover early to get in a little practice, especially as this was the first time we had held an English boat competition from this port. Even the local rods have only fished this area for pleasure trips, targeting bass, plaice, cod etc. and the last time we fished a competition here was for the winter codding.

Gemini took them out to the rough ground, the ridge and around the Varne buoy, these areas can produce some good mixed catches with both tub and red gurnard, plaice, dogfish, cod, scad, mackerel and dabs, to name a few. The weather for the Friday looked likely to be the best of the 3 days with high winds forecast for the Sunday, as it turned out it was not only the best weather but the best fishing too.

At £28 per person per night for half board and operation stack making travelling through Kent challenging to say the least, quite a few members decided to stop at the HQ hotel the Grand Burstin in Folkestone even a couple of locals took advantage of this great offer.

Day One

The five boats loaded on time and set off to the grounds, Firefox headed straight for the plaice grounds as these are high scoring, there are also gurnard, dogfish, dab and a few other species around the ridge, Mike Smith took into an early lead boating a few plaice, gurnard and dogfish. Paul Hart and Ray Barron caught up during the early afternoon with Ray showing the rest of us how to catch gurnard.

Portia was always going to be a hard boat to win with three of the current England squad members plus a former England team member and an ex Welsh team member

on board. Drawn in position two, Barrie got off to a slow start as we drifted the Varne but eventually found fish, dabs, a couple of mackerel and a red gurnard and then he had a run of codling. Stainless Steve was enjoying himself catching the dogfish that Barrie had already drifted past. However, as the tide slowed Barrie caught a few then continued to pick up mackerel, dabs a plaice and a scad. A move out further to drift for plaice produced no fish so we went back to drifting the Varne for the last half hour or so. At this stage of the day it was so close and several of us could have won the boat. Barrie picked up another red gurnard and a plaice before the end. When the results were calculated Mr Senior was very surprised to have won the boat with Rolf Marschalek and Kevin Preston both one point behind - which was good news for their four man team, the other member (Jon Law) also won his boat to give the four of them 396.51%.

Day two

Due to the high winds and rough sea the decision was made to fish the harbour - not a popular choice for all concerned as the harbour seems to produce more fish during spring tides (well, the Prince of Wales pier does) this meant everyone would have to work hard for any fish as it would be a bit of a lottery.

Cliff Williams made a good start on Reecer netting two dogfish within the first twenty minutes or so. Another dogfish on the other side of the boat fell to Paul Hart. Eventually Barrie managed to boat a mackerel to get on the scoresheet followed by a dogfish. Paul had another dogfish and a red gurnard. After a long wait with only another couple of mackerel to add to Barrie's score he was still trailing Cliff and Paul. As the wind increased and the boat swung back and forth a different rig and a long cast saw another dogfish added to Mr Seniors score. For the next two and a half hours no fish were boated and a seal was spotted behind the boat. With less than an hour to go Andy finally decided he would move and drift for mackerel close to the pier. With half an hour to go Barrie had caught the rest of his ten mackerel to put him one point ahead of Paul Hart who had caught another red gurnard. Paul Hart and Cliff Williams only needed their mackerel to overtake Barrie. It was a long half hour but fortune smiled on Barrie as neither got the required mackerel.

Back on shore it became clear that there were only two double boat winners, Jon Law and Barrie Senior with Barrie coming out on top with more points over the two days, Rolf Marschalek added the bronze pin to the Gold that he won at last year's event.

Results

1st Barrie Senior

2nd Jon Law

3rd Rolf Marschalek

For the full set of results see attached sheet.

Report by Martin Bobbett.

EUROPEAN BOAT AND LINE CHAMPIONSHIPS 2015

Sunday 2nd August and the opening ceremony took place with a parade through Stromness led by a pipe band to culminating at the front of the HQ, The Stromness Hotel. Here on the lawn the speeches were made and the EFSA chairman Mr Horst Schneider declared the Championship open and the EFSA flag was raised. The country flags were then taken to the quay where they were they stayed for the week of the fishing, most of the time to fly very straight due to the strength of the wind during the week.

Monday's fishing was in doubt due to the forecast but it was decided ok to fish in the near gale force wind as the direction meant that if all boats fished close to the cliffs (which ran just outside the harbour down to the Old Man of Hoy) there should be enough shelter. So on the way out boats stopped to fish for fresh mackerel which was the favoured bait and which proved to be plentiful all week. At 0930 the Championship got under way with strong wind and driving rain. All fishing was on the drift which was rapid due to the wind so reasonable amount of lead needed to keep in contact with the sea bed, a lot of which is rock so tackle losses were inevitable. Main species to target were cod, haddock and ling with all being caught in reasonable numbers. Also in some areas pollack and coalfish which counted as the same species. The fishing conditions improved a little by midday when the rain eased but still the strong wind persisted. It soon become apparent that it was cod and haddock which would make up most of the bag, At the end of the day the scores for the boat winners varied with the average being about 35 scoring fis., England were among the 8 boat winners with Paul Hart and Barrie Senior off to a good start,

Tuesday ended up a sightseeing day for most as the wind was stronger than Monday and the direction had changed so the decision was to cancel the day.

Wednesday, and with lighter wind, the Championship was again under way. Today the boats could fish where they wanted so some went similar to Monday but able to push on further or to go north where the better fishing was just offshore from the Kitchener's monument which could be seen on the cliff top. In the north there were good numbers of haddock as well as cod and ling and on some of the cleaner ground there were smaller numbers of gurnard both grey and red, whiting, dab and a few plaice plus the occasional spurdog. At the end of the second day and it was all change at the top, with only one person with 2 day wins. So with 200% it was Scott Gibson of Scotland.

Thursday was the final day of the Boat Championship, the weather was again reasonable and as most days it was not a case of if it will rain, but when! So after gathering the fresh mackerel all anglers prepared for the last chance to improve their position on the overall results. Fishing again was varied with all getting used to what species to target and with easier conditions the fishing was possibly the best of the 3 days. The scores for the boat winners varying with one boat winner with 20 fish to the best boat winner with 62 scoring fish. Again there were half the boats won by anglers with their first boat win of the Championship but only one angler with a perfect 300%

score and that was Scott Gibson from Scotland. Our own Colin Searles a close run 4th the same position he achieved at the last Championship held here in 2009.

Line class

Friday was the day for the Line Class Championship where all anglers were fishing with the same 8kg ANDE line. The same species were targeted but this time all had to be measured and it was total length that decided the winner of each boat and also today, with light wind and no rain, it was a great day to conclude the week's fishing. England's Cliff Newbold achieved the best boat win of the day with a length of 1889 cm so became the 2015 Line Class Champion.

Saturday afternoon and the presentation was held at The Stromness Academy where the awards were presented and the pins awarded, details at the bottom of this report. There was a good prize table with the usual array of fishing tackle plus, as you would expect, many bottles of the locally distilled Highland Park whiskey. The presentation was concluded with the final words from our Chairman Horst who's final duty was to hand over the EFSA flag to Warren Doyle who accepted it on behalf of Section Ireland who are hosting the 2016 European Boat and Line Championship at Cobh on 16th to 23rd of September.

There were then a couple of hours to relax before the Gala dinner at the same venue. On arrival there was piper to play us in before sitting down to the meal. All had made their choices from the menu prior and the meal was soon underway with a glass or two of wine to wash it down, After the meal there was Ceilidh band to provide some music and most people mingled and had a last catch up with the many friends from the sections that had attended the event before a fond farewell and talk of when we are likely to meet up again.

Top 3 Boat Championships

Gold pin Scott Gibson Scotland
Silver pin Steve Souter Scotland
Bronze pin Peter Skudal Norway

Top 3 Line Class Championships

Gold pin Cliff Newbold England
Silver pin Jerry Svensen Sweden
Bronze pin Daniel Moller Sweden

England, Boat Championship Individual position

4th Colin Searles
10th Paul Hart
11th Matt Osborne
16th Richard Russell
17th Barrie Senior

19th Pete Bailey
33rd Andy Smith
34th Mark Smith
47th Kim Bowden
50th Ken Smith
51st Cliff Newbold
75th Jim Philipson

Other English Achievements

Line Class

Senior Gold = Ken Smith (plus taking the Hamish Holmes memorial trophy)
Silver = Richard Russell

Pairs Gold = Richard Russell & Kim Bowden
Bronze = Pete Bailey & Cliff Newbold

Boat Championship

Senior Silver = Richard Russell

National team **Bronze** = England B;
Richard Russell, Kim Bowden, Barrie Senior, Colin Searles and Pete Bailey

Report by Kim Bowden

Events for 2016

As an eventful year draws to a close we can look forward to another very busy and exciting fishing calendar in 2016. Let's hope the weather gods are better, as we lost our first two events in 2015.

We start the year with a return to Poole to fish for Flounder after our Agm and the past few years has seen an increase in the amount of flounders being caught. The Agm will be held in the Thistle hotel opposite from where the boats will leave. So come and have a social weekend after the Agm , I have agreed special rates at the hotel full details will be on your confirmation of entry.

The event I am looking forward to most is the English Boat Championship in May when we will be visiting a new venue Penzance. It sounds amazing fishing with the commodore expecting about 20 species (and none of them are mini species). A local angler has just returned and said he had 16 species including Haddock to 8lb, 4 different types of Ray, 3 types of Bream and many other quality fish. I will book a practice boat on the Friday but places will be only secured once a £50 deposit is paid. Full details of the HQ hotel will be sent once your entry is received. This will be a limited number competitor event and no further boats will be available so get your entry in fast it will fill quickly.

The next event will be the European Species (conger) which will be held in Weymouth on the 15th and 16th July. We will be fishing the inshore wrecks and as anybody that fishes Weymouth knows, these hold some monster eels. The Riviera will be our HQ.

Later in the year we return to Minehead for our English species event which we will be targeting cod. This used to be a very popular event and now the cod have returned in numbers should make it a very successful event.

I cannot stress enough how important it is to get your entry in early to avoid disappointment We are finding ports have less charter boats so it is very difficult to find last minute boats and when I say last minute I am struggling to find boats a year in advance let alone a few months .

Andy Selby

English Shore 2016

This is set for 8th and 9th July fishing two venues, Aust and Littleton on Severn. Fishing will be just 4 hours due to location and in the morning, so the afternoon and evenings are free to socialise. (See separate report)

Entries close on 27th May.

Full information and entry form on our website

Entries to Keith Scaggs

European Boat and Line 2016

This is a return to Cobh in Ireland where it was last held in 2008. Championships will be held from 16th to 23rd September and entries close 15th March 2016.

Full information and entry form on our website

Entries to Kim Bowden

European Shore 2016

11th to 14th May, Kilmuckridge, Ireland and entries close 15th March 2016.

Full information and entry form on our website

Entries to Kim Bowden

Anything further on the above that I may be able to help you with then get in contact.

AGM 2016 is at the Thistle Hotel, Poole at 1100 hours on 16th January.

English Shore 2016 details

Avonmouth and Aust

There are several miles of good shore fishing between Avonmouth and Aust in the Bristol Channel near the two Severn Bridges. I think many have previously overlooked this area as it starts to appear more like an estuary than the open sea. However, appearances are deceptive, in this case, and most of the regular species can be taken including cod, bass, conger, dover sole and the usual flounder, eels and whiting. It is more popular these days due to publicity in the angling press, but if you're prepared to walk you'll easily find plenty of room.

Autumn and early winter are the most popular with good catches of codling possible on the right day, and even if they're not about there are often some nice flounder to keep the rod-tops nodding. But, like any channel mark, it can be fickle -- bag-up one day, and blank the next! Having said that, it's more consistent than many other areas, and it's one where you catch more often than not.

Fishing is over high water, with around 1.5 hours before, to 1.5 hour after fishable, although that depends on exactly where you're fishing, and the size of the tide. In some areas you can get longer where the beach is firmer allowing you to get out to

meet the water, but extreme care must be taken as the mud is very soft in places. There are a few low water marks, but I've only rarely fished these, and you can get cut-off by the tide which would result in a reasonably good probability of death, especially in winter, so I'll not discuss those further. This area is fished on neaps to small springs. Anything much over 12.5m can spill over the ledge, the top of which is around 12.5m above the Avonmouth datum, onto the grass area of very low gradient, making fishing impossible. On bigger tides there is the option of the sea wall at Severn beach, but the tide can be fierce.

Standard channel gear is best, and I stick to the trusty pulley rig with 2/0s or 1/0s in a pennel configuration during winter months. In summer, you're better off with smaller hooks on a 3 hook paternoster; what I think's referred to as a flapper rig in modern jargon. Summer means dover sole, flounder, eels and bass, with perhaps a conger thrown in for good measure. On a good day it can be great fun, with plenty of bites, and comfortable fishing from the grass bank. It can be worth hanging on as long as possible into the ebb, during the summer, as this seems to produce the sole, like the one in the picture. Unfortunately, they're usually smaller than those caught lower down the Channel at Portishead and Clevedon.

A variety of baits can be used, but favourite has to be lug. The flounder are very fussy, and most days won't touch rag. The codling can be the same, but peeler and squid are good baits for them, also. If you want a challenge, then a calm summer day sees lots of mullet active near the edges. I've even seen people flyfishing for them in some of the tidal lagoons, but never witnessed one being caught!

There are a number of access points, but a good place to start, for the newcomer, is Old Passage at Aust. There's a road that runs parallel with the coast that you can get onto by turning off the main road between Avonmouth and the motorway junction by the old Severn bridge. It's best to check this out on a map, first, to get your bearings. You can park up on this road and walk across the grass to the water. There's plenty of space down channel of this access point towards the wall at severn beach, too.

It's interesting to note that there's good fishing even higher up the channel than the old Severn bridge, though the marks are similar to those discussed here with a mud bed terminating in a 3' or 4' ledge at the edge of a flat grassy saltmarsh type area. Species are similar, but it would be interesting to know exactly how far up channel cod can be caught. I suspect the answer may be quite surprising, and I may try and find out one year when I have some time.

Just to sum up, this stretch of coast is great if you want the best chance of bites and action. It can be muddy, but in the summer the ground on top of the ledge dries out nicely providing very comfortable and clean conditions. At that time of year expect to be fishing for flounder, eel, sole and bass. However, the codling arrive early in the Bristol Channel and it's not unusual to be catching them on a hot, sunny September day. Don't overlook the importance of bait, though. Get it wrong, and you'll blank, even if others are bagging-up.

Aust Beach is situated right next to the old ferry terminal that is adjacent to the new Severn Bridge. A famous location primarily for cod fishing, but also expect bonus species here as well. The area is fairly easily accessed and provides good fishing all year round although is most popular during the winter months. The areas fishing can be dictated by the amount of fresh water in the river, a factor determined by rainfall etc.

Summer Species: Bass, eels, flounders, soles, mullet and conger eels

Winter Species: Codling, bass, flounders and eels

Bait: Lugworms, maddies, ragworms,

Tactics: For the flatties and smaller fish use standard multi hook rigs, adapted for good casting. The cod and bass are best tackled using either Pennell or pulley rigs fished with size 3/0 or larger hooks. A good strong beach caster and accompanying reel is essential here due to the strong tidal flow. Fish the area an hour and half either side of high water for what are regarded to give the best results.

Getting there: Access is via the old ferry road, which comes off passage road, which in turn can be accessed off the A403. Walk across a field to the grass peat ledges fishing is done from here.

Littleton upon Severn is an area of grassy ledges either side of a creek fishing over the mud flats that stretch out in front of you. A great venue all year round and a good opportunity for anglers of all abilities to fish a good shore mark with relative ease.

Summer Species: Sole, mullet, bass, flounders, eels and pouting

Winter Species: Codling, whiting, pouting, bass and flounders

Bait: Maddies, lugworms and ragworms.

Tactics: Tactics will obviously depend on the time of year you are fishing as well as what you are fishing for. During the summer months when fishing for the flatfish and smaller species use multi hook rigs modified for casting with size 1 or 2 hooks. For the mullet fish the creek with coarse fishing tactics using a waggler fished with bread in the creek. During the winter fish good beach rods and reels with simple paternoster or multi hook rigs for the codling and bass in the area. Peeler crab can be a deadly bait on its day here, although worm usually out fishes it.

Getting there: From Littleton access is via Wharf Lane and then park at the end of Wharf Park. Fishing is a short walk from here.