

COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2018

CHAIRMAN:

Neil Bryant..... Tel: 01752 881637 Email: nbryant@neilbryant.co.uk
Mullions, West Pitten, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon PL7 5BB

SECRETARY:

Kim Bowden Tel:02392 262420 Email: kimbowden@ntlworld.com
12 Padnell Road, Cowplain, Waterlooville, Hants. PO8 8DZ

TREASURER:

Keith Scaggs..... Tel 01903 602912 Email: keith.scaggs@ntlworld.com
15 Haynes Road, Worthing, West Sussex. BN14 7JY

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR

Gary Galbraith.....Tel: 07989 666489 Email: gary.galbraith@overbury.com
16 Hoo Common, Chattenden, Nr Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 8LT

COMPETITION COORDINATOR:

Keith Scaggs..... Tel 01903 602912 Email: keith.scaggs@ntlworld.com
15 Haynes Road, Worthing, West Sussex. BN14 7JY

PRESS OFFICER/ PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER:

Barrie Senior..... Tel: 07964 723615 Email badgesenior@gmail.com
48 Mariners Way, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6YW.

SOCIAL SECRETARY

Matt Osborne Tel: 07900 080709 Email: mattosborne1968@gmail.com
20 Scratton Fields, Sole Street, Cobham, Kent. DA12 3AS

BOAT FESTIVAL OFFICER:

Andrew Selby Tel: 07773 607441 Email: selbyluck@btinternet.com
85 Monmouth Road, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2DF

FISH RECORDER/SUPPLIES OFFICER:

Andy Smith Tel: 01273 880313 Email: smithad@aol.com
31 Foredown Drive, Portslade, East Sussex, BN41 2BD

SHORE FESTIVAL OFFICER:

Barrie Senior..... Tel: 07964 723615 Email badgesenior@gmail.com
48 Mariners Way, Maldon, Essex, CM9 6YW.

CHAIRMEN OF SELECTORS:

Boat Section: Richard Russell – Tel: 01983 882133 Email: richardrussell1w@hotmail.com
Shore Section: Paull Curtice - Tel: 02380 879288 Email: paulcurtice@hotmail.co.uk
Game Section: Andy Smith Tel: 01273 880313 Email: smithad@aol.com

DIARY

2018

Sept 14 th /20 th	European Game Championship - Azores
Sept 25 th -29 th	European Shore – Foce Varano (Foggia), Italy
Nov 16 th /17 th	English Species Championship – Penzance.

2019

January 26 th	Annual General Meeting – Medway
January 27 th	Fun Fish Flounder – Medway.
May (TBA)	European Shore – Akureyri, Iceland.
May (TBA)	European Species (Flatfish) Belgium.
June 15 th /16 th	English Boat – Minehead.
September 9 th to 13 th	European Boat and Line – Weymouth
November 29 th /30 th	English Species (Cod) Mersey.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held at
The Thistle Hotel, Poole on Saturday 20th January 2018 at 11:00

Present:

Mr E.Entwistle	-	President
Mr N.Bryant	-	Chairman
Mr K.Bowden	-	Secretary
Mr K.Skaggs	-	Treasurer
Mr G.Galbraith	-	Membership Registrar
Mr A.Selby	-	Boat Festival Officer
Mr M.Osborne	-	Social Secretary
Mr K.Scaggs	-	Competition Coordinator
Mr A.Smith	-	Fish Recorder

1. Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from the following:

Ray Ashby	Andrew Suckling	Nick Rush	Rolf Marschalek
Chris Bull	Janice Peach	Tony Swain	Richard Wheeler
Alf Sindrey	Mick Toomer	Jim Whippy	Barrie Senior
Paull Curtice	Paul Roper	Gary Dennis	Alan Painter
Dave McCune	Jerry Knight	Rod Adamson	Tony Porritt
Colin Searles	Neil Cottingham	Steve Spencer	

A total of 23 full members were present together with 6 members of Affiliated Clubs.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017:

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Tony Hudson, seconded by Kim Bowden and accepted unanimously. The Minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Executive Officer's Reports:

President's Address: Mr Entwistle gave the following report to the meeting.

Once again it is my privilege and honour to welcome you to the EFSA English Section Annual General Meeting.

The Section has had a busy and successful year, hosting a variety of competitions on behalf of the members and I note that though many of the regular top anglers have continued to shine, there have been a few less familiar names appearing in the prize

lists. Congratulations to them on their success and my thanks to all the members who have supported the section's events throughout the year. I just have to offer my particular congratulations to Colin Searles, for his catch of a magnificent Halibut weighing 341lbs 11ozs earlier this year, a fish the like of which I would dearly love to have caught myself, wouldn't we all!

I must confess that this past year is the first time I haven't personally wet a line at all since I was seven years old. I have missed it, but sometimes needs must. I do, however, follow the section events online, in the press and via the handbook. My sincere apologies for not showing up at any of the comps during the past twelve months.

I would like to thank our EFSA executive officers, our Chairman Neil and all the committee for the hard work they continue to do on our behalf. Their wives, girlfriends and partners also, who I know offer invaluable assistance throughout the year. To Tony Hudson for his many valuable contributions and Gerry Knight for being our auditor. Please continue to support them all yourselves, when and wherever you can.

Thank you all for your contributions to the section during the past year and for attending today. May we have a fulfilling meeting, renew a few old friendships, and return home safely.

Chairman's Report: Mr Bryant gave the following report to the meeting.

Well, another year has passed by and to all intents and purposes been another successful year for the Section. Our events were all well supported by the hardcore members and a great number travelled to the European Boat Championships in Norway, The European Shore in The Netherlands and The European Species/Line Championships in Denmark.

Now we are all getting prepared for the coming year and are set to host the European Species/Line Championships from Weymouth in July when we fish for Congers with provided braid. I am sure this will be a rewarding event for the competitors and I would like to think it will help towards the running costs of the Section. By that, I mean that with our intended sponsors we would like to be looking to make a reasonable, albeit realistic, profit for the Section. Without the income we get from hosting European Events we would be struggling to maintain the membership fees as we do.

Also within this year the Committee are busy getting to grips with the hosting of the 2019 European Boat and Line Championships where for the first time the results of the five days will be used to calculate the overall European Boat Champions with the separate results for the Line Championship being there to reward the Line Champions. This will be used as agreed a few years ago and I am sure will be an improvement on the old system. The organising of this event will take up a lot of our time we know, but

be assured the team we have will do everything they can in making this another superb Championships.

Looking at our home events for the year you will see that we are holding two events from Penzance, this being due to the changes we had to make to support EFSA HQ with hosting the Conger Species Championships as normally we would not have gone to the same venue twice in a year. Please do try to support the Boat Championships in May and the Species Championships in November, I feel sure they will be superb events from this fantastic part of our island. I know that we are also trying to get a better venue for the Shore Championships this year and appreciate the work Barry and Andy are doing to get the venue confirmed.

There is a potential change regarding our Life Member membership that we are presenting to you today and that is to cease Life Membership and only have Annual Membership. That said, all existing Life Memberships will be honoured and remain on the membership listing. Going forward there will not be any more Life Member categories at future events. This is also being considered by EFSA HQ. We feel that there is no real gain to the section or the individual in continuing to accept any more Life Members. One thing I would like to say is that if any current Life Members wish to make an annual donation to cover their HQ fees then we would be delighted to receive these supporting funds, no pressure!

Well, I know we are going to have an informative meeting, so I will close by wishing you all every success in the coming year and say thank you for supporting the Section with your participation in the events you intend to attend. My thanks to everyone attending the AGM today and for those who are collecting awards we do thank you for participating in the EFSA England Fish of the Year awards scheme. Congratulations for your fishing achievements and maybe one day you will also take part in one of our events and start collecting pins as well as trophies.

In closing may I wish good luck to all those participating in tomorrow's flounder festival.

Vice-Chairman's Report: In the absence of Mr Ashby, the Secretary gave the following report to the meeting.

Another busy year for the EFSA England Committee. Although I haven't had to stand in for our Chairman on many occasions, it's still good to be involved in the various meetings during the year and to participate in the organising of events. 2018 looks like another busy year ahead and preparation is already well in hand for the next major challenge, the 2019 EFSA Boat Championships in Weymouth. The EFSA 'bandwagon' rolls on. In the meantime, have a good meeting and no doubt see you all in 2018.

Secretary's Report: Mr Bowden gave the following report to the meeting:

2017 again proved to be another windy year affecting our fishing, although I'm pleased to say most competitions went ahead as planned. My duties last year entailed keeping in contact with the overseas Sections, primarily taking entries and ensuring

payments reached them by the due date. On that subject, if you have noticed, this is one reason that the close of entries on our website is always two weeks before the organising section's closing date. This is not only to give time to those that leave payment to last minute, but also to give time for posting entry forms and money transfer so that Sections receive competitor details and cleared funds by their close of entries.

Entries were taken in 2017 for the European Shore and European Boat Championships. Once entries are received, I try to ensure all participating anglers are informed with updates and assistance with all arrangements before and during events. Also in 2017, I was the point of contact for the 20 anglers that fished the EFSA Iceland event in May as a trial for the 2018 European Boat being held there, but more on that one later. If you do want any more information on events coming up, then please get in contact and I will try and help in any way I can.

We are fortunate within our Section to have a full committee who share the running of the Section and its events. Many Sections only have 2 or 3 people to do the whole organising and running of an event. So it is thanks to the rest of the committee and the work they do for the good of the Section. Some are often in the background, but all are essential for the good running of the Section. Thanks also go to those not on the committee but still offer their services to assist during events.

Treasurers Report: Mr Scaggs gave the following report to the meeting:

On the accounts for the year ending on the 31st October 2017 I can report that this year the weather gods were kind to us and we had reasonably good weather for all events.

The overview for the year is as follows: -

We received membership income of £1720.00; Affiliated Club income of £160.00, Festivals Profit was £1396.00, Bank Interest was £15.00, Stock profit was £57.00, and all this totalled to give us an overall income of £3348.00.

Expenditure for the year was very similar to the previous year at £3270.00 that resulted in an overall profit of £78.00 to the Section

As Treasurer, I will not be recommending a raise in the membership fees at this time, but we as a committee are always reviewing the financial situation.

The Accounts for the year ending 31st October 2017 submitted for approval under separate cover.

Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Andy Smith, seconded by Mark Smith and accepted unanimously.

Membership Registrar's Report: Mr Galbraith gave the following report

Happy New Year to all and what a good year it is going to be. I am so looking forward to the venues and competitions planned and I am assuming you are as well - so see you all there.

We always need new members - retired and enjoying life, young and enthusiastic and all those in-between. New blood for any membership is vital so if you are friends with, or know anyone who enjoys fishing, then ask them if they would like to join - they won't regret it. Also, please don't forget that we were all new Members once so if you see new faces introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

Membership was due 1 January so if this has slipped your mind, this is your reminder.

The Annual Membership currently stands at 95, Life Membership at 67 with 10 Affiliated Clubs who's members can fish any of the EFSA competitions. Affiliated clubs are as follows.

Bisley and District S.A.C. British Conger Club Christchurch & District F.C.
Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers Portland Angling Club
Sport fishing Club of the British Isles Western Wight Angling Club
Weymouth Angling Society Individual Boat Anglers Club
Regents Brooks Sea Angling Club

Fish Recorder's Report: Mr Smith gave the following report and details to the meeting.

This year was particularly good for entries with all categories being filled. In the Boat categories, a particular mention should be made of Ian Lockyer's 19lb 0oz smoothound and Bryn Lavis's 22lb 9oz spurdog of 225.63% in the 'Other' category. In the Shore category, Pete Wood's 3lb 11oz black bream and Michael Bennett's 17lb 0oz smoothound are also worthy of mention.

Matthew Lavis' 28lb 3oz ling was an excellent winner of the Junior Fish of the Year and he also caught the largest boat caught pollack of 17lb 9oz.

There was no debate about the Overseas Fish of the Year with Colin Searles 341lb 11oz Atlantic Halibut winning.

Not only was it a superb fish but has also been ratified as an EFSA Line Class record and will hopefully be also recognised as an IGFA Line Class record.

The Committee we unanimous in awarding The Norman Witt Trophy for the best overall Fish of the Year to Ryan Casey for his boat caught Conger Eel of 90lb 0oz. I have already received several entries for 2018. Please keep the entries coming in and thank you all for your valued contributions

Public Relations Officer's Report: In the absence of Jim Whippy, the Chairman gave the following report to the meeting.

Despite not being very active in the section events in 2017 I have managed to give EFSA England plenty of space and publicity through Saltwater Boat Angling Magazine. My thanks to Andy Smith, Cotters and Barry Senior for providing the pictures and text that allows me to set it out for the most impact. Trust I can still provide this avenue in the year and keep the Section in the angling public's eye.

Boat Festival Officer's Report: Mr Selby gave the following report to the meeting.

As always, I would like to thank all the support I have had from the committee and members during this year's busy schedule, but especially to Keith and Jan, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make my job as Boat Festival Officer so much easier. It was good to get out on both our major boat events in 2017 - unlike 2016 and I'm glad we had our competitions early in the year as the Summer and Autumn months had very unpredictable weather.

In 2018 we will be returning to Penzance for our English Boat Championship and the English Species Festival (Haddock & Cod) As you know, this is an amazing fishery with many different species to be caught. Our big one this year is the European Species Championship targeting Conger in Weymouth. We have changed our HQ hotel, and now using the Crown Hotel which is situated on the Quay.

As with all our events, once your entry has been received by Keith, he will send you confirmation of entry together with the hotel EFSA special rate code.

Again, I would like to reiterate to members to get your entries in early, as places are limited on all our events. We are finding fewer boats each year and very few ports now have more than five boats. It also makes our competition co-ordinator's job difficult if members don't enter by the close of entry date.

May I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to another busy fishing year and meeting you all at our events.

Shore Festival Officer's Report: In the absence of Mr Senior, both the Chairman and Secretary thanked him for taking on the role and stated that they would endeavour to give him further support in the coming year. No formal Officer report was available, but specific Festival reports would be given later in the meeting within the agenda.

Press Officer's Report: Mr Bowden, on behalf of Mr Senior, gave the following report to the meeting.

Reports for all the EFSA events attended by English anglers were put on the EFSA England website with available pictures. Thanks to Kim Bowden for providing reports

of the events I was unable to attend and for some of the pictures. All pictures from events are always very welcome.

Saltwater Boat Angling magazine has carried reports of most of our boat matches and has printed other articles mentioning EFSA that were submitted by Neil Cottington and Andy Smith, for which I thank them. A list of 2018 matches has been sent to them for inclusion in their match dates page.

Social Secretary's Report: Mr Osborne gave a short report in which he confirmed that all arrangements for the members travelling to Iceland had now been finalised. He also advised the meeting that practice boats had been arranged for the forthcoming events in Penzance and that anyone wishing to attend should inform him as places were in short supply and were already filling.

Competition Co-ordinator's Report: Mr Scaggs gave the following report to the meeting.

As the new year starts, entries have started to come in for all of this year's competitions.

As I have often requested, it would be preferable for members to use electronic banking systems as it makes the process much quicker, but when paying this way please put which competition you are fishing in the reference box - not your name, as your name automatically appears on the bank statements when it is processed.

I wish you all a good years fishing and have an enjoyable time.

Standing Committee Delegate's Report: Mr Bowden informed the meeting that updates from the last SC meeting in Maloy will be in next newsletter with information on future Championships. Details of all 2018 Championships are on our website. Of note, HQ are now looking to remove the prize category of the Life member.

5. Reports on Championships & Festivals in 2017:

a) Fun Fish (Flounder) Competition – Poole.

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the March Newsletter and on the EFSA England website.

b) English Species Championship (Flatfish) - Weymouth

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the October Newsletter and on the EFSA England website.

c) English Shore Championship – Eastbourne

Mr Bowden gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the October Newsletter.

d) English Boat Championship - Poole

Mr Selby gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the October Newsletter and on the EFSA England website.

e) European Species Championship (Flatfish) – Denmark

Mr Bowden gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which will be in the next Newsletter and the website.

f) European Shore Championship - Domburg

Mr Bowden gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which will be in the next Newsletter and the website.

g) European Boat & Line Class Championships – Norway

Mr Bowden gave a brief report on the event, a full report of which was given in the October Newsletter and the website.

6. Presentation of Fish of the Year Awards.

Ted Entwistle, assisted by Andy Smith, made the following presentations.

BOAT

Bass	Ray Barron	PM	13lb 3oz
Black Bream	Ray Barron	PM	4lb 12oz
Cod	Mark Coles	Portland	16lb 13oz
Conger Eel	Ryan Casey	Weymouth	90lb 0oz
Flounder	Alan Painter	PM	3lb 0oz
Plaice	Andy Smith	PM	3lb 5oz
Pollack	Matthew Lavis	BCC	17lb 9oz
Ray – Blonde	Rod Adamson	PM	30lb 0oz
Smoothound	Ian Lockyer	Christchurch	19lb 0oz
Whiting	Andy Smith	PM	3lb 2oz
Wrasse – Ballan	Steve Goodwin	Portland	4lb 4oz
Other by % Spurdog	Bryn Lavis	BCC	22lb 9oz 225.63%

SHORE

Bass	Jason Lucas	Portland	10lb 8oz	
Black Bream	Pete Wood	Portland	3lb 11oz	
Cod	Jordan Bowler	Portland	9lb 5oz	
Conger Eel	Noddy Coan	Portland	14lb 8oz	
Flounder	Derry Meyers	Portland	3lb 2oz	
Plaice	Nick Best	PM	2lb 2oz	
Pollack	Derry Meyers	Portland	2lb 6oz	
Mullet – all by %	Pete Wood	Portland	3lb 11oz	92.19%
(Thick lipped)	Phil Rolls	Portland	3lb 11oz	92.19%
Smoothound	Michael Bennett	West Wight	17lb 0oz	
Whiting	Derry Meyers	Portland	1lb 2oz	
Wrasse – Ballan	Steve Goodwin	Portland	4lb 10oz	
Other by %				
Red Gurnard	Kyle Bowler	Portland	1lb 15oz	193.75%

Junior Fish of the Year

Ling Matthew Lavis BCC 28lb 3oz

Overseas Fish of the Year

Atlantic Halibut Colin Searles PM 341lb 11oz

Conger Club Tankard Ryan Casey Weymouth 90lb 0oz

Norman Witt Trophy

Ryan Casey for his boat caught Conger Eel of 90lb 0oz.

Short Adjournment

On return from the break and prior to the resumption of the meeting, the Chairman called for a short period of reflection to remember Ken Froud. Ken was a longstanding member of EFSA England and was an active Committee member for many years. Sadly, he lost his life in tragic circumstances early last year.

7. Election of Officers: Prior to the election of Officers, it was agreed that the positions would be voted en-bloc, as there was only one nominee per vacant position.

Position	Nominee
Vice Chairman	R.Ashby
Secretary	K.Bowden
Boat Festival Officer	A.Selby
Shore Festival Officer	B.Senior

Chairman of Selectors (Boat)	Richard Russell
Chairman of Selectors (Shore)	Barrie Senior

Boat selectors	Neil Bryant, Ray Barron, Andy Selby, Jim Whippy
Shore selectors	Reg Clough, Paul Curtice
Game selectors	Ray Barron, Jim Whippy

Acceptance of all the above were proposed by Tony Hudson, seconded by Martin Bobbitt and accepted unanimously.

8. Election of Hon. Auditor:

Mr J.Knight was proposed as Hon Auditor by Keith Scaggs and seconded by Dave Clark. There being no other nominees, Mr Knight was duly elected for a one-year term of office.

On behalf of the meeting, the Chairman sent his best wishes to Mr Knight and wished him a speedy recovery following his recent operation.

9. Reports on Championships & Festivals for 2018:

a) Fun Fish Competition – Poole:

Mr Selby gave details of the event to be held the following day and confirmed that all fish would be measured and returned.

b) European Species (Conger) & Line Class Championships (Conger) – Weymouth:

Mr Selby informed the meeting that information and arrangements had been publicised in the October newsletter and online, but gave additional information to the meeting. He advised the membership to get their entries in early as places were filling fast as there were only 8 boats available. Closing dates for entries is March 31st.

c) English Boat Championship – Penzance:

Mr Selby informed the meeting that only 5 boats were available and that 27 species were caught during the last event at this venue. A good deal with the Lugger Inn had been made but that bookings would not be accepted unless an EFSA code was given and that this would only be obtained when entry had been received by the Competition Coordinator.

d) European Boat Championship – Iceland

Mr Bowden informed the meeting that 23 anglers would be going from the Section and that all arrangements were just about completed.

e) European Shore Championship – Italy

In the absence of Mr Senior, the Secretary informed the meeting that the European Shore Championship are due to be held in Italy on 25th to 29th September at Lido del Sole. Further details are hopefully due soon.

f) English Species Championship (Cod/haddock) - Penzance

Mr Selby advised the meeting that the same set of circumstances as the English Boat Championship applied to this event.

g) English Shore Championship - Chesil

In the absence of Mr Senior, the Secretary informed the meeting that the English Shore Championship will be held at Chesil Beach on 6th and 7th April, exact venue to be announced soon. The HQ hotel will be the Fairhaven Hotel, Weymouth and for booking details and entry form please see the EFSA website. Following the Championships there is an opportunity the following day to fish Weymouth Angling Centre's Flatfish Open. Mr Selby added that special dispensation had been given by the National Trust for anglers to be given special access so as to get close to the venue by car. Further details would be given on the EFSA England website.

h) Game Championship - Azores

Mr Bowden informed the meeting that the event is being organised by EFSA Portugal between 14th and 19th September. Those wishing to participate should let him know before the end of March so that the appropriate arrangements can be made. It was expected that the whole package would cost about £1400 for the 7 day duration.

10. Special Business

The EFSA England committee proposes to withdraw Life Membership awards from future festivals and Championships.

The EFSA England committee proposes to withdraw Life Membership category within Section England.

A short discussion followed explaining the reasons behind the decision and that this was also under consideration by EFSA HQ. It was confirmed that Life Membership categories already printed on current entry forms would remain for this year. Acceptance of the proposals was made by Tony Hudson, seconded by Ashley Currier and accepted unanimously.

11. Annual General Meeting 2019. A date and venue was to be confirmed later in the year.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 12:45 hrs.

Competition Prizes

I'm sure that you will appreciate that selecting a prize table for competitions is always very tricky and almost impossible to please everyone. Therefore, the committee would like your views on the structure of the prize tables as we would like to be as forward thinking as possible and try to reflect your views. For instance, we currently offer all manner of fishing tackle etc, but appreciate that most of you already have as much as you can handle. We would like to know your thoughts on whether special glassware, tackle vouchers or anything else that comes to mind would be preferable to what's on offer at the moment.

Even if you are content with the current prize table as it is, it would be good to get some feedback from you.

As always within EFSA England, it is only your input and feedback that informs us that all is well or whether we need to do something different.

Please forward your ideas to me at kimbowden@ntlworld.com

Fish Recorder's Report.

Considering the awful weather we have had so far this year, the entries received have been pretty good. With the recent ban on catching bass the decision was taken to close entries until such time as the ban is lifted. One entry was received before the New Year, in both the boat and shore categories. I would suggest that we still award the trophies for these categories particularly as the fish caught were of a good standard.

BOAT

Bass (Closed)	Ray Barron	PM	13lb 13oz	
Black Bream				
Cod	Dick Prosser	PM	18lb 13oz	
Conger Eel				
Flounder				
Plaice				
Pollack				
Ray – Blonde				
Smoothound				
Whiting	Ray Godwin	Portland	2lb 1oz	
Wrasse – Ballan	Dave McCune	PM	3lb 5oz	
Other by %				
Spurdog	Alan Bird	PM	16lb 8oz	122.4%

SHORE

Bass	Noddy Coan	Portland	11lb 6oz	
Black Bream				
Cod	Kyle Bowler	Portland	7lb 7oz	
Conger Eel	Kyle Bowler	Portland	12lb 6oz	
Flounder	Kyle Bowler	Portland	11lb 15oz	
Plaice	Jack Butcher	Portland	2lb 2oz	
Pollack	Derry Meyers	Portland	11lb 15oz	
Mullet – all by %				
Smoothound	Kyle Bowler	Portland	5lb 6oz	
Whiting	Noddy Coan	Portland	11lb 7oz	
Wrasse – Ballan	Kyle Bowler	Portland	3lb 15oz	
Other by %				
Pouting	Kyle Bowler	Portland	2lb 3oz	145.83%

Overseas Fish of the Year

Jack Crevalle	Ray Barron	PM	20lb 0oz	
Guitarfish	Ivan Wellington	PM	21lb 0oz	

European Species 2017 (Flatfish) Report

Anglers from a total of nine Sections fished the 2-day Species Championship at Spodsbjerg on the Danish Island of Langeland. Target species were plaice, dab and flounder with a slim chance of other flat fish. This was also the Line Class event for 2017 for those that chose to enter and use the supplied braid.

On the Monday most anglers went out for a practice and were impressed with the large number of the target species caught. Other species caught were small cod and whiting.

Monday evening was registration and opening ceremony at the Hotel Skudehavn, Rudkobing. The organisers provide further information on the fishing program and took questions to clarify the rules. It was also a gave plenty of opportunity to catch up with the many friends from the other Sections.

Day 1

Tuesday 31st October and the 57 anglers made their way to this very friendly fishing venue with a large free car park close to the boats. The anglers boarded one of the 5 boats taking part to ready themselves for the days fishing. With a strong wind blowing it was decided all boats would turn left out of the harbour heading North and fish along that bit of coast where there was some shelter. All anglers started at the same time and it soon became clear it was the locals that fished this water a lot for flatfish certainly had the rigs and technique to catch the them. Each fish scored 1 point and fish over 40cm scoring 10 points. At the end of the day it was the Swedish and Danish anglers ahead with scores of 90 points or greater. On return to port it was time to socialise with a sausage and beer provided by the organisers, a nice end to the day.

Day 2

Wednesday, the second day of the Championship, and the plan was similar to day one, fishing the same ground. Some boats found the fishing was a little slower than day 1 but others saw more fish coming aboard. There were still a lot of flatfish to be caught with the top anglers managing to score in the 70's. Many of England improved their catch from day 1 with scores around the 50 points but it was still the Swedish and Danish out in front with the top 6 places split between them. The total number of flatfish caught were 4331, most were released with a few being kept for the table.

Day 3

Thursday was a reserve day in case one of the previous days had to be cancelled. However, as this was not needed some of the English anglers took the opportunity to go sightseeing others to chill out or try some shore fishing. The shore fishing only produced one fish - a rockling for Kim Bowden.

This well-run Championship finished off on the Thursday evening with a superb gala dinner and the presentation.

In the Teams of Four the team of Neil Cottington, Cliff Newbold, Matt Osborne and Mike Smith took bronze position with a total score of 402 points.

The overall winner was Magnus Landtblom from Sweden, second was Linus Nillson and third Nichlas Elberg Iverson.

European Shore Championships 2017 Report

Hof Van Domburg in the Netherlands was the HQ for the 2017 European Shore Championships. Nine EFSA England anglers travelled over on the Monday to enable a practice on Tuesday before the opening ceremony and registration. Picking up our bait and a few goodies from the well stocked local tackle shop we were soon on the beach for a few hours fishing, catching mainly dabs and whiting then back to the spacious chalets we had been allocated. EFSA Holland had thoughtfully provided each chalet with a bag of staples and some beer so shopping could wait. Fishing throughout the three days was tough with strong cold winds, rain, hail, sleet and snaggy pegs that swallowed tackle and beaches that favoured long casters.

Day 1

Match cards and bait were handed out and pegs drawn before heading to the beach. Whiting made up most of the catches with a few dabs being caught by most. The match was fished into darkness and the continual heavy rain showers played havoc with keeping match cards dry. Tackle hungry pegs did their best to restrict catches for some of us. Paull Curtice won his zone with Stewart Jones 3rd and Dave Lovelock 4th in their zones.

Day 2

Unlike the previous day after the peg draw and bait allocation, the cards were handed to the organisers, as it had been decided all fish would be kept and brought back to be measured and recorded on the match cards in the dry. This was due to so many cards being almost unreadable the previous day. The fish would be collected and taken to a sea bird sanctuary for the birds; additionally the match would only be for 4 hours.

Fishing was from the same venues as the previous day in similar conditions. Again, whiting caught at a distance were the mainstay of most catches and again there were some tackle hungry pegs. Paull Curtice continued as he had started with another zone win. However, the rest of us were unable to get into the top positions.

Day 3

It was back to the usual recording of fish on the match cards as they were caught. The beach at Domburg was due to be the venue on this day. However, a sperm whale was

sightseers meant the car parks were full. The organisers hastily moved the match to the beach at Oostkapelle, a venue they do not normally fish, so catches were expected to be poor. At the start of the match some of us were unable to reach the sand bank in front of us to begin fishing for up to 15 minutes due to a deep gully with water still rushing through it. We started in the sunshine but as the evening wore on the occasional rain and sleet showers made their presence felt. Distance casters were again rewarded with whiting. Dave Lovelock had a 4th place in his zone as did Richard Russell. Unfortunately, Paull was unable to maintain his winning ways and came 5th in his zone putting him back into 9th place overall.

Dave Lovelock was top senior with a total of 34 points from the three matches. Arjan Rinjberg from Netherlands took the gold pin, Haydn Cole from Wales took the silver pin and Bjorn Hansen from Germany the bronze pin. Germany B won the International Teams gold.

On the Saturday there was time during the day to clean the tackle and pack away ready for the return journey on the Sunday for most anglers. Saturday evening the presentation and Gala dinner were held. There was a great buffet to feed us, background music provided by a local DJ who did test the fire alarm when he used his smoke machine! After the meal the presentation took place, Paull Curtice being England's top angler, though others from England did feature in the drawn teams.

The host venue looked after us well and despite the late hours we got back from fishing in the evening the site restaurant stayed open, so we could wind down with a beer and warm meal and discuss where we went wrong. It was a well organised Championship at a great venue, despite the challenging weather.

2018 Fun Fish Poole Report

A soggy and windy day was forecast and 28 anglers boarded 4 boats while 4 anglers went to roam the shore, all to target flounder to become the 2018 fun fish Champion. The boats all headed to the same bit of shallow mud as this gave the best shelter from the prevailing wind. The reports of recent boat trips targeting flounder were not very encouraging, as a day's fishing only produced a couple of flounder on the boat, so expectations were not great.

After about an hour a shout went up from one of the boats and the first flounder was caught and after another couple of hours we heard of another couple being caught, but none on our boat. The only sign of marine life was the seal that surfaced behind the boat so we moved up the harbour where the skipper had 2 flounder a couple of days before. In the area we went to I have seen many flounder over the years so hopes were high of getting on the score sheet.

On a positive note, the weather that was forecast was totally wrong and by afternoon there was hardly any wind and just an occasional couple of drops of rain. With about 4 hours gone the first flounder was netted on our boat, one of 35cm to Tony Sherwood, not the biggest we had heard of, but at least it was the target species. With that there was a renewed effort that maybe our efforts would be rewarded. Various methods were tried with floats coming out to drift the bait along the sea bed and cover some ground, others tried 2 up or 1 up 1 down and these were cast in every direction. But despite all this we were not rewarded and at lines up there was just the one flounder recorded on our boat. One thing of note we did see another seal in this area also.

When we got back to the shore the other boats had not fared much better, one other boat with just the one fish and another boat with 2. The top boat was Strongbow with 3 flounder between the 8 anglers. So it was back to the car park to see how the 4 anglers that fished the shore had done and to enter the recorded fish onto the master score sheet which would not take long. On the shore 2 anglers had managed to catch 1 flounder each, so this made a total of 9 flounder caught by 9 different anglers out of a total of 32 that fished.

In 2017 there were 39 flounder recorded. It cannot be said for sure why the reduction in flounder numbers. There are reports of commercial fishing for flounder, but one definite reason is the release into Poole harbour of 3 common seals. One of these seals was seen by anglers the week before. They were fishing from the shore and observed a seal come to the surface on 3 occasions and proceed to eat the flounders it had caught. I may be proved wrong but I believe there will be no flounder in Poole harbour next winter so we need to go elsewhere for the 2019 AGM and fun fish or fish for another species at Poole.

The presentation took place in the car park as is usual for this event. As there were 9 anglers on 1 fish each it was down to length to obtain the winner. 9th place being a fish of 34cm the rest were all close and in 3rd place was Matt Osborne with one of 42cm, runner up Martin Bobbett with a fish of 43cm and in first place with a fish of 47cm was Vernon Allen. So this meant besides Vernon winning overall, he also took the trophy for longest flounder and as he fished from the shore the trophy for top shore angler, so plenty of glass ware to adorn his trophy cabinet.

Overall Results

1 st	Vernon Allen	47cm	shore caught
2 nd	Martin Bobbett	43cm	
3 rd	Matt Osborne	42cm	
4 th	Reg Clough	40cm	shore caught
5 th	Pete Bailey	38cm	
6 th =	Ash Courier	37cm	
6 th =	Pete Neale	37cm	
8 th	Tony Sherwood	35cm	
9 th	Richard Russell	34cm	

Forthcoming Events

English Species Festival (Haddock & Cod) 16th and 17th November.

As some of you may have noticed this event is on a Friday and Saturday. We are trialling this to see what members think for the ease of travelling. Please let me know your thoughts. We will be targeting Haddock as our main species along with Cod. This time of year is the best for Haddock fishing with much larger fish showing.

Again our HQ hotel is the Lugger Inn. Full booking details will be sent upon receipt of your entry and the hotel has been booked out for EFSA members on the 15th 16th and 17th November. Again, same booking system as for the English Boat.

A practice boat has been booked for the 15th November so please contact Matt Osborne to secure a place.

All our Efsa England events now will include Drawn Teams and Longest Fish in the Entry Fee.

European Shore 2018

This event is hosted by Section Italy at Foce Varano from 25th to 29th September 2018. All the available details are on the website and entries have to be with Kim Bowden by 15th May.

EFSA England Boat Events 2019

It will be a big year again for us in 2019 as we will be holding the European Championships from Weymouth in September. There is a new format for the week long event where the 2 day Light Line results and the 3 day Boat results are added together to give the overall European Champion. We will be using the Crown Hotel in central Weymouth as our HQ hotel and have agreed preferential rates for EFSA Members.

We are trying the Medway as a new venue for our AGM/Funfish event in January and will be fishing for flatfish which will be mainly dabs and flounder. Our Am venue will be using the Abbey Hotel.

In May we will be holding our English Boat Championship from Minehead and in November our Species event will be returning to Liverpool to target Cod in the Mersey.