

----- Original Message -----

From: [Cadman Simon](#)

To: kevin@consolsoils.co.uk

Cc: [Derriman Eddy](#) ; BH@borlase-co.co.uk

Sent: Monday, August 20, 2007 12:16 PM

Subject: Commercial & Recreational bass fishing

Dear Kevin

Following up on your AOB agenda item at the CSFC meeting on 20 July 2007, where you suggested (and I agree) that recreational boat anglers and commercial boat fishermen should work together to formulate a modus operandi, I have since spoken with several commercial bass fishermen who thought the idea was worth exploring.

So far, I have only run the idea past the commercial sector fishing in the Manacles, which as you know is the area that is most problematic in terms of conflict between them and the recreational boat anglers for space and numbers of fish being removed from that fishery.

Many of the commercial bass fishermen working in the Manacles are members of the South West Handline Fishermen's Association (SWHFA), and thought that it would be helpful if the CFSA made a formal approach to the SWHFA to try and convene a meeting at which a good understanding of each others needs in the fishery could be gained, hopefully leading to an agreed way forward to fish around one another.

It is my view that an attempt to resolve the fishing issues in the Manacles area should be looked at first in isolation, separate to other areas of conflict. To try and gather interested parties in from other 'hot spots' around the County in one place could be difficult as some of the problems elsewhere may be subtly different and a large gathering of people may become too unwieldy to find resolutions.

I would be happy to assist in the furthering of better relations and understandings of fishing practices between commercial and recreational fishermen. If you would like help in promoting a meeting I will gladly pass details on to the boat skippers which I come across at sea. It just so happens that we are about to embark on the bi-annual round of sea fishing meetings which we hold at a dozen locations around the County. They are open to all with an interest and would be a good forum to introduce this possible way forward, if progress has been made to hold your meeting.

I think that some form of working agreement, perhaps a 'code of practice' is well worth pursuing and if one can be arrived at, I can easily pass details on to many of the boat fishermen that are active in the fishery.

Good publicity in fishing papers/magazines, clubs and associations, perhaps on local radio/TV should be quite easily attainable for any agreement reached.

You can contact SWHFA through David Muirhead.

Triss Rose Cottage, The Lizard, Helston TR12 7NL. Email: BH@borlase-co.co.uk (work)
Tel: 01326 574988 (work)

If I can be of any further help, please let me know.

Regards

Simon Cadman

Senior Fishery Officer

Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee

Old Bonded Warehouse

Quay Street

Penzance

Cornwall TR18 4BD

Tel: 01736 369817

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: Flounder Survey

From: "John Brooks" <jcbsula@yahoo.co.uk>

Date: Thu, 19 April, 2007 10:49 am

To: "Darren Libby" <darrenlibby@comfortcaregroup.co.uk>

"Kevin Bennetts" <kevin@consolsoils.co.uk>

"Jim Taylor" <madfishjim@tiscali.co.uk>

"Mark Kaczmarek" <mkaczmarek@cornwall.gov.uk>

"Adrian Hill" <recorder@thecfsa.com>

"Simon Toms" <simon.toms@environment-agency.gov.uk>

"Stuart Athay" <skipperstuie@hotmail.com>

"Ted Tuckerman" <tedtuckerman@eclipse.co.uk>

> Dear all

>

> Please find the E mail from Rod Wilson at the Exeter Uni. He has asked for more help in the Flounder Survey in the form of different questions and on an excel spreadsheet. If any one can fill it in with hard catch figures it would be great, please return all the mails back to me michael@spiller7210.freeserve.co.uk and I will collate them for Rod.

>

> Thanks for your help

>

> Mike Spiller

>>

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: <R.W.Wilson@exeter.ac.uk>

> To: "Michael Spiller" <michael@spiller7210.freeserve.co.uk>

> Sent: Sunday, April 08, 2007 10:24 PM

> Subject: Flounder Survey

>>

>> Hi Mike,

Please find attached a template I have drawn up in Microsoft Excel for another survey on the flounder caught in recent years. If the clubs can complete this version for the last ten years (or even earlier if they have the data) then this would be much more useful.

I think that getting data from the club competitions is most likely to be the best source of information, but if clubs, or individuals, have other flounder data that they can provide the full details for then this would be just as acceptable. The important issues are to:

- 1) Provide data for each rivers separately, not combined.
- 2) Provide estimates of number of anglers, number of lines per angler, and time of lines in the water.

The latter is essential if we are to calculate the catch-per-unit-effort, which is crucial if we are to compare trends over time, and between sites.

Data on the River Teign and Exe are obviously what we are targeting, but it is just as important to have other rivers/estuaries to compare with, especially if we think that the Teign and Exe have suffered in particular in recent years. So please send the request to as many clubs around the South West (or further?) as you like.

Please also feel free to modify the spreadsheet (e.g. to add your

address for where replies should be sent, or room for further comments).
Many thanks and I hope your meeting goes well.
Regards
Rod

Yahoo! Mail is the world's favourite email. Don't settle for less, sign up for your freeaccount today.

From: Phil Lockley

To: Kevin Bennetts

Sent: Friday, April 06, 2007 1:56 PM

To: Western Morning News from Phil Lockley.

Date: Thursday, April 5, 2007

Interview with Kevin Bennetts.

(740)

THE British fishing industry is edging ever closer to an environmental and economic catastrophe, one engendered by the discredited and detested Common Fisheries Policy

(CFP), says Kevin Bennetts, ex commercial fisherman, avid sea angler and now a

member of the Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee.

His stance toward the forthcoming Marine Bill, from which British anglers and

fishermen may remain at loggerheads, describes it as "unilateral tinkering on a

subject that requires full involvement throughout Europe, not just the UK" he said.

"The chickens – hatched by Prime Minister Edward Heath's treachery in 1983 when he

handed over control of our priceless fishing grounds to Brussels – have now come

home to roost with a vengeance.

"Our emasculated fishing industry is reduced to factional infighting in the scrabble

to survive the relentless onward march of bureaucracy.

"Defra now holds a poisoned chalice, one forged from thirty years of eye watering

mismanagement and governmental indifference, compounded by the greed of certain

catching sectors.

In Cornwall, as a result of arbitrarily imposed vessel size limitations, a class of

inherently safe seaworthy vessels has disappeared to be replaced by boats measuring

under 10 metres known as 'rule beaters.

"These technologically advanced vessels offer formidable catching capacity, but

generally lack the reserves of stability safety and endurance of the vessels they

replace and this effort tends to be heavily concentrated on the inshore grounds.

"Thus trawlermen, scallopers, netters and potters all jockey for position

inside the 6-mile limit and in the case of static gear fishermen, this is often necessary as high-powered French trawlers often exercise their 'grandfather rights' and fish within UK waters up to the six mile limit."

He said how modern day high-tech fishing has resulted "in some cases, overfishing and serious consideration ought to be given to actively encouraging inefficient methods such as artesian hand line fishing which yield small quantities of superb quality premium produce with the absolute minimum carbon footprint," he added.

"As a result of understandable financial pressures on the one hand and declining catches on the other, potters and/or gill netters are now working more gear to try and stay in business."

He told of hidden factors that politicians have difficulty grasping, "the ever changing world of fishing," he commented.

"In the case of potting, the demand for bait has increased exponentially. For example, with Rick Stein's popularisation of previously used 'bait fish' like gurnard, what was once cheap has become a highly sought and expensive fish for the table.

"Other potential bait species such as wrasse and flounder – which historically were never commercially significant – are now used. Inject many thousands of disgruntled anglers who use those species as sport fish, many being returned, there is serious potential for damaging and unwanted conflict.

"The Marine Bill, long in gestation, is an unknown quantity, hopefully it will offer something for everyone but unless or until Brussels addresses the shortcomings of the CFP and the untold damage it has inflicted on us all, the future of the Marine Bill working is bleak."

He favours the growing popularity of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), saying it is a regime which appears to offer, "the tantalising prospect of pro active local stakeholder led inshore management from the bottom up, a complete contrast to the present cumbersome reactive top down style historically practiced by the government."

"Hopefully not a rehash of the rightly discredited no-take-zones (NTZs), MPAs may be an opportunity to identify and clearly manage identified and significant

areas to

benefit both the resource and ultimately the various stakeholders.

“Structured and

representative management is the key, arbitrary and permanent bans are a recipe for

conflict and bitterness.

“For example, control of gill netting during the spawning season on inshore reef

areas (when prices for fish tend to be very low) could benefit the inshore pollack

stock. This would trickle-down to boost the sustainable hand line fishery and also

help recreational anglers.

“Presently the Cornwall Federation of Sea Anglers are implacably opposed to ‘bag

limits’ or a sea angling licence fee, since to make it work it must be enforceable,

fair and demonstrably beneficial to those who pay.

“However, were measures of this type proven to work, it may then be possible to

explore the concept of an angling licence fee, opening up the interesting concept of

the fund offering some form of compensation to those that may be financially disadvantaged by short seasonal closures (commercial fishermen).”

Meeting with Ben Bradshaw MP

Nobel House

14 March 2007

J My name is Andy Alcock I am the Chairman of the South West Federation of Sea Anglers; as a Federation we represent some 27 Clubs with memberships ranging from as little as 25 to as great as 500 a total of approximately 2,500 recreational sea anglers.

J The SWFSA believes we should not let organisations drive a wedge between the recreational sea angler and commercial fisherman by highlighting and focusing on views that are not shared by all concerned.

J The SWFSA believes that as stakeholders recreational sea anglers should be entitled to a share in the responsibility of managing our fish stock but not to the detriment of the commercial fisherman. By definition the two names spells the right of one against the recreational pursuit of the other.

J The problem as we see it is when the boundaries between recreational sea angling and commercial fishing become blurred due to the recreational sea angler making a profit from his catch by selling it direct to a merchant, to a restaurant, to a pub or by any other means he sees fit.

Several organisations share the view that while it is not illegal to sell fish caught from the shore (unless it is not disclosed to the Revenue) it is when it is caught from an unlicensed boat; creating a huge problem with black fish.

J As recreational sea anglers we have to decide are we in it for

the fun or in it for the money. If it's for the fun then as Federations we have to get our own house in order and eradicate the black fish market to justify our right as stakeholders. If it for the money then become a commercially licensed fisherman.

J In conclusion the SWFSA believes that recreational sea anglers and commercial fishermen should be supportive and understanding of each others needs to conserve, protect and to promote our fishery.

----- Original Message -----

From: John Brooks

To: jcbsula@yahoo.co.uk

Sent: Saturday, November 18, 2006 6:16 PM

Subject: Sea Anglers Forum

Hi

I have spoken over the months with the four members of the Sea Fisheries Committee who have a particular interest in sea angling, and with a few other anglers, all of whom think it would be a good idea for a group of anglers to meet up with the four with an interest in sea angling, namely Stuart Athay, Kevein Bennetts, Mark Kaczmarek and Simon Toms.

After several false starts, I have found a venue where we can have a room, The Coppice Inn at Lanner. This is fairly easy to find and has a good car park. The landlord is happy for us to meet one Thursday, and if we could manage either the 30 November or 7 December, then we could have a meeting before Christmas. If neither of these two dates are convenient, then I will get some dates for after Christmas.

I would propose that apart from the above four, we keep the numbers down to a dozen or less so that the meeting is more manageable. If you think of anyone who could bring some good ideas to such a group, please let me know. The topics that could be included might be:

Bass MLS - what next

Byelaw on multi-rig trawling

Nets

Closed areas

Closed seasons

Bag limits

Any other topics that could be discussed.

Hopefully the SFC members with an interest in sea angling will have some idea of what anglers in Cornwall want, and can use the fact that such a meeting has been held to support their proposals.

I look forward to hearing from you.

John Brooks

From: Kevin Bennetts

To: Tim.Oliver@informa.com

Cc: Phil Lockley

Sent: Sunday, October 29, 2006 10:40 AM

Subject: Bass Wars.

Hi Tim,

What an unedifying spectacle the current confusion and vitriol surrounding the bass minimum size issue must be conveying to the media and general public.

In the midst of the bitter recriminations both sides seem to have totally forgotten the real villains who all British stakeholders should be concentrating their fire on. They are so busy

blaming each other while the French quietly gear themselves up for yet another winter decimating the spawning aggregations of bass in the Channel.

Clear evidence is emerging of increasing hostility to this lethal fishery in France, a major French supermarket announced that in future it will not be taking pair trawl caught bass ostensibly on quality grounds. One cannot but wonder if this significant move was a result of pressure from the powerful Breton handlining lobby who also want curbs on this method to

protect their own interests in a lucrative very sustainable fishery based on fish of good size almost exclusively plus 2 kilos in very good numbers.

Trying to ban the pair trawling method outright would be counter productive almost certainly impacting unfavourably on our own fleet at some future time. What might just be effective would be a Brussels imposed community wide seasonal closure for bass that would

include every method including angling from say mid January to mid March. If the fish could

not be sold there would be little point pursuing them. If a localised discard situation arose in a

mixed fishery it might just be a price worth paying in this isolated instance.

Given the current abundance of small bass many are complacent about stock health. That said last winters sustained spell of cold easterly weather did not augur well for a good year class. This is borne out by a virtual absence of 'o' group bass in sample netting on the Fal and

Helford this summer. Previous year classes are growing exceptionally well given the warm conditions. However it will only take a couple of poor year classes to make a considerable hole in a large stock of basically small fish.

What are missing in any number are the prime breeding fish from 2 to 4 kilos which would also be of huge benefit to the hook and line fishery both commercial and leisure. I wonder where they are?

Best regards,

Kevin Bennetts,

Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers.

Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee.

----- Original Message -----

From: Kevin Bennetts

To: tope@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Cc: jim taylor

Sent: Monday, October 16, 2006 11:05 AM

Subject: TOPE CONSULTATION RESPONSE BY THE CORNISH FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS

Dear Mr Cotter,

The response by the Cornish Federation of Sea Anglers is as follows:

1 Tope are an important target species on the North Cornish Coast for both charter boats and private craft. They are generally encountered from May till August peaking in June and July when they can be very prolific. There is no recognised or significant Tope fishery on the

South Coast of Cornwall.

2 They are encountered in areas of moderate to strong tidal runs particularly Godrevy and Trevoze on generally rough bottoms running on to sand. Nearly all targeted effort is within the

six mile limit and therefore within the jurisdiction of Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee.

This

could be highly significant in facilitating local conservation measures.

3 Generally the most numerous fish are pack Tope in the 5 to 15 kilo range with a high proportion of male fish. Later in the season there is often a run of large female fish from + 15

to (exceptionally) 25 kilos it is felt that these could be pregnant in the majority of cases.

4 While there is presently no targeted commercial Tope fishery any reappearance of Spurdogs in this area where they were historically prolific prior to gill netting would have serious implications for the Tope population which has possibly filled the gap left by the elimination of the Spurdog stock.

5 Given the seasonal nature of this fishery it might be prudent to consider an embargo on gill

netting and long lining within the six mile limit from Pendeen to Hartland from May to August

(inclusive) .Being an inshore area this would be relatively easy to introduce and enforce within

the present Cornwall Sea Fisheries patrol regime. As things stand at present this would not adversely affect established commercial fishing patterns.

6 Given the migratory nature of the species there is obviously no one size fits all quick fix. The

present low market value of Tope is a very positive conservation tool. That said the repugnant

trade in Shark fins could have a rapid and disastrous effect on the health of the stock. It is therefore seen as imperative that this issue is urgently addressed at both European and IICES level.

7 Another possible local influence is the insatiable demand for pot bait. Most potters working

offshore now fish shark baits on every marker buoy. Given the sheer number of these buoys

this must be having a seriously negative effect on the general Shark population. It is not clear

whether Tope are taken in this way but it ought to be borne in mind as none of these fish ever

figure in any catch statistics.

8 The vexed question of by catch is a perennial hot potato. The CFSA's view is that any fish

caught commercially ought to be landed to give a better picture of what is actually being caught. Discards as engendered by the quota system are as repugnant as shark finning therefore it is felt that a mechanism should be devised to prevent a targetted Tope fishery evolving. There is clear historical evidence of the unsustainability of gill nets targeted at small

Shark species. It would be regrettable if lessons have not been learned from previous mistakes.

9 It is felt that Tope because of their current relative abundance, low commercial / high recreational value should be designated a sport fish with catch and release practised while the status quo is maintained viz a viz limited commercial bycatch. With this in

mind it is strongly suggested that DEFRA take on board concerns about the hidden and unreported, unregulated shark fishery for pot bait.

Many thanks for the opportunity to contribute to the debate, it is hoped that the above points

are relevant and a positive outcome ensues.

Yours faithfully,

Kevin Bennetts,

Conservation spokesman CFSA

Member CSFC

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To: jcsula@yahoo.co.uk

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