

Newquay Skippers Celebrate CFSA Anniversary

Two Newquay charter skippers offer free day afloat to invited federation members.

Dave Trebilcock (Spanish) skipper of Che Sara Sara and Wayne Row (Mouse) of Mystique offered their charter boats to join in the Federation 50th anniversary celebrations. Members who finished in the top 10 senior and top two in both the junior sections and ladies in 2008 were offered the chance of a free day afloat on May 3rd 2009.

Unfortunately not all members were available and the weather on the day blew up a Northerly 4-5 and the sea state was a bit lively. Younger members were represented by Truro City SAC member Dean Southworth who found the conditions difficult along with some of the more experienced senior members on board.



Che Sara Sara slips off her mooring and manoeuvres to pick up anglers from the harbour steps.

Dave Trebilcock is one of the most experienced skippers in Cornwall with over thirty years fishing the North Cornish waters off Newquay. Over the years anglers aboard have claimed both Cornish and National boat records. Dave still holds the CFSA Record of 20lb 7oz for Common Smoothhound he caught way back in 1987.

Both vessels are Lochin 33 and are renowned for their superb sea-worthiness. Both are licensed to carry 12 anglers and offer excellent fishing within a few miles of the harbour.

The first group of anglers are aboard Mystique and ready to go. These consisted of Jon Ball, Mike Ivey and Bob Woodman of Looe SAA, Cath Elcocks and Andy Butler of Cornwall Boat fishing Club and Jason Hawke and Rich from Camborne AA. Bob Pollard and daughter Hannah cancelled due to the poor sea conditions.

Anglers aboard Che Sara Sara were Steve Penrose, Graham Browning, Adrian Hill, Simon and Dean Southworth of Truro City SAC, Phil Northey and Spencer of Newquay Rowing Club and Andrew Drysdale of Liskeard & Dist SAC.



The aim was to fish a mark a few miles off for Smoothhound and Bream so anglers were armed with a variety of bait, lugworm, peeler crab, squid and mackerel.

The journey out was against a head sea which took us about 30 minutes to arrive at the productive area of rough ground. Last year this ground produced some large Hounds to over 20lb so were all looking forward getting the anchor in and having a try for these sporting fish.

Che Sara Sara

First fish to show were Black Bream, small fish to start with a few around the 1lb 8oz mark but Andrew Drysdale had a reasonable fish of 2lb 14oz taking lugworm.



These sporting fish give a very good fight on light tackle and are excellent eating. With small mouths Black Bream fishing requires small but strong hooks usually on a double rig. These fish tend to pluck the baits and there is a tendency to strike too soon. Once hooked these lively fish put that characteristic judder and bounce in the rod tip all the way to the surface with powerful dives. Occasionally Red Bream put in an appearance but nowhere in the numbers of 20 years ago when 4lb plus fish were caught quite regularly.

Another exotic bream which can be caught in this area is the Couchs Bream which until recently the British Record was held with a fish of 4lb 14oz only to be beaten in 2007 with a fish of 6lb 9oz caught from the Channel Islands. Couchs Bream have larger mouths than Black and Red Bream with an impressive set of teeth for crushing crabs etc. 2008 saw the CFSA record bettered twice within two weeks in October. Ed Schliffke fish of 5lb 5oz was bettered by Cath Elcocks with a beauty of 5lb 12oz 8dr taken aboard Mystique.

With large peeler crab baits tipped with hermit crab it wasn't long before the first Smoothhound showed. Not a big fish but still the first hound of the year for Adrian Hill a fish of around 7lb. A few minutes later saw a better fish of just over 13lb take the bait which gave a very good fight on 20lb class gear.



Phil Northey is pleased with his 13lb hound



Adrian Hill with his 2nd hound a nice 13lber

Along with the hounds and Black Bream came Ling, Pollack, Ballan and Cuckoo Wrasse, Pouting and of course not forgetting Doggies. Phil Northey caught his Starry of just under 13lb on whole squid.

Mystique

Jon Ball dropped his crab bait down and it wasn't long before a hound picked up the bait a very respectable Starry of just over 14lb. Jon had another Hound this time a Common of 14lb 8oz and a couple of Black Bream.



What a fantastic sporting fish Smoothhound are, very powerful runs and fight all the way to the surface. They prefer crab but will take squid, worm and mackerel and are often caught on bream rigs on number no 2 or 3 hook



Above Jon with his Starry of just over 14lb and right a Common of 14lb 8oz. The Federation uses the TACGB formula to gauge the weight of these fish. Measure the girth of the fish and from the tip of the snout to the fork of the tail. Multiply the girth x girth x length and divide by 800. This is a very good guide to the weight of the fish, then return them to fight another day.



Jason Hawke from Camborne AA had two Starrys best just over 12lb again taking peeler crab. He seems to be putting on brave face but I did hear he didn't feel very well.

Below is Mystique at anchor and as you can clearly see the sea conditions were a bit lively on the day with a fresh 'draught' as Mouse would say.

Starry Smoothhound tend to show the first or second week of May and can be caught for a few weeks in numbers then they seem to thin out. Further up the coast they arrive a bit later and are caught on some shore marks and offer superb sport in shallow water.





Andy Butler of Cornwall Boat Fishing Club caught this 10lb 12oz Bullhuss while fishing the same rough ground. Some good specimen Huss can be caught on mackerel or squid baits but can make short work of light traces. Below is Bob Woodman with a Cuckoo Wrasse of just under 1lb. just goes to show the variety of fish on offer from the North Cornish Coast.

All anglers who were out on the day had a super time with good fishing, friendly banter and very good company provided by two of the best skippers I have had the privilege to go with. With exceptional fishing right on their doorstep treat yourself to a day out, the rewards can be very high.



Part of the Federations aim during its 50th anniversary is to raise funds for the R.N.L.I. It is a big comfort to all who go to sea to know that these volunteers are there to help us if we ever got into difficulty around the coastline. Those anglers who were lucky enough to go on this trip together donated £135 for the fund.



I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say a big thank you to both Dave and Mouse for a great day out. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves even in the rough conditions and I for one always look forward to our next club trip out with one of them.

Adrian Hill

CFSA Recorder