

Teifi Boating Club
Annual Fishing Competition Report
2024



Jacob Collins with an early Bass

Once again, the patchy weather conditions interrupted the fishing during the early part of the season but as the weather warmed up opportunities to launch became more regular and catch reports started to appear. I was able to find a break towards the end of April where I opened my account although the fishing was very slow and not a great deal was caught. Derek Collins, always one of the first out of the blocks, ventured out at the beginning of May with son Jacob recording an early Bass in his species count.

As the spring progressed, a few more reports came in but mackerel were very thin on the ground. This remained the case for most of the season and even during the summer finding mackerel in any numbers was a challenge.

While mackerel remained elusive, the same cannot be said for Pollack. They were, in short, a nuisance. I picked up a couple of early Pollack from a wreck mark that were surprisingly larger than usual from that particular spot and for the rest of the season I was encountering numbers of smaller pollack (1lb to 3lb) that just hit any baits or lures I dropped near a reef or wreck. Two or three times I drifted slightly too far on a mackerel drift and hit an area of reef resulting in a 'full house' of pollack on my feathers.

Even without the numbers of mackerel, it was pleasing to see quite a few reports of decent size Bass this year. Those who like to target these fish were quite often rewarded with numbers of decent sized fish. The Bass trophy was one of the closer fought events this year, the details of which are in the report below.

I'm was pleased to see a few more members trying for different species. Even if your main interest is to fish for the table, it's always a bit of fun to mix things up a bit during the day just to keep things interesting. Consequently, we had 16 species recorded this year which is not the most we have had but still a good showing overall.

After the disappointment of the weather preventing the running of the Mackerel competition last year, it was a relief that the weather played

ball this year allowing a small fleet of vessels out in pursuit of a large mackerel and the silverware that comes with it. The mackerel competition has become something of an institution at the club over the years and surprisingly seems to be the most keenly fought over award!

We had a few tope reported this year but I will emphasise the need to take a suitable tape measure if Tope are the intended target. A couple of the larger recorded fish fell to Finn Smith who, unfortunately for Finn, is not currently a member. Others also caught decent fish but without the required tape on board were unable to submit a valid claim.

Full details of next year's competitions will be published during the new year before the start of the season and will include all the information required for claiming an award, including Tope & Shark.

Most Species Competition

Species hunting is a very enjoyable aspect of fishing that has become very popular in recent years. We are blessed with a great variety of fish species around the Cardigan coastline and over the years, our small competition has encouraged members to vary their techniques, seeking out some of the many different species on offer.

This year there were 16 species declared from eleven members who submitted details for consideration. Paul Conway sought out some good fish the other categories this year and also tried a bit of species hunting. Paul's efforts saw him land 8 species during the season including Garfish and Conger.



Tompot Blenny

Species hunting is my main interest and something I consider every time I launch. Although we lost a few potential fishing days due to weather, I managed to land 12 species over the season to take the trophy for this year.

(Bass, Bull Huss, Corkwing Wrasse, Dab, Herring, Lesser Weever, Lesser Spotted Dogfish, Mackerel, Pollack, Tompot Blenny, Tub Gurnard and Whiting.)



2024 Species Trophy Winner **Pete Dutfield**



Shark & Tope Competition

With the weather restricting launches during the early part of the season, it was July before we had the first claim for the Shark & Tope trophy. Derek Collins hooked a 19lb fish about 200 yards shore side of Cardigan Island which proves it is not necessary to travel miles in order to target these fish. There were a number of other verified fish caught with Finn Smith catching a couple of Tope up to 31lb. Unfortunately, Finn's membership has lapsed so his fish won't be considered for the award but his efforts are certainly worthy of a mention in this year's report.

There were a few other Tope picked up during the season but they were not considered due to not being measured. If you intend going out looking for Tope, ensure you have a suitable tape measure aboard! I have a few 120" tape measures that I will make available next spring.



Shark & Tope Trophy winner Derek Collins 19lb



Heaviest Bass Competition

The current format for the bass competition has been in place for a number of years now and is judged on length rather than weight. There were several reasons for making this change and the system has worked well with several members regularly submitting claims for really good sized fish every year.

There were plenty of Bass caught this season, several of which were over 55cm. Simon Dorras caught a nice 60cm fish towards the end of June which was good enough to take the trophy at close of play.

Last year's winner Paul Conway went very close, catching plenty of good sized fish all season but couldn't quite find the extra centimetre or two required to hold on to the trophy.



Bass Trophy winner Simon Dorras



Mackerel competition

It was good to see quite a few boats launch for the Mackerel competition. There had been less fish about than previous years so there were fingers crossed that the mackerel would turn up on the day. As it turned out, the fish did put in an appearance and as the crews recovered their boats I was waiting on the slip with my scales.

Several fish weighed in around the 300 gram mark which is quite a bit smaller than usual but Nick Smith turned up with a nice 431 gram fish which was more than enough to pick up the Mackerel shield.



Nick Smith with winning mackerel 431 grams



Mackerel Trophy winner Nick Smith



Heaviest Specimen

There were few exceptional fish this year so the Heaviest Specimen was there for the taking should any reasonable sized fish turn up. I was fortunate that the weather allowed for a trip where I had time to anchor and fish for Huss and I was rewarded by a nice Bull Huss of just over

eight and a half pounds. With the Welsh Boat record being 20lb 8oz, this put the fish at 41.93% of the record and sufficient to take the award.



Pete Dutfield with the winning 3.9kg Bull Huss



Heaviest Specimen winner Pete Dutfield



