

Teifi Boating Club

Fishing Competitions 2024

My continued objective is to help promote the fishing competitions to as many club members as possible with particular emphasis on encouraging younger people to partake. Although some of us enjoy competitive angling, these competitions are only to enhance the enjoyment of using our boats. I feel it is always important to remind ourselves that TBC is a boating club, not a fishing club and therefore enjoyment is the key factor.

Four of our competitions run throughout the season in order that they remain accessible to all the membership and that the weather has less of an impact on success.

Species Competition (1st March to 30th September)

The 'Most Species' competition is being run over the course of the season. The competition takes the form of a 'Species Hunt' which is a very popular activity and encourages anglers to vary their tactics and locations in order to target the variety of species available along our coastline.

There are many species available to catch within a short distance of TBC. The number required to win the trophy has increased gradually over the past few years and demonstrates that people are applying variations to their tactics in order to target different types of fish.

This is a species hunt so size limits are not taken into consideration (Clearly there is an obligation to return undersize fish) and only one example of each species need be recorded. At the end of the season, the angler who catches the highest number of different species wins the competition. We have had some very close competitions over the past couple of seasons so the following 'tie break' system will be in place in the event two anglers are on the same total at close of play.

When you catch your fish, please send your photographs to me or upload onto the Power Section Facebook page and I will collate the totals over the course of the season. Don't worry if you are unsure about identifying a particular species, taking a few photographs from different perspectives will assist in identification. It helps if you can include something to gauge the overall size of the fish. A measure alongside is ideal but any common object of a set size will suffice. **Also, close up images of the head, underside and**

any distinguishing features can help in distinguishing species. For example, number of barbels, size and shape of fins etc. Other things to look for are scale/skin patterns, texture and markings on body and fins.

The Power Section Facebook page is good platform to publish your photographs and is beginning to be used more frequently as a means of communication and catch recording. If you do not like using social media then you can send your images to the e mail address detailed at the end of this document.

Tope & Shark Competition (1st March to 30th September)

The annual Tope & Shark competition has been run over the season for a couple of years now with great success. Several tope around the 40lb mark have been landed and these are more accessible than people imagine with Tope being taken within a mile or so of the shore. Don't forget that this is a Tope **& Shark** competition so anybody who fancies targeting sharks could take the honours.

Again, this impressive trophy will be awarded to the angler catching the heaviest Tope/Shark. It is pretty impractical to try and weigh these fish on a boat and although I have done it, the method below is more suited to our requirements and causes less distress. (To both fish and angler!) If you do decide to have a go for Tope then make sure you take a decent measure (Tailors style tape is ideal) with you **(INCHES)**

The girth of the fish is measured around the widest part of the belly. In front of the dorsal fin but behind the pectorals. The length is measured from the **tip of the nose to the fork at the centre of the tail fin (NOT THE TIP OF THE TAIL!!)**. **The measurement must be taken in INCHES** and the result is the estimated weight in pounds. (+ or – 3% so pretty accurate) All Tope/Shark must be released unharmed and a photograph should be submitted of the fish. Don't forget any Tope or Shark counts towards your species total as well! I require the length and girth of the fish in inches along with a photograph. I will then calculate the weight using a tried and tested formula employed for measuring sharks over many years.

Some members have been targetting Tope quite successfully over the last couple of seasons so there are plenty of people to give advice and information regarding fishing technique and marks etc.

I have a supply of 120" tapes that I can provide for £1. If you think you need a longer tape you have bigger problems to deal with!

Best Specimen Fish Competition (1st March to 30th September)

Until 2020 we awarded the trophy for the heaviest fish but in order to provide a better chance of winning to those who don't like to move offshore too much we decided to change the format to the best 'specimen'. What this means is the winner will be decided by the highest percentage of the Welsh Record weight for that particular species. For example, somebody who catches a particularly large pouting behind Cardigan Island would beat someone who caught an average sized Bull Huss further out, even though the Bull Huss maybe a lot heavier than the Pouting.

The 2023 award went to a Bass of 4lb 12oz which beat my Pollack of exactly the same weight using the calculation described above.

We intended to give the new competition format a couple of years trial and I think last season's result proved that it's a fairer system that gives more members a shot at the trophy.

Topo and any pelagic shark species are excluded from this competition but Bull Huss, Spurdog, Smoothound and Dogfish are eligible. Bass also count.

Captured fish will need to be **weighed as well as photographed**. I have a couple of sets of scales I use when fishing and one of the best items I have found to use with them is a blue IKEA carrier bag. They are light, very spacious and have long carrying handles which make hanging on the scale easy. I think they are about 50p, so splash out next time you need to buy home furnishings.

Mackerel Competition (Saturday/Sunday 10th or 11th August 2024. Alternative date Saturday/Sunday 24th or 25th August 2024)

Always a popular competition among the members and fun for the youngsters. Hopefully we will be blessed with fine weather and will get a decent turnout. You will notice from the year book event list that we now have a choice of four days. By identifying two suitable weekends we can aim for the Saturday with an alternative of 24 hours later on the Sunday. If neither day is suitable we get another weekend stab at it later. The reasoning

being that if people are available on the Saturday of a particular weekend they should be around the following day.

Heaviest Mackerel (grams) wins. As it was difficult in the past to identify who actually caught what on the boats it was decided that the trophy will show the winning boat name and whoever among the crew it is decided should take the honours for the winning fish.

Further details will be made available nearer the dates.

Bass Trophy (1st March to 30th September)

Introduced for the first time a few seasons ago, the largest Bass is now recognised with a trophy. Most anglers, if not all, will be well aware that restrictions on recreational Bass fishing are always being updated. This season, during 2024, no Bass may be retained during the months of February and March. This means that any Bass caught during March **MUST** be returned regardless of size. From 1st April two fish per angler per day are allowed to be retained. The minimum size for keeping a Bass is **42cm**. Any fish under minimum size must be returned.

The largest Bass is decided on length rather than weight. Although anglers may retain fish 42cm or over, undersized fish still count for the competition. It is a fairly quick process to photograph a fish alongside a measure and then return it without having to bother with scales and bags. **Photograph alongside measure** will get your fish entered.

As a club we can only be seen to be making efforts to assist compliance with current legislation and by adjusting our practises to suit the circumstances we help promote the club's profile.

Pete Dutfield

The best place to publish your entries is on the TBC Power Section Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1684734524899642>

If you don't use social media then please send any questions/entries/photographs to **tbcfishing@btinternet.com**

