

Teifi Boating Club Fishing Competitions 2021, update from Mr Pete Outfield

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 the 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 our 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 the 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 examples 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.

The following species carry a 'Bonus Point' that will **only be taken into account in the event of a tie.**

Bass, Ling, Ray (any Species), Cuckoo Wrasse, Red Gurnard, Turbot and Flounder. All these fish are fairly common and around our fishing areas but only a few have been declared during the past few years so I thought it would be an extra incentive to try and land one of the bonus candidates.

Please send your photographs to me 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 e.g. number of barbels, size and shape of fins etc. Other things to look for are scale/ skin patterns, texture and markings on the body and fins.

The Power section Facebook page is a good platform to publish your catch as it helps drive the interest in fishing. If you do not like using social media then you can send your images to the email address detailed at the end of this document. Even with the restrictions in place last season a few managed to reach double figures so hopefully we should begin to get some photographs in as the season gets underway.

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

The annual Tope & Shark competition has been running over the season for a couple of years now with great success. Several Tope of over 40lbs have been landed in this time to take the trophy and these are more accessible than people imagine with Tope being taken within a mile of the shore. Don't forget that this is a Tope and 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 (tailor style tape is ideal) with you (inches and apply the following formula.

$\text{Girth} \times \text{Girth} \times \text{Length (in inches)} \div 800$

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 in the centre of the tail fin (not the tip of the tail). The measurement must be taken in inches and the result is the estimate weight in pounds. All Tope/Shark must be released unharmed and photographs should be submitted of the fish. Don't forget that any Tope or shark count towards the species total as well. Myself and Nick Smith have been targeting the Tope quite successfully over the last couple of seasons so either of us are happy to pass on advice and information regarding fishing technique and marks etc. I have a supply of 120" tapes that I can provide for £1 each. 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 last year we awarded the trophy to 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 of a particular species. For example someone who catches a particular large pouting behind Cardigan Island would beat someone who caught an average sized Bull Huss further out, even if the Bull Huss may be a lot heavier than the Pouting.

This Trophy went unclaimed last season, probably due to the limited time fish and basically forgetting to measure fish.

Tope 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 a scale easy. I think they are about 50p, so splash out next time you need to buy home furnishings.

Mackerel Competition (Date published in the annual club year book)

Another one that went by the wayside due to Covid restrictions last year. Always a popular competition among the members and fun for the youngsters. Hopefully we will be blessed with fine weather and get a decent turnout. You will notice 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 are 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 is difficult in the past to identify who actually caught what on the boat 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.

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 remain in place however we can only take 2 fish per day so long as they are 42cm or longer.

The largest Bass is decided on length rather than weight. Although anglers may keep fish 42cm or over, undersize fish still count in 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 along side a 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 practices to suit the circumstances we help to 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/group/1684734524899642>

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