



Medway - Kent And Sussex Fishing Forum



Sea Reports

Sea Reports are proudly sponsored by MEDWAY - KENT AND SUSSEX FISHING FORUM

A very warm welcome to 2018 and the first Sea Reports of the New Year! I am delighted to tell you that we now have a new sponsor for our Sea Reports section!

MEDWAY - KENT & SUSSEX FISHING FORUM are a friendly, local Facebook group that share catch reports, tips and news with other like minded sea anglers throughout the region. This group offers a wealth of experience from it's members and newcomers to the group are warmly welcomed by it's administrators. Posts are monitored at all times to ensure 'fair play' from posting contributors. This ensures that a high standard is maintained at all times. Please take a look at the Forum and join up without delay! You will be glad you did. Please note that it is a Closed group so a request to join needs to be made to the admin team who respond very quickly to all requests.

The cod fishing has yet to materialise, however, the weather is now much more seasonal with the sea temperatures dropping away considerably from the 'balmy' Autumn that we have just experienced! Water temperature, at the time of writing is around 10 degrees centigrade so a lot lower than when we reported last month. Perhaps we will see some cod in January? If not, then this is the month that some prime dabs and flounders come to the beaches!

THAMES REPORT COURTESY OF WAYNE MAY

Thames charter boats are still finding the cod elusive this year, whiting are plentiful along with thornback rays once again in abundance. Lugworm tipped with squid or whole squid is a recommended bait, if you fancy getting out on the boat. At the time of writing the colder weather is upon us and sea temperatures are dropping. Hopefully, the codling will be with us soon!

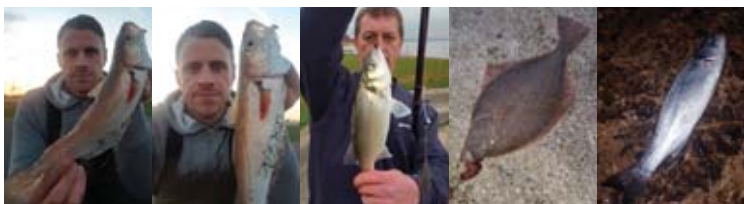
Isle of Grain and Allhallows are both fishing reasonably well producing plenty of whiting to ragworm and lugworm baits, some of a good size. Two hook flappers and pennel rigs are ideal here, and there's always a chance of landing a sizeable ray from the beach. Jimmy Smith from Greenhithe had some great night sessions along the Thames between the QE2 bridge and the old cement works at Swancombe, regularly landing 20 plus whiting on each trip. Single ragworm or lugworm tipped with a slither of squid proved effective for Mr Smith who used a 2 fixed wired boom rig or flapping rig working well for this time of year and down sizing to size 1 hooks on your snoods is better for bite detection.

Further up river at Morrison's pier, Erith, plenty of school bass are being caught on ragworm, although small in size, they are a welcome rattle on the rods.



MEDWAY REPORT COURTESY OF DANIEL TERRY

After fishing Rochester again in hope of the elusive Medway cod, I fished it from low all the way till high with big baits of lug and squid out in the middle on 7/0s to hopefully avoid the whiting giving the bait a chance. I still ended up with whiting, but, of a much bigger size having them to 37cm. I had a fair few double shots of large whiting. It was an enjoyable session with a few cracking bites that did look hopeful but still no Medway cod for me as of yet! After having being beaten up by whiting along the Medway a friend and I decided to give the Grain shallows a go on a night tide. This session was to try to avoid the whiting and try for bass and flounder with fresh blow and maddies. The tide produced mainly double shots of small bass for me and a few whiting with Wez, my friend, having a lot more whiting and a few bass. The following daytime tide produced larger bass for my friend and finally a small flounder. Not a whiting in sight and it was nice to find different species. We will certainly be returning to fish there on future day tides for another try for the flounders and avoid those whiting!



SHEPPEY - The island has seen some improvements to the shore fishing with a few codling showing. Plenty of dabs and whiting, some of very good size, from Bartons Point and night tides at Minster Leas has produced lots of whiting, the better specimens falling to squid and worm baits. One or two rays still showing. Prospects looking better for January following December's more reasonable weather.



HERNE BAY - Once again whiting and dabs dominate catches. Still dogfish and a few small bass and a few rays being taken. The flatfish should become more numerous as we go in to January with the bigger flatties moving in closer. Worm presented on two hook flappers with a bit of bling should do the business.



Absolute Tackle at Herne Common, between Herne Bay and Canterbury, will be able to provide you with top quality fresh and frozen bait and meet all your tackle requirements. Call them now on 01227 636724.

THANET - Loads of dabs and whiting from Ramsgate pier, along with a few small bass and dogfish. A few codling from favoured shore marks, but, all under 3lbs. For local boat action, see Kent Boat Report from Jason Parrott further in this section.



SANDWICH BAY / DEAL - Loads of whiting and dabs from the Bay, some of them being of very good size. One or two codling on night tides, but, nothing of any size. Yellowtails and squid best baits. The shore marks at Deal and Sandown producing plenty of whiting, pouting, dogfish, small bass and a couple of codling. The pier has produced all the usual suspects plus the occasional ray.

DOVER - Anglers fishing from the pier and Shakespeare beach have yet to find the codling in any numbers. Plenty of whiting, dogfish and pouting with a few nice dabs from the first half of the pier. A few wrasse were caught, quite a surprise as these are normally regarded as a summer species here!



HYTHE / SANDGATE - The Environment Agency have been replenishing and moving shingle as part of their routine maintenance throughout December. This work should be completed by the time we go to

