



# Sea Reports

# Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



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Fishing has picked up now with our summer species all putting in an appearance. The weather has been more settled, but, the North East wind still seems to be dominating. The weed continues to be spasmodic and not causing a major issue at the moment. Current water temperature is around fourteen degrees centigrade. This month should see more soles being caught. A number have already been reported all around the coast. Don't forget to join up with our sponsors Facebook page for the latest gossip, news and catch reports from fellow members.

## THAMES REPORT *COURTESY OF WAYNE MAY*

Thames estuary charter boats are landing some magnificent smoothhounds this year, averaging 15lb to 22lb, both Essex and Kent sides of the Estuary. Thornbacks up to 12lb also being landed, most thornbacks averaging 5lb to 6lb on most tides. For targeting the hounds crab is best, with a couple of visiting anglers using crab cart bait landing a couple of ten pounders. Squid and herring baits for the rays are always a successful bait choice.

I haven't had chance to explore much of the Thames this month, only covering the QE2 Bridge to Swanscombe peninsula. However, the fishing has been very productive with the flounders being numerous this month, with night tides being the best. School bass are also numerous with some nice healthy fish caught and safely returned. Larger specimens are evading me at the moment, but there's always another day! More surprisingly is the sheer amount of eels I've caught this month, again no great size, the average length 24 inches and about an inch in diameter. Eels are like marmite, you either love them or hate them, either way it's great to see their return to the River Thames. Ragworm being the best bait to use at these spots, using fixed paternoster rigs.



## Medway report *COURTESY OF DANIEL TERRY*

I had a recent session when I fished a few hours out and few in over low at Rochester using old lug and rag from a previous trip at Allhallows with my angling buddy Tom. Although the bait was a bit worse for wear I decided to use it up. It nicely resulted in 3 bass and 2 pouting, a 30cm at the start on the out tide and a few pouting as low hit. It then went quiet for ages until a 32cm bass and another just shy of 40cm straight after gave a nice little tug. I wish I had more bait and stayed the tide as it was picking up nicely when we were packing up. All fish fell to small hooks and more delicate baits. Nothing on the big baits. A number of good eels, bass and flaties right along the river and lots of mullet showing in the marinas but catching them is something else!

Local tackle and bait shops are Anglers Den at Gillingham (near Aldi) 01634 852180 and Medway Tackle Supplies Gillingham 01634 570470.



## SHEPPEY REPORT *COURTESY OF JASON KEEN*

Bass and hounds and rays still showing at Minster and Warden Bay and soles over clean ground at Bartons beach. Rays at Minster jetty.

Sheppey Angling can provide all your tackle and bait. Call Mick Yates on 01795 661089.



## NORTH KENT REPORT

Good numbers of bass and smoothhounds along with rays still showing along this stretch of coast. Reculver to Beltinge being most productive particularly on night tides.

Top local shop for the best selection in quality fresh and frozen baits and quality tackle is Absolute Tackle at Wealden Common. Call 01227 636724 / 07809 330854.



## THANET REPORT

*COURTESY OF JON VAUGHAN AT FISHERMENS' CORNER*

I have had this feeling for years that smooth hounds were targetable from Ramsgate. I recently put this theory to the test. First session 2nd cast I was in to a hound over 6lb, then lost a bigger one next cast. I then I landed two over 9lb and a pup. Pleased with the results I fished the next night with high expectations but no two nights are the same. Four of us fished and 2 hounds landed. I had one again about 6lb and my mate had one over 7lb BUT the bass were there !! A slamming bite saw me reeling in a bass of 8lb 2oz, which was nice but was topped by my mate, Nathan landed one of 12lb 4oz, a fish of a lifetime, never seen one that big, couple of quality sessions Some other big fish have arrived at Ramsgate putting a bend in anglers' rods. Alex Swan landed some nice smoothhounds off the East pier on squid, along with school bass. Local Angler Jon Vaughan, inspired by various reports of hounds, tried the surrounding beaches and wasn't disappointed to find the fish feeding as close as 15yds from the shore. Not really heard of people targeting hounds off Ramsgate so pleasant surprise to land them up to nearly 10lb. For any tips, advice or bait for anglers visiting Ramsgate, check out Fisherman's Corner, 5 minutes walk from the pier.

Call Fishermens' Corner on 01843 582174.



## DEAL REPORT *COURTESY OF DAVID CHAMBERLAIN*

The beach fishing can be a bit hit and miss during July as the sea clears leaving no colour in the water. Best times to fish are at dusk and darkness when the fish are less cautious. In the daylight hours and clear sea the mackerel can be a target fish with them shoaling and feeding on whitebait. Deal Pier is the best venue to catch these, although it does tend to get crowded when they are in abundance. Time can be spent fishing around the pier piles for mini species and Pollock on light tackle which does provide some sport. Although the thornback ray landings have slowed down, Smooth hounds are still being caught on peeler crab. The all night angling session on the pier is on July 15th only, with every Friday and Saturday late night fishing till midnight. For more information ring Deal Pier on 01304 363815.

A junior open pier competition has been scheduled for 22nd July from 11am till 3pm. All the entrants must be under 16 years of age and there are plenty of prizes for every contestant.

Fred at Channel Angling, by the pier entrance can supply your tackle and bait. Call 01304 373104

