



Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



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The fishing has certainly picked up with lots of fish, mainly whiting and dogfish making up the catches. However, many of the whiting have been of a good size meaning plenty of tasty fish suppers! The cod (!) have yet to arrive, but, the weather has been far from 'cod weather'! Mackerel are still being caught from the beaches and piers and from the boats as water clarity is more Summer like than Autumn. The current water temperature, at the time of writing, is around 14 degrees centigrade but falling. Due to the clear water conditions, plaice are still being caught with some nice specimens in their numbers. No doubt we will see some colder weather soon, but, this has certainly been a year of extremes and fishing has reflected this conundrum!

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

Thornback rays are regularly being caught on herring and squid baits, from boat and shore. Many anglers will be pleased that the codling have arrived, preferring worm baits, heavily loaded lugworm baited rigs are proving to be the most favourable at the moment.

Dogfish and whiting also being caught on most tides, taking a variety of baits from shellfish to rag and lugworm.

Unfortunately, I haven't had a lot of time to fish this month, so have relied on friends and family to fill me in with their catch reports. David Walker spent a night on the Thames at Greenhithe, landing plenty of whiting, although most were small, a couple were sizeable and made the pan for breakfast. The QE2 bridge, anglers are still catching school bass and a few eels. Further upriver at Morrison's pier Erith, is the place to be for flounders, beaded rigs baited with ragworm will see you landing a few.



and flounders, are now beginning to show.

Sheppey Angling can provide all your tackle needs along with quality fresh and frozen



bait. Call 01795 661089.

North Kent report courtesy of Jon Primett

"As temperatures drop and darkness draws-in, whiting are proving to be prolific on the North Kent coast. Whilst considered a nuisance by many anglers targeting larger species, the whiting is not only delicious, but, also an incredibly sustainable eating fish. Honestly, give them a try! Among the shoals of whiting there are a few bass still showing also. As you move east from Herne Bay, it is worth targeting flounders at marks like Tankerton and Seasalter. This is a good time of year to target these popular flatfish. Small hooks baited with lug and maddies behind a plain lead allowing movement of the bait is the tried and tested method. There is, as always, a slim chance of a ray, but battling through the whiting may prove to be incredibly difficult until their numbers thin out significantly."

Absolute Tackle at Herne Common have a great range of fresh and frozen baits and a great selection of sea, carp and coarse tackle. Call Absolute Tackle on 01227 636724.



Medway report from Daniel Terry and Tom Barfoot

Daniel reported: "Still a good few bass showing along the river marks with some very plump whiting being caught almost anywhere. Myself and Andy Cross had a bash down the river at Rochester for some last of the year's bass before they slow down. We arrived at low and set up about 3 with high around 9.30...what a trip ..from the start it was a bass at 29cm for me and as I was releasing it, the other rod bent with another healthy 38cm bass ...bites continued with 10 whiting up to 33cm and 3 pouting. As it started getting dark, roughly about 7.30, I had a pretty decent pull down with a pop of the lead. I pulled into a nice fish with a pretty good weight to it and to my surprise it was a codling. I was well chuffed at 53cm roughly and I estimated 2-3lb. Andy started off slow but things began to pick up for him with a few small bass to 25 cms towards dark and some whiting in between up to 34cm. Then I had a better knock with a bass at over 33cm. All in all a pretty good session with all fish caught on fresh rag from Micheal West (pro-rigs). Next on the cards are flounders. I hear a few are starting to show so hopefully it will be a good year all round!"

Tom reported: "I had a session last week down the river for a club match at Command House. The weather wasn't brilliant but the whiting were there. My first chuck I landed a whiting of 31cm then a few undersized. As time went on I managed another whiting then a double shot! Then the pouting arrived! There were plenty of whiting coming out around me. The match finished at 4pm . I had 6 fish on my score card but it wasn't enough to come in the top 3. A very enjoyable day. One eel, pouting and whiting up to 38cm were recorded. Also anglers that fish the river have finally found some flounders which have been ranging from 20 cms to 34 cms. I have a match on Saturday but will be out Sunday chasing my favourite species, the flounder. Good luck!"

Local shops for your tackle and bait are Medway Tackle Supplies at Gillingham 01634 582174 and Anglers Den.



Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

Plenty of fish being caught, although the codling from the beaches are still a little elusive! However, a few have been caught from local boats out in the Estuary to 5 lbs. The shore marks have produced lots of whiting, dogfish, some skate and bass. The winter flatfish, dabs

Thanet report courtesy of Fishermens Corner

The whiting have been making up most of the anglers' catches, as well as dogfish. Other species have been there, it's just a case of fishing through the whiting!! We should start seeing better numbers of dabs as we approach Christmas and daylight fishing gives you the best shot at these off the East Pier when the whiting shoals aren't as prolific. Black lug, short hook lengths and size 4 hooks work well and tipping with fish baits may pick out the better fish.

Fishermens Corner is just a few minutes walk from Ramsgate's



East Pier and has a great range of tackle and baits. Call 01843582174.

Deal report courtesy of David Chamberlain

The winter weather has put plenty of colour into the sea which has encouraged the fish further inshore. The occasional codling has been caught, but none in any quantity. Fish and squid baits are tempting dogfish and the rays should be showing from the Sandwich Bay area in the near future. A word of warning is that the Sandwich Estate is now patrolled by security;

