



# Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



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The last few weeks have certainly seen some rough weather lash our region's coastline! March can be a most unpredictable month in relation to weather, but, let's hope that April will settle down and be more 'fishing friendly'! It was a shame as just before the succession of 'blows' that came hurtling through, the fishing was picking up nicely and the plaice were beginning to make an appearance along the shoreline. As I write this, the weather outside is more akin to cod fishing, but, the less I say about that the better! The current sea temperature is around nine degrees so a little up on last month's report.

## Thames report

Flounders and a few school bass making up the anglers' bags at the moment. Terry had four flounders from Greenhithe and Martin had three bass and two flounders from a mark just east of Gravesend. Grain has been producing some flatfish, small whiting and a few bass with ragworm being the best bait.



## Medway report

The river has been fairly quiet this past few weeks. Anglers are awaiting the return of the bass and other Spring species which should be arriving at anytime now. Rochester end of the river has produced a few flounders, eels, small whiting and school bass.

Your local Medway tackle shops are Medway Tackle Supplies now moved to bigger premises at 11, Twydall Green, Anglers Den 01634 852180 and Rod and Line 01634 880770.



## Sheppey report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

Good numbers of rays being caught right around the island's shoreline from Sheerness to Shellness. Many anglers recording multiple catches per tide. Fish baits are proving to be the best. Although the weather has not been the best recently, those who did venture out have been well rewarded for their efforts. A few bass now beginning to show along with flounders, dabs, whiting and a few dogfish. The crabs are beginning to moult so the hounds won't be far away! Local boats have been frustrated at not being able to get out as before the stormy weather good numbers of hounds and thornbacks were being caught. Prospects for both shore and boat anglers for the coming month look very encouraging!

Sheppey Angling stock a wide range of sea and coarse tackle and a good range of fresh and frozen baits. Call Mick on 01795 661089 / 07902 092595.

## North Kent report

Good numbers of thornbacks now being caught with fish to double figures recorded. Fish baits being successful for the rays. Dabs, flounders, whiting and dogfish are the other species being



caught. A few nice flounders from the beach at Seasalter.

Absolute Tackle at Herne Common have a great selection of tackle and quality fresh and frozen baits. Call 01227 36724 / 07809 330854.

## Thanet report courtesy of Fishermens Corner

The dogfish have started to be caught more regularly from the East pier and rock marks which indicates the water is warming up and the bass won't be far off. Still flatfish coming up and in the clear water you can catch small plaice and the occasional small turbot. Still a few dabs around and we will hopefully start to see a few flounders. Ragworm is a good all round bait for the flatties in clear water and will also catch bass. A good selection of baits is always available in Fisherman's Corner Ramsgate, which is a short walk from the East pier. Call us on 01843 582174.



## Deal report courtesy of David Chamberlain

Plenty of thornback rays have been caught from the beach and pier throughout March - and April should produce plenty more. Best marks are from the north of Deal Pier to Sandwich bay. Lower deck on the pier is one of the better spots but can be a bit snaggy. The way to save losing too much gear is to fish a single hook pulley rig and use lead weights with the wires coming from base. A quick retrieve and if there is a snag, the lead's wires normally pull straight and through the obstruction. Ray baits are bluey, herring, mackerel, squid and sandeel. When the sea temperature starts to warm-up, the spring moult of crabs should begin by the end of April. This will bring in the smooth hounds and bass. However, the warmer weather will produce May weed (a form of plankton) which is a problem and can make fishing a pain when it coats the reel line. Be warned that repairs are ongoing to the lower deck of Deal Pier, therefore, it might be advisable to phone the attendant on 01304 363815 to make sure it is available before a planned trip. The top deck of the pier is always open to angling and all night on 14 April. Channel Angling at Deal can provide all your quality fresh and frozen bait and tackle. Call Fred on 01304 373104.



## Dover report

Not many reports from the iconic Admiralty pier and other Dover marks of late. However, those that have fished have reported dogfish, whiting, pouting, dabs, plaice and a couple of rays. Numbers of rays and the arrival of the hounds expected this month along with bigger plaice. Don't forget you now need to be a member of DSAA in order to fish on the pier. Call Craig at Channel Angling for more details.



Channel Angling Dover have a great range of tackle for sea and coarse anglers along with some quality fresh and frozen baits. Call Craig on 01304 203742.