

Sea Reports

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August has seen a mixed bag of weather, with seemingly endless weather fronts coming in from the Atlantic. Some photos I have received show local beaches being pounded by the sea and looking like an Autumn storm! However, at the time of writing, sea temperatures are incredibly high, for the UK. The water is currently 18 degrees off the East Kent coast! Anglers along this stretch have found massive shoals of mackerel and at times the sea has been literally 'boiling' as the mackerel chase the whitebait, literally right up to the beach. Whether you enjoy catching mackerel, or not, this natural phenomenon is certainly something to behold! This month will see many anglers dusting the gear down ready for the cod! Let's hope that the coming Autumn and Winter will produce more than last year. Some early cod are being landed by boat anglers out in the Channel, so fingers crossed!

Thames report courtesy of Wayne May

Thames estuary charter boat fishing has seen some great catches of thornback rays, along with a smoothhound exceeding 21lbs. An allis shad was a great catch aboard one charter boat and safely returned.



Allhallows, in the Thames Estuary, has produced a few small bass along with plenty of flounders and the odd whiting measuring on average 30cms, a nice size for summer!



Further up the Thames, between the promenade at Gravesend and the QE2 Bridge at Dartford, anglers have seen some lean weeks, for this time of year, with the

river producing lower than average catches. A few schoolie bass have been reported beneath the bridge. With the arrival of the seals this year, a few anglers have reported losing their catches to our marine guests!



Medway

Anglers continue to catch well along all stretches of the river from Upnor to Peters Village. The section beneath the M2 bridge is still producing some very big eels and nice bass to 4lbs. However, most of the bass along other stretches have been under 2lbs. Eels, whiting, flounders and some sole have also featured in catches. Favoured baits are still ragworm and crab.

Best local shops for your tackle and bait requirements are Shop 4 Tackle at Strood (opposite Morrisons) 01634 716598 and Anglers Den at Gillingham (near Aldi) 01634 852180. Please remember to try and order your bait in advance to avoid disappointment!



Sheppey/Swale

Bass, eels, whiting, dogfish and flatfish making up most bags. Still some smoothhounds and rays being caught, although numbers are thinning out. Expect to see some bigger bass this month along the deeper marks at the north of the island this month. Ragworm and crab still the best baits along the Swale, but, lugworm along the Seasalter to Whitstable stretch.

Herne Bay/Reculver

Bass, smoothhounds, rays, whiting, dogfish and flatties making up catches. Weed is thinning, but, still present on some tides. The autumn seas will soon break it up. Bass to double figures reported, so worth persevering! Crab bait still best bet for the bass.

Best local shop for all your tackle and bait requirements is Absolute Tackle (on main A291 between Canterbury and Herne Bay) at Wealden Common, stocking a great selection of quality



fresh and frozen baits. Give them a call on 01227 636724!

Thanet

Ramsgate pier has produced some flatfish, small bass, rockling, whiting and a few mackerel.

Deal

Sandwich Bay has seen some nice catches of bass, flatfish, dogfish and whiting. The weed is rapidly dispersing now. Deal Pier and beaches producing small bass, pouting, whiting, dogfish, mackerel and wrasse. Still a few smoothhounds and rays being caught, but, numbers thinning out. Depending on the weather, the mackerel will still be around, but, any early strong onshore winds will see the water colour and the shoals drift offshore. Again, depending on the weather, expect to see the first of the codling. Best times will be during night tides with big worm baits. Fingers crossed!



Dover

August saw huge numbers of mackerel (and anglers) being caught from the pier, Shakespeare beach and Samphire Hoe. The shoals will thin out during the month, but, much is dependent on the weather. This month and October sees best chance of a big bass from the pier. Don't be shy, whole mackerel straight down the wall during the tide run. Still smoothhounds and rays from the pier, along with dogfish, pouting and whiting. Be prepared for early codling to appear this month following a good blow. The Hoe has fished well with anglers catching bass, pollack, wrasse, scad and lots of mackerel.



Hythe

Some nice sole have been caught along Marine Parade. Worm baits fished short have accounted for them. There have been lots of mackerel caught recently. They may well hang around for the early part of the month, but, this will depend on weather and water temperature and of course the presence of whitebait. Other fish caught have included lots of bass, whiting and dogfish, pouting and a few smoothhounds and rays. Many anglers will soon be thinking cod! Last winter produced very few, so let's hope they show this coming season. Top local shops for all your tackle and bait needs are Dens Tackle (near RHDR station) 01303 267053 and Best Buddies (near Pennypot Industrial Estate) 01303 487144.



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