



# Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



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The past few weeks have been challenging. The sea temperatures have dropped to a more seasonal level, but, the cod are still proving elusive. There have been one or two small ones caught, but, alas this looks like another 'cod free' winter in the South East. Maybe we will see a Spring run or maybe we won't??? On the plus side, there have been good numbers of thornbacks caught, especially from the Sheppey beaches. Many anglers having multiple catches per session with fish up to double figures. The whiting have thinned out with the bigger specimens moving out beyond the range of shore anglers. However, boat anglers are picking up some nice sized fish. February, depending on the weather, should see the first of the plaice arriving.

## THAMES report

Although the numbers of whiting have thinned out over the past few weeks, there are still fish to be caught. Thamesmead has produced whiting and flounders and the flatfish are showing in better numbers along at Greenhithe and Erith.



One or two small bass still present.

## MEDWAY report

Better number of flounders showing in the river. Numbers of whiting have decreased and the average size is smaller than last month. Ragworm, maddies and lugworm being the best bait presented on small hooks.



Medway Tackle Supplies 01634 570740, Rod & Line, Chatham 01634 880770 and Anglers Den, Gillingham 01634 852180 can supply all your bait and tackle requirements.



## SHEPPEY report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

The dabs and flounders have become more numerous and falling mostly to worm baits and smaller hook sizes. A bonus for local anglers has been the early arrival of the thornback rays. Some good catches have been made and the fish are falling to fish baits. The smaller night tides have shown to be the best time to be on the beach to bag a ray! Fish are being caught pretty much all round the island. Sheppey Angling can provide all your top quality fresh and frozen baits and tackle. Call Mick on 01795 661089.



## THANET report courtesy of Fishermens Corner

Mixed bags of fish at Ramsgate!! With whiting numbers thinning, we are seeing dabs, pouting, flounders and scorpion fish caught off the East pier, along with a few dogfish at night. The low water marks also showing a similar mix of fish. Ramsgate's East pier, Eastern and western esplanades are easily accessible for disabled and junior anglers, with close parking. Blow lug, fresh/frozen blacks are working well with anglers using cocktails with fish baits.



Fisherman's Corner Ramsgate has a great selection of baits and tackle and is only a short walk from the pier. 01843 582174

## DEAL Report courtesy of Dave Chamberlain

Construction and replacement of the grating on the lower deck of Deal Pier has been in progress for the last two months. After a year's closure, it is hoped that the north side of this popular angling venue will be opened this month and the rest in the near future. Thornback rays will be the target fish from the pier and beaches at Sandwich Bay. Best baits for ray are herring, sprats, sandeel and squid. The inshore sea temperature has dropped drastically and the whiting shoals have scattered - leaving the smaller fish being a nuisance. However, the dogfish are ever present, along with dabs and rockling. Sprats are being caught by the local commercial fishing boats and it is worth purchasing some for cheap bait when they are available.



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

## DOVER report courtesy of Channel Angling Dover

Some nice thornback rays coming from the pier along with dogfish, dabs, whiting and the odd small codling. Some of the rays have been approaching double figures and all falling to fish baits. The best dab fishing is on the first corner of the pier. If conditions remain settled and the water clear, we may well see a few plaice arriving over the next few weeks.



Shakespeare beach has produced a few dogfish, whiting and the odd small bass.

Channel Angling can supply all your fresh and frozen bait and carries a great range of tackle including Zplex rods! Call 01304 203742.



## HYTHE report

Still whiting and dogfish being caught, although the bigger fish seemed to have moved offshore. The dabs and flounders are being caught and there has been one or two small codling and bass. Hopefully, if conditions remain settled, the rays and plaice should begin to make an appearance very soon.

Local tackle shops for all your tackle and bait needs are Dens Tackle 01303 267053 and Best Buddies 01303 253881.

