



# Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group



Sea Reports are proudly sponsored by - Medway and Kent Sea Fishing Group

Welcome to 2019! It has been another disappointing winter for the cod fishing so far. A small number of codling have been caught from a variety of venues but none in any numbers. They have been averaging around 2 – 3 lbs. I have had many conversations recently as to why the cod fishing has been so poor in recent years. Lots of debate about the 'famine' and the reasons! It would seem that the Sussex coast has produced more than the Kent coast. Cod are being caught further north but they seem reluctant to venture further south than the Southern North Sea / Thames Estuary. There is no doubt that the significant rise in foreign trawlers in the Channel has not helped and one hopes (!) that Brexit will restrict non – English boats from fishing in our waters. However, at the time of writing, the whole Brexit saga is in utter chaos and one fears what the final outcome will be, not just for fishing! The whiting have never failed to show up although the numbers are beginning to thin out a little and we can now look forward to the arrival of the dabs and flounders. The current sea temperatures are still relatively high at around ten degrees. Don't forget you are most welcome to send your sea catch photos to the Informer! Send by email or by Facebook messenger!

### THAMES report courtesy of Wayne May

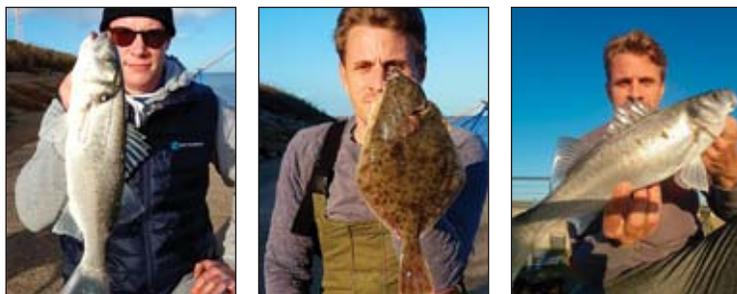
The codling have slowed up in the estuary over the last week, mainly due to adverse weather and the ability to get out on the charter boats. Early in the month saw an excellent run on the whiting and dabs mixed with the odd codling, bass and thornbacks. Worm baits being preferred over the squid and fish baits. Inside the Thames at Gravesend, near the B&Q store Imperial Park, is fishing excellent. One trip producing over a 100 whiting and dabs to four anglers, prawns and lugworm both working well, although expect some tackle loses at this venue due to the steep weeded bank 60yds out. Worth also checking the low tide prior to fishing for any discarded trollies. St Clements reach, Greenhithe is worth a try using ragworm for the dabs and two hook flapping traces. Whiting are abundant here and they are preferring lugworm baits. Our largest whiting so far was from the Gravesend venue and it weighed in at almost 2lb!



### MEDWAY report courtesy of Daniel Terry

"Decided on giving Grain a go to get hopefully away from the abundance of whiting down river. The Medway has been alive with whiting as of late with a lot of peoples trips resulting in one double shot after another. As soon as the sun is gone they are there in force. Very few flounders of any size being caught at the moment so going to Grain they were my target with hopefully a few late bass for our efforts. I wasn't wrong! It was a cracker of a day. I arrived around 10am with my fellow angler Andy Cross to get set up for low water which was just touching shore. From the start my rods just didn't stop! It started with bass and just continued all the way through the tide. Andy sat quiet for a while but it soon picked up for him in a day that resulted in a new PB bass for him around high tide. Both sizeable bass came from around high with me having 3 decent flounders at low. The end tally finished with me having 7 healthy bass between 41cm and 30cm and 10 tiny basslets, 3 flounders at 34cm, 30cm and 28cm and 1 whiting. Andy's final tally ended at 6 healthy bass between 44cm and 23cm and a few basslets, 1 flounder and 2 whiting. It was a very enjoyable day. Andy was over the moon with his PB, it put up a great fight on light gear. I was well chuffed to have such a good flounder session myself. Let's hope it's good all round and a few of us start seeing some cod through the winter months. Our rag and lug were from Medway Tackle Supplies."

Local shops for your tackle and bait are Medway Tackle Supplies at Gillingham 01634 570740 and Anglers Den.



### SHEPPEY report courtesy of Sheppey Angling

Plenty of whiting and a good number of dabs and flounders being caught from the marks on the North shore. Some good sized whiting too among their numbers. Local boats are finding good numbers of whiting and dabs along with the odd small codling, thornbacks and dogfish. January should see increasing numbers of flatfish moving within reach of the shore anglers and hopefully the odd codling or two! Sheppey Angling can provide all your tackle and top quality fresh and frozen baits. Call Mick on 01795 661089.



### THANET report courtesy of Fishermens Corner

The dabs are slowly increasing in numbers off Ramsgate's East pier. Along with the dabs are the occasional flounder, dogfish and small bass. The whiting numbers have dropped in daylight and fishing from low water up will give a better chance of avoiding big numbers of whiting. The best tides to do this are the tides mid cycle. Fresh and Frozen black lug are working well and tipping with a small slither of fish bait, can pick out the better fish. Fisherman's Corner is located a short walk from the pier and has a great selection of bait and tackle 01843 582174.



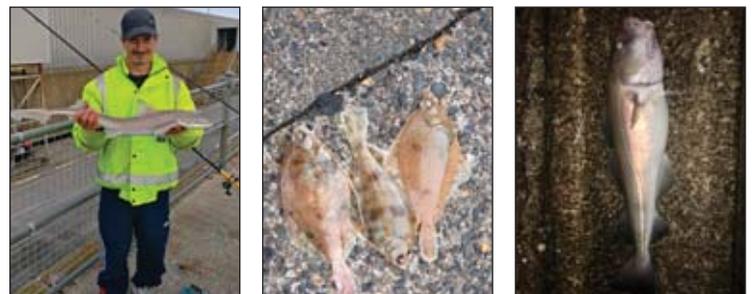
### DEAL report courtesy of David Chamberlain

Angling prospects for January are mainly dependent on the weather. Although the sea temperature has been high for winter, a cold snap decreases it drastically and puts the inshore fish off the feed. Dabs are in tip-top condition at the moment and are worth targeting using scaled down gear. Size 4 hooks baited with lug, squid or slithers of sprat make a useful bait. The whiting shoals are decreasing in numbers and size, although dogfish, flounders and rockling are there to be caught. Work on Deal pier's stem has been finished with a fresh surface and seating completed both sides. The lower deck is still closed and new railings are being constructed on the seaward side. It is hoped that the deck grating is replaced soon and anglers will be able to fish from this popular platform in time for the coming thornback ray season. Channel Angling at the pier entrance can provide your tackle and top quality bait. Call Fred on 01304 373104.

### DOVER report courtesy of Channel Angling

Plenty of whiting, pouting, dogfish and a good sprinkling of dabs from the pier. One or two small codling but not in any numbers. Whether we will see some in the New Year is anyone's guess. However, the first half of the pier is showing some nice flatfish and these numbers will hopefully increase this month. Scaling down the tackle with smaller hooks and baits should do the trick. The advantage of fishing the first corner, between the first two benches is that it is a short walk and can be fished throughout the tide.

Call Channel Angling on 01304 203742 for all your bait and tackle requirements.



### HYTHE report

Lots of whiting, some good sized, are still being caught although the numbers do seem to be thinning out. Still dogfish, pouting and a few schoolie bass being caught. There have been some spamic catches of small codling from the beaches, but, like everywhere else rather hit and miss. This month will see the arrival of the dabs and flounders.

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

