



The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

NATIONAL ANGUILLA CLUB BULLETIN

VOLUME 23

NUMBER 4

JULY 1986

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David P. Walker

EDITOR

STOP PRESS

Brian has still not let me have a copy of his photo of his 4 for a new cover. Also could Andy let me have a copy of that big rudd snap that was in Angling Times for the display boards. Cheers.

DPW

EDITORIAL

O.K. I know its late but here it is. As you can see I've been brave enough to print on both sides of the paper, I only hope you like the result.....I do. I reckon it has saved us about 300 sheets of paper and so it can't be a bad thing. I'm finally winning my battles with the duplicator and I feel fairly confident with it now. So much so that I would like to produce a club trip special before we all go to the Montgomery Canal at the end of August, therefore I desperately need articles from Ernie and Mark on the place and the details of exactly how to get there and where to find everyone and what to expect when we all descend on that part of the world.

Dave Taylor's article in this edition shows up very well one of my old ideas, that you must get out and fish a water even if you are not sure what's there. Don't wait for someone else to catch'em all first, go and drown a few worms in that nice looking water that you've been meaning to try for years.

I'm still upset about not getting articles, or anything else for that matter, from our newer members and very angry about the lack of material from the old hands. Maybe some of you ought to have those hands chopped off because they are obviously only being used to keep your pockets warm! No wonder we lose members of the calibre of Dave Holman when the majority of senior members don't seem to care whether the Anguilla Club exists or not. If any of you get fed up with being slagged off in this way then you only have to put pen to paper and effectively cut out the cancer that is so evidently rotting some of you away. Alternatively I could send the Bulletin only to those members who actually contribute to its existence. Interesting thought eh?

I doubt if Terry has recieved a flood of suggestions about our 25th year so for what its worth I'll put my two penny-worth in.

I'm not sure about a commemorative badge but it's well worth investigating the cost etc. A special Bulletin is a great idea especially if it could be put together for sale to outside interests along the lines of the Chub Study Group's Best of Chevin edition. It could include a potted history of the club as well as some of the best articles from previous Bulletins.

The main idea I've got is for a massive fish-in or club type trip on a venue that we could book for a week or so and have all to ourselves. Somewhere like Waveney Valley Lakes in Norfolk would be ideal especially if we could get permission to hold the event in the Close Season. I'm sure that there are other venues around the country that we could use, but Waveney seems to embrace everything we need. It has lots of caravans just for anglers, seven lakes to choose from and most important of all loads and loads of eels with plenty of big ones. Mr Norman Symmonds the owner has allowed people to fish in the close season before at about £25 for a full week. We could invite any one we care to have a rare old time. Its just an idea but wortha thought or two. Or not?

By the way Arthur was going to write to all our ex members to see what they thought about the Club's 25th year. Have you got any replies yet Mr President?

CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

In an effort to ensure that Dave has my 'stuff' in plenty of time for producing the Bulletin I find myself writing this just prior to the publication of the last edition, if you can make sense of that.

It makes me suddenly realise that by the time you read this the glorious 16th will be upon us. Doesn't time fly!

What is more I shall be doing more close season fishing this year than I can recall doing in years past, so by the time you read this the destination of the Best Eel or Best Eel on a club trip Trophies will probably already be decided. So I shall apologise beforehand for any dissappointments that may cause you for the season....
...UNLESS, of course, you make the effort to prove me wrong.

As yet I have only heard scant reports of the British Angling Conference. Dave tells me that it was a 'brilliant' weekend, though I have to report that it was marred by the fact that Arthur Sutton was ill and unable to attend to give his paper. Arthur is well aware of the disappointment felt within the Club at this, and has gone some way to redressing the balance by proffering the due apologies. It was particularly unfortunate that this should happen at a time when the Club as a whole is hopefully showing signs of an upturn in fortune. A situation which I hope will continue unabated. However the acid test will come when you lot actually get out fishing with a vengeance and we can look forward to an unprecedented supply of Bulletin articles.

I had the great pleasure of Mark Davies company recently, an enjoyable evening was spent chewing the fat and doing our utmost to put the world to rights. Mark was in the neighbourhood pursuing his chosen profession and such is his working environment that he had to 'down tools' to return at a later date. If he can find room for a couple of rods I might be able to provide him with a bit of fishing next time around. An invitation which is open to any of you interested in taking up the offer.

Recent conversations with an ex carp angler converted to catching 'spotted chub', as he calls our trout, have led me to consider further experiments with various carp bait flavourings, as a direct result of his and others captures of eels when using these various additives. Liver appears to be a good starting point and I have one or two ideas of my own. Stay tuned for further news.

Before you get too immersed in your fishing, I will point out, in case you might have forgotten already, 1987 will be the 25th year of the Club.

If I take the time to check, I can state firmly confidently that at this moment in time I have recieved not one word of comment, idea or suggestion on the whole subject, let alone any positive ideas to follow up.

FOR CHRIST'S SAKE WILL ONE OF YOU WAKE UP AND SAY SOMETHING!!!!

It has been three months since the Spring Meeting, valuable planning time and not a word to act upon!

Chairmans Page Cont....

If my pen runs out before I get any positive feedback from you lot I might just forget it and take a back seat with the rest of you.

This celebration does not necessarily have to be restricted to one event. As well as a large social gathering in a darkened room where we can sit in totally isolated silence save for the occasional belch or fart! What about having a large scale fish-in come Club trip?, maybe even seek sponsorship to raise funds for some deserving cause. I'm sure a suitable venue could be found. We could have welly tossing, sausage burning or even smelliest socks events. I only suggest these because I reckon to be a dead cert for one and a co-favourite for another. I think it only an outside chance that one of us will break the eel record next year but thats no reason why we shouldn't let our hair down a bit.

Lets have YOUR ideas NOW!

I hope that some of you take the trouble to reply soon or I shall be looking for a reasonably good second hand padded cell and I'll see you all in 1988.

Mark's comments in a recent Bulletin article 'Parting Comments', are ringing in my ears. Constant badgering and cajoling to try and provoke any response from you lot really does destroy enthusiasm and enjoyment, and I am fairly certain that the rest of the Committee will feel exactly the same way.

We were presumably elected to our positions because you thought we might be able to do the various jobs and partly because you lot, most certainly didn't want to do it. Whatever the reason you members get off lightly. We only ask you to make a small contribution so as to make our jobs easier, in fact, without your contributions some of the committees jobs are impossible to do. We have a few members who are prepared to make the effort whenever they are asked, but they soon feel put upon when they are the only ones contributing.

It's almost worth holding a seance once in a while. We could hold hands and see if it is possible to get in touch with the LIVING!

I'm sure that we have all come across waters where no matter what approach is tried the catch rates are dismally slow, and in some cases catching one eel can be the highlight of the season. Have you fished a water like that?

Have you ever thought that the eel netters might have been there before you.

I weel recall reading of Steve Hope's experiences several years ago when some of his waters suffered the ravages of the netsmen, and from being productive waters eel wise they completely died. I can vouch for the effectiveness of fyke nets. They are ruthlessly efficient at catching eels. In fact the evidence would suggest to me that eels are particularly stupid. Even on a large water, possibly hundreds of acres in extent, netting a particular area can decimate the eel population in that area. The single biggest factor governing the capture of these eels, given reasonable weather, say from May to October, is the phase of the moon. It is possible to time

Chairmans Page Cont....

it to the point where the week leading up to , or including the new moon is the only time worth bothering, and it seems that every eel in the vicinity goes rove about at this time and will end up in the nearest fyke. For the rest of the month the nets might as well be left out of the water, because they don't appear to catch.

On a big water you would simply relocate the nets when results drop off, but on a small water, you leave as quietly as you arrived under cover of darkness, and go and pillage the next fishery down the road where you know eels have been caught.

And rest assured there are large gangs of blokes earning a good living in just this way. A depressing thought isn't it, and you can be sure these bolkes don't pay for licences. These netters work like SAS squads, they appear, always, under cover of darkness, and have a grapevine which is second to none.

I have no idea how you could even start to deal with this problem, and I've had first hand experience, sitting out all night waiting to see if tonights the night they'll turn up. All I would suggest for the time being is that you be particularly vigilant, and don't give anything away in idle conversation on the bank.

It could cost you dearly!!!

It is not my intention to spread doom and gloom but I do think it is important that you are all aware of what might happen if you are a little careless.

I sat down to write this piece not certain what I would pen this time around, but lo and behold the pen started to move and here we are! It might not be a bad idea to round off with a check list of things for you to do before the season proper gets under way.

1. Write a piece for the Bulletin (preferably two Ed).
2. Get a good suply of worms organised.
3. Know those session reports inside out so that my job of reading them is easier.
4. Make sure your tackle is up to scratch.
5. Try and fish at least 5 more sessions than you did last year. Particularly if you fished less than 12 last season.
6. Get those reports to me at the end of each month.
7. Write another piece for the Bulletin.

I look forward to seeing a good turn out at the Spring Trip. If the weather is reasonable there is the chance of a few decent eels to set the ball rolling.

It only remains for me to wish you all, every success with your fishing in 1986. I hope that you all have a season to look back on and remember with glee, for it's successes. You know who to blame if you can't, and it ain't me!!!

Terry Jefferson
----- Chairman

THE BIG FISH SCENE....Part Two..

THE WALL

HEAVEN or HELL ? ()

by Phil Smith

After the early success with eels to 6lb 8oz mentioned in the last issue, Merv and I continued throughout the summer to fish the bay and the deeper water off the stages but sport was slow and the eels small, (less than 3lb).

For a long time Merv had said that the dam wall was the spot, with water going down to 25ft deep it did seem a likely area to fish, but how the hell were we going to do it.

The dam rose 20ft above the water with a shear drop. This was further compounded by the prevailing wind which came straight across nearly a mile of open water, gaining speed and force all the time only to hit the 'wall' along with its now heavily swelling friend the water.

After the first few weeks of our second season had indicated that the eels were not in the bay we decided to try the wall.

Initially we intended to fish within the first 100yds of each end of the wall, as a fish was hooked it could be 'walked' along the wall to a point where the natural bank would allow the fish to be netted. We quickly got to a stage where we included in our plans a feature on the wall which gave access to the water without the need for all that walking. This was a wooden beam about 30" square sloping from the top of the wall at about 45 degrees, it was actually made to carry the control gear for the outlet valve, but by carefully sliding down the beam you could gain access to the boat which we moored up to the base of the beam. This became known as the ramp and was to be of considerable use over the following seasons.

One of the early sessions off the wall is worthy of relating. There were five of us fishing, four off the wall and one off the big boat moored about 60yds out fixed in place by four anchors. The night was flat calm but the wind during the day had piled the floating algae all along the wall. I set up my rods - SS4's with 8lb line and a single lobworm on a No8 hook - and cast to land about 40yds out.

Not long after midnight I had a storming run and the strike met with firm resistance. Moving off to my left I headed for the ramp at the same time keeping in contact with the fish. One of the characteristics of playing an eel is that they rarely, if ever, 'kite' this led to our first problem, with the eel coming right into the wall before I reached the ramp. In no time the line was covered in algae and I was unable to move along the wall due to the weight of weed on the line. By now the other three lads had come along to have a look and the combined torch power of all were being played on the fish. We had plenty of time to look and study before coming to the agreement that this eel was very big indeed - probably over 7lb. It took a lot of pleading with the lad in the boat to convince him to up-anchor in order to net the fish, but with reluctance he did.

The tension as he worked his way to the side was tremendous and it was with total disbelief that we recieved his verdict on the weight, 3lb 9oz, he had to be kidding, we couldn't be that far out with our estimate, but we wre and it was with great zeal that the lad bemoaned a wasted effort in moving the boat in the middle of the night.

An hour later we were again looking at what appeared to be a large eel weeded up in the side. I had attempted to let the fish hold out from the side but to no avail and so again I was pleading with the lad to net the fish from the boat. Only our long standing friendship moved that boat, but this time he confirmed it was big even before he had it in the net. With me 20ft above the fish and him taking line through the weed, netting proved quite interesting, finally coming to an end when the eel changed from going backwards to going forward and straight into the net. Weighed and double checked our boat netsman gave the weight at 6lb 7oz - a very pleasing fish indeed.

This highlighted two points - don't believe estimates of eels made in torchlight, we can only assume that it was the dorsal fin being up that gave the false impression of girth and thus weight. The other point was that with the weed against the wall the present method of 'walking' the fish would not work, without the boat coming to help both fish would have been lost.

For the rest of the season we were restricted to either fishing very close to the landing spots (ramp or dam wall ends) or when the wall was clear of weed, 'walking' the fish. By the next season we thought we had the answer to the wall - a rope ladder - this was made from wood blocks each step being 18"x4"x2". The rope was passed through a drilled hole in the block and then knotted, by this method we had in effect a number of small stages that would rest against the wall. The rope could be looped around one of the many posts at the top of the wall (remains of a fence) and lowered down, we then moored the boat at the bottom of the ladder and tied it to the posts on either side keeping it fairly stable.

Although this could be hairy going down with a rod in your hand in the middle of the night, it was possible, and it worked. We now had the freedom of the wall and took full advantage of it.

One of the things we had noticed was that once having caught a good eel, or made a catch of reasonable eels on a night from a swim, it was very rare to catch again from that area for some time. With our previous restriction of movement this did limit our catches, Now that we were free to roam the full length of the wall we quickly found that our catches improved.

We also found a couple of swims that would produce eels virtually every visit, only trouble was they were small, usually less than 2lb. We eventually came to the conclusion that these swims were somewhat like a nursery with only rare occasions when the larger eels would be in attendance. As the nursery eels grew they would move out to become one of a group of larger eels, or to be a loner as was often the case with the very big eels.

A further development that improved our catches concerned the initial take. We were fishing open bail arms with the line held in a clip on the rod handle. The line was tightened as far as was practical, but with about the first 30ft out of the water there was obvious difficulty. When the fish took, the line out of the water, now free from the clip fell on to the water, this caused many of the fish to drop the bait straight away. We overcome the problem with the use of high density polystyrene. First it was cut into a cube-like shape and a razor cut put half way through it. The line was placed into the cut and the cube was jammed into the butt ring. This stopped the fall of line but caused resistance and the result that no line could be taken without pulling all of it. It appeared though that the eels were quite prepared to accept the resistance as long as it was constant and thus the dropped runs were reduced to a very low proportion.

There are many incidents and catches that followed, but by the time I stopped fishing the reservoir in favour of other specimens, I had taken a further three eels over 6lb off the wall, along with many other specimens to back them up. All in all a most rewarding experience from within the Big Fish Scene.

WRITING FOR THE BULLETIN by A.J.SUTTON

What I write here is not intended to twist your arm-well, only slightly. I do not believe in force, and I still like it even less when it is associated with angling. So let me say at the outset that my intentions should be clear in that I am trying to gently persuade one or two of you to sit down and write a piece or two for our Club magazine. I sincerely trust that when you have read this piece you will summon up the enthusiasm to scrounge (or even steal) a biro and write for the Bulletin. I do apologise to those dedicated souls who do write with some regularity.

Let me make it quite clear that I do not see myself as a writer in any way, shape or form. It was never one of my strong points. I have great difficulty in finding the correct words I want, and even if I do, they get put down in fadom fashion. But I am not ashamed of that. It is exactly the way I am. I don't want to be mistaken for professor so and so, I want to let you all know that it's the old sod writing again.

Why write anything for the Bulletin? Most of us and I felt that could mean ALL of us, in applying to join the Anguilla Club, expressed the desire to associate with other dedicated eel anglers. We are mostly gregarious by nature. We wish to feel that we are in close contact with, if not actually fishing with, other eel anglers, and it gives one the feeling of actually belonging to something. In our case The National Anguilla Club. It is not just one mans enterprise. It is, and indeed belongs to, all of us. Thus this association with other eel men, although it may only be through the written

Then at 01.15 the Optonic on the worm rod bleeped twice, then nothing. I thought at first that a frog or toad had swum into the line but past experience had taught me that this was worth investigating as a lot of my eels had come to similar sounding indications. So standing by the rod I reached down to gently pull the line back to feel for a bite, as I did the indicator started to rise and the Optonic got louder and faster. I waited until the rod tip started to pull round and my firm strike was met by solid resistance. For a few seconds neither the eel or I made any headway, then all I could do was to hold on to the rod as the eel shook its head, I seemed to have truly upset this eel. After a careful fight I had my first eel of the season ready for netting, on the surface she did not look all that big, perhaps a 3, but once netted and on the bank she looked more like a four. Gerry was hurring round to see the first fish of the season, and after the congratulations and the curses about the big'uns loving me he returned to his swim. The lobs were replaced and again dropped in the margins, and within an hour I had another run. But although the Optonic screamed out I connected with thin air on the strike. Later on I had a third run that produced an eel of just a pound.

BLOODY CRAFTY SODS THESE EELS

The lake that my 4:09 came from is a water that we have fished for a number of years on and off and usually in the close season, it has produced a fair share of good fish to a group of us with the best two fish both over five pound and a very big fish lost at the net.

The first season we fished it we soon realised that it was an out and out deadbait water, big broad headed eels with masses of teeth they were and only very small eels were caught on lobs. So it was deadies all the way.

Now as is the case with most new waters that are productive the runs slowly became harder to get and eventually we were experiencing a few blanks, where before we would get a n eel or perhaps a couple of runs but not a complete blank.

This season we had followed the normal pattern and fished dedbaits as we had always done in the past but this year we were having blanks lots of them. Gerry and I had gained special permission from the Severn Trent Water Authority to use deadbaits on a few of our waters such was our confidence in the catching power on these real predator waters of the deadies. But so far this year we had wasted our time on a water that was the most deadbait certain water that we knew. Now so far I had been fishing other areas than those that had produced all the big eels previously but the night I had the four nine I went back to the old swims up in the shallows and made a decision to use lobs on one rod. Now the lobs did the trick and also produced three runs for Gerry who up until then had not had a run just like me. The normally sucessful deadbaits remained completely untouched.

My conclusions are that the eels in this lake have changed their feeding habits and have now wised up to the dangers of deadies, it's fair to say that Gerry and I and our friends have not caught all the eels in the water, that would be impossible, yet I do

believe that the eels we have hooked on deadbaits have passed on to the rest of the population that deadbaits are not for eating! I certainly believe that the eels in this water are avoiding the deadbaits that were so successful before and this can only have been passed on from other eels that we have caught. I sincerely believe that not all eels die or leave a water after they have been caught and returned, yet the larger they are the more chance there is of NEVER seeing them again!!

Now this water has never shown a big fish to any other bait than deads before and those that were taken on lobs were ALWAYS a pound or under. The 4:09 may have been a fluke but the other runs that came as well were certainly not and the test will be in the next few weeks to see if I am on to something or not. The second very interesting point to come from the capture of this eel is the fact that it came from the same bank that all the previous big eels came from and this follows my own thoughts that on every water one bank only will produce the big eels. I know that Phil Smith feels the same after his experiences on his Staffs waters.

One thought does occur to me, and that is what happens when the eels wise up to the lobs? Maybe we will have to be like the carp anglers and try and stay one step ahead of our quarry???

~~~~~

#### DID I GET IT WRONG...OR NOT?

The weekend after the capture of my four was the 16th May, it came and went on the lake and the ground frost that was forecast came with it, clear skies, stars everywhere and a half moon shining all night long, boy it was cold!

I thought the moon was at its first Quarter that night (the best time for big eels according to last seasons report forms) but I'd got it wrong.

Still I did catch an eel of 1:14 and missed three other runs in the same swim as the week before so the night was not a complete waste. I fished a bunch of lobs on one rod and deadbaits on the other three, but the deadies didn't move an inch all night. While we have been fishing this water a chap has been there fishing almost as much as us, but he was fishing for the carp when he was supposed to be after the eels. Peanuts on a bolt rig for eels seemed to give the game away!!! Now this chap had fished the previous Saturday night after Gerry and I had had to leave and....wait for it....took three eels, one 4:11 and the other two big threes from my swim!

On deadies, I asked.

No five lobs, just like you. Came the reply.

To tell you the truth I was not sure if I was pleased or bloody mad, but he had at least added weight to our point that the eels in the water had changed completely to worms. We had now fished for twelve nights without an eel even touching our fish baits and this on a water where we wouldn't normally have taken any other bait. At times we had been using up to ten rods between us but the only runs we got were on the lobs.

If nothing else it goes to prove my point that we as eel anglers must keep ahead of the eels if we are to remain successful. Tight lines Lads.

SESSION REPORTING 1985 (Continued)

JUNE--JULY

Obviously with the arrival of the 16th June everyone is able to get out and start their eeling where close season restrictions have prevented them from doing so previously.

The close season results tended to be poor with mainly small eels caught, though it is not unusual in years past that some very good eels have been taken in April or May particularly if the weather manages to encourage the eels into feeding.

During last June and July the analysis shows that the bulk of the fishing was done in quite reasonable water temperatures, and given reasonable weather conditions, I would have expected a better show of bigger eels than was achieved.

You may recall that last year was generally very wet right up to August, yet the amount of effort recorded in wet weather for June and July was very small indeed! Surely we're not all a bunch of 'cissy' fair weather anglers, are we?

Where Barometric pressure is concerned, as would be expected, a MEDIUM to HIGH or STEADY to RISING barometer would be most favourable as a rule.

If you'll pardon the expression, where 'WIND' is concerned, any amount of wind with a largely EASTERN component is detrimental. As the old adage says: "When the wind is in the East, the fishes bite the least".

One set of results which did not strictly show what I would have expected for these months, concerned MOON PHASE, and in fact the overall result of this section did not reflect what I would have expected to see. Obviously a subject I shall continue to observe with interest.

I think I'm right in saying that July is usually 'the' month for big eels, and Nev Evans did get a beautiful eel of 6:00 but apart from that the only other eel of real note was Bob Laylands 4:09.

Both eels were caught on deadbait, Nevs fish on a perch tail and Bobs on a 1" section of roach tail with the fin cut off. Nevilles fish was caught just before 5 in the morning and as such is considered a daytime capture. Incentive enough where we do fish all night to ensure that baits are kept fresh in the early hours of the morning when usually the bedchair and bivvy are most commonly pressed into service.

My rambling assessments of results are largely a result of the fact that more information is required to build up a clearer picture and obtain reliable results.

As I keep stressing, that is where you lot come in. It's only by actually going fishing that we learn. The more fishing you do the more worthwhile my efforts will become.

As I have said before also, I want to see Sessions reported by everyone this season, and ideally I want to see everyone do a bit more than they did last season.

And please remember that those SESSION REPORTS should be sent to me at the end of EVERY month.

JUNE.

OVERALL EFFORT

JUNE NIGHT HOURS. 22.00 - 04.15 HRS. 6 1/4 HRS.

MONTH: JUN

| NAME OF MEMBER    | N. EVANS. | R. LAYLAND. | D. WALKER. | A. SUTTON. | T. JEFFERSON. | B. CRAWFORD. | J. SIDLEY. | M. DAVIES. |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|------------|---------------|--------------|------------|------------|--|--|--|--|
| SESSIONS          | 6         | 4           | 8          | 2          | 4             | 4            | 5          | 1          |  |  |  |  |
| ROD HOURS         | 150       | 103         | 296        | 4 1/2      | 12 1/2        | 59           | 145        | 12         |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL EELS        | 16        | 0           | 22         | 0          | 0             | 1            | 3          | 4          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E             | 9 1/2     | -           | 13 1/2     | -          | -             | 59           | 48 1/2     | 3          |  |  |  |  |
| 2:00+             | 3         | -           | 4          | -          | -             | -            | -          | 1          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/2:00+         | 50        | -           | 74         | -          | -             | -            | -          | 12         |  |  |  |  |
| 3:00+             | -         | -           | 1          | -          | -             | -            | 1          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| H/3:00+           | -         | -           | 296        | -          | -             | -            | 145        | 1          |  |  |  |  |
| 4:00+             | -         | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/4:00+         | -         | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| 5:00+             | -         | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/5:00+         | -         | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| EELS worm/day     | -         | -           | 15         | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H worm/day      | -         | 10          | 107        | 12 1/2     | 43 1/2        | 10 1/2       | 67 1/2     | 1          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E worm/day    | -         | -           | 7          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| EELS worm/night   | 3         | -           | 7          | -          | -             | 1            | 3          | 2          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H worm/night    | 2         | 24          | 47         | 18 1/2     | 72 1/2        | 36 1/2       | 77 1/2     | 5          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E worm night  | 1         | -           | 7          | -          | -             | 36 1/2       | 26         | 2 1/2      |  |  |  |  |
| EELS db/day       | 2         | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H db/day        | 34        | 17          | 38         | 4 1/2      | -             | 1/2          | -          | 1          |  |  |  |  |
| H/E db/day        | 17        | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| EELS db/night     | 11        | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | 2          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H db/night      | 105 1/2   | 52          | 23 1/2     | 6          | -             | 11 1/2       | -          | 5          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E db/night    | 9 1/2     | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | 2 1/2      |  |  |  |  |
| EELS other/day    | -         | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H other/day     | 2         | -           | 57 1/2     | -          | 2 1/2         | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E other/day   | -         | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| EELS other/night  | -         | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H other/night   | 6 1/2     | -           | 23         | -          | 3             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E other/night | -         | -           | -          | -          | -             | -            | -          | -          |  |  |  |  |

EELS CAUGHT (2:00+)

MONTH: JUNE

CAPTURE DETAILS: BAIT, WEATHER ETC.

| NAME OF MEMBER | WEIGHT | LENGTH  | GIRTH  | TIME  | DATE    | BAIT | BAIT POSITION | TRACE MATERIAL | ADDITIVE | PRE-BAIT | GROUND BAIT | AIR TEMP | WATER TEMP | BAR PRESS | BP MOVEMENT | CLOUD % | RAIN | WIND DIRECTION | WIND STRENGTH | MOON PHASE | NAME OF WATER |
|----------------|--------|---------|--------|-------|---------|------|---------------|----------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|---------|------|----------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| N.E.           | 2:04   | 31"     | 6 1/2" | 22:30 | 2/6/85  | D.B. | B             | NY             | Y        | N        | N           | 12°C     | 16°C       | M         | S           | 0       | N    | NW.            | L             | FULL       |               |
| "              | 2:07   | 32"     | 6 3/4" | 01:15 | 3/6/85  | D.B. | B             | NY.            | N        | N        | N           | 12°C     | 16°C       | M         | S           | 0       | N    | NW             | L             | FULL       |               |
| "              | 2:12   | 32"     | 6 3/8" | 05:55 | 18/4/85 | D.B. | B             | MS.            | N        | N        | N           | 9°C      | 14°C       | M         | S           | 0-25    | N    | 0              | 0             | N.M.       |               |
| D.P.W.         | 2:02   | 27"     | 6"     | 06:30 | 16/6/85 | W.   | B             | NY.            | N        | N        | N           | 11°C     | 16°C       | H         | S           | 50%     | N    | N.W            | L             | N.M.       | COOL PL.      |
| "              | 2:05   | 28"     | 6 1/2" | 11:00 | 14/6/85 | W.   | B             | NY.            | N        | N        | N           | 20°C     | 16°C       | H         | S           | 50%     | N    | N.W.           | L             | N.M.       |               |
| "              | 2:07   | 32"     | 6 1/4" | 11:45 | 30/6/85 | W.   | B             | NY.            | N        | N        | N           | 23°C     | 16°C       | H         | R           | 75-100% | N    | S              | L.            | FULL       |               |
| "              | 3:01   | 33 1/2" | 7"     | 13:15 | 30/6/85 | W.   | B             | NY             | N        | N        | N           | 21°C     | 16°C       | M         | R           | 75-100% | N    | S              | L             | FULL       |               |
| "              | 2:07   | 29"     | 6 3/4" | 16:15 | 30/6/85 | W.   | B             | NY.            | N        | N        | N           | 22°C     | 16°C       | M         | R           | 50-75%  | N    | S              | L             | FULL       |               |
| J.S.           | 3:06   | -       | -      | 23:30 | 8/6/85  | W.   | B             | M/S            | N        | N        | N           | 10°C     | 18°C       | M         | S           | 100%    | H    | N.W.           | S             | L.Q.       | WED           |
| M.D.           | 2:14   | 34"     | 6"     | 20:50 | 25/6/85 | W.   | B             | NY.            | N        | N        | N           | 8°C      | 17°C       | H         | R           | 50-75%  | N    | N              | N             | F.O.       | ST            |

EFFECT OF BAIT TYPE AND ADDITIVE  
PREBAITING AND GROUND BAIT ON CATCH RATE AND SIZE DURING DAY

MONTH: JUNE

| BAIT DETAILS     | BAIT TYPE |     |       | ADDITIVE |     | PRE-BAIT |      | GROUND BAIT |     |
|------------------|-----------|-----|-------|----------|-----|----------|------|-------------|-----|
|                  | WORM      | DB  | OTHER | YES      | NO  | YES      | NO   | YES         | NO  |
| 409<br>ROD HOURS | 252       | 99  | 62    | 29       | 380 | 30½      | 378½ | 69          | 338 |
| TOTAL EELS       | 15        | 2   | 0     | 0        | 17  | 0        | 17   | 0           | 17  |
| R-H/E            | 17        | 49½ | —     | —        | 22½ | —        | 22½  | —           | 20  |
| 2:00+            | 4         | 1   | —     | —        | 5   | —        | 5    | —           | 5   |
| R-H/2:00+        | 63        | 99  | —     | —        | 76  | —        | 75½  | —           | 68  |
| 3:00+            | 1         | —   | —     | —        | 1   | —        | 1    | —           | 1   |
| R-H/3:00+        | 252       | —   | —     | —        | 380 | —        | 378½ | —           | 338 |
| 4:00+            | —         | —   | —     | —        | —   | —        | —    | —           | —   |
| R-H/4:00+        | —         | —   | —     | —        | —   | —        | —    | —           | —   |
| 5:00+            | —         | —   | —     | —        | —   | —        | —    | —           | —   |
| R-H/5:00+        | —         | —   | —     | —        | —   | —        | —    | —           | —   |

EFFECT OF BAIT TYPE AND ADDITIVE  
PREBAITING AND GROUND BAIT ON CATCH RATE AND SIZE DURING NIGHT

| BAIT DETAILS     | BAIT TYPE |      |       | ADDITIVE |      | PRE-BAIT |      | GROUND BAIT |      |
|------------------|-----------|------|-------|----------|------|----------|------|-------------|------|
|                  | WORM      | DB   | OTHER | YES      | NO   | YES      | NO   | YES         | NO   |
| 519<br>ROD HOURS | 283       | 203½ | 32½   | 38½      | 480½ | 6        | 513  | 59          | 460  |
| TOTAL EELS       | 16        | 13   | 0     | 6        | 23   | 0        | 29   | 0           | 29   |
| R-H/E            | 17½       | 15½  | —     | 6½       | 21   | —        | 17½  | —           | 16   |
| 2:00+            | 1         | 2    | —     | 1        | 2    | —        | 3    | —           | 3    |
| R-H/2:00+        | 283       | 102  | —     | 38½      | 240  | —        | 256½ | —           | 153½ |
| 3:00+            | 1         | —    | —     | —        | 1    | —        | 1    | —           | 1    |
| R-H/3:00+        | 283       | —    | —     | —        | 480½ | —        | 513  | —           | 460  |
| 4:00+            | —         | —    | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —           | —    |
| R-H/4:00+        | —         | —    | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —           | —    |
| 5:00+            | —         | —    | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —           | —    |
| R-H/5:00+        | —         | —    | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —           | —    |

EFFECT OF WEATHER AGAINST CATCH RATE & SIZE

| MONTH: JUNE         |         | EELS | R.H. | 2:00+ | R-H/2 | 3:00+ | R-H/3 | 4:00+ | R-H/4 | 5:00+ | R-H/5 |
|---------------------|---------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| BAROMETRIC PRESSURE | LOW     | 0    | 10   | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | MED     | 22   | 625  | 3     | 208½  | 1     | 625   |       |       |       |       |
|                     | HIGH    | 23   | 293  | 5     | 58½   | 1     | 293   |       |       |       |       |
|                     | FALL    | 6    | 302½ | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | STEADY  | 26   | 563  | 5     | 112½  | 1     | 563   |       |       |       |       |
|                     | RISE    | 13   | 62½  | 3     | 21    | 1     | 62½   |       |       |       |       |
| CLOUD COVER         | 0- 25   | 15   | 287  | 3     | 96    | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | 25- 50  | 2    | 77   | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | 50- 75  | 13   | 169  | 4     | 42    | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | 75-100  | 15   | 395  | 1     | 395   | 2     | 197½  |       |       |       |       |
| RAIN                | NIL     | 40   | 573  | 8     | 71½   | 1     | 573   |       |       |       |       |
|                     | SHOWERS | 1    | 291  | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | HEAVY   | 4    | 64   | 0     | 0     | 1     | 64    |       |       |       |       |
| WIND                | NW-NNE  | 7    | 132½ | 4     | 33    | 1     | 132½  |       |       |       |       |
|                     | NE-ESE  | 0    | 18   | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | NO WIND | 10   | 256  | 2     | 128   | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | SE-SSW  | 11   | 197  | 2     | 98½   | 1     | 197   |       |       |       |       |
|                     | SW-WNW  | 17   | 324½ | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
| MOON PHASE          | NEW     | 15   | 339½ | 3     | 113   | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | FIRST Q | 8    | 246  | 1     | 246   | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | FULL    | 19   | 262½ | 4     | 65½   | 1     | 262½  |       |       |       |       |
|                     | LAST Q  | 3    | 80   | 0     | 0     | 1     | 80    |       |       |       |       |
| AIR TEMP            | 0-10    | 19   | 262  | 2     | 131   | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | 11-20   | 26   | 666  | 6     | 111   | 2     | 333   |       |       |       |       |
|                     | 21-30   | 0    | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
| WATER TEMP.         | 0- 4    | 0    | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | 5- 9    | 1    | 21   | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | 10-14   | 7    | 286  | 1     | 286   | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |
|                     | 15-19   | 37   | 621  | 7     | 88½   | 2     | 310½  |       |       |       |       |
|                     | 20-25   | 0    | 0    | 0     | 0     | 0     | 0     |       |       |       |       |

OVERALL EFFORT

JULY NIGHT HOURS. 21.30 - 04.45 hrs = 7 1/4 hrs.

MONTH: **JULY**

| NAME OF MEMBER    | T. JEFFERSON | N. EVANS | E. ORME | B. CRAWFORD | J. SIDLEY | A. SUTTON | R. LAYLAND |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------|--------------|----------|---------|-------------|-----------|-----------|------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| SESSIONS          | 6            | 6        | 1       | 1           | 7         | 2         | 5          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ROD HOURS         | 50 1/2       | 150      | 31 1/2  | 10          | 338       | 45        | 126 1/2    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOTAL EELS        | 0            | 11       | 0       | 0           | 1         | 0         | 1          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E             | -            | 13 1/2   | -       | -           | 338       | -         | 126 1/2    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2:00+             | -            | 3        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/2:00+         | -            | 50       | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3:00+             | -            | -        | -       | -           | 1         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| H/3:00+           | -            | -        | -       | -           | 338       | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4:00+             | -            | -        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/4:00+         | -            | -        | -       | -           | -         | -         | 126 1/2    |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5:00+             | -            | 1        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/5:00+         | -            | 150      | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EELS worm/day     | -            | -        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H worm/day      | 1 1/2        | 7        | 9 1/2   | 5           | 128 1/2   | 8 1/2     | 2 1/2      |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E worm/day    | -            | -        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EELS worm/night   | -            | -        | -       | -           | 1         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H worm/night    | 49           | 28       | 22      | 5           | 174 1/2   | 14 1/2    | 17 1/2     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E worm night  | -            | -        | -       | -           | 174 1/2   | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EELS db/day       | -            | 1        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H db/day        | -            | 13       | -       | -           | 13 1/2    | 7 1/2     | 14         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E db/day      | -            | 13       | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EELS db/night     | -            | 9        | -       | -           | -         | -         | 1          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H db/night      | -            | 85       | -       | -           | 21 1/2    | 14 1/2    | 92 1/2     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E db/night    | -            | 9 1/2    | -       | -           | -         | -         | 92 1/2     |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EELS other/day    | -            | -        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H other/day     | -            | 2        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E other/day   | -            | -        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| EELS other/night  | -            | 1        | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H other/night   | -            | 15       | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| R-H/E other/night | -            | 15       | -       | -           | -         | -         | -          |  |  |  |  |  |  |

EELS CAUGHT (2:00+)

MONTH: **JULY**

CAPTURE DETAILS: BAIT, WEATHER ETC.

| NAME OF MEMBER | WEIGHT | LENGTH | GIRTH             | TIME  | DATE    | BAIT | BAIT POSITION | TRACE MATERIAL | ADDITIVE | PRE-BAIT | GROUND BAIT | AIR TEMP | WATER TEMP | BAR PRESS | BP MOVEMENT | CLOUD % | RAIN | WIND DIRECTION | WIND STRENGTH | MOON PHASE | NAME OF WATER     |
|----------------|--------|--------|-------------------|-------|---------|------|---------------|----------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|------------|-----------|-------------|---------|------|----------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|
| R.L.           | 4:09   | 39"    | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " | 03:20 | 7/18/85 | D.B. | B.            | MS.            | N        | N        | N           | 10       | 17         | M         | ↗           | 0       | 0    | 0              | 0             | L.O.       | SILVER CREEK PIT. |
| N.E.           | 2:12   | 31"    | 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ " | 01:30 | 6/17/85 | D.B. | B.            | MS.            | N        | N        | N           | 12       | 17         | H         | ↑           | 0-25%   | 0    | SW             | L             | F.M.       | LOCAL CREEK PIT.  |
| "              | 2:08   | 38"    | 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ " | 03:10 | 6/17/85 | D.B. | B.            | MS.            | N        | N        | N           | 11       | 17         | H         | ↑           | 0-25%   | 0    | SW             | L             | F.M.       | LOCAL CREEK PIT.  |
| "              | 6:00   | 39"    | 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ " | 04:55 | 9/17/85 | D.B. | B.            | MS.            | N        | N        | N           | 14       | 16         | H         | ↑           | 75-100% | S    | NW.            | L             | L.O.       | CLOUD LAKE        |
| "              | 2:03   | 30"    | 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " | 02:35 | 2/17/85 | D.B. | B.            | MS.            | N        | N        | N           | 16       | 17         | H         | →           | 75/100% | 0    | SW.            | L             | F.O.       | LOCAL LAKE        |
| J.S.           | 3:02   | —      | —                 | 01:30 | 19/7/85 | W.   | B.            | MS.            | N        | N        | N           | —        | —          | H         | ↗           | 0-25%   | 0    | 0              | 0             | N.M.       | PIONS POOL        |
|                |        |        |                   |       |         |      |               |                |          |          |             |          |            |           |             |         |      |                |               |            |                   |
|                |        |        |                   |       |         |      |               |                |          |          |             |          |            |           |             |         |      |                |               |            |                   |
|                |        |        |                   |       |         |      |               |                |          |          |             |          |            |           |             |         |      |                |               |            |                   |
|                |        |        |                   |       |         |      |               |                |          |          |             |          |            |           |             |         |      |                |               |            |                   |
|                |        |        |                   |       |         |      |               |                |          |          |             |          |            |           |             |         |      |                |               |            |                   |

EFFECT OF BAIT TYPE AND ADDITIVE  
PREBAITING AND GROUNDBAIT ON CATCH RATE AND SIZE DURING DAY

MONTH: July

| BAIT DETAILS      | BAIT TYPE |    |       | ADDITIVE |      | PRE-BAIT |      | GROUNDBAIT |     |
|-------------------|-----------|----|-------|----------|------|----------|------|------------|-----|
|                   | WORM      | DB | OTHER | YES      | NO   | YES      | NO   | YES        | NO  |
| 207½<br>ROD HOURS | 157½      | 48 | 2     | 3        | 204½ | 27       | 180½ | 18½        | 189 |
| TOTAL EELS        | 0         | 1  | 0     | 0        | 1    | 0        | 1    | 0          | 1   |
| R-H/E             | —         | 48 | —     | —        | 204  | —        | 180½ | —          | 189 |
| 2:00+             | —         | —  | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —          | —   |
| R-H/2:00+         | —         | —  | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —          | —   |
| 3:00+             | —         | —  | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —          | —   |
| R-H/3:00+         | —         | —  | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —          | —   |
| 4:00+             | —         | —  | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —          | —   |
| R-H/4:00+         | —         | —  | —     | —        | —    | —        | —    | —          | —   |
| 5:00+             | —         | 1  | —     | —        | 1    | —        | —    | —          | 1   |
| R-H/5:00+         | —         | 48 | —     | —        | 204½ | —        | 180½ | —          | 189 |

EFFECT OF BAIT TYPE AND ADDITIVE  
PREBAITING AND GROUNDBAIT ON CATCH RATE AND SIZE DURING NIGHT

| BAIT DETAILS     | BAIT TYPE |      |       | ADDITIVE |     | PRE-BAIT |     | GROUNDBAIT |     |
|------------------|-----------|------|-------|----------|-----|----------|-----|------------|-----|
|                  | WORM      | DB   | OTHER | YES      | NO  | YES      | NO  | YES        | NO  |
| 514<br>ROD HOURS | 310½      | 218½ | 15    | 7        | 537 | 29       | 515 | 65         | 479 |
| TOTAL EELS       | 1         | 10   | 1     | 0        | 12  | 0        | 12  | 1          | 11  |
| R-H/E            | 310½      | 22   | 15    | —        | 45  | —        | 43  | 65         | 48  |
| 2:00+            | —         | 3    | —     | —        | 3   | —        | 3   | —          | 3   |
| R-H/2:00+        | —         | 73   | —     | —        | 179 | —        | 172 | —          | 160 |
| 3:00+            | 1         | —    | —     | —        | 1   | —        | 1   | —          | 1   |
| R-H/3:00+        | 310½      | —    | —     | —        | 537 | —        | 515 | —          | 479 |
| 4:00+            | —         | 1    | —     | —        | 1   | —        | 1   | —          | 1   |
| R-H/4:00+        | —         | 218½ | —     | —        | 537 | —        | 515 | —          | 479 |
| 5:00+            | —         | —    | —     | —        | —   | —        | —   | —          | —   |
| R-H/5:00+        | —         | —    | —     | —        | —   | —        | —   | —          | —   |

EFFECT OF WEATHER AGAINST CATCH RATE & SIZE

| MONTH: JULY.        |         | EELS | R.H. | 2:00+ | R-H/2 | 3:00+ | R-H/3 | 4:00+ | R-H/4 | 5:00+ | R-H/5 |
|---------------------|---------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| BAROMETRIC PRESSURE | LOW     | 0    | 55½  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | MED     | 1    | 271  | —     | —     | —     | —     | 1     | 271   | —     | —     |
|                     | HIGH    | 12   | 134½ | 3     | 45    | 1     | 134½  | —     | —     | 1     | 134½  |
|                     | FALL    | 1    | 111  | —     | —     | —     | —     | 1     | 111   | —     | —     |
|                     | STEADY  | 11   | 229  | 3     | 76½   | —     | —     | —     | —     | 1     | 229   |
|                     | RISE    | 1    | 121  | —     | —     | 1     | 121   | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| CLOUD COVER         | 0- 25   | 5    | 192½ | 2     | 96    | 1     | 192½  | 1     | 192½  | —     | —     |
|                     | 25- 50  | 0    | 24   | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | 50- 75  | 0    | 30½  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | 75-100  | 8    | 214  | 1     | 214   | —     | —     | —     | —     | 1     | 214   |
| RAIN                | NIL     | 13   | 400½ | 3     | 133½  | 1     | 400½  | 1     | 400½  | 1     | 400½  |
|                     | SHOWERS | 0    | 36½  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | HEAVY   | 0    | 24   | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| WIND                | NW-NE   | 5    | 34   | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | 1     | 34    |
|                     | NE-SE   | 0    | 13   | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | NO WIND | 2    | 183½ | —     | —     | 1     | 183½  | 1     | 183½  | —     | —     |
|                     | SE-SW   | 0    | 112  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | SW-NW   | 6    | 148½ | 3     | 49½   | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| MOON PHASE          | NEW     | 1    | 96   | —     | —     | 1     | 96    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | FIRST Q | 3    | 48   | 1     | 48    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | FULL    | 3    | 145  | 2     | 72½   | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | LAST Q  | 6    | 172  | —     | —     | —     | —     | 1     | 172   | 1     | 172   |
| AIR TEMP.           | 0-10    | 0    | 5    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | 10-20   | 13   | 456  | 3     | 152   | 1     | 456   | 1     | 456   | 1     | 456   |
|                     | 20-30   | 0    | 0    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| WATER TEMP.         | 0- 4    | 0    | 0    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | 5- 9    | 0    | 0    | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | 10-14   | 0    | 55   | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |
|                     | 15-19   | 13   | 353½ | 3     | 118   | 1     | 353½  | 1     | 353½  | 1     | 353½  |
|                     | 20-25   | 0    | 52½  | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     | —     |

## WORMS, FISH OR SPECIALS?

Reading through Terry's reports on last years eel season, all I could find interesting was the fact that the last Q of the moon was the best time to fish for the really big eels. All the rest told me was the rod hours it took to catch certain eels, and the baits used to them, in my view not very interesting at all.

As I have said before I do not think it is the type of rigs we use or the weather conditions we fish in that will account for those really big eels we all hope to hook, its the baits at the end of those lines that we need to know more about.

EEL anglers that I know are now going over the top with Amino Acids in their search for the super bait that will help them to catch a monster snake, yet these anglers and those like myself have been using Amino Acids for many years in the form of lobworms and fish baits, and you cannot get any Amino Acid than them. (Oh yes you can. ED.) Of the eels that I know of that have been killed for stomach contents analysis only a very few have contained fish. First a fish is harder to swallow and slower to digest, which in turn can cause an eel to hold up for days to rid itself of that meal, in turn losing weight by being unactive and not feeding on all the rich goodies on the bed of the lake in the form of insect life.

EDS COMMENT Hope you don't take offense John, but BALLS! You don't find large numbers of fish in the stomach contents analysis results for exactly the reason you just stated, they hole up and digest a full stomach of food before again going on a feeding spree. So unless you catch an eel that has just started to feed again you are very unlikely to see a large number of fish in the results. Just think about, a few roach of say three inches long would not take a good eel long to catch but they would certainly fill a good sized eel's stomach quite quickly and once full the eel would have to rest up and digest its meal. As to the eel losing weight whilst not actively feeding, how the hell can it do that if it is digesting a full stomach of food without expending any energy and therefore making full use of its food in the form of its constituent parts being turned into body fats etc etc!!! DPW EDITOR.

Now a bunch of lobs is a different story for the eel can digest and swallow them easily and in turn can be out on the feed much quicker. I am not saying that eels do not feed on fish that would be foolish, but I do think that the amount taken on fish compared to lobs would ensure that I would not rely on only one bait for my eel fishing. Indeed I do not believe that eels of over 5lb reach that weight solely on a diet of fish.

Examining all my records of 5lb plus eels caught by me and other eel anglers, lobs come out on top every time as a big eel bait, as I said is not the eel able to digest an easy meal like a lobworm much quicker than a deadbait? But more important than that is not a worm more natural to aquatic food items found on the bed of our waters???

(John's question marks not mine! ED)



that lobs are the top big eel bait. Lobs are easy to digest, small and above all they are something different to the normal food found by old Anguilla. Now we all agree that eels are probably the most efficient scavengers in our waters and so would'nt it make sense to assume that this super food finder would be the first to investigate a possible meal? I think you are wrong to dismiss rigs as blandly as you do. I have realised that the sub-surface rigs are making a great contribution to the knowledge of the eel angler and although they have not set the world alight with monster eels, they have certainly added a new dimension to the world of eeling and got a lot of us thinking again. That in itself cannot be a bad thing.

The question of the diet of really large eels has always been a hot old chestnut, and if (my earlier request for the old stomach contents analysis to be republished had been taken any notice of, then we would be able to examine this question with reasonable data to form opinions on. But alas at the present time we must discuss this topic from our own knowledge. So hear goes.....Big eels are big because they are good at finding enough food of the right type to sustain their body weight and to even grow a little. Now it is an excepted fact, at least I have always excepted it as truth, that eels grow extremely slowly until they reach a weight of around three pounds then for some reason they seem to start growing at a much faster rate. (I may be agreeing with John here, but while I'm rabbiting on I will continue, as many of you know once I get going there not much chance of stopping me anyway!!!) Now there are a number of ideas for this change in the eels growth rate but my own pet theory is as follows:-

Until the eel reaches maturity it has basically been a shoal fish and as such had to compete fairly vigourously for it's food not necessarily able to take advantage of the available food in the quantities that would have allowed it to grow rapidly or obtain its full stomach situation that we all believe to be the case with its larger relations. Another factor in our small eel's life is that it has to keep on the go all the time, firstly because it never gets enough food to allow it to 'rest and digest' and therefore uses up what food it should use for extra growth in continually searching for more. Secondly our small eel is quite a good bit of food for other eels much bigger than itself or the naughty pike. So you can see that the little fella has a hard life. Now when he reaches about three pound he is probably in a much smaller group of fellow eels, the numbers diminished by predators, starvation, disease and the dearded migratory instincts of the species. This smaller group does not have to compete so fiercely for food as they are able to take advantage of larger food items and despite the need for more food to sustain body weight and growth they are able to feed more effectively than when they were small. The most improtant change in our eels feeding may well take place around now, as it goes of to fend for its self and establishes a territory for the peaceful gathering of food. This situation ensures that it always has an ample supply of food for its requirements and although it does not preclude excursions away from the territory it does give it the security of safe and regular food supplies without having to expend the vast amounts of energy that it did when younger.



There are the odd gravel bars but these are so small you would have difficulty locating them at night. The water is completely surrounded by trees so finding a fishable swim is very hard indeed.

Due to the fact that it was getting very late when we arrived we opted to fish in a small bay on the north bank. With the tackle set up quickly the first casts of the new season were made and believe me casting with any confidence in the darkness in a very weedy lake is not an easy task, but after several miscasts I finally sat back and waited for the action.

My set up was a suspended rig that kept my bait in about midwater and hopefully out of the dense weed. The bait was as many worms as I could cram on to a size 2 Jack Hilton fished on a wire trace to 10lb line.

Everything remained quiet until about 23:00 when the optonic let out the warble that indicated a flowing line. I missed, and the result was just a massive clump of weed. Rebaited and recast I waited. The water remained unbroken without a ripple until 02:30 when once again the optonic was brought to life by a fish running off with its ill-fated meal. An instant strike brought instant elation, I could feel the power-full dogged resistance that could only mean a large eel. The fish was soon safely in the net, unhooked and then swaying beneath the avons. The needle settled at 4lb 4oz. A FOUR!!! Not bad for the first fish of the season from a new water. Happy? You bet I was.

The eel was put in the sack and I began sorting out the tackle for the recast. Whilst threading the worms I was wondering whether this was just a fluke fish or was this water really going to produce the goods?

It was 02:40 and I was about to recast when I had a flying run on my other rod. I closed the bailarm and leaned into another hefty fish.

At 02:45 the eel was on the scales and registering an amazing 4lb 12oz. TWO FOURS!!!!!! and in ten minutes! The eel soon joined its friend in the sack and made a combined weight of 9lb, not bad for a couple of eels.

The rest of the night was uneventful and at 05:00 we decided to pack up. With the light being very poor we made the decision to leave the eels where they were and return to photograph them later in the day. To pass the next couple of hours we paid a visit to one of our local trout waters and within ten minutes of arriving I had a lovely brown of 3lb 8oz and Steve had a small brook trout. The method, which is strictly for the trout purist was a chum mixer pellet on a size 14 treble to 4lb line thrown directly from a mitchell spool which is held in the left hand, all very technical and highly effective.

At 07:30 we returned to photograph and measure the eels both of which turned out to be 40"X8" and with a superb deep bronze colouring. We used half a reel of film and returned the eels to the water and I was at work for 08:30. At 10:00 I rang Pete Stickland and told him of the good news, after he had expressed his thoughts on how lucky I was (or words to that effect) we arranged to visit the water on the following Tuesday.

We paid the water a visit at the weekend and decided to arrive earlier than Steve and I had so that I could make a swim among some reeds to the right of where I had fished previously. The cutting of that swim opened up a new area of the lake and I made just enough room for me to slot two rods in. When all the baits were out Pete and I sat down to discuss the potential of our new water. The conversation was cut short when I had a run in my new swim.

The strike resulted in the rod lurching towards the water and once again a big eel was making a concerted effort to attain its freedom. I held on solidly, the sheer pulling force of the eel was brutal. However slowly and steadily I was gaining line. I saw the fish for the first time when it was about 15yds out and it looked massive. Pete had positioned himself at the waters edge with the net ready and waiting. I drew the eel over the net and it was lifted, but the eel had managed to lever its self out. My heart missed a beat and I half expected the eel to have slipped the hook and left it embedded in the landing net mesh. Fortunately this was not so and on the second attempt she was softly engulfed in the folds of the net.

It was at this point that we realised just how big this eel actually was and as Pete carried her up the bank I knew my personal best (51lb 15oz) had been smashed!

As we shone the torch on her head I realised how lucky I had been for the hook was laying beside her having slipped out easily. We transferred her to the weighing sling and suspended her beneath the scales, the needle moved round and round the dial and finally settled at a magical 6lb 8oz.....This is the fish of a lifetime.

We placed this majestic monster in the carsack and lowered her back into the water to await the mornings photo session.

The rest of the night passed without another run, not that I really cared, and anyway daylight was soon upon us. I set up the camera while Pete went to fetch the eel. My still rising joy turned to grief as Pete called and held up an empty sack, with an extra large hole in it! To say that I was sick would be an understatement.

I think Pete summed it up when he said that I had caught the biggest eel we'd ever seen and not even touched it.

The next session Pete and I planned was on the 20th, a Tuesday, and once again it proved to be a cracking session for me.

At 23:30 I took an eel of 51lb exactly and as soon as Pete had netted this one for me, I had another run on my other rod which resulted in an eel of 41lb 2oz. Then at 00:30 I finished off with a baby? of 31lb 14oz.

Unfortunately Pete blanked again, which he says is just bad luck and not that he's an inadequate angler or anything like that.....

On the Friday night Pete, Steve, and John Mitchell (our new member) fished the water and John was rewarded with a personal best eel of 41lb 9oz. So far I have caught a total of six eels in three sessions, weighing 6:08, 5:00, 4:12, 4:04, 4:02 and 3:14 this works out to an average size of 41lb 11oz. All this so far and we have only fished a tiny area of the water. With this sort of potential even Pete might eventually get a run!!!!!!