

# The National Anguilla Club

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GUIDE

GUIDE to the 1980 Session Reporting Scheme

## INTRODUCTION

In 1979, we reintroduced rod hours into the session reporting scheme. This was carried out using a mixture of the old type session report form, but including more questions adapted from the questionnaire session report form. The subsequent analysis of this was found to be very involved and prolonged, if all relevant factors are to be considered. About 60 questions are asked for each session. These have to be analysed according to the number of rod hours relating to each member, session, bait type, time of day, month and with reference to all the other variables included on the form. It is indeed a monumental task, but hopefully, with the aid of a small computer, suitably programmed, the work can be completed to give a more meaningful interpretation of all our reporting work. Not only this, but the fact of being able to store all Club data on cassette tape with ease, will simplify storage problems.

The importance of the manner in which information is put onto the basic session report form is of vital importance. Too many times, errors are made by members. This will not do if we desire the maximum from our pooled efforts. It is very important that all members fill in report forms to the very best of their ability.

Remember, completion of session report forms for every session of eel fishing is compulsory and a condition of membership.

## AIMS and OBJECTIVES

- a. To compile a truthful record of each member's efforts and results for each year.
- b. To build up such records, with gradual improvement every year.
- c. To analyse all data to seek trends which will increase our chances of catching more eels of larger sizes.
- d. To ask and attempt to find answers to relevant aspects of eel fishing.
- e. Rod hours have been proven to be a factual statistical tool in the establishment of relevant trends in eel fishing. (ref. Dr.T.Coulson - Report - 1970)

## INSTRUCTIONS

The following pages instruct you all on the method of completion of the session report forms. All members should read them carefully as there are several changes.

The aim of the changes are to ask the same question as before but in a more easily analysed manner.

Every part of each form is to be filled in for every session fished. If two or more members fish the same water during the same or different sessions, it is vital that their answers correspond. It is ridiculous to see so many conflicts of facts.

At the end of each month, and most certainly, by the 7th of the following month, all session reports Must be sent to me. The earlier the better. You don't need a covering note if you are pushed for time. Just stick your forms in an envelope and send them off. I have to spend several evenings each month abstracting data from your single session forms onto a monthly analysis form for each of the 60 or so variables. It is unreasonable of any of you to keep me waiting more than is necessary. A little forethought and onward planning will soon tell you when the soonest date is that you can send your forms to me.

I will supply each member with 25 session report forms to start with. If you need more, please contact me. Do not waste any or use any for your own records. If you desire copies then you must obtain photocopies or similar.

Fill each form in using a ball point pen or a fountain pen. Black ink is preferable if possible. Please write as clearly as possible, printing if your writing is poor. I do have to make too many guesses at undecipherable answers. The more help you can give me, the better I will be able to give the best analysis to your reports.

Brian Crawford

Spring 1980

SESSION REPORTING FORM COMPLETION

1. Name of Member./ Code Number. Write your name clearly and put your full, three figure membership code number.
2. Name of Water./Town/County/Type. Give the full name or code name of the water. If code names are used, all members fishing the water must use the same code. Write the name of the nearest town or village to the water. Write the name of the county in which the water, or most of it is situated. Write in the type of water, eg., canal, gravel pit, lowland river, lake, etc.
3. Session Date./Time/Number. Please take great care on this one and fill the details in according to the set system.
  - a. Session date: Each session begins at noon and ends at noon the next day. ie., no session is longer than 24 hours. You write in the date of the day in which you start under FROM and the date of the day in which you finish under TO. If you fish several days non-stop then you must break it into sessions of no more than 24 hours with noon of any one day as a limit. Session dates are to be written in the following form. 6-7/7/80, or 28/6/80 if a session on a single day. Use number notation only. REMEMBER - Where a session runs from one month into another overnight - it must count as two separate sessions with two forms completed, with one ending at 2359 and the next one starting at 0001- .
  - b. Session Time: Use the 24 hour clock system only. All times in four figures. eg., 1.30am is 0130, 1030am is just 1030, 1.30pm is 1330, 1030pm is 2230, etc. Noon is 1200, midnight is 0000. (NOTE adapt times to the nearest quarter hour)

THEREFORE this section should look like: 16-17/6/80 1700-1200.

- c. Session Number: These should be filled in in simple numerical sequence. You should also keep a record of each session date, time and number in a note book so that you remember the correct one each time.
4. Rod Usage. There is space for 4 rods in this and the next section. If more rods are used, you will be required to adapt two session report forms.

FROM and TO columns are completed as above.

EEL Numbers are entered to correspond to the sequence in which you caught your eels.

If you captured 3 eels on rod 1. you enter 1,2,3,.

If you captured the first and third eels on rod 2 but the second one on rod 1, you enter just 2 in the column for rod 1 and 1,3 in the column for rod 2. If you did not capture any eels on a rod put in a hyphen -.

Bait type is either (W) for worms, (DB) if a deadbait or portion of one was used and (O) is entered for any other type of bait used.

Description of bait means just that; how many worms, what type of deadbait, how big, if an 'other' bait is used, describe it as fully as possible.

SWIM DETAILS - This section has been simplified so take care in completion.

- a. Ba = Bank, Enter in the box N,S,E,W, only to indicate the direction you are FACING if you stand with your BACK to the water.
- b. Di = Distance cast, EITHER N,M or F. To indicate, Near - from 0-15 YARDS. Medium - from 16-30 YARDS and Far - from 30+ YARDS.
- c. De = Depth. EITHER S,M or D. to indicate, Shallow - from 0-5 FEET. Medium - from 6-20 FEET and Deep - from 20+ FEET.
- d. Sn = Snags. EITHER Yes or No (Y or N will do) - this includes heavy weed, rocks, sunken trees, anything that will provide a secure grip for an eel.
- e. We = Weed. EITHER N(Nil) S(Sparse) or D(Dense).
- f. Bo = Bottom. EITHER M/S (Mud/Silt), S/G (Sand/Gravel), or R/B (Rock/Boulders).

SWIM DETAILS - CONTINUED

g. Wc = Water Clarity. EITHER CLO(Cloudy), CLE(Clear), or VC(Very Clear)  
 h. Sd = Surface Disturbance. EITHER N (Nil), S (Slight), or H (Heavy).

**Session Report**

1.	Name of Member	B. CRAWFORD	Code No.	025
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2.	Name of Water	BUTLERS (LBI)	Type of Water	BRICK PIT (CLAY)
	Near (town)	PETERBOROUGH		
	County	CAMBS.		

3.	Session date & times	3-4/5/80	1800-0800
	Session number	4	

## 4. Rod Usage

R o d	From		To		Eel Nos	Bait Type	Description of bait	Swim details							
	TIME	DATE	TIME	DATE				Ba	Di	De	Sn	We	Bo	Wc	Sd
1.	1800	3/5	0800	4/5	1,4	DB	SPRAT HEAD	w	m	m	N	D	m/s	Vc	N
2.	1800	3/5	0800	4/5	2,3	W	2 x LOB	w	m	m	N	D	m/s	Vc	N
3.	1800	3/5	0100	4/5	-	W	2 x LOB	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
4.	0100	4/5	0800	4/5	-	DB	SPRAT HEAD	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	"

## 5. Tackle Usage.

Again, this section has been simplified so check your responses to each question.

- a. H = Hook size used. EITHER S(Small, size 16-12), M(Medium, size 10-4) or L(Large, size 2 and bigger)  
 b. Tr.T = Trace type. EITHER N(No trace), Ny(Nylon trace), SSW(Single strand wire), MSW(Multi-strand wire) or NCMSW(Nylon coated multi-strand wire).  
 c. Tbs = Trace breaking strain. EITHER L(Light 0-5lbs), M(5-15lbs) or H(Heavy 16lbs+)  
 d. T.le = Trace length. EITHER S(Small 0-6"), M(Medium 7-12") or L(Long 13"+)  
 e. Line = Line breaking strain. EITHER L(Light 0-5lb), M(Medium 6-15) or H(Heavy 16lbs+)  
 f. Wt = Weight used. EITHER N(Nil), L(Light 0-1oz) or H(Heavy 1oz+)  
 g. Indicator used. Describe type or how bites are detected. Eg., in-line sensor, heron type antenna, bottle top, silver paper, betalight ledger indicator, etc.

Bait details

- a. Posn = Position of bait. EITHER B(Bottom), M(Midwater) or S(Surface)(within 1')  
 b. Add. = Additive used. EITHER Y(Yes) or N(No). (If yes, try to give details)  
 c. G.B. = Ground bait used. EITHER Y(Yes) or N(No). (If yes, try to give details)  
 d. P.B. = Prebaiting used. EITHER Y(Yes) or N(No). (If yes, try to give details)

## 5. Tackle Usage.

Rod	Tackle Details						Indicator Used	Bait Details			
	H	Tr.T	Tbs	T.le	Line	Wt		Posn	Add.	G.B.	P.B.
1.	L	NCMSW	m	m	m	H	IN-LINE SENSOR	B	N	N	N
2.	L	"	"	"	"	"	"	"	Y P.O.	Y CAT FOOD	Y 100 WORMS
3.	S	N	-	-	L	N	FLOAT	S	"	"	"
4.											

## 6. BAIT USAGE

This section SHOULD be straight forward but requires completion as follows: From section 1. ROD USAGE, calculate how long each bait was used on each rod. It will help if you study the completed example below, based on the Rod Usage table on page 3. Actual hours of darkness (Approximate) are given as a guide. It will save some time on analysis work if you can add the sub-totals for Worm and deadbait, plus full total rod hours as illustrated.

REMEMBER to include the eel numbers as they were caught for each bait type as in the rod usage table, not total numbers of eels caught. I have to be able to differentiate between eels caught at daytime or night, not just bait type.

## 6. Bait Usage

Bait type	Rod-hours	No of eels
1. Worm Day	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	
2. Worm Night	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	2, 3
3. Dead Bait Day	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	1
4. Dead Bait Night	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	4
5. Other Day	-	-
6. Other Night	-	-

21 W

21 DB

TOTAL 42 RH.

Note: Night is defined as - NIGHT HOURS

March	19.35 - 07.00 = 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
April	20.30 - 05.35 = 9
May	21.15 - 04.45 = 7
June	21.50 - 04.15 = 6 "
July	21.40 - 04.30 = 7 "
August	20.50 - 05.20 = 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
September	19.45 - 06.05 = 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ "
October	18.35 - 07.00 = 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

7. EELS TAKEN

- Write in the weight of the eel to the nearest  $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. eg. 4:6 $\frac{1}{2}$ , 0:14, 11:3.
- Write in the length and girth of the eel in inches to the nearest  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch. The girth is the fattest cross section or where the dorsal fin begins.
- Date and time, write in the date as 23/5, or 1/7 only. The time to be the approximate time that the successful run began in 4 figure notation. ie., 0123.
- Colour of eel. EITHER DB(Dark brown), L.B.(Light Brown), BS(Black/Silver) or O(Other - specify)
- Head shape. EITHER B(Broad), P(Pointed) or O(Other - specify)
- Condition of eel, eg., an eel of 4:0 measuring 30" would be S(Short), an eel of 2:0 measuring 40" would be L(Long) whereas an eel of 4:0 measuring about 36" would be N(Normal).
- Fate. EITHER R(Returned), K(Killed) or D(Died).

7. Eels taken

	Weight lb:oz	Length in.	Girth in.	Date ,	Time 00.00	Col.	Head Shape	Condition	Fate
1.	1:14	30	7	3/5	1942	DB	B	N	R
2.	11:3*	51	15	4/5	0111	DB	B	N	STUFFED(K)
3.	0:12	20	5	4/5	0400	DB	P	N	R
4.	2:9	32	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	4/5	0412	DB	B	N	R
5.	:								

8. WEATHER DETAILS

Please try to complete as much of this section as possible for it contains possible answers to many questions.

- Date/time - this to be the exact time of taking the measurement, preferably a reading should be taken at the time of capture of each eel or the largest one. Please indicate by an \* if this is so as in the table below. The date and time to be written in as previously indicated.
- Air/water temperature. EITHER C(Cold - below 50°F), W(Warm - 51-60°F) or H(Hot - above 60°F). These may be roughly estimated, but the water temperature should be the temperature of the water in which your bait is lying. If you are using a whole bait, retrieve it after one hour and put your thermometer down the fishes throat for a minute. This will give an approximate reading.
- Barometric pressure. EITHER H(High), L(Low) or M(Medium)  
also EITHER R(Rising), F(Falling) or S(Steady).  
If you have not got a barometer, try to obtain values from weather forecasts, either from the tv, radio or most newspapers. If you know a little about clouds or weather, you may be able to estimate barometric conditions yourself.
- Cloud. EITHER N(Nil), S(Small 0 - 50%) or L(Large - over 50%).
- Wind strength. EITHER N(Nil), F(Fresh) or S(Strong).
- Wind direction. (The direction from which the wind is blowing)  
EITHER N(North), S(South), E(East) or W(West).
- Rain. EITHER N(Nil), S(Showers) or C(Continuous).

8. Weather Details\*

Date	3/5	4/5		
Time	1800	0130		
Air Temp	W	C		
Water Temp	W	W		
B.Press.	H	H		
Rise/Fall	S	S		

Date	3/5	4/5		
Time	1800	0130		
Cloud%	L	M		
WIND St.	F	F		
Direction	W	W		
Rain	S	N		

### 9. WATER DETAILS

In this section all you have to do is cross out the portion specifying the relevant factor describing your water as below.

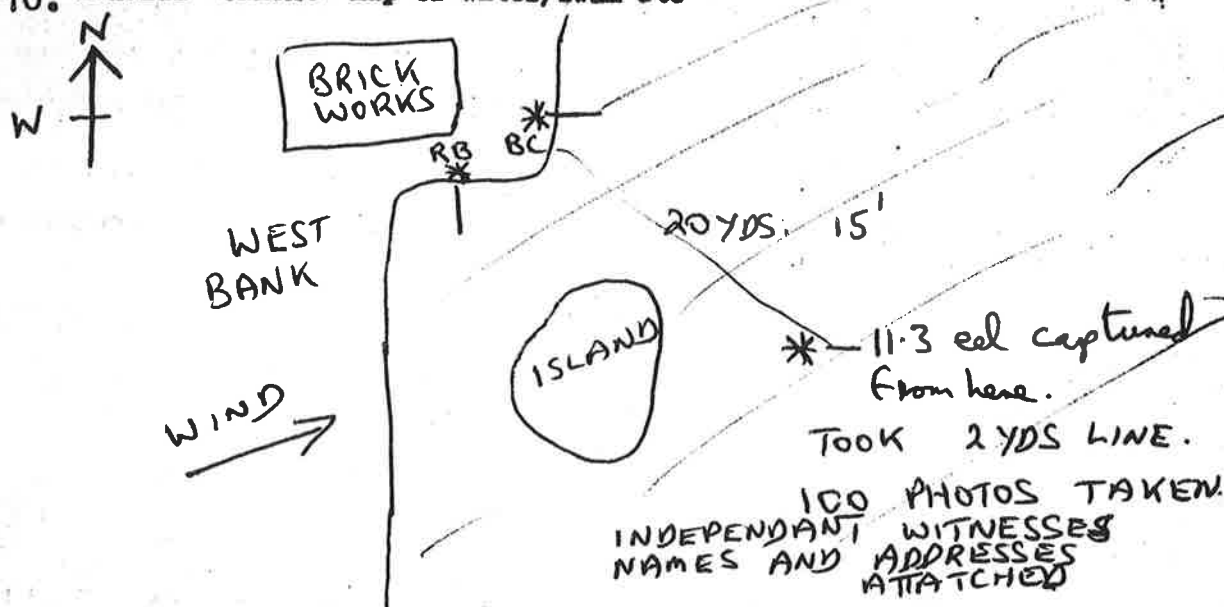
### 10. General Comments

In this section please put any other relevant details or comments relevant to the capture of eels, especially big ones. Names and addresses of witnesses to the capture of any 4lb plus eels, sketches of a water or particular swim. Anything that is at all unusual about the eel or the water. How many runs you had but missed or eels lost through snags or faulty tackle etc.

### 9. Water Details

Size of water (acres)	0 - 1	1 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 20	<del>20-50</del>	50 plus
Water surrounds	woodland	<del>Damland</del>	moorland	industrial	residential	other
% of bankside covered with trees/shrubs	0-25		25-75	75-100		
Average overall depth (feet)	0-5		<del>5-20</del>	20 plus		
Source of access (yards)	Direct		<del>0-25</del>	25-1000	1000 plus	
Shape of bottom	Flat		<del>Irregular</del>	Very Irregular		
Anyone else fishing the water	No	<del>Yes</del>	Specify number:- ONE (RB)			

### 10. General comment: map of water/swim etc



### CONCLUSION

There is much for you to digest here but it is all very relative and important. If any meaningful results are to come from our efforts, then a caring attitude and responsible manner must be adopted for the completion of these forms. The way in which each session is reported is as important as the session itself.

BRIAN CRAWFORD  
Spring 1980

NB. If you fish with a non-member of the Club on a regular basis, forms are available from me for his completion as this will add to our data bank.