



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name nick duffy

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 40 years.
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 7lb g u canal
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 1993
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** no
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** john sidley rig. roach head section
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** not a chance. the eel has 24 inches before you even get a bleep on your alarm. how back in the day its was the go to rig. now I would say it accounts for more gut hooked eels than any rig.
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** other than the dyson rig I only ever use 1 rig now. which I have shared with others to great affect. .
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** this year its been 11/11. last year I think it was. 53/57
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** massively ..
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** 100% . but I will continue to improve my lip hook over trophy catches
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing** learning to drive.

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

join the NAC. and catch up on the new rigs being developed. also. be 1st on a water you will reap the rewards

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

I don't think so . I knew John and he was trophy over anything. he made a living from fishing

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

don't think big baits will catch you big eels. I very rarely now use anything bigger than a 10p size bait. fish off the bait runner. Liphook and hook up rate will improve massively..

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Kelvin Abraham

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** On and off about 6 years
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 3lb
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 5 years ago
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Hair rig with a 20mm halibut pellet
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes but I would put a twig on it, it was lip hooked due to size of pellet. I was a novice lol
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Tend to have a hair on most of my rigs and also just hook deads on bare hook, all have twigs or anchors
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 75% lip but still get a quarter deep or further back than the lip
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Hmmm bigger baits, hitting bites quicker
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Yes the addition of the twig and anchor set up
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** Joining the NAC and doing a lot of research online and reading books and articles

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Dont expect it to be like instant carp fishing, and get used to being a solitary angler on your fisheries with some funny looks

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

There was more inovation in him than what we got

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Stay awake at night

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

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Your Name Steve Pitts

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 40 years solely for eels
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 10lb 2oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** Last season
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Helo rig fished bow string tight very short hook link arms mesh fish bag ...
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** 100 % if presentation is 100% some waters not suitable for this type of fishing rig as no rig perfect for every water
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** Over many years and not just a short period of time on all types of water at least 97 percent
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Been fishing with 5 rigs for last 25 years plus ie fishing for bites whilst it is working I wii carry on madness not to
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** 100 % fishing for bites not runs and learning little tweaks in rig presentation if needed
- 12.) **What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?** Short hook links big leads (unless in silt or weed) have a go for fishing for bites rather tha runs
- 13.) **If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What** New john very well as a great friend tried to get John to fish for bites he was very stuck in his ways so not shore if he

would change anything

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

If you are lip hooking most of your eels stick with it if not look at different methods of people who have been lip hooking eels for year and try them

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NAC Member Questionnaire

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Your Name Mark Macandrew

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) How long have you been fishing for Eel's..? 10 years
- 2.) What weight is your PB Eel..? 6lb 7oz
- 3.) How long ago did you catch it..? 4 years ago
- 4.) Was it lip hooked..? Yes
- 5.) What rig and bait was it caught on..? On a standard running patternoster rig with a feeder of chopped worms and worm section on a hair with a 8" hooklength and twig rig
- 6.) Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..? I would recommend the rig but would also recommend a few tweaks.
At the very least the twig now being used is much longer and thicker
I would also lose the hair and shorten the hooklength
- 7.) Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..? I use a few other rigs. One being the Dyson when fishing weedy swims or very rarely when/if a live bait is used
- 8.) On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..? Recently I would say at least 8 if not 9+ but a few years ago it wouldve been much harder to predict and the average could vary with no clear reason to me as to why
- 9.) Do you think that average could be improved..? I do believe my average can still be improved and I will keep trying to improve it
- 10.) Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..? They have changed lots from hooks and hooklength materials used, along with other components and recently the overall length too. Plus I've started incorporating other rigs into my fishing which I never considered before I do think my rigs will continue to be developed for many years

to come and often small tweaks will be needed to overcome problems posed on individual waters

11.) What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?

Joining the NAC and becoming good friends with great anglers

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Keep an open mind and be willing to adapt as and when needed

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

I would like to think so yes and I hope he would to be a part of the lip hook your eels movement

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Shorter traces, smaller baits balanced with hook size and strike immediately

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NAC Member Questionnaire

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Your Name Steve Markwello

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** On and off for 50 years
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 8.04
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 3 years ago?
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Running bottom rig with 6 inch wire trace
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes, mainly effective on clear/clean lake bed
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Dysons for mainly weedy lakes
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 70% ish,
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Yes
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Changed a lot, allways room for improvement regardless, fishing is all ways about adapting for any species
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** My PB, the realisation that we know where there's an excellent chance of breaking the record

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Stick at it but don't go through the motions, adapt to the water and circumstances

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

I would like to think he would improve rigs

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

100% sit on your rods, sleep in the bivvy without rods in the venue. When I eel fish nowadays I sit in a chair close to the rods then kip later. Easy to do for over nighters with broolly, and I'm nearly 65! 🐼

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Your Name Mark Reid

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** Decades. I used to match fish for them on the Witham.
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 3.12
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 30yrs
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Live bait skimmer bream, float rig, treble hooks
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** No, was after pike.
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Dyson, running
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 6
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Yes, I've changed to the twig rig, however haven't had much time out to test it.
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Small tweaks. I have only targeted eels like this the past 5 years.
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** When I decided to add eel fishing to my list of target species as an all round blanket.

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..? Listen to the experts, get the wire traces on.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? Never used the rig, so unable to comment.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..? Sit on your rods, hit every twitch.

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NAC Member Questionnaire

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Your Name Ashleigh Lynch

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) How long have you been fishing for Eel's..? 20 years +
- 2.) What weight is your PB Eel..? 5.4lb
- 3.) How long ago did you catch it..? 4 years ago
- 4.) Was it lip hooked..? Yes
- 5.) What rig and bait was it caught on..? JS rig, twig rig trace and lobworm
- 6.) Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..? Definitely.
- 7.) Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..? Not specifically for eels
- 8.) On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..? I would say 8 on the twig rig. Much less (maybe 3-4) when float fishing or ledgering for other species and catching eels accidentally
- 9.) Do you think that average could be improved..? Possibly but difficult to see how.
- 10.) Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..? Not in the last 5. Havent changed since moving to the twig rig
- 11.) What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..? Joining the NAC. Seeing the rollover bite indicators and twig rig on the

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Strike early. Don't sit on it waiting for a screaming run.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

I would say rigs only need to change and adapt when they aren't successful. On this basis it would probably be the same!

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Carry a carp care kit, treat them like a highly endangered species when handling, educate others especially on commercial lakes where people step on them etc when caught.

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Your Name Barry Mcconnell

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) How long have you been fishing for Eel's..? 28 years
- 2.) What weight is your PB Eel..? 9.02
- 3.) How long ago did you catch it..? 12 years
- 4.) Was it lip hooked..? Yes
- 5.) What rig and bait was it caught on..? Dyson dead gudgeon
- 6.) Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..? Yes... with a twig added
- 7.) Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..? Basic free running leger with a 100mm long twig on the trace
- 8.) On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..? 10
- 9.) Do you think that average could be improved..? No
- 10.) Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..? Yes and no. Tweaking and improving all the time
- 11.) What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..? Many years ago the Dyson rig changed and improved how I fish.
I use very short trace with link leger nowadays which has

greatly reduced deep hooking. Longer twig has now made all my rigs 100% safe.

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Keep feeding the enthusiasm. Think outside of the box.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

Yes he would have been a part of all the changes that we have seen within the eel movement. Things have certainly changed... for the better.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

How safe is your rig 70-80-90%? To make a rig 100% safe attach a length of 100mm long 3mm diameter clear acrylic rod onto the trace.

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Your Name Ian Whittaker

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) How long have you been fishing for Eel's..? 45 years
- 2.) What weight is your PB Eel..? 5lb 12oz
- 3.) How long ago did you catch it..? 15 years
- 4.) Was it lip hooked..? Yes
- 5.) What rig and bait was it caught on..? Freelined roach head
- 6.) Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..? Only in certain circumstances . You need to 100% concentrate and conditions need to be perfectly still and not dark ☐
- 7.) Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..? Short 5" hook links and either a short bomb link for on the bottom or dyson for up in the water and an extra long dyson rig to fish lives at the surface on a water where the eels take my cat baits down but never get hooked 😊
- 8.) On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..? 6/10
- 9.) Do you think that average could be improved..? Always
- 10.) Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..? Same basics but with refinement using better products
- 11.) What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing Probably 20 years ago when I used to catch eels for livebaits

for catfishing . Learning how , when to go for maximum returns and how to handle , keep and transport the eels and to keep them them in top condition . As a result of this I learned how easily they died with poor handling .

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

There are some very talented eel anglers , many accessible to joe public , who will impart knowledge to anyone keen to ask questions and learn . My piece of advice would be if in doubt use smaller hooks with baits to match .

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

He'd replace the 2 part hooklink with a single length of wire , he'd make it shorter , and he would use a stiffener / twig on the trace

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Bolt / self hooking rigs seem to be the way forward .

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Your Name John Davis

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) How long have you been fishing for Eel's..? 35+ years
- 2.) What weight is your PB Eel..? 6.09
- 3.) How long ago did you catch it..? 2007
- 4.) Was it lip hooked..? No. It was just in side the sissors
- 5.) What rig and bait was it caught on..? J.S. Rig worm
- 6.) Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..? No, not in its previous form anyway. Like everyone else who as eel fished over the last 40 years the JS rig did have it's faults and it's more or less accepted now that a longer hook length is not necessary.
- 7.) Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..? In the main it's either a CD rig, a running weighted feeder or a bolt type feeder rig that many now use for tench fishing.
- 8.) On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..? Previous to changing to short hook lengths I'd say it was 50/50 at best, now it's 85%+. To be honest it could be higher but I haven't caught 10 eels in the last three years
- 9.) Do you think that average could be improved..? If 100% could be achieved then yes!
- 10.) Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..? Yes and who knows? Rigs and opinions change constantly.
- 11.) What has been the biggest turnina point in your Eel fishing Probably joining the NAC.

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Don't expect easy results and don't be tempted to leave runs to develop.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

Who knows? He's been dead 30 years now. I never met the man so I couldn't possibly say.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Keep on learning and adapting your mindset in fishing for them. Or, don't fish for them and that way you'll never deep hook them..

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NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name paul Faint

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 4 years
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 7lb 3oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 2020
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Free running feeder rig, 6inch hooklink with size 7 hook fished with lobworms.
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Dyson rig, deeper water and over weedbeds.
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 9
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** possible , experimenting with shorter hooklinks at 4 inches long and a shorter length free running rig which seems effective at present.
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Not really, more streamline with shorter hooklinks but still learning everyday and adapting with education.
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** For me its got to be fishing the dyson rig, which is so versatile in different situations

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Educate yourself before fishing for these mythical fish.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

As time evolves things often move on so would the rigs i'm sure of it.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Education is the only way, suggested safe rigs from the more experience anglers that are open about these rigs like Steve Pitts and Barry McConnell. Unless this is broadcast wide the newcomers to eel fishing will never be aware of this , this is why the website is such a great tool for education if anglers use it.

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NAC Member Questionnaire

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Your Name Simon Parkinson

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) How long have you been fishing for Eel's..? 20
- 2.) What weight is your PB Eel..? 4:10
- 3.) How long ago did you catch it..? 10 years
- 4.) Was it lip hooked..? No
- 5.) What rig and bait was it caught on..? Dead Rudd head on a running leger
- 6.) Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..? I would recommend it if you were striking straight awY
- 7.) Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..? I've just started experimenting with the twig rig
- 8.) On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..? 4
- 9.) Do you think that average could be improved..? Yeah
- 10.) Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..? Have only just got back into fishing but hopefully will be using new rigs
- 11.) What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..? Joining this group

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..? Try everything not to deep hook eels

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? Yeah

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..? Strike asap

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Your Name Alan Williams

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** Since 1975
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 7-02
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** In 1979
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** No
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Free lined Roach tail section
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** No not unless it's very close to your rod tip
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** I mainly use the extended Dyson rig unless it's too shallow
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** It all depends on baits being used, whole dead baits tend deep hook them on any rig, even the extended Dyson but not as often as ledgered or free lined whole dead baits
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Yes
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** My rigs have changed dramatically over the last few years, especially the extended Dyson and shorter hook links, I've not deep hooked any Eels when using worms and small dead bait sections.
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** The extended Dyson rig and first use of the snig twig and now the big twig especially on ledgered baits. The last 9 Eels I've caught have all been lip hooked using 1/2 prawns

worms and small dead bait sections ledgering because the depth was too shallow for my favoured extended Dyson rig

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Use traces no longer than 6 inches incorporating the big twig especially when ledgering and use small dead bait sections or 1/2 a prawn or worms. Hit your runs straight away and don't wait for a second run if using whole dead baits, also use barbless hooks and don't remove the hooks unless they're lip hooked(see comment below) and cut the trace as near to the hook as possible.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

That's a difficult one, because in his book he advocates waiting for a second run when dead baiting even when using a tail half, but who knows maybe he would've changed his views. Also I think he probably had a high mortality rate with the Eels the way he poked about trying too take hooks out of their throats. I know from experience because I removed a hook out of the tongue area of an eel and it started bleeding rather badly, although it swam away ok, I found it dead the following week. That was in 1976 since then I don't remove the hook unless it's lip hooked and most the time I use barbless hooks so that it's easier for them to get rid themselves.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

I think I've said it all in the above comments

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NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Jamie Chaffer

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** First started about 7 year ago
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 3lb
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 2016
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Small whitebait,size 6 hook, 6"trace on bottom
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** I would recommend this rig
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Mainly dyson and running ledger with short hooklengths
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 4 or 5
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Yes I think it could
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** They have changed slightly over the years after advice from anglers on Facebook pages etc... I think I will be experimenting more with different rigs to prevent deep hooking
- 12.) **What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?** Be patient and dont be lazy

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? I think he would have

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Stuart Dean

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 8 years then a 15 year break.
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 5lb 14oz and 5lb 13oz a few weeks earlier.
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 1996 or 97
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** 5lb 14oz - Dyson rig. Roach deadbait
5lb 13oz - Dyson rig. Roach livebait (1.5 inch)
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Not sure! Never been keen on the quality of the indication it gives. Currently messing around with the rig set up to see if I can get to the point where I am happy with it. At the point where I'm ready to ditch it and just ledger my baits.
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Running link ledgers (long links between 12" and 36") depending on which water I'm fishing. Currently my "go to" rig on both of my waters. Long links on one water due to depth of silt. They lay on the lake bed similar to a helicopter/chod rig but with the added advantage of running lead to aid with better indication. I can also fish a tight line direct to hook link swivel as the lead is past the bait.
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** So far this season 75%, but lots of missed runs. Small eels have been lip hooked (3). Larger eel (3lb 4oz) slightly deep hooked (could see hook but too deep to attempt unhooking)
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Yes.
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5** My rigs now are very different to last time I seriously eel fished. I think I'm close to getting my rigs to where I want

them (trace length, anti eject, hook size, bait size etc)

11.) What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?

Losing a very big eel at the net, on a water I fished for 6 years (150+ nights for four eels) broke my heart, broke my resolve

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

As much research as you can on the waters you are going to fish. Fish for eels, don't get hung up on a big eel chase. Make your rigs as efficient as possible and refine your indication to suit your rigs. Enjoy your fishing.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

Yes. (I've NEVER used a JS rig)

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Short trace length. I use 4" max and as short as 3/4inch (18mm). Get your point of indication as close as possible to you bait. (thats why Im not keen on the Dyson rig anymore). Consider line aligners/kickers and the use of confidence/shock rigs. Incorporate snig twig on you trace if you are using longer hook lengths (6").

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Phil Blackburn

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** I fished for them 30 years ago. Just back into them this year
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 6lb 12oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 30 years ago
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Not sure
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** By mistake whilst tench fishing. Waggler and luncheon meat for bait.
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Float fishing is something that maybe worth trying. You have to sit watching the rod.
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Mainly free running bottom rigs, playing the Dyson rigs
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** This year since back 100%
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Missing runs could.
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Following advice and using twig rigs. Prawns as bait
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** I have started again this year. After Mitton crabs in the trent ruined my fishing last year. I needed something less soul destroying. So far eels are more frustrating 🙄

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..? Always strike straight away. Better to miss them, then deep hook

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? ?

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..? ?

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Phil Blackburn

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** I fished for them 30 years ago. Just back into them this year
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 6lb 12oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 30 years ago
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Not sure
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** By mistake whilst tench fishing. Waggler and luncheon meat for bait.
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Float fishing is something that maybe worth trying. You have to sit watching the rod.
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Mainly free running bottom rigs, playing the Dyson rigs
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** This year since back 100%
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Missing runs could.
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Following advice and using twig rigs. Prawns as bait
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** I have started again this year. After Mitton crabs in the trent ruined my fishing last year. I needed something less soul destroying. So far eels are more frustrating 🙄

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..? Always strike straight away. Better to miss them, then deep hook

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? ?

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..? ?

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Ade Lees

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** On and off all my life , but since 2007 they are the species I target in the d ad unmet months
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 5lb 2oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 34 years ago
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Hook eye showing at mouth , was sacked up until light and eel had shed the hook in the sack
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** JS rig , Rudd head section
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** No due to the eel being able to move around with the bait before registering a pick up on the bait causing possibly a deep hook fish . Probably not.. But if I did then with the addition of a twig and short hook length
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Dyson with very short stiff hook link with roll over , Free running legal with short stiff hook link fished tight to heavy lead , bobbin with short drop and off bait runner
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** So far this season all eels have been lip hooked
8 eels all lip hooked
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** I'm always looking to improve, That is what we all aim for ,
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Yes rigs have completely changed , I'm always trying to improve bite indication and hook up rate so fingers crossed all eel should be lip hooked
- 11.) **What has been the biggest** For Myself joining the NAC with like minded anglers , I'm

that state now in my angling career that the conservation of the eel is more important to me now than a trophy shot even though a new PB would be nice

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Enjoy the fishing, Don't expect easy results and don't be tempted to leave runs to develop. Don't expect easy results and don't be tempted to leave runs to develop so that you hook the eel .

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

Most definitely

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

The littlest of indication get up to your rods don't wait for the run to develop , because before you know it the bait could be well down in its gut resulting in a deep hooked eel

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Steve Dawe

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 45 years on and off always had a love for them and they will always be part of my annual angling targets.
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 5lb 12oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 8 years ago
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** No, hook inside the cheek, removed cleanly
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Dyson Rig and Bream Head
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** 100% recommend, as it has caught me most of my big eels.
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Simple running rig, when using livebaits as they tend to tangle my version of the dyson
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** Prior to this year probably 3 or 4 out of 10 would be lip hooked, however this year using the dyson on baitrunner with bobbins and small baits I hooked 14 eels out of 16 takes in one night all 14 were lip hooked.
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Yes by refining the new smaller bait and self hooking system that has been discussed by the club members
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Changed in the last 12 months and hopefully they will continue to be tweaked to bring about 100% lip hooked ratio, win win senario
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing** After fishing a few nights with Barry Mac he convinced me to use the Dyson he claimed it would catch me bigger eels and

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

it certainly did, it's great to see that this rig is at the heart of ~~concentration minded anglers~~
Respect eels of all sizes and don't be demoralised if those bigger eels seem like they will never come, listen to the advice of club members and stick with it, one day you will get that special fish.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

As a thinking angler he would no doubt moved with the times I believe he would still be top of the game.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

I have played around with circles and they have completely changed catch and release sharking, the important aspect is full free movement of the hook and a fish running under pressure. I have success when using them with small fish heads and off the baitrunner. I am hopeful that with more tweaking this could get the 100% mouth hook up, they always end up in the side of the mouth and providing the barb is crushed they pop straight out.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name David Pountney

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 22 years on and off
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 4lb 12oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 2 years ago
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Single lob worm on a John Sidley rig
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes but could be made better.
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Dyson rig but only every so often as I'm not too sure if I can get the bait to sit off the bottom.
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 9 out of 10 eels are lipped hooked.
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** I think it can but may be difficult.
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Yes and now I know what works will keep the same.
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** Being able to catch a number of specimen size eels in one session.

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Don't give an eel any line to get into a snag.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

The design would have probably stayed the same but more modern terminal tackle would be used.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

To be ready for any bite and don't let a run go for too long.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Stephen Richardson

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 5 years
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 5.3 pounds
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 20 months
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Dyson worm
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Running rig for bottom baits
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** Cannot say accurately as never made notes
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Yes
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Yes after Steve pitts talk at nac meeting 2019 I now fish for bites instead of runs
Not many session since then and just had one eel 3.11 last May which was lip hooked
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** I think the above method is the advice I had and still continue on that approach this is a great step in eel conservation

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..? Listen to Steve pitts approach

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? Reduce hook length drastically

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..? Just give the fishing for bites approach pitto has a very high percentage of lipped hook fish to his credit and several nac members I am in contact with are getting more fish lip hooked
That's should be our mission for good eel conservation
A deeper hooked eels is most probably a dead eel

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NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Dean Aston

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** Since the 85 on and off
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 6lb 6
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 3 years
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** worms , 5inch hook lenght on twig rig
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** yes
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** depends on waters One water I fish can only get runs on livebait
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** To be fair when using worms or live baits all lip hook, this season while fishing deads had one took hook right down
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** on deads yes on worms no
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Yes using lot shorter hook rigs and all my hooks barbless .
Not sure
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** I say my friendship with Duffy

- 12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?** Mix it up a bit life to short just to fish for one species and walking round like zombie next day
- 13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?** I would say yeah but he would be very basic in his way of fishing . Just put the time in
- 14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?** yep dont fish for them saying that fishing with deads brings more problem's then with worms.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Simon Garrard

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 35 years - possibly longer
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 7lb 8ozs
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** Several years ago
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Dyson . Not willing to divulge bait
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes , certainly on weedy waters
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Large lead- 4ozs plus and short hook links in other situations - ie non weedy areas .
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** Certainly at the moment on the twig rig and ultra short hooklinks it's every one
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** No .
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Apart from the twig rig and a bit of fine tuning .
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** Fishing waters with big eels in .

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Think about why you want to fish for them . At the moment they are fashionable! But it's long hard yards and sometimes can be soul destroying .

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

I am sure John would move with the times .

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Don't treat as carp fishing for eels . Its not . If you want to sleeping all night take up carp fishing .

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NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Terry Woolcock

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 50 years on and off....Specimen hunting for 12 years.
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 5.9
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 11 years
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Not quite...Eye of barbless hook was just inside of mouth...Hook was in bottom of sack in the morning.
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** 4in dead perch on a Dyson.
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes, it's a good rig you need to hit the run as early as possible.
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** I don't use Dyson's at range so use a modified JS rig with 3oz lead and short 5-6in trace.
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** Last year by memory, I caught 9 eels of which only one was deep hooked..
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** No
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Yes
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** Short traces, heavier leads and early strike.

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..? Join the NAC and learn from the best.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? Yes, he would've modified his rig like we have.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..? We need to keep going in the right direction as we are...I personally will be trying out the twig on the trace, smaller baits, using the baitrunner and looking at bolt rigs too.

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NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Anthony Kellner

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** Since 2013, so into my 8th year now
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 6lb0oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** June 2013
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** No
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Roach head. Lip hooked 6" running rig with a short 2" JS style link. Open bail arms / rollovers.
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** No. Rig was still much shorter than the original JS style arrangement, but still unnecessarily long. I also think the hooking arrangement didn't help.
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** I use extended Dyson rigs a lot. Especially over weed. And also bolt helicopter rigs
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** Currently about 6-7. Around 75%.
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Only marginally. Perhaps 80%. Nothing's perfect in fishing, especially considering how eels feed
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Yes. I've learned a lot in the last 2 years. Not sure the rigs will be that much different in 5 years.
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** I've learned so much, fishing different lakes / ponds / rivers, but I'd say Steve Ditte talk in

methods has inspired me and made me think differently.

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Be open to learning. Don't dismiss anything, and don't accept you can't improve your results.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

Quite possibly. This was before my time, but I've read his articles / book and fishing has moved on in leaps and bounds, especially with regard to fish conservation

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

I don't know. It's very much each to their own. There is a risk that if you preach to hard, people may ignore the advice. Some people are open to change and others less so. Such is humanity.

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NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Ryan Jones

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** 7-8 years
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 5.13
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** This season
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Free running ledger, 6" trace, size 6 Gardner Incizor with 2 chopped lobs.
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Dysons when using livebaits and in weedy waters, uni rig when fishing off the rod tip on canals.
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 9
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** It would be difficult
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Yes. Shorter traces, probably will remain the same until it lose confidence in them.
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** Joining NAC and fishing with/learning from a number of other members.

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..? Stick with it and trust your own processes.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? Probably would've been the same but made with better components.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..? Don't be lazy with it, always be on the ball.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. This type of information is helpful for us as a group, to learn and evolve with the goal of improving safer eel angling practices and prevent deep hooking eels.



NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Liam Shaughnessy

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** Only 2 years still a newbie.
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 4.8
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** May 2021
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Simple running rig, prawn hookbait
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Dyson most of the time.
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 9/10, the one exception I cut the trace and the eel discarded the hook in the sack. I only ever fish short sessions so I'm always on the rods at all times, not sleeping or owning a bivvy means I'm fishing and alert to any bleep. That and using the Dyson rig with Barry's rollovers I think has helped me avoid any deep hooking.
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Always
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Eel angling has improved my fishing, not only do I use low resistance rigs when eeling but I have also transferred it to all my predator fishing.

11.) What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?

Joining the NAC

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Join the NAC, read everything you can.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

Yes. I think he would have been at the forefront of safer rigs.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Use Twig Rigs. Always be on the rods.

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NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name jim smith

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) How long have you been fishing for Eel's..? On and off since 1978 . At the age of fourteen seeing Steve Terrys record fish in the angling press.
- 2.) What weight is your PB Eel..? 6LB 14OZS
- 3.) How long ago did you catch it..? Sept 2011
- 4.) Was it lip hooked..? No
- 5.) What rig and bait was it caught on..? J S Rig . Bait 4oz whole roach deadbait .
- 6.) Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..? No . The rig was a good distance rig to avoid tangles , but the lenght from hook to lead allowed the eel to much free play before bite detection. Now we have anti tangle sleeves and a whole array of products that we can use .
- 7.) Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..? Dyson and helicopter rigs . Heavy lead very short 2-3 inch trace semi fixed or occasionally running rigs.
- 8.) On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..? Since using short hook links and or twigs 100% lip hooked . Plus striking at any hint of a bite has helped with lip hooking .
- 9.) Do you think that average could be improved..? Not at present , the last deep hooked eel i had was when i tried circle hooks .
- 10.) Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..? Yes , gone are the days of tying on a J S Rig and lobbing it as far out as i can and just sitting back and waiting for things to happen . I have been using maggots a lot in recent years (only able too due to cormorant predation on the silver numbers) and i can fine tune my approach with smaller baits . Sensitive set alarms and tight lines .

11.) What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?

Ditching older style rigs and abandoning the that"s the way we have always done it approach . Also the Twig has really helped .

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Prepare for a lot of strange looks and comments such as You"ve joined a limited member carp syndicate and you don"t fish for carp you fish for Eels FFS.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

I think he would have adapted and changed his approach like Barry with the twig as an example .

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

A lot of remarkable things have happened of late . the lip hook your eels is a reminder of the put eels back alive campaign and will help raise awareness . The change i have noticed in clean hooking since using smaller baits is marked . The main challenge is i think is hook up rates on waters where the eels predate on large silvers and anglers have to bait up accordingly .

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NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Steve Bygrave

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** Twenty years
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 5lb 14oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 2years ago
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Dyson rig and hair rigged live gudgeon.
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** Yes
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** No
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 5
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Yes
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** No not ready, my rigs differ in the fact if i use head baits, most eels are lip hooked, but live baits can vary, so will carry on using my rig until i see one better.
- 12.) **What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?** Go with an experienced eel angler first.

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? Deffo yes.

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..? Use my rig just for head baits !!!

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NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Gordon Collier

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** On and off for 40 years
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 4.8
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** Ten years ago
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** No but hook was visable and removed easily
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** 12" J.S running rig and defrosted gudgeon
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** NO rig way to long for safe eel fishing
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Running rigs, dyson rig and more recently bolt rigs all fished with hooklink of 5" or less
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** 8/10
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Yes tweaking all the time to hopefully increase it
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Dramatically yes and probably not
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** Ditching the J.S rig to fish shorter hooklink with twigs and joining the NAC some incredible knowledge to be deemed form some exceptional eel anglers

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..?

Read as much as you can don't think because your catching you know it all, also be prepared to walk away from eel fishing easy to burn out and over think things when the going gets tough

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..?

I think he would of had to move with the times and would of had some input on how the thinking about rigs is going at present

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..?

Sit on your rods night fishing should be just that fishing on a night. This time of year only five hours or so of darkness so not a big ask to stay focused for that length of time. If you need to sleep take rods out or you will end up with deep hooked eels

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NAC Member Questionnaire

NAC Member Questionnaire

Your Name Andrew Lovel

Please answer as many questions as possible below.

- 1.) **How long have you been fishing for Eel's..?** In total probably 2 years
- 2.) **What weight is your PB Eel..?** 4lb 9oz
- 3.) **How long ago did you catch it..?** 6 weeks
- 4.) **Was it lip hooked..?** Yes
- 5.) **What rig and bait was it caught on..?** Dyson rig with a twig rig
- 6.) **Would you recommend that rig to other Anglers today, If not.. Why..?** I would
- 7.) **Are there other rigs you use..? If so, when would you use them..?** Yes use bottom rigs if lake bed is clear or I think eels want bait on lake bed
- 8.) **On average for every 10 eels you catch how many are lip hooked..?** Since using twig rig had about 15 eels all have been lip hooked
- 9.) **Do you think that average could be improved..?** Not at moment
- 10.) **Have your rigs changed much over the last 5 years..? And do you think they will still be the same in 5 years time..?** Only started fishing for eels again this year
- 11.) **What has been the biggest turning point in your Eel fishing history..?** Joining nac and getting up to date info on rigs for lip hooking
Hated deep hooking

12.) What piece of advice would you give a newcomer to Eel Angling..? Use rigs to help prevent deep hooking

13.) If John Sidley was alive today, Do you think he would of come up with a better rig than the J.S. rig..? What changes might he have made..? I am sure he would have as anglers we should strive to improve fish safety as well as our catch rates

14.) Any other suggestions you would make to help make Eel angling safer or to reduce the chance of a deep hooked Eel..? I am not experienced enough but have taken on board lots of information and I am experimenting what works for me on the waters I am fishing

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