

# **EFSA SCOTLAND**

## **NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2006**

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Dear Member

Welcome to the December 2006 Newsletter.

Well, the festive season is almost upon us again and, on behalf of the Executive Committee, I would like to wish you the very best of everything for Christmas and for 2007.

With the festivities, there is, however my annual reminder that, *where appropriate*, EFSA membership fees are due. **For those of you who are sometimes a bit unsure, the due date is, in fact, January 1<sup>st</sup>** and the amount has, for yet another year, remained unchanged. You will find your renewal notice enclosed – life members please ignore this but it's easier to enclose one in every envelope and you can see how much you have saved, again!

Following on from membership renewal I would like to give you advance notice of the AGM. I know that it's not till March but the date we had originally chosen clashes with the SFSA AGM and the Committee has decided to change the date of our sections meeting to Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> of March. As usual it will be held in the Atholl, Bankfoot.

Please make every effort to attend.

Also enclosed is the 2006 Order of Merit.

On behalf of the Committee and those of you who take part in the Order of Merit competitions I would like to thank Joe Connolly for the time and considerable effort that he puts into compiling the Order. Event organisers, you can play your part by making sure that a full set of the results is sent to Joe Connolly as soon as possible after your competition.

ALSO, Joe has asked me to say that if you have any queries regarding the Order of Merit, you should contact him direct. His phone number is 01698 423343.

### **IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION**

In 2007, **TWO** EFSA European Championships are being held:

1. EFSA 4 Species Championships in Iceland on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May and
2. EFSA European Boat Championships at Weymouth on 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> September

Members who intend to fish either – or both – of these events are reminded that **the closing date for both these championships is 1<sup>st</sup> March 2007**

To ensure that EFSA Scotland can comply with this date, which has been laid down by the respective host nations, any EFSA Scotland member who wishes to enter must forward their Entry Form and full payment to our secretary, Mrs Libby Walker to arrive no later than Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2007. cheques should be in Sterling and payable to EFSA Scotland.

### **TEAM SELECTION for Iceland and Weymouth**

The teams representing EFSA Scotland at these events will be picked from members who have submitted a completed entry form and paid in full by 10<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

### **Report from the 2006 EFSA Scotland Shore Championship.**

On the morning of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 13 seniors and 4 juniors registered for the above event in the Car Park of John Muir Country Park at Dunbar – unfortunately, only 2 of the competitors were EFSA Scotland members, namely, Steve Burns and Billy Murray. Conditions during the 5 hour event were dry but windy and the species caught, recorded and released were flounder, dab, coalfish and some small turbot. A total of 49 fish were recorded with the largest being a 37 cm flounder. The final results were:-

Winner	Steve Burns	10 fish, 2 species
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Billy Murray	8 fish, 2 species
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ross Murray	7 fish

EFSA Scotland would like to thank Mike Heath of Mike's Tackle, Jimmy McBride of Craftye and Steve Souter who all donated angling items which were handed out as prizes on the day. We are also indebted to Steve and Billy for organising and running the event on behalf of the Section.

The Shore Championship Trophy, medals and prizes will be presented at the AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> March in the Atholl.

### **The legs for the 2007 Order of Merit**

These have been selected and the list, with contacts, is as follows:-

5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Caithness Open Boat Contact: Derek Yuille, Culzean, Camilla Street Halkirk Caithness KW12 6YQ Tel 01847 831955
26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> May	EFSA Scotland Cod Championships Arbroath Contact: Joe Connolly 75 Arden Road, Hamilton ML3 6TT Tel 01698 423343
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Individual Members Boat Championship North Berwick Contact: Joe Connolly 75 Arden Road, Hamilton ML3 6TT Tel 01698 423343
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> August	Western Isles Open Carloway, Lewis Contact: C J Buchanan 15 Cearn Chilleagraidh Stornoway HS12UJ Tel 01851 706525
11 <sup>th</sup> August	East Neuk Open Boat Pittenweem Contact: Ian MacGregor 35 Nevis Park Inverness IV3 8RX Tel 01463 223621
18 <sup>th</sup> August	Scottish Open Line Class Championships, Scrabster Contact: Gus MacKenzie, 6 Teal Avenue Inverness IV2 3TB Tel 01463 230227
19 <sup>th</sup> August	North of Scotland Sea Angling Championships (Open) Scrabster Contact: Gus MacKenzie, 6 Teal Avenue Inverness IV2 3TB Tel 01463 230227
25 <sup>th</sup> August	Western Isles Cod Festival, Carloway Lewis Contact: C J Buchanan 15 Cearn Chilleagraidh Stornoway HS12UJ Tel 01851 706525
30 <sup>th</sup> & 31 <sup>st</sup> Aug & 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept	Viking Championships Scalloway, Shetland Contact: Alistair Fullerton, 9 Meadowfield Crescent Scalloway ZE1 0UT Tel 01595 880756
8 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> September	EFSA European Boat Championships, Weymouth Contact Mrs Libby Walker, Springvale Cottage, Halket Road Lugton KA3 4EE Tel 01505 850593
27 <sup>th</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> September	Scottish Open Boat Championships Stromness Contact: Leslie Fettes 2Buttquoy Place Kirkwall KW15 1JN Tel 01856 874089
Oct?/Nov?	Individual Members Boat event, Taynuilt Contact: to be notified via Newsletter

### **Monthly Fish Competition**

For 2007, there is going to be a change to the way you claim the "monthly" heaviest or specimen fish and annual heaviest fish.

We are going to have only ONE form which will be used for every category. Our Fish Recorder, Joe Edward, will consider each fish claimed under all the categories. Skate and Sharks are still not eligible for the monthly prizes **but should be claimed on the same form**. As before, to be eligible for a heaviest fish award, a qualifying fish must weigh over 2.5 Kg. The specimen fish are compared with current records and there may be a minimum qualifying percentage applied – perhaps 30 or 40% of the record. Watch this space!

### **2006 European Shore Championships, Wexford, Eire – report by Geoff Carlin.**

This event was held in Wexford, based in Kilmuckridge, from 2<sup>nd</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> inclusive. I travelled over by car and ferry on Halloween. This was interesting as it is when the Irish have their fireworks night and some local lads were aiming the rockets at cars as they travelled along the by-pass in Dublin! They missed me thankfully.

I was honoured that they accepted me, the only Scot present, as an International team. I was also asked to sit on the Protest Committee as a neutral, to which I agreed.

Day 1 was fished at Courtown. The weather was like summer, and these conditions held for a further 6 days. Dabs, flounder, dogs and whiting were the main catches, with the odd weever about to injure the unwary. I

caught 8 fish including 2 dogs and finished 6<sup>th</sup> in my zone, a mediocre start. Bait provided for the whole event was black lug, mackerel and sand eel, all frozen.

Day 2 started with me having a profound premonition that trouble was brewing as I set out for the fishing grounds at Morris Castle. The fishing was dire; I caught only one flounder in size at 29cm. Dave Lovelock from England fished beside me and scratched out 6 fish to take 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the zone. I finished 8<sup>th</sup>, there were 2 blanks, both in my zone. There was a major row brewing over how the venue had been pegged. Traditionally you start from left to right, A to whatever, E in this case and number from 1 to 10. This had apparently been done in A and B (that is 1 to 10, but I might be wrong about this, as I was not on that part of the beach) but C, D and E were numbered 10 to 1. An Irish angler whom I have a lot of respect for organised a protest about this as he claimed the set up favoured the pegs drawn by the Irish team and indeed had been marked out by an Irishman who was a competitor at low tide. I was presented with a protest petition and I signed it. This was the smartest move I made all day, as doing so barred me from sitting on the protest committee. The subsequent proceedings, the lone German present taking my place on the committee, went on for an interminable 3 hours and in the end the status quo prevailed, as there was nothing in the rulebook to state that the beach could not be pegged in that fashion. As I remarked to others before this unfortunate brouhaha began, only an admission of guilt from the angler involved or a crony could prove underhand behaviour. This furore caused an unfortunate atmosphere in the hotel and the Dutch in particular said they would take things further, but to be honest, cancelling the result and having two matches on the last day was impractical. The German present, Marcus Wuest, engaged me in conversation and challenged me to a private international match, Germany versus Scotland, over the last two days. I agreed even though he was 5 points in front of me (he had not fished the first day so my score for that day didn't count) and encouraged his impression of me as a visiting yokel Jimmy by proclaiming that Bertie Vogts was the best manager Scotland had ever had! A glass of spirits was the declared prize for the winner. We had a good chat though the poor man was worn out by the Protest Committee proceedings. Incidentally it was as well I had stayed footloose and free as I was called to deal with a medical emergency at the hotel.

Day 3 was good, very good; I had finally got into the groove and developed a fishing rhythm. When you get into this state of consciousness you catch all in front of you. I was third in my section with 6 fish, one being an in-size Turbot. This generated some interest, as it was a rare catch on those shores. Indeed I got my photo taken by the local paper's reporter with the Turbot; he just happened to be passing by when I caught it. The fish was returned alive. I improved my standings to 26<sup>th</sup> out of 50 competitors and was reasonably satisfied. Germany was defeated by one point and the nip in question was duly consumed. England A won the international event, with Wales A second and Ireland A third. Scotland was 8<sup>th</sup> out of 9, but Scotland and Germany fielded only one man each. Brian Booker of England won the individual event with 2 zone wins and a second place. I was in for surprises at the gala dinner and prize giving when I collected cash for second longest fish on days 2 and 3, and a rod for being in the second placed 4 man executive team, and a reel for being in the third placed 4 man open team. Wow! Luckily there was no raffle, as being a raffle specialist, as those who know me well will vouch, I would have won at least half the prizes on that kind of form.

A delicious gala dinner and some spirited bonhomie helped dissipate the unfortunate atmosphere from the previous day and the angler who had declared himself Mayor of Morris Castle for the event, and thus the final authority for everything, addressed us with a hilarious spoof protest about the no wading above the knee rule which he said discriminated against small people (wading was vital on day 3 to get within casting range of the fish). Later at the bar he appeared with a tape measure attached to the side of his trousers to everybody's general amusement. This he said would stop discrimination against small anglers and should be adopted by EFSA. Now why did I think there was every possibility of this becoming an actuality?

My thanks to Geoff.

### Loch Etive 11<sup>th</sup> November

The above event was fished, I understand, in somewhat windy conditions. I had hoped for a report from Hughie for the Newsletter but in its absence, the following are the results (top three EFSA members):-

Winner	Hughie Smith
2nd	Dave Proudfoot
3rd	Gus MacKenzie

Joe Edward, our fish recorder has provided the following monthly Specimen and Heaviest Fish awards updates for September and October:-

	Specimen	Heaviest Monthly	Heaviest Annual
September	G Mckenzie	H Foster	
	LSD	Ling	
	1.35kg	6.45kg	
	68.01%		Only 1 claim to date
	Boat	Boat	
	Cape Wrath	Bressay	
	Specimen	Heaviest Monthly	Heaviest Annual

October

No Claims

H Foster

H Foster

Ling

Ling

6.69kg

6.69kg

Boat

Boat

Bressay

Bressay

## Christmas Sale at Joe's Emporium

Joe Edward is doing a great job running the EFSA Scotland supermarket and he tells me that there are still ***outstanding*** bargains available.

**He has extended the special deals to cover Christmas so  
give him a call on 01592743491**

(I have to say that the Polo shirts are exceptionally smart and would be cheap at twice the price.)

**Show this advert to your FPO and point out what you want!!!**

**Polo Shirts** m/l/xl/xxl available in blue and white  
**£10.00** Reduced to **£9.00**  
or **2 for £17.00**

**T Shirts** m/l/xl/xxl available in blue and white  
**£ 8.00** Reduced to **£7.00**  
or **2 for £13.00**

**Fleeces** m/l/xl/xxl available **£17.00** Reduced to **£15.00** ( Fantastic Value !!! )

**Waterproof Suits** **£10.00** Reduced to **£6.50** ( Heavy Duty )

Well that's about it for this issue.

As always I need articles

Tight Lines

Ian MacGregor