

Aquacast

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Beaufort
CHARTERS

First fish for 2009

This fine Bass was the first fish landed on Aquavitesse this January, it was just one of a good mixed bag of mainly Pollack and Cod.

2009

Off to a great start

This year is already shaping up to be the best yet, from a fishing point of view, providing the weather plays its part.

As we found out in January on a private day out the Pollack are already on the wrecks and the Cod are still around. *We can't wait!*

GORM

(Grumpy Old Retired Men) days

Look out for these days on our availability chart on the website, you have to be a GORM to qualify, and not only can you fish with like minded anglers, but political correctness is left on the quayside, and you can say what you want!

JOHN WILSON

We are hoping to run a few more "Fishing with John Wilson" days, if you are interested please contact Christine Slater at Tailor Made Holidays on 0208 398 7424.

Last time John was with us we had an excellent Bass day. *See full story page 3*

SEAN TESTER

Sean not only caught the biggest Pollack last year of 17 lbs but he also managed to bring on board, at the back end of last year a 32lb Cod, beating the boat record by 10 lbs! Sean has now reached celebrity status and not only has he appeared in nearly every fishing magazine, but he also featured in The News of the World newspaper and their website. Following his radio interview by BBC Southern Counties Radio, he is now waiting for his invitation to appear on Strictly Come Fishing or Celebrity Big Brother Fishing. *See full story page 2*



BIG PAT

I was very sorry to hear of the death of Big Pat recently. Since I started working on Aquavitesse, Pat had been very supportive and loyal. He will be remembered and missed.
Noel West



MIX AND MATCH DAYS

As most of you know these are days when we put together individuals and small groups to make up a boat load, however some customers have commented that the title does not really describe the reality. Can you think of a better name? Please e-mail your suggestions for a better descriptive name to: info@beaufortcharters.co.uk and the most apt name will win a Beaufort Charters Polo shirt.

Fancy some chips with that?



WHAT A BEAUTY: Sean Tester shows off his giant cod

DELIGHTED Sean Tester made the most of a birthday fishing trip paid for by his wife Julie.

He went home armed with a monster fish which could have kept his family in cod and chips for a week.

Sean was treated to a boat trip four miles off Brighton Marina on the Aquavitesse, skippered by Noel West, when he turned 43.

He celebrated by landing what is believed to be the biggest cod caught off the south coast for years.

It is certainly the best of 2008 but no one is quite sure where the 31lb 5oz beauty, landed on a penell rigged whole single squid, ranks among the greats of recent years.

Sean, from Eastbourne, said: "We have spoken to people at Dover and Southampton and it seems to be the best this year in the south.

"a couple of people have spoken about a 35lb fish taken in 1990 but that is a few years ago now.

"It was over a metre long, about the same size as my son Craig, who is eight years old.

"I usually fillet fishes I take home in the sink but I had to do this one in the bath.

"I've shared it out with other people and it's still going. We've still got some left.

"I reckon if it was a fish and chip shop

you would get about 14 sizeable pieces off it"

Anglers were told to expect smaller codling when they anchored up and, to start with, it was just like a normal trip.

Then the big one appeared.

Sean admitted it was unusual to catch such a specimen at this time of the year rather than in January or February.

He added: "The fish wasn't big-bellied, it was streamlined.

He had been working his way around the rocks and feeding quite happily.

"Obviously he had been missed for quite a few years.

"We recon he was 11 or 12 years old, going on size."

Sean, who is usually a beach angler with the Normans club admitted there was a bit of luck attached to the catch.

He only opted to use squid because he had some left over from a fishing session the previous evening but the fish seemed to enjoy it.

But did those back on shore enjoy the fish? Or was it a bit on the old, tough side?

"We thoroughly enjoyed it.

It was like young codling," Sean said.

"It was so fresh for one thing. We had some the next night.

"I love being out on the boat anyway. It's idyllic, you are so far away from everything."



SEAN Tester (above) from Eastbourne fished aboard The Aquavitesse charter boat skippered by Noel West from Brighton Marina. Sean fished a penell rig with whole squid over rough ground to land probably the biggest cod in this region so far this season - a mag-



Sunday November 16, 2008

GONE FISHING: BASSING OFF THE BRIGHTON COAST



With fine specimens like this, caught off Brighton, it's small wonder we love bass fishing so much!

By John Wilson

I DON'T get down to the south coast and way off-shore nearly as much as I'd like to, due to the driving involved of a 400 mile round trip from my Norfolk home. B

But the rewards of a recent day's sport over a wreck some 11 miles off-shore from Brighton, in the company of several friends on board Noel West's 36 foot, Hamilton jet driven Aqua Vitesse charter boat (Tel. 07766 661066 for bookings), made me realise I need to put myself out more often.

With a lumpy force five promised, I was even surprised we were actually going when I rang Noel for a weather up-date, but our party of keen wrecking enthusiasts weren't worried by the conditions, although being the only boat that went out from the Marina that day, others obviously were.

What worried us most of all was that after stopping four or five times on the way out to fill the aerated tank with fresh mackerel, we had barely enough for even the first drift by the time we had reached the wreck, which lay in around 100 feet of water.

Shallow water on the way out was rather 'soupy' due to the strong winds, and we put our lack of bait down to actual water clarity.

Because once out in deep water over the wreck, Noel's crewman 'Chris' worked a set of feathers close to the bottom and managed to keep the bait tank topped up whilst we each drifted lively

mackerel down to the bottom using 10 foot mono traces to 30lbs braid via a tubular boom and 10 ounces of lead.

I bumped the lead on top of the wreck on my first put down, wound up a couple of turns, and 'wham', mere seconds later the rod tip arched over to the decisive thump of a bass grabbing hold.

And in a strong, flooding, spring tide assisted by the wind, what a great scrap followed from a fish barely pushing five pounds, [small wonder we all love bass fishing so much] once I slowly wound into the fish to set the hook.

A heavy 'strike' when using non stretch braid incidentally, merely results in the hook pulling out. And exactly this kind of exciting and hectic sport we enjoyed all the way through the flood till slack water, accounting between us for up to three bass in the 4-7lbs range on each drift. No wonder Keith Potter,[left] and Tony Loizou have smiles on their faces with these three chunky bass.

An important point worth remembering when drifting over wrecks for bass is that a strong tide and wind together can whisk the boat along too quickly; resulting in what you think is a heavy enough lead, rising way above bottom and the bass. Something we encountered on this particular trip, but remedied by clipping on a substantially heavier one to keep the bait working down within the 'target area'.

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POLLACK

At this time of the year the chances are that you are catching a fair number of good sized Pollack. Although part of the Cod family, Pollack are not as valued as Cod because the flesh tends to be less white and the flavour is not as good. However Pollack make a good substitute for many Cod recipes, especially where the fish is being used as a vehicle for strong flavours. Pollack is particularly useful for fish pies (see January's recipe sheet) and fish

cakes. Pollack can be baked whole using the same guidelines as given for Cod. To keep a supply of Pollack for use after the season comes to an end, freeze the fish as fillets in sizes and quantities useful for your own needs. Some of your catch can be cut up as cutlets about one inch thick with the central backbone left in place. These cutlets can then be foil-wrapped and frozen individually so you can remove as many as you need at one time.

Recipe no. 1

PARSLEY AND TARRAGON FISH CAKES

12oz (350g) cooked pollack
1lb (450g) cooked mashed potato
2oz (50g) fresh breadcrumbs
3 tablespoons double cream
2 teaspoons anchovy essence (or Thai fish sauce)

Dry breadcrumbs
3 tablespoons chopped parsley
1 teaspoon dried tarragon (or 2 tablespoons chopped fresh tarragon)
Salt and pepper
Oil for trying

Mash the fish with a fork. Add the mashed potato, fresh breadcrumbs, cream, anchovy essence, herbs and seasonings. Beat to a smooth paste. Shape into flat cakes and coat with dry breadcrumbs. Fry in oil on each side until golden brown in colour. (If you like the taste of tarragon you might like to increase the amount you use).

Recipe no. 2

CREOLE CAKES

1lb (450g) cooked pollack, flaked
1oz (25g) butter
6oz (175g) wholemeal breadcrumbs
1 onion, grated
1 clove garlic, crushed
1 tablespoon chopped parsley

1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
Salt, pepper
1 egg, beaten
Dry breadcrumbs
Oil for frying

Mash the fish with a fork. Melt the butter in a pan and add to the fish with the wholemeal breadcrumbs, onion, garlic, herbs and seasoning. Mix thoroughly and shape into small flat cakes. Coat with egg and then with dry breadcrumbs and fry in oil on each side until golden brown.

See all of our fish recipes on our website