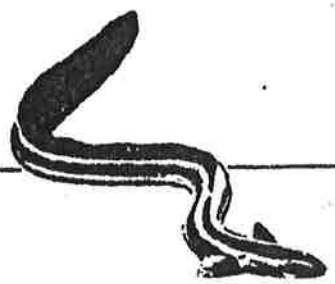

The National Anguilla Club

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EDITORIAL

Well, the 1975/6 coarse fishing season has just about come to an end - as I write it hasn't; as you read, it has. For the great majority of anglers there is now the three month gap until they can resume their fishing in June. There are, of course, those people who can manage to get in some fishing. There are those that live in areas where there are no close seasons; there are those fisheries open for "trout" fishing with any bait (many of these have a nominal one or two trout in the water to justify the fishery owners claim, but one I know of holds precisely nil!). Then, there are those water authorities who allow special dispensation for those people, like us, who wish to fish for eels. Finally, there are a growing number of anglers who manage to get a full twelve months fishing by changing their type of fishing for the three months coarse fishing close season, ie by going sea or game fishing. Although the large number of reservoirs being opened for trout fishing upsets a lot of people, they do cater for a growing demand. No longer is trout fishing reserved for the upper classes.

For the eel fisherman, now is the time of year when we can think of actually going fishing again: whilst carp and pike rods all over the country are being put into mothballs, we are starting to dust ours off ready for action. That we can do so is largely due to the existence of those waters mentioned above. Twelve months ago, we were very pessimistic about their continuation; but now there is hope. For the time being at least, there is still no close season in Cornwall; the Noth-western WA still allows eel fishing during the break. Nothing so positive from the Anglian Water Authority. This mogul has the greatest effect on our members since it covers the traditional close season waters in Lincolnshire and Northants. As we all know, it has been decided that, in the name of rationalisation, every division within the AWA. should be governed by the same bye-laws. Meritorious this may be, but we are the ones to suffer - along with the residents of Lincolnshire who, but for a year's sojourn into the realms of enforced close seasons on still waters, have traditionally enjoyed the dispensation of being allowed to fish still waters during the break. All is not lost, however, because we, in conjunction with the NASG are still fighting for close season eel fishing.

The Thames Water Authority to date only famous for the imposition of a licence fee of £2 per rod has unwittingly left itself wide open for close season abuse in as much that its famous £2 licence covers all types of fishing. The old Thames Conservancy bye laws were ambiguous enough in that one could, if intending to go trout fishing, catch by normal angling methods up to six undersized fish for use as live bait. Trouble was, no one ever believed you! Now, at least I will have a licence to <u>prove</u> I am going trout fishing. That I catch a few eels on my six undersized fish is irrelovent.

With the demise of one coarse season, and the rapid approach of the forthcoming eel season, it is apt that at this stage in the year the report of the 1975 eel season be published. In fact, the bulk of this issue is devoted to said report and, with the exception of this page, the whole is devoted to Brian Crawford. It is something of an autobiography!

I look forward to seeing you at the SGM and/or the British Angling Conference.

DAVID SMITH

A REPORT ON THE 1975 REPORTING SCHEME: PART 1

The analysis of the 1975 results has followed the format as in all previous years but as for 1974, I have included extra information that may assist each member to apply his performance relative to the Club average, and to compare it to that of other members. I do not intend the presentation of this data to be used to compare actual effort of each member, but by careful study of all the information, members should be able to observe trends which could alter their method of eel fishing to achieve greater success. This after all, should always be our aim. Over the years we do see definate trends. The Club analyst is often able to point out many of these as he has to view data on a much more detailed scale than it is presented in these Reports. However, cases do arise where he cannot see the wood for the trees and in looking at data from one point of view, may at times miss an important trend that may be obvious to others. It is vital therefore, that all members read the data carefully and please comment on it, either with the analyst or via the Bulletin.

A vast amount of effort goes into the collation of these Reports. I feel they are important and although some say we keep repeating the information we already know, ie., eels feed better at night, etc., I am more concerned with long term trends, trends that may only reveal themselves over 10 or 20 years. As a scientist, I know that this is so. It's not the obvious facts that we look for now, but facts behind these facts. I will return to this topic in my conclusion.

I would like to sincerely thank our Regional Reporting Officers, without whose great help, this Report would never have been published. I certainly could not carry on our Reporting Scheme without their preliminary analysis.

Now to the actual Reporting Scheme for 1975. As in previous years, one of the main tables containing relevent information, Table 1 overleaf is useful in comparing the performance of individual members. I must add that I hope members do not take this table to heart if their results do not compare favourably. We must always keep in mind the fact that several areas do not allow close season eel fishing and many members are severely restricted to two rods. I am very pleased to say however that the avarage effort of members has increased over the last few years. 1975 shows the highest median and UQ of individual rod hours than for any other year. Well done lads.

The results for 1975 show 29 members reporting plus I have added reports from R.Barnard as last year, also N.Frostwick as I could not resist his great eel of '8:7'. After all, he is an ex-member. The total number of eels caught was down by about ⅔ to 336 in about the same number of rod hours 21531½ (1975) against 21781¾ (1974). In 1974 596 eel were captured. The significance of this will be discussed later.

The number of eels ranged from 3 to 41 per member. The median number was 9, the lower quartile (LQ) was 5, the upper quartile (UQ) was 13. The severn members above the UQ caught 150 (44.6%) of the eels while the severn members below the LQ caught 33 (9.8%) of the eels.

The effort ranged from 38 to 1969 rod hours per member. The median effort was 604 RH, the LQ was 414 RH and the UQ was 855½ RH. The severn most active members put in a total of 9016 (41.9%) RH. The severn least active members put in a total of 1892 (8.8%) RH.

Table 1. Performance of Individual Members. 1975

Member	S	RH	E	RH/E	Kg(0.906) 2+	(1.359) 3+	(1.812) 4+	(2.265) 5+	
Barnard	14	286	12	24	3	1	-	-	
Bell	28	579¼	7	82¾	2	1	-	-	
Billington	16	396½	7	56½	1	1	-	-	
Booth	28	855½	13	65¾	8	5	2	-	
Crawford	24	804	9	89	5	2	1	-	
Grexall	28	601¾	5	120	5	3	2	1	
Davy	27	559	9	62	3	2	1	1	
Frostwick	2	38	3	13	2	1	1	1	(8:7)
Goldsmith	24	649¾	18	36	3	-	-	-	
Goward	25	604	7	86	3	3	-	-	
Grey	26	414	5	83	1	-	-	-	
Hansen	13	715½	9	79½	6	5	1	-	
Hawkins	27	814	11	74	6	3	-	-	
Hollerbach	30	621¼	11	56½	7	4	2	1	
Holliman	19	478½	7	68	6	2	-	-	
Holman	55	1969	22	89½	10	2	2	1	
Hope	15	621	12	51.8	9	3	1	-	
Houghton	4	143½	7	20½	7	6	1	-	
Hudson	27	933¼	5	184¾	2	1	-	-	
Jackson	39	792¼	10	79¼	3	-	-	-	
Jefferson	32	1127	15	75	8	4	2	-	
Jeys	23	455¾	15	30	3	-	-	-	
Knee	26	578½	5	116	1	-	-	-	
Orme	36	1790⅜	8	224	4	2	1	-	
Pountney	16	303¾	5	61	2	1	-	-	
Richmond	48	923¾	26	35½	4	2	-	-	
Smith.A.	15	479	5	96	2	-	-	-	
Smith.D.	48	1058¾	41	25	12	6	-	-	
Sutton	40	1213¾	13	93⅜	7	-	-	-	
Vandercruysen	25	322½	5	64½	0	-	-	-	
Watson	21	402	9	44½	7	3	-	-	
Total	801	21531½	336	-	142	63	17	5	
Mean	26	694½	11	73¾	5	2	-	-	

Table 2. Members' Performance. 1967 - 1975

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975
No. Reporting	19	22	26	20	24	18	19	30	31
Median No of eels	7	8	10	13	11	11	10	16	9
UQ	12	18	24	24	20	29	35	26	13
LQ	3	3	4	2	6	3	5	9	5
Median No of RH	329	266	288	255	479	425	525	486½	604
UQ	1184	442	662	357	742	650	1136	941⅛	855½
LQ	214	108	126	153	281	186	335	261	414
Total E	204	294	423	334	363	322	418	596	336
Total RH	11300	10100	11600	8200	11970	7534	13160	21781¾	21531½
RH/E	55	34	27	25	33	23	31	47⅛	73¼

*(Barnard is not a member and Frostwick is a ex-member but they fished with members and session reports were submitted to be included with all data for 1975)

Taking each item of Table 2 in turn we can see that the number of members reporting in 1975 was 29 plus one non-member and one ex-member, After 30 reporting last year (1974) we have an increase on the total of one. I am very pleased with the continued support for the scheme.

The median number of eels caught per member dropped markedly to 9 from 16, again a result of the drop in smaller eels caught. The UQ and LQ reflect this effect on past results.

The effect is carried forward in the RH/E with 73½, the highest ever and double that of most previous years. However, with 336 eels caught, this number compares with most other years except 1974.

The median number of rod hours for 1975 at 604 is the highest ever, more than double several previous years, reflecting a greater effort by more members. Again this is especially demonstrated in the LQ. This shows that the median minimum effort was 414 RH, nearly 3 times as much as several years and almost 4 times as much as in 1968.

It looks as though the trend for high rod hours will continue, so therefore it follows that we can expect the high RH/E figure to be fairly high, providing we all do not go chasing bootlaces.

2. The Overall Result: 1975

As in previous years, for this section of the analysis, Abberton Reservoir has been separated from the other waters. However, in 1975 the figures do not affect the overall results too much as in previous years as the amount of effort and eels was not as great.

All eels from all waters except Abberton have been classed as 'all other'.

The overall results have been set out in Table 3 overleaf and as before, compared with previous seasons in Table 4. Annual Trends 1967 - 1975. Again, due to lack of space, the results for 1967 and 1968 have been omitted. These can be looked up in previous Report issues for comparison if so desired.

As stated, with only 8 eels reported and 75½ RH from Abberton, their effect is very small. A more detailed analysis of all records on Abberton will be published at a later date in a Table of all waters analysis.

The total rod hours now stands at 122802½ plus the rod hours for Abberton, which I do not have to hand at the moment.

Considering Figure 1. The Cumulative Frequency of the numbers of eels in each weight range, the 1975 result demonstrates the greater number of larger eels than previous years by the lower curve in the higher weight range.

Figure 2 indicates by the upward slope for the period 1972 - 1975, that we are indeed going through a period of increasing rod hour per eel, of all weights, ie., the more effort we put in, the worse this effect. Bear in mind that the lowest point represents the very low total rod hours put in in 1972 helped by a good number of eels reported. However, we are still not in the high regions of the graph as for years 1967 - 1969. If we levelled our graph at the present figure. We should be well pleased.

Table 3. The Overall Result. 1975

Weight Range	Abberton Res. N	Abberton Res. CF%	All Other N	All Other CF%	Total 1975 N	Total 1975 CF%
0-1	1	12½	96	29¼	97	29
1-2	3	50	94	58	97	57¾
2-3	3	87½	76	81	79	81¼
3-4	1	100	45	94¾	46	95
4-5	-		12	98½	12	98½
5-6	-		4	99¾	4	99¾
6-7	-		-		-	
7-8	-		-		-	
8-9	-		1	100	1	100
Total Eels	8		328		336	
Total RH	75½		21456		21531½	
Mean RH/E	9½		65½		64	
RH/2	18¾		155½		151½	
RH/3	75⅝		346		341¼	
Median	1:14		1:11		1:11	
UQ	2:8		2:12		2:12	
LQ	1:0		0:14		0:15	
IQR	1:8		1:13		1:13	

Table 4. Annual Trends 1969 - 1975 and Cumulative Total. 'All Other'

Weight Range	1969 N	1969 CF%	1970 N	1970 CF%	1971 N	1971 CF%	1972 N	1972 CF%	1973 N	1973 CF%	1974 N	1974 CF%	1975 N	1975 CF%	Cumulativ 1967-75 N	Cumulativ 1967-75 CF%
0-1	181	43	131	39	118	35	60	24	109	29	216	37.9	96	29	1178	38
1-2	179	85	129	78	105	67	96	62	152	70	189	71.3	94	58	1066	72
2-3	43	95	48	92	71	88	64	88	67	88	111	90.7	76	81	542	89½
3-4	11	98	21	98	30	97	22	97	33	97	43	98.2	45	94¾	233	97
4-5	7	99½	3	99½	8	99.2	7	99.2	12	99	8	99.5	12	98½	62	99
5-6	2	100	2	100	2	99.8	2	100	3	100	3	100	4	99¾	21	99¾
6-7	-		-		1	100	-		-		-		-		1	100
Total E	423		334		363		251		373		570		328		3110	
Total RH	11600		8220		12000		7304		13160		21662½		21456		122802½	
RH/E	27		25		35		29		35		38		65½		39½	
RH/2	180		110		100		77		118		131		155½		143	
RH/3	580		316		291		251		290		338½		346		387½	
Median	1:2		1:2		1:5		1:9		1:7		1:4		1:11			
UQ	1:9		1:14		2:5		2:7		2:4		2:2		2:12			
LQ	0:11		0:11		0:11		1:1		0:14		0:12		0:14			
IQR	0:14		1:3		1:10		1:6		1:6		1:6		1:13			

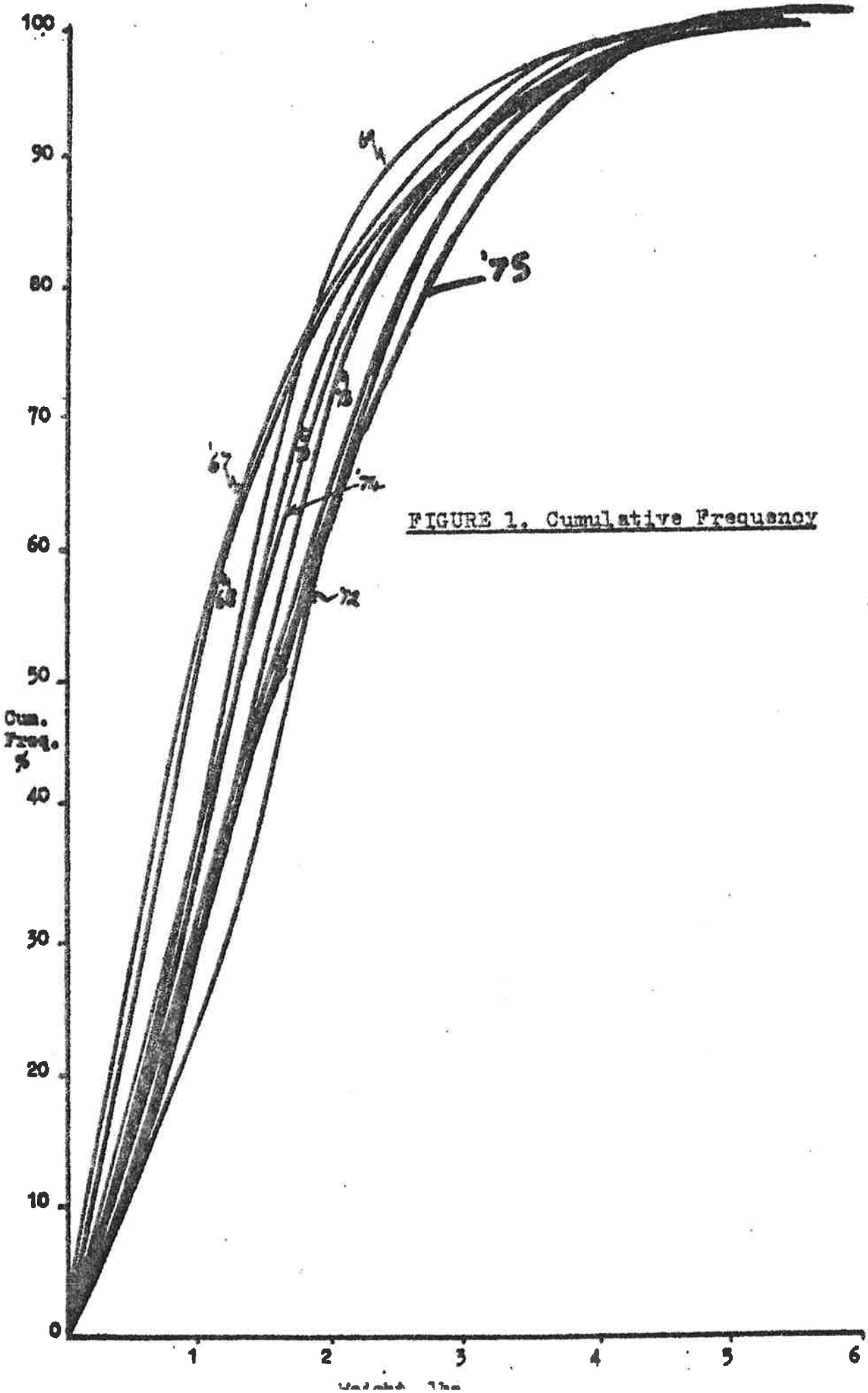
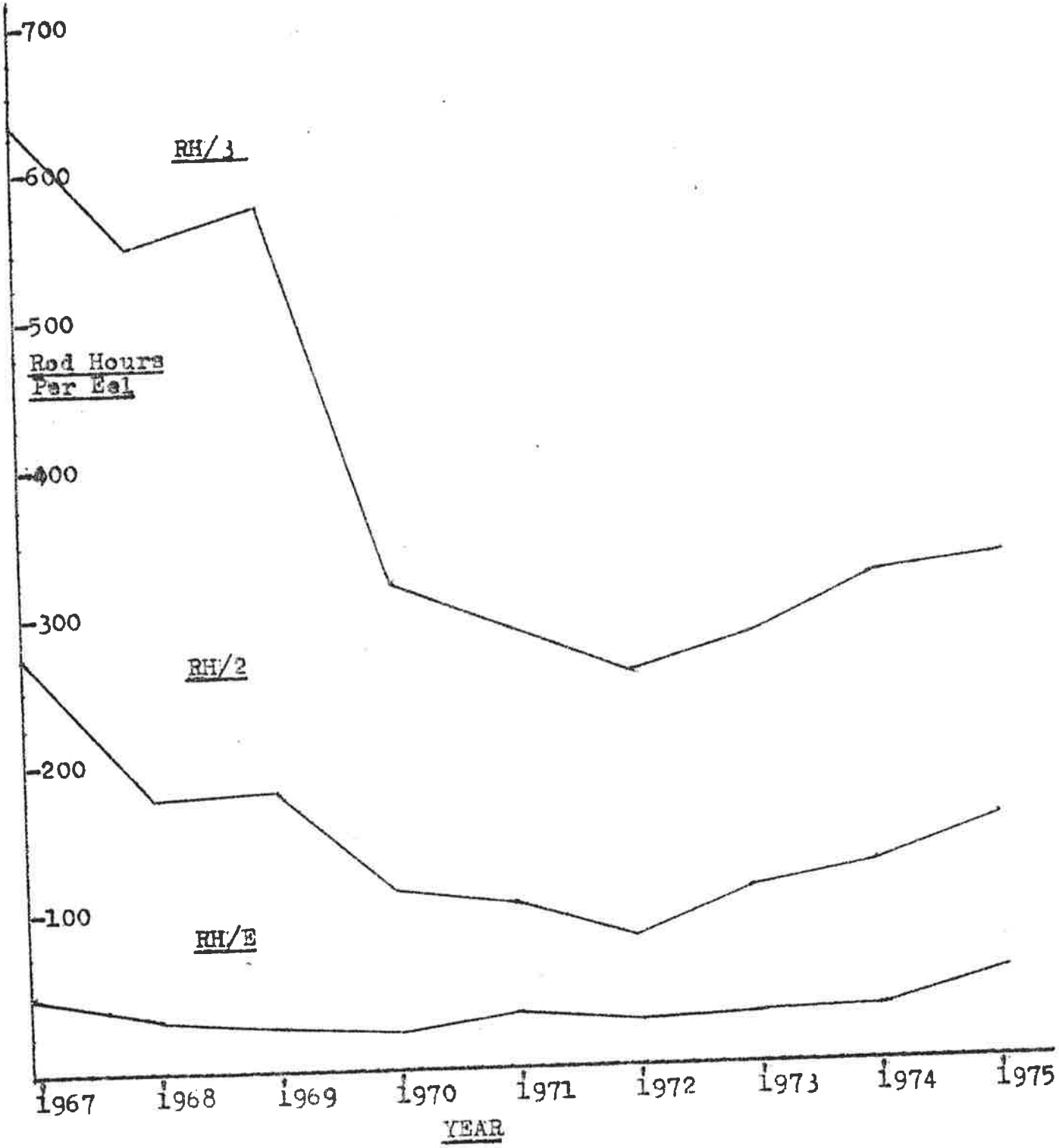


FIGURE 1. Cumulative Frequency

Figure 2. Annual Trends in Rate-of-Catch. 1967 - 1975



3. Effect of Bait Choice

In 1975, worms and dead bait were the two most used baits and therefore are the two for the main comparison. All other baits will be under the heading of 'other'.

The numbers caught, and size distribution are set out in Table 5, below.

Table 5. Worm versus Dead-Bait. 1975

	WORM		DEAD BAIT	
	NO.	CF%	NO.	CF%
0 - 1	43	43	53	22¾
1 - 2	26	69	71	53¼
2 - 3	19	88	59	78½
3 - 4	10	98	36	94
4 - 5	1	99	11	98¾
5 - 6	1	100	3	100
Total	100		233	

(Plus 2 eels caught on 'other' baits and also the eel of 8:7)

By comparison with 1974, these results are very different. The main fact being the low number of eels caught on worm. (294 in 1974)

By direct comparison of eels caught on dead bait as against eels caught on worm, we see that more eels of each weight were caught on dead bait right down the scale. This trend agrees with 1974 except that in 1974, more eels below 1:0 (163) were caught on worm than on deadbait. This is where a large part of the 'lost' eels are. This by itself is a good thing as it demonstrates that members are now concentrating more on waters that have more big eel potential and few eels below 1:0.

Only 12% of eels caught on worm in 1975 exceeded 3lb. In 1974, the figure was even lower at 7.2%.

21.5% of eels caught in 1975 on dead bait exceeded 3lb, almost one in five. In 1974 the figure was 16.5% or one in six.

This is indeed a good figure to consider, especially as there were so few eels reported from Abberton, a worm/day only, fishery.

(In 1973 there were just 21 3 lb + eels reported on worm and also 22 on dead bait - this indicates a good rate of improvement)

To compare rate of catch of worm versus dead bait, we consider the data presented in Table 6. Rate of Catch. Worm versus Dead Bait.

The information is presented diagramatically in Figure 3. Relative Advantage of Dead Bait versus Worm.

Table 6 contains results for the last three years. We observe a very large increase in RH/[illegible] for worm for the various ranges over previous years. For dead baits, the results are reasonably similar.

In Table 6, the Ratio of dead baits against worm show a definite indication that dead baits were more successful than worms in the effort required per eel for each weight range.

In Figure 3, we see that 1975 results present a downward slope for all the weight range agreeing with the results for 1974 and that except for eels below 1:0, it is better to use dead bait for the higher weight ranges, remember, the lower the line goes, the more that bait type is better for eels in the weight range indicated. 1974 and 1975 results appear to contradict most previous years, but we seem to have a situation where in some years worm provided the most bigger eels, and other years provide dead baits being better. This effect could be a reflection of members approach and presentation of baits. Using more dead baits than worms in waters containing bigger eels. As I have stated before, to be strictly accurate, we should all fish worm and dead bait side by side at all times.

Figure 3. Relative advantage of DB v. Worm

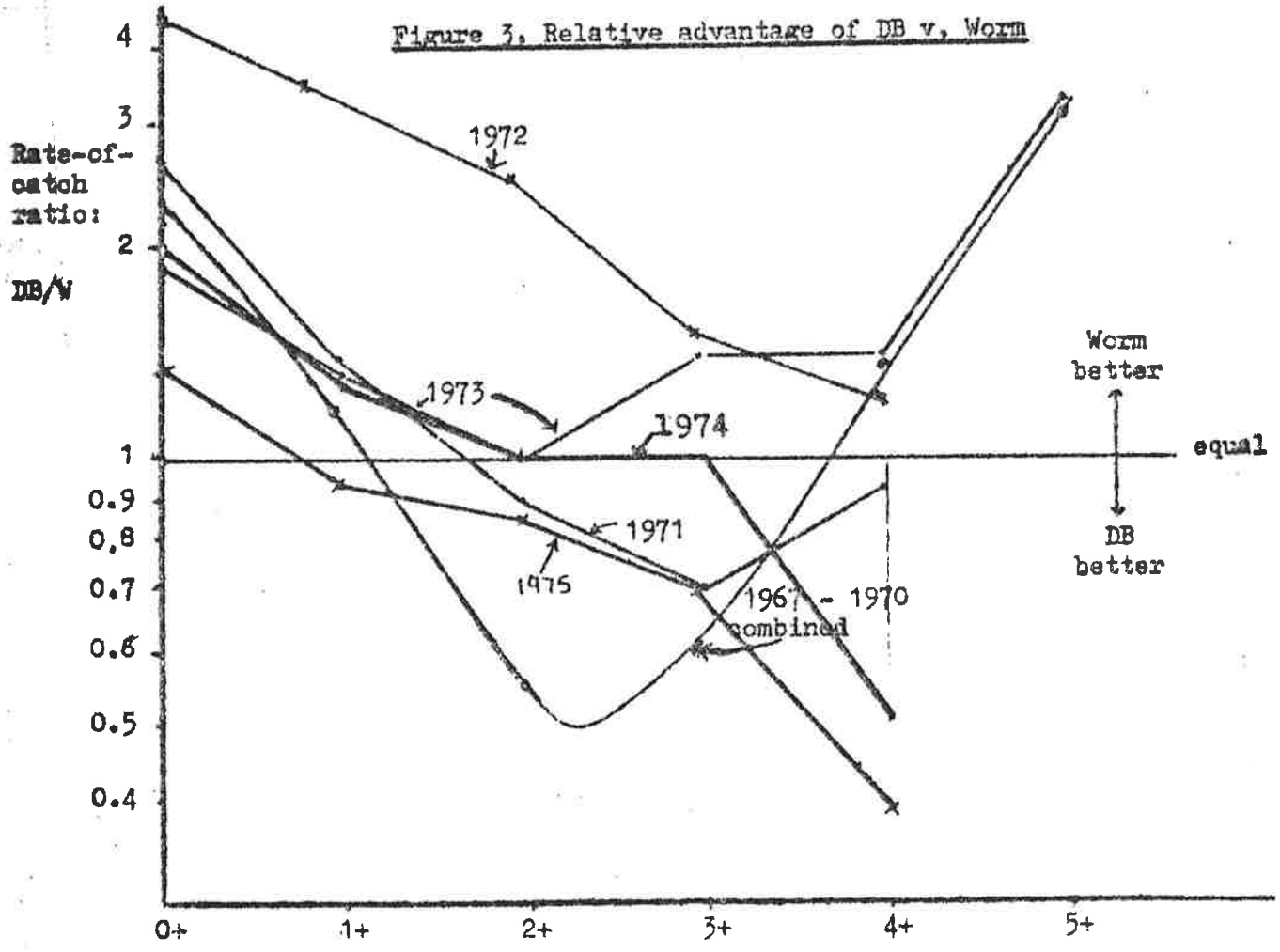


Table 6. Rate of Catch. Worm versus Dead Bait. 1973 - 1975

	WORM			DEAD BAIT			RATIO DB/W		
	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975	1973	1974	1975
RH/E	25	21½	52.95	47	52	67.9	1.7	2.0	1.3
RH/1	40	48	92.9	57	63	87.8	1.4	1.3	0.95
RH/2	115	117	170.8	116	114	145	1.0	1.0	0.85
RH/3	240	301	441	348	315	316	1.45	1.0	0.7
RH/4	828	3163	2647	1280	1717	1129	1.5	0.5	0.4
Total RH/W		5294½		Total RH/DB		15811½			

4. Day versus Night. 1975

All relevent data concerning day versus night for eel angling are set out in Table 7 below.

Table 7. Day versus Night. 1975

	OVERALL		WORM		DEAD BAIT	
	DAY	NIGHT	DAY	NIGHT	DAY	NIGHT
Total E	51	285	25	68	25	216
Total RH	6525	14580¾	1684¼	3610¼	4840¾	10970½
RH/E	128	51	67¼	53	193½	50¾
Advantage for night fishing	2.5x better (1.77)		1.25x better (1.06) (1.5)		3.8x better (2.95) (2.8)	(1975) (1974) (1973)
RH2	204	75	120	100¼	269	69
RH3	593	199¾	280¾	300¾	968	177
RH4	1631	857¾	561½	1805¼	4840¾	685¼
RH5	6525	4860¼	1684¼	3610¼	-	3656¾

(plus 2 eels 'other' plus 425¾ RH 'other')

In the data for Table 7 I have included the advantage factor for night fishing over day. Thus a direct comparison may be made and as is observed, the trend for night eeling is from 2 - 3 times better.

This of course is obvious for anyone who goes eel angling, but at least we have the significant figures to prove it. The vital arrangement of our available data is to demonstrate which bait is more successful for big eels. The above Table shows that as in 1974, when eel angling during the day, if you must, then use worm. They are from 2 - 9 times better as eel size increases. On the other hand, at night, dead bait is twice as good for eels in the 2 - 4lb range. For 5lb eels, the figures are similar.

Remember, this is only the second year of inclusion of this particular arrangement. To take this analysis one stage further, I would like to add an additional section. Table 7+. Weight versus day/night.

Table 7+. Weight versus Day/Night. 1975

	OVERALL			WORM			DEAD BAIT		
	DAY	NIGHT	*	DAY	NIGHT	*	DAY	NIGHT	*
1lb + eels	37	201	5½x	17	41	2½x	20	160	8x
2lb + eels	21	121	5¾x	8	24	3x	13	97	7½x
3lb + eels	7	56	8x	3	10	3x	4	46	11½x
4lb + eels	3	14	4½x	2	1	2x	1	13	13x
5lb + eels	1	3	3x	1	1	-	0	3	3x

(* = advantage for night fishing)

This extra table really does demonstrate how the effect of day and night is involved with choice of bait. The average advantage for worm fishing at night is about 2½ while the average advantage for dead bait fishing is about 8½. Overall night is very advantageous.

Table 8. Individual Members Results, Worm Versus Dead Baits, 1975

	OTHER		WORM						DEAD BAIT						
Member	0-1	2-3	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	Tot
Barnard	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	2	1	-	-	12
Bell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	1	-	-	7
Billington	-	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	7
Booth	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	3	2	-	13
Crawford	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	1	1	-	9
Croxall	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	5
Davy	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	9
Frostwick	-	-	-	1	1	(plus 8:7)		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Goldsmith	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	3	-	-	-	18
Goward	-	-	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	7
Grey	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1	-	-	-	5
Hansen	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	4	1	-	9
Hawkins	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	3	1	3	-	-	11
Hollerbach	-	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	1	11
Hollinan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	2	-	-	7
Holman	-	1	5	3	1	-	1	1	1	3	6	-	-	-	22
Hope	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	2	1	-	12
Houghton	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	1	-	7
Hudson	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	5
Jackson	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	3	-	-	-	10
Jefferson	-	-	2	1	3	1	-	-	1	3	1	1	2	-	15
Joys	1	-	9	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	15
Knee	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	5
Orme	-	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	8
Pountney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	5
Richmond	-	-	7	4	-	1	-	-	6	5	2	1	-	-	26
Smith, A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	2	-	-	-	5
Smith, D.	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	17	9	6	6	-	-	41
Sutton	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	2	1	5	-	-	-	13
Vandercruysen	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	5
Watson	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	9
Totals	1	1	43	26	19	10	1	1	53	71	59	36	11	3	336

5. Individual Members Results, 1975

Table 8 illustrates the spread of all eels reported in 1975. It demonstrates the relative capture of eels on worm and dead-bait for each member so that each member can compare his results with all others.

By comparison with the same table for 1974, the first year this type of data was published, we see that although a lot less eels were captured, most of these were in the low weight ranges. In fact more 4lb plus eels were caught in 1975 that in 1974, 17 as against 11.

The data from Table 8 is further illustrated in Figure 4, Eels versus weight, Worms and Dead Bait 1975. Again the weight spread is easily demonstrated. The most striking feature being the low number of small eels on worm. Is there a trend for members not to use this bait where there are numbers of small eels? From Table 8, we may deduce that members are indeed either becoming very selective in their waters, or tending to use big dead baits only. I will be very interested to see how this factor developes over the next few years.

Figure 4. Eels Versus Weight, Worms and Dead Bait 1975

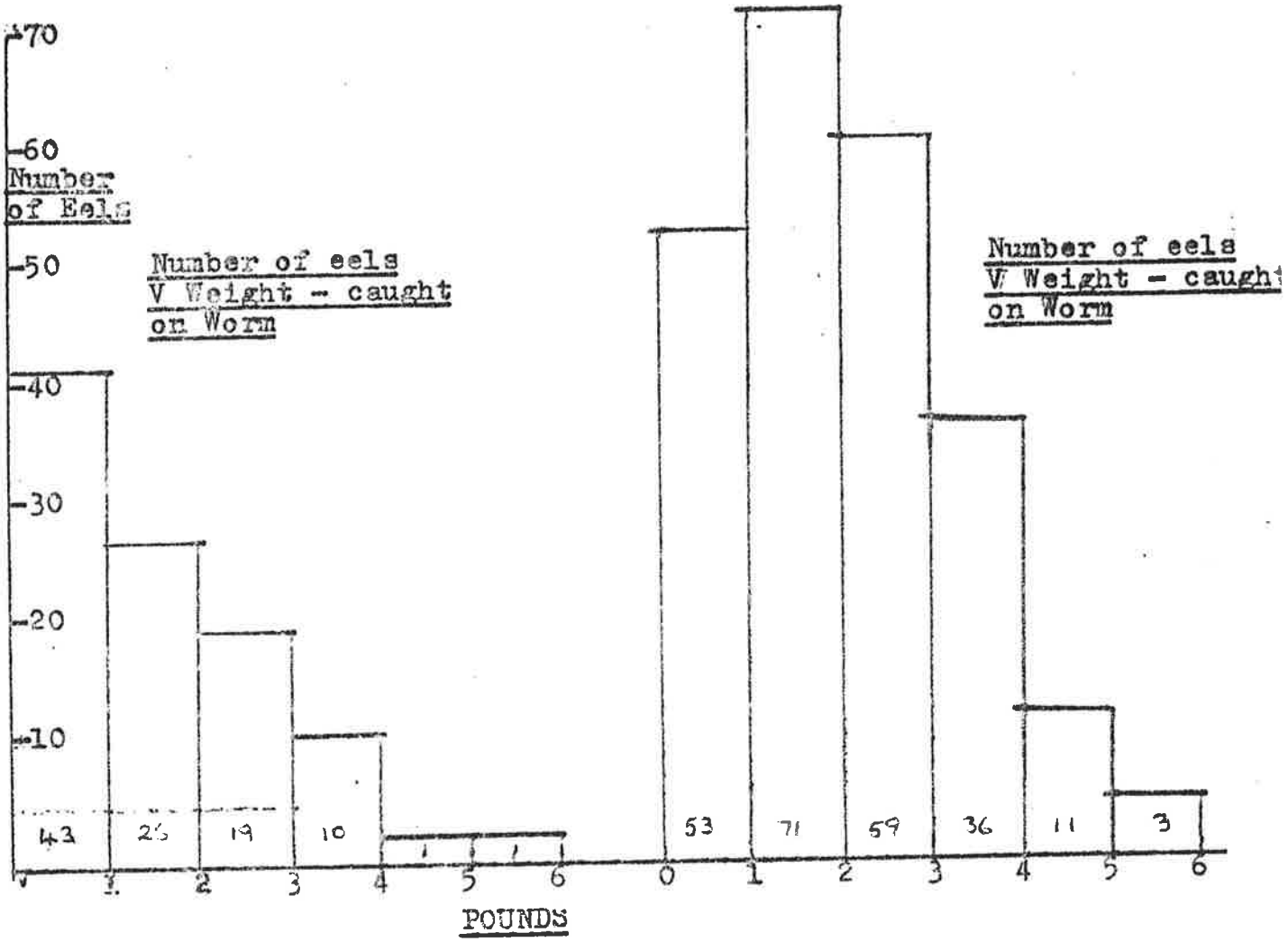


Table 9 overleaf, Individual Members Results, Breakdown of Rod Hours, is for the second year, a breakdown of how the individual member made his effort. The totals are averaged so that each member can see how his effort varies from this average and how his results are affected. As I said last year, each member can also use this table with others enclosed to calculate more detailed personal results such as his own RH/DB/2, 3 or 4lb eel, or RH/N/W/2,3 or 4lb eel, etc.

Table 9 again showed that the least effort was put in on worms during the day almost one third as much as dead bait during the day. From the analysis demonstrated for 1974 and 1975 alone, I should feel that members should be angling the other way round for statistically speaking, worms are much, much better for daytime eel angling. Or to put it another way, daytime eeling with dead baits is very largly a waste of time unless you are fishing an exceptional water.

I hope you will all bear this point in mind for the coming season and I look forward to seeing how your results may be affected.

As far as night time is concerned, members put in over three times the effort with dead bait as worm. From Table 7, I hope you will see that there is very little difference at night between the two baits.

Unfortunately, I have just not had the time available for the extra analysis tables that I had hoped to present.

Table 9. Individual Members Results, Breakdown of Rod Hours, 1975

MEMBER	RH/W	RH/DB	DRH/W	DRH/DB	NRH/W	NRH/DB
Barnard	-	286	-	72½	-	213½
Bell	85	474½	28½	154	56½	320½
Billington	174	174½	17	13¼	157	161¼
Booth	188	667¼	67¼	261¼	120¼	406
Crawford	229	575¼	98	217¼	131	357½
Croxall	172½	373¼	32¼	45¼	140¼	328
Davy	206	331	93	76	113	255
Frostwick	38	-	8	-	30	-
Goldsmith	9¼	640½	1¼	180	7¼	460½
Goward	117	487	49	122	68	365
Grey	81¼	332¼	9¼	24¼	72	307½
Hansen	26½	689	10½	239	16	450
Hawkins	133¼	680¼	18	189¼	115¼	491
Hollerbach	240½	380¼	58¼	67	181¼	313¼
Hollimen	8½	470	1	128½	7½	341½
Holman	824½	1120	270¼	429½	553¼	690½
Hope	18	603	5	209	13	394
Houghton	77½	66	30	12½	47½	53½
Hudson	129½	793¼	37	242½	92½	551¼
Jackson	165½	579¼	22	61¼	143½	518½
Jefferson	223	884	98	356	125	528
Jeys	190¼	218¾	82½	78	107¾	140¾
Knee	94¼	450¾	35	134¾	49¼	316
Orme	549	1211	191	620¾	358	590¼
Pountney	59¼	236¼	30	94¼	29½	142
Richmond	220¾	703	113¼	233	107½	470
Smith, A.	125	354	49	101	76	253
Smith, D.	276¼	700¾	83¾	184¼	192¾	516¼
Sutton	367¾	846	127¾	267¼	240	578¾
Vandercruysen	81¼	241	4¾	10¾	76¾	230¼
Watson	193¾	208¾	11½	14½	181¼	194¼
TOTAL	5294½	15811¼	1684¼	4840¾	3610¼	10970½
AVERAGE	170.8	510	54.3	156	116½	354

The total figures agree very well with those for 1974 but this is the first year that the average value has been included. I would then consider that to be strictly statistically correct, the first two columns need to be fairly similar, and the last four need to be fairly similar also to give a true and accurate representation of the rod hours required day and night for eels using worm or dead bait

However, the practical situation is very different to the theoretical desired one. We are limited to the time we can fish, almost the day of the week or month of the year, often by outside influences such as work or River Authority bye laws. Therefore, we have to fish when we can, and however we can. All anglers and members are individuals and as such, impose their own restrictions on any reporting scheme, howsoever designed. As to this, I am eternaly greatful.

I hope members will be able to make use of the above table, if you are unsure as to how, please do not hesitate to ask me to explain.

If you have caught 9 eels at night on deadbait and have 990 NRH/DB above, then your average effort for each eel was 110 RH. (at N, on DB

6. Conclusions

The results of the 1975 Reporting Scheme have shown that members have continued to put in a very good effort, indeed, the average effort of all members is the highest ever. The factor that has gone down is the total number of eels caught, which on bare consideration looks as though 1975 was a failure year. However, by closer analysis of all results, we see that members are in fact becoming much more selective in their approach to eel fishing. They appear to spend much more effort on waters that produce few eels, but those they catch are usually of a larger than average weight. This observation is bourne out as one considers the data in the relevent tables. We are catching an increasing amount of larger eels, and apart from 1974, when a large number of small eels were reported, our results are definatly improving.

Myself, I would rather prefer this situation, going for quality than quantity, but even as Chairman or Club Analyst, I would hesitate very much before trying to tell members how to fish. There are two approaches to results, how many and how big. What do you yourself consider important? I often like to go fishing even when my instinct tells me its a waste of time, and is often right. However, I have to fish as often as possible, its just the way I in particular am made. Therefore, as long as you are happy in your method or time of session or length, thats it. We all have to do our own thing. As time passes, given the information, we all adjust to improve our technique, and after all, thats the way it should be.

In conclusion, I must point out that statistically speaking, all blank sessions and all bootlaces, however small, are vital as the most prolific session or giant eel, as without them, we could not demonstrate trends or factors influencing rate of catch or size distribution with bait types or time of day, etc., therefore as long as we have members who are capable of blanking or catching bootlaces, the rest of the members can get on with the hard graft involved in catching the bigger eels.

7. Glossery of Terms and Abbreviations Used In This Report

S = Sessions
RH = Rod hours, ie., number of hours fished per rod.
E = Eels.
RH/2 Rod hours per 2lb eel.
RH/E Rod hours per eel of any size.
Median = The middle number in a list of numbers in increasing order.
UQ = The middle number between the median and the largest number.
LQ = The middle number between the median and the smallest number.
IQR = The difference between the UQ and the LQ.
Mean = The average value, ie., all the numbers in a list added up and the total divided by how many numbers there are.
RH/W = The number of rod hours spent fishing with worm bait.
RH/DB = The number of rod hours spent fishing with dead bait.
DRH/W = The number of hours spent fishing with worm during the day.
NRH/DB = The number of hours spent fishing with dead bait at night.

BRIAN CRAWFORD. March 1976

BRA LAKE - Results Analysis - 1974 and 1975

Having now fished Bra Lake for 1½ seasons in the company at times as such noted members as Dave Smith, Arthur Sutton and Tony Hollerbach, I feel in a position to give some form of analysis, as is my wont, on the results achieved and indicate perhaps, its potential for the future.

My first half season on the water in 1974 was in the latter half of the year, but the results encouraged me to return in 1975. Sparked off by my enthusiasm no doubt, some of the lads joined me. The results are indicated below. Needless to say, I am fully convinced of its potential for big eels. The water does not have a high rate of catch, but I feel this is due to the approach as I have had a great deal of runs, in fact, I get at least one per session, often as many as six. The fact also that I average losing one trace per session is also significant. In fishing the brick pits here, I have had to change my tackle and methods dramatically, sensitive rigs, coupled with strong line conflict time and time again. However, by sticking to using fish portions and worm baits, I have been able to make contact successfully more as time passed. I now have more confidence for 1976.

Bra Lake - Overall Results 1974 + 1975

Total E	19	E/WORM	9	E/DB	10
Total RH	1308	RH/W	325	RH/DB	983
Mean RH/E	69	Mean RH/E	36	Mean RH/E	98.3
RH/2	163½	RH/2	108	RH/2	196½
RH/3	436			RH/3	327½
RH/4	654			RH/4	491½
Median	1:5	Median	1:1	Median	1:15½
UQ	2:14	UQ	2:11½	UQ	3:14½
LQ	1:0	LQ	0:11	LQ	1:3

The above results when compared with those published for other waters in previous Report issues possibly put Bra Lake just above the average. However, given more effort at this water, and fishing more areas as only about ¼ of one bank has been seriously fished at present, I am confident the situation will improve. There appear to be very few small eels in Bra Lake.

A more detailed analysis that I have done to the water has yielded the information that the best months for success are June and July, when RH/E drops to 40 and 32¼ respectivly. This is contrary to my expectation that due to its depth, it would be a late developing fishery.

Further details on the water can be had by reading my previous article in Volume 12, issue 3, page 40. I can only reiterate (restate) that I feel this water would make a first class water for a Spring Trip or even a Summer one. The bailiff is most agreeable, there is a pub quite close and also all other requirements. I hope to be able to propose this water for the 1976 Spring Trip as this falls in June, is most fortunate for eeling potential. Peterborough is very central to all members and there are many big specimens of most other species present which are hardly fished for.

The record eel for Bra Lake stands at present at 5:12, but I am sure that there are several more much larger than this.

BRIAN CRAWFORD

Dear Editor,

I must reply to the article by Kevin Richmond on the "Day- Night- Twilight" Controversy if he does not mind my pointing out one or two small points.

Firstly I was very disappointed that this topic was brought up in the form it was as after a very great deal of effort by myself, Arthur Sutton and the rest of the Committee, a very informative document called the Report on the 1970 Reporting Scheme by Dr. Terry Coulson was reissued in the Spring of 1975. This Bulletin Suppliment in fact covered the seasons 1967 - 1970 also, a matter of 4 years very detailed reporting. A vast amount of topics were covered as the reader would observe, many factors concerning the capture of eels. Time of day, month and year, type of bait, type of swim, all types of possible variables as cloud, moonlight, temperature, etc., I would therefore urge all members to re-read it very carefully, especially now before the new season begins. New members should be able to get copies from Arthur Sutton.

The subject of twilight is extensively covered on pages 86 - 93. It would take too much time to mention the points raised here so I invite interested members to read the topic up for themselves.

Secondly, while admiring Kevin for the effort put into his article and the way he presented his points, with respect, one years results are only a part of the story and in fact Terry's analysis of the years 1967 - 70 indicate a totaly different trend.

Thirdly, in any form of analysis of Club results, the time available to actually do the work depends on the time available to the one who does the analysis. At the moment I have little spare time for more than routine analysis, although as I said in the 1974 Report, as time permits I will extent the topics covered. As Terry Coulson also said in his 1970 Report, there is a law of diminishing returns, the longer we cover a topic, the less we learn from it. Therefore we have to change the items covered every few years as it takes several years to be sure of the direction of trends. We also have the problem of keeping the Session Reporting form as simple as possible to ensure the accuracy of filling it in. In 1971 a new Committee was formed and the reporting scheme reconsidered in depth. New forms were issued which gave the individual member more work. Two seasons later the system was changed again to the present one involving Regional Reporting Officers doing the paperwork for 5 or 6 members. The idea was to take some of the high work load off the Club analysist's back. This has succeeded to a certain extent but there is still a great deal of work to be done by all concerned.

In conclusion all I can suggest to any member who can think of any items for inclusion or amendment to the reporting forms, is for him to contact me and I will put it to the Committee for their views. It's your Club, paid for by you, and therefore you are entitled to have your say, put your point, and if you like, do your own thing. You may even put forward a proposal at an AGM to scrap the reporting scheme altogether, but I think it too valuable to do that. We have achieved a massive collection on facts, the 1970 Report is a very impressive collection of reference points to be referred to often. The annual reporting scheme is being moulded to give members as much information as possible about their and other members performance and information about waters fished as is possible. Hopefully, I intend to bring up to date, the results from individual fisheries, now several years behind.

Brian Crawford

NOTABLE EELS - 1975

NO.	WEIGHT	MONTH	CAPTOR	LOCATION	DAY/NIGHT	BAIT	SOURCE
1.	8:7**	May	N.Frostwick	Northants	N	W	NAC
2.	8:0+	Aug	-	Peterboro!	N	DB	BC
3.	8:0++	Sept	I.Mann	Earlswood L.	D	LB	AM
4.	7:3	Mar	R.Parkes	R.Severn	-	W	AM
5.	7:1	Aug	J.Sidley	Earlswood L.	D	W	AT
6.	6:12	June	K.Cummings	R.Thames	D	W	AT
7.	6:7	July	P.Smith	W;Midlands L.	N	W	AT
8.	6:0	July	J.Sidley	Earlswood L.	D	W	AM
9.	5:14*	July	C.Davy	Essex Lake	N	DB	NAC
10.	5:12	Oct	J.Sidley	Earlswood L.	-	W	AM
11.	5:11	July	G.Champion	R.Thames	-	W	AT
12.	5:11	Aug	P.Neary	Blakemere	N	W	AM
13.	5:11	Dec	P.Neary	Whitemere	N	W	AT
14.	5:10	Aug	T.Peat	Cambs. Water	-	DB	AM
15.	5:8*	Sept	A.Hollerbach	Northants	N	DB	NAC
16.	5:7	June	S.Myres	R.Thames	D	W	AM
17.	5:6	June	G.Baker	W.Brom L.	D	C	AM
18.	5:6*	Aug	R.Croxall	Earlswood L.	N	DB	NAC
19.	5:4*	Sept	D.Holman	Crowsmere	D	W	NAC
20.	5:1	July	F.Hardman	Lifford Res.	-	DB	AT
21.	5:1	Sept	J.Boulton	Norfolk Pit	-	DB	AT
22.	4:15½*	May	G.Booth	Yorks Water	N	DB	NAC
23.	4:12*	July	E.Orme	Bala	D	DB	NAC
24.	4:12	Oct	J.Sidley	Earlswood L.	-	W	AM
25.	4:10*	June	T.Jefferson	Essex Water	N	DB	NAC
26.	4:10*	July	T.Jefferson	Bala	N	DB	NAC
27.	4:9½*	Aug	R.Croxall	Earlswood L.	N	DB	NAC
28.	4:8	Feb	P.May	Chedder Res.	D	S	NAC
29.	4:8	June	J.Sidley	Earlswood L.	D	W	AM
30.	4:8*	July	C.Houghton	Trees Pool	N	DB	NAC
31.	4:8	July	M.Lahmar	Swindon Lake	N	W	AM
32.	4:5½*	July	A.Hollerbach	Bra Lake P'b'o	N	DB	NAC
33.	4:2*	July	B.Crawford	Bra Lake P'b'o	N	DB	NAC
34.	4:1**	April	P.Whitley	Blackpool Lake	N	W	NAC
35.	4:1*	Sept	D.Holman	Marbury Mere	D	W	NAC
36.	4:0½*	May	G.Booth	Yorks Water	N	DB	NAC
37.	4:0	July	S.Pierpoint	Norfolk Pit	N	DB	AT
38.	4:0	July	T.Dinsmore	Norfolf Pit	N	DB	AT
39.	4:0*	Aug	H.Hansen	Marshall's Pit	N	DB	NAC
40.	4:0*	Aug	S.Hope	Westfield Lake	N	DB	NAC

KEY

1. ** = Ex-NAC members.
2. * = Present NAC members.
3. + = Brian Crawford spoke to captor of this eel and saw a photo of it which looked about right for this weight although the captor claimed it was actually 8:8. (Very difficult to be sure)
4. ++ = Have since had information that this weight is not accurate.
5. NAC = National Anguilla Club information.
6. AM = Anglers Mail.
7. AT = Angling Times.
8. BC = Brian Crawford.
9. W = Worm.
10. DB = Dead Bait.
11. LB = Live Bait.
12. C = Casters.
13. S = Special Bait.

Analysis Of Notable Eels - 1975

It is not enough to just present the list of notable eels and not make a small attempt at its analysis. Members may also feel free to observe other points concerning the list that I miss.

National Anguilla Club members accounted for 18 41b plus eels in 1975 This is almost half the total of 40 reported. Excellent achievement.

21 eels over 51b were reported compared with 25 in 1974. If you look back to my article in Bulletin 11.3 page 40, as a result of the graph drawn on page 40 also, I forcast 15 - 20 51b plus eels for 1975 so I was not too far out. However, as I said then, if catches do continue to follow the trend of the graph, then in 1976 we can only expect about 16 51b plus eels. I hope you can all prove me wrong. Also I have a total list of 55 eels over 41b for 1974 as against 40 for 1975.

17 of the eels were taken on worm baits, 12 of these 51b plus. 20 of the eels were taken on DB, only 8 of these being over 51b. Only 3 eels were reported on other baits.

Perhaps these facts may induce some members to write about the relation of size of bait to number of runs or something on this line. Actually by studying the Bulletin Supplement 1970 issue page 74, Terry Coulson has done a detailed study on this topic which makes very interesting reading.

It is interesting to note also that 8 good eels were reported from Earlswood lake, at least 4 of these including one of 7:1 and one larger being caught during the day. However there are complications in would be eels anglers for this water for 1976 as should be outlined in an article soon. However, these eels, together with eels reported in 1974, put Earlswood Lake amongst the top eel waters in this country.

Brian Crawford
