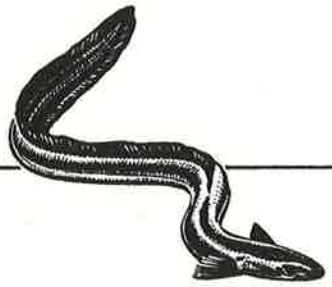

The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

1971 Report

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EDITORIAL

Once again we find ourselves in the statutory close season: and likewise the statutory argument of its presence rages. From our own point of view, the existence of a close season to protect eels during spawning is superfluous. However, if the powers that be insist that there should be a close season I am sure that we, with the notable exception of that hardy beast the winter eel fisherman, would prefer the close season to be in winter.

Several of our southern "commercial" clubs are starting close season experiments. Leisuresport (ex H.A.S.) have suspended the close season on several of their waters, so too have Linesmen A.C. This latter group are planning to initiate a new experiment next year by having the close season in the middle of winter, the new season opening on March 15th. With plans afoot to allow River Authorities to set their own close seasons, if at all, perhaps this type of experiment will be the pattern for the future.

There is an alternative to the winter close season. I must admit that I am now being selfish. Several River Authorities allow close season fishing for eels; could not other Authorities follow this lead? However, this does raise new problems. Angling Times was quick to point out the loophole in the Severn River Authority's regulations. The inference was that any angler can go to waters within the Severn area on the pretext of catching eels to catch other coarse fish. However, if this loophole was nationwide there would inevitably be the dodgers, but there might be a growth in the number of bona fide eel fishermen, raising the sport to its rightful status.

Naturally, the latter case is preferable to a nation full of loophole seekers but I feel that Angling Times deliberately revealed this loophole in the Severn's regulations to encourage people to abuse it. We are, therefore faced with a dilemma. If disciples of Angling Times follow up the advice of their leaders, there is a very good chance that the Severn and those other River Authorities that allow close season fishing for eels will close the loophole, thus preventing the bona fide eel fisherman from pursuing his quarry in the spring.

In short, I feel that Angling Times has approached the subject of close season fishing irresponsibly. Why should bona fide anglers, not only eel fishermen but also trout fishermen who use worm, suffer because a leading Angling newspaper publish a list of loopholes via which any angler can catch coarse fish. Fair enough, the system may need changeing, but let us open doors and not close them.

DAVID SMITH

PENINSULAR EELS.

By Paul Wieczorek.

In Cornwall, in the eyes of the locals, to be a coarse fisherman is unusual enough: to be an eel enthusiast is a point of eccentricity bordering upon insanity. However, some sympathy can be found with the few coarse fishermen, who, like myself, are "immigrants" from England. These people have lately been making their presence felt, especially amongst the game fraternity. Indeed, areas that held no coarse fish are miraculously producing bags of Tench, Roach and Rudd. To convince the locals that they have excellent coarse fishing is like banging one's head against a brick wall. They are more interested in the Mackerel and the "fly". To me, these are superb waters.

There are very few natural waters,and there are none at all on my beat, which covers an area of 25 miles radius from St. Austell. However, with an history of mining, Cornwall does not lack in waters to fish. These waters can be classified into three groups, depending upon their origin. These are:

1) Gravel pits.
2) China Clay Pits, and I use the term China Clay deliberately for reasons that will become apparent later
3) Stone and Slate quarries, which are so much alike that they may be considered together.

No doubt, all readers will know what excellent waters these man-made holes become when they are allowed to flood and mature. Of course, there are also rivers and streams, but my eeling is done on static waters where I have found the best results are to be had.

The gravel pits, or rather gravel workings, have been shut down for at least thirty years. They are rarely fished, and then only for Trout. So, they have developed into a wild state. No doubt, their being situated in the middle of a moor has had a lot to do with this development.

The average size of these waters is about three acres, with an average depth of between 12 to 15 feet. They are fed by underground springs and moorland streams, having an outflow that runs into the rivers. The bottom is well silted in places and has a good growth of weed. It is in these places that a good bag of eels can be taken. Apart from the eels, the only fish present are Trout and Minnows.

I have caught eels up to three and a half pounds in these waters, but the average is only 1:8. There are bigger eels present, some of which I have hooked and lost in the dense weed beds. The reason for the low average size is accounted for by bait size. I use lobworm and Minnow dead-bait. On occassions when I have used a bigger dead-bait, such as a Roach or Rudd caught from another pit, there is no change in the rate of catch for the larger eels, but the capture of small eels is eliminated. I prefer to enjoy the best of both worlds by using the smaller baits which give a steady flow of smaller eels,with the occassional large one. I must emphasise that this is a characteristic of these waters, and if there were shoals of Rudd or Roach present, the results might be different.

The China Clay pits are a different type of water altogether. They run to a depth of 60ft. and, because of the method of product extraction, their topography differs from that of the gravel pits. It is through gaining a knowledge of this that enables an angler to increase his chances of catching one of the large eels that lurk in the deep holes that have silted up. Unlike ordinary clay pits, the China clay pits have a bottom composed of a hard, grey, very coarse sand, a fine gravel in fact. It is only where the silt has built up that a good bag of eels can be expected. In most of these pits other coarse fish can be found and, as would be expected, these provide good dead-bait: but lobworms rarely let me down. The weed is not as abundant in these pools as in the gravel pits, probably because of the greater depths.

It is in some of these pools that I have caught some of my largest eels. The rate of catch appears to be slower in these than for gravel pits, but the average size is much better.

China Clay pits are found on high ground, surrounded by heathland. They are fed by submerged springs, and they overflow into small streams which eventually find their way to the sea. The water in these pools is much clearer than in gravel pits. The clarity of the water is possibly explained by the absence of inflowing streams bearing suspended silt and organic matter. Whether this has any effect upon the eels, I would not like to say, but murky water might make the eels a little less shy with the absence of light.

Because of the depth of the water, and the subsequent formation of a thermocline, plus the relatively mild winters, it rarely gets cold enough to put a stop altogether to eeling through the winter. I shall be eeling all through the winter, although I doubt if I will be having so many night sessions, even if only to stop a divorce petition being filed against me! However, the cold nights might have something to do with it.

A good bait that I have found for winter eels is a tight ball of small lobworms, about the size of a 10p piece. Of course, I would not vouch for it in other parts of the country as a suitable winter bait. The determining factor is probably water temperature: it is now late November, and the water temperature is still about 53F.

The Stone and slate quarries are very similar to the China Clay pits in basic structure, but the bottom is strewn with rocks and boulders (this in itself dictates that heavier tackle must be used.) and formidable weed-beds makes fishing them a really hazardous business. However, it can be done, resulting in the capture of some good eels. These pools are also fed by underground springs, and the water is gin clear, with visibility to a depth of 15ft not uncommon.

Although they are deep, these waters do not run to the depth of the China Clay pits. They have an outflow in the form of a small stream. Shoals of Minnows swim up these streams and establish themselves in the pit. It was in one of these pools that a friend of mine saw two eels, estimated to be about 5lb each, lying amongst a shoal of Minnows and eating them as they came into reach. I have no doubt that much bigger eels live in these waters, because in the same

pool I was smashed by an eel that carried on swimming and would not be turned: how I wished for heavier line!

In these pools I usually ledger, either free-lined or with lead. However, there have been times when I have float fished above the weed-beds and have succeeded in catching a reasonable number of eels. The size of eels caught by other anglers unintentionally is reassuring. I have heard reports of 6lb+ eels. Even allowing for the elastic eye of all anglers, these were probably very creditable eels. Furthermore, my own results lead me to believe that there are large eels to be caught in these waters, and I mean large eels.

I hope thatthis brief description will be enough to whet your appetites. The Cornish pools have an atmosphere that I have not found anywhere else: an atmosphere of secrecy and solitude that lends to the enjoyment of fishing them. Should you be able to pay this end of the world a visit, I can promise you some good eeling.

RECIPE PAGE

By Lol Derricot.

My wife recently acquired a very old recipe book, within which were the following recipes. I am not very keen on eel-flesh myself, but I shall certainly be trying some of these recipes when I start eel-fishing again this year.

BOILED EELS

Ingredients:

2 Eels
Bunch of Parsley
Salt & Pepper
Parsley & Butter Sauce

Method:

Small eels are best for boiling. They should be put in just enough water to cover them, with the parsley, salt and pepper. Half an hour is generally sufficient time, but as soon as they are tender they are done. Drain and serve covered with Parsley and Butter sauce.

I am afraid that I cannot find any reference on how to make Parsley and Butter sauce.

EEL PIE

Ingredients:

2 Eels
2oz. Butter
2 glasses Sherry
1 wineglassful Worcester sauce (or other piquante sauce)
1 shallot
Bunch of Parsley
1oz. Flour

Half a Lemon
3 Eggs
Seasoning
Pastry

Method:

Having cleaned and prepared two good sized eels, cut them into three-inch lengths. Place them in a stew-pan with the butter, sherry, sauce and barely enough water to cover them. Add a liberal seasoning of chopped mushrooms, parsley, pepper, salt, nutmeg and a little shallot. As soon as they come to the boil, remove the pieces of eel and place them into a pie dish. Thicken the remaining liquid with flour, stirring until it boils. Add lemon juice and cayenne, and pour the mixture over the eels in the pie dish. Cover with quartered hard-boiled eggs. Make a rich pastry and cover the dish in the normal way. Bake for about an hour. Serve hot or cold.

I am afraid that there is no mention of oven setting, but I would suggest a medium oven.

SPATCHCOCKED EELS

Ingredients:

2 Eels
Bunch of Parsley
1 Shallot
1 Tablespoonful of Oil or Butter
Half a Lemon
2 Eggs
Tartare or piquante sauce
Breadcrumbs

Method:

Skin two good sized eels, clean and cut into three inch lengths. Remove the bone, either with a knife or scissors. Season with chopped parsley, shallot, a little oil or dissolved butter, and a few drops of lemon juice. Without disturbing the seasoning carefully egg and crumb the pieces. Fry in a pan of boiling fat. The pieces should be well curled up when cooked. Serve with tureen of tartare or piquante sauce.

WHITE STEWED EELS

Ingredients:

2 Small Eels
1 glass of White Wine
Half a pint of white stock
2 Eggs
1 Gill of Cream
Bunch of Parsley
Seasoning
Fried croutons

Method:

Stew the eels in the stock with seasonings and white wine. Thicken the strained sauce with a liaison of eggs, cream and chopped parsley. Garnish with fried croutons, these being pieces of bread fried until golden brown.

A SHORT REPORT ON THE 1971 SESSION REPORTING

By Terence Coulson.

Member's Performance

Twenty four members took part in the session reporting scheme in 1971, and reported 453 sessions covering the capture of 363 eels in 11,970 rod-hours of angling, including 18 eels and 146 RH on behalf of non-member friends.

The number of eels caught ranged from 1 to 43 per member. The median number caught was 11, the lower quartile (LQ) was 6 and the upper quartile (UQ) was 20. The six (25%) most successful members (i.e. those above the UQ) caught 183 (50%) of the eels. The six least successful members (below the LQ) caught 18 (5%) of the eels.

The effort recorded ranged from 14 to 1,029 RH per member. The median effort was 479 RH, the LQ was 281 and the UQ was 742 RH. The six (25%) most active members (above the UQ) recorded 5,260 RH (44%). The six least active (below the LQ) recorded 839 RH (7%).

The session reporting scheme now having been carried out successfully for five successive years, it is of interest to summarise the data relating to members' performance:

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
No. reporting	19	22	26	20	24
Median No. of eels	7	8	10	13	11
UQ	12	18	24	24	20
LQ	3	3	4	2	6
Median No. of RH	329	266	288	357	479
UQ	1,184	442	662	655	742
LQ	214	108	126	153	281

Obviously, the above is not concerned with the quality of the eels caught: this is taken up seperately, below, together with more detailed consideration of rates of catch. In attempting to interpret the data, it would have been ideal to have the same team of anglers fishing the same waters in each of the five years. Since this is not the case, however, it is valuable to consider team changes during that period. The following table summarises team changes:

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Original team	19	15	11	7	4
1968 intake		7	5	4	4
1969 intake			10	7	5
1970 intake				2	2
1971 intake					9
Total	19	22	26	20	24

This table shows, for example, that of the original 19 members who reported in 1967, 15 continued reporting in 1968 and were joined by 7 new members and so on. It is also instructive to consider the numbers of members who reported for 5 years, 4 years, etc:

	for 5 yr.	for 4 yr.	for 3 yr.	for 2 yr.	for 1 yr.
No. reporting	4	7	9	9	18

Since only four members are common to all five of the annual teams, it is important to consider the extent to which variations between years in the data collection might be attributable to team changes, rather than to any inherent differences between the years themselves. Unfortunately, it is not practicable to carry the Analysis of Variance (as introduced in the last Report) into sufficiently fine detail to give a wholly objective answer to this question. Considerations of the kind indicated in past Reports have given fairly convincing indications that team changes per se seem unlikely to account for the variations found between years, but we can now take a fresh look at the data overall from this viewpoint.

One convenient check would be to compare the overall results with the results for the four members common to all five teams; or better still (since four is rather too few to be representative) with the combined results of the eleven members common to at least four of the five annual teams. Although this comparison will not provide conclusive proof of anything, we shall find it reassuring if there is no obvious sign of team changes affecting the results. The comparison is as follows:

RH/E	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971
Eleven members	45	35	25	26	31
All members	55	34	27	25	35

As can be seen, there are only minor differences between the two sets of results, both showing a similar pattern of increasing rate-of-catch up to 1970 and a slight slowing of the rate in 1971. Although falling short of conclusive proof, this and other similar checks all strongly suggest that team changes have not of themselves affected results in any systematic way.

It is worth noting at this point that the quality of the reporting was noticeably poorer in 1971 than in previous years. Eleven reports were submitted too late for inclusion in the analyses; some sessions (known from other members' cross references) were not reported on at all; more important, there was very frequent evidence of disinterested and careless reporting, involving obvious errors and/or omissions which the writer, this year, did not have time to follow up with the members responsible. No doubt this lowering of standards was partly due to the large proportion of newcomers reporting for the first time, but - bearing in mind that for every known error there will be an unknown number of less easily detectable ones - any continuation of this trend will almost certainly vitiate future reporting results. The writer also greatly regrets the increasing tendency to report waters under secret code names; a few such cases are inevitable, of course, but the practice is contrary to the spirit in which the club and the reporting scheme were conceived; it adds unneccessarily to the practical problems confronting the analyst, and by severing the already tenuous link between him and the source of data, it would destroy any claim that the scheme is scientific if continued on any scale. The writer trusts that, in the general interest, constructive consideration will be given to the above points, both in the design of future schemes, and in individual members' personal response to them.

The Overall Result, 1971

Whilst it is not proposed to give detailed tables, members may be interested to see at least the overall results in full.

Weight Range	Abberton Res. N	All Other N	All Other CF%	Total 1971 N	Total 1971 CF%
0 - 1	1	118	35	119	33
1 - 2	1	105	67	106	62
2 - 3	12	71	88	83	85
3 - 4	13	30	97	43	97
4 - 5	1	8	99.2	9	99.3
5 - 6		2	99.8	2	99.8
6 - 7		1	100	1	100
Total E	28	335		363	
Total RH	249	11,700		12,000	
Mean RH/E	9	35		33	
RH2	10	100		87	
Median	3:1	1:5			
UQ	3:5	2:5			
LQ	2:6	0:11			
IQR	0:10	1:10			

Members may compare the above with Tables 2.1 and 2.2 in the last Report and draw their own conclusions in detail. Briefly, however, it may be seen that the overall rate of catch was somewhat slower than in the last few years, but the rate for 2lb-plus eels was the fastest yet achieved. Members thus succeeded in reducing the proportion of small eels in the catch and increasing the proportion of large eels, and the first six-pounder to be caught by a member since before the present scheme began was reported.

The extent to which the results of the scheme are responsible for these improvements in results is, of course, debateable. However, the writer sees many reasons for supposing that, especially in matters of bait choice and the selection of waters, the scheme has contributed significantly.

Effects of Bait Choice

Generally speaking, the 1971 results are in line with the conclusions already drawn about the effects of bait choice. The comparison between worms and deadbaits in 1971 is conveniently summed up by the following table, which shows a very similar

	Worms	Dead-baits	Ratio DB/W
RH/E	20	53	2.7
RH1	43	60	1.4
RH2	110	97	0.88
RH3	360	240	0.67
RH4	1,100	960	0.90

pattern to those found in previous years. In 1971 as before single lobs caught eels faster than bunches, and small dead-baits caught eels faster than large dead-baits. More detailed considerations will be dealt with in future contributions to the Bulletin.

In 1971, members were invited to take part in an attempt to extend knowledge of bait performance in the "unusual baits"

project by trying slugs, mussels and water snails. Despite the obvious need to learn something of baits other than the conventional worms and dead-bait, the project was poorly supported, as the following table shows:

	RH	E
Black slug	153	-
Freshwater mussel	155	1
Water snail	-	-

Effects of Ambient Variables

Roughly the same pattern was found during 1971 as in previous years, except that the unexpectedly unfavourable results during the Club outing during July in Shropshire produced an unusually poor July result. On balance over the five years, June has therefore proved to be the month of choice all round.

The 1971 results were peculiar in several ways e.g. the RH/E showed up almost the same for day, twilight and night! Presumably, members are applying lessons learned from previous years to avoid various adverse effects; but even allowing for this, it may be that 1971 was an atypical year. Only a full statistical analysis will show how 1971 results affect the final conclusions from the five years, and this will be written up in due course. Meanwhile, let it suffice to note that RH2 values were more or less as expected for day, twilight and night, and that dusk/dawn effects were as previously found. State-of-the-moon effects and interaction with cloud cover seem to have been quite different from previous years, and will need full evaluation. It is also noteworthy that there was no sign of "lull" or "dead period" in the hour after midnight, either on RH/E or RH2.

In conclusion at this stage, whilst it is hazardous to prejudge the results of analyses yet to be carried out, the writer does not expect the main conclusions reached in the last Report to be very seriously changed by these final data; they may be regarded to a sound guide to basic tactics, pending any points of detail which may emerge from the more complete analyses which will be described in future Bulletins.

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EELS AND WATER POLLUTION

By David Smith.

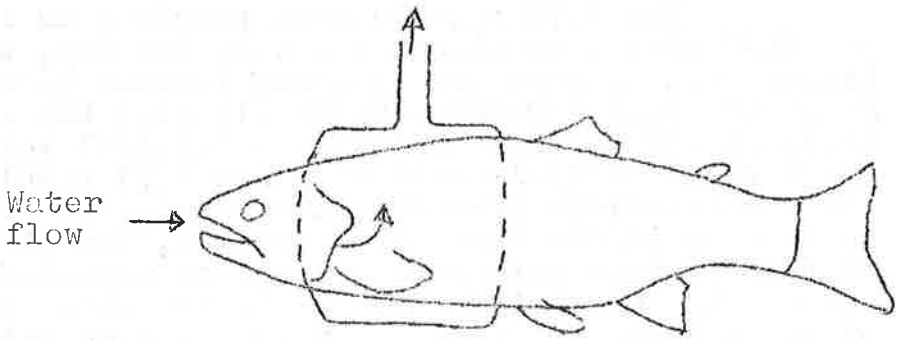
Since pollution in all its multifarious forms is very popular at the moment, I have decided to hop on to the band wagon and write about the effects of organic pollution on Eels.

Sewage and other organic effluents, notably from agriculture, increases the activity of micro-organisms which break down organic matter by decay, thus using up oxygen dissolved in the water. Where the oxygen concentration is zero no fish will be found. This is the situation at the outfall of

a source of raw sewage. N.B. The effluent discharged from a sewage works has most of the organic matter removed, so does not deplete the oxygen content seriously.

Katz and Gaufin, 1952, investigated the effects of organic pollution on a stream in Ohio (U.S.A.). At the outfall, there were no fish present at all. Two miles downstream there were 8 species of fish, with only a few individuals. At a point 4.4 miles downstream of the outflow there were 32 species and many individuals (Fig. 1). This shows that there is a recovery zone of a few miles in length; but what of the oxygen consumption of the fish themselves?

Van Dam, 1938, invented a piece of apparatus for measuring the oxygen consumption of fish.



Using a trout as the experimental animal, the following results were obtained. There are approximately 90 opercular per minute, resulting in 8litres of water passing over the gills in that time. 80% of the available oxygen was removed by the gills. When compared with the weight of the fish, Van Dam calculated that a trout consumes 0.22 cubic centimeters of oxygen per gram of body weight per hour (cc/gm/hr) at 14.7C (58.5F). Using a Goldfish and an Eel, he obtained the following results:

Trout	0.22 cc/gm/hr.	@ 14.7C (58.5F)
Goldfish	0.07 cc/gm/hr.	@ 14.4C (57.9F)
Eel	0.04 cc/gm/hr.	@ 16.5C (61.7F)

When the oxygen concentration falls below that concentration necessary for the animal to maintain its rate of oxygen consumption, the fish shows a condition known as "Respiratory Distress". There is an increased flow of water over the gills, and the fish becomes restless The lowest oxygen concentration at which the fish can maintain its rate of oxygen consumption is called the critical point. Above the critical point the rate of oxygen consumption is independent of the oxygen concentration: below the critical point the rate of oxygen consumption is reduced until, eventually, death occurs, (Fig.2). The critical concentrations of oxygen (in parts per million) at 20C (68.0F) of some fish are shown:

Trout	9.0ppm
Goldfish	2.5ppm
Eel	1.5ppm

(From various sources)

It will be noticed that the ratio between these

Fig 1.

Showing the rate of recovery in a polluted stream in Ohio.

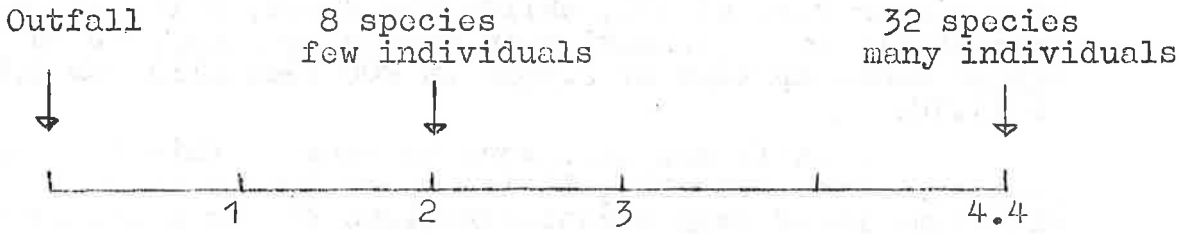
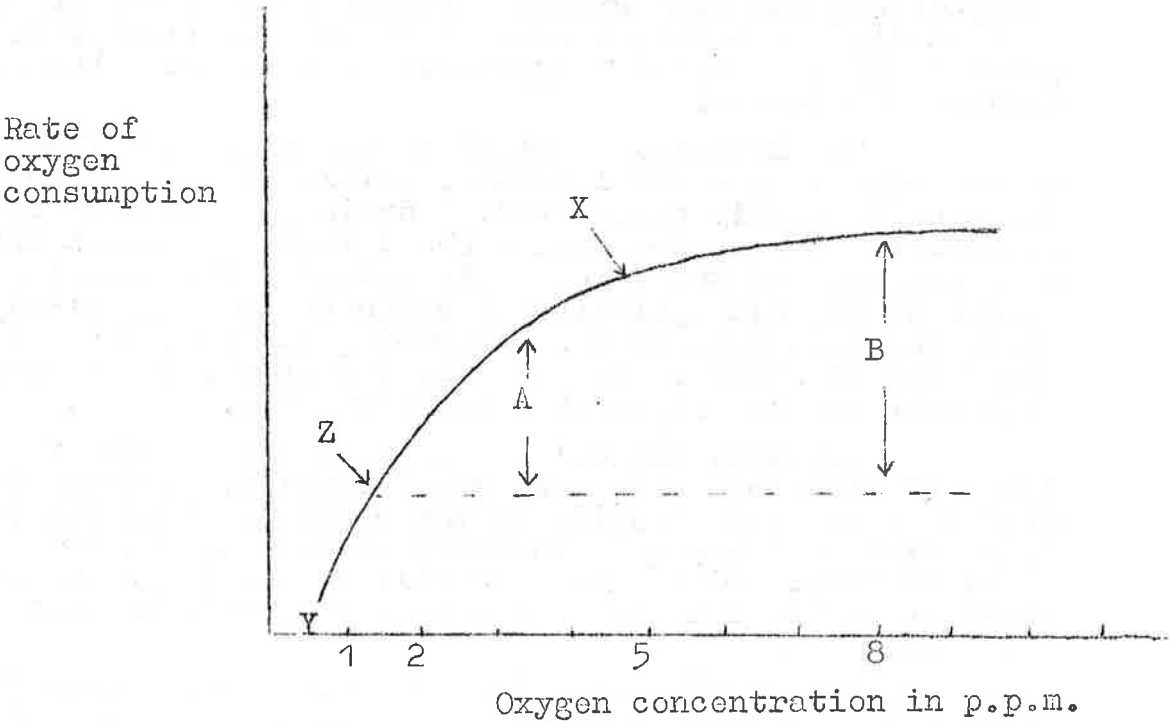


Fig. 2.



Point X is the critical point. Point Z is the rate of oxygen consumption of a resting fish. With oxygen concentrations less than the critical, there is restricted activity, line A. When concentrations are above critical there is normal activity, line B. When the oxygen concentration falls below point Z death ensues, point Y.

figures for critical levels, and those for rates of oxygen consumption are approxianately the same, ie. 6:2:1.

The point of death in various species has been determined by various authorities. However, not too much weight can be attatched to them because various workers have used various methods to determine the death point. Thus, the eel dies at oxygen concentrations of 1ppm (Van Dam) at a temperature of 17C, whilst the trout, which is more susceptable to a reduction in oxygen, perishes at an oxygen concentration of 2.5ppm at 20C (Gutsell), or 0.83ppm at 11.1C.

I shall now endeavour to convert this into practical angling terms. Firstly, it is apparent that the eel can withstand lower oxygen concentrations than can either the trout or the Goldfish. It therefore has a greater range of tolerance so will be found in a multitude of waters. This we already know. This knowledge, however, comes into its own when we consider a perticular water.

It is often assumed that a lake, for instance, is fairly uniform throughout: but this is not the case. We know from our own experiences that there is a range of temperature, both with depth and in different parts at the same depth; sceptics will say that it is through innaccurate thermometer reading. Similarly, the oxygen concentration varies in different parts of the same lake, notably above and below the thermocline; but even within a single thermal stratum there will be different oxygen concentration. To illustrate the point I shall describe a hypothetical lake, with both an inflow and outflow.

The lake has woodland on one side, and farmland on the other. A natural inflow, arising from a spring in the wood is highly oxygenated: a drainage dyke from the farm, separates a cow meadow from a wheat field and flows into the opposite side of the lake. This latter water contains all manner of organic agricultural products and very little oxygen. Where the cows come to the water-side to feed, there is an abundance of manure. In general, therefore, the wooded side will contain more oxgen than the farm side.

However, the eel has a greater range of oxygen concentration than have many other species, so they will be able to live quite happily on the polluted side; but in general there will be a greater abundance of fish on the oxygenated woodland side. Since the eels will be feeding upon fish, would it not be fair to assume that they will be where their prey are?

Now, having explained that oxygen concentration might have a bearing upon where to fish, I do not envisage us all trooping off to prospective waters armed with Winkler titration apperatus to measure the oxygen content! However, with the results of the water survey questionnaire it may be possible for us to determine the effects of localised oxygen depletion in various waters.

REFERENCES: Fish and River Pollution,
J.R.Erichsen Jones

Biology of Polluted Waters,
H.B.N.Hynes.

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THE MORNING OF THE SLUG

By John Harris.

The humours of eel fishing are many, but I don't think I shall ever forget the morning of the Slug.

It was about 2am when I sliently crept round to Peter's "pog" to see how things were going. As often happens, my flask had managed to get wedged under my arm; it was empty but the cup was there, and Peter's flask would still contain something.

After the words "nothing doing" had passed between us, Peter noticed my persistant rumaging through his gear. Eventually he took the hint and produced a giant, bucket type flask from beneath his chair - "crafty bounder!" Being the teaser that he is, he poured himself a cup. Peering through the dark, he noticed my tongue doing an "Irish Jig", and, knowing me to be a connoisseur of coffee, he invited me to partake of his "cordon bleu" brew.

With speed that would have shamed a thunder-bolt, I produced my empty cup, much to Peter's regret. As the coffee started to burn my hand I said "When". I then proceeded to consume his excellent coffee.

Halfway through my cup I complained bitterly about the lumpy bits of powdered milk he uses to make his coffee. My eyes nearly popped out of my head when I came to the chunky piece at the bottom. After a few seconds chewing this lump I developed a distinct feeling that all was not as it appeared. Immediately I spat back into the cup this unsavoury object. I asked Peter for his torch to see what he was using for milk.

The identification of the offending object, and his resultant laughter, had such an effect on Peter that he nearly fell into the lake. Personally, I found no joy what so ever. I had been sampling that well known brew "coffee a la slug, big black variety!

Within minutes the news of my misadventure had been passed along to the other chaps with us on the session. The peals of laughter were still ringing in my ears when I had returned to my "pog", trying to sleep and forget my early morning snack, at the same time attempting to remove the taste of slug from my mouth with a large bottle of orange juice.

I awoke as dawn was breaking. All appeared as it should at that hour of the day: peaceful and quiet, as Bernard Venables tells us in his writings. Suddenly I heard voices in the distance. I could just make out the words: "There's a beauty over here. John will be pleased." As the voices drew nearer I lay beneath my blankets puzzled as to the meaning of such activities at this unearthly hour.

The next I heard was Bob reminding me that it was breakfast time. I rose from my position of the dead and saw Bob, John and Peter standing before me. Peter handed me a bowl containing, so he said, my breakfast. It certainly did! In the bowl was the most horrible concoction of assorted "yuk" as one could ever wish to see. I neither could, nor would identify the different varieties of slugs, snails, worms and other "crawlies". A cocktail without a doubt. My health has never been the same since.

EPILOGUE

How the slug got into my cup was something I managed to work out in the morning. There was a large log at my "pog". I slept alongside this log, keeping my flask and cup on it. The cup must have been off when the slug was having a stroll.

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