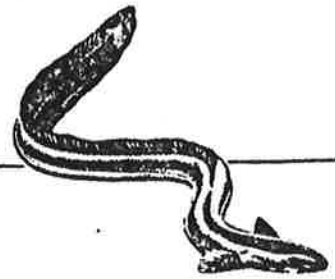


The National Anguilla Club

BULLETIN

VOLUME TWELVE ISSUE No SEVEN.

VOLUME TWELVE ISSUE SEVEN.

LIST OF CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL

No doubt the cynics amongst you have been considering that the Bulletin's run has come to an end and that it is now slipping back into the "Good old days". I am sorry to disillusion you, but the Bulletin is, in fact, alive and well. The recent non appearance is entirely down to the Editorial staff - all one - who have been indulging in such selfish and decadent pastimes as fishing and holidays. That, alas, is the problem of having an editorial staff of one!

However, I feel sure that you will forgive this brief lapse in publication and, following another brief vacation, the Bulletin will, once again, be back in full swing. My sincere oppologies go to those members who have taken the trouble to send material for publication and, as yet, seen nought for their efforts. But, I beg forgiveness. In similar vain, several members have written to me on various subjects and not received a reply. Sorry, I'll get round to answering them all within the next few weeks. So, please do not despare.

With time being rather short, and the need to issue another Bulletin, this issue is devoted to the 1974 Session Reporting scheme. It is strange for the report to come out so late in the year - for the benefit of new members, it should be out in time for consideration at the SGM - and, as Brian points out, it underlines the necessity for us all to be diligent in the return of our session reports to our reporting officers. In my own case this is quite a simple affair, but for those of you who have to deal with the ghastly job of transposing real figures into "Mickey Mouse" digits, it may pose a problem. All I can suggest is that you emulate me and apply for more than your fair share of blanks!

As something of a mathematical dumbo, I am always intrigued to read the Annual Report. It is a compliment to our Chairmen that I can understand what they're getting at - I think. At first glance, it is something of a daunting task having to wade through so much obviously technical detail; but, in actual fact, they are always written in such a way that even poor soles like myself can understand them.

Anyway, that's enough of the sums, and on to something much more interseting, my personal fortunes. I had great pleasure in being able to fish with Bob Pountney and Kevin Richmond a few weeks ago on a mini trip to Cornwall. Kev (who is my RO) informed me that up to the end of June I had totalled 500 RH for three eels to 7½oz. That is, if I may say, damn good doing. I bet you've not being doing that badly. Furthermore, he insulted me by saying that I was like Ernie Orme. No one is like Ernie Orme! However, all is not gloom. A beast of 3:9 attached itself to my line whilst I was down in Cornwall, and since then, my tally of eels has increased. As I've said before, the blanks do not depress me - the company I've been keeping is much too good to allow a slight shortage of eels to upset me (One cup of Arthur Sutton's tea is woth a run any day of the week! and Tony Hollerbachs never ending fag packet is also worth a few!) - but it's a bit sick claiming to be an eel fisherman when you don't know what eels look like!

Anyway, I'll love and leave you. I'm off to Cornwall once again to see if I can pesuade another eel to attach itself to my line. Put the kettle on,=Bob Pountney. I'm on my way!

DAVID SMITH.

A REPORT ON THE 1974 REPORTING SCHEME: PART 1

by Brian Crawford.

In presenting the results of analysis of the 1974 reporting scheme, I hope to continue mainly in the fashion of my predecessors, but several items will be further extended. These will include a more detailed breakdown of individual members performance. This I hope, will serve to allow members to observe the effect of their results applied more directly to the waters they fish.

I must also apologise for the lateness of this report, but the data cannot be processed until the material is all handed in. Also, I have had to work on the report during a period in which I have a lot of work to carry out for other organisations. I would much prefer to do the work when I have much free time from November to January. Therefore may I remind you to have sent the last of your session reports for 1975 to your Reporting Officers by the end of October, so that the R.O.'s can process them onto analysis forms to give to me at the A.G.M.

The results from 1974 were about the best for the effort put into reporting: 29 members plus one non-member (Ron Barnard who fished with Dave Smith and completed session reports), giving a total of 30, reported 596 eels taken in 21,781½ rod-hours of angling.

The number of eels caught ranged from 2 to 86 per member. The median number was 16, the lower quartile (LQ) was 9, the upper quartile (UQ) was 26. The seven members above the UQ caught 287 (48.2%) of the eels, the seven members below the LQ caught 32 (5.4%) of the eels.

The effort recorded ranged from 39½ to 2416½ RH per member. The median effort was 486½ RH, the LQ was 261 RH and the UQ was 941½ RH. The seven most active members put in a total of 11,428½ (52½%) RH, the seven least active members put in a total of 1153½ (5.3%) RH.

In 1974 as in 1973, it is noteworthy that outstanding performances were achieved by several members, Steven Hope being the first member to achieve over 2000 RH. A total of 5 members achieving over 1000 RH, and a further 4 members were in the 900's, with Arthur Sutton on 999½.... I hope we did not miscalculate there Arthur....

Table 1 on the performance of individual members is on the next page. This gives an introduction to a more detailed breakdown to follow. I have also included totals and the mean (average) values where valid. This may be taken to indicate that our average member :-

a. Has 25 sessions.
b. Achieves 726 RH. (an average of 29 RH per session)
c. Catches 20 eels.
d. Averages 36½ RH per eel. (47½ as a grand average)
e. Catches 8 2lb+ eels and 2 3lb+ eels.

Table 1 actually indicates that the more successful members are not necessarily those making the most effort, even not considering the exceptional water fished by Chris Davy and Terry Jefferson. This is why I am including an extra breakdown of performance.

The 1974 season was the eigth year of the National Anguilla Club's reporting scheme, a comparison of some of the facts relating to members performance from year to year is set out in Table 2, also on the following page.

Table 1. Performance of Individual Members, 1974

Member	S	RH	E	RH/E	Kg(0.906) 2+	(1.359) 3+	(1.812) 4+	(2.265) 5+
Szwechlowicz	2	82½	3	27	-	-	-	-
Hope	56	2416½	26	93	11	3	-	-
Houghton	6	148	9	16	1	-	-	-
Booth	32	850	12	71	9	7	4	2
Bell	24	383	8	48	6	1	-	-
Hansen	31	1932½	11	176	6	-	-	-
Jefferson	11	258	15	17	11	5	-	-
Davy	12	261	26	10	18	12	-	-
Smith,A	9	237	5	48	1	1	-	-
Billington	12	360½	2	180	2	1	1	-
Smith,D	15	347	24	14	6	-	-	-
*Barnard	15	347½	20	17	-	-	-	-
Croxall	33	529½	17	31	9	7	2	-
Jackson	30	413	6	69	3	1	-	-
Holman	47	1820	86	21	14	3	-	-
Richmond	42	788	29	27	5	3	-	-
Orme	41	1665½	44	38	13	3	-	-
Vandercruysen	45	821	16	51	6	2	1	-
Grey	51	921½	22	42	7	4	2	-
Blower	19	345½	4	86	-	-	-	-
Breakespear	30	963½	24	40	7	5	1	1
Hawkins	29	881	28	32	11	3	-	-
Ball	25	941½	28	34	9	2	-	-
Petipher	20	169	18	9½	5	-	-	-
Sutton	30	999½	41	24	18	4	-	-
Holliman	14	443½	15	30	4	2	1	-
Goldsmith	21	566	12	48	4	-	-	-
Crawford	34	1631	31	53	3	-	-	-
Pountney	3	39½	10	4	3	1	-	-
Barrett	7	220	4	55	1	-	-	-
Total	746	21,781¾	596	-	193	70	12	3
Mean	25	726	20	47½	6	2	-	-

Table 2. Members' Performance, 1967 - 1974

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974
No.Reporting	19	22	26	20	24	18	19	30
Median No.of eels	7	8	10	13	11	11	10	16
UQ	12	18	24	24	20	29	35	26
LQ	3	3	4	2	6	3	5	9
Median No.of RH	329	266	288	255	479	425	525	486½
UQ	1184	442	662	357	742	650	1136	941½
LQ	214	108	126	153	281	186	335	261
Total E	204	294	423	334	363	322	418	596
Total RH	11300	10100	11600	8200	11970	7534	13160	21781¾
RH/E	55	34	27	25	33	23	31	47½

*(Barnard is not a member but fished with D.Smith and submitted his session reports to be included with all for 1974)

Taking each item of Table 2 in turn we can see that the number of members reporting in 1974 was 29 plus one non-member making 30. This is the best effort ever and illustrates the ever increasing keeness of the membership. It also demonstrates support for the system of Reporting Officers which has been continued into 1975.

The median number of eels caught per member has increased to 16, a relatively large increase from the norm. This is also reflected in the LQ. In contrast to 1973, the UQ dropped to be more in line with the previous years.

The high value of RH/E (47½) compared to previous years bears the reason of almost double the rod hours but only 1½ times as many eels.

The involvement of members is undisputably demonstrated by the very high number of rod hours, more than 1½ times than in any previous year, but of course there were about 1½ times as many members contributing. The overall result seems to confirm Alan Hawkin's proposal last year that 1972 could have been an exceptional year. However we will consider that statement later.

2. The Overall Results: eels caught

Again Abberton Resevoir has been separated from the main body of the results, although it is enclosed in a more detailed breakdown later.

This is to continue with the form of analysis reported since 1967. Therefore all eels caught from all waters except Abberton are classed as 'all other'.

The overall results for the 1974 season are set out in Table 3. overleaf and as before are compared with previous seasons in Table 4. Annual Trends 1968-1974. Due to lack of space I have been forced to omit the result for 1967. However this will apply to several of the tables for next year and therefore I will have to arrange the results in two rows.

Tables 3 and 4 demonstrate the unusual rate of catch for Abberton and how the 'total' section becomes more flattering.

Also the total cumulative number of rod hours has passed the 100,000 mark, another milestone in the Club's history. This may be seen to represent over 137 years of rod hours for the average member. I hope we all learn to make use of this unique and valuable information, and always look for new ways to obtain knowledge from it.

Considering Figure 1. the cumulative frequency of the numbers of eels in each weight range, the 1974 results appear to take a median line for much of its length compared to all the others.

In Figure 2. trends in rate-of-catch, the upward movement was continued in 1974. The results for 1972 seem to stand out even more. However, I believe we are still in the right section of the graph. Provided we can keep below the 400 rod hour figure for 3lb eels, we should in general be satisfied. We can still try and aim for 300RH/3lb eel though...

Table 3. The Overall Result, 1974

Weight Range	Abberton Res. N	Abberton Res. CF%	All Other N	All Other CF%	Total 1974 N	Total 1974 CF%
0-1	0	-	216	37.9	216	36.24
1-2	0	-	189	71.3	189	67.94
2-3	12	46.1	111	90.7	123	88.58
3-4	14	100	43	98.2	57	98.15
4-5	0	-	8	99.5	8	99.5
5-6	0	-	3	100	3	100
Total E	26		570		596	
Total RH	119		21662½		21781½	
Mean RH/E	4.6		38		47½	
RH/2	4.6		131		114	
RH/3	8.5		338.5		320	
Median	3:0		1:4		1:6	
UQ	3:3		2:2		2:5	
LQ	2:11		0:12		0:13	
IQR	0:8		1:6		1:8	

Table 4. Annual Trends 1967 - 1974 and Cumulative Total, 'All Other'

Weight Range	1968 N	1968 CF%	1969 N	1969 CF%	1970 N	1970 CF%	1971 N	1971 CF%	1972 N	1972 CF%	1973 N	1973 CF%	1974 N	1974 CF%	Cumulative 1967 - 74 N	Cumulative 1967 - 74 CF%
0-1	157	53	181	43	131	39	118	35	60	24	109	29	216	37.9	1083	39.4
1-2	81	81	179	85	129	78	105	67	96	62	152	70	189	71.3	972	74.8
2-3	38	94	43	95	48	92	71	88	64	88	67	88	111	90.7	466	91.4
3-4	13	98	11	98	21	98	30	97	22	97	33	97	43	98.2	188	98.0
4-5	3	99½	7	99½	3	99½	8	99.2	7	99.2	12	99	8	99.5	50	99.6
5-6	2	100	2	100	2	100	2	99.8	2	100	3	100	3	100	17	99.9
6-7	0		0		0		1	100	0		0		0		1	100
Total E	294		423		334		363		251		373		570		2774	
Total RH	10100		11600		8220		12000		7304		13160		21662½		101346½	
RH/E	34		27		25		35		29		35		38		36.5	
RH/2	180		180		110		100		77		118		131		130.3	
RH/3	560		580		316		291		251		290		338.5		399	
Median	0:14		1:2		1:2		1:5		1:9		1:7		1:4			
UQ	1:11		1:9		1:14		2:5		2:7		2:4		2:2			
LQ	0:8		0:11		0:11		0:11		1:1		0:14		0:12			
IQR	1:3		0:14		1:3		1:10		1:6		1:6		1:6			

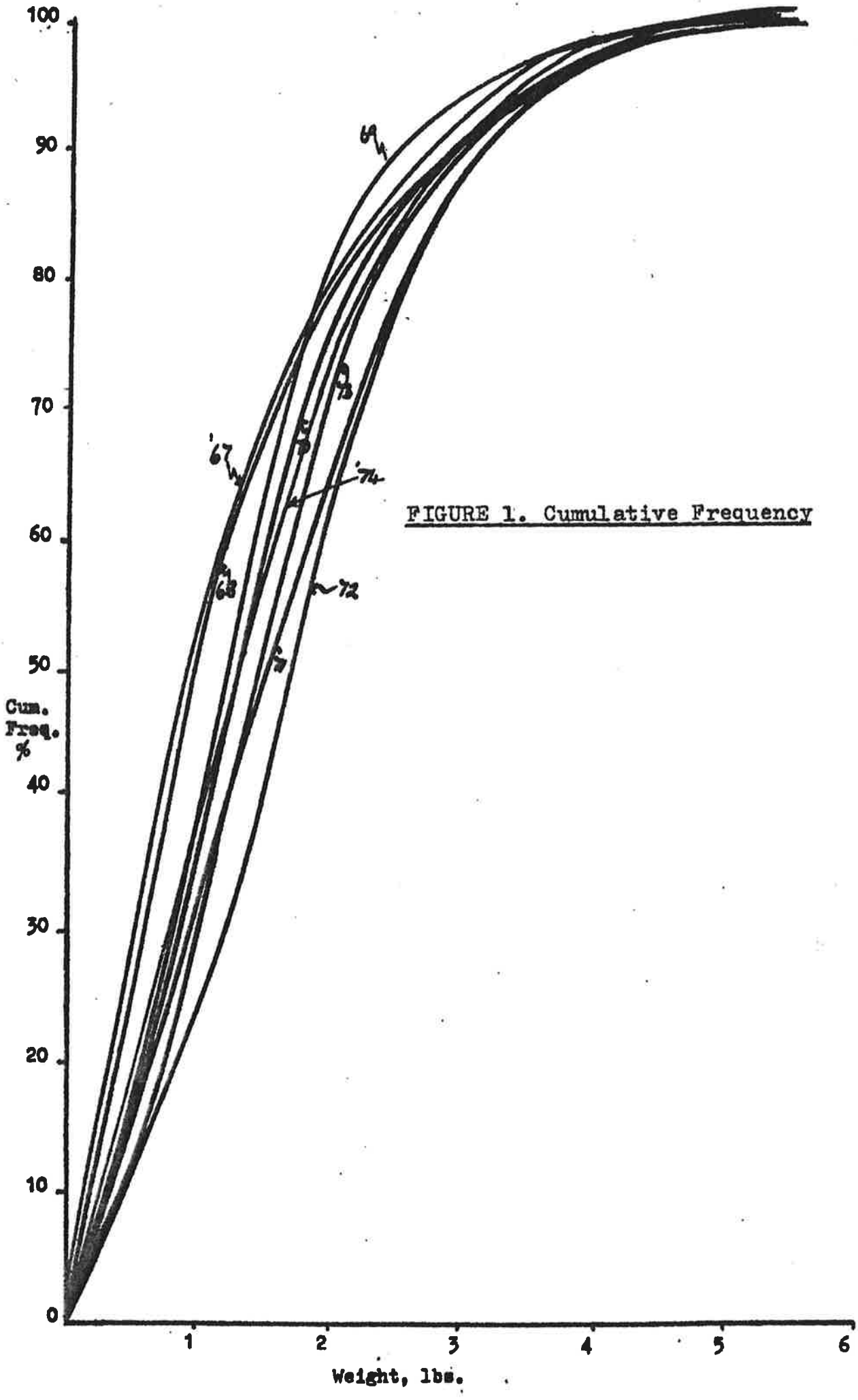
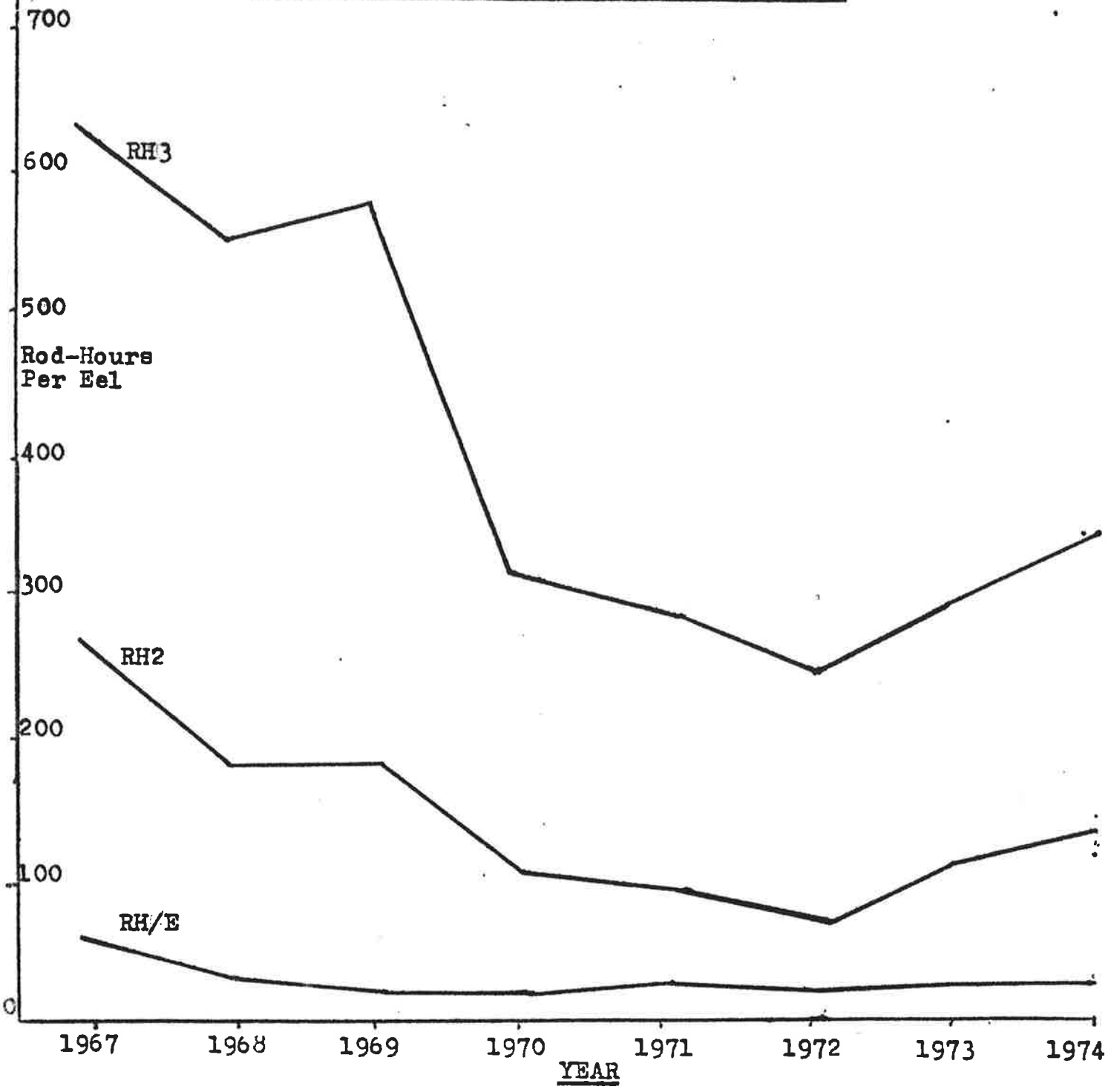


FIGURE 1. Cumulative Frequency

FIGURE 2. Annual Trends in Rate-of-Catch



I think it may be true to say that an ever increasing gap will be found from the RH/E to RH/2 and RH/3 in a ratio of 1:3:7 in terms of rod hours per eel. I feel this ratio could remain fairly constant from year to year and its actual values reflect the types of waters fished.

Considering Table 3 again, it is an interesting fact that only 26 eels were captured, all in the 2-4lb range. In 1973, 45 eels were captured, with 35 in the 2-4lb range and 3eels of 4lb.

(For Abberton Res.)

3. Effect of Bait Choice

As before, only worm and dead-baits form the bulk of baits used, only 6 eels being captured on 'other' baits so will not be included in this analysis.

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

Table 5. Worm versus Dead-bait, 1974

	WORM		DB	
	NO.	CF%	NO.	CF%
0 - 1	163	55.42	52	17.5
1 - 2	77	81.61	109	54.0
2 - 3	33	92.84	86	83.5
3 - 4	19	99.30	40	97.0
4 - 5	1	99.65	7	99.3
5 - 6	1.	100.00	2	100.0
Total	294		296	

(plus 6 'other')

Overall, similar number of eels were caught on worm and dead-bait. However, three times as many eels under 1 lb were caught on worms as on db. Also it can be seen that as the eel size increases, bait choice favours db, a result which differs slightly from 1973. 7.2% of eels caught on worm exceeded 3 lbs, 16.5% of eels caught on db exceeded 3 lbs. Over twice as many. Perhaps there is a trend for more members to fish with db on more productive waters. Remember these results include those for Abberton, a worm only water. As the lads did not do so well in 1974 as in 1973, then this is reflected in the above results. However, comparing the table 5 for 1974 and 1973, we see there were 21 3 lb+ eels in 1973 on worm and also 21 3 lb+ eels in 1974 on worm - the same. Looking at db results, in 1973 there were 22 3 lb+ eels and in 1974 49 3 lb+ eels, so obviously 1974 produced over 100% more on db. I shall be looking further into this aspect later. To compare rate of catch of worm versus dead-bait, we look at the data in table 6, and see the information diagramatically in figure 3.

Table 6 contains results for the last three years. Comparing the results for db v worm we see a definite change in trend; in fact 1974 appears almost opposite in certain aspects, ie., in table 6 the ratio DB/W is similar to 1973 for all weights except RH/4 where it reverses from 1.5 to 0.5, making db superior to worm as eel weight increases. This result is demonstrated even more dramatically in figure 3, where for 2 lb+ eels worm and dead-bait are equal in

rate of catch ratio, but for eels in the 3-4 lb class, db show to be far superior by the downward slope of the line. Note that this slope would continue on the db better section if 5 lb+ eels were included. As already mentioned, this anomaly for 1974 is perhaps because many of the older Club members are using db more and more, especially on waters containing many small eels. It is certainly a very interesting situation, and one worth taking further via the Bulletin if members would care to comment.

Figure 3. Relative advantage of DB v. Worm

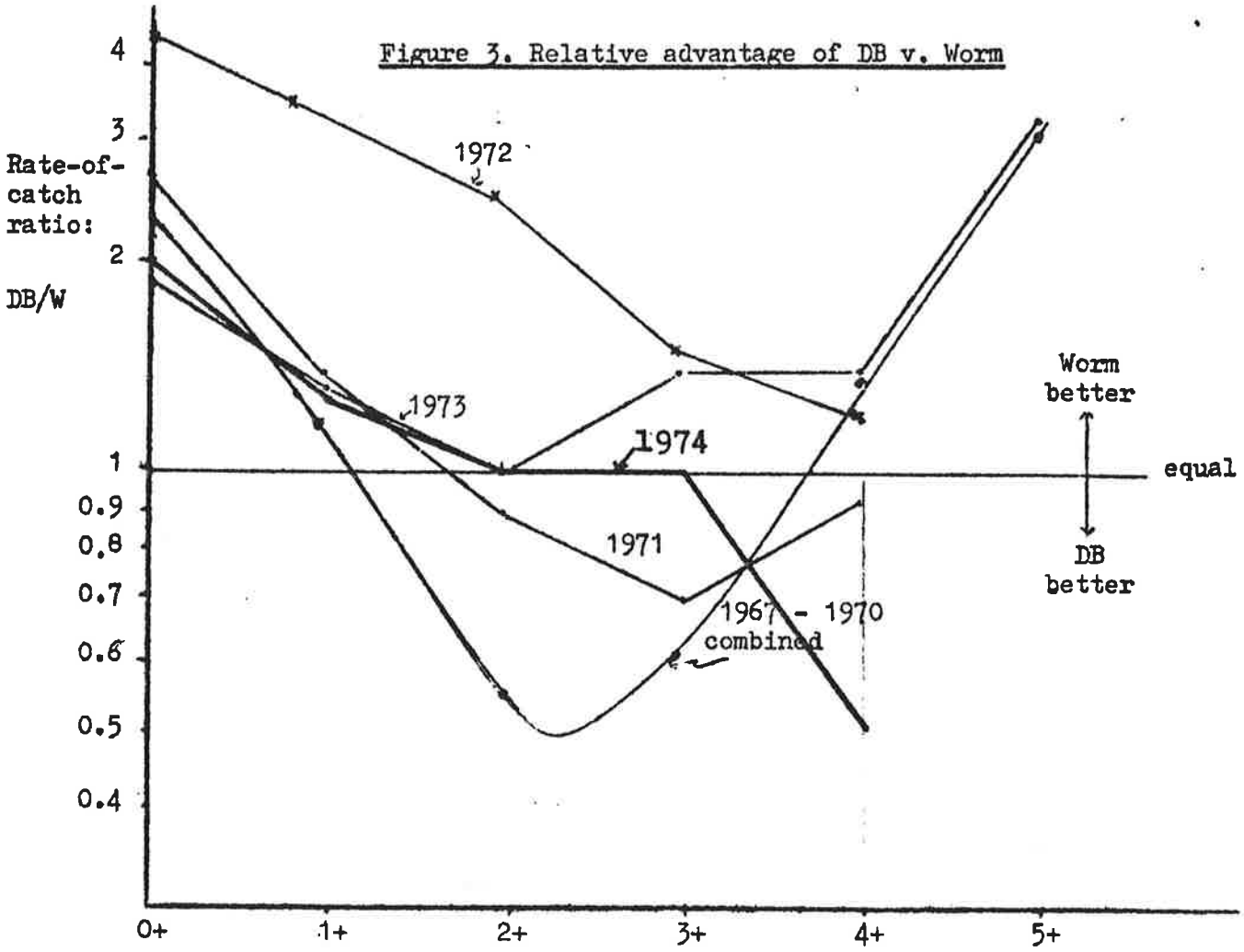


Table 6. Rate of Catch, Worm versus Dead-Bait 1972 - 1974

	WORM			DEAD BAIT			RATIO DB/W		
	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974	1972	1973	1974
RH/E	12.5	25	21.5	55	47	52	4.4	1.9	2.0
RH/1	18.5	40	48	62	57	63	3.3	1.4	1.3
RH/2	43	115	117	108	116	114	2.5	1.0	1.0
RH/3	172	240	301	260	348	315	1.5	1.45	1.0
RH/4	630	828	3163	860	1280	1717	1.3	1.5	0.5

4. Day versus Night 1974

Relevent facts on day versus night are set out in Table 7, below.

Table 7. Day versus Night. 1974

	OVERALL		WORM		DEAD BAIT	
	DAY	NIGHT	DAY	NIGHT	DAY	NIGHT
Total E	147	449	96	161	44	251
Total RH	7721.5	14060.25	2469.2	3940.5	5135.6	9920.5
RH/E	55.5	31.3	25.8	24.4	116.7	39.5
Advantage for night fishing	1.77x		1.06x		2.95x	
RH2	200	91.3	102.9	109.5	342.4	83.2
RH3	406	265.3	205.8	328.3	733.7	244
RH4	7721.5	1278	-	1970	5135.6	1240

The overall result here includes 6 eels and 315.95 rod hours for 'other' baits. It also includes 38 eels for which no details of bait were given.

A comparison with the Table 7 for 1973 shows a similar advantage for overall results, but for worm, day and night are almost equal in 1974, in 1973 the factor was 1.5x in favour of night fishing. the factor for dead bait is similar at 2.95 for 1974 and 2.8 for 1973. This shows that for worm, similar results are achieved for day and night, but dead baits fish better at night.

For a more detailed explanation of the day/night effect, I have included rod hours per eel in the 2, 3 and 4lb ranges. This is a new analysis and gives some interesting figures, but of course needs to be done for several years before an overall patern may emerge.

However, looking at these figures, for 2 lb eels, with worm, night time is twice as good as day, but with dead-bait, night time is over four times as good. In fact night time dead-baits give even better results than worm at night. A similar trend occurs for 3 and 4 lb eels. The unusual point about 3 lb eels producing a better rate of catch during the day than night is an effect of the Abberton eels as Abberton is a day/worm fishery only. However for 4 lb eels, it seems it does not matter if worm or dead-bait is used at night, the rod hours appear in the 1200 - 1900 range.

Before I or anyone else can make detailed observations of these interesting features, as I said above, we need several more years results, but I hope these will be analysed.

Taking these results in general, it appears only true to say that for daytime eeling use worm and for nights use dead-bait. It would be a great help in spreading results if members could use at least one rod with worm and one with dead-bait for every session. (excepting Abberton and other waters where dead-baits are banned). If the use of these baits can be evenly spread for all times of the day and for equal periods of the year. It would be more useful.

Table 8. Individual Members Results, Worm Versus Dead-Baits, 1974

Member	(Other) '0'	WORM 0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	DEAD BAIT 0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	Total
Szwechlowicz	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3
Hope	3	2	6	1	1	-	-	2	4	6	1	-	-	26
Houghton	-	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	9
Booth	-	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	1	12
Bell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	1	-	-	8
Hansen	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	3	5	-	-	-	11
Jefferson	-	2	2	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	15
Davy	-	5	-	6	11	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	26
Smith, A.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	5
Billington	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Smith, D.	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	10	6	-	-	-	24
Barnard	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	-	-	-	-	20
Croxall	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	2	-	17
Crawford	-	14	5	2	-	-	-	4	5	1	-	-	-	31
Jackson	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	6
Holman	1	45	21	1	1	-	-	1	4	10	2	-	-	86
Richmond	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	9	11	2	3	-	-	29
Orme	-	20	7	-	1	-	-	1	3	10	2	-	-	44
Vandercruysen	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	3	2	4	1	1	-	16
Grey	-	8	3	-	-	-	-	1	4	2	3	1	-	22
Blower	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Breakespear	-	7	10	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	24
Hawkins	1	7	2	3	1	-	-	3	5	4	2	-	-	28
Ball	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	3	14	6	2	-	-	28
Petipher	-	5	8	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Sutton	-	14	2	2	-	-	-	-	7	11	5	-	-	41
Holliman	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	6	2	1	1	-	15
Goldsmith	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	4	-	-	-	12
Pountney	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	10
Barrett	-	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Totals	6	163	77	33	19	1	1	52	109	86	40	7	2	596

(Several eels reported as caught on 'other baits' were re-classified as caught on dead-bait)

5. Individual Members Results

Table 8 illustrates the spread of all eels reported in 1974. 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.

This detailed breakdown is further illustrated in Figure 4, Eels versus Weight, Worms and Dead-Bait 1974. Looking at the two graphs, one can easily see the difference in weight spread. The graph for worms demonstrating a smooth downward type of curve beloved by many statistical expert. The graph for dead-baits on the other hand, shows a different type, almost a bell shape, another well known form. The main point being that these types of curves can sometimes be used to forcast further results, as demonstrated by Alan Hawkins in his comparison of Abberton with Stanley Park Lake.

Figure 4, Eels versus Weight, Worms and Dead-Bait 1974

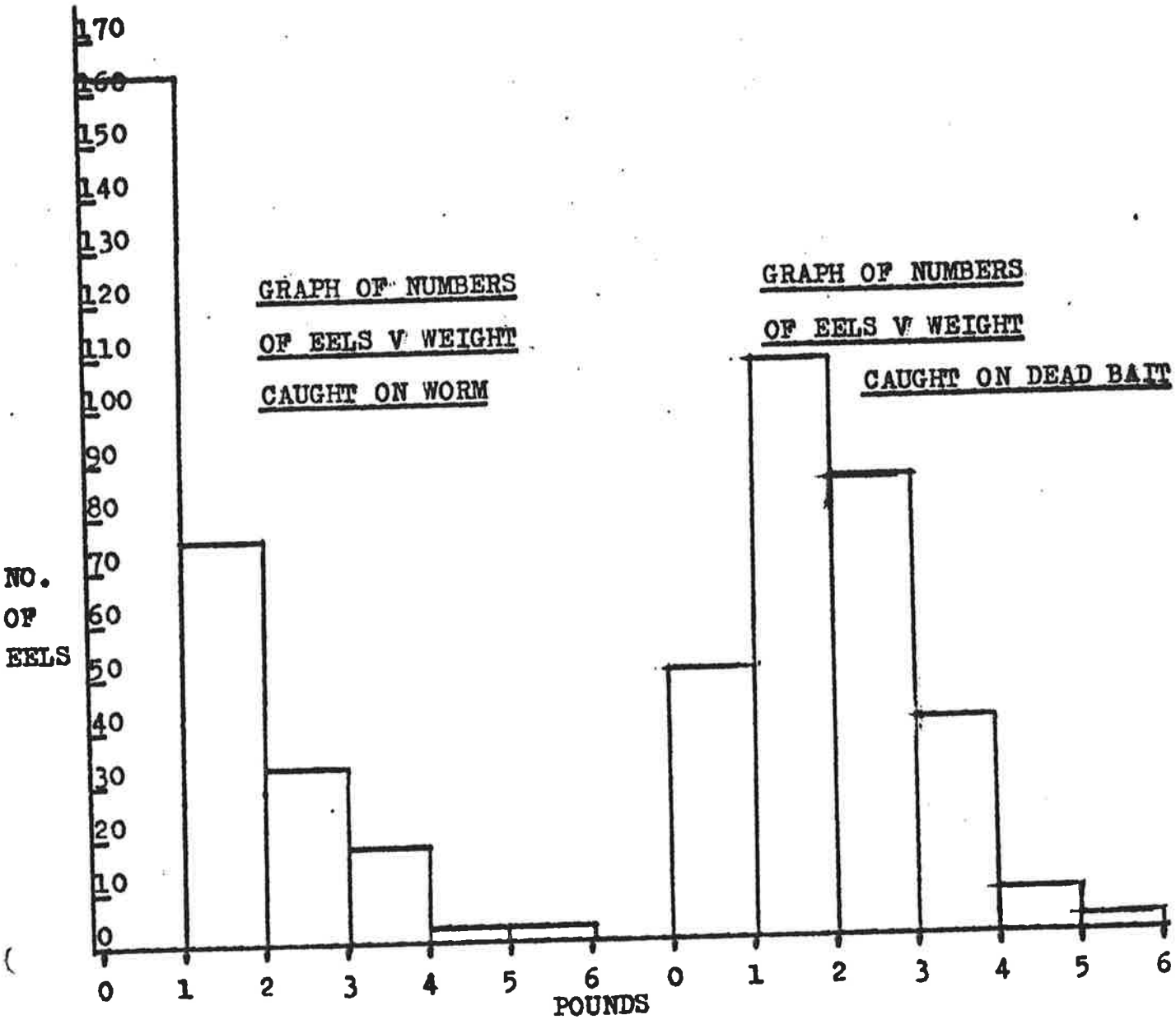


Table 9 gives a breakdown of individual rod hours, or how each member spent his time eel fishing. A direct comparison can be made as to the effort spread on night/day, worm/dead-bait coupling.

It is seen that the least effort is made in the day on worm, followed by worm/night, then dead-bait/day and finally dead-bait/night. The rod hours spent on eel fishing at night with dead-bait was more than four times the effort on daytime eel fishing. (WITH WORM) Are we becoming brain washed in this aspect? I know several members who have had good results during the day. I always fished for eels during the day 10 years ago, and was rewarded with two 4 lb eels at about 2pm within two weeks in the middle of July. Perhaps we need to experiment with daytime eeling in selected waters. The one I fished was about 16 foot deep and very coloured.

Using table 9 and previous individual performance tables, each member should easily be able to carry out a more detailed analysis

Table 9. Individual Members Results, Breakdown Of Rod Hours, 1974

MEMBER	RH/W	RH/DB	DRH/W	DRH/DB	NRH/W	NRH/DB
SZWECHLOWICZ	33.75	48.5	12	13.5	21.75	35
HOPE	900.5	1410	422	680	478.5	740
HOUGHTON	74	74	30	30	44	44
BOOTH	217	633	38	124	179	509
BELL	14	354	2	72	12	282
HANSEN	784	1148	331	497	453	651.5
JEFFERSON	74	184	56	62	18	122
DAVY	106	155	82	69	24	86
SMITH,A.	24	213	16	68	8	145
BILLINGTON	161.75	187.5	37.5	42.5	124.25	145
SMITH,D.	9	338	1	94	8	244
BARNARD	8.5	339	1.25	93.75	7.25	245.25
CROXALL	74.5	455	36.5	98	38	357
CRAWFORD	675.5	955.5	312.7	399.3	355.5	563.5
JACKSON	66.5	346.5	33.5	79.5	38	357
HOLMAN	825	957.5	387.5	346	437.5	631.5
RICHMOND	72.5	715.5	43	355	29.5	360.5
ORME	443.5	1174.5	193	541	250.5	633.5
VANDERCRUYSEN	236	585	34.5	90	201.5	495
GREY	253	668.5	24.5	43.5	228.5	625
BLOWER	169.5	176	50	40.5	119.5	135.5
BREAKESPEAR	157	806.5	53.5	386.5	103.5	415
HAWKINS	245.5	517	34.5	119	211	398
BALL	152.5	789	19.5	233.5	133	555.5
PETIPHER	111.5	57.5	33.5	15.5	78	42
SUTTON	281.5	718	117.5	246	164	472
HOLLIMAN	100.5	343	31.5	122.5	69	220.5
GOLDSMITH	46	520	9.25	124.5	36.75	295.5
POUNTNEY	14.5	19.75	2.25	0.5	12.25	19.25
BARRETT	85.5	134.5	23.75	49	61.75	85.5
Total	6327.5	15023.75	2469.5	5135.5	3940.5	9920.5

of the effort put in for more detailed results, ie., RH/DB/2, RH/DB/3, RH/W/2, RH/W/3, RH/D/DB/2, RH/D/DB/3, RH/N/DB/2, RH/N/DB/3, RH/D/W/2, RH/D/W/3, RH/N/W/2, RH/N/W/3, etc., I have processed my results in this manner but as may be realised, it can be quite time consuming to process 30 sets in a similar manner. I can assure members that the information revealed can be very useful. It illustrates the trends in rate of catch to a more detailed extent. If I have more time available next year, I hope to give this information in extra tables. I have been using a computor plus an electronic calculator to make the mental load easier, and what I have learnt this year will make the job so much easier next year. It is always difficult to do a job first time round so I hope members will bear with me for the many mistakes I am sure I have made, and if there are any points to query, please communicate to me direct and not via the Bulletin.

I have attempted to follow the style set by mypredecessors, as is my wont, but of course, I see several points I intend to change or extend, as should be only natural. I only hope that I will be able to devote the amount of time to future analysis that our unique reporting scheme deserves.

6. Conclusions

The results from 1974 seem to indicate along with the results for 1973, that 1972 was an exceptional year. Perhaps these years do turn up from time to time. I hope by members studying these annual reports and bearing in mind many of the factual results, that they may be able to recognise these trends early in the year and so make maximum benefit from the hard work that is put in over the years.

What do we get out of the annual report?

All members receive information involving many rod hours with different baits, in many different types of waters, that would otherwise take several lifetimes to achieve on his own. Please bear in mind that many of our members are limited to two rods and unable to fish for eels during the close season. I spent four years of this myself in Sussex so I know what it is like. However, now I can use unlimited rods (in the brick pits) all year round if I so desire. Therefore when you compare your efforts with other members, please remember we never judge on effort in eel fishing alone, but also include effort as clubmen in all senses of the word. Just as we value members who can catch a big eel out of a swimming pool, so we also need the type of member who makes every outing an occasion not to be forgotten, stories to relate to new members over a cup of someone elses coffee or tea at 1am.

I feel it only fair to the respect I have for our President and past Chairman, Dr. Alan Hawkins (Bootlace Billy) to restate his closing paragraph to the Conclusion to part one of the 1973 Report,

'Whatever else, the fact remains that in 1974(3) the Club put in more time, and caught more eels, than in any previous season in its history. This cannot be bad. And although the overall pattern was perhaps a bit less than we had hoped for, the year was marked by some truly remarkable individual performances amongst our members; while we have anglers of such ability within the Club, the outlook is healthy indeed.'

What else can I add to that - only that part two of this report will be published as soon as I can process it - the report on the individual fisheries for 1974.

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 Hour per 2 lb eel.
RH/E Rod Hour per eel.
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 eel fishing with worm.
RH/DB = The number of Rod Hours spent fishing with dead-bait.
DRH/W = the number of Rod Hours spent fishing for eels with worm during the day.
NRH/DB = The number of Rod Hours spent fishing for eels with dead-bait during the night.

Brian Crawford.

Chairman's Page

Well at long last, the NASG has really justified our support over the past few years. The importance of our continued alliance needs no further emphasis.

Due to the reorganisation of the Water Authority Regions, we are finding that the eel angler is particularly vunerable, first with the Anglian Water Authority, as you all now know. It is now the turn of the Severn/Trent Water Authority. They have issued notification of their licence charges for next year. This outlines a rod licence of £1.00 for each Division, ie., Severn or Trent, or a whole area one for £1.50. This is for trout and freshwater fish only, 28 day permits are available for 50p. However hidden in a mass of general charges for the commercial eel fisherman is notification of a new licence for eel angling, for the whole area at £1.50. You may think that reasonable, but think about it; to fish for eels and for baits, you will need 2 licences, at least £2.50. Also discrimination rears its ugly head for there is no Divisional or 28 day licence for eel angling available. Also, it does not say if eel angling will be allowed during the freshwater fish close season.

I have written to the Severn/Trent Authority on these points and have had a reply that they are considering the points raised. However I will be pushing the issue further, with the full support from the NASG promised.

Who's area will be next???

Returning to the Anglian Water Authority and their proposals to ban eel fishing during the close season, obviously I am directly concerned as it is in my area, however, being the first case, it is of vital importance that we make a stand, and let everyone know about it. I cannot commend the NASG too highly and I am sure Arthur Sutton will too , for their efforts on our and other eel anglers benefit. After a strenuous 7 hour meeting at the AWA HQ, on Monday 30th June, Arthur, myself, and the representatives from the NASG and Pike Society really seemed to establish a negotiable link with the AWA. I sincerely hope my optomism is fufilled. We shall soon know. Realising our main opponants to close season eel fishing were the matchmen, we played our ace by indicating a lack of interest in eel fishing in rivers during the close season, and for administrative purposes, a compromise was reached, proposing that we will be able to fish for eels in a selected number of waters using fish baits and hooks with at least a ½ inch gape. We also agreed to propose a special close season eel licence or permit of about £2.00, to ensure it would apply to genuine eel anglers, and also to help counter administrative costs. On the whole, we have lost a bit on the roundabouts ie., we will have to pay much more for close season eeling, but the important thing is that Arthur and I both expected to have a real battle just to save what we have in this area. Now we have proposals to give us many times the number of potential waters. We can even select the waters, provided the owners or Clubs allow us to fish there. What we have gained on the swings in fact is that we can all now, provided it is accepted, fish from the Humber to the Thames, an area of vast potential. If it comes off, it will be a real demonstration of the power of protest and a just reward for your keen support in this matter.

Brian Crawford

A LETTER TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

A.J.Sutton.

The following is a word for word copy of a letter received by A.J.S. It is not to be taken too seriously, but your Editor and I thought that it might raise a laugh or two.

. . . . . .

From Major J.H.Peacock
2A Back Bridge Street
Castleford WF IO 2JF
June 19th I975.

A.J.Sutton Esq
National Anguilla Club
Edmonton. London.

Dear Sir,

You will notice the date of this letter. I had intended to send it last week, but your full address was not printed in last weeks Anglers Mail. Let me tell you, first of all, I have fished for SIXTY years. All over the world. Every type of fishing. I have rented my own fishing on the Dorset Stour and the Frome, also the Yorkshire Swale at Catterick. I am very interested in eels, but not from the same point of view as yourself. Or your friends. I think that all RESIDENT eels should be poisoned or if that would kill other fish, caught and destroyed. Have you ever lived in a remote country district where there are many drainage ponds which are full of old eels which have given up the annual trip to the Carribeans ?

The local people, especially elderly ladies, think that these old eels weighing up to eight pounds are fiendish, the devil himself and the killers of all other fish and when they have killed all the other fish move across wet grass to other ponds and commence their evil work there.

I had my first meeting with large filthy yellow eels in about I922.I was courting a Doctors daughter in East Yorks and had permission to fish for anything I could catch in a local pond. This pond contained tons of roach to about one pound and it was good sport, except every hour or so a fish was siezed by something very big. Nothing would stop these predators, which friend and I thought were large pike. So we tackled up with pike tackle and was as easily broken as on roach tackle. Myself and older friend then tackled up with sea line, wire trace and strong hooks. I caught the first fish - yes, it was an eel which pulled, spitted snarled and barked. It was an horrific fish. Altogether, that day, we caught ten large eels which were weighed in at Leeds Amalgamated headquarters to over fifty pounds!

Do you know what happened then ? We went to that same pond a week later and found the surface full of dead rotting roach and a foul stink filled the air around. The eels, according to local lore, had done a bunk because their hideout had been discovered and before they left the water had emitted some foul poison from their vents which was death to every other fish.

This of course you will not believe. I thought it was all superstition etc but when I heard the same story from other farmers there must have been some truth in the sayings. The eels had been seen by dozens of local people ma making their way through to another pond through the grass. Not one solitary soul tried to catch a single eel - and yet the villagers caught and ate hundreds of NORMAL eels from the River Derwent adjoining the ponds.I am now talking of eels which had not finished spawning. I wish you could have seen these eels which we caught.

A friend and I are making another visit to this remote pond in the next few weeks. We shall see if there are any more of these filthy resident eels. If there are - we shall be taking our cameras.

Two things. This typewriter of mine is old and keeps slipping. The records can be searched at Leeds and my story verified.

Another point. Farmers tell me that household ducks and other household hens will NOT GO NEAR A POND WHICH HAS THESE TERRIBLE AND HORRIFIC EELS.

This story of mine is true in every respect. If I do get any of these fiendish eels I shall send you a picture. I can also send proof by witnesses, local farmers, labourers and local railway signalmen if they are still alive.

Yours sincerely

(signed)J.H.Peacock.

Note from secretary.

Sounds like another water containing PICKMERE eels, and a little like Arthur Smith and Henry up to their tricks.

Seriously, I expect to find that Major Peacock is on the Board of one of the present River Authorities !