

Amended CFSA specimen fish committee proposals following specimen fish committee meeting on 22 November 2021

1. Recording of live, released fish from shore and boat using video footage from mobile phone and certified personal scales for all fish species.

Conservation is an increasing trend in recreational fishing with photos of dead fish often criticised on social media. Furthermore, some species must now be returned by law or should be conserved as they are recognised to be slow growing.

The CFSA has been recording certain fish species by measuring for a number of years. Some of the estimated weights from length are reasonably accurate but others are not.

This proposal will allow the use of personal, annually certified sets of scales to weigh and record fish into the CFSA through member clubs.

The weighing of fish on certified scales will be combined with video footage taken on a mobile phone which clearly shows the whole fish as well as the zeroed scale reading before the fish is placed onto the certified scales.

Scales are to be supported from a tripod or another fixed point prior to zeroing the scales and weighing the fish.

If the fish is weighed in a sling, the video footage must clearly show that the sling is empty before placing the fish in the sling. Boat caught fish are to be returned to land before being weighed and then released.

Personal scales are to be certified annually by the club fish recorder by testing against club certified scales. Scales are to be periodically tested to ensure that they remain accurate. Test certification for personal scales to be sent to the CFSA recorder by email when completed.

In all cases, video of the weighing of a fish is to be forwarded to the relevant club recorder within 24 hours of capture. The club recorder will review the footage, ensuring that the fish has been weighed correctly and record the weight of the fish in the normal way.

Fish over 100g are to be notified within 48 hours to the CFSA Recorder who may need to see the video footage for identification or validation purposes on request.

All fish recorded over the qualifying weights to be included on the fish return form at the end of each month by the club recorder who will mark the fish on the return as being self-weighed and videoed.

Fish species can still be recorded by weighing with the club recorder on club certified scales. All retained fish must be weighed on club certified scales and

recorded as per normal. Measuring of fish will now only apply to boat caught shark, smooth hounds and tope with weights calculated by the shark formula.

Reason. The measuring of some fish notably can produce estimated weights that are significantly different to the actual weight. The use of video is increasingly being used to record specimen fish by other angling organisations and has been used to claim at least one British record. This approach will allow some species to be released alive saving the need to kill fish and making the recording of fish that need to be returned more accurate.

Proposed by CFSA recorder and unanimously supported by the specimen fish committee.

2. Reduction in number of species for the shore and boat championship.

The boat and shore Championship to be based on the 7 best specimens of different species as assessed against the CFSA specimen weights.

Reasoning.

Many anglers fishing in CFSA clubs have stated that they have little chance of getting 10 species of fish in excess of 50 % of the qualifying weights.

Fishing in recent years is getting harder to find specimen fish and by reducing the number of fish required from 10 to 7 species for the shore and boat Championships in all categories will make it more competitive and give more people the chance to win the main title. It will also give Lady and junior members a better chance to win the Champion of Champions cup.

Proposed by CFSA recorder and unanimously supported by the specimen fish committee.

3. No placing of dead fish into freshwater before being presented to the scales and being formally weighed and recorded.

No fish is to be brought to the scales after having been soaked in water. This applies to all CFSA run events or open competitions being fished under CFSA rules.

Any fish considered to have been soaked in water will be excluded from weighing into the CFSA or any competition. Any fish soaked and submitted for a record claim will also be disqualified.

Reason. Placing fish in fresh water before weighing can make a considerable difference to the overall weight of the fish which can provide a competitive advantage.

Many anglers consider this to be unacceptable as it also makes the fish less likely to be eaten. Many anglers would like to see the soaking of fish in freshwater stopped completely. This will also encourage fish to be weighed / videoed and returned alive.

Proposed by CFSA recorder and unanimously supported by the specimen fish committee.

4. Use of “fliers” for fishing.

Flying traces to be allowed in all CFSA fishing to provide additional options for catching fish.

Existing rule prohibiting the use of “fliers” to be removed from the rule book.

The maximum number of 4 hooks at one time between 3 rods still applies.

Reason

Current CFSA rules prohibit the use of fliers.

However, this restricts CFSA anglers from using as many techniques as possible to catch fish. In order to use a flier effectively, the lead weight still has to be cast out from the shore or boat

Proposed by CFSA Recorder and unanimously supported by the CFSA committee.

5. Recording of boat caught fish

Proposal.

For fishing on charter boats, bass, bull Huss, all ray species, Spurdog, Starry smooth hounds, flatfish, Tope and bream species may be recorded by weighing of the fish on a boat if certified club or personal scales are used. The boat skipper will agree and confirm the final weight of the fish being independent of any individual angler on the charter. At least two members of the same club to be present on the Charter boat and witness the weighing of the fish. A clear photo of the fish with the captor will be required.

Reason.

Many boat anglers have stated that the measuring and photographing of fish that need to be conserved are difficult on a boat. This approach will make it easier for club charter trips to record fish and enable fish to be returned alive if required.

Proposed by CFSA recorder.

Proposed amendment to include all species of boat caught fish

Proposal was turned down with video recording of all boat caught species allowed if the fish is brought to land.

See amended proposal for the weighing of fish from boat and shore