

## **CORNISH FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS – RULES**

### **1 TITLE:**

The Federation was formed in 1959 and is named:

THE CORNISH FEDERATION OF SEA ANGLERS.

### **2 OBJECTIVES:**

- a) To promote the sport of sea angling.
- b) To further the interests of the members of the Federation.
- c) To make representation in the interest of sea anglers to the appropriate authorities.
- d) To endeavour to assist its members in all ways possible in connection with the sport of sea angling.

The Federation may affiliate to any other body, corporation or federation in the furtherance of these objectives.

### **3 COMPOSITION:**

The Federation shall comprise ordinary members as defined in Rule 4 and the following Officers duly elected in accordance with Rule 13a 1):

- President
- Executive Officers, namely Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Recorder
- Officers, namely Vice-Chairman, 2 Assistant Recorders, Conservation/Pollution Officer, League Co-ordinator, Cup Custodian.

### **4 MEMBERSHIP:**

- a) Members shall be elected in accordance with Rule 6, within the following categories:
  - 1) Club Membership: Sea Angling Associations, Societies and Clubs (hereafter called Clubs).
  - 2) Personal Membership: Any person attaining senior status (16 years).
  - 3) Family Membership: Father and/or mother (or guardians) and their named children under 16 years as at the first day of the Federation year.
- b) Life Membership: May be awarded at any General Meeting to any member in recognition of services to the Federation. A Life member will be exempt from paying affiliation fees and be entitled to participate in any Federation activity.
- c) Junior Members: The junior section is split into two groups:
  - 1) Not to have attained their 11th Birthday.
  - 2) 11 years but not to have attained their 16th Birthday.

The age of the junior as at 1 January shall determine the group for the remainder of the Federation year. Juniors aged less than 11 years will pay no membership fee and will qualify for special awards.

A junior is expected to be accompanied at all times by a responsible adult.

- d) Life, Personal and Family Members shall be classed as one Club and shall be represented at Federation meetings by the Hon Secretary, or his nominee. The Hon Secretary will undertake administration duties for this Club.

## **5 RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES:**

- a) All members are entitled to all the privileges of the Federation including the right to enter for any competition for trophies, cups, species awards or prizes offered by the Federation except where specified for a designated group.
- b) APPEALS :
- 1) All Clubs and members as defined in Rule 4 shall have the right to appeal against any decision made by any Committee in accordance with their powers, unless specifically excluded by any Rule.
  - 2) A request for an appeal must be submitted in writing to the Hon Secretary within 30 days of the Committee's decision or ratification by the Executive Committee, as appropriate. The grounds for the appeal must be stated and any corroborating evidence provided.
  - 3) Appeals will be heard by the Executive Committee who shall be responsible for determining the matter.
  - 4) All parties involved in an appeal will be invited to attend the appeal hearing.
  - 5) In the case of a disciplinary appeal hearing, the aggrieved party may be accompanied by a friend who may speak in support.

## **6 MEMBERSHIP ELECTIONS:**

- a) All persons and Clubs as defined under Rule 4 a) seeking membership of the Federation shall apply in writing to the Hon Secretary of the Federation. Election shall be by the members of the Federation at any General Meeting.
- b) Club and Personal/Family Members who were affiliated in the preceding year shall have until 31<sup>st</sup> January to reapply for membership without loss of membership rights.
- c) For new Clubs and Personal/Family Members provisional membership shall commence seven days after receipt of the affiliation fee by the Hon Treasurer of the Federation and full membership confirmed after ratification at the next General Meeting.

## **7 AFFILIATION FEES:**

For new Clubs joining the Federation between 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> January, full affiliation fees are payable. From 1<sup>st</sup> February, the fee will be pro rata for the remaining complete months in that year.

## **8 FEDERATION YEAR:**

For all purposes the Federation year shall commence on 1st January and end at midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

## **9 GOVERNMENT:**

The government of the Federation (except as otherwise provided by these Rules) is vested in the Federation in General Meeting. A General Meeting may make byelaws for the proper working of the Federation and has the power to deal with any matter not provided for in these Rules.

## **10 MEETINGS:**

- a) The Federation shall hold during the calendar year at least two General and one Annual General Meeting plus any properly constituted Extraordinary General Meetings.
- b) The Annual General Meeting shall be held not later than the end of January in each year. At least 28 days' prior notice in writing, accompanied by the agenda, shall be sent to all persons and Clubs as defined under Rule 4.
- c) An Extraordinary General Meeting can be held at any time subject to 14 days' notice in writing, accompanied by the agenda, being sent to all persons and Clubs as defined under Rule 4. Such EGMs can be called by the Executive Committee, or any Committee, on prior written notice to the Hon Secretary of the Federation.

#### **11 VOTING AT FEDERATION MEETINGS:**

- a) Those entitled to vote on the business of the meeting are:
  - 1) one vote from each member Club present;
  - 2) one vote from the Hon Secretary or his nominee in respect of the Life, Personal and Family Members' Club. All members of one family share the rights of a single member;
  - 3) one vote from each of the Executive Officers present as defined in Rule 3.
- b) Voting shall be by show of cards or ballot as the meeting may decide.
- c) No member may hold more than one voting card. In the event that a member has the defined power to cast more than one vote (excepting the Chairman's casting vote) he shall nominate a non-voting member to hold one voting card and shall give that member written instruction on the method of voting for each proposal.
- d) Except for the election of Officers as defined in Rule 13 a) 1), if there is an equality in the voting the Chairman, or person presiding at the meeting, shall have the right to a casting vote.
- e) No postal or proxy votes will be accepted. It is the responsibility of each member Club to ensure that they are represented in person by a duly elected member who shall hold the voting card on their behalf.

#### **12 CONDUCT OF MEETINGS:**

- a) Those entitled to attend are all those persons and Clubs defined under Rule 4, the Hon Solicitor to the Federation and representatives (not exceeding 2) from each associated organisation, including the Tope Angling Club of Great Britain, the Environment Agency, Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee, the Shark Angling Club, the British Conger Club and the White Fish Authority.
- b) The Chairman shall preside or, in his absence, the Vice-Chairman. If neither shall be present, the meeting shall elect a Chairman.
- c) A quorum shall consist of a minimum of 5 of those Executive Officers and Clubs present.
- d) The only business dealt with will be that contained in the agenda of the meeting.

- e) AMENDMENT OF RULES:

No alteration or addition to any of the Rules of the Federation may be made except by written application to the Executive Committee, with at least 60 days' notice, for formal approval by an Annual or Extraordinary Annual General Meeting. Such applications must be accompanied by an explanation of the reasons for the proposal. Such a meeting may, however, authorise the Executive Committee to make, alter or add to a Rule on any specific subject defined by that meeting.

### **13 COMMITTEES:**

a) There shall be four Committees of the Federation, namely:

1) Executive Committee

The Committee shall comprise the President, Executive Officers and Officers as defined in Rule 3. The quorum shall be 5 members. Election will take place at the AGM from nominations received prior to the meeting submitted by those as defined under Rule 4. If there is equality in the voting each Club present shall have one additional vote. Absent members can be elected provided that nominations in writing are presented to the Hon Secretary at least 3 days prior to the meeting. Such nominees must indicate in writing their willingness to stand for office.

2) Specimen Fish, Cups and Medals Committee:

The Committee shall comprise a maximum of 2 members from each affiliated Club, one of whom must be the Club Recorder or his deputy, plus the Federation Recorder who will act as Chairman. Each affiliated Club present shall have one vote and any one individual can only be a delegate for one Club. The quorum shall be 5 members of the Committee. If substitute delegates are used at future meetings then they must produce their Club's authority to vote prior to the commencement of the meeting.

3) Adjudicating Committee:

The Committee shall comprise members elected at the AGM. The quorum shall be 3 members.

4) Finance Committee:

The Committee shall comprise members elected at the AGM, plus the Federation Treasurer who will act as Chairman. The quorum shall be 3 members.

b) COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

1) Federation Committees shall meet as and when required and, with the exception of the Adjudicating and Finance Committees, shall meet at least once during the Federation year.

2) A Committee meeting shall be called by the Hon Secretary acting under the direction of the Chairman of the Committee or the Federation Chairman and a notice of the meeting, accompanied by the agenda, shall be sent to all Committee members and to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Federation.

3) All papers relating to matters on the agenda shall be circulated with the agenda at least 5 days prior to the meeting to enable members to give prior consideration to matters which are to be decided.

4) Where the business results from a proposal, suggestion or other matter raised by any Club or Member, they shall be invited to attend the meeting and to participate in the discussion on that matter, but shall not be entitled to a vote.

- 5) The Chairman of the Committee shall have the right to invite to a meeting other persons whose specialist or professional knowledge may be of assistance to the Committee.
  - 6) In disciplinary proceedings, all parties involved shall be invited to attend to give evidence to the Committee and to answer questions in clarification of such evidence. If they are unable to attend a letter stating the evidence will be acceptable.
  - 7) Notes shall be taken at all Committee meetings and formal minutes produced, which shall be forwarded to the Hon Secretary within 28 days of the meeting. The minutes shall be approved as a true record by the members present at their next meeting.
  - 8) If the minutes of a Committee include a recommendation for endorsement by the Executive Committee, a General Meeting or an Annual General Meeting, the Hon Secretary shall notify the Federation Chairman who shall direct the appropriate meeting to be convened.
- c) The Executive shall have the right to:
- 1) Co-opt willing candidates to fill vacancies on the Executive Committee, when the post remains vacant after the Annual General Meeting, or any time the post becomes vacant before the following Annual General Meeting.
  - 2) Co-opt additional persons onto any Committee.
  - 3) Form separate Sub-Committees should the need arise.
- d) The duties of each Committee are to conduct the general business of the appropriate section of the Federation.
- e) The Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman may attend any committee, to which they have not been elected, but may not vote.
- f) Meetings of each Committee shall discuss and forward recommendations to the Hon Secretary of the Federation for approval by a General Meeting, with the exception of the Adjudicating Committee who shall work within the terms of reference as defined within Rule 15.

#### **14 SPECIMEN FISH :**

- a) 1) All fish must be weighed on scales or steelyard (or certified spring balance for fish weighing 20lb or over) which can be checked as accurate machines by the British Standards Weights and Measures Inspectors, and witnessed by a recognised Weigh Master and one adult, preferably a Club official. In the case of a Club Recorder, this means only one witness is required. An official of his/her Club or any other affiliated Club will verify the weight and identification.  
In the case of spring balances (digital or mechanical) they must be supported from a tripod or fixed beam and the weight submitted must be the lowest reading.
- 2) All fish must be weighed on certified Club scales except where the capacity of the scales will not weigh the fish, when certified commercial scales may be used. In every case, the weight must be witnessed by an official of an affiliated Club.
- 3) **SCALES CHECK AND CERTIFICATION:**  
The Federation scales will be checked yearly and certified by Trading Standards.

Club scales must be tested and certified by Trading Standards or by any professional scale calibration firm every five (5) years.

- an annual weight test carried out by the Federation Recorder, or
- a current Trading Standards or professional scale calibration firm certificate for that year.

The annual Federation weight testing will be carried out at a meeting of the Specimen Fish Committee.

- 4) Clubs that do not comply with Rule 14 a) 3) will not have their fish accepted for any Federation awards for that year.
  - 5) All new Clubs to the Federation must produce a valid certificate for every set of scales used by them when affiliating to the Federation.
- b) No species of fish shall be weighed in of less size or weight than that defined in the current Federation weight list.
- c) 1) Any affiliated Club may raise the minimum size of any fish for Club competitions.
- 2) An open competition run by an affiliated Club must be fished under Federation rules and the appropriate Federation weight list shall be used.
- d) ANNUAL AWARDS:
- 1) Annual awards shall be presented for both shore and boat sections within each of the following groups: Gentlemen, Lady, Junior (two groups).
  - 2) Runner up awards shall be awarded in all County Championship groups, i.e, 8 awards.
  - 3) Two trophies will be awarded for the County Shore and Boat Championships, each designated "the Federation member attaining the highest overall percentage in any of the four designated groups".
  - 4) The format for judging the County Boat and Shore Championships shall be on the basis of the best aggregate percentage of up to a maximum of 10 different species with a minimum of 5 species. If the minimum of 5 is not attained then the championship can be awarded to the next best number of species with the highest percentage. All fish must equal or exceed the qualifying weight as stated in the current Federation weight list. Any fish exceeding 150% of the specimen weight list will be deemed as a maximum for that particular fish.
  - 5) Deleted
  - 6) All entries must be on the correct Federation fish forms obtainable from the Federation Recorder. No photographs are required.
  - 7) Counterfoils and specimen fish forms will be returned only if sent with a stamped addressed envelope, otherwise there will be no acknowledgment.
  - 8) All entries must come from, and will be returned to, the Club Recorder or a Life, Personal/Family member.
  - 9) All monthly returns must be sent to the Federation Recorder to arrive by the 7th day of the month following capture.

- 10) The first fish registered with the Federation by an angler will indicate the Club he/she will represent in that year. If an angler decides to change Club during the year he/she may do so, but he/she MUST notify the Federation Recorder in writing of his/her intention.
- 11) The exact weight of the fish and, if caught by a junior, his/her age as at 1 January must be entered at all times.
- 12) The Spotlight Trophy shall be presented each year to the Club submitting the greatest number of different species (boat and shore combined) to the Federation Recorder.
- 13) Personal and Life Members are entitled to enter the Fish of the Month, Boat and Shore Competitions (entry of four for each competition). If entries received are more than four then a draw would be made by a member of the Adjudicating Committee to decide the four to fish.

e) NEW RECORDS AND FEDERATION AWARDS:

- 1) In the event of a claim for a Federation record, the fish must be available for identification by the Federation Recorder or his deputy for a period of 24 hours from notification.
- 2) To qualify for an award, the Federation Recorder must be notified within 48 hours of the capture of all fish 100% or over specimen weight and the body retained.
- 3) For any vacant records, fish over 8oz may be submitted to the Federation Specimen Fish Committee.
- 4) PROVISIO: Common sense in submitting fish for record approval is called for. The weight of the fish should be compatible with the species and must indicate whether boat or shore caught.
- 5) If any dispute or difficulty occurs in the identification of a species the Federation Recorder shall call upon Club Recorders from within the Federation to assist in the identification. If an agreement cannot be reached a Certificate from the Plymouth Marine Biological Centre will be required.
- 6) All persons breaking a County record that is ratified shall be awarded a Certificate detailing that record.

f) SPECIES AWARDS:

- 1) Specie awards shall be awarded annually for the best specimen fish of those species determined by the Federation Specimen Fish Committee. In addition, the committee has the power to award further species awards for outstanding merit.
- 2) Small presentation certificates shall be issued stating the name of the captor, species, weight and date of capture. The Federation Recorder shall administer the species awards competition.

g) TOPE & SHARK WEIGHT FORMULA

The girth is taken at the deepest part of the body, the length is from the nose to the fork of the tail.

- 1) Measure the fish's girth in inches, then square it.
- 2) Multiply the arrived at figure by the fish's length, again in inches.
- 3) Divide the final figure by 800 to achieve the weight of the fish in imperial measurement.

## **15 ADJUDICATING COMMITTEE:**

Shall meet as and when required and has the power:

- a) To define any Rule.
- b) To determine any dispute or protest which may be referred to it arising out of any festival or competition held by the Federation. Any such dispute or protest must be sent to the Hon Secretary in writing.
- c) To deal with any claim or complaint made by any officer, or any member, or by a Club either on behalf of itself or any of its members. Any such complaint or claim shall be made in writing to the Hon Secretary.
- d) To adjudicate on any report of unsportsmanlike behaviour at any festival or competition, or infringement of any Rule, by any officer, Club or member, and to forward their recommendations to the Hon Secretary of the Federation for approval by the Executive Committee.

## **16 FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

- a) The financial year shall end on 31 December in each year.
- b) All matters relating to the finances of the Federation shall be at the discretion of the Finance Committee, who shall adjudicate on recommendations brought forward from all other Committees.
- c) All cheques on behalf of the Federation shall be signed by any 2 of the Chairman, Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer duly appointed.
- d) The final responsibility for the finances of the Federation shall be with the Executive Officers and all members.

## **17 CLUB SECRETARIES, PERSONAL MEMBERS:**

All affiliated Club Secretaries, Life, Personal and Family Members shall immediately notify the Hon Secretary of any change of Club officials or addresses.

## **18 INSURANCE AND ACCIDENTS:**

- a) No Committee member or official of the Federation shall be responsible for any loss, damage, accident or claim arising from any competition organised or held by the Federation. All competitions of the Federation (and its Affiliated Clubs, provided they have taken up the Federation's insurance) are covered by third party legal liability insurance.
- b) Third Party Public Liability Insurance provided by the Federation is limited to fishing from shore. Any person partaking in fishing other than the shore (i.e. activities not covered by the Federation insurance policy) must therefore ensure that they are adequately insured for both the vessel from and from any other persons on board the vessel. Individuals are responsible for their own insurance, whether or not they own the vessel or have the use of the vessel through hire or loan or other means. The Federation reserves the right to request sight of the insurance certificate on demand.

## **19 CUPS AND TROPHIES:**

A full list of CFSA Cups & Trophies can be found in Appendix "A".

All Federation cups and trophies shall be returned to the Cup Custodian by no later than the 7th January each year.

## 20 GENERAL FISHING & COMPETITION RULES:

- a) 1) A Club using Federation rules for any competition must use them in their entirety.
- 2) If a competition is not run under Federation rules the Federation will not be in a position to assist that Club with any complaint, infringement, or accident or any other matter.
- 3) All fish entered for any trophy, award, prize or record administered by the Federation must be caught within the waters surrounding the coast of Cornwall, except that for boat angling this shall be confined to an area of the sea commencing from a line drawn from Hartland Point to the southernmost tip of Lundy Island and thence due west in the Bristol Channel, and to a line 4° 10' south from the Hamoaze to Redding Point and thence on a longitudinal line in the English Channel.
- b) Boat caught fish will count for any Cornish record or award irrespective of the point of embarkation or distance travelled by boat provided they are caught inside the defined area.
- c) Under no circumstances shall a Salmon or Sea Trout, caught whilst angling from the shore, be retained by the captor unless he/she holds a valid licence issued by the appropriate Authority.
- d) Salmon or Sea Trout shall not be eligible for any award or record by the Federation.
- e) AT ALL COMPETITIONS RUN UNDER FEDERATION RULES
  - 1) All winning fish must be put on display at least five minutes before the winners are announced so that any objections can be made to the organising committee on payment of £1 by the objector. This is returnable if the objection is deemed reasonable, the decision of the organising committee being final.  
Fish may not be removed from the table until all prizes have been awarded.
  - 2) The fish will become the temporary property of the weighmaster.  
In the event of a complaint, where it is necessary to gut the fish this will be done in the presence of the captor and the complainant if the complaint is upheld the fish and contents will be retained and preserved for further investigation.
  - 3) Any dead fish presented to the scales must be in a suitable container or bag which **does not** contain water.
- f) No fish, which is or has been gutted, frozen or artificially preserved, will be accepted for any trophy, award, prize or record of the Federation.
- g) Whenever an angler boards a boat irrespective of that boat's situation, this will be classed as boat fishing.
- h) A competitor must cast the line and land the fish. He/she may accept assistance in landing the fish by means of a net or gaff only, and in taking the fish off the hook. (see also para j) below).
- i) A competitor fishing from a pier or harbour wall and not having the use of a suitable net or gaff may hand line in the fish provided that, before he/she commences to do so, some part of the fish is out of the water in the immediate vicinity of the pier or harbour wall so that it can be immediately lifted clear of the surface and not pulled through the water towards the competitor. No assistance may be rendered to the competitor except as in para h) above.
- j) In Federation run shore competitions, a competitor may cast for another competitor who is disabled or who is deemed incapable of casting for him/herself, provided that application is first made in each individual case to the Federation Chairman and so approved.
- k) 1) A competitor at a Federation competition shall use up to a maximum of two rods and three hooks at any one time, with a winch and running line so that the line passes through

a ring at least three feet from the reel. The paternoster, ledger or other tackle attached thereto shall not have more than three hooks in total between the rods in use.

- 2) When fishing independently of Federation competitions a competitor may use a maximum of up to three rods and three hooks at any one time to give the angler a combination of usage for his rods, eg, two bottom rods and one float/spin rod or three bottom rods, but shall not use more than three hooks in total between the rods in use.
  - 3) A Pennel rig, consisting of two hooks, shall be classed as one hook.
  - 4) Multiple hooks attached to a single lure shall be classed as a single hook.
- l) In no circumstances will any fish be accepted for any award, prize or record unless the fish has been fairly hooked in the mouth. If there is any doubt, the decision will be made by the Federation Specimen Fish Committee.
  - m) The Federation Recorder or his deputy will attend all Federation run competitions or matches in order that identification and weights are positive.
  - n) In the event of a Federation Committee member being selected to fish a competition he/she must not become involved in the settlement of any disputes which may arise.
  - o) At a competition, an angler may have the weight of any fish checked for minimum size without fear of having his/her bag disqualified should any fish be slightly under weight.
  - p) **INFRINGEMENT OF RULES**
    - 1) Any angler found guilty of cheating in any competition open or closed run under Federation rules will be banned from fishing in any Federation or Club competition run under Federation or Club rules for an indefinite period of not less than five years, after which time the angler may request that the ban be lifted.
    - 2) Any angler expelled for cheating will also have all their records removed from Federation record lists, at which point the record shall revert back to the previous record holder. Captors of subsequent fish will have 12 months to make a claim to the appropriate record. Only fish submitted to the Federation in the normal manner will be considered.
    - 3) Where it is alleged that an affiliated Club has infringed a Federation rule the complaint must be made in writing to the Secretary of the Federation for investigation by the Adjudicating Committee who shall make recommendation to a general meeting for determination.
    - 4) Any Club deemed to be guilty of breaking Federation rules will be admonished and warned of the consequences of further transgressions. For two or more offences in any Federation year or in cases where the mis-conduct does not cease immediately. The Hon Secretary will bring it to the Club's attention and the Club concerned will be liable to have their membership of the Federation reviewed by secret ballot at a General Meeting. The Club delegate will have the right to address the meeting prior to the ballot.
  - q) In the event of adverse weather conditions any Federation competition may be either postponed, cancelled or a change of venue notified.
  - r) In all competitions organised by the Federation, rules may be amended from time to time for any particular competition and such amendments shall be notified to all competitors.
  - s) For Federation team competitions a mixed team of Life, Personal and Family Members is acceptable.

- t) Cash prizes are permitted at all competitions. Junior prizes will be in the form of a voucher.
- u) All trophies will be presented at the Annual Dinner & Dance. Cash prizes will be sent by post within 14 days from the closing date for receipt of the returns.
- v) In all competitions run under Federation Rules prizes shall be awarded on the basis of one fish, one prize, unless otherwise stated for any specific competition.
- w) A shore mark used during any shore competition organised by the Federation must be a mark which is accessible from the mainland of Cornwall by foot at some stage of the tide and at no time during, or for the purpose of entering, such competitions may a boat be used to gain access to or from any shore mark other than a public service ferry.

## **21 COMPETITIONS:**

It must be stressed that all Federation competitions are run under the two rod three hooks Rule, (SEE RULE 20 k) 1) unless otherwise stated and that, when fishing independently of Federation competitions, the three rod three hooks rule still applies (SEE RULE 20 k) 2)

- a) JUNIOR SHORE FESTIVAL: (Trophy)
- b) LADIES COMPETITION: (Trophy)
- c) BOAT COMPETITION: (Trophy)
- d) DINGHY COMPETITION: (Trophy)
- e) XMAS COMPETITION: (Trophy)
- f) EASTER COMPETITION: (Trophy & Cash prize)
- g) FEDERATION / WMN HEATS & FINAL: (Trophy & Cash prize)
- h) K J HOLMAN MEMORIAL COMPETITION: (Trophy)
- i) FISH OF THE MONTH SHORE:
- j) FISH OF THE MONTH BOAT:
- k) FEDERATION INTER-CLUB LEAGUE (Cornish Clubs League): (Trophy)
- l) JUNIOR BOAT FESTIVAL: (Trophy)