



**SHARK ANGLING CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON 23rd August 2021 AT 7pm
At Looe Social Club and Via Zoom**

Present: M Collings - Chairman, C Kelly - Secretary, P Davis, A McKay, D Stone

Special Guest: Ali Hood, Shark Trust via Zoom

Via Zoom: K Tapper, S Ward, S Thomas,

Apologies: B Woodman (absent with Covid-19), P Martin,

Ali Hood from the Shark Trust was welcomed by the Chairman and proceeded to give a presentation to the Committee, showing the work that the Shark Trust does and recognizing the long standing relationship that they have with the SACGB, it also outlined where angling and the Shark Trust's engagement with the angling community sits within their wider work.

The Committee thanked Ali for her presentation and hope to meet again in the near future.

The Committee wished Bob Woodman (Chairman) a speedy recovery from Covid19 and commenced the main meeting.

Minutes of Last Meeting – Proposed as an accurate record by Pete Davis, seconded by Dave Stone.

Matters Arising

1. Festival Review

- i. Comments – The secretary read a list of anonymous comments from anglers at this year's Festival. A discussion took place. The Secretary mentioned that she had already discussed the comments from last months meeting with Nigel Hodge who had responded as follows: *'I was informed that on a previous year a vessel had not returned to looe and there was no issue. With consideration to the distance and conditions on the day the journey by car was quicker than by sea so I'm not quite sure what inconveniences arose from this as all the anglers got dropped outside the doors of their hotels and we didn't hear a single complaint from a good team of guys who we enjoyed fishing with us for the day. There was no issue expressed from any of my anglers regarding the matter and I'm surprised by what your saying regarding complaints! The issue regarding the unmeasured fish does need to be raised with the committee, at the skippers meeting it was agreed that we should T off small fish beside the boat and only board large animals, there is obviously a conflicting message here if anglers insist on measuring small fish to count towards their points. As you are aware I hit the ground running with the comp at such short notice and we did the best we could however maybe a simple explanation of things like flags and does and don'ts wouldn't of been a bad idea as I'm sure you agree ?Further to this the issue of barbed hooks not being closed should be addressed as it was a daily occurance by all anglers onboard'* It was agreed that Nigel should have been more thoroughly updated on the rules and regulations although he had been issued with the Festival Angling Rules prior to the event. It was agreed that Skippers would have to leave and return from the Port of Looe at any future Festival. It was also confirmed that Mr Hodge was informed at the Skippers meeting of the rules for measuring fish during the Festival.
The Chairman stated that the biggest concern was with the skipper who was asleep, as he had a duty of care to the anglers on board. Murray Collings stated that if the RYA knew that he was sleeping whilst in control of his vessel he would face a full investigation and risk his license being taken away. Simon Thomas stated there must also be a certain



number of hours that you should work each day. The Committee felt that this needed further discussion at the next meeting.

- ii. Financials – The secretary stated that this year’s Festival had made a profit of £2749.50. A few skippers had put their money up for next year, which would reduce any profit, but not all of the skippers had responded so far. It was agreed that this would need to be finalized before a decision on prize money was taken. The Chairman stated that he felt that the money in the bank should be protected as there were now limited income sources for the club.
- iii. List of Recommendations – The Secretary stated that she had been through the rule book and the Best Practice document and looked for rules regarding tackle etc. and compiled the following list:

From Rule Book:

Conservation

1. Wherever possible, all sharks must be released unharmed.
2. Wherever possible, sharks brought aboard a boat should be returned to the water within two minutes.
3. Whilst on deck, the shark should be continuously doused with water to assist with controlling its temperature and protect its skin from drying out.
4. The use of a body gaff is prohibited.
5. The use of a knife, lance or spear and the shooting of a shark is forbidden.
6. Shooting, either by rifle, harpoon, or harpoon gun, or other means of projecting a missile whether or not it is attached to a rod and line is forbidden.

General

1. Rubby-dubby can be used as an attractant and may only consist of fish derivatives. Bran may be added.
2. Offering a bait to a shark whilst any part of the leader is held in the hand is prohibited.
3. A broken rod, including the butt, nullifies the catch.
4. Foul-hooking or the use of entangling devices nullifies the catch.

Tackle

1. The angler shall only employ rod, reel and line and must bring the shark to the boat unaided.
2. The use of any mechanical or electrical driven device for the purposes of automatically winding line onto the reel, or any such device that eliminates the manual operation of the reel in whole, or in part, is strictly prohibited in competitions and also if the shark caught and released is intended to be used to qualify for membership or if to be used to make a trophy claim.
3. The use of a double-handed reel is prohibited.
4. Neither the reel, nor the line nor any part of the equipment may be secured to the boat or any part of it; the rod may be attached to a butt socket by means of a pin or other device. This rule does not disqualify the use of safety lines attached to rod or reel or to the angler or his or her equipment, providing such safety lines are slack and do not provide the angler with an unsporting advantage.
5. Changing a rod or reel, splicing the line or removal or addition thereto when playing the shark is prohibited.
6. The use of floats that are capable of exerting an appreciable effect on the fighting power of the shark are prohibited.
7. No more than two single hooks may be attached to the leader or trace at any one time and then only if both hooks are imbedded in or attached to the bait. These must be attached or imbedded in the bait separately at least a hooks length apart and not more than 46cms (18 inches) apart. In the case of artificial lures, the eyes of two hooks must be at least a hooks length apart and not more than 46cms (18 inches) apart and the trailing hook may not extend more than a hooks length beyond the limits of the lure. The only exception is that the point of one hook may be passed through the eye of the other. The use of a dangling or swinging hook is prohibited. The use of a double or triple gang, or a cluster of hooks, being two or more fastened together, is prohibited. All claims on two hook tackle must be accompanied by a photograph of the hook arrangement.
8. The use of artificial lures is permissible only if not more than two single hooks are attached to the lure. In this case, a photograph of the fish, lure and rod and reel must accompany the claim. The use of lures carrying ganger hooks is not permitted.
9. Metal lines, including metal core lines, are prohibited.
10. The use of a leader or trace is not required. If one is used, it must meet the following specifications. The length of the leader is the overall length, including any lure, hook arrangement, or other device. The leader must be connected to the line with a snap, knot, splice, swivel or other device. Holding devices are prohibited. There are no regulations regarding the material strength of the leader.



In all classes up to and including 10kg (20lb), the leader shall be limited to 4.57 metres (15 feet). The combined length of double line and leader shall not exceed 6.1 metres (20 feet).

The leader in all classes of tackle over 10kg (20lb) shall be limited to 9.14metres (30 feet). The combined length of double line and leader shall be limited to 12.19metres (40 feet).

Playing the Shark

1. No person shall hand-line the shark at any time. The exception to this is where another person may take hold of the trace or leader once it is within reach to assist with bringing the shark on board or to the side of the boat if being unhooked in the water.
2. Resting the rod on the gunwale or any part of the boat while playing a fish is prohibited.
3. The skipper may assist the movement of the rod and line past fixed gantries on the boat where appropriate.
4. Beaching or driving into shallow water in order to deprive the shark of its ability to swim is prohibited.

From Best Practise Document:

- Stainless hooks must never be used. A rapidly corrodible hook will eventually fall away and if gut hooked the shark's stomach digestive acids will dissolve a non-stainless hook in around 3 to 4 days.
- Barbless or filed down barbed hooks are much easier to remove and are the preferred choice.
- Regardless whether a circle hook (preferred), Japanese ringed hook or a J hook is used, it should be set as quickly as possible to increase the probability of the shark being hooked in the corner of the mouth and not in the gut.
- Circle hooks are designed to hook the shark in the corner of the mouth, so they are easier to remove. They also remove the need to strike. Overly large circles do however tend to pull through the eyes of small sharks.
- It is preferable not to use balloons for floats as they mimic jelly fish and are eaten by other marine species.
- Do not lift the shark out of the water by its head, gills or tail. It is acceptable to use a small chin gaff (taking care avoid the eyes and gills) to help slide the fish aboard. Bring the shark aboard horizontally so not to tear any ligaments, tendons, or damage organs. Small sharks (circa 30lbs) are best handled with both hands, one on the dorsal fin, pectoral fin or neck (i.e. between the gills and the dorsal fin) and the other holding the tail or supporting the body.
- Medium to large sharks should be handled by two persons. One person holds the head, dorsal fin and/or pectoral fin while the other holds the tail and supports the body. The belly and teeth should always face away from the handlers.
- Use a de-hooking tool to remove the hook. If the shark has been deep hooked, then cut the trace as close to the hook as possible. Do not hold the shark by the gills as this can lead to serious injury and even death.

Currently in Angling Rules for Festival

Not less than 50lbs breaking strain line to be used and all sharks will be measured and returned to the sea. When a shark is being played it will be the skippers decision if other lines need retrieved or repositioned. Shark magnets are allowed, and the skippers will assign fishing positions by drawing lots

She stated that out of all of the guidance in these two documents, only the last paragraph was included in the Festival angling rules. She asked if the Committee could look at these over the next month so that a discussion could take place regarding next year's rules.

- iv. Supply of Go Pros – Dave Bond, Murray Collings and Owen Malia had expressed an interest in using club 'Go Pro's' to gain footage for the club.

2. Chris Flower Line Test Result – Chris Flower has tested another line for the club. This was for a 30lb line provided by Steve Chivers which tested within the parameters required. Pete Davis stated that he did also have the footage for this claim.



Trophy Claims

- **Paul Martin – Midland & Leslie Andrews Trophies** – 124 point Blue/155lb (qualifier for Midland)
- **Angela Spearing – Midland & Alan Caunter Trophy** – Blue with 101.5 points/86.5lb. (qualifier for Alan Caunter Trophy)
- **Terri Steeper – Cornish, Daphne Case & Alan Caunter Trophy** – Blue Shark 101 points/80lb. (qualifier for Cornish & Daphne Case)
- **Chris Evans – W F Crow & Mitchell & Hedges Trophies** - 196lb/138 pt Blue. (qualifier for W F Crow)
- **Mike Wallis – Mitchell Hedges, Mickey Wonnall, Sammy Porbeagle, Venning, Gloucestershire, K J Tapper, Mustad & SACGB Mustad Trophies** – Porbeagle 450lb (qualifier for all except Mickey Wonnall)

Lucky Run Club

- The Winner of the August draw was Paul Martin winning £75.00

New Business

1. Keith Armishaw – the secretary read the following letter which had been received from Keith Armishaw;

Suggestions to the SACGB Committee:-

A) I see there has been a great deal of angst created by the thresher capture in Ireland and the handling of the fish. The antis have picked up on it which is bad for all of us, so I would like to make a suggestion on an approach to such cases using Facebook as many seem to see this as THE way of communicating.

Firstly, it was a great catch so I would congratulate him on his capture but then add that handling a fish like this may lead to damage and suggest next time he follows the SACGB code of practice and attach it to the response for all to see how it should be done properly.

If this is done the SACGB can be seen as promoting shark welfare taking away any anti arguments against the club. It might also dampen down some of the histrionics going on at present.

B) I also here that some of the skippers were shocked at the tackle some of the contestants were using in the SAC Festival. This the antis could use against the club if they were to find out so a simple solution would be to stipulate the terminal tackle that should be used. This would them make all contestants equal. It would also save any embarrassment for skippers telling contestants not to use tackle they have used every year. It would again be seen as the SACGB spearheading shark welfare. All this would reduce the impact of the antis whilst being seen to take the welfare of the fish forward in a way that the club members couldn't get upset at.

The secretary had pointed out to Keith that the Committee were already discussing tackle. She had not seen the post on Social Media and she wasn't sure if the person was a member and if it would be appropriate to comment on his post.

Pete Davis stated that he had seen the post which had flashed up and is now gone and if it was mentioned again it will just flag it up, but if the situation did arise again we should step in and advise best practises recommended by the club. Simon Thomas stated that a reply to the post had been made on the club's behalf, by himself.

Any Other Business

1. Dave Stone – supply of traces. Further to last month's discussion, Dave felt that making traces for anglers would not be a popular move, as people like to make their own and it is



part of the experience for them. But he felt that the skipper should be able to test the equipment and advise if it was suitable. Murray Collings felt that they should also be advised to bring spares in the event of unacceptable tackle, or the skipper to have spares available on board. Pete Davis stated '*In next year's rules, we should include 'your tackle will be inspected by your skipper before the Festival commences and if it is not acceptable, the skipper has the right to provide alternative equipment'*'.

2. Simon Ward – had noticed that 'guestimates' were varying dramatically, which he felt wasn't working for the club. Dave Stone stated that he felt that you could damage a shark more by dragging it out of the water and trying to estimate it (non boarding) than you could by boarding it through a door and then letting it go. Simon Thomas stated that the result also depended on how much experience the angler had at doing it. It was agreed that this was a valid point, but the way forward was unsure and further discussion would be needed.
3. Simon Thomas – stated that Dr Georgia Jones wished to express her thanks to Murray Collings for the amount of information she had gained from him, the help he had given her and the way he handled the fish.

There were no further matters to discuss.

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

Date of Next Meeting – 27th September 2021 at 7pm Lower Bar, Social Club, West Looe and via Zoom.